

Book Recommendations for Writing Life Stories, Reference Books on Writing

For Non-Writers-How to capture family stories

Family Memories, Life Stories. Nancy L. Pengra. Center for Life Stories Preservation, 2000.

How to Tape Instant Oral Biographies: Capture Your Family's Living History for Future Generations. Bill Zimmerman, drawings by Tom Bloom. Betterway Books, Cincinnati, OH, 1999. (Great resource for kids who want to record interviews with family members.)

Keeping Family Stories Alive: A Creative Guide to Taping Your Family Life and Lore. Vera Rosenbluth. Hartley & Marks, Inc. 1990.

For Those Who Want to Write Life Stories and Improve their Writing

Finding Your Voice; Telling Your Stories: 167 Ways to Tell Your Life Stories. Carol La Chapelle. Marion Street Press, Oak Park, IL.

How to Write Your Life Story. From the author of Poetry Matters, A Writers Notebook and How Writers Work, Ralph Fletcher. Collins, Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2007.



How to Write Your Personal or Family History: If you don't write it, who will? Katie Funk Wiebe. Good Books, Intercourse, PA. 2009.

How to Write Your Own Life Story: The Classic Guide for the Nonprofessional Writer. Lois Daniel. Fourth edition, Chicago Review Press, 1997.

In Your Own Voice: Using Life Stories to Develop Writing Skills. Bernard Selling. Hunter House, 1994.

Leaving a Trace: On Keeping a Journal: The Art of Transforming Life into Stories. Alexandra Johnson. Little, Brown and Company. Boston, New York, London, 2001.

Legacy: A Step-by-step Guide to Writing Personal History. Linda Spence. Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, Athens, OH, 1997. (The best book of life story questions for yourself, or to ask someone else during an interview.)

Letters to My Children's Guardian Together with My Very Personal Gift and Legacy to My Unbelievably Amazing Child. Virginia Antipolo-Utt. Westbow Press. 2014. (Whether you are a parent or not, this complete book of questions will draw forth your life values.)



Telling the Stories of Life Through Guided Autobiography Groups. James Birren. The Johns Hopkins University press, Baltimore. 2001.

The Heart and Craft of Lifestory Writing: How to turn Memories into Meaningful Stories. Sharon M. Lippincott. Lighthouse Print Press, Pittsburgh, PA, 2007.

The Legacy Guide: Capturing the Facts, Memories and Meaning of Your Life. Carol Franco and Kent Lineback. Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, NY, 2006.

The Story of A Lifetime: A Keepsake of Personal Memoirs. Pamela and Stephen Pavuk. TriAngel Publishers Inc., 2000. (This book is a bound book of questions with space to write your own answers.)

Turning memories into MEMOIRS: A Handbook for Writing Lifestories. Denis Ledoux. Soleil Press, 2006.

Write from Life: Turning Your Personal Experiences into Compelling Stories. Meg Files. Writers Digest Books, Cincinnati, OH, 2002.

Write the Story of Your Life. Ruth Kanin. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, MD, 1986.



Writing About Your Life: A Journey Into the Past. William Zinsser. De Capo Press, a member of the Perseus Books Group, Philadelphia, PA, 2004.

Writing Life Stories: How to Make Memories into Memoirs, Ideas into Essays, and Life into Literature. Bill Roorbach, with Kristen Keckler, PhD Writers Digest Books, Cincinnati OH, revised second edition 2008.

Writing Your Life: Bring Your Best Memories and Family Stories to Life: A Guide to Writing Autobiographies. Mary Borg. Prufrock Press Inc., Waco, TX, 2013.

Your Life As Story: Discovering the “New Autobiography” and Writing Memoir as Literature. Tristine Rainer. Jeremy Tarcher/Putnam, New York, 1998.

Reference Books on Writing in General

If You Want to Write: A Book About Art, Independence and Spirit. Brenda Ueland. Graywolf Press, Saint Paul, second edition, 1987.

With Pen in Hand: The Healing Power of Writing. Henriette Anne Klauser, Ph.D. Perseus Publishing, Cambridge, MA, 2003.



Writing A Book that Makes a Difference. Philip Gerard. Story Press, Cincinnati, OH, 2000.

Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within. Natalie Goldberg. Shambala, Boston and London, 2005.

Writing for Your Life: A Guide and Companion to the Inner Worlds. Deena Metzger, Harper San Francisco, 1992.

Writing the Natural Way: Using Right Brain Techniques to Release Your Expressive Powers. Gabriele Lusser Rico. J.P. Tarcher, Inc, Los Angeles, 1983.

