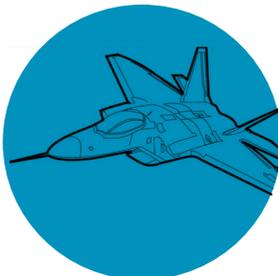


# THIS IS US: POETS UNITED



SPRING 2021

## Writers in the Community Program

# SPRING 2021

April, 2021

This zine was produced at DW as part of Writers in the Community, a program run by the Quebec Writers' Federation.



[www.qwf.org/programs/wic](http://www.qwf.org/programs/wic)

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[DW]

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I am

I am awesome and welcoming

I wonder about my animals ninja, honey, shadow

I hear music

I see food

I want to feel good

I fell happy

I touch my dog shadow he has five mixes which are pug , tickle,

Akita, rottweiler and bernise mountain dog

by ADK

## Inflated Identity

I put the imagination into reading.  
The font into book.

I am friggin amazing, so phenomenal.  
I open my book.  
And thunder roars and lighthing strikes

The artistry liberates my thoughts  
And the ingenuity soothes my mind

My fingertips trace the fine print of a novel

I am like a bird, the words flow through  
my feathered wings  
Nicholas puts sparks in my body.

When I read I escape to other worlds

- AD

*Lost not Found - Part 1*

*I am lost not found*

*I am crying all alone*

*I just want to be loved and cared for*

*I want to be wanted*

*I am her own demons*

*I am a girl trying to break free*

*I am a person trapped in her own body*

- SC

**THIS IS A REMAKE...**

**I REMEMBER: THE SOUND OF THE INSULTS.**

**I REMEMBER: THE FEELING OF THEIR BELTS  
AND THEIR HANDS.**

**I REMEMBER: THE YELLING AND MY DAD BEING THROWN TO  
THE GROUND.**

**I REMEMBER: MY BROTHER TELLING ME TO CLOSE MY EYES  
ALWAYS PROTECTING MY FAMILY AND MY FAMILY PRO-  
TECTING ME TO BUT NOT MY MOM AND DAD.**

**I REMEMBER: FEELING SCARED, BUT NOW I'M OK NOW I'M  
SAFE.**

**- CC**

She is the prisoner of her own system.

She's a Prisoner of her own system.

Just wanting a way out,

Wanting someone to listen.

Locked away in a void of a fear deep within

The depth of her own skin

Cracking by the wind that flows by  
like an endless wreckage of time.

Looking for a sign.

Marking the days that go by.

Wanting someone to explain why!

Why?!

Does she reside in this system

in her mind that takes up all her time?

She traps herself further each time.

She walks by thinking of the time.

She hides behind the concrete walls she's built in her own mind.

Breaking herself free once she realizes time has gone by.

And she smashes the concrete walls in her mind.

Freeing herself from the system she resided in all this time.

- MG

## Hyperbole Poem

I put the, “me” in anime  
the “lee” in sleep

When I closed my eyes the wind that came off  
my lashes was so strong that it started Cyclone  
Vera I clapped my hands it was so powerful that  
it put Hiroshima to shame.

I’m so fast not even a bullet train can catch me  
not even a hawk could see me.

- KD

I remember the way we laughed together,  
Holding our full stomachs against our evening dresses.

I remember how the others looked at us like we were insane,  
But we were too far gone to care.

The lights of our tree twinkled in the bright room,  
Various sounds of restless chatter and joyous music ran in  
circles around the couches.

I remember the way she looked at me,  
Her brown eyes shining in the brightness.

I remember how her hand felt, gripped in mine.  
Sweaty yet cold,  
but it fit in mine like butter on bread.

I remember hoping that this moment would last for days to  
come.  
Wishing that our bond  
Would never dissolve.

- KS

I am a depressed young lady  
I wonder what happens after we die  
I hear my cousin laughing  
I see him smiling with the family  
I want to be able to see him again  
I am a depressed young lady

I pretend that he is still with us  
I feel a sharp pain in my chest  
I touch his urn  
I worry that he isn't proud of me  
I cry when I think about him  
I am a depressed young lady

I understand that it was his time to go  
I say to myself that ill fly high with him one day  
I dream that he was here laughing and joking with me  
I try to tell myself that he is in a better place  
I hope that he is happy and not suffering anymore  
I am the young lady that lost her cousin

- AP

I AM SMART AND CREATIVE  
I WONDER IF I CAN MAKE A BAND  
I HEAR LOUD GUITAR RIFFS  
I SEE A STAGE  
I WANT A HEAVY METAL DRUM KIT  
I AM SMART AND CREATIVE

