SAMANTHA RENEE RATCLIFFE

Poet • Educator • Editor • Community Organizer

University of Kentucky MFA Program
Lexington, Kentucky

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
University of Kentucky, Graduated May 2026

Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education
Minor in Women's & Gender Studies
Eastern Kentucky University, 2012

Active Kentucky Teaching Certification, English Grades 8–12

BOOK PROJECTS

***Common Wealth* (Poetry Collection, *in progress*)**

A hybrid collection of poetry and flash fiction exploring invisibility, labor, poverty, environmental loss, and queer Appalachian identity. Through surrealism and lyric witness, the manuscript examines communal care as resistance and asks what forms of belonging remain possible amid political and ecological instability.

HONORS, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2026

Second Runner Up, Kentucky State Poetry Society Chaffin/Kash Poetry Prize for “Last Last Grave Cleaner”

William Hugh Jansen Graduate Award for Oral Storytelling

Montana Big Sky Residency Recipient

King Library Press Broadside Contest Winner *"After The Flood (Manual on How to Cry)"*

Jean G. Pival Outstanding Writing Teaching Assistant Recipient

2025

Kentucky Foundation for Women Artist Enrichment Grant

Kentucky Colonel

King Library Press Broadside Contest Winner *"They Live Inside My Name"*

Oak Ledge Residency Recipient, Hindman Settlement School

Kentucky State Poetry Society Chaffin/Kash Poetry Prize Honorable Mention for *"Ars Poetica"*

POETRY PUBLICATIONS

2027

"Ranger" *Sinister Wisdom, summer 2027* (forthcoming)

2026

"Comforter" *Salvation South*, October 2026

"The Wild" *Viridine Literary Magazine*, Issue 8,

"Applicable Candidacies" *Rind & Root*, Issue 3

"Grease" *Rind & Root*, Issue 3

"What I've Learned About Marriage So Far" *Rind & Root,* Issue 3

"Naomi" *Rind & Root,* Issue 3

"Yours, An Ars Poetica" Susurrus, Summer 2026 Issue

“Everyday Aches” *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel*, Issue 29

"America Does a Little Trick," *Vagabond City Lit*

"Tangerine," *Stafford Anthology*, Hindman Settlement School

"Sour," *The Uncommon GRACkle*

"Provokable," *Provokable: An Ekphrastic Anthology*

"Common Wealth," *The Argyle Literary Magazine*

"Ode to the Left Organ," *Dogyard Magazine*

"birch rot" and "the holler baby sent you another letter and it's best you reply," *Rooted, Resilient, Rising*, University Press of Kentucky (forthcoming)

"Meet My Dad Before You Cut SSI" and "Church of Dolls," *YNST Magazine*

"This American Currency," *Harpy Hybrid Review*

"Preserver," *Corporeal Magazine*

"Pippin Moon," *Corporeal Magazine*

"Woman as Hammered Copper Clawfoot Tub," *Corporeal Magazine*

"Hard-shelled Mirrors in One Star Shaped Urge," *Corporeal Magazine*

"Structural Decisions," *A Community Zine to Save Aylesford*

2025

"what we keep" and "Last American New Year," *Testament: A Rural Anthology*

"Alive," *All Else Pales 2: A Song, Emerging*

"It's Still Good," *Discarded: A Rural Anthology*

"Love Me Not," *Discarded: A Rural Anthology*

"Southern Hunger," *Discarded: A Rural Anthology*

"Southern Thirst," *Discarded: A Rural Anthology*

"Overthrust," *Pegasus*

"Rot," *Pegasus*

"US, Dreaming," *These Mosaics Anthology*

"Holler Timing," *Untelling*, Issue 1

"Shuck White New Year" and "Manual on How to Cry," *Untelling*, Issue 3

"Problem Child" and "We Wear," *Yearling*, Issue 3

"Commonwealth," *Yearling*, Issue 4

"Two Days Sat Up Like a Baby Doll," *Yearling*, Issue 5 (forthcoming)

FLASH FICTION

"Mortgage Lifters," *Harpy Hybrid Review*

"The Sitter," *WRFL Rifle*

"In Sight It Must Be Right," *White Wall Review*

"Mary Jane Watson Requests One More Day," *White Wall Review*

"Fire & Eggs," *Provokable: An Ekphrastic Anthology*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bellarmine University
ENGL 101 Primary Instructor *(Fall 2026)*

University of Kentucky Graduate Instructor, 2024–May 2026

WRD 111: Composition & Communication Primary Instructor

WRD 110: Introductory Writing & Rhetoric Primary Instructor

ENG 107: Creative Writing Primary Instructor

ENG 107: Creative Writing Teaching Assistant / Graduate Assistant

Frankfort High School Core English Teacher, 2020–2024
Creative Writing
Literature, Language & Rhetoric
Profile of a Graduate
Faculty Advisor, *Inscripto* Literary Magazine

EDITORIAL & PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

New Limestone Review

Editor-in-Chief, Spring 2026 Issue

Poetry Editor, Fall 2025 Issue

Poetry Editor, Spring 2025 Issue

University Press of Kentucky

Marketing Intern, Summer 2025

Editorial Intern, Spring 2025

Broadstone Books

Editor, Acquisitions, Marketing & Social Media 2023–2025

Anthologies

Co-Editor, *Provokable: An Ekphrastic Anthology*

Guest Editor, *Testament: A Rural Anthology*

Guest Editor, *Practice: A Rural Anthology*

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

Hill Writers Reading Series & Writers' Collective

Founder and organizer of a free regional writing community serving Appalachian writers through workshops, readings, online programming, and literary events.

The Alphabet Center

Co-Founder of Eastern Kentucky University's first LGBTQIAA+ educational center.

Developed an inclusive community space supporting student organizations, Women's & Gender Studies programming, and free educational resources.

PODCASTS

I Declare, Kentucky Co-Host and Editor

Poets Speak Co-Host and Editor

SELECTED READINGS, PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

2026

Guest Co-Host, Kentucky Writer's Roundtable, In conversation with Linda Angelo & Jay McCoy, MediaLex

Featured Poet in conversation with Jay McCoy & Samar Johnson, *Sacred & Transformative: The Writing Process, In-One A-Chord Sacred Music Festival*, Lexington KY

Featured Poet, Winchester Pride All Voices Reading Room

Featured Poet, Bellarmine University Poetry Workshop

Poetry at Artifact, Cincinnati Ohio

Poetry & Music in the Garden Liberty Hall, Frankfort, Kentucky

MFA Graduate Reading Carnegie Center

Provokable Book Launch University of Kentucky Art Museum

Panel Host Appalachian Studies Association

Panel Host UK Appalachian Research Symposium

2025

Kentucky Book Festival Main Stage Announcer

Word of Mouth Reading Series Featured Reader, Cincinnati Ohio

Last Monday Reading Series Opening Reader

Broadstone Books Reading Poets House, New York City

Queerapalooza Featured Reader

UK EGSO Symposium Presenter

UK Appalachian Research Symposium Presenter

2024

Kentucky Book Festival Host

Broadstone Books Marathon Reading Poets House

Teen Howl 2.0 Featured Reader

Poetry at the Pub Featured Artist