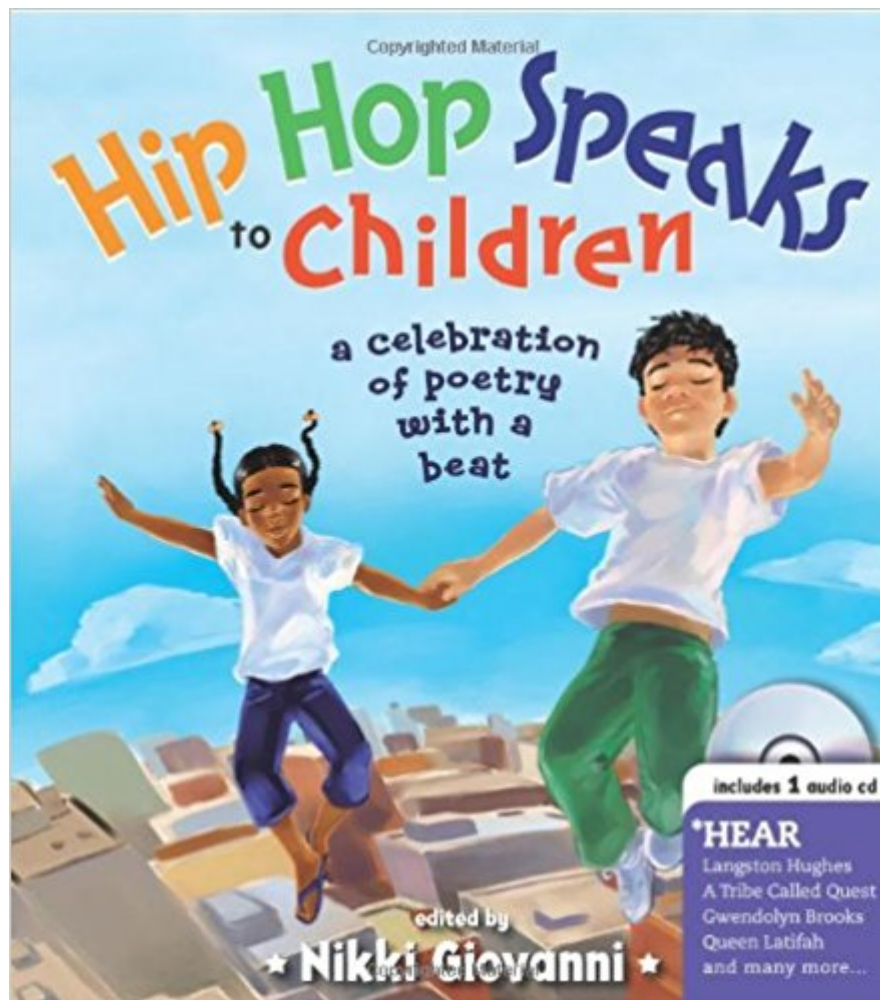




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# Hip Hop Speaks To Children: A Celebration Of Poetry With A Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience)



## Synopsis

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"

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*

## **Book Information**

Series: A Poetry Speaks Experience

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Age Range: 7 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4—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 Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*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's 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

What a great book...not only because I'm in this award winning and ground breaking book;-) but also because its the first of its kind in terms of fusing the hip hop culture of music to the literary world of poetry for children. Hip Hop is spoken word with music and Ms. Giovanni is a visionary for editing this innovative book for children of all ages. What a treat for teachers, students, parents and most of all me! Due to space limitations, not all the poems are on the CD but the most classic ones are included on the page and on the CD. Kudos to all involved in this fantastic publication.

I took it to my 5 year old child's class and read some of the poems to them. I played some of the ones in the CD. I told them about Hip Hop and the culture. It helped me explain to them about her ethnicity, she is half black, half white and most of the kids in her class are either white or Hispanic. I made copies of the cd for the kids and left one for each of them. They were thrilled and many of the parents have called me to thank me for sharing and for the cd. Poetry is great for young children. They have such a short attention span that I have found it easier to read a couple of poems before bedtime than to get into an entire story.

