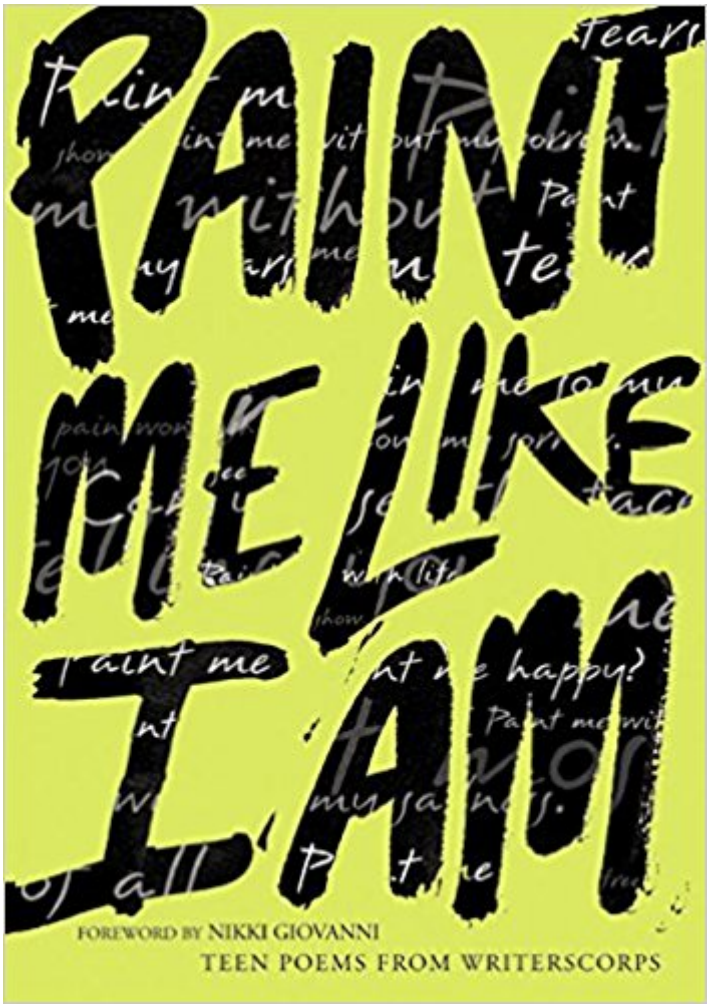
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Paint Me Like I Am: Teen Poems From WritersCorps



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Synopsis

Today my name is colorful.Yesterday my name was dead souls. Tomorrow my name will be lively spirits. My friends think my name is fire. The police think my name is burden. My parents think my name is symphony. Secretly I know my name is anything I want it to be.Paint Me Like I Am is a collection of poems by teens who have taken part in writing programs run by a national nonprofit organization called WritersCorps. To read the words of these young people is to hear the diverse voices of teenagers everywhere.Included are a foreward by acclaimed poet Nikki Giovanni, an essay from Kevin Powell, another poet associated with WritersCorps, and writing tips from WritersCorps instructors.WritersCorps was started in 1994 to help at-risk youth in three American urban centers: San Francisco, Washington, DC, and New York City (the Bronx). Thousands of children and teenagers have since benefited from finding creative expression through writing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-WritersCorps works with disadvantaged youth, encouraging teens to express themselves through writing and recording voices that might otherwise not be heard. The young people have a lot to say about race, drugs, abuse, and self-image, as seen in these honest and sometimes raw poems. There are some good metaphors here ("Bodies sprawled along the shelter's floor-,/like sloppy cursive writing-" "I'm a sleepy flower,/and the ground waves at me"). "Alone in a darkness that laughs in your face," one poem notes. All the contributors are intensely aware of "self." One girl writes, "When I feel like I'm going to fall apart,/I hold my ribs, all the way around-/I hold brightness and shadows in/the hollow where my ribs meet-/I hold my ribs, until I feel solid." As

in any anthology, there are some literary jewels and some less-poetic but more openly honest rants. There is much to learn from these young people.Sharon Korbeck, Waupaca Area Public Library, WICopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-12. "I am the Great Wall sleeping on the land." "I'm the broken pieces on the floor." "My name is furious." "Secretly, I know my name is anything / I want it to be." The teen voices in these poems, collected from the WritersCorps youth program, are LOUD--raging, defiant, giddy, lusty, and hopeful. Grouped into arbitrary categories, the poems explore identity, creative expression, family, neighborhood, drugs, and relationships. They're rough, sometimes cliched, sometimes forgettable. But the brave experiences and "rawdog emotions," as Kevin Powell writes, are what will stay with readers. "I'm rich baby / Ever since you died," writes a girl after she loses her drug-addicted boyfriend. In "Leaving China," Jeff Miao writes, "To say good-bye / Words sick at my heart / The tears would not drop out." A foreword from Nikki Giovanni rounds out this moving collection, which also includes a few thoughtful writing exercises. Gillian EngbergCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's poetry written by teenagers; of course some of them will be better than average and actually challenge, but the rest are mediocre at best, typically angsty and droll.

Worked fine, only took a star because the charger needed to be in a certain position plus flying controls a little off center

Arrived on time and as described. Nice collection.

for mom, she loves it.

Beautiful poems written by youth along. Great inspiration for those who work with youth and great inspiration for young aspiring writers.

GREAT PRODUCT

Purchased for school. Didn't hear any complaints (and believe me I would) so assume they are

happy.

My students LOVE these poems. They are true to what teens face in today's world and we can all relate. We even created our own I AM poems and used the title to portray what makes us similar, yet unique!

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