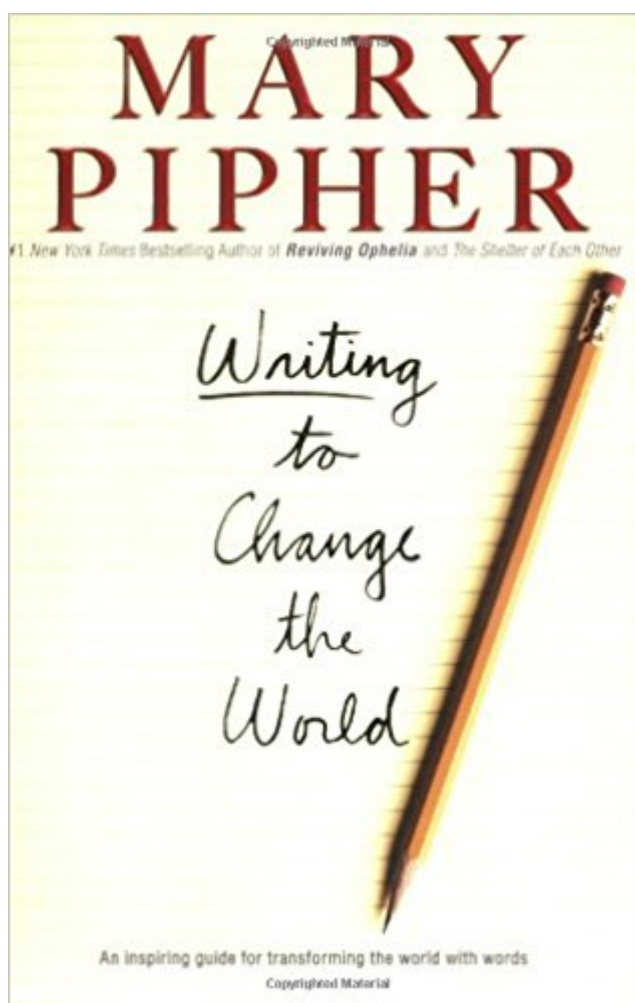


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Writing To Change The World: An Inspiring Guide For Transforming The World With Words



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• [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" •

Writing to Change the World is divided into two sections. 1) "What We Alone Can Say" addresses why we write and how our unique experiences can give us a different perspective and voice that no one else has. This section is both inspirational and motivating. 2) "The Writing Process" gets down to the nuts and bolts. What are the most effective ways of relating to people - especially those whose opinions we are hoping to change. Pipher addresses the writing process and different genres of writing, including letters, personal essays, speeches, blogs, music and poetry. Also included is a comprehensive list of recommended reading. Mary Pipher's experience as both a writer and a therapist give her insight on how words can be used to motivate change. This book was inspiring as Pipher illustrates how words have been and can be used to really make a difference in the world. I found her insights very helpful and her practical advice useful.

Please - don't stop at teaching young people "how" to write - make sure you also help them gain an understanding of "why" to write. Read this book, and then, "Write to change the world."

Bought this for my daughter. My husband perused it and thought she would really like it. Haven't gotten her review yet. We are a family of writers so have many books on writing. Good one to add to the collection.

I fell in love with this book in the first ten pages. It's doubly good because Dr. Pipher is a therapist as well as a writer. Perhaps that's why this book resonated with me because I am counselor and a

writer as well. She has fabulous explanations for why things happen as they do; as well as our physical and emotional connections to the past. If you're someone who writes to "state a case"--op-ed, editorials, or just trying to effect some social change, this is the right book for you! Just to be inspired, I keep this book on my desk next to my Thesaurus; that's how valuable it is to me!

Writers want to impact readers. We want to change minds, change behavior, change the way people see the world. Mary Pipher assures us that we can make a difference. But it doesn't automatically happen. She challenges us first of all to know ourselves. Where did we come from? Why should people listen to us? What unique perspective do we bring to the literature table? Identify our passions, and we may be on the way to finding our voice. But Pipher does far more than challenge us. She offers an approach. She warns against spouting off without proper thought to the preparation of our argument. Pipher helps us to write in a calm and gentle manner that will be palatable to readers and offers phrases to soften our approach. If we respect readers' viewpoints, they may come to respect us as writers--even if they disagree with what we say. Pipher points out tools, such as literary references, quotes and homey stories, which help to build a winning argument. *Writing to Change the World* is a must read for any writer who hopes to connect with readers in a way that makes a difference in our human experience.

One of the best books of it's genre.

This was a required text for my doctoral program. I was very pleasantly surprised! Pipher's style of writing about writing is very inspiring and helped change much of how I see writing, even in this academic venue. I definitely recommend for anyone suffering from boredom or burnout with writing.

Great book and shipped right away

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