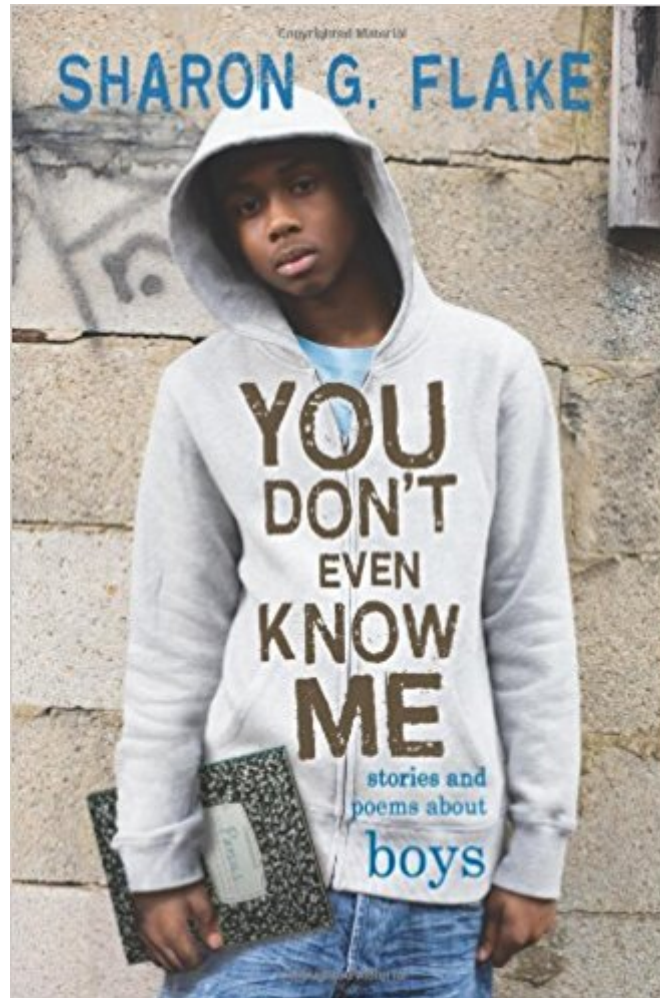




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You Don't Even Know Me: Stories And Poems About Boys



Synopsis

In 9 stories and 15 poems, Sharon G. Flake provides insight into the minds of a diverse group of adolescent African American males. There's Tow-Kaye, getting married at age 16 to love of his life, who's pregnant. He knows it's the right thing to do, but he's scared to death. James writes in his diary about his twin brother's terrible secret, which threatens to pull James down, too. Tyler explains what it's like to be a player with the ladies. In a letter to his uncle, La'Ron confesses that he's infected with HIV. Eric takes us on a tour of North Philly on the Fourth of July, when the heat could make a guy go crazy. Still, he loves his hood. These and other unforgettable characters come to life in this collection of urban male voices. Sharon's G. Flake's talent for telling it like it is will leave readers thinking differently, feeling deeply, and definitely wanting more.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 520 (What's this?)

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[Short Story Collections](#) #257 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures >](#)

[Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 - 9

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up – Ten portraits interspersed with poetry draw readers into the lives of a variety of African-American teens. In "Getting Even," a boy copes with his grandfather's death and the desire to find who killed him. Jeffery, 16, gets thrown out of his Auntie's house with nowhere to go. Eric goes against his dad's command to stay home with his siblings and instead finds a girl, some fun, and some trouble; Justin writes in his journal about death, suicide, and sexual abuse. La'Ron is too

afraid to tell his father he is HIV positive, so he writes him a letter, and his father writes back. The concluding story, "Pretty Mothers Are a Problem," is a chilling portrait of 15-year-old Jeffrey, seduced by a neighbor, and the devastation faced by her daughter. These complex and thought-provoking stories won't disappoint. --Amy Cheney, Alameda County Library, Oakland, CA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a lively companion to Flake's *Who Am I without Him?* (2007), teen boys speak in stories and free-verse poems about love, fear, sex, fun, anger, sorrow, and growing up black today. Some of the strongest pieces are about love between sons and father figures, including a stepdad, grandfather, and father-in-law. Homelessness is sometimes a threat, as is the fear of dying young, amid all the violence in the hood, and one speaker talks about the responsibility he feels to help younger kids get over "getting even." In contrast, a suburban kid talks about class issues. Occasionally, the entries feel therapeutic, with messages about HIV/AIDS and suicide prevention (hotlines and Web sites are appended). Best of all is the candor about hardship and the celebration of the diversity and dynamics in the characters' communities. The immediate voices, with no invective or overt sex, are well-suited for readers' theater and for sharing everywhere. Grades 7-10. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I really liked this book!! The book consist of a lot of short stories, I usually don't like books like that but each one of these stories was so interesting. Sharon flake is a really good writer, I like how she makes each character seem so realistic and completely different even though the book is fiction. My favorite character is Tow-kaye from the short story "scared to death". He's a sixteen year old boy who got has gotten his girlfriend pregnant and now is marrying her, but during the ceremony he realizes he isn't ready to get married. Overall the book was good and I would recommend it to a friend. I will probably be reading more of Sharon g. flakes books

I taught this to my freshmen for the first time last fall & they loved it! Both male and female students. I'm definitely going to keep this text a part of my curriculum in the classroom.

Our students have a history with Ms Flake's books. I have already had one copy "borrowed" and not returned. I like the idea of writing stories and poems from a teenage boy's perspective. Often they

are forgotten or seen as troubled kids. Ms Flake does indeed write about these boys, but she also includes the confused, scared, sensitive, and loving boys that we all know.

I bought this book for my 14 year old son and he enjoyed reading it.

Good for young boys (even though I'm an adult woman). I HIGHLY suggest this read to black boys or even young adults who've had a not-so-usual childhood.

As advertised

Reluctant readers will gravitate toward this read. Cover is inviting and makes young men in particular feel like there's no shame carrying this book. Educators and librarians need to have this in their classrooms and shelves. Excellent resource.

This book was a little disappointing if you were looking for a step up since "Who Am I Without Him" was written. The format with a poem introducing each short story is different as well as the subject of each story. I will not negate the reality that the subject matter (weight, friendship, marriage, gender identification, marriage) of many of the stories is real, the manner in which it was written in this book, was dull.

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