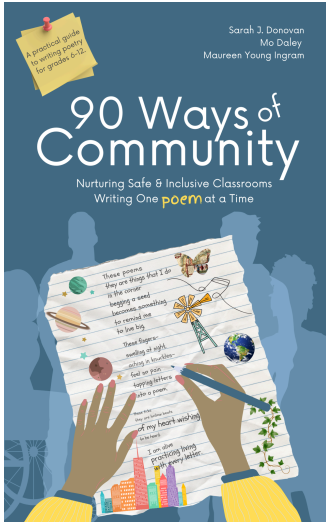


Ethical ELA & Open OkState Book Publications

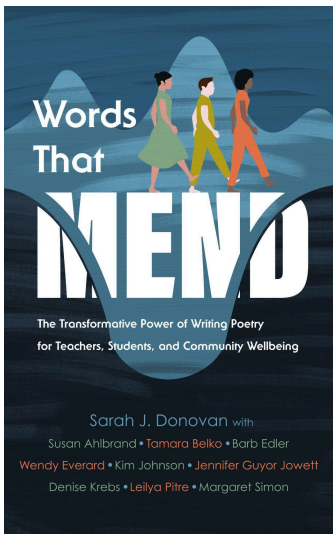


90 Ways of Community: Nurturing Safe and Inclusive Classrooms Writing One Poem at a Time | 978-0-9998768-4-8

Available September 2, 2024:

- [Ethical ELA](#) free download in PDF or Google Doc
- [Goodreads](#) for reviews
- [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other retailers for paperback (~\$11)

Unlock the transformative power of poetry in your classroom with *90 Ways of Community*. This indispensable resource guides teachers through a year-long journey of poetic engagement, fostering a safe and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and heard. Grounded in social emotional learning and trauma-informed pedagogy, the authors provide practical, adaptable lessons that seamlessly integrate poetry writing into any curriculum. Each chapter begins with a heartfelt "Dear Teacher" letter, offering context and support, while thematic clusters of prompts inspire creativity and connection. The book covers a wide range of topics, from celebrating individuality to extending community and healing through poetic expression. The authors draw on real classroom experiences and the collective wisdom of a community of teacher-poets. *90 Ways of Community* is more than a collection of prompts—it's a roadmap to building a classroom culture where poetry becomes a vital tool for learning and growth. Join us in nurturing the hearts and minds of students, one poem at a time.



Words That Mend: The Transformative Power of Writing Poetry for Teachers, Students, and Community Wellbeing | 978-0-9998768-5-5

Available September 2, 2024:

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A compelling look at writing poetry as a powerful transformative agent to support teachers, their students, and community. Blending instructional tips with teacher memoir, *Words That Mend* includes practical ways for teachers to engage in poetry writing providing prompts, instructions, and invitations for teachers to nurture their writing lives. The authors candidly share their personal stories of trauma, pain, and loss, as well as incredible stories from the classrooms and community events. These educators' warmth and love for teaching emphasize that processing traumatic or tragic events through poetry writing has become a step toward recovery and rediscovering hope at a time when the teaching profession most needs it.



Just YA: Short Poems, Essays, & Fiction for Grades 7-12 | 978-1-957983-03-5

Available September 2, 2024:

- [Ethical ELA](#) free download in PDF or Google Doc
- [Goodreads](#) for reviews
- [Open OkState](#) for free downloads in PDF and searchable
- [Amazon](#) and other retailers for paperback soon (~\$11)

Just YA is a powerful collection of literature celebrating the diverse and dynamic experiences of contemporary youth. This open-access anthology features short texts that can be read in a single class period and are designed to spark deep conversations. Organized around themes of identity, love, place, justice, and the future, these works offer inclusive and affirming perspectives to align with any ELA curriculum. With contributions from acclaimed young adult authors, flash fiction writers, and teacher-poets, *Just YA* provides educators with contemporary texts that resonate with and inspire today's students to write their own stories.

