

Delve Deeper into "What I Want My Words To Do To You"

A film by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz and Gary Sunshine

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Mary Cella of the St. Charles Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "What I Want My Words To Do To You" that premieres on December 16th at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings).

"What I Want My Words To Do To You" offers an unprecedented look into the minds and hearts of the women inmates of New York's Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. The film goes inside a writing workshop led by playwright Eve Ensler, consisting of fifteen women, most of whom were convicted of murder. Through a series of exercises and discussions, the women, including former Weather Underground Members Kathy Boudin and Judith Clark, delve into and expose the most terrifying places in themselves, as they grapple with the nature of their crimes and their own culpability. The film culminates in an emotionally charged prison performance of the women's writing by acclaimed actresses Mary Alice, Glenn Close, Hazelle Goodman, Rosie Perez and Marisa Tomei.

ADULT FICTION

Many novels narrate the lives of those who have endured prison life and its effect on their families. Below is a list of titles that offer insight into their world.

Braly, Malcolm. *On the Yard*. New York: New York Review Books, 2002.

Cray, David. *Keeplock: A Novel of Crime*. New York: Otto Penzler Books, 1995.

DeGrazia, Don. *American Skin*. New York: Scribner, Paperback Fiction, 1998.

Hollon, Frank Turner. *The God File: A Novel*. San Francisco: MacAdam/Cage Pub., 2002.

Hunter, Stephen. *Pale Horse Coming*. New York: Pocket Star Books, 2001.

Ison, Tara. *A Child Out of Alcatraz*. Boston: Faber and Faber, 1997.

Paretsky, Sara. *Hard Time*. New York, NY: Dell, 1999.

Moshiri, Farnoosh. *The Bathhouse*. Seattle, Washington: Black Heron Press, 2001.

Richler, Nancy. *Your Mouth Is Lovely: A Novel*. New York: Ecco, 2002.

Title, Elise. *Killing Time*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002.

Wozencraft, Tim. *Notes from the Country Club*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993.

YOUNG ADULT (YA) AND JUVENILE (YS) FICTION

Alcock, Vivian. *A Kind of Thief*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 1992. [YA]

Butterworth, Oliver. *A Visit to the Big House*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993. [YS]

Calvert, Patricia. *Glennis, Before and After*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996. [YS]

DeClements, Barthe. *Breaking Out*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1991. [YS]

DeClements, Barthe. *Monkey See Monkey Do*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1990. [YS]

Gifaldi, David. *One Thing for Sure*. New York: Clarion Books, 1986. [YA]

Hickman, Martha Whitmore. *When Andy's Father Went to Prison*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman and Company, 1990. [YS]

Hickman, Martha Whitmore. *When Can Daddy Come Home?* Nashville: Abington, 1983. [YS]

Marsden, John. *Letters from the Inside*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. [YA]

Meyer, Carolyn. *Wild Rover*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1989. [YA]

Mosier, Elizabeth. *My Life as a Girl*. New York: Random House, 2000.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. New York: HarperTempest, 1999. [YA]

Myers, Walter Dean. *Somewhere in the Darkness*. New York: Scholastic, 1992. [YA]

Rodowsky, Colby F. *A Summer's Worth of Shame*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1980. [YA]

Testa, Maria. *Nine Candles*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 1996. [YS]

Warner, Sally. *Dog Years*. New York: A. A. Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 1995. [YS]

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Visiting Day*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2002. [YS]

ADULT NONFICTION

The following selections contain information on the history of prisons, their controversial role in society, innovative programs for inmates, and accounts of those who work for the prison system as well as those that are or have been incarcerated.

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Anderson, David, C. *Sensible Justice: Alternative to Prison*. New York: The New Press: distributed by W. W. Norton, 1997.

Baco, Jimmy Santiago. *A Place to Stand: The Making of a Poet*. New York: Grove Press, 2001.

Bandele, Asha. *The Prisoner's Wife: A Memoir*. New York: Scribner, 1999.

Colman, Penny. *Breaking Chains: The Crusade of Dortha Lynde Dix*. White Hall, VA: Shoe Tree Press, 1992.

Dyer, Joel. *The Perpetual Prison Machine: How America Profits from Crime*. Boulder CO: Westview Press, 2000.

Christensen, Scott. *With Liberty for Some: 500 Years of Imprisonment in America*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1998.

Currie, Elliott. *Crime and Punishment in America*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 1998.

Espejo, Roman. *America's Prisons: Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2002.

Ferro, Jeffrey. *Prisons and Jails: A Deterrent to Crime*. Detroit: Gale Group/Thomson Learning, 2002.

Gaines, Patrice. *Laughing in the Dark: From Colored Girl to Woman of Color- a Journey from Prison to Power*. New York: Crown, 1994.

Furio, Jennifer. *Letters from Prison: Voices of Women Murderers*. New York: Algora Publishers, 2001.

Gluck, Sherna Berger. *From Parlor to Prison: Five Suffragists Talk about Their Lives*. New York: Vintage Books, 1976.

Hallinan, Joseph. *Going up the River: Travels in a Prison Nation*. New York: Random House, 2001.

Harris, Jean (Jean Struven). *They Always Call Ladies: Stories from Prison*. New York: Scribner's: 1998.

Lamb, Wally. *Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters*. New York: Regan books, 2003.

Literacy Volunteers of New York City. *Bars Coming Near: An Anthology by Men and Women New Writers in Prison*. New York: Literacy Volunteers of New York City, 1992.

