



InsideOUT Writers





IN DEPTH



FALL 2025





THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION OF WRITINGS IS OFFERED BY STUDENTS AT LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL. IN THIS EDITION, THEIR WORDS REFLECT MOMENTS OF GRATITUDE ROOTED IN THEIR PASTS AND HOME LIVES, WHILE ALSO REACHING TOWARD THE HOPES AND POSSIBILITIES THEY CARRY FOR THE FUTURE. THROUGH PEN AND PAPER, THEY HONOR WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN AND IMAGINE WHERE THEY ARE GOING. WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF EVERY STUDENT WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EDITION OF INDEPTH JOURNAL. OUR YOUTH ARE INSIGHTFUL AND INSPIRING WRITERS—RESILIENT IN SPIRIT, AND COURAGEOUS IN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REFLECT, DREAM, AND SHARE THEIR TRUTHS.



IN DEPTH LITERARY JOURNAL FALL 2025
INSIDEOUT WRITERS

One day, I will be the way out.
One day, I will be on top of the world.
One day, I will be dependable.
One day, they will know my name.

One day, my friends will become family.
One day, my family will become friends.
One day, my foes will forget and forgive.

By Jorge C.

Love is a mother's touch.
Love is the smell of food at the BBQ
Love is the effort a family gives to show support.

Love is the kisses you give.
Love is the sound of music.

Love is the reason I keep going.
Love is the way I feel.

By Jorge C.

You are someone who has a purpose.
You are the person who can make a change.
You are more powerful than you think you are.
You are that one who will make it out of the dark.
You are the most important thing.
You are a person who is the making of making a
difference.
You are the one who will go out with a bang.

By Jason A.

The world is waiting on your plan to reveal.
The world is problem solving and moving all the hills.
The world is giving you signs to build.

The world is a constant battle, which will make you heal.
The world has a place for growth and for people who forgive.
The world can be cruel, but you can always make men rule.
The world is a war, but you can always overrule.

By Jason A.

I remember when you carried me as an infant.
I remember when you brought me home.
I remember when you fed me.
I remember when you bathed me.
I remember our late car rides.
I remember we watched movies together.
I remember when you bought me a dog.

I remember you loved sweets.
I remember you loved to smile.
I remember you loved to laugh.
I remember you were my best friend.
I remember you caught stage 3 breast cancer.
I remember you stayed strong for me.
I remember seeing you one last time.

By Darren G.

Gratitude for My Environment

I could hear birds, car crashes, gun shots
Loud music

I could see and feel the struggle,
see poverty -crooked cops

Taste that comfort food, Mexican food.
I love to eat Jamaican food
Love smelling it,
I could also smell the GF5R
It's been a minute since I've smelled that.

I miss that women's touch...
The feeling of cash and protection.
I love the way I was brought up
I wouldn't change a thing.

By Elijah G.

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR
WRITING PROGRAM TEACHING ARTISTS,
WHO PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN
BRINGING OUR STUDENTS' VOICES TO
LIGHT.

ALEXA STEBBINS
APRIL HONG
AMANDA WILGUS
ANDY VALENTE
ANIBAL SERRANO
BILAL AMIR DORTCH
DEBORAH DE LA PUENTE
DEBORAH KANTER
DEVIN FERREIRA
HAVEN YOUNGHORSE
IAN STRINGHAM
KATE WELLS
KATHERINNE GAMEZ
LAUREN DANI
LETTY BURIN
MICHELLE GUBBAY
MOLLY OTT
MONICA VEGA
SUSAN CUSCUNA

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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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PEN. PAPER. PERSEVERANCE.

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