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English students at Lincoln High School put pen to paper in a writing exercise designed to let them explore their past, present and perhaps define their future. Based on the poem by educator and author George Ella Lyon, "Where I'm From" workshop conductor Chris Snock encouraged students to express themselves. For more photos, visit [www.postregister.com](http://www.postregister.com).

# Piecing it together

## Outreach program aims to boost youths' confidence

### If you go

The Idaho Falls Arts Council will stage the one-woman presentation of The American Place Theatre's Literature to Life stage presentation of "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls tonight. A post-show discussion will follow.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today

**Where:** Carr Gallery, 450 A St.

**Tickets:** \$45, 522-0471 or [www.idahofallsarts.org](http://www.idahofallsarts.org).

By LINDSEY BUSH  
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Kaitlynn Daniels ignored her apprehension and raised her hand.

"I'm from a terrible past," she said.

Her Lincoln High School classmates were silent but nodded respectfully.

Before this week, the 17-year-old never would have revealed that aspect of her life to anyone except her closest friends. Many of Daniels' youthful memories include a drug-addicted mother and less-than-happy home life.

But things are different now, she said.

This week, Daniels studied Jeannette Walls' memoir, "The Glass Castle." The book exposes Walls' life as she grew up in a fam-

ily submersed in alcoholism, abuse and poverty.

"Her past was terrible, too," Daniels said. "And even though mine wasn't as terrible as hers, mine was pretty bad. I wouldn't have shared it with people I don't know before. But after she shared her book with the whole world, it gave me courage to say what I said."

A collection of Daniels' classmates followed suit and expressed intimate details about their own lives during a Thursday afternoon outreach event sponsored by the Idaho Falls Arts Council at the alternative high school.

New York actress Sarah Franek



Snock

performed The American Place Theatre's Literature to Life stage presentation of "The Glass Castle" for Lincoln's English classes. Chris Snock directed a workshop with each of the students following the performance.

"Because we're an alternative school, the nature of the book — the content — kind of went well with our school," Principal Gordon Howard said. "It (the outreach) is exposure to something that most of these kids would never ever get in their lifetime."

The workshop used writing, language and expressive activities to create a personal connection between the students and the book.

■ This is the first outreach event of its kind for the Arts Council

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### YOUTHS

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Youths at the 3-B Juvenile Detention Center in Idaho Falls also studied the memoir this week and will experience the performance and workshops today.

"I cannot express my appreciation enough for the Arts Council for thinking of the detention center in situations like this," center director Brian Walker said. "It's the best place to make contact with those kids, and it's real easy to forget about them when they're sitting in a place like a jail."

This is the first outreach of its

kind offered by the local arts council.

Arts Council Executive Director Jill Barnes said she wanted to introduce the experience in these facilities in order to inspire youths who may relate to Walls' story.

"We feel like this story can really make an impact with these kids," she said. "Maybe some of

these kids don't come from regular families ... but they're still in charge of their future and they can control their destiny to some degree. They're young, and it's not too late for them to change their lives."

During the workshop, Snock encouraged the students to pen an "I Am From" poem. The exercise challenged students to exam-

ine who they are and what events may have shaped their lives.

The lesson encouraged them to remain hopeful for the future despite rocky pasts.

And that certainly was the result for Daniels.

"I admire her for telling her story," Daniels said. "I've learned to be grateful for whatever you have. It could be worse."