

iow InsideOUT
WRITERS

INDEPTH

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Old Days

Dear StrollerxJoey,

I just thought you should know how I'm doing now.
I am an angry person who spends a lot of time reminiscing.

I just thought you should know how I'm feeling.
I am eager because shit ain't been the same and never will be.

I just thought you should know what I've been through.
Since the last time I saw you, I have suffered and changed so
much.

The time that I took a trip and kicked it with you was
especially important.

I just thought you should know what I wish for the future.
I hope that you know I'm gonna survive and thrive and be
there for our youngins.

I just thought you should know what I don't miss about you.
I am glad that I don't have to worry about nothing I had to
worry about when it came to you.

I just thought you should know what I miss a lot.
I miss the way you used to pull up and kick it and take me
around the city.

I just thought you should know I never _____ about you. I'll
never let your name die.

**Aiden C.
Unit L**

**Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/01/2023**



Today and Tomorrow

Tonight is filled with disgrace, knowing I just made my chain, broke my freedom. I was free, now I'm all stuck in this hole, stuck knowing tomorrow will be the same waking up, wishing for freedom. I pray for all the sins I did and have done, wishing for forgiveness.

At the same time, I'm thankful for everything. Thankful for my family, that keeps me knowing I got a home, people I can count on cause they are my blood. Where I can go to; mostly my jefa (Mom), I love her so much. Also thankful for my second fam, which is the fam that are my neighbors.

I'm thankful to IOW for showing me the ghetto isn't everything and there can be change and I can follow my dreams.

I am thankful for another day and another chance.

**Adrian A
Unit O
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/22/2023**

Gratitude

Today I am grateful for life.

I got to wake up and enjoy another day of life. I got to thank God that I get to wake up. I got to thank God that He gave me an opportunity to enjoy my days. I'm also grateful that I get to call my Moms today, because in jail, man, I just miss Moms' real talk! I gotta show my Moms: I got this, no matter what. I gotta show her I can stay up out this place.

**Joshua H.
Unit X-2
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/15/2023**



Untitled

Dear life,

I've known you for 19 years, how long will you stay? If I know when you're leaving, I'll know how to treat you. If I knew I had a little bit of time, who knows if I'd treat her recklessly, or who knows if I treat you better, carefully. If you leave, will you come back? Or would you leave me behind? It is because I didn't learn to teach the lessons you taught? Or did the lessons and lashes leave loud impressions? Did I teach hate more than love? Was I more of a curse or more of a blessing? We've had good times too, when the winters came, the sun stayed. And we could watch Charlie Brown all day and sip champurrado dreaming about how bad "I wanted to go outside in the rain"... But first, I needed you to stay.

Unknown

Unit Z1

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

11/20/2023



Who Am I? Who Do I Want to Be?

Who am I but only human? I am made of bone and skin and no emotions because I lost them a long time ago. When people meet me, they see someone who is quiet; not very talkative. I'm like that because I don't like to be social. I may appear to most people as someone who is banged out or maybe as someone who sends chills down your spine. I am a Leo, so I carry a lot of pride. I'm a lion. The most important things to me in life are my mother and my family. My family is the most important thing in the world to me. They come first.

What does it mean to be human? I could say it means to live, because life is a gift from the Lord. To live life to the fullest. I am a man of the Lord and Jesus Christ. I like to spread positivity. I admire people who succeed in life and who make good money and carry themselves well - having a good job, and being something professional.

The person I want to be is someone who lets in positive energy. I want to have people look up to me. I want to be a good man who takes care of my family and makes good money. I want to be remembered for being a money-maker and a loyal, solid person that anyone could trust.

**Jeremy D.
Unit X-2**

**Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
10/4/2023**





I Pretend

I pretend I am happy
but I am really mad and sad.
I pretend I am going home
but I know I'm really not.
I pretend not to care
but deep down I really do.
I pretend I'm not a gang
banger
to the good people
I pretend I'm good.
I pretend I am going to
heaven,
I hope.

I pretend I'm.....?
I pretend I'm.....?

**Jeremy D.
Unit X-2
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/08/2023**

I Pretend

I pretend... I'm not happy
I pretended... that it wasn't
me
I pretend... I don't know how
to drive
I pretend... this sh** isn't
boring
I pretend... the time is flying
by
I pretend... that I don't care
I pretend...not to listen
I pretend...I don't like my
girl
I pretend...the time I am
going to do is going to be
fast
I pretend...that I'm good
I pretend...that I don't like to
play games

I pretend...?
I pretend...?

**Alberto V.
Unit X-2
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/08/2023**



Some Thoughts About Who I Am in the World

My life in 4 words:

County - Halls - Camp - Placement

Three things that I most like about myself:

I am artistic

I have a good heart

I never give up

The one thing I know now that I wish I had known "then":
There's so much more to life than going to jail and gangbanging.

