



## Youth Unlocked at Green Square School

Red Room Poetry's Youth Unlocked collaborates with students, teachers and educational communities in Behavioural Intervention Centres and Juvenile Justice Centres to deepen encounters with poetry.

With generous support from MIRVAC and Landcom, in February and March 2018, poets SOLO (Nick Bryant Smith) and Gabrielle 'Journey' Jones delivered six workshops for the students at Green Square School. The workshops focused on unlocking poetic ways of seeing, writing and responding through music and performance.

## Red Room Poetry

Red Room Poetry inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry. We enliven experiences with poetry by bringing contemporary poets into classrooms across Australia to run dynamic writing workshops that awaken imaginations and support creative opportunities.

## Find out more

Website: [redroomcompany.org](http://redroomcompany.org)

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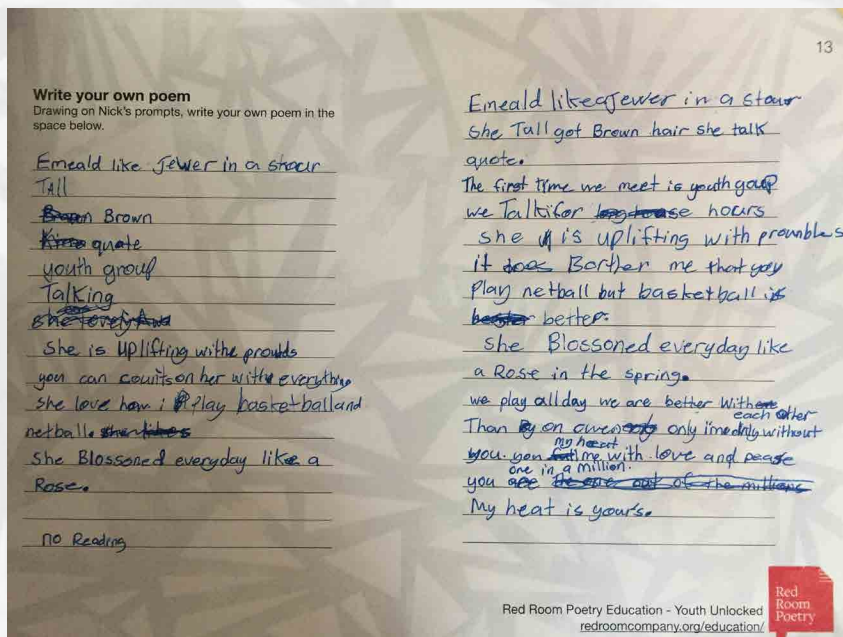
## Gabrielle 'Journey' Jones

Gabrielle 'Journey' Jones is a Co-Founder and CEO (Creativity Encouragement Officer) of Creative Womyn Down Under, a community initiative since 2006 in Sydney which helps to connect women and creativity. Gabrielle has been passionate about using spoken word performance poetry and drumming to raise social issues for over 20 years.



## Nick Bryant Smith 'SOLO'

Solo (aka Nick Bryant-Smith) is a hip hop artist and songwriter from inner west Sydney. As one half of the duo Hororshow, he has released four critically acclaimed albums, received nominations for ARIA and J Awards and been a finalist in the Australian Music Prize. Solo has also toured extensively around Australia and overseas, playing and collaborating with the likes of Hilltop Hoods, Bliss n Eso, Urthboy and Hermitude.



Poetry drafting exercise with a Green Square Student

## Poetic Learning

Red Room Poetic Learning brings contemporary poets into classrooms across the country to foster fresh poetic perspectives and support creative curriculum outcomes. Each Red Room Poetry program encourages new modes of creation and publication, connecting cultures, languages and communities to release student poems to an authentic worldwide audience of more than 250 000 online readers.

Best Friends are hard to find.  
 You trust me and I trust you...  
 Together we are stronger than a weightlifter or  
 Football player.  
 Together we are like a wave

~ Tim Tam, excerpt from 'Game Time'

## Workshops

Each poet completed a series of three half-day poetry workshops with classes of 15 students each from years 6-10, though a majority were year 9 students.

