

Artist's Name: Hailey Feenaughty

Title: Always Follow Your Dreams

Cost: \$54-\$62

Donation: Scholarship of America

I never knew my life would end up the way my life has. The purpose of my art is to have people know what I explore in my life. My hobbies are playing basketball and being a famous basketball player. I'm in 6th grade and I go to Massillon Intermediate and love to be in school. I'm a big Suns fan and people say I can't like them because they are really far away. I love sports and spending time with my family. Spending time with friends and family is fun and I really enjoy it. It makes me happy and it makes my family and friends happy too. 5th grade and 6th grade are really fun.

A challenge in my life was losing my aunt at 5 years old. My aunt was my best friend. We hung out every day and played ball everyday. Another challenge is that my dad got in a motorcycle accident when I was 1-2 so he can't move from the chest down. Me having to put my dog down that I had ever since I was 2 I was crying for 2 days and did not go to bed for 2 days. I got surprised with a puppy when I was 2 and had it until I was 10. These are a few challenges that I've had so far in my life.

My identity web tells a lot about who I am. I have 4 pets. I have a green tree python and a fire ball python. I also have a dog and a cat. My mom's name is Jessica and my dad's name is Andrew. I have three siblings, 2 brothers and 1 sister. I grew up in New York state and lived there until I was 5 but then I moved to Ohio and have been there 6 years now. I have a lot of german in me. My hobbies are basketball and soccer.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Alma Luz Villaveva from I Was A Skinny Tomboy Kid. I think I relate to Alma the most because Alma has fun and interesting hobbies. I love fishing and riding like her. Alma likes fishing, riding her bike by the ocean, selling crabs, and jumping from roof to roof and I like some of those things too. Alma likes doing things that society does not want her to do and I don't really do stuff either. That's why I think I relate most to Alma from I Was A Skinny Tomboy Kid.

About my art project. I used a gray flower, hot glue, a little bit of black string, black, orange, white paint, some marbles, and gems. My thought process when I was doing my process about basketball I was thinking about joining basketball. I used a Black string to put around one of the basketballs and some gems in the basketball to show that basketball is my dream. Basketball is the team of my project because it has always been my dream. All the flowers and gems and stuff is to represent being like a girl's dream to be a basketball player.

I want the viewer to look at my essay and think wow this girl goes through some tough times. I hope she can have some more happy times. The reason I would like the viewer to think that is because I want them never to be sad and always to be happy. If you have some tough times you should do something about it to help. Always feel happy and not sad.

Artist's Name: Farrah Findley

Title: Being Nice Can Help Out People

Cost:\$60

Donation:Scholarship America

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to encourage people that it is okay to share about themselves. A little bit about myself. I am in cheerleading. I have many hobbies, which include cooking, reading, writing, and going to the mall. I'm in 6th grade. I live in Massillon, Ohio. I went to Gorrell Elementary School. I now go to Massillon Intermediate School. I live with 6 other people, which include my dad, stepmom, sister, brothers, and uncle.

Some of the challenges I have faced are losing my grandma that I have lived with since I was a newborn. Another challenge I have faced in my life is I was sick the whole time I was in Myrtle Beach. One final challenge I faced was losing my two dogs Coco(which my dad calls my sister) and my other dog Corina(which my dad calls my cousin because she was my uncle's dog).

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. I have a lot of family members which include my uncle, stepmom, dad, sisters, and brothers. My hobbies are also on the identity web. Some of them include going to the mall, cheering, and hanging out with my friends every day. Another thing on my web is what sports I play or have played. I play tennis, soccer, softball, and cheer. One final thing on my identity web is that I like going to the Massillon Tiger football games.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Alma Luz Villanueva from I was a Skinny Tomboy Kid. I relate the most to Alma Luz Villanueva because she likes to ride bikes by the ocean, and she wore a jacket to cover her. She also liked to jump from roof to roof like me. I like to ride bikes by the ocean sometimes. I also sometimes like to wear a jacket to cover myself.

I used to paint, pompoms, popsicle sticks, and googley eyes. My thought through this project was that I was gonna do a good job altho it did add stress to my life because we had limited time. The materials that I used and represented something were the pompoms because my project was about tennis and they represent the tennis player and the racket and the outfit that tennis players wear. For symbolism, I used little pompom balls for a coat.

When my viewer looks at my art I want them to think of them playing a sport in the snow. I also want them to think about what snowfall would feel like if they were playing a sport. I also want them to think of themselves as being loved and hugged by a person in their family. The last thing I want them to think about is that if they are sad then they can go out in the snow.

Artist's Name: Ty Richardson

Title: Do You Know What It Means To Be Sad

Cost: \$45-60

Donation: American Cancer Society

I never knew my life would be the way it is. The purpose of my art is to reflect who I am to people. I live with my mother(Jessica) my little brother(Court) and my dog(Sarge) my dad(Steve)died in 2018. I play baseball almost every season and I'm starting to get into football. I also love to play video games and hang out with my friends and family. I was born in California and moved to Ohio. I have also never really had any bad school experiences except this one time when this kid was picking on me that then led to a fight. I also went to Gorrell Elementary and now I go to Massillon Middle school. I'm also in 6th grade.

I've had a couple challenges in my life so far but the two that made it really difficult are my dad dying in 2018, and my cousin(Mckenzie)dying this year. But I've also had things that made my life good like my family and friends always being there for me (especially my mom and brother). My mom also spoils me alot, she gets me everything I want when I ask most of the time and always tries her hardest to get us good food, clothes, and a nice house to live in.

My identity web tells alot about who I am. In my identity web I tell people that I was born in California, I'm part Irish, I'm really tall and smart,I have a lot of friends, and I have a big family. I don't know who I am as a person yet but this identity web is helping a lot in finding who I am. But I really want to be someone that brings positivity and to make people laugh and smile.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Walter Dean Myers from Bad Boy. I relate to Walter the most because he hid hobbies that society said boys shouldn't do. He liked to read, dance, and write, which society said only girls should do. I like to play sports, play video games, and hike and that's what society says boys are supposed to do sometimes.

I hope when you look at my art you understand it's about being sad or depressed. When I was making my art project I used paint, brushes, and straws. While I was thinking I thought of being sad and the colors to represent it. I used blue, purple,and white because blue represents tears, purple is to represent the mind, and white is to represent the little light at the end of the tunnel when you start feeling happier and better.

If you're sad or depressed you should talk to someone about what is making you sad, a good place to find someone to talk to is BlahTherapy. If someone is bullying you tell a teacher or an adult, if they start physically hurting you or threatening you go to the authorities if no one else is helping.

Name: Luca Vilona

Title Sometimes Life Is Bright Sometimes It's Dark

Art Project Narrative

Cost:\$50

Donation: Scholarship America

I never knew I would end up with this life path. The purpose of my art is to explore who I am . For example I never knew I would end up playing basketball but I do know. I never thought i would have a dog but now I live with my dad, my little brother who is eight and my dog named Meeko. I also thought I was gonna play baseball but I tried football and played for 3 years but now I've stuck with basketball. I also have played baseball, football, basketball and some soccer. I also have always lived in Ohio. I went to Gorrell elementary school and now go to Massillon Middle School and I'm in 6th grade and my current home room teacher is Mrs.Lancy.

Some challenges I have faced consist of I lost my mom when I was really young [don't know exactly when but I was less than 3] and I've grown up and now have a stepmom. Another challenge I've faced was trying to play sports. This was a challenge for me because I'm shorter than most and kinda skinny so stuff like football didn't look like a sport for me. Then I played for 3 years. I'd say I'm pretty good and I now play basketball going into my second year. In my first year we made it to the championship and lost 48-13 and that's been my motivation to keep pushing and get better.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. I live with my little brother, my dad and my dog, also our roommate. Some hobbies I have are basketball, football, and I love to run. I have lots of pets. My stepmom has two twin cats and a dog. My grandma has 3 cats and my dad has a dog. We also help 4 to 5 stray cats and have shelters for them in the winter. I only speak English but I would love to speak another language. As I did say I'm in 6th grade and go to Massillon Intermediate School and my home room teacher is Mrs. Lancy.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, the person I look up to the most is Jacqueline Woodson from the story Brown Girl Dreaming. The reason being because she was hurt as a child, had a horrible life as a kid but pushed and pushed. I also keep pushing. I literally went 0-11 in a football season losing every game like 53 to 21. I went 0-11 in both my seasons so I switched to basketball and last year we went 7-4 and lost in the championship. 38 to 15 it's like every year I'm so close but at the end we don't pull through but my new season is starting. I just had practice and I hope I have a good year. When making my art. i used a canvas, paint, beads and a hot glue gun. While making this i was thinking of when sometimes life feels like i 'm alone life just feels dark but sometimes i'm happy and life feels bright. I used black beads like dark stars to show if I am mad and feel dark. If I close my eyes everything feels dark.

When a viewer sees this I want them to think about how life can be dark all the time and we can be sad, angry or have other emotions. But also don't let that bring you down because sometimes life can be happy and you have good feelings such as happiness. I want them to recognize the colors I used and why I used orange, light blue and white for happiness. I also used purple and black to represent darkness.

