

**BOOK BALLOT 4/25/13 - Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop**

	<p><b>Grace After Midnight</b>, by Felicia “Snoop” Pearson -- If you ever watched <i>The Wire</i> on HBO, you know the character “Snoop.” This is the actor’s true-life story which is every bit as gritty as the character’s. Pearson was born a crack baby, and later worked for a drug dealer in East Baltimore. At age 15 she killed a woman in self-defense and wound up in the Jessup State Penitentiary. She got a wakeup call when the notorious dealers she called Uncle and Father wound up respectively dead and imprisoned for life. This is a powerful story of someone trying to find her way in a dark world, realizing she can still choose her life's direction even in tremendously difficult circumstances.</p>
	<p><b>The Final Four</b>, by Paul Volponi - By the author that wrote <i>Rikers High</i> and <i>Rooftop</i>, this novel brings together four very different young college students playing in the same triple-overtime game that keeps readers on the edge of their seats. Nerve-wracking as the action on the floor may be, the baggage that each player brings to the floor is equally intense.</p>
	<p><b>Tyrell</b>, by Coe Booth - This is the “pre-quel” to <i>Bronxwood</i>. Find out what led Tyrell to that point, including his relationship with Novisha, how he met and got close to Jasmine, how his brother Troy was taken away by Child Protective Services, and the crazy parties that led to his father’s incarceration.</p>
	<p><b>The Conversation: How Men and Women Can Build Loving, Trusting Relationships</b>, by Hill Harper. The star of <i>CSI</i> and author of <i>Letters to a Young Brother</i> tackles drama of male/female relationships in this best seller. (We read this book with Free Minds members in federal prison and they loved it—saying they could relate to the personal experiences and the tips on how to build better relationships!)</p>
	<p><b>Never Fall Down</b>, by Patricia McCormick. This award-winning book tells the true story of a Cambodian boy who was kidnapped and forced to work in a harsh labor camp before being handed a gun and forced to become a child soldier. The story of how this boy survives is ...“<i>One of the most inspiring and powerful books I’ve ever read. Never Fall Down can teach us all about finding the courage to speak our truth and change the world.</i>” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu )</p>
	<p><b>Ballad of a Ghetto Poet</b>, by A.J. White--tells the story of a teenager caught in the brutal cross-fire of poverty and violence that could send him on the collision course to the cellblock -- or the grave. Chicko Grayson is a teenager growing up on the tough, poor streets of Richmond, where the only way out seems to be behind the barrel of a gun. Raised on the harsh language of the streets, Chicko hears the music of God in the poetry he writes. But he gets mixed up with a dangerous criminal who draws Chicko and his best friends Malcolm and Junnie into the city's violent underworld of crime. It’s a story of right vs. wrong, and good vs. evil.</p>