I PRETEND I AM PERFECT AT DRUMS  
I FEEL PUMPED  
I TOUCH DRUMSTICKS  
I WORRY THAT MY BAND WILL NOT BE POPULAR  
I CRY WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY 34 DOGS  
I AM SMART AND CREATIVE

I UNDERSTAND DRUM SKILLS  
I SAY I LIKE METALLICA  
I DREAM TO BE IN THE BAND METALLICA  
I TRY TO GET BETTER AT DRUMS  
I HOPE TO BE A GOD AT DRUMS  
I AM SMART AND CREATIVE

- LB

“shoot for the stars aim for the moon”

I imagine pop smoke everywhere  
I imagine him rapping to me  
with his Du-Rag on and his braids  
hanging down

I love the way his eyes shine in the light  
I love the way he calls my name “Its so sexy “

- LL

I am M and Y  
I wonder what happens tomorrow  
I hear nothing  
I see nothing  
I want to go home

I am M and Y  
I pretend I like tobinit here  
I touch pencil  
I cry when sad

I am M and Y  
I understand english  
I say words  
I dream dreams  
I try this poem  
I hope things  
I am M and Y

- MV

I Am

I am mysterious, I am angry  
I wonder where I'll get to live  
I hear shouting  
I see the shining moon between the stars  
I want freedom  
I am mysterious, I am angry

I pretend to be happy  
I feel enraged  
I pick at old scabs, old scars  
I worry about losing my sister  
I cry about distant family  
I am mysterious, I am angry

I understand why I can't see my family  
I say "I don't care, shut up"  
I dream of freedom, of adulthood  
I try to make my feelings known  
I hope for a better tomorrow  
I am mysterious, I am angry

- AD

Crazy bad  
being here and not going home  
classmates being rude to me

crazy good  
Instagram  
tik tok  
spotify premium  
snap chat  
twitter  
ps5- PC  
I phones  
Patrick mahomes  
my DJ skills  
my awesomeness  
kansas city chiefs  
Pittsburgh Steelers

- ADK

## *Her fight our future*

*I remember my sister's first fight.  
I remember the girl insulting my mother.  
I remember my sister swinging her fists.  
I remember the blood pouring down the girl's face.  
I remember my sister punching her again and again.  
I remember 4 teachers pulling her away.  
I remember her trying to get away.  
I remember her getting suspended.  
I remember the girl on the floor.  
I remember being proud.*

*And I remember saying you deserved what you got.  
I remember her crying and yelling when my sister was  
beating the s\*\*\* out of her.  
I remember thinking I'm going to have to live up to her  
new reputation.  
I remember 3 days after  
my sister walking proudly into school.  
I remember being by her side smiling as wide as she was.*

*But I was young and small.  
I should have told her to stop.  
I should not have been proud...*

*But I was.*

*- SC*

**CRAZY BAD**

**I HATE WHEN GIRL ARE OBSESSED WITH ME**

**I HATE WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT MY WEIGHT**

**I HATE RACIST PEOPLE**

**I HATE COPS**

**CRAZY GOOD**

**I LOVE MY GRANDMA**

**I LOVE MY FAMILY**

**I LOVE RAP**

**I LOVE NLE CHOPPA**

**I LOVE MY FRIEND**

**I LOVE TIK TOK**

**I LOVE SNAP**

**I LOVE INSTA**

**I LOVE DOGS**

**I LOVE SCHOOL SOMETIMES**

**I LOVE JAMAICAN FOOD**

**I LOVE MY GRANDMA'S FOOD**

**I LOVE MY AUNT'S FOOD**

**- CC**

## I AM

I am ambitious and brave.  
I wonder if I will ever be the same.  
I hear yelling every day.  
I see police along the way.  
I want to leave this place.  
I am ambitious and brave.

I pretend that I'm not afraid.  
I feel angry and dazed.  
I touch the glass windows that are stained.  
I worry about the days.  
I am ambitious and brave.

I understand that I might never change.  
I say that I'm ok.  
I dream about the day I go home and stay away.  
I try to be better but nothing seems to change.  
I hope that I'll be okay.  
I am ambitious and brave.

- MG

## I Remember

I remember the rain  
the loud sound of thumping water  
against the hoodie of my waterproof coat.

I remember holding the man's hand  
as I splashed around in the puddles  
beside the wet sidewalks.

I remember the wave of terror that washed over me  
as I realized this was going to be my new life  
this huge building towering over me  
was going to be my new home  
these strangers were going to be my parents.

