

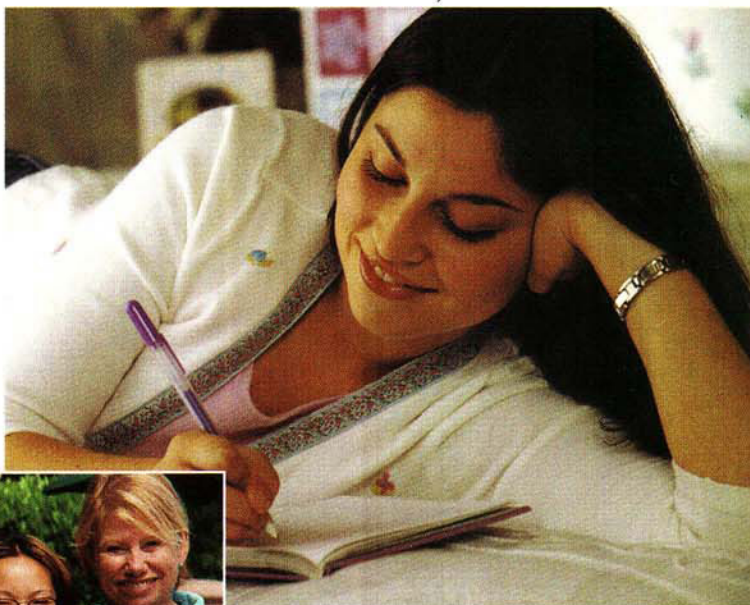
# Circle This

What's Up • What's Hot • News to Use

By Margaret Jaworski

## WriteGirls

"Mentoring gives me the chance to nurture a young girl who's finding her way in the world," says Roberta Grant, a Los Angeles-based freelance writer and WriteGirl volunteer. "To see her respond and grow warms my heart and makes me feel useful." Grant is one of 100-plus women writers who give their time and talent to mentor teenage girls attending high school in central Los Angeles. During the nine-month program, the girls meet weekly in one-on-one sessions with their mentors and participate in monthly workshops where they share their creative expressions while developing and improving their writing skills. The WriteGirl experience isn't solely literary. It's life changing as well. "Many of these girls live in less than optimal situations," says WriteGirl founder Keren Taylor, a poet and songwriter. "The girls' self-confidence is low and their fear of abandonment is high," she explains. Through the "tenacious commitment" of the staff and mentors, the girls learn to trust others and believe in themselves. And so do the mentors. "Writers are a quirky group with their own insecurities," notes Taylor. The proof of the program's impact is in the writing. The girls' work now appears in two collections: *Bold Ink: Collected Voices of Women and Girls* and *Pieces of Me: The Voices of Write-Girl*. Read excerpts at [www.writegirl.org](http://www.writegirl.org). All proceeds from book sales benefit the nonprofit program.



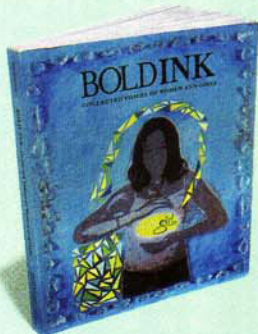
WriteGirl pairs women writers with teen girls eager to improve their creative expression. Pictured at left: Mentor Roberta Grant (right) with teen Anna Liu.



## Stimulate Your Sentences!

Below, some tools to energize your self-expression from *Bold Ink: Collected Voices of Women and Girls*.

- **Songwriting.** Write a lullaby to a small child. Consider what kind of rhymes and rhythms would be soothing.
- **Journalism.** Interview your grandmother or the owner of a neighborhood store. Prepare provocative questions to jump-start the conversation.
- **Comedic writing.** Think of two opposite characters (for example, a vegetarian and a butcher) and put them in a situation where they have to talk to each other—e.g., a blind date. Have fun with the differences in the characters' voices as they attempt to communicate.



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## You Oughta Be in Pictures

Hollywood is making a movie about your life. The choice of director is yours. American women polled chose:

- Penny Marshall (*A League of Their Own*) 48%**
- Nora Ephron (*Sleepless in Seattle*) 25%**
- Sofia Coppola (*Lost in Translation*) 15%**
- Barbra Streisand (*The Prince of Tides*) 12%**

Source: FAMILY CIRCLE National Survey

