



Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls

Betsy Franco (Editor) , Nina Nickles (Photographer)

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Teenage girls tell their own stories—in compelling poetry and prose paired with 42 striking black-and-white photographs.

The voices in this collection have so much to question, so much to grieve. They have so much to celebrate, so much to rage against. They're ready to speak up and begin the conversation — with you and with the world. More than thirty uncensored poems are accompanied by Nina Nickles's masterful photographs, which sensitively capture the moods and essence of adolescence. Here, painted in the words of teenage girls, is a portrait of their dreams and desires - a record of hope, disillusionment, anger, joy, sadness, and most of all, strength.

Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls Details

Date : Published May 1st 2001 by Candlewick

ISBN : 9780763610357

Author : Betsy Franco (Editor) , Nina Nickles (Photographer)

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Poetry, Young Adult, Childrens



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From Reader Review Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls for online ebook

Paul Hankins says

I was able to find this 2001 collection from Betsy Franco on the web. It came in nearly pristine condition and I am so pleased to add this collection of poems, solicited from young writers from across the country, thoughtfully pulled together by a super advocate of young adult literacy, Betsy Franco.

The verse here is all at once inspiring and heartbreaking. Honest--sometimes brutally so--to capture the voice of the "every" girl who might happen upon this collection and find their feelings or their story within the collection.

Amber Wortz says

Amber Wortz

Poetry

This book is a compilation of poems and prose written by teenage girls all over the world. The poems are about issues that the author believes are important for teenage girls to know about life that most people don't talk about openly.

These poems amazed me and I could not believe that the majority of them were written by teens. All of them were very powerful and though provoking. I also love the photography that accompanied the poems.

Laura says

I first encountered this book when I was about 11 or 12 and fell in love with one particular poem - "Apricot Bath". At 21, this is the first time re-reading this book and I love so many more of the other poems. This is a raw yet poetically mediated collection of teenage experiences is so beautiful and important. Teenage girls have stories that are worth being heard and heard again.

The coupling of words and photography in this book is beautiful - both art forms stand alone so majestically and work together so cooperatively. The models in the photographs weren't told about the poems at all and thus, can be viewed simply as they are. Yet they match the poems so well.

These poems bring me to the brink of tears and make me think about what I felt at 17 and how I still feel those same emotions now.

Apricot Bath completely changed the way I viewed romantic realationships - at the age of 11 or 12. I have carried that philosophy with me to this present day. I would like to purchase a copy of my own (I took this out of the library) to re-visit again and again on days I need inspiration, courage, or even just company. I will recommned this to absolutely everyone. EVERYONE.

Read to find out not just about yourself, but about others. These are things I would want to tell every (if any) future children of mine

Dannielle says

Dannielle Nebinski

Genre: Poetry

This is a powerful book of poetry written by very talented teenage writers. The book is a wonderful mixture of poetry and prose, about these teenage girls' fears, angst, dreams, and relationships. The black and white photographs of Nina Nickles placed throughout the book, compliment the poems in the best way imaginable.

Betsy Franco has done a wonderful job of compiling these wonderful poems along with the photographs to put together this wonderful book of poetry. I strongly recommend this book to all teenage girls over the age of 14, as it contains some poems that deal with subjects no suitable for younger girls.

Liz says

I picked this book up from the library one day, back when I was in high school, on a whim. I wound up being really surprised by how much I loved it. I can see where some adults might pass writing by high school women off as fluffy and unintelligent, yet this is absolutely not the case.

This book is wonderfully put together. One of my favorite aspects of it is actually the photography, because it's of real girls. This is fitting because these are poems about topics which many teenager struggles with at some point, such as body image, drugs and sexuality. Two of my personal favorite poems are "Hallway Between Lunch and English (French Can Kiss My Sexually Ambiguous Arse)," "Damn, I Look Good" and "The Consequence of Loving Me."

I find it hard to review this book, but it's definitely worth a read. I feel like I've met many of the girls who wrote these pieces, because I've contemplated many of the challenging issues here. This is a somewhat hard book to track down in stores, but if you can find it, I highly recommend that get yourself a copy.

Alyssa says

Alyssa Morres

Poetry

In this book it shows how much teenage girls actually go through at this time. Love, grief, happiness, self consciousness, all of these things are what are talked about in these poems written by actual teenage girls. It opens up a lot of questions and allows other teenage girls to see their not the only ones going through these things, others are to.

