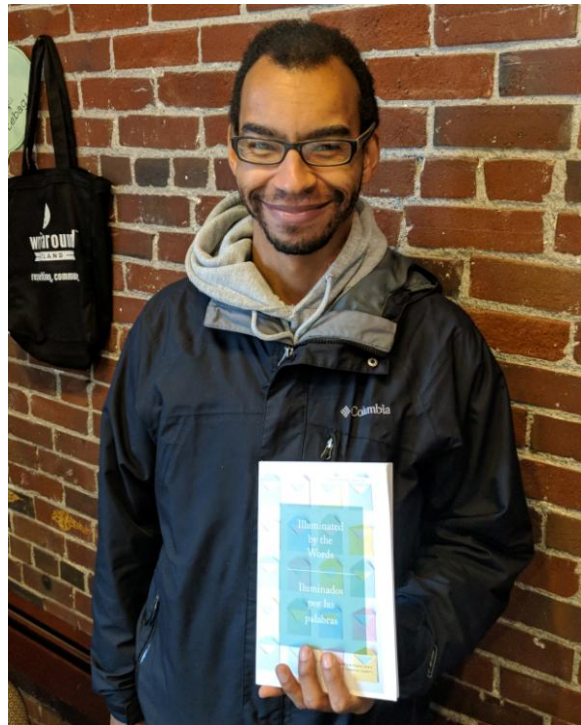


# Featured Writer Jonathan

Jonathan, 33, was born in Portland and has always lived in Oregon. He enjoys photography, specifically taking pictures of landscapes and capturing portraits of people, and enjoys fiction writing. In spring 2017 he participated in a Write Around Portland workshop through Housing Independence's community inclusion program for adults with developmental disabilities. Jonathan plans to participate in another Write Around Portland workshop in the future.



## The Life of a Monk

JB

I feel like I am a monk with a lot of power with things to do to figure out the future. I love to meditate all day. I like helping people and putting them on a different path. I want to help them reach their higher goal. Maybe people want to have students to teach what they want to do in life. To find it in your soul.

What would you do if you were an animal or creature? What would you do with your time? What would you do if you could change the future? What would you want to be while you were meditating? Would you be a cloud? What would heal you? So you don't feel all stressed, instead you feel calm and have an herbal tea.

What is love? Love is hard to figure out, it's very complicated. But you have to make your own decisions and stand up for yourself. Don't doubt yourself. Open new ideas. Find a lesson you can understand.

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## Interview with Featured Writer Jonathan

*Interviewed by Write Around Portland intern Joel Rodriguez.*

Jessie, a community inclusion program manager at Housing Independence, joined Jonathan for this interview.

**Have you always been interested in writing?**

Jonathan: Somewhat.

**How did you hear about Write Around Portland?**

Jonathan: Through Jessie.

Jessie: A co-worker of mine went to a conference, and Sarah [a Write Around Portland staff] was there. Through my co-worker I was able to get in touch and set up a workshop for my clients.

**What kind of things did you write about?**

Jonathan: A lot of things. There were a lot of different things to write about. I liked that.

**What was your overall experience like in the workshop?**

Jonathan: Fun experience. It was great. I enjoyed all the different things there were to do. It was peaceful. It was peaceful to write things down and put it together.

**What was your favorite thing about participating in the workshop?**

Jonathan: Putting the words together. I think I am better at putting the words together.

Jessie: It was great seeing his voice and seeing his creativity in his work.

**How did you feel about sharing your writing?**

Jonathan: It was fun and nerve-wracking sharing it. It felt good to bring the work to life.

**Were you shy at first when you started the workshop?**

Jonathan: Yeah. I slowly opened up and shared more.

**How did you feel about being published in the anthology *Illuminated by the Words*?**

Jonathan: It was fun and great. I was happy to be published.

**Did you read at the anthology release party? If so, what was that experience like?**

Jonathan: She did [referring to Jessie].

Jessie: It was fun and it was great seeing the crowd respond to his work.

**Do you still keep in touch with the other workshop participants?**

Jonathan: Yeah, I do.

**Can you talk a little bit about your piece “The Life of a Monk”?**

Jonathan: I wanted to express what would it be like to be a monk, thinking how it would be if someone decided to be a monk.

Jessie: I think “The Life of a Monk” makes people look within and asks themselves who they are as a person. It has a deeper meaning beyond being a monk. It was great seeing [Jonathan’s] creative voice.

**Would you recommend Write Around Portland to others?**

Jonathan: Yeah. I would tell them that you can write. Write about what you feel. You can make mistakes and know that writing is supposed to be peaceful.