

Writing to Change the World: An Inspiring Guide for Transforming the World with Words

By Mary Pipher PhD

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From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Reviving Ophelia*, *Another Country*, and *The Shelter of Each Other* comes an inspirational book that shows how words can change the world.

Words are the most powerful tools at our disposal. With them, writers have saved lives and taken them, brought justice and confounded it, started wars and ended them. Writers can change the way we think and transform our definitions of right and wrong.

Writing to Change the World is a beautiful paean to the transformative power of words. Encapsulating Mary Pipher's years as a writer and therapist, it features rousing commentary, personal anecdotes, memorable quotations, and stories of writers who have helped reshape society. It is a book that will shake up readers' beliefs, expand their minds, and possibly even inspire them to make their own mark on the world.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this very personal writing guide, Pipher talks about the importance of point of view in writing, and she has a definite point of view here, tilting to the left: the world is in a bad way, and writers can serve as a "rescue team for our tired, overcrowded planet" by "tell[ing] stories that connect readers to all the people on earth." Pipher offers some good examples of how to accomplish this, particularly in a thoughtful and clever essay that presents the U.S. as a patient in a therapeutic case study ("Diagnosis: Post-traumatic stress disorder, multiple addictions"). And she offers useful advice in her sections on defining success (measured not in terms of sales but in terms of "giv[ing] our time and talents to help others") and revising, which she compares to pruning and weeding. There are dozens of pithy and inspiring quotes from a variety of writers, among them Woody Allen, Joan Didion and Eudora Welty. Those, along with Pipher's chipper you-can-do-it tone, will encourage idealistic aspiring writers, who will surely find inspiration in her assertion that writing can heal the world. (*Apr.*) Correction: Our review of Gary Schwartz's *The G.O.D. Experiments* (Reviews, Feb. 13) should have read, "Chance rather than order is the exception to the rule in the universe." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"[Pipher] offers useful advice...[This] will encourage idealistic aspiring writers, who will surely find inspiration in her assertion that writing can change the world."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"[Pipher] brings astute analogies from her career as a therapist to the problem of how to begin writing."

—*Library Journal*

About the Author

Mary Pipher, Ph.D., is a psychologist and the author of nine books, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *Reviving Ophelia*, *The Shelter of Each Other*, and *Another Country*, as well as *Seeking Peace* and *Writing to Change the World*. She lives in Nebraska.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Tritt:

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