

Workshop Title: Digging Up the Past

Level: Novice Writers, **Developing Writers**, Experienced Writers

Duration: **1 hr**

(10 mins) Check in:

- What is a memory someone has of you that makes you smile?

(10 mins) Resource Building:

- Quick Write:
 - In no particular form, write about your earliest memory. What were you doing? Who was there and what were they doing? What sort of scents or sounds can you remember? How old were you? How does this memory make you feel?

(15 mins) Example poem:

- "The Past" - Michael Ryan
 - <https://poets.org/poem/past-0>
 - What is happening in this poem?
 - What is the mood of this poem?
 - What is the moral of the story?
- "Still I Rise" - Maya Angelou
 - <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46446/still-i-rise>
 - Who has heard this poem before? Where?
 - What is Angelou rising from?
 - Is Angelou rising from the same things we are trying to rise from today?
 - What does this poem say about her as a person?

(15 mins) Prompt:

- Maya Angelou's poem utilizes a refrain, a poetic device that provides a repeating line in a poem, and given the context, will amplify the message or overall meaning of the poem. Using a refrain, write a message to your future self. What will your future self need to know to carry on? Consider how the message feels, smells, sounds, etc. when your future self finds it.



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Online Sharing Options

- (10 mins) allow 2 - 3 students to share their work
- (10 mins) create share-groups of 3 or 4 students. Students should share work among themselves privately (email, google drive, text, etc.)
- (10 mins) allow all students to share 1 - 3 lines from their writing. Speed is key!

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