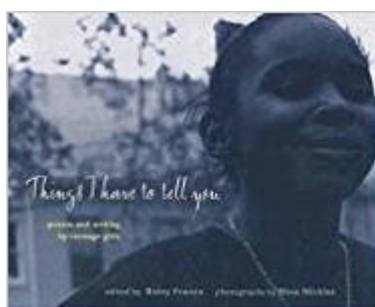


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# Things I Have To Tell You: Poems And Writing By Teenage Girls (Betsy Franco Young Adult)



## Synopsis

Teenage girls tell their own stories in compelling poetry and prose paired with 42 striking black-and-white photographs. The voices in this collection have so much to question, so much to grieve. They have so much to celebrate, so much to rage against. They're ready to speak up and begin the conversation with you and with the world. More than thirty uncensored poems are accompanied by Nina Nickles's masterful photographs, which sensitively capture the moods and essence of adolescence. Here, painted in the words of teenage girls, is a portrait of their dreams and desires - a record of hope, disillusionment, anger, joy, sadness, and most of all, strength.

## Book Information

Series: Betsy Franco Young Adult

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (May 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763610356

ISBN-13: 978-0763610357

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.3 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #278,345 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Teens >

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> Poetry

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

In *Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls*, editor Betsy Franco gathers more than 30 poems by adolescents into a poignant collection of prose and poetry. Black-and-white photographs by Nina Nickles accompany each work, and the pairings offer glimpses into the writers' raw anger, budding sexuality and search for identity. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr 8 Up-In allowing the words of teens from across the nation to shine through, without polishing or pushing, Franco has succeeded in compiling one of the brightest collections out there today. In a mixture of prose and poetry, the young women express their fears, dreams, relationships, and angst. There are some poetic turns of phrases here ("we put on our chatter/like red lipstick/with the same amount/of greasy enthusiasm") and some strong language. And while the poems are triumphant in their realism, the book is elevated by the inclusion of gritty, unposed black-and-white photographs. These pictures, not taken to illustrate the poems, do so in an exemplary fashion. Like snapshots from personal photo albums, the images of a multicultural array of "everygirls" are harmonious complements to this outstanding collection. A fine companion to *You Hear Me?: Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys* (Candlewick, 2000).-Sharon Korbeck, Waupaca Area Public Library, WI  
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A good anthology to share with teen girls to encourage them to create poems of their own or to open up topics of discussion. It really struck me how many of them had to do with body image. I knew in my head that this is still a huge issue for girls today, but seeing it in their poems broke my heart a little. My edition came with the cover on backwards. The rest of the book was perfect, but because this was bought as a donation I went ahead and ordered a second copy. I hope that one is okay.

NICE

Fridays are poetry days in my classroom. Every few weeks, I pull out this book, or *You Hear Me?*, and read a poem or two. Time and again, students will approach me after class and ask to borrow the book. These poems say to kids what Whitman, Frost (sorry--you know I love you, Robert) and Tennyson just can't. Kids must speak to kids. These books assure tentative nascent poets that they can do it, too, and they deliver a strong peer message to kids who are struggling. Betsy Franco has done a great thing here.

I GOT THIS BOOK FOR MY 13 YR OLD DAUGHTER AND SHE LOVES IT. SHE DOES SOME POEMS HERSELF SO I THOUGHT THIS BOOK WOULD HELP MOTIVATE HER AND GIVE HER INSIGHT ON DIFFERENT KINDS OF POEMS, AND IT HAS DONE THAT FOR HER.

great teaching tool

Way too dark for most young teens. Especially young girls dealing with becoming a young woman.

The book *Things I Have To Tell You* was an exciting book for me. It's about a girl's life today and how they deal with them. They expressed themselves and showed their viewpoints and life with the world by writing poetry. The poems were different than any other poetry book. They had live stories and told truth, they did not hold back on any information. These girls I think have written outstanding poems and I hope they keep doing so and making more books like this one. I loved this book. I thought it inspired me and made me think a lot. I could not put the book down. I read the whole thing I even took it to lunch one day in school just to finish it. The poems were like my own life it made sense because they are everyday things that happen. Like teenagers get pressured with and deal with. Love, Hate, Beauty, Friends, and Family all take place in this book and take place in an everyday lifestyle. Well at least mine and my friends' lives. I'm so glad I read this book because it has helped me with my own life. I recommend this book to teenagers mostly! Girls I think would be a lot more interested in this book but if guys want to know about girls and find problems maybe they have then they should read it too. I suggest every teenager reads this outstanding book. So check into this book I promise you, you will not regret reading it. Thanks for reading this. - Margie Mae Sanders

This is some of the best poetry and prose I have ever read by any young person or adult. As a poet I am not easily impressed, but this was some of the best poetry I have ever read. I was equally impressed by the photographs as well. I like the fact that the photographer intentionally did not try to fit the photos with the writings. The rawness of the book was what made it so fascinating. I picked it up intending to teach some of the young girls I work with in my afterschool program, but these girls were certainly on another level with their writing. I am now looking forward to reading the male companion. Great Work!!!

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