

# A Piece of My Life

Revised selection – original text by Erica Baukol, Alexandria  
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## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What might this story be about?

### Definitions:

- Sober – abstaining from alcohol use
- Accept – to believe as truth, or to agree to something
- Fortunate – having a good result; lucky

## Reading

16 Today is my 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'm sitting at a desk at Minn-West College in Granite Falls,  
32 MN. The reason I'm in Granite Falls is because of Project Turnabout. I'm a recovering drug  
35 addict and alcoholic.  
50 I came to Project Turnabout for treatment on September 23, 2004. This is my fourth  
70 treatment center. It is here that I believe I've finally found the tools I need to remain sober. I now  
87 know that I'm the one who needs to do the work to be successful in my sobriety.  
105 My life, along with the lives of family and friends who love and care about me, has been  
126 filled with a lot of pain and hurt. I never thought I was a drug addict or alcoholic. In fact, my  
146 **intentions** were to be a law student, and to make something of my life. However, as a result of my  
165 7-year use of drugs and alcohol, I've spent time in jail and treatment centers, and have suffered two  
166 overdoses.  
181 Addiction is a disease that often puts people in jail, treatment centers, or cemeteries. I'm  
197 fortunate to have come to Project Turnabout. I've accepted my disease and have learned how to  
214 manage it. I have to thank my family, case workers, counselors, and peers. They have helped me  
227 save my life. Without them, I don't know where I'd be right now.  
244 I'm very grateful to have been given another chance at life. I **aspire** to be someone who  
264 can help and teach other addicts the same lessons that I have learned. I want to share my story in  
268 order to help others.

## Understanding

1. Where did the author receive the help she needed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How have drugs and alcohol affected her? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the word **intention** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What, or who, is an addict? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When did the author start using drugs and alcohol? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How do you think she is feeling about her life right now? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What does she view as key in her sobriety? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does the word **aspire** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Option A: Write about how drug or alcohol addiction has affected your life, or the life of someone you know.

Option B: Summarize the author's story.

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