Artist's Name: Maliha Nestor

Title: Stop Bullying

Cost: \$45-65

Donation: Scholarship of America

I never knew my life would end up like this. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. Here are some things about myself. I have a younger sister named Makia and I have a Rottweiler named Tank. and he is one of my joys in life. I have 10 cousins. One of my cousins is Officer Teddy. He is one of my second cousins. I went to Northwest Primary, and then in third grade, I moved to Massillon. I like to ride my quads with my friends and my sister. My favorite holidays are Halloween and Christmas. My hobbies are baking, babysitting, volleyball and riding quads. I like to go on vacation. Some of the places I went to Florida 3 years ago and then I went to Florida 2 years ago and last year I went to Mexico. Those are the places I've been to so far. My nationality is Mexican, African, and American.

One of my challenges was being bullied in my old school. I was called she's ugly and black people don't matter so that is why I moved schools to Massillon. When I went to Cedar Point, I faced my fears of heights. Another one of my fears is flipping on my quad because when I was little I flipped on it in the woods and had a big bruise on my leg. Another one of my fears is losing someone I love or losing my friends because when I moved schools I lost all of my other friends. and I faced my fear of clowns by watching the movie IT.

What makes me, Me, is I like to ride quads and I like to do math and play volleyball, and I love to spend time with my family. and I do not like when people say she/he is ugly because they are Black. Black people matter just as much as White people.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Walter Dean Myers from Bad Boy. I relate the most to Walter Dean Myers because Walter had hobbies and interests that he liked to do but that is not what society wanted him to do. He liked to read, write, and dance but society said that only girls can do that stuff. I like to ride quads, play volleyball, basketball and ride bikes. But society says that only boys can only do that.

What I used in my artwork. I used Blue and pink acrylic paint and it turned a light blue and why I used blue and pink is because I am sad to see black people still getting bullied and that makes me sad. After that I glued my picture onto it. I hot glued flowers with stems and why I did that is because all flowers are different colors just like people. Then I added pink and white rhinestones because pink always makes me happy. And then I added a blue ribbon on the top.

When you look at my art I want you to know that all the little black boy's and girl's that still get bullied for being their own color.

Artist's Name: Amelia Teague

Title: About My Life

Cost: \$40-80

Donation: Scholarship America

I never knew my life would end up this way it has. The purpose of my art is to empower people. My old school was Paul C Bunn elementary school from Boardman, Ohio, I have two moms, I have a twin sister, I have a little brother and two older sisters I have 2 cats named Lucy and Keyko and I have a dog named Bella and I have a turtle named Milo and I have a lizard named Xiao and I used to have a rescue bird which we let go called Tweety. My hobby is playing games, when I get my work and chores done. I sometimes go to my friends house and play games with them. I play puzzles sometimes and I sometimes go to the park with my family and friends in the summer or spring time.

Something good about my life is that I made more friends here than at my old school, and I like this school better than my old school. I like my new friends more than my other friends. The reason why I don't like my old friends is because they were fake friends and they talk bad stuff about me behind my back. The reason why I like my new friends is because they don't talk behind my back and they are not fake like my other friends from my old school. The reason why I like my new school is because it's a better program than my old school. I like the teachers and principal here. They are nice and listen to our feelings.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. I listen to music a lot, I sometimes dance and I sometimes sing songs at home and I study hard on math. The reason why I study hard on math is because I can get smarter and I can learn new things in math and in any subject. The songs I listen to are Blackpink, Twice, Stray kids, Melanie Martinez, Ariana Grande, Dove Cameron, Lauren Spencer, Doja Cat, Tate Mcrae, Leah Kate, Kesha, Sabrina Carpenter, Elley Duhe, Sia, Carys, Billie Eilish, Giveon, Dua Lipa, Zayn, Bebe Rexha, Faouzia, Aurora, Au/Ra, Jeon Somi, Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Mitski. I have Two cats Named Lucy and Keyko, A turtle named Milo, A lizard named Xiao. I only speak english.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate the most to is Alma from I Was A Skinny Tomboy Kid. I relate the most to Alma because Alma did not have to hide secrets of anything she did. Alma liked to wear army jackets, she rode her bike, She also liked to fish and collect crabs and sold them to chinese. How I relate to Alma is that I ride my bike. I never went fishing before. I never wore an army jacket and I went to the lake but there were no crabs there.

About my art. What I used for my family is to represent them and care for them. I used paint and art supplies for my art. My art process is at a graveyard but I put my stuff in to make it not a graveyard so my art is crying from a movie. I used beads, yarn, marbles. I used white yarn for the clouds.

I want my viewer to admire my art and talk about it. When my viewer looks at my art I want you to see and enjoy it. When you see this piece of art I want you to understand it and ask questions about it. I hope that when you look at my art I want you to inspire it.

Artist's Name: Cheyenne Dotson
Title: Why Covid?
Cost: \$47.00
Donation: African Wildlife Foundation

How has your life ended up so far? Mine has been a lot of things wrapped up. The purpose of my art is to understand who I really am and not just who I seem to like. I have 5 family members in my household: my younger sister named Ryleigh, my older brother named Keith, my mom, and my cat named Chloe, I'm the middle child. I have many hobbies, I like to read, ride my bike, and go camping with my grandparents, my aunt, and my brother, and sometimes we bring my aunt's dog, Blue Bell. I haven't been at Massillon my whole life, until 4th grade. I moved from Navarre, Ohio. I went to Fairless before I started going to Massillon and moved to Massillon. When I found out about Coronavirus I was in an after school catholic club. Our teacher got a phone call from someone. We all had to go home early. And other stuff happened and I also had to move around that time but it wasn't because of the coronavirus.

One great thing in my life is that I have a family who loves me. I am very grateful to have a bed to sleep in and a roof over my head. I have a younger sister named Ryleigh. She is 8 years old and goes to Franklin Elementary School in 3rd grade. She likes to play with Barbie dolls and her toy animals. My older brother is named Keith, he is 14 years old, and he goes to Massillon High School in 9th grade. He has autism and ADHD, he isn't as mean as Ryleigh. My mom is 41, she loves the Steelers football team, she graduated in Carrollton Ohio, that is also where we got our cat. Our cat's name is Chloe. She is a tabby cat. She was born in January sometime, she likes sea-flavored food and treats.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. It has a lot of random stuff about me like I broke my arm when I was 4 and you can still see the stitches. I am learning sign language from my aunt, she is not deaf, she learned from her co-worker. My hobbies are reading and riding my bike. I live with my mom, my sister named Ryleigh, my brother named Keith, and my cat Chloe. My favorite holidays are Easter, my Birthday, and Christmas. Every Christmas Eve we are allowed to open one present. The only places I have lived in Ohio are Navarre and Massillon.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I admire the most is Michaela DePrince from "The War Orphan Who became a Ballerina" I admire her most because Michaela never gave up on her dream of being a ballerina, even if many people brought her down she wouldn't give up. She kept on going knowing her dance instructor hadn't even noticed her vitiligo. Michaela mainly thought about all the people that loved her and tried not to be brought down by the people who disliked her. Michaela's mother said that her vitiligo looked like fairy dust!

I only used paint I used purple, orange, green, black, maroon, red, pink, peach, pink, blue, white, and gray). I used the paint to make covid as a human and covid as a bunch of balls. (I don't know what covid looks like) I created this art because covid has interfered with a lot of people's lives and it has made a big impact on them.

I want people to think about how covid is spread all throughout the air and how covid is on the side of the girl looking over. Covid 19 is a disease that has spread worldwide during 2019-2020 but now it is starting to die down.

Artist's Name: Lucy Kessel Hunter

Title: Peace For Animals

Cost:\$17

Donation: Best Friends Animal Society

My life has just been a really long rollercoaster ride. The purpose of my art is to tell you all about my life as an individual. My name is Lucy. I am 11 years old and I have been doing dance for about 8 years and I am in band and choir at my school! I have a brother who is 13 years old and I live with my mom, my dad and my brother. I live in Massillon, Ohio and my favorite season is summer! I went to Whittier Elementary School and I am now at Massillon Middle School and next year I will be in Massillon Junior High School.

A challenge that I have faced in life has been losing my dog, Luna. Luna was a sweet and loving dog that followed my family around the house. Unfortunately, I watched him pass away in fact me, my mom, my dad, and my brother watching Luna take his final breath. It was hard because after he passed away I realized that I did not give him enough attention and then it made me feel really bad. Every so often I just cry and think about him and go to where he was buried. I am still really sad about losing him but now I know that he is in a better place and he is not in pain anymore.

My Identify web tells a lot about my life. I have 1 brother named Ryder and he is 13 and in 8th grade. I live with both of my parents in Massillon Ohio. I go to Massillon Middle School and I am in 6th grade. I am 11 years old and my name is Lucy. I have been doing competitive dance for about 7 years and I love acting and singing. I have 3 dogs and 4 cats. I am proud of my family relationships and my ability to be able to dance well. I enjoy baking and reading and writing stories. I have a lot of German in me and I also have some British in me. Some traits of me are Kind, Smart, Organized. My favorite holidays are Halloween and Christmas. I have lived here in Massillon, Ohio, my whole life ever since I was a little baby!