Day Sibley says

I remember picking up this book back in high school, but it didn't faze me as much, however, I recently picked it up again and I'm glad. I feel being a womanist swayed me towards this book again. I didn't always identify with being one, let alone understand the dynamics of being a young woman amongst patriarchy. But now I do. So, hearing their words at such a tender age of womanhood was breath taking. Each of these girls has a different life from one another, you can hear it in their writing, but nevertheless differs from them trying to leave their mark.

Jeanine Allen says

Jeanine Allen

Poetry

Things I Have to Tell You: poems and writing by teenage girls edited by Betsy Franco with photographs by Nina Nickles is a collection of poetry written for and by teenage girls. The writings generally talk about the transition from girlhood to womanhood. They focus on body image, relationships, friendships, school, acceptance, etc. Some poems slide right by and some poems hit you directly in the face. One especially harrowing poem by a 15 year old girl talks about her love for crack and how the drug will never love her back. Some poems conflict the feelings of what other poems convey. One poem will be about how she wants to be accepted for who she is and not her body (Apricot Bath by Lindsay Henry - my personal favorite). Another poem written by a girl who celebrates her body (Damn, I Look Good by Miraim Stone). Another poem will reflect the authors heartbreak about stepping on the scale and the roller coaster of emotions we feel about our bodies (poem by Becky Mann). Young women will find it easy to read through the book and find a poem that relates to their life. As an adult reading this book, I was able to relive my teen years and reflect. The pictures in the book do not show the girls posed to look like magazine models. Instead, they show them as they truly are: genuine and natural.

Alyssa Peters says

Alyssa Peters

Poetry

This book was very sad but truthful. Many of the poems were written by teenage girls about themselves. These girls have to deal with what people think about their looks, bodies, and sexuality. There are also pictures in the book. Some are of the young girls at school, in the street and in front of the mirror. The poems were poems that the girls wrote to express their feelings and get the truth out about what goes on in their lives. I think this is a great book for young adults to relate too. I found myself engrossed in the poems and looking closely at the meanings of the pictures.

Abigail K. says

This collection is filled with brutal, honest, and poignant stories of what it's like to be a teenage girl. As noted in the foreword, many of the poems and prose are still as important today. My one complaint, that keeps this book from being a four, is the photographs. They date the books to the early 2000's when it was published. However, on average the actual writing was incredibly well executed.

Kelsey Collins says

Kelsey Collins

Franco, B. (2001). Things I have to tell you: Poems and writing by teenage girls. Somerville: Candlewick.

Genre: Poetry

Format: Print

Selection Process: Browsing "young adult poetry" selections from Amazon.com and reading previous reviews.

Author Betsy Franco gathers more than thirty poems by teenage girls and pairs them with black and white photographs. The poems have different subjects, but flow cohesively together to make up about teenage girls' emotions. These girls express fears, dreams and hopes, relationships, and anxiety through these poems. This book of poems is great for young adults because it is young adults speaking to young adults. It brings more emotion out for a young adult than perhaps a classic poem would.
Highly Recommended.

Samantha says

I'm currently reading this book. I like this book because i can relate to this book so much and i have stories like some of these girls and it brings out some memories back. Some of these girls have it really rough and i thought i did. One of my favorite poems is called "Secrets." This book is mostly about girls going through pain and suffering and some girls share some things they wouldn't say to people out loud. It's like they are writing poems like a diary.

"Secrets"

Do you know my secret,
Did i tell you it last night,
Were you listening to my dreams,
Were you hiding out of sight?

Do you look to find my secret,
Reading letters, reading notes,
Picking up sometimes on phone calls,
Opening Book too see what i wrote?

Do you really want too know my secret,

Will it answer your questions,
Take away your mass of worries?
Or maybe , you could ask for my suggestions.

Do you ever think to ask me about my secret,
Being honest and forthright, With no lies or hidden feelings?
Only then will my secret come to light.

Mr. says

A stunning collection of poems and short writings from teenage girls across the country. I found these pieces to represent Middle School students very well, and found that sharing them with my students was beneficial to the class. The girls in this collection have explored their own experiences and have expressed their emotional lives with clarity and courage. I would recommend this reading to anyone (not just female) who would like to discover more about going through difficulties and finding ways to overcome challenges.
