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# Going Where I'm Coming From: Memoirs Of American Youth



## Synopsis

14 short memoirs about growing up in America's diverse society by Susan Power, Luis Rodriguez, Willie Ruff, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Ved Mehta, Gary Soto, Naomi Shabib Nye, Lee Daniels, Graham Salisbury, Lensey Namioka, Helen Epstein, and more.

## Book Information

Series: Memoirs of American Youth

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## Customer Reviews

"To find out who they are and where they're going, the writers of this collection have looked back to where they've come from," Mazer (editor of the fiction collection *America Street*) states in her introduction. Her solid anthology uses 14 entries to explore a commendable range of cultures, including Sioux, Polish, Japanese, Hispanic, African American, Jewish, Indian and Chinese. Lensey Namioka's "Math and After Math" wryly contrasts the attitudes of her Chinese parents and those of her American classmates toward math-proficient females. In the wrenching "Dinnertime," Helen Epstein hints at the immense sorrow and strength of her parents, survivors of the Holocaust trying to earn a living and keep their pride in a New York City that cares little about her father's Olympic athlete past or her mother's standing in prewar Prague. Particularly moving is African American jazz musician Willie Ruff's "A Call to Assembly," in which he describes both his joy when a boyhood employer taught him sign language so he could communicate with a deaf co-worker, and his rage and loss of respect when the same boss makes a horrible remark about "niggers." A sturdy, stimulating collection. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 8-12. Containing selections from such adult and children's writers as Naomi Shabib Nye, Gary Soto, and Susan Power, this book puts establishing identity and experiencing life as a young person into a multicultural perspective. Most of the writers recall things from their growing up--incidents that speak about intergenerational ties, prejudice, or the immigrant experience. Their stories are poignant and perceptive: Judith Ortiz Cofer writes about working at being "the opposite of what our ethnic group was known to be

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