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Walter Dean Myers from Bad Boy. In Bad Boy society, people would say how girls should dance, write poems and read. And boys were supposed to play basketball, and fish. But Walter Dean Myers liked to dance, read and write poems, all things he should not do based on what society said boys should do. I like to hike, camp, fish and play basketball but since I am a girl, sometimes society says I should not do those things.

In my art I used black string, hot glue, paper, paint, pom poms and some fabric. My thought process was that I wanted to create art about how animals deserve peace just like humans. I feel like animals get tested, abused and all horrible things but us humans don't get treated like that normally. In my art I traced my hand and I wanted to do that to show that I was reaching up to the sky because that's where organisms/ animals go when they die they deserve to be here on earth just like us. Stop testing animals or abusing animals, LEAVE THE ANIMALS ALONE.

When someone sees my art I want them to think about maybe a past pet that has passed. I want them to think just about all the pets that have or are being animal tested or abused. I want the viewer to feel the kind of emotion that I feel when I think about animals passing or having animals suffering in general.

Artist's Name: Edward Lewis

Title: Claw Marks

Cost: \$45-60

Donation: Direct Relief

I never knew my life would end up like the purpose of my art is to understand who I am. I have four siblings, three brothers and one sister. I went to Gorrell Elementary and I like to do band and choir.

A challenge I have faced in life and how I got over it is my mom and dad are divorced. I was only about seven or so, but now I live with my mom and see my dad every Wednesday and every once a weekend. What helped me get over it is my two cats, my new three year old half brother, my nine year old step brother, and my step father. My dad got a girlfriend and she seems nice she has a son but I have not met him yet but that's because he's like 18 or something. That's the challenge I have faced.

My identity card tells a lot about me and who I am. My family is a big part of my life. I have two cats, three brothers, one older sister. I like to play minecraft with Ethan and one of my brothers. My favorite food is probably pizza.

The character from our textbook, *My Perspectives*, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate the most to is Alma Luz Villanueva from "I Was A Skinny Tomboy Kid". I relate to Alma Luz Villanueva the most because Alma had hobbies and interests that she liked to do despite what society said. I like to go fishing and riding my bike. I also relate to Alma Luz Villanueva because I like to be reckless and wear camo jackets.

I used paint to make my art, the fire looking thing to the left is like my will to get through it, the claw marks also to the left that symbolizes my cats and the gray silver objects on it at the bottom left and top right symbolizes the things I had to get over. When I was making the claw I was thinking of my cats, when I was making the fire thing I was thinking about my stepdad and my stepbrother.

I hope that when you look at my art you think of a cat or something similar and I want you to see what I see in it. I want them to picture what I went through without reading it yet.

Artist's Name: Jaycee Maricle
Title: Ommetaphobia
Cost: \$45
Donation: Foster Care to Success

My life has been so much like a rollercoaster! The purpose of my art is to make fear of the eyes noticeable. That fear is called Ommetaphobia. I live with my brother, my mom, and my stepdad. My step dad and mom got married when I was 3 and my brother was born when I was 7. We have a family cat, his name is Leo. We have a dog, his name is Bubba and he is 1 years old, fish, and snails. My school is fun. Whenever I go outside I play soccer with my friends. I like my teachers (except for 2).I have some friends, but I've been ghosting a lot of them.. I love spending time with my grandparents.

A challenge that I have faced was not having my dad around. He was my best friend up until I was 6. He became an alcoholic and kind of abusive. He went to jail a lot of times but always got bailed out,li met a girl, her name was Shyanne and she has been my best friend ever since but when 6th grade came, we got distant and now we don't ever talk. I also lost my dog a couple years ago. My dog was my dad's dog when he was a kid but when I was born my dad gave him to me. I want to play soccer, but my mom said she can not afford it right now. She said maybe in the future.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. I really like to play soccer but I am not enrolled yet. My family is . I was born in Louisiana, but my mom and dad moved to Ohio when I was 3 weeks old. We lived all around Ohio. I went to Massillon schools my whole life. I do not know anyone with the fear of eyes but I want to make it noticeable.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Alma Luz Villanueva from the poem, I Was A Skinny Tomboy Kid. I relate to her because she did things that she liked and not what other people say girls should do. Alma likes to play sports and other things that a "normal" girl wouldn't do. I like to play sports, I like to play outside and most of the time people say that that is what girls can not do, but despite Alma, she did what she wanted to.

When you see this piece of art I want you to think of fear or eyes. My writing is about people having fears of their eyes. Having a fear of eyes is very rare, but possible. When you fear the human eye, it means that you do not like eyes and that you are scared to look at them. Ommetaphobia is kind of confusing, i don't know how you could live without being able to look at eyes.. That just is so confusing! Anyways yeah i do not know anyone with Ommetaphobia but i know that it is a fear that some people have.

For my art I just painted a person, and I went wild with my imagination. The background I just painted colors and then I added flowers! I put eyeballs all over my art, and I put some mesh. I put some gems and it looked all put together! I also put some string around my person to make it bolder. I painted the background blue, and pink. I wanted to make it look happy and also have awareness. I painted the person gray and put some grayish blue.

Artist's Name: Allyson Mora

Title: Begin An Outsider Can Be Unique

Cost: \$20.00

Donation: Scholarship America

I never knew how this path of my life would go this way or any different. The purpose of my art is to show people who I am and how people would understand me more clearly than others. The things about me are a little different from other people. I have diabetes and I have had it since 3 years ago. I only have one favorite hobby and that one is soccer. Now it's my favorite thing now and I love it. My others are reading and writing and now am in the newspaper. I have 2 siblings and my dog. He's only a couple weeks old. I have been going to Massillon all my life and met many people on the way.

A challenge that I have faced in life has been having diabetes because it really changed my life and how different it is. From others because I have had it since I was 8 years old. People ask me how I got it or if it hurts. I honestly care because they are concerned and I always answer with a good positive way. When they walk away it feels like I gave out something that they didn't know of.

My identity on the web tells a lot about me and who I am. I have two siblings and my mom and dad but my dad lives in a different house. I am part Hispanic and part American. I lived in Mexico for a year and speak it as well. I play soccer and like to write and read but I mostly like to write about fictional things and now am in the newspaper. I have one pet and I got it a couple of months ago. I have been going to Massillon all my life. I went to Franklin Elementary School and then middle school like I am right now.

The character from our textbook, *My Perspective*, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is Jacqueline Woodson from *Brown Girl Dreaming*. I relate the most to Jacqueline because Jacqueline felt like an outsider and tried to find her place in the world. When she used to get jealous over her sister for getting better grades. Sometimes I felt like Jacqueline when I was home I just feel like she mostly relates to me because of her childhood.

I created a picture from my life's perspective, the main reason why I painted this is. My painting is about my life and what is going on with there has been a few bumps in the road because of feeling left out and beginning. To be an outsider I used paint, fabric, paper flowers and effort. My thought process was thinking about how many years I already had diabetes and what people make me feel when their thoughts on me.

I want the viewer to know or think that challenges can be scary but there's always a better outcome. The reason is because I have been diagnosed with diabetes and had it for 3 years already. It has been such a big challenge in my life for me. I just want them to know if they ever feel left out. I am always going to be there because I overcame and faced them although I get angry a lot. I calm down and relax and know that I am better than the challenge.

Artist's Name: Hayden Nichols

Title: Learning Can Be Hard

Cost: \$45-80

Donation: Scholarship of America

My life has been a rollercoaster. The purpose of my art is to have people learn about me. Here are things about me. I have two brothers. My brothers names are Vinny, Brody. My hobbies are puzzles. I like to mess with my mom, dad, step mom, step dad and my brothers. I like riding bikes and I like to play with my friends and I like to go for walks with my family. I like to sleep in on the weekends. My school experiences were fun.

A challenge I am currently facing is losing my pug. My pug name is maze. She died from her lungs filled up with blood and liquid. she was not gonna make it so we had to put her down, the vet said.

My identity tells alot about who I am and about my family members like my mom, step dad, dad, step mom and my brothers, about my hobbies and how my school experiences where.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I think I relate to Alma Luz Villanueva because I like to fish, ride bikes. I like to be independent at home. I like to wear a hood when I go on a walk, I don't talk alot at home. I relate to Alma because we both don't like to be the same as everybody. I am using it to stop people from being rude and mean.

I used paint and some paper with glitter on it and thought about my art as trees and me looking at them because of people cutting trees down. I do not want people to cut trees down.

I want my viewers to look at my painting and understand it. I want my viewers to understand it by looking at it and know why I painted trees. I want my viewers to see my art and enjoy it.

Artist's Name: Ethan Paulson

Title: My Wild Life of Music

Cost: \$45

Donation: Cancer

I never knew my life as Ethan Paulson would end up like this and let me tell you it's a crazy ride. Let me tell you a little bit about my life. My grandparents are getting back together after 34 years and I'm really excited about it. During the wedding me and my cousin are gonna be the ring barons. One exciting thing about me is, I live with my mom and my dad. I go to Massillon City Schools. I surprisingly went to a different school before I came here, It was a private school. I also have many hobbies such as running, cooking, playing video games, singing, dancing, playing instruments, and building legos.

