

WRITING SPOTLIGHT

PROMOTE LANGUAGE ARTS SKILLS •

RAISE DISABILITY AWARENESS •

STIMULATE DIALOGUE •

Telling Stories By Steven E. Brown

8. Do you understand why Brown called his diary “Hidden Treasure”? Do you agree with his reasons?
9. Brown offers several examples of disability culture, including his own writing, songs, and movies. Can you find examples of disability culture in your own life?
10. Can you imagine being in a building where you could not go the bathroom? What about being on an entire campus where you could not go to the bathroom? What would you do? How would you go to the bathroom?
11. How do you think someone can be a musician when they are deaf? How can a group of deaf people perform as a rock 'n' roll band?
12. What do you think you would do if you were stuck on the side of the highway at night and you had no way to communicate with the outside world?
13. Brown talks a lot about his adult experiences, but expresses the notion the most essential audience is children. He ends by mentioning a grandson. Why does he think children are the most important audience? If children are so important, why does he keep telling stories about adults? Why does he mention his grandson?
14. What would you want to tell your parents and grandparents or other elders in your life about your life that they don't know?

Writing Activities

- Write about a place you would like to visit. Imagine visiting that place if you used a wheelchair. If you do use a wheelchair, think about how it would feel to visit if you were deaf.
- Write a fictionalized account of one of your experiences.
- Write about what you would do if you spent two weeks in bed and had no access to cable television or a computer.
- Find one example of disability culture on the Internet and write about why you like it or don't like it.

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818 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20006 • Tel: 202.628.2800 • TTY: 202.737.0645 • Fax: 202.429.0868
www.vsarts.org