A question I would rather not know the answer to:

When will I be killed

A question I would like to know the answer to:

Will I be successful in something

Three things that give me purpose

Art

Progress

Hope

A time I was blind to the truth:

Believing I was innocent

Three things that I would like to change about myself:

My life style

Improve myself physically

Make better choices

Some further thoughts:

I know I have a good heart.

I am impulsively a respectful and helpful person

I don't like my kindness being taken for weakness

When I learn to become more resilient, my kindness will be my
ultimate power.

Logan L.

Unit O

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

11/8/2023





Untitled

I pretend sometimes I'm ok
but sometimes I am mad a lot.

I also pretend I have a lot of money
at school sometimes
but only got \$100 in my pocket.

I also sometimes pretend I'm super religious
but I just started reading the Bible
a month ago, for real.

I also pretend I'm coming home real soon
even though I know I might be locked up
till next year around April.

I pretend sometimes I like certain females
so I can use them for their funds.

Karter T.

Unit X-2

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

11/08/2023



My Favorite Person

When the call came
The time has come
When I lost the one I loved the most
The tears kept coming like a river
Falling down my face like a
waterfall
When I watched the casket go in
the wall all the memories
withdrawn
One by one I remembered the times
I cherished them so much
But now I move on in life but
haven't overcome the mountain
Biggest one of them all
I don't think I ever can or ever will
I'm stuck at this part and can't get
through the obstacle
I'm stuck in my emotions
I will never overcome.

**Ayden R.
Unit X1**

**Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
10/25/2023**



You Don't Know Me

You see that I'm a juvenile
You see that I'm a criminal
But you don't know me.

You would know me if...
You knew how hard it was to walk
down the streets without getting
stopped.
You knew how I feel sometimes;
that I hurt.
You knew how hard it gets.

You see that I'm the problem
You see that I smoke to deal with
the problems
But you don't know me.

You would know me if...
You knew about my little family
You knew how I show up for them
You knew how I envisioned my
future to be bright.

**Anonymous
Unit M**

**Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
9/27/2023**





[Handwritten signature]

Silence

I've dealt with silence
The darkness. The loneliness.
In deepest of thoughts
Drowning me with silence
I am home but I feel
Far away from the world
While in my thoughts
I am subtle but I feel
Unconscious while in my thoughts
They are silent thoughts but
Feel and sound loud
Every time I feel it
I'm always finding myself
Right where I started.

Anthony C.
Unit R2
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/13/2023



LOVE

Love is more than just attraction.
It's about mentally and spiritually
taking action.
Without love, some things aren't fun.
I don't really understand love
because I'm partially young.
Love can come in many ways. Love
can help someone live or fall in a
grave. Love is more than a label or a
ring. It's about working with your
significant other as a team. Love can
be nothing or everything. Love can
leave permanent scars; it could do
damage to one's heart. Love is easy,
sometimes hard, but when love is
faked it leaves one permanently
scarred.

Jeremiah T.
Unit X2
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
11/11/2023

About the Outside

I miss him.
I miss my family.
I miss walking my dogs;
Feeding them
Playing football with my cousins
I miss my mom; helping around in the house
Sweeping, doing the dishes
Spending time with my dad
On Sundays, looking at the lowriders in Whittier
I'd help him fix cars
Play catch with my dogs
I miss going out to restaurants, playing basketball, going to arcades
Playing air hockey and mini basketball games
I miss drawing on the outside
I miss going to school on the outside
I miss going to birthday parties
I miss being outside in general
And spending time with friends and family.

Sergio R.
Unit X1
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
10/25/2023



...space below, write your own solar circle poem. As you write, make word choices that support a clear theme. Use style and color to support the theme. Then, complete the artist's statement to explain your choices as an artist and writer.

A hand-drawn solar circle poem on a piece of paper. The central circle contains the word "JAIL". It is surrounded by ten rays, each with handwritten text. To the right of the circle is a small drawing of a person with a speech bubble.

Central circle: JAIL

Rays (clockwise from top):

- POOP with people smoking
- BIRTH
- Im get
- GO + 28 + H
- MIN
- CALL
- do
- up
- FIGHT
- SPROCK
- the TRASH
- Smel


Small drawing to the right: A stick figure with a speech bubble containing the word "LOATH".



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We extend our gratitude to the staff at
Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
... and to our current teachers who continue to inspire, guide, and encourage our
students to express themselves one word at a time.

Our current Teaching Artists



Pluto Brown
Olivia Carrasco
Susan Cuscuna
Lauren Dani
Kathy Gamez
Michelle Gubbay
April Hong
Shane Jones



Monica Vega
Mindy Velasco
Kate Wells
Amanda Wilgus
Lauren Siegel
Rodrigo Guardado



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InsideOUT
WRITERS

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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