A challenge that I have faced in life was going to a different school. I was homeschooled for a big chunk of my life, and was very scared to try public school. Another challenging thing in my life was 4 years ago. I had to move houses and move to different churches. I used to live right by my friend and I could ride my bike and it would take 1 minute. One of my favorite memories was me and him riding bikes down to the park and playing there all day. I've also had some good things in my life so far. One good thing in my life was meeting my best friend. Me and my best friend Lincoln have known each other since birth.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. People who are in my family, I have two sisters. Their names are Autumn and Aurora. Aurora is 7 years old and Autumn is 9. I also have a Mom and Dad, my Dad's name is Dustin, and my Mom's name is Andrea. Some of my favorite things to do are play my saxophone, play video games. My favorite games are Minecraft, Fortnite, and Fall guys.

The character from our textbook, My Perspectives, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I most relate to is Walter Dean Myers from Bad Boy. I can relate to Walter Dean Myers because I like to do things that society thinks that only girls can do. I like to read, sing, and dance. On Mother's Day and Father's Day I made a really sweet poem to my mom and dad because they are always there for me. Also, I like to do ballet with my sister for fun, so she can feel better about dancing in front of hundreds of people.

For my art, I used this glow in the dark paint to paint my trees and some of my stars. I was thinking one side to be peaceful when you listen to music but on the other side it is full of stress. I used a clear bar to separate my two pictures. I also used the bar to make my picture 3D.

I want people to think about my art in an easy way. I think people should think in a way that is different to them. When I look at my art I think "Wow that is a positive and negative world separated". So if you know a person who is sad or depressed tell them about music and it might cheer them up.

Artist's Name: Ava Sims

Title: Complete With or Without

Cost: \$35.00

Donations: Families In Need

I never knew my life would end up the way it did. I have a little brother and sister. I had to go to counseling for my dad in fourth grade. I climbed up a water slide when I was six and busted my teeth. I have over ten aunts and A LOT of cousins. I am christen and was the only black kid in my sunday school and then i quit. I think the things I've been through in life makes me who I am today and kinda puts a big impact on my art. I love art but i don't only do it to escape from reality i do it to inspire people and to show im not just a mixed girl who lives in Massillon because i'm not and i wanna show people that and inspire them to think how i think like there not gonna be something because everyone is something i think you just have to really find that something.

A challenge I faced is when my dad left when I was young I never really got to see him sense. My mom have had this one boyfriend i really liked him but one day he left and didn't come back and then there was this other guy he wasn't nice and they had a lot of problems with him cheating and stuff like that i never really liked him and after that i really started to notice and ask myself why did my dad leave am i not enough but then i started not not like men like i never played with one or talked because i've never grown up with a father figure so i've never really liked them i would always get jealous so i'd walk away i've never really dealt with it but i'm working on it. But I realize now my family dont need a man for it to be a family because that's not what family is, it's not mom dad siblings its love, trust and happiness.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. I live with my mom, sister and brother. I would describe myself as hungry, kind sometimes, hard working, honest and funny. I have lived in the Bronx in New York, which my brother Bronx is named after where we lived in the Bronx. I am the only one in my family who can speak sign language. I play volleyball, cheer, soccer, baseball, and track. I have a dog named Coco and she is a Pug and a Chihuahua. I love to play volleyball, baseball, go hiking, eat, swim, hangout with friends and watch horror movies.

I do not relate to any of the characters from our textbook, My Perspectives, in unit one but I do admire a character. I fit in and share my hobbies with all my friends. I do admire one character though, the character I admire Walter Dean Myers. Walter Dean Myers did not give up his hobbies because of other people. Walter Dean Myers might have hid them but never stopped doing what he loved and that's what I admire. I love that he never stopped doing what he loved. In my books He's brave and unique.

For my art piece I made a pink clown. My clown is all pink and has a heart shaped nose and pink buns that were painted on for hair. To represent some of what it means I took brown cubes and wried "how my dad made me feel" up above the clown. All of that is in a box that I painted black around the outside. Along the sides in the box I made dippy hot glue gun drops and painted them pink to represent all the tears my dad made me cry. For the background of where my clown is placed mixed brown, pink and a white to give the effect of marble. For the clown's outfit I got some fabric and put it along the neck a put hot pink buttons on it and a little heart on each of my buttons.

I want my viewer to realize that you don't need a mom or a dad or anyone really to have a complete family. So when you look at my art I want you to know it's okay to not have a mom or dad and I know because I don't but I realize my family is complete without him and so is anyone else's. So when you look at my art work and see how my dad made me feel and how I now know its okay to not have him in my life because I know my family is complete with or without.

Artist's Name: Mason Wagner

Title: Being Good Can Be Bad

Cost: \$65

Donation: Direct Relief

Did you know that I love gaming and legos? The purpose of my art is to inspire people to get them to be creative. I want my art to have people see who I am. I love to collect legos and rare items like rocks, cards. I love ice cream, candy and tv. I play games like Jurassic World, Evolution, Call of duty and football games. I like to draw and watch movies. I was born in Massillon, Ohio. I live in a big house with lots of cats in our neighborhood and some are killer cats but one is the best cat ever. I do have one dog a black lab and it's a mix of beagle and shepherd.

A challenge that I have faced has been losing my old dog. It was one night and i was going to bed and she started crying and when I got up out of bed she wasn't moving but she was breving and she was a awake so i went to get my parents but when they came she died but I got over it and we got a new dog and he is crazy and almost broke an jumped out a window because of a chipmunk. but he is a good dog and a sweet dog.

My identity web tells a lot about me and who I am. I can speak a tiny bit of spanish. I have 2 dogs and 1 cat. I like to play games, I ran track, I did baseball, and soccer. I was born in Massillon Ohio. I have family in Arizona and Florida and Texas. My favorite food is pizza and steak. my favorite dessert is ice cream and cheesecake .I am a smart and an intelligent kid. I'm kind and helpful.

The character from our textbook, My Perspective, in Unit 1 Childhood, that I relate to the most is none. The one that I admire is Jacqueline Woodson because I like to play outside and play games like she did. She did not want to be inside but her mother wanted to have her inside because it was raining and that she lived in New York and she would have to play on the sidewalk. So that is the character that I admire.

For my art, I used red, orange, yellow, green, blue paint. I created it because it made me let go of my stress. another reason why I want people to see what is going on inside me and in my head. It shows creativity and color. My thought process was anger and stress. the materials I used were paint brushes, sponges, and straws.

I want my viewer to see what I see and have them imagine what I am going through and what I'm seeing. I want them to picture what is going on in my head and my body. I want them to realize what my life is and how it goes. i want to people to see how I feel in my life.

Artist's Name: Declan Stahlman

Title: How to Express Your Feelings

Cost: \$45.60

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

I did not know I could come this far in just 11 years. I have played basketball since I was 5 years old. The purpose of my art is to inspire others to make art.

One challenge that I have faced is that I sprained my foot and my arm in one year. Another challenge I faced is that both of my great grandmas died in the same year. Also, my best friend from kindergarten moved away when I was in 2nd grade.

How my challenges have shaped me is that when I sprained my arm and foot, after I was done recovering I did everything I could. When both of my great grandmas died I was sad, but after a couple of weeks I was fine, as long as I didn't think about it. When my best friend moved I was sad, but after that school year I just tried to make friends and then I did not think about it that much.

I think a story that I am like is "Brown Girl Dreaming." She always loved to go outside and she liked to play board games. I love to do the same things. Also, I am kind, smart and nice, just like Jacqueline Woodson.

In my art I used paper and different colors of paint. I have a lot of different emotions so I thought why not put them into my own art. I put them in my art so you could know how much of each emotion I have.

I want the viewer to embrace my art. I want them to think about the different emotions in my art. I want them to think about what my art really means and what the colors represent. I want them to think about what the words mean in my art.

Artist's Name: Mackenzie King

Title: Fire and Ice Does Not Go Together.

Cost:\$35.00-\$40.00

Donations: Scholarship America

Life should not be hard for kids! I'm 13 years old and I've faced some tough challenges in my life. A big challenge in my life has been my parents getting divorced. They fight and I see it and I can get stuck on it. The purpose of my art is to remind people that get divorced to try to not get the kids involved in disagreements.

One of the greatest challenges I've faced in my life is the divorce of my mom and dad. My mom and dad were my favorite people. I would hang out with them all the time. They loved to cook together, so sometimes I cook and think of them. One of the greatest memories I have is of all of us cuddling all the time. We always said, "I love you to the moon and back." We always had such good times.

The purpose of my art is to encourage people to let the ones you love the most know how much they mean to you. My mom, dad, and I always said, "I love you to the moon and back," and I STILL love them to the moon and back. I really miss them together; I love them together! I know they both feel the same. I want people to feel good knowing they share their feelings with their moms and dads. When I see and hear my mom and dad fight on the phone, it's sad to me. Losing your dad can be heartbreaking. I love my family so much, but we're not together. I would like for my mom and dad to get back together and to be happy.

