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Teen Zines: A Few Notes and Resources

Editor's note: In the March 2007 issue of *English Journal*, Tobi Jacobi examined the relationships among composition theory, community literacy practices, and service learning, taking into account the complex possibilities and implications that arise when zines are incorporated into the classroom. In this extension, she offers a list of zine resources for teachers and students interested in zines.

Common Themes in Teen Zines

Themes might include the following: love, identity, social issues, friendship, sexuality, politics, death, hope, insecurity. These are many of the issues we encounter in adolescent literature.

Why Do Teens Write and Read Zines?

Teens write for many of the same reasons that adults do—as well as a few that are specific to their particular social and developmental stage in life. These might include the following:

- > wanting to feel unique, original, and creative
- > wanting to find a peer group—real and imagined; some feel alienated by peer/social/family groups
- > finding an alternative sense of reality
- > joining a revolutionary movement, exercising rebellion
- > seeking a sense of control over their lives
- > building confidence and self-esteem
- > critiquing social norms in a safe space
- > networking with like-minded others
- > offering and receiving affirmation of self-worth
- > writing—aesthetic pleasure and experimentation

- > experimenting with politics, identity, reality
- > looking for a sense of hopefulness in the world

Resources

Zine Web Sites and Distros

- Beat Within, The: A Weekly Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside.* Pacific New Service. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.thebeatwithin.org/news/>>.
- Book of Zines, The: Readings from the Fringe.* Ed. Chip Rowe. 12 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.zinebook.com>>.
- CyberTeens.* Able Minds, Inc. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.cyberteens.com/>>.
- Denver Zine Library.* 12 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.denverzinelibrary.org>>.
- Diary Project, The.* 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.diaryproject.com/>>.
- Grrrl Zine Network: Resources.* Ed. Elke Zobi with Haydeé Jiménez. 23 Jan. 2007. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://grrrlzines.net/resources/distroslibraries.htm>>.
- In the Mix.* PBS. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/>>.
- Listen Up!* Helen Marie. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.listenup.org/>>.
- SFPL.org.* 10 May 2006. San Francisco Public Library. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/sfplonline/teen/zines.htm>>.

- Spank! Youth Culture Online*. Stephen Cassady. 13 Feb 2007 <<http://www.spankmag.com/>>.
- Teen Relationships Website*. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.teenrelationships.org/links/links.htm>>.
- Teen Voices Online*. 13 Feb 2007. Women Express, Inc. 13 Feb 2007 <<http://www.teenvoices.com/>>.
- WireTap Magazine*. WireTapMag.org. Ed. Kristina Rizga. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.wiretapmag.org/>>.
- Youth Outlook*. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.youthoutlook.org/>>.
- Zine World: A Reader's Guide to the Underground Press*. Ed. Jerianne. 12 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.undergroundpress.org/>>.
- Zine Street*. 15 March 2006. Nate. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.zinestreet.com/>>.

Teen Zines

- Girl Zone*. 13 Feb. 2007. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.girlzone.com/>>.
- Next Step Magazine, The*. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.nextstepmagazine.com/>>.
- TeenInk*. The Young Authors Foundation, Inc. 13 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.teenink.com/>>.

Books on Zines

- Block, Francesca Lia, and Hillary Carlip. *Zine Scene: The Do It Yourself Guide to Zines*. N.p.: Girl Press, 1998.
- Brent, Bill. *Make a Zine! A Guide to Self-Publishing Disguised as a Book on How to Produce a Zine*. San Francisco: Black Books, 1997.
- Daly, Steven, and Nathaniel Wice. *Alt.culture: An A-to-Z Guide to the '90s—Underground, Online, and Over-the-Counter*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1995.
- Duncombe, Stephen. *Notes from Underground: Zines and the Politics of Alternative Culture*. London: Verso, 1997.
- Friedman, R. Seth. *The Factsheet Five Zine Reader: Dispatches*

from the Edge of the Zine Revolution. New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997.

- Green, Karen, and Tristan Taormino, eds. *A Girl's Guide to Taking Over the World: Writings from the Girl Zine Revolution*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1997.
- Gunderloy, Mike, and Cari Goldberg Janice. *The World of Zines: A Guide to the Independent Magazine Revolution*. New York: Penguin, 1992.
- Rowe, Chip, ed. *The Book of Zines: Readings from the Fringe*. New York: Holt, 1997.
- Todd, Mark, and Esther Pearl Watson. *Watcha Mean, What's a Zine? The Art of Making Zines and Mini-Courses*. New York: Graphia, 2006.
- Vale, V., ed. *Zines!* Vol. 1. San Francisco: V/Search, 1996.
- Wrekk, Alex. *Stolen Sharpie Revolution: A DIY Zine Resource*. Portland: Microcosm, 2003.

Articles on Using Zines in the Classroom

- Bott, Christie "CJ." "Zines—The Ultimate Creative Writing Project." *English Journal* 92.2 (2002): 27–33.
- Dutro, Elizabeth, Jennifer Sinor, and Sara Rubinow. "Who's at Risk? Entering the World of Adolescent Zines." *Breaking the Cycle: Gender, Literacy, and Learning*. Ed. Lynne Alvine and Linda Cullum. Portsmouth: Boynton/Cook, 1999. 131–45.
- Fraizer, Dan. "Zines in the Composition Classroom." *Teaching English in the Two-Year College* 25.1 (1998): 16–20.
- Guzzetti, Barbara J., and Margaret Gamboa. "Zines for Social Justice: Adolescent Girls Writing on Their Own." *Reading Research Quarterly* 39.4 (2004): 408–36.
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