Praise for *90 Ways of Community*

“90 Ways of Community gives practical tools and ideas that will help teachers and student tackle language, identity, art, and emotion. The strategies and structure for a daily practice in writing would make for an effective and powerful foundation for teaching writing and for building a culture of connection in your classroom.”

~**Tom Rademacher**, author of *It Won't Be Easy*, *Raising Ollie*, and **50 Strategies for Learning without Screens**.

“In this book, Donovan and colleagues invite teachers to rethink the teaching of poetry and to reimagine it as relational, as community building, and as anti-oppressive. Full of practical steps and insight, 90 Ways of Community walks readers through the processes of setting up notebooks and establishing procedures to the day-by-day plans for making poetry part of the classroom culture.”

~**Mike Cook**, Auburn University author of *Exploring Relationships and Connection to Others: Teaching Universal Themes through Young Adult Literature*

“Educators looking for practical strategies for teaching poetry will find what they need in this stunningly powerful text. This book invites teachers and students to engage in conversation through daily writing activities. With an emphasis on poetry as a transactional and empathy-building experience, *90 Ways of Community* dovetails well with Nancie Atwell or Jim Burke’s writing workshop models.”

~**Kia Jane Richmond**, Northern Michigan University author of *Mental Illness in Young Adult Literature: Exploring Real Struggles through Fictional Characters*

“This book, with its collection of prompts, mentor poems, and practical tools, will help teachers move poetry out of the shadows of a single unit and into the daily work we do to help students explore their inner and outer worlds and leverage it as a tool to nurture and heal. We know that poetry holds immeasurable power, and this book will help us share that power with our students.”

~**Erin Vogler**, English Teacher and Literacy Coach, Keshequa Central School, NY

“Grounded by a National Writing Project ethos, this book showcases teacher writing and teacher practice. It is a useful resource for teachers who want to infuse poetry writing into their classrooms in order to elevate student voice.”

~**Kristen Turner**, Drew University recipient of the ELATE/NCTE Richard A. Meade Award

“Poetry, the magical unit when students are most excited to write, I am most excited to read their writing, and they’re most engaged with one another. Maureen, Mo, and Sarah provide an easy method to ensure poetry magic happens all school year long. I can’t wait to incorporate this book into my lesson plans!”

~**Tracie McCormick**, Middle School Administrator and 8th grade teacher

Praise for *Words That Mend*

“My time reading *Words that Mend* was not only worth it, it has multiplied my thinking about teachers as writers in profound ways. These chapters contain the lives and experiences of teachers—written like a colleague who pulls up a chair to sit beside you—and you lean in, listening with intensity and joy. What a gift this book is: it holds so much. *Words that Mend* is the invitation each of us needs to write in community. In celebration. In support. In discovery of what it means to bring poetry into the lives of all those we know. There is a particular generosity in this book: one of personal experiences, yes, but also the hesitations all writers feel to show their lives in writing. You will find beginnings here (even a notebook page of first thoughts) that will inspire you to write. You will find lesson plans already worn and weathered by use in classrooms. Do not turn from the gift of *Words that Mend*: you need it more than you might think you do.”

~**Penny Kittle**, author *Write Beside Them*, *Book Love*, and *Micro Mentor Texts*

“We need more books like this; books that address the teacher as a participant and creator within the classroom, as human and vulnerable, books that address the healing so many students and teachers need, books that highlight the art of teaching and the teaching of artistic expression. This book is a beautiful expression of the kinds of power a classroom can have.”

~**Tom Rademacher**, author of *It Won't Be Easy*, *Raising Ollie*, and **50 Strategies for Learning without Screens**.

"In our anxious, fractured, post-pandemic world, the book *Words That Mend* offers pathways to hope and healing through poetry. Broken into eighteen dynamic chapters presented by teacher poets, each chapter offers a practical entry into poetry as a healing force. By opening their hearts and sharing their own poetry, each teacher poet reinforces the gossamer threads of our humanity. From self, to student, to the wider community, *Words That Mend* offers the possibility of kinship and connection that has the power to transform the world."

