

Robert W. Norris Bio

Brief

Robert W. Norris is a longtime resident of Japan and the author of five books.

Short

Robert W. Norris was born and raised in Humboldt County, California. He was a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War and served time in a military prison for refusing his order to fight. In his twenties, he roamed across the United States, went to Europe twice, and made one journey around the world. In 1983, he landed in Japan, where he became a professor at a private university and retired as a professor emeritus. He is the author of three novels, a novella, a memoir, and over 20 research papers on teaching. He and his wife live near Fukuoka, Japan. (99 words)

Medium

Robert W. Norris was born and raised in Humboldt County, California. In 1969, he entered the Air Force, subsequently became a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, and served time in a military prison for refusing to fight in the war. In his twenties, he roamed across the United States, went to Europe twice, and made one journey around the world. In 1983, he landed in Japan, where he eventually became a professor at a private university, spent two years as the dean of students, and retired in 2016 as a professor emeritus.

Norris is the author of *Looking for the Summer*, a novel about a former Vietnam War conscientious objector's adventures and search for identity in Europe, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and India in 1977; *Toraware*, a novel about the obsessive relationship of three misfits from different cultural backgrounds in 1980s Kobe, Japan; *Autumn Shadows in August*, an hallucinogenic mid-life crisis/adventure, and homage to Malcolm Lowry and Hermann Hesse; *The Many Roads to Japan*, a novella used as an English textbook in Japanese universities; and *The Good Lord Willing and the Creek Don't Rise: Pentimento Memories of Mom and Me*, a memoir and tribute to his mother. He has also written several articles on teaching English as a foreign language. He and his wife live near Fukuoka, Japan. (220 words)

Long

Robert W. Norris was born January 11, 1951 in Arcata, California, a small logging town on the northwest coast. After an idyllic childhood in the redwoods and a rebellious adolescence following his parents' divorce, he entered the Air Force in September 1969, subsequently became a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, was court-martialed for refusing to fight in the war, and served

time in a military prison. In his twenties, he embraced the counterculture, roamed across the United States, went to Europe twice, and made one journey around the world. During that time, he worked as a millhand, construction laborer, stevedore, mailman, baker, saute cook, and oil rig steward. His dream was to be a writer and live in a foreign country.

He landed in Japan in 1983, and has lived there since. The first few years were a bit rough, but eventually he set his sights on getting a degree and finding a university teaching job. It took seven years while working at various conversation schools and companies, but he finished both a B.A. and an M.A. by correspondence. He hooked on full-time at Fukuoka Women's Junior College in 1992 and was promoted to Fukuoka International University in 1998. He retired in 2016 as a professor emeritus.

Norris is the author of *Looking for the Summer*, a novel about a former Vietnam War conscientious objector's adventures and search for identity in Europe, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and India in 1977; *Toraware*, a novel about the obsessive relationship of three misfits from different cultural backgrounds in 1980s Kobe, Japan; *Autumn Shadows in August*, an hallucinogenic mid-life crisis/adventure, and homage to Malcolm Lowry and Hermann Hesse; *The Many Roads to Japan*, a novella used as an English textbook in Japanese universities; and *The Good Lord Willing and the Creek Don't Rise: Pentimento Memories of Mom and Me*, a memoir and tribute to his mother. He has also written over 20 articles on teaching English as a foreign language. He and his wife live near Fukuoka, Japan. (340 words)