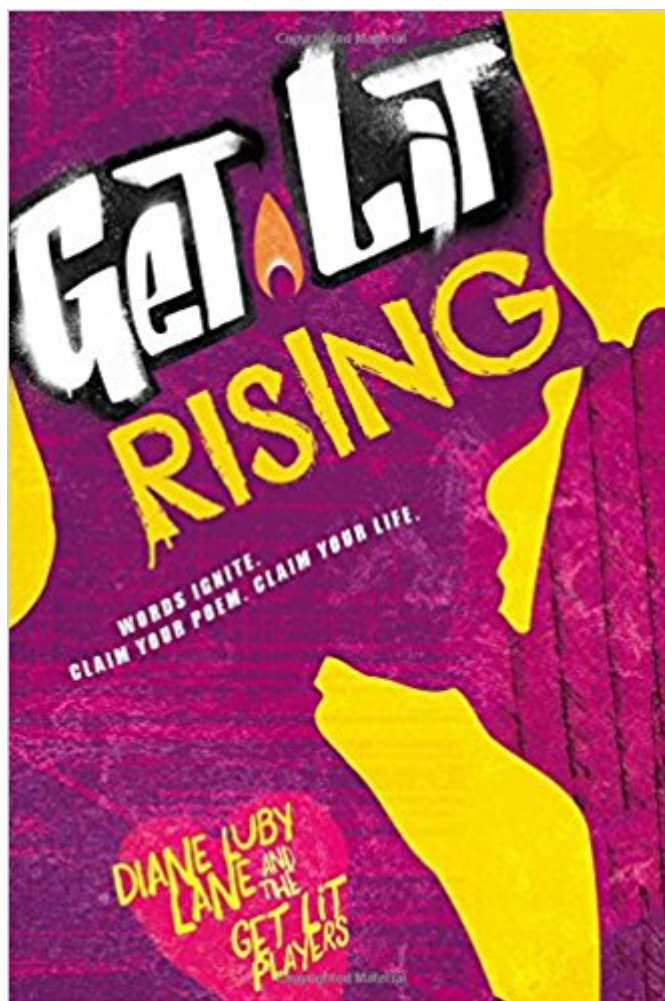


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# Get Lit Rising: Words Ignite. Claim Your Poem. Claim Your Life.



## Synopsis

Get to know the Get Lit Players— a group of teens who use poetry to take on the world— with this standards-based book that sheds light on teen issues through their own poetry and slam poetry performances. Get Lit Rising brings to life the true story of nineteen teen poets (the Get Lit Players) who are inspiring thousands of teens across the country through their award-winning performances of classic and spoken word poems. This book takes readers inside the private lives of these teen poets as they try to transform the lives of inner city teens in some of the toughest life circumstances. The Get Lit Players include teens who struggle with homelessness, autism, incarceration, body image, depression, and more. But they use the power of poetry to reclaim their lives and influence their friends, families, and communities. This uplifting book also offers the classic poems that have most inspired the Get Lit Players, along with their own personal response poems, and each chapter offers questions, writing prompts, and how-tos for readers to set their own inner poet free. Ending with a section for parents and educators featuring the curriculum that's already in schools throughout California, this slam-dunk shows how to get teens excited about poetry and how to create poetry groups and slams in their own communities.

## Book Information

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Composition & Creative Writing

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up— A coveted stash of poems written by the slam poetry troupe the Get Lit Players,

part of Lane's "Get Lit-Words Ignite" Common Core-aligned English and Performing Arts curriculum program. Each of the 20 short chapters profiles a member poet (the last features Lane) through eloquently written essays that recount personal struggles, with an emphasis on the transformative power of poetry. The poets each explain why they chose to claim a particular piece (selected from poets who range from the canonical to the radical and contemporary, like Saul Williams and Marge Piercy) and provide a response poem. For the teacher in us all, there are writing prompts and suggested verses for further reading, organized by teen-centered themes such as "Race, Urban Poverty, Life Force" and "Owning Your Own Worth, Keeping an Open Heart." The final chapter outlines a detailed process of how to create a poetry group, with a list of "200 Poems To Crack You Open." VERDICT A multiple copy must-have. Use as a tool for collection development for tried-and-true poetry that speaks to teens. —Sara Lissa Paulson, City-As-School High School, New York City --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Personal essays and poems from 19 teenage poets, members of a poetry troupe connected with the Get Lit-Words Ignite literacy organization, are featured in this moving anthology. The young poets discuss their lives in candid essays and identify classic poems (from the likes of Charles Bukowski, Langston Hughes, and Marge Piercy) that they have found inspiring. The poets then follow the poems they have selected with their own "response" poems, which frequently touch on gender identity, mental health, body image, and violence. After each entry, Lane, who founded Get Lit, provides questions for readers to consider and prompts to jump-start their writing ("Write about a fight you're fighting within yourself"). Lane and her young collaborators present an inspiring example of how poetry in the present communicates with that of the past. Ages 12-up. (Publishers Weekly (September 5, 2016)) A coveted stash of poems written by the slam poetry troupe the Get Lit Players, part of Lane's "Get Lit-Words Ignite" Common Core-aligned English and Performing Arts curriculum program. Each of the 20 short chapters profiles a member poet (the last features Lane) through eloquently written essays that recount personal struggles, with an emphasis on the transformative power of poetry. The poets each explain why they chose to claim a particular piece (selected from poets who range from the canonical to the radical and contemporary, like Saul Williams and Marge Piercy) and provide a response poem. For the teacher in us all, there are writing prompts and suggested verses for further reading, organized by teen-centered themes such as "Race, Urban Poverty, Life Force" and "Owning Your Own Worth, Keeping an Open Heart." The final chapter outlines a detailed process of how to create a

