

INDEPTH

Spring

2025

INSIDEOUT WRITERS



The following selection of writings was created by students at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Camp Dorothy Kirby. In this edition, students reflect on their lives through poetry and the written word, using pen and paper as powerful tools for expression. We are immensely proud of every student who contributed to this edition of the InDepth Journal. Our youth are insightful, inspirational, and resilient writers whose voices deserve to be heard.

*Love can turn to hate
But who can turn hate to love?
Because I need them*

Jose M.

*Life is as hard as stone
Hold my heart up to the stars
Life is a highway*

Aaron H.

Rick and Morty laughs
Their adventure went alright
They are going back home

Escaping my house
I skated far away down
Down the happy street

Where am I?
I am not home now
I miss home

Jeremiah M.R.

I'm going under

Do you see the look in my eyes?
Or do I have a pretty good disguise?

They never answer my call
They supply me with drugs and watch me fall

20 feet deep
I wonder does she hear me scream?

I said "help" not "yell"
She don't need a lecture, HELP HER!

But does she want it? No.
She keeps on running

A.P.

I am from a crazy but wonderful family
from rags to riches

I am the ice to your cream
I am from Nike shoes and girly clothes

I am from black girls fighting at 1am
from street tacos and elotes
from beads and rubber bands

I am the blood to your tears
from staying out until the streets lights come on
I am from the PROJECTS.

K.W.

I love

I love making wishes even if they don't come true
I love laughing so hard to the point it hurts

I love sunsets with a cool breeze

I love the beach, going into the ocean, and letting the waves knock
me down

I love cold, rainy, gloomy days but staying in bed all day with
blankets

I love rewatching movies because I love knowing what the outcome
will be

I love admiring the different beauty that is in this world

I love sitting on big grassy hills with a tree shading over it

I love those that know the difference between owed respect and given
respect

I love tulips because they remind me of my mama.

H.R.

With heartfelt gratitude to our Writing Program Teaching Artists, who play an essential role in bringing our students' voices to light.

April Hong
Amanda Wilgus
Deborah Kanter
Kate Wells
Katherine Gamez
Lauren Dani
Letty Burin
Michelle Gabby
Molly Ott
Monica Vega
Olivia Carrasco
Shane Jones
Susan Cuscuna

The mission of InsideOUT Writers is to reduce the juvenile recidivism rate by providing a range of services that evolves to meet the needs of currently and formerly incarcerated youth and young adults. Using creative writing as a catalyst for personal transformation, these young people are empowered with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully re-integrate into our communities becoming advocates for their future.

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