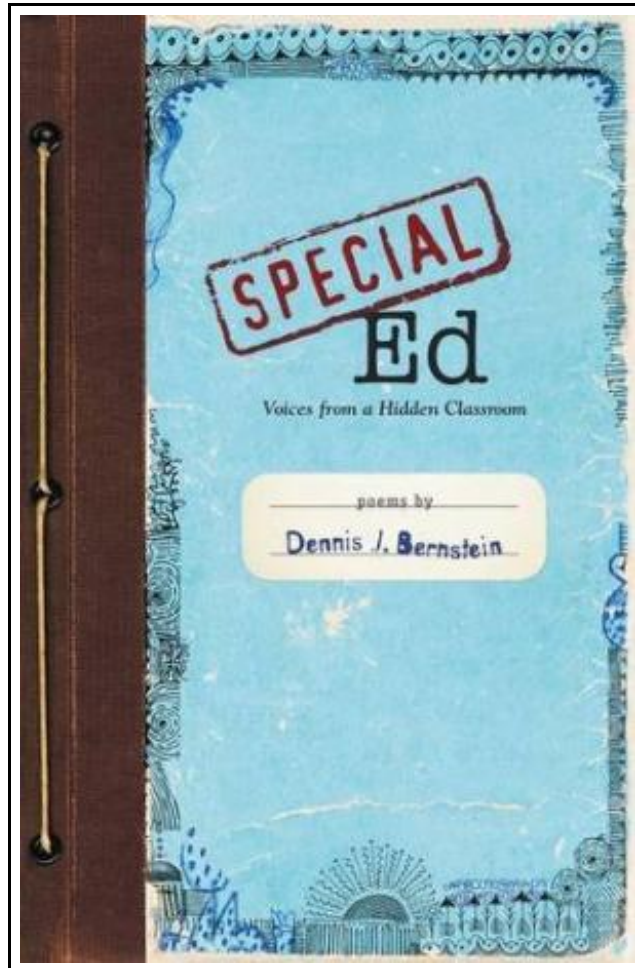


## Special Ed: Voices from a Hidden Classroom



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## SPECIAL ED: VOICES FROM A HIDDEN CLASSROOM

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NYQ Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 84 pages. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.5in. x 0.3in. Poetry. Come into the special ed classroom, where the kids who don't fit in anywhere else spend their day. For these kids real kids Dennis J. Bernstein taught in the New York City public schools before he became an internationally known investigative journalist. Pistols, switchblades, police cars and hunger are more instructive than textbooks. SPECIAL ED is about daily life under the siege of poverty, racism, and class warfare. We come to know these kids intimately: Gloria, whose mother was disappeared in Guatemala and whose friendship with Marilyn rescues her from trauma-induced silence; Paulie, who finds tears in the mirrors eyes but thinks of himself as tough and defies the gang-guys who threaten to drop him from the roof of the projects; Regina, who sells nickel bags before class and gets high alone in the gym before giving a heart-wrenching performance of a poem by Langston Hughes. Dennis Bernstein loves these kids fiercely, and we come to love them too as the collection unfolds. Dennis Bernstein is a hero to me because of his dedicated, unflinching reporting of real news on Flashpoints, at KPFA in Berkeley, California. But his fearless pursuit of the truth about what is happening in our rapidly transforming world did not prepare me for the beauty, depth, not-one-word-mislaid perception of this amazing book. Each word, each line, each thought has a weight, a texture, a surprise all its own. With its moving preface, in which Dennis shares his own struggles as a young child with special needs, SPECIAL ED: VOICES FROM A HIDDEN CLASSROOM is that unusual gift literature can be: We are connected to humanity in ways we might never have even considered or imagined before. Above all it is art turned to...



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