poetry group, with a list of “200 Poems To Crack You Open.” VERDICT A multiple copy must-have. Use as a tool for collection development for tried-and-true poetry that speaks to teens. (School Library Journal October 2016)

Meet the poets of the heart. Get up close to the sayers of the scars. Listen carefully to these weavers of the light (you get the light by saying it the way it is, about where you are really coming from). Look inside and you’ll see how it happens—about being bullied, about your body, how you feel about it, about your parents with all the hurt inside blowing out of them and you just standing there. And I am just getting started. Start with these brave soul searchers and spirit finders. Call it spirit, how do you touch base with your core self? Touch base now. Here. Hold this book and books that got these pioneering torches lit—Bukowski, Francisco X. Alarcón, Adrienne Rich, Sonia Sanchez. See why I am saying this? There is no book like this one, maybe one—June Jordan’s Poetry for the People. Here are the new people. Talking about our new time. It is a critical time. Listen in. Learn it up. Meet, get close, get with it, get lit. (JUAN FELIPE HERRERA, Poet Laureate of the United States)

Poetry-lovers, cool cats, friends of youth, teachers, secret writers, anyone suffering any kind of gloom or remorse or longing for your own voice to be stronger... stand in line to buy this book! Get Lit Rising by Diane Luby Lane and her gorgeous Get Lit Players is the most passionate, brilliant testament to poetry and its wide radiance that I have seen in years. This is a book borne from the hearts, souls, and minds of many, an encouragement toward true connection and modeling on what you respect... a shining lamp to light your way. (NAOMI SHIHAB NYE, Chancellor of the American Academy of Poets)

The power of Get Lit Players is not just the poems they’ve mastered from Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Pablo Neruda, but their own stories, images, fears, thoughts, visions, and hopes. How they’ve used singular unique personas and combined them with others to create a dance of words, emotions, ideas.... This is transformative the way poetry should be—from the soul of a person to the soul of the world. (LUIS RODRIGUEZ, Poet Laureate of Los Angeles)

Get Lit Rising is more than a poetry anthology. It is an astonishing window into what it means to be a young person in America right now. As such, it is also a mirror, and I can’t think of a more meaningful reading experience. (JEFF HOBBS, New York Times bestselling author of The Short & Tragic Life of Robert Peace)

This just isn’t a book. It’s a movement. It’s a revolution. By giving these young artists a voice, Get Lit is giving these artists the power of their lives. It captures something very special. It captures the creative spark. It gives one a window not only to the soul of a poet by bringing a well known artist’s words to the pages, but it elicits our own creativity as we journey with these young poets and their own artistic inspirations with their own powerful phrase. It awakes in the reader the

joy and power of our words. We sometimes forget the power of a word. A word can cut out our heart. A word can unite a generation. A word can save a life. Now, the same power of the spoken word is given to any reader who picks up this book. After I read [Get Lit Rising], I recognized the power of my words to ignite real change. (RORY PULLENS, executive director of the Arts for LAUSD) Diane Luby Lane's Get Lit program is the gold standard for bringing poetry into the lives of young people in schools across the country. Get Lit combines learning about poetry written by master poets with the students' own creative inner selves. Often students reach far beyond what they imagine they can achieve. Bravo to Get Lit! (PAUL CUMMINS, founder of Crossroads School & The Coalition for Engaged Education) Get Lit Rising is a moving testament to the deep currents of creativity and compassion that flow in the souls of all young people. Too often these currents are silted up by lack of opportunity at home and school. This marvelous bounty of personal stories, inspired poems, and practical advice reveals (again) how heartfelt experience of the arts in education can transform, ennoble, and even save young lives. It shows too how helping young people to engage more deeply with the world within them opens them up to more profound relationships with those around them: how poetry and passion can nurture compassion. A beautiful, inspiring and important book for young people everywhere and for their parents and teachers too. (KEN ROBINSON, educator and author, Creative Schools: Revolutionizing Education From The Ground Up) The Get Lit Players are changing the landscape of literacy in Los Angeles and providing a model for the rest of the nation. Through the power of art, they are transforming the lives of young people and creating a pathway for opportunity. (ERIC GARCETTI, mayor of Los Angeles) Nineteen members of a culturally diverse student poetry troupe each share their personal stories, classic poems that have inspired their writing, and a poem written specifically in response to the classic poetry selection. Get Lit was founded on the principle that reading and using classic poems as inspiration for writing new poetry produces "magic, time and time again." This volume aims to share this formula with those who may not be able to attend Get Lit events. Participants' autobiographical essays showcase a range of personal struggles that include familial pressures to be perfect, shattered family dynamics, and bullying, and the book stresses that poetry can be a means of overcoming obstacles. Both the essays and the poetry selections are often emotionally raw, as troupe members explore personal pain and find hope for the future through writing. While the work showcases the fears of a young generation, the pieces also frequently call for self-acceptance, personal empowerment, and social justice. The suggested poems for additional reading are helpful for poetry novices and fanatics alike. The writing prompts included with each chapter are potentially useful, but they also could give the text a

