

SUSANNA ZWEIG

Writer • Developmental Editor • Grant Writer • Curriculum Author

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Fiction & Fantasy • Memoir & Personal Narrative • Poetry • Literary & Cultural Analysis • Grants & Proposals • Brand & Founder Narrative • Curriculum & Instructional • Research & Academic

PROFILE

I write and edit across a wide range of forms and areas of practice, and my work includes: a Ukrainian fantasy manuscript translated from Russian; funding proposals for an adult ESOL program; a founder's bio; a student workbook for a rigorous academic writing course; numerous scholarship essays to fund my own education; and a book of haikus. What connects these works is a focused discipline of seeking and finding the soul of a piece of writing, determining what it is trying to say, then whittling away at it in order to preserve and amplify the voice of the author. I have worked for twenty years as a writer, a developmental editor, a licensed English teacher, and a grant writer. I have degrees from UC Berkeley, Harvard, and UCLA. I work best alongside new writers who want to learn the craft, fellow writers who value collaboration, and organizations with human-centered missions and values.

EDITORIAL SERVICES

- **Developmental Editor** — *Tales of the Wandering Mists*, Book One, by Oleg Veretskiy (Pierce Press). Strengthened narrative structure, character development, symbolism, world-building, and thematic coherence across a full-length fantasy manuscript. Met regularly with the translator to protect the author's voice, cultural meaning, and narrative intent as the book moved between languages. Mentored the assistant editor into the lead editor role. The book went on to earn multiple awards.
- **Writing Coach** — *The Magic Map*. Guided a high school writer from premise to completed draft of an original children's book drawn from his own world travels — structure, voice, audience, and revision.

Editorial Range — Developmental editing of long-form manuscripts | Structural diagnosis and reordering | Line and copy editing | Manuscript assessment and editorial letters | Revision planning | Editorial mentorship | MLA and APA | Source integrity

GRANT WRITING & PROPOSALS

- **ACCESS Adult ESOL Program, Boston Chinatown**. Secured \$69,574 across three successful proposals, including the organization's first-ever award from English for New Bostonians. Built the funding case from an original community needs assessment of 80 local businesses and residents.
- **Scholarship and fellowship essays**. Wrote the applications that funded my own graduate education — the President's, Judith Levin, and Hoyt Scholarships and a Graduate Fellowship at UCLA, and the Harvard Club of Boston Scholarship.
- **Best Practices Proposal**: *Supporting Immigrant Students with Social Integration Through a Personalized Buddy System*. Woods, P., Fisher, R., Zweig, S. (2008).

COLLABORATIVE WRITING

- **Founder's Story — Unique Self Emergence**. Clarified and connected a founder's story across a website and its offerings, so that the origin, the values, and the services read as one continuous account rather than three.
- **Translation collaboration**. Sustained partnership with a literary translator on a full novel — reconciling English prose rhythm with the author's original cadence. The translator described the collaboration as a gift, and my editing as "*truly a wizard with words*." (M.P., translator, Veretskiy's *Tales of the Wandering Mists*)

Also — Ghost and co-writing for solopreneurs and small organizations | Website and about-page narrative | Bios and personal statements | Interview-based writing | Voice-matching and style sheets

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL WRITING

- **Author** — *Write to the Top*, the student workbook for The Granderson Writing Academy's flagship writing course (2023–2024): argumentation, close reading of complex texts, and craft instruction integrating literature, history, and journalistic writing.
- **Co-Developer** — *Writing and Reading in the Digital Age*, a secondary literacy curriculum published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston through nSight Works (2007).
- **Co-Author & Instructor** — Graduate-credit professional development coursework for New York City public school educators on restorative justice, trauma-informed teaching, and classroom management (QuikiTech).
- **Assessment Design** — Evidence-based argumentation rubrics and interdisciplinary humanities curriculum, developed with Harvard's Strategic Educational Research Partnership (SERP) Institute.

LITERARY & SCHOLARLY WORK

- **Poetry**. Studied poetry, and the teaching of poetry, with Professor June Jordan at UC Berkeley. Self-published a collection of 50 haiku at twenty-one, written after Richard Wright's *Haiku*. Poetry and short fiction published at simplysusanna.com.
- **In Progress** — *Meeting Absurdity with Love*. Adapting my UCLA master's inquiry project into a book: part practitioner research, part reflection on years in the classroom, part call to action for teachers and young people in a rapidly changing world.

- **Undergraduate Thesis** — *The Queen of Sheba & King Solomon: Politics, Romance and Hegemony in the Ancient World*. Written under Professor Erich Gruen at UC Berkeley: an intra- and inter-literary analysis of Middle Eastern and North African texts spanning antiquity through the Middle Ages.
- **Graduate Research** — A sampling: *Promoting Positive Post-School Outcomes for Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders* (2007); *Beyond the Veil: Somali Muslim Female High School Students, A Model for Group Counseling* (Harvard, 2008); *Meeting Absurdity with Love: Co-Creating Caring Relationships with “Disengaged” Students Through Informal Dialogue* (UCLA mixed-methods practitioner research, 2018; housed in the UCLA GSE&IS library).
- **Early Writing Recognition** — age fourteen: winner, American Legion Post 18 essay contest, *A Day in the Life of the American Flag*.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND (ABRIDGED)

SIMPLY SUSANNA | Founder, Writer & Editor

MYLIFELAB | Founder, Education Consultant & Learning Designer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT | UCLA TEP | ELA & Humanities Teacher

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | ELA & ESL Teacher, Boston Adult Technical Academy

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS | Multi-Subject Teacher, Greater Egleston Community H.S.

Twenty years teaching writing and reading to students — public and independent school students, adult immigrant learners, incarcerated youth, children living in shelters, CEOs, and fellow solopreneurs — in Boston, Los Angeles, and online.

EDUCATION & AFFILIATIONS

University of California, Los Angeles — M.Ed., Teacher Education (Secondary English)

Harvard University — Ed.M., Prevention Science & Practice (formerly Risk & Prevention)

University of California, Berkeley — B.A., History

Member, International Association of Professional Writers and Editors

Ongoing studies through MasterClass writing coursework

Licensed English Language Arts teacher (Massachusetts: Provisional; California: Preliminary)

Licensed ESL teacher (Massachusetts: Provisional)

Licensed TEFL instructor (TQUK Level 5)