



# Raise Your Voice

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition



**The Centre for Literacy of Quebec**  
Le centre d'alphabétisation du Québec

## **Writers in the Community Program**

### Acknowledgments

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*Beautiful Soul*

*Girl mysteriously called roses  
Lady looking silently  
People see higher stars  
Enormous closed moons  
Afterwards sleep becomes fear  
Countries sprouting better colors  
Immense pleasure glad and new  
Wishing silence, while sitting anywhere smiling*

*-Alex*

## Reflection of love

Do you really love me it's like an illusion in my eye's  
Can't think all this confusion in my mind  
My minds always thinking bout many things  
But just proving that everything you said was just a lie  
I'm so gullible I can't believe that I believed it  
I lost myself down the road I need to retrieve him  
My hearts hurts it's like internally bleeding  
Am a dreaming but I can't wake up  
Her face looks beautiful without make up  
I knew that eventually that we were gonna break up  
Say what  
Nah I didn't mean it in that way  
Exhale smoke as I de-lighted the rigs the ash stray  
The smoke clears up as I sit down and ponder  
Sipping on some liquor same color as some water  
So what should I do should I leave her?  
But there's a feeling in my heart  
That's telling me that I need her  
Attached like a hook to a crane  
I don't know why I'm just hooked to your name  
I don't think its ever leaving  
I even think about you when I'm dreaming  
The reason, well I don't know why  
I need to find out before time goes by.

Kadeem

## Hypocrisy

Neva trust a person once the man has lied,  
then comes an argument n 1 of u just died.

Once they hear the money stackin', enemies be cocking.  
Once they have u out, they neva want u back in.

They hear the money rollin in, they hate to see me win, hate  
when I fall down and get back up again.

Life's a dangerous game no1 stays the same. It's hard on these  
streets slangin rocks out the blocks, hopin this deal don't flop.

Unforgettable thoughts of homies bein shot.

-kareem

Unexplainable Thoughts

If hate is the dust  
Humans are the clouds

If liberty is the advertisement  
Humans are the existence

If disapproval is the suggestion  
Humans are the aftermath

If love is the gun  
Humans are the trigger

If dislike is the journey  
Humans are the bridge

If simplicity is the cigarette  
Humans are the ashes

If regret is the paper  
Humans are the pencil

If freedom is the idea  
Humans are the thoughts

If insignificance is the battery  
Humans are the alarm clock

If respect is the reason  
Humans are the explanation

## **Being awake...**

I need to be alert,  
But my minds going berserk,  
When I see you I give you a little smirk,  
Even a smile.  
All though I haven't seen you in a while,  
But that's my style.  
I like to smile.  
I also like to shine,  
right now I wish we could dine,  
with a bottle of wine,  
but right now,  
you're acting like a swine.  
You're never on time,  
On the phone you act like a slimeball.  
Why did you do all that crime for,  
All I want to do is see you walk through that door,  
So you could make my heart soar,  
That is what I adore.

**- Ashley...**

## **Spring**

Warmer  
Longer days  
Empty cans and beer bottles  
Random pennies  
Broken lighters  
Ripped Mcdonald's bags  
Old newspapers

-Alex

## **On the beat and undefeat**

I'm on the beat I'm undefeat  
I passed my test to be the best  
Can't get to me because I'm guarded  
Round the fortress my goons always  
Ready to die for the master  
and I don't go to church to pray  
for some lame task Pastor  
dropped out of school  
because I had to repeat last year.

-James

Haiku by Alex

Governmental scam  
Causing too much suffering  
What will we become?

Soon unseen objects  
Expect the unexpected  
When the seasons change

## **Pandora's Box**

The landscape whizzed by the window  
As we sped through the city streets  
With the velocity of a tropical catastrophe.  
How blue were the colours of the flowers  
On the dashboard. How still in  
The speeding night.

-Danny

# Driving, Unexpected

Have you ever felt like you were driving a car without a steering wheel and couldn't steer away from the deer in the road?

Have you ever ruined the greatest moments in your life, through one bad decision?

Have you ever been thinking so much in the back of a police car, you felt your thoughts rotating in your brain as fast as the tires were turning?

Have you ever been told you were someone, you knew you weren't?

Have you ever taken a one way street to disaster without realizing it?

Have you ever achieved something that was there to believe?

Well...I have, I am, I will

-Alex

# If

If you are musical  
If you are entertained easily  
If you love learning fun things  
If you love eating pizza  
If you are a nun chuck master  
If you ever made a mistake  
And wish u can take it back  
If you lost something meaningful  
If you ever dreamed of being a hero  
If you lied to someone to protect them  
If you ever wanted to be a rock star  
If you ever wondered what I'm like... this is me

-Tony

call me whatever you want to call me...