This is an excellent book and CD of fun loving 90's hip hop, spoken word and classic poetry that I can't listen to enough! We borrowed it from the library and had to purchase it. My infant daughter loves it too, "dancing" to some of the tracks. Great introduction to Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Queen Latifah, A Tribe Called Quest and MLK. I'll probably gift a copy of two to other children in my

life.

The Poems are good, but most of the "performances" are extremely dull. They certainly don't fit the theme of "Poetry with a beat," nor "hip hop." I am usually impressed with Nikki Giovanni, which is why I purchased this. It didn't meet my expectations, and I won't be able to use very much of it in my classroom.

The book is great but the CD wasn't in it, which was a big disappointment. I could really use the audio help in getting the right reading rhythm of a lot of these poems, because I'm not familiar and I want it to be fun for my daughter. I sound like a moron because I have no innate rhythm! But am still giving it a whirl. The content of the book is great though.

It's okay. I picked this up off a recommendation from a colleague, but eh... Pictures are good but I just felt the layout (the combination of the art with the drawings and the message) to be a little disorganized and all over the place. Has excellent potential but seemed more like a draft than a final product.

I love hip hop and poetry so when I saw this book I had to purchase it for my nephew. Nikki Giovanni does a great job pulling lyrics from hip hop songs to direct at children and show that the stereotypical idea of "rap" that the majority of the consumer public has far exceeds guns, money, and hoes. Initially I found this book searching some information on Aesop Rock ("No Regrets" is in the book) and was delighted to find a cool gift that I could use as an acceptable way (to his parents) to introduce hip-hop to my nephew.

I gave this book as a gift to my 12 year old sis (at the time) after seeing the book in a bookstore. It gives hip-hop a positive look as opposed to the negative explanations for why hip hop exists. It shows that hip hop is an evolution of poetry which shows that there are lessons to be learned. I would greatly recommend this book. This book is recommended for 9-12 yrs old. The book looks like it's for a much younger audience, but the poems and raps inside are age appropriate oftentimes even challenging the reader to push outside their understanding. And it comes with a cd which makes it all the more better. Buy this product, if you're thinking about it.

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

Flexor Pain: The Ultimate Guide to Fix Tight Hip Flexors and Cure Tight Hips Life! (hip flexors, hip pain, hip flexor stretches, hip flexor, hip pain relief, hip joint pain, hips) Hip Hop Rhyming Dictionary: The Extensive Hip Hop & Rap Rhyming Dictionary for Rappers, Mcs,Poets,Slam Artist and lyricists: Hip Hop & Rap Rhyming Dictionary And General Rhyming Dictionary Hip Hop: A Short History (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback)) Tight Hip Flexors: The 7 Minute Tight Hip Solution:Simple and Effective Movements That Quickly Release Tight Hip Flexors And Reduce Hip Pain (Hip replacement ... mobility exercises, hip flexor exercises) Poetry Speaks to Children (Book & CD) (A Poetry Speaks Experience) Poetry Speaks Who I Am: Poems of Discovery, Inspiration, Independence, and Everything Else (A Poetry Speaks Experience) B-Boys: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop) (Volume 2) Graffiti: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 4) DJs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 1) MCs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 3) It's a Hip Hop Hip Hop World For Every B-Boy and B-Girl: Children's Book It's A Hip Hop Hip Hop World For Every B-Boy and B-Girl: African American Children's Book MCs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop) (Volume 4) The Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip Hop--and Why It Matters It's Bigger Than Hip Hop: The Rise of the Post-Hip-Hop Generation Hip-Hop Dance (Hip-Hop Insider) The Men of Hip-Hop (Hip-Hop Insider) Eminem (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback)) Dr. Dre (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback))

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