

About the Authors

Rachel Elizabeth Griffiths received her Bachelor and Master Degrees in English Literature from the University of Delaware. She has taught numerous poetry workshops for youth. Currently, she is a graduate student in the Master of Fine Arts creative writing program at Sarah Lawrence College.

Cassandra L. Manuel is a woman who enjoys all the “hats” she wears. Some of those include wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and aspiring writer. Cassandra teaches English and Reading Skills classes in East Orange Campus High School, East Orange, New Jersey. She is also an adjunct at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. Her aspirations are to continue teaching and writing. She knows that there is an audience for her stories and she hopes to reach and touch them.

An African-American woman who chooses to teach in an urban public school district, Cassandra encounters interesting people in every area of her life. Once a divorced single mother, Cassandra is constantly fascinated by the resourcefulness and resilience of the human spirit. Her stories and poems make every attempt to capture a portion of that remarkable essence.

Kemba Sonnebeyatta, the daughter of a preacher and a teacher, was born in North Philadelphia and raised in West and Southwest Philadelphia. After graduation from high school, she went to Cheyney State College and, finally, discovered herself. It was while a student at Cheyney that Kemba was introduced to her cultural heritage. She has not stopped learning about and loving her African self; she takes her African roots very seriously. Not only has she adopted a name that identifies her with her roots, she has bestowed the same on all seven of her children. Four of the names used in this story are names of her children.

About the story. When her children were young, they went to summer recreation while Kemba worked. When she came home, she usually asked them what they had done that day. One day they described an especially distasteful lunch meal. One of the children described it as, “P’nut butter and rubber.” Hence, the story began.

Kemba presently teaches American literature at Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden, NJ. She has recently received her Master’s Degree in school counseling. She is most proud of the following two things: She raised seven children, six of them sons, in Camden, New Jersey, as a single parent. None of her children has been involved in the criminal justice system, all of them have graduated from high school, and all of them have gone to college.

The other thing is that her students, who call her Ms. SonneyB, are guaranteed to learn from a uniquely cultural, and diverse, slant. And, they respond positively.

Adrienne K. Scott was born May 20, 1986 in Jacksonville Florida. She has been writing since about 8 years old, when her family permanently moved to Delaware. She has always been interested in being a professional author— she loves to write—it is one of her favorite things to do. Adrienne graduated from Brandywine High school in Wilmington, Delaware on June 6, 2004. She now attends Neumann College and plans to transfer to Liberty University in the fall of 2005. She is pursuing a Nursing degree, as well as a masters degree in Physical Therapy. Adrienne is also minoring in Creative Writing and plans to continue to write, as well as publish, as many works as possible. She entered the literary contest while attending Brandywine High School in Delaware.

Stefanie Dara Gordon is currently a freshman at the University of Delaware, majoring in English with a concentration in Journalism. She graduated from Brandywine High School, where she served as the co editor-in-chief of the school paper. She is a student athlete for Delaware, running on the Cross Country, Indoor, and Outdoor Track teams. Stefanie also plans to donate money she earns from writing to TurtleWill, a charity that aids peoples in the remote bush with little recourse to medical, economic or educational aid. She entered the literary contest while attending Brandywine High School in Delaware.