

Next Issue's Theme: Parenthood (Volume 7, Issue 5)

Many Free Minds members are fathers, mothers, expectant parents, or parental figures or guardians to someone who looks up to us and someone who we feel responsible for taking care of. That's why we want to talk about **Parenthood**. I bet you've thought about how to raise a child, whether it be your own child now or because you want children in the future, or even because you reflect on your own childhood and how your parents or parental figures raised you. What are some hopes and desires you have for the next generation? What are ways to be an active parent from prison? What are some ways to stay connected to your kids or your parents from the inside? What are some things you wish your parents did or that you hope to do when raising your kids? What are some things you wish you were taught or that you wish to teach? How do you want your children to grow up? What are some strategies for co-parenting? What do you think are the responsibilities of being a parent? Do you *want* to be a parent?

Send us a poem or essay of your own, respond to the questions in the theme, or try our prompts!

Dear _____
by _____

I wanted to take the time to say _____

I look at you and _____

I hope you never _____

I want you to _____

If you don't do anything else in life, you should _____

Raising you has been _____

If I could _____

Moments with you are special because _____

I love and wanted to tell you _____

just to let you know you're on my mind.

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Open-ended prompts

How did you feel when you first heard the mother of your child say, "I'm pregnant"? What were the thoughts running through your head? (Alternative: how did you feel when you first discovered you were pregnant?)

There is an African proverb that "it takes a village to raise a child." What does this mean and do you agree or disagree?

What words of wisdom from your parental figure stays with you forever? Why are they so meaningful to you?

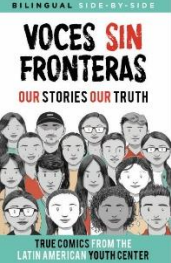

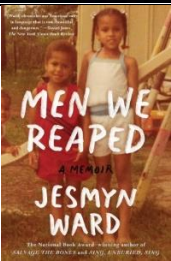
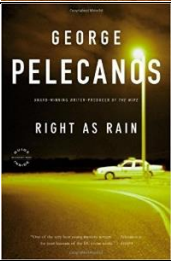
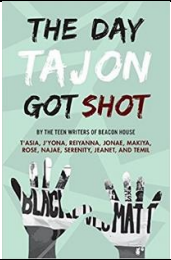
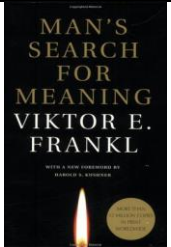
And a preview of Volume 7, Issue 6: We want to make sure people have time to write in with their submissions, so here's a heads up for the Winter 2018 issue! We'll be writing about *Journeys*, our life stories, the paths we took to where we are now, the struggles we overcame, the triumphs we celebrate, and how history itself reflects and shapes the journeys of a society.

Send to **Free Minds Book Club** / 2201 P St, NW / Washington, DC 20037 for consideration in the next issue

Fall/Winter 2018 Book Ballot!

By Julia

The summer book will be the poetry book *Bastards of the Reagan Era* by R. Dwayne Betts, a formerly incarcerated poet and friend of Free Minds! But now it's your chance to vote for the Fall and Winter books. Please mark your 1st and 2nd choices on the list below.

	<p>Voces Sin Fronteras (Voices Without Borders): Our Stories Our Truth / Nuestra Historia Nuestra Verdad [Nonfiction]</p> <p>This is a bilingual (Spanish and English) book of true stories told in comic book format. The stories are all written by DC youth in the Latin American Youth Center, who wanted to share their lived experiences to inspire, to motivate, and to educate their readers. They wanted to show other young immigrants like themselves, “you are not alone.”</p>
	<p>The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas [Fiction]</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. What everyone wants to know is: what <i>really</i> went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.</p>
	<p>Men We Reaped by Jesmyn Ward [Nonfiction]</p> <p>In five years, Jesmyn Ward lost five young men in her life—to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, one after another, made Jesmyn ask the question: Why? And as she began to write about the experience of living through all the dying, she realized the truth—and it took her breath away. Her brother and her friends all died because of who they were and where they were from.</p>
	<p>Right as Rain by George Pelecanos [Fiction]</p> <p>Derek Strange is black and successful. Terry Quinn is white and barely holding on. Now Strange has been hired to investigate a police shooting in which Quinn played a major role. For Strange, a savvy and careful man, the investigation goes against his style and instinct. For Terry Quinn, Strange's questions are a chance to absolve his conscience and shake out a little truth. But in a city that lives in the shadow of a nation's dream, neither man can foresee the dirty little war that will break out around them...or how deadly being right can be.</p>
	<p>The Day Tajon Got Shot by Beacon House Writers [Fiction]</p> <p>Written by a group of ten teenagers at Beacon House in D.C., <i>The Day Tajon Got Shot</i>, each one of the teenage authors writes from the point of view of a character in a town where a Black sixteen-year-old boy has just been shot by a police officer. Told from many points of view, including that of Tajon himself and the offending officer, this book explores issues of violence, loyalty, justice, and community.</p>
	<p>Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl [Nonfiction]</p> <p>Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose.</p>