I remember picking up the untouched leaf  
that lay in front of my feet  
Handing it to them  
to my new parents  
my new mom and my new dad.

I remember this leaf  
this symbol of the start of our loving family  
that now hangs on a wall in the building I now call home  
protected by a frame and a slate of glass  
it is a reminder of the day I came home  
the day we became a family.

I remember this day, the first day that I truly felt that I was loved.

- KD

I Am

I am who I am  
I wonder if that's good enough  
I hear the laughter of millions surround me  
I see the words fly around my head  
I want to be loved  
I am who I am

I pretend their words don't hurt me  
I feel every punch they throw  
I touch the sun and it doesn't burn  
I worry that it won't get better  
I cry when I think too much  
I am who I am

I understand that I am temporary  
I say nothing, my words aren't heard  
I dream of becoming real  
I try to be me  
I hope that's enough  
I am who I am

-KS

I am

I am a girl with no father  
I wonder why he left  
I hear him on the phone  
I see him smoking  
I want to know why he had me if he wasn't gonna stay  
I am a girl with no father

I pretend that he is gonna come back  
I feel unwanted  
I touch the window when it rains  
I worry that ill never get to see him again  
I cry because I know he isn't gonna come back  
I am a girl with no father

I understand that having kids is a big step  
I say to myself I was a mistake  
I dream that I had a father that cared  
I try to forget the pain I went through/go through  
I hope he goes through the same pain  
I am the girl with no father

- AP

## Artist BIO

LPS

is a dedicated wife to pop smoke.  
she loves his music and messages.  
she lives by his quote:  
“Shoot for the stars, Aim for the moon.”

LPS is from toronto / île perrot /MTL.  
She likes playing sports: Football, Rugby and basketball  
LPS, photography, chillin’ with friends and listening to music.  
she can be found talking about angie thomas books.

- LL

P.O.B.

I am a prisoner of B  
just making a young boy sad  
locked away in a empty cage  
I will break myself out by changing  
I will help my self out from the c-a-g-e

- MV

## I AM

I am so fast  
the flash cant catch me  
when mahomes steps on the football field  
its like me  
its like me being a mini NFL QB  
I am on my iPhone 12 pro max and I chill  
I want lil tjay to take me to rap city  
I was dreaming about dinosaurs  
when lil mosey got me stuck in a dream back in 2014  
and ice went back in 2019  
and juice wrld walked in when there was a robbery  
and gta I feel wasted  
wasted being here  
I feel like I am wasting my life

- ADK

## I Remember

I remember the curtains cutting out the afternoon sun.  
I remember the sounds of fighting and gun shots blaring  
from the TV in the background.

I remember the manly smell of his cologne coming out  
of the humid bathroom

I remember the soggy taste of the microwave dinners

I remember his large muscular arms around me,  
hugging me when he comes home from work,  
making me feel loved.

Even though it was nothing special  
just hearing his laughter made me happy  
and knowing my dad was there made me  
feel safe.

- AD

Beatrice Turning into Tris  
I remember being Beatrice selfless  
I remember the aptitude test  
I remember her telling me that I am divergent  
I remember the choosing ceremony  
I remember the knife slicing my hand  
I remember the blood and how it sizzled on the coal in  
the dauntless bowl  
I remember choosing dauntless, brave, strong  
over abnegation, selfless and kind

I remember the jump  
how fast my heart was beating  
I remember seeing Four for the first time  
I remember his hands on my waist in training  
I remember my first fight and my second  
I remember the pain

I remember when I found out his name was Tobias  
I remember his lips on mine  
and every time is still like the first  
I remember holding a gun and climbing the Ferris  
wheel  
I remember being me for the first time  
I remember being Tris  
I remember being dauntless.

- s.c

Powwow

I remember my first powwow  
I remember my moms hand in mine  
as we are walking out  
I remember the loud song the men were playing  
I remember the other 3 years old's hoping they will re-  
member this moment as I do

- sc

I remember it

I remember her yelling and shouting  
I remember her making me feel small  
I remember trying not to cry  
I remember her drinking  
I remember her drunk  
I remember her saying she'll never do it again  
I remember her doing it again  
I remember my sister yelling it has to stop  
I remember them fighting each other.