People call me a snitch,  
People call me a witch,  
I spit rhymes in a cinch.  
I make a number one hit,  
And walk away without a stitch.  
When I'm on the court,  
I only make a swish.  
I'm the number one chick,  
I'll chop off your ego and serve it on a dish,  
On a platter,  
I got to be careful now I don't want the blood to  
splatter,  
People's teeth start to chatter,  
And they aint saying a word,  
That's because I'm the best damn thing y'all every  
heard.

-Ashley ...

I'm flyer then a ceiling fan  
I keep a group of fans all up  
In my pocket I don't need wallet  
Rubber bands popping

My vocals sarcastic rimes wrapped  
In plastic, this is not school so do not  
Go test this cause my rhymes are elected so  
Unexpected.

I'm rarer then mister clean with hair  
I never had life and I never had fear

You be watching me like you be watching TV  
To expensive so you can't afford me

Africa willing for change beauty birds money  
And canaries bud root to spirituating stars

I be chasing money cause it wants to be chased  
As I get it I stack it in the brief case; don't need  
a bank or a wallet I got the stacks in my pocket.

James .c

## I Have Something to Say

I have something to say and  
There ain't no stopping me  
your girl wouldn't be in my room  
if you had done it properly  
I treat my life like a game on monopoly  
I dare anyone to land on my property.

-Ty-Shawn

# Lethal Vagabond

Under each crime,  
the development of another tendency

And so is the society of tearful approval.  
The women outside the city  
going without  
fright.

If society is the boundary  
humans are the comparison.

And the numberless bones  
of that lethal story, think about  
government,  
their average, broken  
connections.

-Alex

## Ode to the Ex-pos

The ghosts of Jarry  
Phantoms gliding through  
A storied past.  
Jackie... we hardly knew you  
But the world would  
At last  
Rusty, la Grande orange  
Andie, the hawk and  
John bo ca bell a  
Blast  
Out to Jonesville.  
The '94 fans  
Bereft abandoned sacrificed  
To the greed of the league  
High on juiced homers and steroids  
Cast (one, two and three strikes)  
Out!

-Danny

## The Transformation

I don't know why but I feel so empty  
It feels like I'm missing a part of myself  
The demons, I see them as plenty  
My soul it be constantly screaming for help  
But I know I'll get rescued by an angel  
Hanging on for dear life watch me dangle  
Watch me handle this so gently  
Cold shivers in your spine when you mention me  
Cuz I'm so profound  
Was a rookie before turned into a pro now  
Good vs bad what a show down  
I'm so stealth moving round with no sound  
You can't see me I'm invisible  
Raping is more then words it's a ritual  
Catch me on top of the pentacle  
Spiritual and lyrical you could see me on a pedestal  
Your minuscule I'm a giant chilling with lions  
I'm rising from the gutter it's surprising  
That I'm trynna break thru  
I love you even tho I hate you  
I'm confused don't know what to do  
I don't want you  
I'll leave you gone with the wind like a monsoon  
I did that just to free myself  
The best thing to do is to be myself  
Cuz I aint good at being someone else  
Someone that I'm not  
Now I feel well rounded like a pot  
No man's able to take anything I got  
A lot of things they be looking strange  
Yup freedom I can see it it's in my range  
On too the next page of life

Kadeem

## Real Spit

Some people are ignorant  
And inconsiderate  
But from the way we were brought up  
From the way that god has taught us  
To be what we have to be  
It's all a process like a masterpiece  
For the women, what matters is the inner person  
And if the man doesn't respect that, then he ain't worth it  
You're beautiful from the core straight to your surface  
What hurts me is a human being with no purpose  
Cuz life is more precious then to just waste it  
Standing on a hill looking down it's so amazing  
I grasp life gently like it were a newborn  
Trying to do right cuz all I was taught was to do wrong

-Kadeem

## Music

Music brought me through it  
Got me right to it  
Made me just do it  
Be my own person  
got my own version  
To my way of life  
Gotta play it right,  
Say it right  
Day and night  
Step up ya game  
Rep up ya name  
I'm killing every bar  
Feeling like a star  
Up with the ceiling fans  
Always feeling grand  
Cause I'm the man with the plan  
Ready to expand  
With it all in my hands  
Ready to accelerate  
Not close to hesitate  
Feels like I'm speeding  
And dreaming  
All at the same time  
I'm tired of all these same old  
rhymes

