



## From Eco-lament to Action

G26080504

with Laura Paskus

September 3-6, 2026

Dear writers,

Welcome to the Writer's Journey: From Eco-lament to Action. In these challenging and changing times, it is a privilege to spend time thinking, talking, and writing together with intention.

Although the workshop itself is on Friday, September 4, I hope you'll plan to stay at Ghost Ranch both Thursday night and Friday night. For those who are available, we'll meet for about an hour and a half before sunset on Thursday and for an hour around sunrise on Saturday. (I'll ensure you have plenty of time to get to Robin Wall Kimmerer's workshop!)

If you can't make it (for one or both of those gatherings), you'll still benefit from Friday's discussions, prompts, and assignments/exercises — especially if you arrive ready to write.

In the attached supply list, you'll see that I'm asking you to bring some objects and some books (in addition to all the other things you'll need to write and spend time outside).



Although many of us have traveled or lived in various places, witnessing the impacts of climate change across the world or the country, in this workshop I'd like you to focus on your homeground, home waters, and home community.

Some questions to consider ahead of the workshop include:

- Where is your homeground?
- Who are your home waters?
- How are people within your community responding to drought, fire, dust storms, and other climate impacts?
- What changes do you feel occurring when you listen to the land, when you listen to the waters?

Once we meet on Thursday evening, you'll have a new set of questions to consider. And with each of the writing prompts, you'll build on this foundation. Ahead of the workshop, please consider what you'd like to write — a poem, a prayer, an essay, a letter (to your children, to a legislator, to your neighbors, to a forest, to whomever). During the workshop, of course, you can write multiple drafts and decide to write something different. But having an audience in mind is a great way to start writing.

I can't wait to meet each of you, and for you all to meet one another.  
best wishes,

Laura



## Supply list for "The Writer's Journey: From Eco-lament to Action"

### The Outside Stuff:

Most of this workshop will be held outside and require walking and sitting in nature. The hikes won't be rugged, but they will require navigating sandy trails, as well as slight to moderate ups and downs. You'll need to wear appropriate clothing and shoes/sneakers, and pack sunscreen, a hat, snacks, and water. (In September, some people are allergic to late summer bloomers like rabbitbrush, so think about Kleenex, small plastic bags for trash, and allergy medicine.)

I also suggest bringing something to sit on (that you can easily carry). This might include a Crazy Creek chair, a blanket, or even a foam kneeling pad like the kind people use for weeding or gardening.

### The Writing Stuff:

Since we'll be outside, I suggest bringing notebooks, pens, and pencils. Don't be precious about your notebooks. Bring your favorite journal or fancy notebook if that's what makes you feel happy or creative. But also consider bringing sketch pads, old notebooks, notebooks you can rip pages out of or scribble in, weird notebooks you don't like, etc. Writing is messy business.

Bring your laptop for when we're writing inside — and when you're writing on your own, especially in the evenings.



The Other Stuff (that you won't be expected to carry on hikes!):

Bring 3 - 5 companion books. These are books you love — either because of the topic or the language. These can be books of poetry, guidebooks, novels, short story or essay collections, or non-fiction books. These books and their authors will be your writing companions while you're creating at Ghost Ranch. Bring a few objects from your homeground, home waters, and/or home community. These can include stones, plant bundles, photos, a jar of water, etc.

**Workshop Itinerary:**

Thursday, Sept. 3:

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.      Sunset gathering: Introductions, conversations, and a benediction for the night's assignment. Outside location TBD.

Friday, Sept. 4:

8:00 a.m.              Morning meeting: brief discussion of community agreement, plans, expectations, continued conversations. Inside location TBD.

9:00 a.m.              Breakfast together.

9:45 a.m.              Writing prompt in the bosque along Arroyo del Yeso, just a short walk from the cafeteria.

11:00 a.m.             Sharing and peer-editing exercises (Arroyo del Yeso)

12:30 p.m.             Lunch together. (If you'd prefer to be on your own for lunch, that's fine. But for those interested, group conversations will continue at lunch.)

1:15 p.m.              Writing prompts and exercises.

3:00 – 4:15 p.m.      Time on your own to write, hike, or rest.

4:15 p.m.              Back to the group to read/share and problem-solve/workshop.

6:00 p.m.              Dinner on your own or with the group.

After dinner          Writing together in silence. We'll find a spot to write together, but quietly and separately. Before we part, everyone will receive another benediction for the night's assignment.

# GHOST RANCH



## Saturday, Sept. 5:

6:15 a.m. Optional, of course, because not everyone is an early bird. Sunrise gathering to read from your work and for the group to share final thoughts.

## Robin Wall Kimmerer Presentation

10:00 am Workshop #1 The Serviceberry

1:30 pm Workshop #2 Moving Beyond Gratitude: What it means and what it takes to create a world where we all truly belong to each other and the Earth

7:00 pm Book signing and final reception

## Sunday, Sept. 6

Breakfast & Departure