- sc

**I LOVE MY GRANDMA  
SHE'S MY NUMBER 1 PERSON  
SHE'S THE BEST GRANDMA**

**I NEED HER ALWAYS  
I ALWAYS NEED HER WITH ME  
SHE IS MY BEST BOMB**

**- CC**

Just a little baby

I am just a little baby  
With nothing but a pure soul  
The world is just so big, it's so surreal  
But when mommy takes me outside  
I see masks everywhere

I can't do anything but cry and scream  
And pull at mommy's hair  
The honking gets really loud  
Then all the cars seem to stop  
People start marching down  
Then so do the cops

The people holler Black Lives Matter  
On every boulevard  
Then the cops pull out their guns  
And tear gas fills the air  
And mommy starts to run  
She screams and shouts and covers up my face  
I'm just a little baby "What's with this human Race!"

See, I don't choose the bad  
I just learn it every day.

- MG

I Am

I am kind and loving  
I am angry and broken  
I wonder if I will ever want to live  
I hear my mother's voice and I see my sister's smile  
I want to be happy  
I am kind and loving  
I am angry and broken

I pretend to be brave  
I feel hopeless  
I touch a dream that will never become reality  
I worry I will never be who I want to be  
I cry while I try to feel again  
I am kind and loving  
I am angry and broken

I understand that my life will not always be like this  
I say that I'm not okay  
I dream one day I will be  
I try to be happy  
I hope one day I will be  
I am kind and loving  
I will not always be angry and broken

- KD

## I Am

I am who I am  
I wonder if that's good enough  
I hear the laughter of millions surrounding me  
I see the words fly around my head  
I want to be loved  
I am who I am

I pretend their words don't hurt me  
I feel every punch they throw  
I touch the sun and it doesn't burn  
I worry that it won't get better  
I cry when I think too much  
I am who I am

I understand that I am temporary  
I say nothing, my words aren't heard  
I dream of becoming real  
I try to be me  
I hope that's enough  
I am who I am

-KS

## SUPERSTITION:

If you fart or burp during a meal  
you will die in the next 69 seconds  
if you don't subscribe to @ThemeR6 on YouTube

This study was recently published in Cuba  
Scientists are trying prove this wrong  
A comment made by scientist was: "IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY  
FART OR BURP DURING A MEAL GO SUBSCRIBE TO  
<https://www.youtube.com/themebtw>"

- MV

Tik tok is awesome  
adason.rae is my shorty forever and my wife  
she will take me to:  
“Costa Rica, swipe a visa  
Seventeen, but I’m gon’ be a millionaire  
Drift the Beamer, bloody sneakers  
and my sweat-fit billionaire”  
After bankroll Hayden and the kid lori.

- ADK

## Prisoner

I am a prisoner of my feelings  
just trapped  
stuck  
unable to work  
unable to try  
unable to grow  
locked away in the cacophony of my head  
I trap myself further whenever I open up

People talking, talking, nonstop, not listening  
I want to lash out, hurt them  
Fake tough girls, acting like they're Diana Prince  
I feel so mad, it's a facade  
They're hurting, because of me  
Ashamed, all my fault

I am a prisoner of my feelings  
just trapped  
stuck  
unable to work  
unable to try  
unable to grow  
locked away in the cacophony of my head  
I trap myself further whenever I open up  
I Can't  
Break  
Free

- AD

Cant let go  
if she just loved me I would be ok but she never showed it.  
I cant get up without this pain  
so I pick up my smile and pretend it's ok.  
I lie but it just hurts more than before.  
Some days I am scared out of my mind  
I want to go away so I don't feel this pain.  
I drown in my heart  
I go deeper and deeper I go.  
I am broken so broken I will be.  
I cant be fixed or healed.  
I cant lie no more  
I cant hide my sadness with a smile.  
I hate this pain.  
This pain hurts and leaves scars.  
This pain crushes and breaks.  
This pain is killing me and all I am.  
I drag my feet and think about mommy  
the one who played hide and go seek  
then I remember the mama who yells and hurts.  
Then I hate how I am her girl.  
I hurt in my thought of her.  
I cant get up or go to sleep.  
I wont hide, I don't want to be that girl no more.  
I cant feel or be loved so I'll hold myself and cry a lot.  
So leave me alone, don't talk to me.  
So let me suffer, let me drown.  
I want to be alone so I don't heal. Cause if I do I wont love her.  
I will let her go I cant do that because I am her little girl.  
so I wont let go.  
I cant give up this pain because when I do I will give up her.  
I cant let go, I just cant so I wont  
because I cant give up.

- sc

## Superstition

If you see more than 3 Pikachu during one day  
you will be blessed by the Anime gods for the next 9 years.