We've read many stories this year, and I connect the most with Michaela DePrince. She lost her family when she was a toddler, and I don't have a dad. I feel like we both know the importance of having a family. I feel like we both know you should let your families know how much you love them. You never know when you could have someone you love so much leave, or lose them. I don't have a dad, and Michaela lost her parents. She feels lucky to have an adoptive mother and sister, and I'm lucky to have my family, even though it's changed.

For my art I used red and black paint. I used it because half of my heart is sad and the red half is my love. I did the block to show that it is ice and fire and how they do not get along. The stone is used to know that it is ice. The fabric is to know that one side is fire and the other is ice. The glue is for melted ice. In the middle is a flower because I have a big heart and the stamp is red and black it has more back. I am on my mom's side, not my dad's. More power of my heart.

I want my viewer to know my painting is about my mom and dad and that they are not together. I want my viewer to know that they fight and that ice and fire does not go together. I love my mom and dad but my dad did the wrong thing to make my mom leave with me and my sister.

Artist's Name: Abigail Cross

Title: Bullying

Cost: \$45-60

Donation: Scholarship of America

People can be so mean! I'm 11 years old and I have faced some tough challenges in my life. The purpose of my art is to encourage people not to bully because it can have a negative impact in their life.

One of the greatest challenges I've faced is seeing other people being bullied. I see people being bullied every day. It does not feel good to be bullied. Some people can have a hard life and that makes them feel good to make others feel bad about themselves. That never feels good to be the person that is being bullied.

One of my favorite memories is playing softball and I met my best friend. We were together all the time and we would hang out. I don't like people that are mean. The way I handled it was being friends with a lot of people .

About my art. The reason I chose to use splatter on the background is you can be scattered some times. The reason I used flowers is sometimes you just have to be free and that represents that. The word metely and physically is the effects of bullying and how they can affect you and others around you. The words on the top is a quote that comes to mind when I think of bullying.

When you look at my art I want you to think of all the kids that are or have been bullied. Also how the kids feel and what they are feeling. That kids are going through hard times just like adults.

Artist's Name: Owen Crousser

Title: Life Isn't Always Easy

Cost: \$50

Donation: Prevent Child Abuse America

My life has been one crazy journey for the eleven years I've been on this planet! There have been many ups and downs over the years, but I still push through! The purpose of my art is to show that life isn't always easy, but you have to push through the bad times to get to the good times.

Death isn't always easy to get through. I experienced this not too long ago. Sometimes I would go for hours crying because of the death. I've been told the six stages of grief you experience after someone has died are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. My grandpa and my great grandma died. Another challenge is when I was denied entry to go to a family member's or family friend's funeral.

The triumphs were when I accepted that they were gone and I would never see them again. One way I did this was take my mind off of it. Another triumph was after the funeral I just made small talk and tried to take my mind off of it.

All in all, I've experienced many challenges and triumphs, more than the average 11 year old should have. If that's a death in the family or going to a funeral, it will be challenging. There are many challenges in life, but no matter what, you have to push through. Even though it might be tough you have to push through, and get to where you can find the good in life again!

The art I created was to represent that life isn't always easy but you have to push through. I used many different colors of paint. I thought I would make it a painting kinda like Vincent Van Gogh. I chose this style because he is an artist that had many troubles throughout his life. I used many different colors to show that at the end of the day life isn't that easy.

When you look at my art I want you to notice that some people have hard times and never know what they're going through. You can change this by realizing what's wrong early on and not being mean cause they could be going through something tough. So what I want you to do is to realize that people could be going through something or you could be going through something hard to deal with, but no matter what you have to push through or help someone push through.

Artist's Name: Cayden Allen

Title: My Life in a Soccer Ball

Cost: \$40

Donation: American Cancer Society

Although I am just 11 years old, challenges hit me. I will explain both my challenges, and triumphs in this essay. I will explain 3 of my challenges and 3 of my triumphs. An example of one of my triumphs would be winning a soccer medal, and a challenge is me losing in soccer.

I will start by telling 3 of my challenges. To start off, one of my challenges is a challenge a lot of people have, and that is my mom and my dad are divorced. I usually don't worry about this challenge because I still get to see my dad every weekend and my mom every weekday. My second challenge is that in soccer you can get hurt very easily and a lot of times and games and practices I will probably fall and get kicked, but it usually does not hurt for long. My last challenge is that one time someone tried to break into my dad's house when I was 5. My dad told me this story not a long time ago. A robber had tried to break into our house at night; luckily my dad was awake at the time and he was able to call the cops before he got in.

Now I will explain some of my triumphs that I have had. My first triumph is one that, again, many other people have had, and that is winning a soccer medal. This medal was not for winning the championships. It was for runners-up. I got this medal about less than a year ago. My second triumph was that I got a trophy for soccer as well. This trophy was also for runner-ups but a different year. This trophy was not like others, it was like a little monument with bricks and a soccer ball, not a flashy golden trophy. My last triumph is probably having and meeting all my family and friends. The reason I chose this is because I would not have made it this far without all my friends and family there to help and support me.

In conclusion, it does not matter how many challenges hit me and how hard they hit, I can focus on how my triumphs have helped with that, and how I helped with that. So, that is 3 of my challenges and triumphs that my 11 year old self has had.

I used green paint, black paint, foam ball, hot glue gun and canvas. My thought process was that it would look like the ball was coming through the canvas. I used a foam ball as a soccer ball and black paint to make it look like cracks in the canvas. I did this to show people that even if you're not good at art you can make a piece of art as long as you put hard work into it. Green is the color of overcoming your challenges.

I want my viewer to see when you put hard work into art you can make it look good. When you look at my art I want you to see that you don't need talent to make a piece of art. When you see this piece of art I want you to be inspired to make something like it. I hope when you look at my art I want you to put more effort into your work.

Artist's Name: Kelsey Kauffman

Title: Reality

Cost: \$55.50

Donation: emergency family funds

My life has been nothing but a tornado! The purpose of my art is to express my feelings about the present and the past.

I've had a couple challenges in my life, but I will start with when my mom and dad went to jail because they were fighting all the time. It wasn't safe so I had to live with my grandparents for most of my life, until my mom got treatment, which was about 4 years ago. I mostly live with my mom now, but depending on her schedule I still spend the night at my grandparents sometimes, and I haven't seen my dad for a while.

I relate to Skinny Tomboy Kid because I like to do things outside like fishing, riding bikes, and I don't wear dresses unless I have to! Also in the story, the main character is also seeing her mother in new ways. Originally, she thought her mother was weak and helpless, but by the end she thinks maybe her mom is really brave, and doing the best she can. I can relate to that, too. I see that parents can have their own issues, and maybe mine are doing the best they can, too.

I want everyone to think about how many people face these challenges. I hope when people see my painting they think about their challenges.

My art is two people standing on different cliffs and one in the middle like a tug of war fight. I am trying to represent parents arguing and trying to take the person in the middle, me, different ways. I used acrylic paint, hot glue, and a sponge. My thought process of making this art was how a lot of people can actually relate to this!

I want my viewer to be able to feel my painting. When you look at my art I want you to think about your past and your challenges. When you see this piece of art I want people to know and understand what I've been through. I hope that when you look at my art you can relate and be ok.

Artist's Name: Bentley Rogers

Title: Washing Away

Cost:\$45-60

Donation: World Resources Institute

Wow! Did you know that art could be so beneficial for you and your career? So I, 11 year old Bentley Rogers, have been drawing since I was 5 years old and it is the absolute best thing ever in my opinion! The purpose of my artwork is to help the world by saving the oceans.

Three challenges that had happened recently were things that put me down to my lowest. First, my mom went to the hospital in the ambulance out of nowhere. This scared my sister and me very badly, because we thought she was going to die. Also, my aunt died unexpectedly. She had fallen and couldn't get up for 2 days straight then was in the hospital and was leaking blood and then unexpectedly, she died. And lastly my hermit crab died. We don't know why but we think from old age. All 3 of these were the hardest challenges that I had to deal with recently in my life.

These challenges that had happened to me really shaped me in many ways. The biggest way is by realizing that our time here is limited. I want to spend time helping people and making the world a better place.

Even though you wouldn't think art could be so beneficial, it is. I have faced many challenges through my life but have caught some triumphs in between.

My art was of a shark, half bones and half body. My art represents a shark dying from pollution in the water. In my art I used paint, a hot glue gun, yarn, straws, paper, and plastic wrap. At first I didn't like it but once I was finished I really liked it.

When you look at my art I want you to think about how many ocean animals are going extinct and dying from pollution. I want you to donate or help to save the ocean. I also want you to realize that our time on earth is limited.

Artist's Name: Sonia Young

Title: I'm All Ears.

Cost: \$50

Donation: Mental Health America

I never thought I would still be like this. My name is Sonia and I have faced different challenges in my life. The biggest challenge I deal with is making good friends. It's taken a while, but I finally feel as though I have a way to deal with this challenge.

I have always been a really quiet girl. It's been a challenge because people took advantage of me and made fun of me. The people I have tried to be friends with talked bad about me to other people and started rumors about me. It is now easy for me to quickly figure out the good and bad qualities of people. Instead of talking a lot, I pay really close attention to everything people do. This has helped me make better friends.

