

## Surprise Yourself: An Introduction

In the context of an academic class, when you're given the artistic freedom to write about any personal experience you desire, it's sometimes funny what you can come up with. Often, you write about people or events in your life that are at the forefront of your mind, readily available to your creative voice and have proven to be important to you. Then, you go about capturing this on a page.

Other times, you can write about topics you didn't even know would be a great story – like about an old childhood friend, a first kiss or a high school sports team. A fine instructor and texts like *Writing True* by Sondra Perl and Mimi Schwartz and *Accidental Species* by Kass Fleisher help nurture these types of surprises in writing, especially creative non-fiction.

Overall, one of the best aspects of writing creative non-fiction is the element that you can surprise yourself on facets of your life that are interesting and meaningful for others to read and enjoy that you wouldn't have considered so otherwise.

Please enjoy our collection of creative non-fiction!