One day a man was walking down a street when he saw three different Pikachu in three different windows. That same evening his favorite Anime released the next season, unlike the original plan that the show was gonna end that year. It had continued for the next nine years.

- KD

## Prisoner

I am a prisoner in my body  
Just trapped in my own flesh  
Trapped in my head

I feel enclosed by the scars on my skin  
That signify pain that will never heal

Every time they ask why, I stay silent  
I look for a reason, but always find none

I am a prisoner in my body  
A five foot 1 monster  
that takes up too much space  
that gains too much weight

I am a prisoner in my body  
of mind and soul

-KS

Persona Poem - adason.rae

I am just here  
to post my dances on tik tok  
and my life on Instagram

I don't like people who criticize  
every move I make online  
I may be a celebrity  
but I am still a person

- ADK

I Am Steve

I am tough

I bench 580lbs

Im loud

I make every room bright

The star of every party

BUT

Without my little girls

Im lonely, empty, hurt

Im suffering, my heart aches

I want my babies back

- AD

*Lost not Found - Part 2*

*I am lost not found*

*I am crying all alone*

*I want to be loved and cared for*

*I want to be wanted*

*I am a little girl fighting her own demons*

*I am a girl trying to break free*

*I dream of being loved and not alone*

*I am a person trapped in her body*

*I am just trying to live though life*

*I am just a girl just dying but trying to live*

- sc

## Persona Poem

A family of three looks at me, one by one, at the times of their choice.

Sometimes the man looks at me while straightening his tie.  
He mumbles words I don't understand.

He appears to be happy in the mornings, but when he comes back,  
he pouts and curses,  
until a knock at the door quiets his pain.

There's a woman that comes in after the man,  
a smile pursed on her cherry lips.  
She seems to love me, always taking pictures of me with a shiny phone.  
I hope I am as beautiful as she thinks.

But then there is a girl,  
she appears to be young.  
I wish I could describe what she looks like,  
but I only ever catch glimpses of her face.  
When she bends to wash her hands, her brown eyes flicker to me.  
I always pray for a smile, or maybe even a shiny phone.

But what I get is a glare,  
like I've offended her.  
And when she goes to leave,  
she raises her hands as if to wave.  
But instead she flicks her wrists,  
and the droplets of water spray in my face.

At the end of the day, I sit back and ponder.  
I am just a bathroom mirror, yet I carry so much weight.

-K.S

## Superstitions

If you destroy a book you will be  
cursed with 5 years of bad books

If you step on a crack the earth will open  
up and you'll fall through.

When a wolf howls it's  
coming for you.

- AD

superstition

if you break a clock at 3 am you will be cursed

- ADK

*Alpha*

*Four legs  
fear all around  
I am something called an Alpha*

*I am the boss  
the big leader  
what I say goes  
no one crosses me*

*I wore this in a fight  
I am power itself  
when I call they run  
when I say they jump*

*I am the Alpha  
they bow down to me  
they answer to me.*

- sc

## Running

I am on a wave  
Of wind beneath my quick feet  
I run to the beat.

## Reading

I like to read books  
Reading gives me energy  
The feeling is great.

-K.S

*All about my moms*

*my moms are the best  
I cant live without them  
because I love them.*

*sc*

*To Anddy*

*you are trying to be cool  
you are a disgrace to rap  
so get a life*

*sc*

*we are  
we are strong  
we are brave  
we are coward-less  
we are fighters  
we are jumpers, runners, climbers  
we are defenders  
we are powerful  
we are dauntless*

*dauntless we are*

*-sc*

Haiku

I like reading books  
I want to go to my room  
in another world

- AD

*We matter*

*we matter  
our lives matter  
our words matter  
our hope and happiness matter  
our family matters  
we matter*

*our different colours make us targets to you  
what we believe matters  
black lives matter  
native lives matter  
we matter*

*we deserve to live  
we love  
we hate  
we are just like you  
but in your eyes  
we our different*

*so different.*

*- sc*

*you say to us*

*you say get up  
you say it's ok  
you say don't drink or smoke  
but if you've gone through what we have  
you would say sorry*

*we act out because we are lost  
we drink and smoke to fill a hole  
we feel like s\*\*\* most days  
so you get up with a broken heart  
so you don't drink or smoke*

*when you've gone through what we have  
you would not survive one day  
you go to a safe home every day  
you say to us  
well I say to you shut the hell up cause you don't understand  
you never will*

*I say screw you, you all are the same  
you say to us that we just don't give a f\*\*\* and it's true  
because how can you give a f\*\*\* when  
no one gives a f\*\*\* about you.*

- sc

