

"This workshop makes me feel like I'm a great writer."

- Nadine, Parkrose Middle School student

"I learned to just write what is in your heart what ever pops in your head and be respectful and share your writing."

- Nasteho, Parkrose Middle School student

"When I shared my writing in the workshop, I liked it. I also liked when other people wrote funny stories and poems."

- Tima, Prescott Elementary student



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PORTLAND



In the Fall 2011, Write Around Portland held four 8-week long writing workshops in partnership with the Parkrose School District for:

- 6th grade students at Parkrose Middle School
- 5th grade students at Prescott Elementary
- 5th grade students at Russell Academy
- 5th grade students at Sacramento Elementary

The workshops gave the students the opportunity to experience writing as fun, as an adventure, as a time to express creativity and maybe most importantly as something in which they could take pride. The unique and creative pieces in ***When the Leaves Come Out of Their Trees*** were written by the students during the workshops.

The workshops were facilitated by highly-trained volunteer writing workshop facilitators who shared their enthusiasm for writing with the students. Facilitators provided exercises and prompts the students could take in their own directions. Together they wrote poems and stories, tried their hand at dialogue and character development, and explored imagery and voice.

Students shared their writing with their peers and learned how to provide one another with useful, strength-building feedback. They revised their writing and decided which pieces they would submit for publication. The facilitators encouraged students by sending personalized postcards to each student each week. The postcards modeled strength-building feedback and were a tool for demonstrating the power of writing.

The workshops, this publication and the community reading where students shared their writing were made possible by the effort and contributions of many.



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Since 1999, Write Around Portland has partnered with more than 170 agencies, schools and organizations to hold creative writing workshops, community readings and published anthologies. These are some of our partners:

Alternative Schools

- Centennial Learning Center
- Portland OIC/Rosemary Anderson High School
- LEP High School
- Timber Lake Job Corps
- Helensview High School
- Youth Employment Institute (YEI)
- Serendipity Center
- Portland Youth Builders

Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Schools

- Roosevelt
- Marshall
- Portsmouth
- Tubman
- Rigler
- Clarendon
- Gilbert Park
- Kelly
- Harvey Scott
- Jackson

Correctional/Detention Facilities

- St. Mary's Home for Boys
- Multnomah County Juvenile Services - RAD Unit
- Multnomah County Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Facility
- MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility/University of Hope
- Clark County Juvenile Justice/Vancouver Public Schools
- Boys & Girls Aid, Pettygrove

Social Service Agencies

- LifeWorks NW - LeoNiLeo
- LifeWorks NW
- New Avenues for Youth
- p:ear
- YO! Center
- Youth Builders
- I Have a Dream Foundation
- YWCA Smart Choices Program
- DePaul Treatment Center
- The Dougy Center
- North Portland Youth & Family Center
- Powerhouse Mentors
- Girl Scouts Beyond Bars
- Girl Scouts Columbia River Council Hispanic Initiative
- Cascade AIDS Project Kids' Connection
- Human Solutions Arbor Glen Teen Club
- New Columbia Youth Group (Housing Authority of Portland)
- Powerhouse Mentors
- NELA: Center for Student Access
- Po'Shines/Teach Me To Fish
- Janus Youth Services Bridge House
- Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC)
- Friends of the Children

Parkrose School District

- Parkrose Middle School
- Prescott Elementary
- Russell Academy
- Sacramento Elementary

Write Around Portland brings 8 and 10-week creative writing workshops to hospitals, schools, low income housing buildings, homeless youth shelters, senior centers, prisons and treatment facilities. More than 70% of the nearly 500 adults and young people in workshops each year are living below the federal poverty line. By providing journals and pens, bus tickets, snacks, childcare and all workshop materials free of charge, we remove the obstacles to writing in community. Writing workshops culminate in community readings and professionally designed books.

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