~**Ann Burg**, poet and author of *Force of Nature, Flooded, Unbound, Serafina's Promise, and All the Broken Pieces*

"*Words that Mend* offers important insight into specific methods and practices educators can employ to bring poetry into their communities, their classrooms, and their own lives. The educators here share their own experiences with writing poetry as a form of much-needed healing in a difficult world. This hands-on book will get not only students writing and appreciating poetry, but will instill a love of poetry in the adults guiding them as well."

~**Kip Wilson**, award-winning author of *White Rose*

"The true intent of poetry is to be bodily heard and felt in the soul and seen in the spirit, thereby offering the possibility of mending the whole person emotionally, socially, physically, and spiritually. *Words That Mend* is an authentic collection that reflects what poetry should be for students and teachers, but also for the hopeless, hurting, and brokenhearted. It is a refreshing reminder for those who are whole, regardless of age! It is also a valuable resource for mental health professionals, acknowledging the importance of their work. The harmony of words in this poetic tool, *Words That Mend*, closes the gap between random words and the authors' purposeful intent to connect with the audience, offering an invitation to come inside and leave with new perceptions of the power of words!"

~**Dr. Marye Smith**, ELA Teacher, Author, Mental Health Counselor, Life Coach and Conference Speaker, Barnesville, Georgia

"As I read through *Words That Mend*—a book about writing poetry in community like no other in its purpose and scope—the 2024 election season was heating up. True to how that season has recently been unfolding, words were launched as weapons meant to wound and only wound. This book arrived as a salve, covering me whole cloth in poetry. Written by teachers for teachers, with exemplar poems from teachers and students, this collection will help us heal while we create that which can sustain us for years to come."

~**Crag Hill**, poet and Oklahoma Writing Project Site Director

"I will be recommending *Words That Mend*, to all my English teacher friends. I was energized by each chapter, authored by a different teacher, who courageously shared her vulnerabilities by participating in the poetry writing process. I am motivated to guide more poetry lessons with my students. Thanks to *Words That Mend*, I have lots of practical lessons at my fingertips. "

~**Sally Donnelly**, NBCT, Middle School Reading Coach Arlington Public School, VA

"This is the beauty our classrooms need—real, raw, and refreshing, like life itself. This book celebrates the incredible healing power of words, revealing profound truths and breathing life into those who embrace poetry. Its impact is far-reaching, touching hearts and minds, and highlighting the essential role of poetry in our lives."

~**Tracy Hunt**, Instructional Facilitator for ELA, Media Mid-Del Public Schools, Oklahoma

"*Words That Mend* is an emotion-evoking collection of works that blends together personal, meaningful teacher experiences grounded in reliable, research-based framework. It is brought to life through the inclusion of poetry by both teachers and students, along with detailed explanations of how the writing poetry activities can be replicated by other educators to build genuine relationships with their students and help supporting each other."

~**Kristina Bankston**, Hammond High Magnet School, LA, IBCP Service Learning & Reflective Project Coordinator

"Especially with poetry, many students ask, "Why do we need to know this?" *Words That Mend* provides concrete examples of poetry's power in everyday living. From coming to terms with one's deepest emotions to sharing life's experiences with others, this book allows teachers to offer compelling, expedient answers to their students."

~**Tina Smith Mckeen**, Spanish Teacher & Foreign Language Department Head, Highland HS, Medina, Ohio

"*Words That Mend* is a hub and haven for English teachers who want to learn how to incorporate poetry writing into their classrooms and lives. Teachers can use this resource for instruction and inspiration as they envision and create classrooms where every student's voice—and their own—is heard and healed."

