



Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience)

By Nikki Giovanni

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NOW A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER AND INCLUDED IN THE BOOKLIST TOP 10 ART BOOKS FOR YOUTH!

Our consensus is Hip Hop Speaks to Children is the most essential poetry purchase to make this year.

The poetry is enough.

The illustrations are enough.

The CD is enough.

Together, this **book is a treasure of which you cannot get enough.**

We shall accomplish much this year. Children will be encouraged to put their words to poetry and beats. Teachers will be encouraged to allow the artists to speak to children.

?Diane Chen, School Library Journal blog "Practically Paradise"

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Hip Hop Speaks to Children is a celebration of poetry with a beat.

Poetry can have both a rhyme and a rhythm. Sometimes it is obvious; sometimes it is hidden. But either way, make no mistake, poetry is as vibrant and exciting as it gets. And when you find yourself clapping your hands or tapping your feet, you know you've found poetry with a beat!

Like *Poetry Speaks to Children*, the New York Times Bestselling classic poetry book and CD that started it all, *Hip Hop Speaks to Children* is meant to be the beginning of a journey of discovery.

READ more than 50 remarkable poems and songs!

HEAR poetry's rhymes and rhythms from Queen Latifah to Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes to A Tribe Called Quest and more! * Also hear part of Martin Luther King's original "I Have a Dream" speech, followed by the remarkable live performance of the speech by Nikki Giovanni, Oni Lasana and Val Gray Ward. * The *Hip Hop Speaks to Children* CD contains **more than 30 performances**, either by the artists who created them, or as unique interpretations by admiring

poets and artists.

DISCOVER Langston Hughes's elegant gospel "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," A Tribe Called Quest's playful "Ham 'N' Eggs," Sterling A. Brown's hard-luck "Long Track Blues," Gwendolyn Brooks's wake-up call "We Real Cool," Kanye West's lovely "Hey Mama," and Martin Luther King Jr.'s awe-inspiring "I Have a Dream."

This is a collection of rhymes and rhythms unlike any other poetry book!

Celebrate with remarkable poets, including:

Eloise Greenfield
Mos Def
Lucille Clifton
Oscar Brown Jr.
Tupac Shakur
Maya Angelou
Queen Latifah
Nikki Grimes
Walter Dean Myers
Common
and, of course, Nikki Giovanni

Poems Include:

Ego Tripping
Rapper's Delight
The Negro Speaks of Rivers
Hey Mama
Ham 'N' Eggs
Everything Is Everything
Ladies First

MORE PRAISE FOR HIP HOP SPEAKS TO CHILDREN

"With its archival recordings of poems read by the poets themselves, [*Hip Hop*] **reminds everyone that poetry springs from an oral tradition.**"

?*Publishers Weekly*

"This is **the way to get children interested in reading and loving poetry.** ... A great book for both teachers and parents."

? *Valerie Lewis, owner of Hicklebee's children's bookstore*

"The poems, the artwork, the CD...all complement each other to create a **wonderful experience.**"

?*Becky Laney, Becky Laney's Books blog*

"Love this book. **I think it is a K-8 must-have for classrooms and libraries.**

Like I said it is packed and it may be (at first) intimidating to young readers. But, once they hear some of the audio, spend time with the illustrations, and experience some of the poetry, I think it will become a favorite."

?*Franki Sibberson, A Year of Reading blog*

"*Hip Hop Speaks to Children* is a wonderfully composed collection of poems from writers like Eloise Greenfield to late rapper and poet, Tupac Shakur. ... Whether you *read* poetry or you hear it in a rap song, **Giovanni's genius endeavor will inspire children of all ages to have fun while listening to poetry.** Rap is poetry, right?"

?Amy Bowllan, *Amy Bowllan's Blog (a School Library Journal Blog)*

"**I highly recommend this one for all collections.** If the title didn't include the word "children" it'd be an excellent book all the way to high school. My coworkers and I are already talking about doing a Hip Hop poetry story time for our elementary school kids."

