

At the Children's Home of Reading, the "I Am..." Writers Workshops are familiarly known as "Pen to Paper." The students, all of whom take the evening course voluntarily, represent a cross-section of society. Some are well-spoken, others know only the language of the street. But there are commonalities. They write mostly about their losses, finding ways to express sadness, anger, and depression. They seek attention and approval. Their writing is pure and honest, at once beautiful and brutal.

Excerpts from "I Am..." Writers Group (aka "Pen to Paper") • Children's Home of Reading, PA
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Happiness comes with laughter
and with laughter comes happiness.

-- Zachariah

"I look up to the sky and say
'When are you going to take me?
When are you going to love me?
When am I going to have somebody
In my life so I won't be alone?'
I scream really loud
and say I'm sorry"

-- Anthony

"It was my fault that I got abused. Now I think that it was the person who abused me. It is 100% his fault.

I have a habit of eating alot then going to the gym and working it off. I have another habit of biting at my fingernails. I try to break that habit. I have a habit of making things neat when they are messy."

-- Hayden

I Am waiting to be lit
to be alive to be in the world
to be helping someone see in the dark

-- David

sky man
Listed to me as I cry
hoping to see
my man in the sky
looking down on me
telling me she loves me
she wishes she could
hold me close
I see her everywhere
is she a ghost

-- Adrian

The sick you feel
Will ever last
Get it cured
Real soon, real fast
Sick is hurt
Sick is pain
It won't really work
If you walk in the rain

-- Javon

"I never heard my father say 'I love you'
I never got the chance to meet my mom
I never heard my father say 'I'm sorry'
I never got the chance to finish middle school
All these things I could've been
if I was doing what I had to do"

-- Alex

"I wish I was asleep, dreaming of anything but
reality. I think of great power to fight off the
evils in the world. To create something better
in my world. But it's just my dreams. When I
wake up I hate myself because I'm back in
reality in this weak and powerless body."

-- Christian

"If there is a man inside of me
that I will grow to one day be
I ask that he be understanding,
always patient, never demanding"

-- Kyle

"Day after day of sadness
Eyes filled with teardrops"

-- Hayden

"I turned off the lights wishing
for the last day. Everything is
the same. I'm drifting away."

-- Eddie

Nighttime is not forever, though it may
seem like it at times. When you
wake up at 12:05 P.M. because you
heard a noise and then can't seem
to get back to sleep

Your Reflection is on the Moon...

-- Dustin