I hope my art encourages others to learn to be patient and take the time to observe others and get to know them slowly, and find friends who will be true, trustworthy friends. The world is sometimes really confusing and unpredictable, and we need to have people who love and care about us, and treat us with respect. You shouldn't have to worry about "friends" talking about you and starting rumors.

I feel like I relate to Myers from Bad Boy because he doesn't feel like he fits in with everyone else. He is still hiding certain parts of himself from others, but I'm trying to do a better job of being myself and not settling for friends who don't care and support me for who I am. I deserve better!

For my art, I used paint. When I was sketching my art, I was focused on making one thing look different from all of the rest. This represents me not talking but listening and paying close attention. In the background, I tried to make people in red, yellow, pink, and orange. I then made the person in the middle blue and look scared. The person is listening to everything people are saying about them and that's why they are scared. I made the person without a mouth to represent being very quiet.

I hope my art encourages others to learn to be patient and take the time to observe others and get to know them slowly, and find friends who will be true, trustworthy friends.

Artist's Name: Amiya Fogg

Title: It's the People Who Become Your Family

Cost: \$50

Donation: Prevent Child Abuse American

My life has been a rollercoaster! I faced some minor challenges as Amiya, a 12 year old girl. The purpose of my art is to encourage others to not trust everyone you meet, some people are snakes, and sometimes when you least expect it, people you happen to meet can become your family. One of my minor challenges I've faced in my life is I don't have a dad who should act like a dad. After my mom had my brother, my dad thought he could let loose and not be a very good husband to my mother. My mom got pregnant with me only because my dad didn't want my mom to leave him. While there's was a hurricane where we used to live my dad was at a hotel while my mom was there with me, a 1 month baby, and my brother who was 1 year old. He use to abuse my mom so my mother called her dad to pick her up when I was 2 years old to go back to the area we live now in. I still struggle with challenges with my dad, such as I can't see him because he will call child protective services on my mom for nothing, he calls me a bad daughter for not talking to him. In my opinion, he should talk to me. I'm the kid, he's the adult, and he lied that to me so he couldn't see me for my birthday last year and said he got in a car crash, but he was really in his mom's basement playing Fortnite. One day my mother took the curtains down to wash them, when he got home from the bar he slapped my mom up so she could put them back up. That night was terrible. They were arguing and my dad got aggressive. Luckily my mom married my step dad who treats me like his own daughter.

The purpose of my art is to not trust everyone. The challenges above made me who I am today, because now I know that I can't trust everyone from the start, and sometimes, if you're lucky, you meet people who BECOME your family. In school, we read a memoir called, "I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid." I can relate to the main character, because she is trying to figure out who she can trust in her life, and she is always tense about it. She is starting to see her mother in a different light, and realizes that when she thought her mom was weak, maybe she is really just doing the best she can. I've learned that people who are closest to you may not be trustworthy, but, if you're lucky, you can find others to trust; other people who will love and care for you like you were their own.

For my art I used paint, glitter paper, mod podge and string. My thought process was trying to create something that shows that you always don't have to be okay.

The string on my piece represents that you don't always have to be okay and you shouldn't fake it. Child abuse is real in america and not right. If you're reading and struggling with your father not being there and he abused you or your family, you should get up and call the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Also leave that person to get to safety, you also can try to hide or avoid them.

Artist's Name: Roxann Lackey

Title: My Family Tree

Cost: \$60

Donation: The Innocence Project

Can you believe that I, 11 year old Roxann, have 17 siblings, and have been an Auntie since I was one? The purpose of my art is to teach people that being an auntie and having siblings is great! But, while being part of such a large family is great, it can have its challenges, too.

The biggest challenge is remembering all of my siblings' names. Being an older sister and Auntie is hard, since I have 16 older siblings and 1 younger sibling. Every time one of my siblings has a child I have to remember their name on top of their parents name. Finding space (or peace and quiet!) is really hard when everyone gets together.

The purpose of my artwork is to teach people that being part of a great big, beautiful family is the BEST, crazy challenges and all. Having siblings has its perks. For example, someone will always have your back, and you will never feel alone. Being an Auntie is amazing, and you get to have little nieces and nephews that will look up to you.

From the stories we've read in our textbook this year, I feel like I can relate the most to Michaela DePrince. In the story, "Michaela DePrince: The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina," young Michaela lost her parents to war and she had no family from a very young age. She had to live in an orphanage and was treated horribly. Michaela was finally adopted by Elaine DePrince, along with another girl from her orphanage. Family is one of the most important things to Michaela, and I know I'd be lost without mine!

I did a family tree for my family, with my siblings and my parents. I used a canvas, paint/glitter paint, I used a hot glue gun, colored cotton balls and plastic hearts/pink. I used the colored cotton ball as the clouds and the button of my tree trunk. I used the paint/ glitter paint to paint the background blue. I used a hot glue gun to add the colored cotton ball, and plastic hearts. I used the glitter paint as the inside of my tree.

I want the viewer to know or think about how hard and fun it is to have a big family. I want them to know how hard it is to remember all of my siblings' names all the time. I want them to know how much I love my family and for them to include them in this project. That's what I want the viewer to know.

Artist's Name: Carleigh Dennison

Title: Autism Awareness

Cost: \$40-\$60

Donation: Autism

Don't you hate seeing people pick on kids that don't act like everyone else or look like everyone else? I have a brother with autism and I've seen many people pick on him or say stuff to my face about him. The purpose of my art is to make everyone aware that no one is the same and you have to try to be nice to everyone and everyone has challenges and differences.

My art represents autism awareness and that everyone has challenges and differences. One thing I like to tell people, and tell myself, is that no one is perfect, no one is exactly the same, and don't pick on people, it is not kind. Many people have picked on my brother for not being the "same" as everybody else. My brother has gone through a lot: someone shoved him in a locker and shut the door and he was locked in there for a while. A kid recorded him saying stuff that wasn't appropriate, and Coltin, my brother, did not know what it meant. There are many more stories about people being mean to him but, I can't tell them all.

I've read many stories this year, and I connect most with Micahela DePrince. She believes family is important and many people were very mean to her, and with my story my brother can kind of relate to her topic.

The overall message I want my art to send is to be aware, be kind, and be thoughtful to kids with special needs. You don't always know what's going on in their life. Their life can be very rough, so treat everyone the way you want to be treated.

All about the art I created: I used gems, yarn, mesh, paint, and confetti poms-poms. When I started to do something with the colors Yellow, Blue, and Red. I put a butterfly and puzzle and a ribbon to represent Autism awareness.

I hope that when you look at my art it reminds you to be kind to others that don't think the way you do. I hope it reminds you to help others fit in and make sure they feel like they fit in, just be kind to everyone, even people that you don't like and especially to anybody with special needs.

**This student doesn't have art at the museum.

Artist's Name: Lalani H

Title:

Cost: \$40

My life has been a roller coaster ..Do you know what it's like dealing with the death of a loved one ..or dealing with trying to stay focused and get all my work done at school everyday .

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and challenges I have overcome in my life. One of the challenges I face is dealing with the death of a loved one .My uncle died not too long ago. The second challenge I deal with is trying to work hard every day at trying to stay on task at school and stay focused at school and carefully considering my actions to not get in trouble and keeping my grades up and maintained.

Third, I don't really relate to any of these characters but I will talk about how I deal with these challenges. The first challenge I talked about was dealing with the death of a loved one.

Artist's Name: Canaan Y

Title: Baller

Cost: \$50

Donation: J Babe Stearn Center

#5 — Ohio. WOW! Number 5 in the country going for number 1. Do you play sports? well I do and I am one of the top players in the country. This project is based on my journey to get to this point. Working hard my whole life led to all of this.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. First I had to learn to shoot. As a little kid I could not get the ball to the rim. But after time I could make all of my shots consistently. Another challenge I faced was, having to play with kids that weren't the best but I still won two championships with them. My last challenge was losing a lot but I learned from the losses and It helped me.

Second, I consider how these challenges influenced how I see the world. They help me see that everything is not gonna be easy. I've done things that kids can't dream of doing. It shows me that I can do anything I put my mind to. That comes with hard work and dedication. I train hard everyday. Playing with kids that are not that good helped me get better and it motivated me to train harder. Not being able to get the ball over the rim was motivating me to try harder.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. My journey compares to Michela Deprinces story. She worked hard for many years going through war conditions and she still came out on top. Michela and I have a lot in common. She had to go through tough conditions and I had to also. I've gone through conditions such as constipation during games. I had to play as I was sick as a dog. So in conclusion all of my experiences have led up to me being one of the top players in the country.

This artwork is very personal and important to me. I used the color orange and black to make my basketball. I make the background blue for a calm mood to flow through the viewers. I am making a basketball getting palmed to indicate my journey and how I have my skills in my hands.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork. You will read my story of my basketball career to this point. You will see my journey and strive to be great. I went through many struggles and I want you to know that. Thank you for taking the time to read about my artwork.

Artist's Name: Lucas F

Title: dunks in chunks.