?Jennifer Rothschild, *Biblio File blog*

"This is an **incredibly powerful, beautiful and important book.** Both the book and CD are stellar in quality and diversity. The artwork is amazing and I find myself pulling it out of the shelf over and over for just one more re-read. The grandchildren (ages 3 and 5) love it as well and ask to hear the CD while they pore over the pages and take breaks prancing around the room and singing to the beat. They KNOW all the poems in the book and learned them in a relatively short time, which I attribute to the power of the beat, and all the artists; the poets, the illustrators, the singers and spoken word artists. What an astounding thing when a book moves children so that they LEARN - quickly and enjoyably. This book is for all ages and **I can't recommend it highly enough.**"

?Gina Ruiz, *Blogcritics Magazine*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4–8—This anthology highlights the use of rhythm and vernacular in hip-hop, rap, and African-American poetry. The 51 pieces—which also include a passage from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech—use gospel rhythms, "hambone" rhythms (which Giovanni explains in her informative introduction), jazz and blues rhythms, and language from the fields and the city streets. Artists range from Langston Hughes to Kanye West, from Eloise Greenfield to Queen Latifah. Much of the subject matter focuses on hope, self-esteem, respect for the past, and determination to make a better future. A few selections are more playful, like an excerpt from "Principal's Office" by Young MC. The accompanying CD enables readers to hear many of the pieces spoken or performed by the artists. Meanwhile, a team of five illustrators provides colorful, lively pictures that add atmosphere and personality (without a lot of depth, however). This volume is much denser than it first appears, and will provide classroom teachers with a substantial amount of material. The fact that an important historical writer like James Weldon Johnson appears in the same book as contemporary musician Lauryn Hill may help some kids see the older writers with a fresh eye, and may also introduce today's artists to teachers and librarians. Granted, not all of the rap and/or hip-hop verses have the concise nature of what has been considered "real" poetry, and, in this context, some of them work better in audio than on the printed page. Still, this is an interesting, worthwhile collection.—*Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In this slamming cousin to Poetry Speaks to Children (2005), editor Giovanni states, "Poetry with a beat. That's hip hop in a flash," and she goes on to link hip-hop to grand opera and present a capsule history of African American vernacular music. This features a wide-ranging selection of 51 entries, plus a CD with new or previously released recorded versions of 29, some with music. The poets range from Langston Hughes and W. E. B. DuBois to Kanye West, Mos Def, and Queen Latifah. In keeping with hip-hop tradition, many of the selections are self-referential; others take on a variety of topics, from Gwendolyn Brooks' celebration of "Aloneness" to James Berry's inspirational "People Equal." Calef Brown's "Funky Snowman" is more about medium than message: "Turn up the music / with the disco beat, / when you're in the groove, / you don't need feet." Similarly, on the CD, some presentations are straight readings, and others evoke jazz, rap, pop, and field- or pulpit-style chanting. Although created by five illustrators, the art shares both vibrant colors and a dancing, free-spirited look that matches the general tone of the poetry. With appeal for preliterate children, their great-grandparents, and every generation between, this will be fun for families to share as they get their groove on. Appended notes tell more about the contributors. Grades 3-5. --John Peters

Review

"With appeal for preliterate children, their great grandparents, and every generation between, this will be fun for families to share as they get their groove on." - *Booklist*

"The variety of poetic forms and performance styles...makes this collection an excellent source of material not found together elsewhere." - *Kirkus*

"The beats would make any kid want to get up and dance, and I think the idea of incorporating music with the poetry will keep kids interested." - *Savvy Verse & Wit*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Leighty:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) seemed to be making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The publication Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience). You never really feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Evelina Lewis:

Why? Because this Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Nellie Kim:

Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) yet doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Michael Larose:

Do you like reading a publication? Confuse to looking for your best book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many problem for the book? But any people feel that they enjoy regarding reading. Some people likes studying, not only science book but additionally novel and Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) or perhaps others sources were given know-how for you. After you know how the truly great a book, you feel desire to read more and more. Science publication

was created for teacher or perhaps students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to include their knowledge. In additional case, beside science book, any other book likes Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) to make your spare time considerably more colorful. Many types of book like here.

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