

***Shakespeare Saved My Life* by Laura Bates**

This title hooked me, as I taught Shakespeare for decades. I appreciate the Bard, but lifesaving? This true account shares the rather astonishing effect of Bates meeting weekly with prisoners in solitary confinement. Her objective was to share and discuss the masterworks of Shakespeare. Her pupils, many with the sketchiest of educations, flower in the line-by-line reading, reacting to the timeless words and uncovering and discovering an untapped humanity among themselves though behind bars. Life behind bars sounds gritty and harsh, but the mind is still free to grow. Inspiring!

Debra Blunier