Luna, Louisa. *Crooked*. New York: MTV Books/Pocket Books, 2002.

Owen, Barbara A. *In the Mix: Struggle and Survival in a Woman's Prison*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998.

Materson, Ray. *Sins and Needles: A Story of Spiritual Mending*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2002.

Mauer, Marc. *Race to Incarcerate*. New York: New Press, 1999.

Morris Debbie. *Forgiving the Dead Man Walking*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

Parenti, Christian. *Lockdown America: Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis*. London; New York: Verso, 1999.

Peltier, Leonard. *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.

Prejean, Helen. *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. New York: Vintage Books, 1993.

Rierden, Andi. *The Farm: Inside a Women's Prison*. Amherst, MS: University of Massachusetts Press, 1997.

Roberts, Robert E. *My Soul Said to Me: An Unlikely Journey Behind the Walls of Justice*.

Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, 2003.

Simon, Taryn. *The Innocents*. New York: Umbrage Editions, 2003.

Sifakis, Carl. *The Encyclopedia of American Prison*. New York: Facts on File, 2003.

Tannenbaum, Judith. *Disguised As a Poem: My Years Teaching at San Quentin*. Boston, MS: Northeastern University Press, 2000.

Wagner, Michele. *How Should Prisons Treat Their Inmates?* San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2001.

Waxler, Robert P and Jean R. Trounstine. Eds. *Changing Lives Through Literature*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1999.

Zehr, Howard. *Doing Life: Reflections of Men and Women Serving Live Sentences*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1996.

YOUNG ADULT (YA) AND JUVENILE (YS) NONFICTION

Bernards, Neal. *Prisons: Detecting Bias*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven, 1990. [YS]

Cain, Sandra and Margaret Speed. *Dad's in Prison*. London: A. & C. Black: 1999. [YS]

Calvert, Patricia. *Glennis, Before and After*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996. [YS]

Cozic, Charles P. *America's Prisons: Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 1997. [YA]

Gaines, Ann. *Prisons*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 1999. [YS]

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Grapes, Bryan, J. *Prisons*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2000. [YA]

Kelly, Zachary. *Correctional Facilities*. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke Corporation, 1999. [YS]

Kent, Peter. *Go to Jail!: A Look at Prisons Through the Ages*. Brookfield, CN: Millbrook Press, 1998. [YS]

Meyer, Carolyn. *Wild Rover*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1989. [YA]

Oliver, Marilyn Tower. *Prisons: Today's Debate*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 1997. [YS]

Presnall, Judith Janda. *Life on Alcatraz*. San Diego, CA: Lucent Books, 2001. [YS]

Robins, David. *Just Punishment*. London; New York: Gloucester Press, 1990. [YS]

St. Pierre, Stephanie. *Everything You Need to Know When a Parent Is In Jail*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 1994. [YS]

Warburton, Lois. *Prisons*. San Diego, CA: Lucent Books, 1993. [YS]

Williams, Stanley. *Life in Prison*. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1998. [YA]

Wittbold, Maureen. *Let's Talk About When a Parent Is in Jail*. New York: PowerKids Press, 1997. [YS]

DOCUMENTARY VIDEOS AND FEATURE FILMS

"Birdman of Alcatraz." Directed by John Frankenheimer. Produced by Stuart Millar and Guy Trosper. MGM/UA Home Video. Santa Monica, CA: 1962 (2 hr., 28 min.).

"Blind Justice: The Prison Crisis in America." Directed by Gail Anslem, Olakekan Elesho, Jamilia

Hollingsworth [etal.]. Educational Video Center. New York: 2000 (25min.).

"Books Not Bars." Mark Landsman. Witness Project...[etal.]. New York: 2001 (21min., 45 sec.).

"Corrections." Ashley Hunt. Media Island. Third World Newsreel. New York: 2001 (58 min.).

"Critical Resistance Beyond the Prison Complex." Luana Plunkett; Neal Morrison; Carla Leshne; Sasha Magee; Angela Yvonne Davis; Ruth Gilmore and Mike Davis. Deep Dish TV Network. New York, NY: 1998 (58min.).

"Hard Times Teens in Maximum Security Prisons." Robbie Gordon; Sam Donaldson; Diane Sawyer. Films for the Humanities & Sciences. New Jersey, NJ: 1999 (24min.).

"High-tech Help." Produced by Stephanie Ririe and Marcy Brown. KBYU Video, Brigham Young University: Provo, Utah: 1997 (30 min.)

"History of American Corrections." American Correctional Association. Lanham, MD: 2001 (30 min.).

"Legacy." Michael Jonathan Moore. Films for the Humanities. Princeton, NJ: 1998 (60 min.).

"Locked Up." Films for the Humanities. Princeton, NJ: 2001 (152 min.).

"Lock Up, Lock Down." Discovery Channel. Films for the Humanities & Sciences. Princeton, NJ: 2000 (51 min.).

"Profits of Punishment." Catherine Scott; Pat Fiske. First Run Icarus Films. New York, NY: 2000 (52 min.).

"Scared Straight!" Directed by Arnold Shapiro. Golden West

Television Productions. KTLA, Los Angeles, CA: 1978 (60 min.)

"White Oleander." Directed by Peter Kosminsky. Warner Home Video. Burbank, CA: 2002 (110 min.).

"Women's Prisons Old Problems and New Solutions." Leslie Cote; Antony Anderson; Anthony Sherwood. Films for the Humanities & Sciences. Princeton, NJ: 2002 (47 min.).