

## ABSTRACT OF THE VOLUME

This creative manuscript is titled *We Will Wander as We Grow*.

The title was chosen to reflect the themes within; it comes from a quote collaboratively dictated by my family while hiking through the woods the summer after I started the program:

*A lot of straight ones, dad says, gesturing at the trees around us.*

*But a few that said no, my sister replies, we will wander as we grow.*

My manuscript contains four short stories, three penseés/flash pieces, two excerpts from longer works, the abstract of my critical thesis, and a full bibliography of readings completed during my tenure in the Master of Fine Arts program from June 2018 through July 2020. Of the four short stories, two are considered complete and ready to seek publication. The remaining two are in progress, as are the longer works from which the excerpts were pulled. All the pieces in this manuscript were conceived of and written during my time in the program. With regards to the flash pieces, all three are considered ready for publication.

Pieces were selected for unique elements of story, style, etc. Nine of the short stories written during my time in this program were not selected for inclusion in this manuscript for these reasons, or due to excessive length, etc.

At the rear of this manuscript is an abstract of “Setting as it Supports the Coming of Age Arc in Russell’s *Swamplandia!*,” which outlines the goals and conclusions of my critical thesis. Finally, the bibliography includes readings completed during my four semesters, as well as those pieces read during residencies.