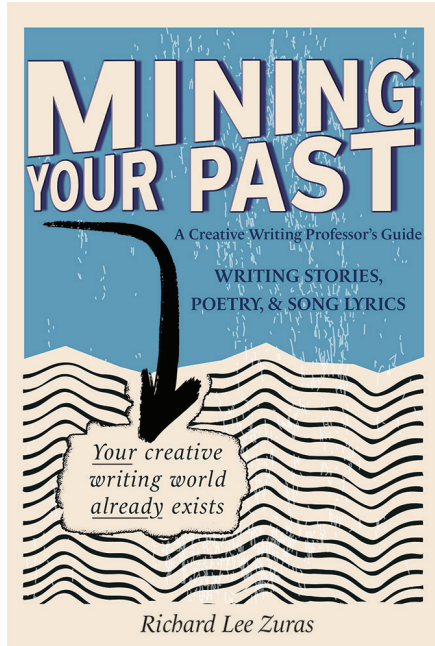


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MINING YOUR PAST

A Creative Writing Professor's Guide
Writing Stories, Poetry, and Song Lyrics

Richard Lee Zuras

No one has ever seen the world the way you have.

This is a truth that noted author, poet, and professor Richard Lee Zuras knows well. Mining your past – for its characters, its lessons, its regrets, and its joys – can feel intimidating, but it leads to authenticity in a writer's written work that cannot be replicated. No one has seen the world the way you do, and so learning how to tap into that world as you create new stories is an invaluable way of finding your voice.

In this accessible and informative writing guide, Zuras skillfully combines his previous written works and personal histories with concrete tools for any reader looking to integrate their own pasts into authentic writing. Refreshingly reader-focused, *Mining Your Past* provides its audience tangible methods for uncovering their unique worldview in order to create more compelling and genuine storytelling. Readers will step away with a greater faith in their potential as writers and a better understanding of their own pasts, presents, and futures, making this an essential read for novice writers searching for a way to share their stories, as only they can tell them.

About the Author



Richard Lee Zuras earned his MFA as a McNeese scholar under the auspices of Pulitzer Prize winner in fiction, Robert Olen Butler, and two-time Iowa Poetry Prize winner, John Wood. His stories and poems have appeared in dozens of literary journals including *Story Quarterly*, *South Dakota Review*, *Weber Journal*, *Big Muddy*, *Jabberwock Review*, *Lake Effect*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Laurel Review*, *Yemassee*, *Xavier Review*, *Confrontation*, *Red Rock Review*, and *Passages North*. Richard has held writing conference scholarships at Bread Loaf, Wesleyan University, and Pirate's Alley Faulkner, and is the author of the novels *The Bastard Year*, and *The Honeymoon Corruption* as well as the poetry collection *Birds at the Post Office* (all Brandylane Publishers). Richard is a professor of English & creative writing at the University of Maine at Presque Isle where he has taught creative writing for more than twenty years. He lives with his wife, Kelly, two sons Everett and Holden, and a red Siberian husky named Indigo.

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