

## ***Swimming with Maya* – Eleanor Vincent**

An inspiring story about the unique and complicated relationship between mothers and daughters, *Swimming with Maya* celebrates how that relationship continues to exist beyond the grave.

### **Good book to use as example**

- straightforward structure
- not all stories so clearly defined
- yours may not be this way

### **Book divided into three parts**

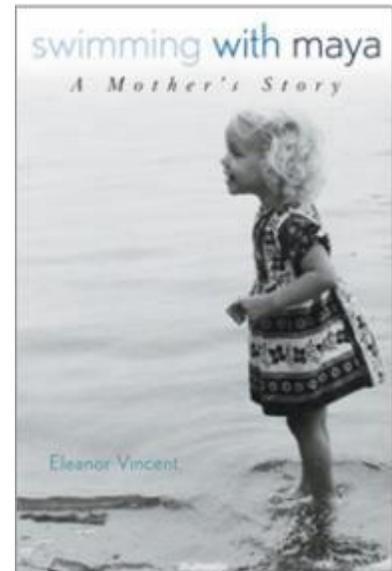
- “Swept Under” - beginning
- “Reflections” - middle
- “Resurfacing” – ending

### **“Swept Under” – beginning chapters**

- beginning is her daughter’s accident
- book opens with author coming into the emergency room
- told by doctor her daughter is in “very grave condition”
- surgery on daughter’s brain
- story of the accident revealed through daughter’s friends
- daughter declared brain dead
- decision to withdraw life support
- author’s decision to donate all her daughter’s organs
- beginning goes through the funeral

### **“Reflections” – middle chapters**

- backs up and tells about her story/her life
- backstory – what happened before the accident
  - o author’s relationships and marriages
  - o birth of daughter Maya
  - o daughter’s growing up years



- o daughter's rebellion
- o author's remarriage and birth of second daughter, Meghan
- get to the know the author and characters better
- brings story back to accident and funeral

### **“Resurfacing” – ending chapters**

- begins a few weeks after funeral
- receives letter from organ donation coordinator, telling where
  - o daughter's organs went and how they helped people
- details the author's road back to life
- became involved with organ donation program
  - o speaking, making people aware of donor family's experience
- friendship with man who has her daughter's heart
- writing book
- afterword brings the story to May 2012

Keep the idea of structure in the back of your mind as you write your draft.  
Remain open to a possible structure as it reveals itself to you.

### **Notes:**