Welcome to the class, Your Life As Story.

While we are not gathering physically at Ghost Ranch, we are getting together in the spirit of the quiet and soulful landscape.

In the class, Your Life As Story, we will explore ways to take our life experiences and render them as stories. We can work on short stories or longer book-length stories. Ordinarily we may not think of our experiences as having the coherency of a story. But they do.

The experiences that form who we are, the experiences that come from who we are, have a theme, a beginning, a middle, and the end. As we look into our experiences for the idea of story, we will begin to see that, yes, our lives are coherent.

We will look at the tools of story – setting, plot, character development, scenes, and dialog – and use these tools to write about our lives.

The class will take place for two hours each week. For part of that time, we will look at the work of writers who tell powerful stories about their lives, writers such as Cheryl Strayed in *Wild*, Jeanette Walls in *The Glass Castle*, or Frank McCourt in *Angela’s Ashes*.

Yet we will spend the majority of the time each week looking at the work of students. In a positive and encouraging environment, students will share the work they’ve done in short pieces of 1,000 to 2,000 words.

The goal of the class is to encourage students to look deep into their lives for the stories that make life meaningful. We all have these stories. Every one of us.