



Writing the Family Story

Mathina Calliope

Mondays, February 3 – March 3, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Craft and Process Books

Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott

Around the Writer's Block by Roseanne Bane

The Situation and the Story by Vivian Gornick

The Shell Game ed. by Kim Adrain (anthology of hermit crab essays)

Field Guide to Writing Flash Nonfiction by Dinty Moore

Mentor Texts

Educated by Tara Westover (family memoir)

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee (fiction)

In the Dream House by Carmen Maria Machado (memoir in essays—literary, experimental)

The Gilead series (*Gilead*, *Home*, *Lila*, and *Jack*) by Marilynne Robinson (fiction)

Essays in *Brevity* (brevitymag.com) (flash nonfiction)

Dutch House by Ann Patchett (fiction)

Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros (somewhat autobiographical fiction)

The Thornbirds by Colleen McCullough (fiction)

The Color of Water by James McBride (family memoir)

The Liar's Club by Mary Karr (family memoir)

Retreat Center

[The Porches](#) in Norwood, Virginia

Community/Support

Find writing groups on Facebook or Meetup

Take additional writing classes through Smithsonian Associates, the Writer's Center, or Politics and Prose.

Photobook platforms

Shutterfly

Mixbook

Mpix

Artifact Uprising