Cost: \$60

Donation: akron children hospital

Did you know that nike dunks are really cool! I don't focus on myself. This is one of the first times I am focusing on myself. It's fun to do and there were times I thought I was boring, but I am learning I'm not. The purpose of my art is to share my love and passion about shoes.

First, I will discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I faced. I will be talking about how I first found a pair of Nike dunks, it was really hard. I didn't think I could do it but I did, I finally got a pair. I was as happy as can be. Next I will be talking about how I went through a struggle to get them. They were not in ANY stores and the pair I wanted were not on the internet either. They were sold out everywhere! I started getting frustrated so then I waited and waited and they were still not there when I could not find them. But then..... I found a pair. They were black and white i was so happy.

Second, I consider how I overcome these challenges. I play basketball to calm down and then I listen to music and lay down. These things help me relax when I'm feeling frustrated. And I also felt those similar feelings when looking for Nike dunks. In conclusion that's one of my strategy's to calming down

Third, I will reflect on my experiences and I will explain what they are and who made them. It was hard, I couldn't find them anywhere. They weren't in stores or on the internet. I was looking at everyones shoes and they had them. I felt sad and frustrated. But when I found them I was so happy I finally got a pair of Nike dunks.

Next, I consider how I relate to Walter Dean Myers because everyone would talk about my shoes and I would feel left out. I didn't find them. I tried picking up every little penny I found but it wasn't even enough for a pair of shoes. I looked everywhere for money but could not get enough. It was my birthday in a week. I was down and then it hit me. My mom came home with a box that looked like a pair of shoes but I didn't get my hopes up. I was still devastated.

Next, I will be talking about what colors I used and why. I first used gray to signify my feelings saying like im empty.

Artist's Name: Kallie A

Title: Being different is ok.

Cost: \$50

Donation: Akron Children's Hospital.

Did you know...? The purpose of my art is to tell people that they are important? The reason why the purpose of my art is to tell people that they are important is because they are. And the reason why I am saying this is because if people are bullying you they are not important as you. Everyone is a VIP. Next, I will describe how my art shows how I overcame my challenges.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. The first challenge I had to face was my grandma and grandpa dying right in front of me. And those people who died right in front of my face are Very Important People to me. That was the saddest moment in my life. But then the next day my mom and dad took me somewhere fun to make me happy and it did.

Second, I consider how these challenges influenced how I see the world. The second challenge that I had to face was my friend getting into a fight with me. And then that was the day when my uncle died. There were 2 sad things that day. But I played soccer to get my mind off of it. The way I deal with the challenges is I try to do something to get my mind off of it... for example I would go to the mall or do something fun like play soccer or play with my friends and or sisters. The second way I try to deal with my challenges is that I watch my favorite youtube video or hangout with my mom or friends. The third way I deal with my challenges is that I call my Grandma and when I call her she always puts a smile on my face and makes me happy every day.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. I relate to Walter Dean Myers AKA Bad boy. And the reason why I relate to Walter Dean is because sometimes I read but my friends don't know that because if I tell them that I might get made fun of. Another reason I relate to Walter is because I like to boss my sisters around and he tried to boss the girls around in the gym in the story.

This artwork is very personal and important to me. I painted myself blue because I am always calm. And I am going to use the color pink because I am always so happy and to me Pink means happy. And I am going to use the color Red because I am sometimes always mad and angry. And I chose the color purple because I am always extra happy to.

Finally I hope that by seeing my artwork, you will feel more important. The reason why I wrote was because even if you don't feel important you are important like some people think that others are not important but that is not true. Thank you for taking the time to read about my artwork.

Artist's Name: Nevaeh K

Title: it's scary

Cost: \$60

Donation: Crohns and Colitis Foundation

You may not be ready but it could happen to you too. I wasn't ready either. It has been a roller coaster. The purpose of my art is to let people know about celiac and crohn's disease and that it's not ok to bully people about it. It's something that they can't control. I hope you like my art.

First, I discuss challenges I am learning to deal with as a young person. It's hard to deal with something so careful and scary. One challenge I have to face is not being able to go out to eat at fast food places. It's not just me facing these things either. It's pretty rare for people to get diagnosed with Crohns AND Celiac at the same time. I did. Another challenge for me and others to deal with is bullying. Many people get bullied for many different reasons. Some reasons are for weight, or the way you look or act. It doesn't matter. We are all loved the same. Some people might be considered "weird" or "annoying," but no one is any of those things. We are ourselves and if you don't like that, that's not our problem.

Second, I will discuss how these challenges make me who I am today. I have been through alot but I'm still me. It's hard for someone so young to go through this. It can have a big impact on some people and they change. Some people are the same though but still have been through a lot of trauma. These were some of the challenges that make me who I am today.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. aka(Michaela DePrince from *Michaela DePrince*). How I connect with Michaela is she had a skin condition called vitiligo and people made fun of her for it. That's not okay. I also have a condition not many people have or know about. People also make fun of me. I don't know why people think that is okay. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all. This is how I relate to Michaela DePrince.

This artwork is very personal and important to me. I used the color purple for Crohn's disease.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork, you will understand what some people have to go through and that it's not okay to bully people because of it. Thank you for taking time to read about my artwork.

Artist name: Sara B

Title: About my Pneumonia

Cost: \$55

Donation: Save the children

They thought I might die. I had pneumonia. I was four-three. The purpose of my art is to show how important it is to have a supportive family, caring doctors, health insurance, and courage to be myself. First, I share two challenges I deal with every day as a young person. Second, I discuss how these challenges make me who I am today. Third, I talk about how my life relates to the characters in books that we read in class. Next, I share what I made for my art and what everything means in my art. I also reflect on what it was like to read these books, go through these activities, and put everything into my art. Finally, I encourage you to make sure all kids have a supportive family so they can survive and be healthy and accept yourself.

First, I share three challenges I deal with every day as a young person. My first challenge was having pneumonia when I was four-three years old. I felt scared. I was in a lot of pain. I was like dying inside. My family comforted me. The second challenge was acting differently after my pneumonia. I was scared that I would probably get it again. I thought I might die if I got it again. I had a lot of anxiety. I was very worried other people would have gotten it. I didn't want them to get sick. I didn't want to have any friends. I was lonely. I overcame this by making friends and telling them all the things from my past. I wanted them to know. I wanted them to know they were like my family. They were like brothers and sisters to me. My third challenge is about being a girl and people think I should just stay "girly" instead of how I really am. I like to dress "boyish." This means I can't wear sweatshirts or ripped jeans or sweatpants. They don't want to be my friend here because I dress like a "boy." Someone just tried to tell me they won't be my friend because of how I am dressed telling me they wouldn't be seen with me or be around me at all. I felt upset about that. I realized I wouldn't be their friend. I wanted to be their friend, but now I don't, not after that. I learned they are rude and don't deserve to be in my life.

Second, I discuss how these challenges make me who I am today. These challenges made me feel better about myself. I realized I was a strong person. I was stronger than the person I was before. I was stronger by being happier and talking with my family. I talked to them about my feelings. I didn't keep them in. It feels good and helpful to share my feelings. I turned into a completely different person after that. I like who I am now. I very much like myself and who I have become. I am standing up for myself. I don't need to fight. If you don't want to be my friend, okay. I want to be friends with someone who accepts me and who is nice to me and who is supportive of me.

Third, I talk about how my life relates to the characters in books that we read in class. We are reading the book "Bad Boy" by Walter D. Meyers. The book is about a boy who feels like everybody else because he likes "girly stuff." Kids make fun of him and tell him he can't like that stuff like reading, writing, dancing, or singing. Why? Because the kids in his class and his friends think all of that is for girls. I can relate to that. I have friends who made fun of me because I like basketball. Supposedly, that's a boy's sport. It's not. Having pneumonia helped me be stronger. I stood up for myself. I will not be bullied or teased for being me and how I dress or what sports I play.

Next, I share what I made for my art and what everything means in my art. I also reflect on what it was like to read these books, go through these activities, and put everything into my art.

Artist's Name:Olivia W

Title: helping good animal shelters

Cost:\$50

Donation: Best Friends Animal Society

Did you know...?Some animal shelters are not good for animals.The purpose of my art is to tell people about animal shelters that are not good for some animals.First,I will discuss challenges I am still learning to deal with as a young person.Second, I will consider how these challenges influence how I see the world.Third, I will reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class.Nexts,i will describe how my art show how i overcome my challenges.

First,I discuss challenges I am still learning to deal with as a young person. One of the challenges I am dealing with right now is that some of the animal shelters are not so nice to the animals. Another challenge is that some of the animals in the shelters die because the people that work there are not feeding the animals and hitting them. Another challenge I have is that I can't help when dogs are hurt and they go into the road and get run over . The last challenge I face is them not being healthy and seeing them like that. In conclusion these are only three challenges I have.