“workbook” feel that may alienate some readers. Useful for both those looking to run a poetry-writing workshop or readers looking specifically for advice with their own writing.

(Poetry/nonfiction. 12-18) (Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2016)) This book, this fierce and hungry and gorgeous book, this good weapon in the good fight, this monster under the king’s bed. No other book allows you to meet the poets, the youth, the creators of our future, like this one. Not only are we being let in to the art of these young writers, but we are also learning their backstories, which are as poetic and stunning as the poems themselves. This anthology creates constant conversation and dialogue across all borders, and I know few things more healing and necessary. (ANDREA GIBSON, award-winning poet and activist) I’m left breathless by the revelation and daring in these pages—voices lifted in joy, in defiance and revolt, voices raising insistent questions, offering answers, searching relentlessly. This is the drumbeat of witnesses in the midst of the lives, spending their days out loud, relishing the muscle of language and its remarkable ability to exact change. These extraordinary young people introduce you to the life you wish you had led—and, better yet, they convince you that there is still time to live it. (PATRICIA SMITH, poet, Guggenheim Fellow, and National Book Award Finalist) Get Lit is one of the premier spoken word organizations in the country for young people. The words in this book are fearless, powerful, and moving. These are young poets in conversation with history, while writing their own. This is poetry for the real world. (George Watsky, author, rapper and poet)

What an incredibly moving book to read. The Get Lit program has obviously started a revolution in the LA public school system and the proof is the tales of these young teens and the poetry they have written. Having grown up in NY, there was never anything as inspirational as the Get Lit program. There was no one there to save anyone’s lives ... you either were "college bound" or put in shop and home economics classes. Diane Luby Lane is nothing short of a miracle and the book will inspire anyone who believes in "investing" in kids’ futures rather than dismissing them or writing them off. All lives matter. Kudos!

This is an incredibly moving and unusual book - 19 teenagers from all walks of life inspired by classic poems to tell their own deeply moving stories. It’s unlike anything I’ve ever read before. If you are a lover of the written word, this book is for you. If you are a writer looking for inspiration, you will find it here. And if you want to personally experience the power of poetry to change lives, read this book. Get Lit Rising is a game changer.

An exceptional book. Riveting, moving, gorgeous. . The poems speak to the indomitable and unflagging human spirit. What a treasure.

yesssss...

This was more than I expected it was amazing the stories and poems the kids wrote brought tears to my eyes I shared it with my clients and staff they were impressed and touched by the stories and poems I will continue to share this with everyone thank you for bringing these words for everyone to enjoy

The beginning of this book of poetry gives you a colorful background of why Get Lit was started and how it is effecting change in the youth. "Get Lit was founded in 2006 and it now reaches over 20,000 young people and who despite the odds stacked against them, have transformed their lives in amazing ways." (Get Lit, 2016). Get Lit is a collection of poetic voices and stories. Some will make you snap your fingers in agreement, clap with joy or rent your heart in two once you learn about their tragic upbringing. Get Lit has certainly turned seemingly powerless situations into powerful testimonies of this group. My reaction to this book is one overwhelming positive and hopeful. This remarkable group of youth had an uncanny way of reaching out with their words. If you believe poetry is still alive and want to witness the transformative power of it I do highly recommend this one!

Buy this book now! Get Lit Rising is everything you need to experience the healing power of poetry. It is a beautiful and telling example of triumph that examines how our personal stories collectively connect and empower. The book even gives you exercises to start writing and share your own story through poetry exercises. Get Lit Rising will unlock magic you didn't even know you had, helping you reclaim and rename yourself. This is a book I will be rereading, and writing from, from a long time.

This is a great resource for poet-enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds. It's inspiring, challenging, deeply personal, encouraging, and not to mention educational. Get Lit has been transforming the landscape of teen literacy for over a decade. In the pages of this book, it's clear to see why so many students find their voice and self-empowerment through Get Lit.

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