~**Jason Stephenson**, poet and Program Manager of Secondary Education, Oklahoma State Department of Education

"*Words That Mend* is a beautiful book for English Language Arts teachers. I was touched by the vulnerability of all the authors as they shared how poetry has helped them and how they use poetry as SEL and for healing with their students. This is a great read for anyone wanting to bring more meaning to their poetry instruction and has the added benefit of helping the reader find some healing through writing, as well."

~**Gallit Zvi**, Principal at McKinney School in Richmond, British Columbia, and co-author of *The Genius Hour Guidebook*.

"*Words that Mend* is an invaluable resource for teachers who wish to provide meaningful and out-of-the-box learning experiences. The practical "Your Turn" sections allow teachers to gain tried-and-true insights, strategies, and activities that can be immediately implemented in their classroom. These not only encourage students to fall in love with creative writing, but the most magical byproduct is that every member of the class gets to know one another on deep and authentic levels."

~**Kelly Koehler**, Middle School Gifted ELA Teacher, North Ridgeville, Ohio

Praise for JUST YA

"Educators who plan to enrich student empathy will enjoy *Just YA: Short Poems, Stories, & Essays* since there are many diverse voices to explore. Materials are recommended for grades 7-12, but can be easily understood by adults as well. Students will easily connect to this collection by Sarah J. Donovan."

~**Heather M. Nayback**, ELA Department Head at Munising High School. St. Norbert English Adjunct Professor and English/Spanish teacher for several decades

This rich anthology of poetry, essays, and fiction showcases a range of energetic contemporary voices writing from varied and shifting perspectives, with an emphasis on currency and relevance missing from commercial textbooks. Perhaps best of all, each entry is pithy enough for discussion during even the most abbreviated class period, and the creative commons licensing allows for generous re-use for classroom teachers. An incredible resource with immediate curricular application and more than fifty pages of ideas for instructional support.

~**Wendy Stephens**, Ph.D., Associate Professor & School Library Media Program Chair, Jacksonville, Alabama

Just YA is a great step forward in the movement to teach living authors. The voices in this collection speak with an authenticity that appeals to a YA audience and does not overly simplify the complexities of life, its beauty, hardships and triumphs. Overall, a thoughtful collection of works.

~ **Kate Currie**, EdD

JUST YA invites educators to integrate BIPOC and LGBTQ+ authors into curricula without added cost or pressure. It includes inspiring poetry, powerful short fiction, and model worthy essays, offering insights into Dr. Bishop's mirror theory and provides foundational texts for students to emulate in their writing.

~ **Carrie Mattern**, educator in Coachella Valley Desert; author of *Wakanda: Opening the High School Classroom to Afrofuturism, Coachella Valley Desert*

This open-access collection contains a multitude of age-relevant texts that will greatly appeal to the current generation of students. From essays to fiction and poetry, this collection will be useful both for secondary students as well as professors teaching English method courses.

~**Amy Montz**, Professor of English, University of Southern Indiana, co-editor on *Adaptation on Young Adult Novels: Critically Engaging Past and Present* (Bloomsbury 2020)

Just YA offers adolescent students relevant and relatable perspectives on the struggle and joy of coming of age. The wide range of voices will engage students and teachers in discussions about identity and belonging to support students as they discover who they are and who they want to be.

~**Kerri Flynn**, Education Director, The Genocide Education Project

Just YA offers educators and young readers a multiplicity of ways to define and understand adolescent experiences and the impact of finding your own place in the world. Educators specifically will find this collection as a practical resource to have conversations with their students about family issues, trauma, and healing.

~**Edcel Javier** Cintron-Gonzalez, Children's and YA Literature scholar & Social Media Specialist, Author of *Irma, Maria, Fiona & Me* (2023), Normal, IL

This beautiful multigenre text is a wonderful addition to any English methods or secondary English course as the voices and writing found within are perfect examples of how creative writing of short fiction with young adults can inspire the writer in all of us.

~**T. Hunter Strickland**, co-editor on *How Young Adult Literature Gets Taught: Perspectives, Ideologies, and Pedagogical Approaches for Instruction and Assessment*