-Alex

## The secret matrix

In the basement  
Writing something secret  
Everybody's the same like they came from the matrix  
Clones like they were born in a machine  
They'll lose their soul in order to succeed  
But I ain't like that, I take god over everything  
Even for the cars, houses and many rings  
Pendants, money, women and the fame  
A life like that you're more likely to have your picture in a frame  
At a early age  
Always gotta be watching your back  
Like there's something on it  
Tapping you constantly  
For me life keeps going like a track with no chorus  
My emotions were covered now I'm opening the storage  
The clouds are leaving I could see the sky is blue  
And I just realized everything that I was told wasn't true  
I finally am clean I just came out the dirt  
Finally woke up Imma take life for what it's worth

-Kadeem

## God Gave Us

Two arms to feel

Two legs to walk

Two hands to hold

Two eyes to see

Two ears to hear

But one heart

To find your other one

-Tony

## The black sheep

Some people study life but they fail to prevail  
I be chilling with my wife on a hill living well  
Watching the fishes flowing down the river  
Looking in the water see my reflection in the mirror  
Visualizing the squirrel as they be creeping  
Right beside me as I'm sitting next to the lake  
Till the evening arrives  
It is me that decides the right from the wrong  
And I choose the right  
While you're in the shadows I'll be in the light  
Peace is hard describe  
Cuz the world's corrupted  
I ain't from this world like I've just been abducted  
Am an alien they're trying to take me to area 51  
Cuz out of the all gangsters I'm the different one  
The one trying to exceed and get out  
I have no need for them now  
I should say the projects  
Why would you wanna stay in the ghetto?  
If you have the chance to escape  
You go get out of it before it's too late

-Kadeem

6 Word Bio

I had a son, life's begun

-Danny

The Slippery Path

I

have pedaled

the slippery path

that winds through the mountains

which seemed so impossibly steep and

dangerous. After the summit it was downhill...

all

the

way

-Danny

If

If you expect the unexpected  
If you learn from your mistakes  
If you can make your family  
If you can cope with unavoidable situations  
If you're in the system  
If you're against the system  
If you're against unfair treatment  
If you're about wisdom over everything  
If you've made bad decisions  
If you've taken wrong turns in your life  
If you've ever felt not good enough  
If you know struggles and their unexpected consequences  
If you've gotten out of stressful situations  
If you make the better out of the worst  
If you've learned to appreciate life through anything

-Alex

## **Anthem of a Retrieved Soul**

I'm staying with fams until I get wrinkles  
Life so complex it never seems simple  
But until I die imma live it to the fullest  
Having a fast life, I be moving like a bullet  
They say the good die young  
I dare a brethren to try somth'n  
I'll stay on this earth till my time comes  
Why them dudes all around me like Verizon?  
No clouds out here but it still rains  
Been in the hood so long I don't feel pain  
No matter what, the ghetto's my origin  
Stuck in the hood, somebody needs to open it  
Cuz we all blinded  
Reflexes sharp like an ice pick  
Cuz we grew up in the jungle so have to be alert  
Was underneath the rubble, still trying to get out the dirt  
In this world it's really hard to stay clean  
I recently woke up, y'all just stuck in your dreams  
The valley is amazing  
Tired of waking up to buildings and pavement  
I rather be with nature with natural things  
In this world hear the birds with their passionate singing  
It brings bliss to my ears  
I'm officially here  
But cannot turn back  
And I ain't got no problem with that  
I'm happy where am at  
I'm like a cat the way I never fall, I always have balance  
How would you get out if you always stay in silence

Kadeem

## My Vision

My mind spreads like a shotgun shell when it's fired  
Gathering rocks and stones to build my empire  
My only desire is to have no boundaries  
And to be free from the corruption surrounding me

When I'm stressed I smoke lie and fly away  
If you wanna find me you could see me with the flock  
I'll never stop

Even if time's on pause  
Trying to reach my goal no matter what the cause  
It's strange you cannot take me as a human being  
Cuz everything in my eyes is different from what you are seeing

I see it in colors you see it in white and black  
Excluded from the others  
Just because the way I act

Mildly weird I take it as something positive  
Tired of being a dormant man, I gotta live  
I gotta give back cuz my life is lended  
Life's splendid

So everyday of my life Ima take it so preciously  
Joyful like I was naturally born on ecstasy

## Streets

If you know the streets  
Then you know how I think.  
If you move slow  
You're gone in a blink.

-Ty-Shawn