

Featured Writer Interview with Hannah B.

Hannah is a fourteen-year-old unicorn fanatic. She loves arts and crafts of all sorts, including painting, beadwork, photography and friendship bracelets. Additionally, she likes to make up her own dances and enjoys performing them even if she knows they look silly. This is her second time participating in a Write Around workshop at LifeWorks NW. Her piece "Instructions for Caring for Your Dog" was published in our fall 2016 anthology *Headed Home, Looking Back*. Her latest piece, "Broken Crayons," is published in our 50th anthology *Draw the Outside*.



Broken Crayons by Hannah B.

Coloring, she was coloring so hard. A picture of life. It was dull and gray. Upset that her life wasn't more, she colored harder and harder until one of her darkest colored crayons broke. That's when her life turned around. She realized not everything is all doom and gloom. Broken crayons still color!

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Interviewer: Meagan Cooney, volunteer and LifeWorks NW workshop facilitator

What was your first experience in workshop like? What did you come into workshop thinking it was going to be like?

Workshop has been really fun. Gosh, I thought we were just going to be like writing things but then it turns out there's all these pictures and objects [for writing prompts] and that's my favorite part of it. I think the pictures are my favorite.

Was the experience of your second workshop different than the first?

Yeah, you switched it up a bit for me. There are all these new people and they have new ideas and it's so interesting to see what other people can come up with. I was the only person who was the same at both workshops. I think my writing is maybe a bit more adventurous this time.

What was your favorite part of the workshop experience?

I liked hearing everyone else's ideas and I liked hearing aloud my own ideas, just what could come out of my head and onto the paper. Things sound different when you read them as opposed to in your head. Reading, it makes them real.

What did you learn from writing in a group?

Not everyone has the same take on life or writing as maybe I do or you do. For example, peers would write differently and in different styles than I would. Maybe mine is happier and theirs is more depressed and we all had the same prompts but they're all different.

Whenever you write, you seem to take the prompts to unexpected places—is that something you've always done when writing or has Write Around helped develop that?

Well when you're doing schoolwork you have to keep things basic but Write Around has brought out the creative side of me, or the creative side of my writing at least. I've always been creative. I have a really big imagination and I've been told that a lot.

What piece of writing are you most proud of that you've written?

There's this one that's about a girl who is hidden in the darkness and then unicorns come and they find her. It just describes my personality so well and that's why I like it. There are times when you're sad but then unicorns, or your friends, they can cheer you up.

You attended the [fall 2015] anthology release party—how was that? What was the experience like?

It was really scary reading up front but I was really proud that I got to do it and it was fun because I got to see my other facilitator, Cara, outside of the workshop, which was cool.

What did it feel like to have something published?

It felt really cool. This is such a cool experience to be able to be in a book. It's like, not a lot of people get that chance, even writers. It's really fun to know that you're out there and people can read your work.