Nick Bryant Smith (SOLO) conducted workshops on the 16th and 23rd February, and the 2nd March. Gabrielle 'Journey' Jones' workshops took place on the 9th, 16th, and 23rd March.

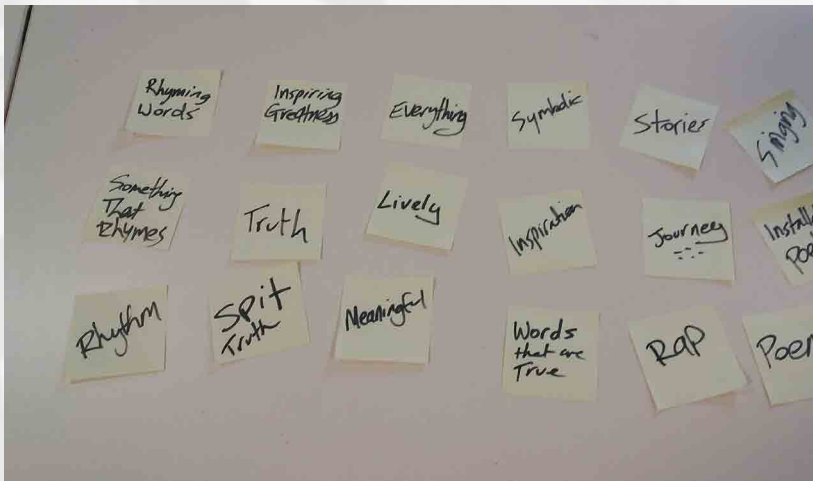
Students explored poetic techniques and performance throughout the series of workshops, developing their own poems throughout the sessions as well as a group poem, reflecting on the themes of community, belonging and the importance of place.

Red Room Producer Rob Osborne joined students in the final workshop to record a podcast and a performance of the group poem.

The group poem has been published at the Social Corner, Zetland by MIRVAC.

*'The students really got a lot out of the session and some great rhymes produced too!'*

~ Sarah, Classroom Teacher, Green Square School



A 'Post-It Poem' constructed by Green Square Students

## Podcast Recording

Rob Osborne, producer at Red Room Poetry, joined the final workshop to record audio of the group poem performance and also a podcast featuring students. This meaningful literary learning exercise allowed students to interview poets and peers.

*'It was wonderful to have Rob in the class room recording for the podcast. Seeing Rob there encouraged the students to rehearse and then record the Green Square Rap.'*

~ Reflection, Gabe 'Journey' Jones

## Workshop Structure

**Week one** workshops began with an introduction to poetry with a reading from the facilitating poet. Group discussions on ideas of place and 'where we come from' led into a focus on poetry and rap as forms of expression and empowerment.

The **second week** of workshops moved to an exploration of poetic techniques to guide students into their independent writing. Brainstorming and stream of consciousness exercises helped students generate creative ideas for their own poems.

These poem drafts were then workshopped and edited in the **final week** of workshops. Students performed and recorded their group poem and recorded their group poem.



Green Square Students podcasting with Produce Rob Osbourne



When I walk in the streets of the Green Square hood, once where  
 old factories and warehouses stood Fresh apartments, just 'cause  
 they could,  
 Upgrade your gates 'cause they ain't that good.  
 We're the Green Square School  
 When you ask, 'what's good?'  
 The smoothies make you drool  
 And we feel understood.  
 We play ball hard  
 When we're not in class  
 Throw a card in a graveyard  
 Escape through shatterproof glass.  
 We're the Green Square School  
 When you ask 'what's good?'  
 The smoothies make you drool  
 And we feel understood.

~ Green Square Students,  
 'Green Square, What's Good'



## Our Supporters

Red Room Poetry's Poetic Learning Program at Green Square School has been generously supported by:

- MIRVAC
- Landcom
- Australia Council for the Arts
- CreateNSW
- Geoff Ainsworth AM and Johanna Featherstone
- Graeme Wood Foundation

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