



Rhythms of Wordsmiths

Perspectives on Creative Writing

Grace Hall-Matson

Sophomore, French Education

Focus: Poetry

Hannah Ray

Senior, English Education

Focus: Short Story

Brandon Richmond

Sophomore, English & Philosophy

Focus: Creative Nonfiction

Sarah Goode

Senior, English

Focus: Novel Writing

Q1: How do you begin to write?

Excerpt from Summer Scholar's Novel

Sarah Goode, 2022

“Anna Kerchief was the kind of girl who walked through closets backwards. She would close her eyes, hold her breath, and step back into the coats. Slowly, one step at a time, she went deeper and deeper into the closet, hoping that maybe, just maybe, if she believed hard enough, she could find another world. That maybe the stories were true But just when it seemed that the closet led to the land of her books, her hopeful fingertips found the cold wall.”

Q2: How do you deal with writer's block?

Q3: What piece of writing has most
influenced your own?

Q4: Of the pieces you have written,
which is your favorite?

Excerpt from “Forget Me Not”

Hannah Ray, 2018

"I relished the commonplace. I rejoiced in everyday occurrences such as filing a paper or hearing the morning birdsong. In many ways, I lived my life more fully than I could have lived it in chronological order. I went out of my way to greet people, knowing it could easily be the last time I would ever see them. I especially treasured the time I had with my father during the times I skipped into his timeline; I knew the times I saw him would be few, and when I finally reached the point when he passed away in a hospital room, I was prepared. Odd as it may seem, I was glad to finally have the chance to grieve him in the way I had been denied so many years before."

Excerpt from “Tethered”

Grace Hall-Matson, 2021

"Who am I to say God doesn't know exactly what He's doing?

Who am I to say that this tangled mess

is not an intricate Webb towards freedom?"

Q5: What is the role of research in writing?

Excerpt from “The Starless Night”

Brandon Richmond, 2021

"The question, 'What type of night doesn't have stars?' became 'What type of society doesn't have stars?' In the ancient world, stars were important. They were used to track time. They formed the base of many religions and mythologies. The Babylonians created astrology because they believed the moon, sun, and stars to be celestial beings of great importance. The Greeks stole it and made their own star myths and gave us the Greek Zodiac and Hellenistic Astrology. The Chinese, Japanese, and Korean zodiacs also used these very stars that apparently can't be seen in the sky. The Wisemen followed a star, what would they do in a nightless sky? How would the ancient Babylonians navigate in a starless night? Would they say, 'All the gods died? Welp, time to make a new pantheon?' No, their whole society would begin to collapse because they built huge parts of the society based on these celestial bodies."

Q6: Why do you write?

Q7: What do you plan on doing with
your writing in the future?

Q8: What is one piece of advice you would give to aspiring writers?

Questions