Second, I consider how these challenges influence how I see the world. One of the ways the first challenge influences me on how I see the world is that I want to make a difference in dogs' lives. The next difference I want to make in a dog's life is to adopt them and feed the dogs.The last I get rid of my stress is to go to my friend's house to play with her dogs.In conclusion these are some of the ways i can get rid of my stress and help dog's at the same time.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class.personally, i can relate to michaela DePrince from *A War Orphan*.I can relate to Michaela because i lost someone that i was close to just like she lost her teacher.It was difficult for me to forget what happened to them just like it would have been for Michaela.

This artwork is very personal and important to me. I'm going to use brown fluffy yarn for far.I'm going to use something rough for the bones to make it 3D. I'm going to use a black marble for the eyes to make it seem realistic.I'm going to use something fluffy and rough for the tail so it's like some of the far is off of it.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork you will inform you about bad things that happen to dogs and it will persuade you to help dogs and it entertains you with information. I hope you learn that dogs are good to use and you should be good to them as well.Thank you for taking the time to read about my artwork!

Artist's Name: Olivia B

Title: Colors

Cost: \$65

Donation: Akron Children's Hospital

Did you know that it is difficult for me to help my brother? And the reason my brother can't talk is because he has something called autism, it is a disability that causes a difference in his brain. Do you know how hard is it to take care of a person that can't speak to you?

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. The first challenge I have dealt with is becoming half deaf. Before I knew I was half deaf I kept saying "what" a lot then, we decided to get my ears checked out. And that is how we knew I was half deaf. Another challenge I faced is helping my brother.

Second, I consider these challenges. One way I deal with challenges in my life is to draw to show my sadness or anger to feel relieved. Another way I face challenges is by sleeping to get my mind off something. The last way that I overcome my challenges is going camping to get away. In conclusion, These are some ways I deal with challenges.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read in my class. One character we read about in class is Alma from "I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid." I can relate to Alma because I feel different.

Artist's Name: Toby T
Title: Music Is Our Escape
Cost:
Donation: trevor project

Did you know 97% of people use music as a coping mechanism? The purpose of my art is to encourage people to find happiness and a way to escape from toxicity in music.

First, I discuss challenges i am still navigating
I have trouble with talking to people about things and just in general. I grew up with parents that weren't exactly the best, and I also grew up with very little friends and i didnt really trust people that easily. When I did trust the person/people, I became naive and forgave them for everything they did.

Second, I consider how these challenges influence how I see the world.
Growing up not talking to people and having social anxiety may make me believe that people don't like me or think I'm weird even tho ive never talked to them. Being a trans male and having social anxiety at the same time can make things very hard. It can make living super stressful.

Third, I reflect on how my life relates to the characters in the books we read in class. I relate to Walter Dean Myers because I felt like I had to act super girly so I didn't get bullied or called things like slurs and hurtful names. I felt that if I didn't act like I'm super proud to be a girl I would be torn apart and never get anywhere with life. Like Walter, I struggled and still struggle with gender roles. It's very hard to deal with these things alone, so people cope with this stuff with music and other things. Music makes people happier and people can express themselves through music.

Artist's Name: Jerriy'Il W

Title: My Challenges

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Did you know? I have vitiligo. The purpose of my art is to guide people the right way.

First, I will discuss what it's like to be me, and the challenges I have to face. One challenge is both my mom and dad are alcoholics and it's hard to deal with the yelling. Another challenge is that I used to get abused by my big sister when I was 7. My third challenge is to take care of my disabled sister and I have to give her medicine by myself.

Second, I consider how I deal with these challenges. One way I plan to overcome these challenges is to play with my friends. Another way to overcome these challenges is to play with my cat. A third way is to take a bike ride with my friends. These are some ways I deal with stress.

Third, I consider how I connect to a character from a story we read in class. One person we read about is Michaela DePrince. I connect to her because we both have vitiligo and both went through a lot of trauma.

Artist's Name: Gracie H

Title: My Challenges

Cost: 45\$

Donation: akron children's hospital

Did you know that I have a tough time in school? the purpose of my art is to make people work hard in school

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three different challenges that I have overcome in my life. First I have a tough time in school. Another challenge is I have a lot of drama with my friends and at school so it's hard to focus in classes. A third challenge is when I fight with my brother at home and he can be annoying just like any sibling can.

Artist's Name: Vander H

Title: military jordan 4

Cost: v\$60

Donation: michael jordan foundation

Did you hear micheal jordan is one of the best nba players. and makes the best shoes they are more comfortable then yeezy 350 zebras are one of the most uncomfortable shoes. In the whole inter world the jordan 4 is the most good looking shoe and especially the jordan 4 military the calor way is just the best. How yeezys they are so overpriced. like who wants 500\$ pairs of shoes when you can get more pairs of jordans than you can yeezys and there are more than 50 pairs of jordans.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. I could never get a pair of jordans until I was 12 years old, then I started getting Kobe's when I was 14. Then in 7 years I am going to get yeezy 350 and yeezy foam runners.

Second, I consider ways that I deal with challenges. One way I deal with challenges is buying my shoes instead of my mom buying them myself so I am doing chores to earn money in 4 weeks. I get 400 because I am doing trash and I put away the dishes 30 dollars a day and I make four hundred dollars a week . learning in Mr.Watkins Class. Learning how to do homework. Listen to music

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about. They all make it to the pros in the books. I want to go to the NBA like Michael Jordan and Kobe bryant. Or lebron james because these are all done.

Artist's Name: Maliyah F

Title: Anxiety

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Did you know that? The purpose of my art is to...
All eyes are on me! I hate that feeling . I have to suffer from social anxiety and heart murmurs.

First I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and the three challenges I have overcome in my life OR challenges.

1. Getting in huge fight with my friend
2. My sister had to get surgery in her leg because she had STAFF which is a disease in your leg.
3. Losing my grandma in 2020 because she died of stomach and heart failure.

Second , I consider how these challenges influenced how I see the world.
How I see it is because my anxiety goes up when I'm nervous or scared. I start to sweat and my palms get shaky and I just give up on what I'm doing.

Artist's Name: Karolina M

Title: Cat's life

Cost: \$45

Donation:

The purpose of my art is to learn about cat's

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I have faced in my life was when I was diagnosed with asthma at a very young age.

Artist's Name: Jaxson V
Title: the wars of the stars
Cost: \$50
Donation:

Did you know that I am the only person in my family that has two christmas. I am the only family member in my family. My mom and dad are not together so I have two christmas, one with my mom and one with my dad.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I faced in my life was struggling with my parents fighting. Another Challenge I faced was struggling to see my grandpa's brother die of cancer. The final Challenge I faced was struggling to see my family torn apart

Second, I will tell you now how I can overcome my challenges. First I overcame my parents' fighting by living with my grandparents. That is my home. They are the mom and dad I wanted. Second, I overcame my grandpa's brother dying by being in therapy talking with someone who really helped me to get through it. Last I got through seeing my family being torn apart by having my family by my side.

Third, in our SAVVAS reading book, we read about Michaela DePrince. I can relate to Michaela in a way because she did not have her parents there. I did not have my parents there for me.

This artwork is very personal and important to me. I used blue as my mom was sad and red as my dad was angry, then I used tin foil as the base and that is going to represent my home where my mom and dad were first fighting.

Finally, by seeing my artwork, I want people to see and find a way to help people . I wanted to help my mom and dad. You can help anybody that needs it. I want you to help all that you can. Thank you for reading my article.

Artist's Name: Carmen C

Title: my life

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Did you know that I'm naturally strong and my strength helped me with my challenges? The purpose of art is to understand me. When my dad left I got stronger and stronger! My eyesight is pretty bad and it's hard to see when my glasses are off. And it's really hard to stop eating because I like to eat, and I'm always hungry.

My challenge is that before my dad left everything was great, but then my mom and my dad started to fight more and more and then at some point my dad just got so annoyed he just left so my dad left me and my two brothers. When my dad left my mom she got a new boyfriend and then they got married! and we tried to get more money. We sold stuff. My mom got a job and we still didn't have enough money and this one time we couldn't even buy groceries so me and my grandma had to buy the groceries so we had groceries.

These challenges are not that hard to deal with, I still get to eat I still get to sleep but my cousins my brothers my sisters my mom and step dad just keeps my fire going and they just keep adding fuel to the fire and i still get to go to my dad's place my cousins house my grandmas house i still get to have fun i still laugh i still smile i still love people and these challenges don't stop me from loving my life. And I also listen to music to keep my life going! And art. I love art so much my mom can't get enough money to buy me more art supplies because I love art so much!

My life can relate to Walter Dean Myers because I also like to read books and he is a loner. Walter hides things just like I do but he hides books and I hide like my phone is broken. And I act differently at school because I have four siblings because they make me go crazy! and I act more myself at home because I am more myself at home than at school.

Artist's Name: Kashlyn F
Title: HELL and BACK
Cost: \$45
Donation:

First, did you know that I have been through hell and back. My mom left me at the age of two years old. It is very hard to not have a mom in my life.

Second, it was very hard to not have a mom because I had to grow up wanting a mom. My dad always took me to school and I would see other kids having their mom take them to school, hugging them, and their mom just being there for them. I do love my dad but the more I grew up the more I felt very sad.

Third, I was very sad because my dad was an alcoholic, I had depression, anxiety, and I was bullied because I was different than all of the other girls. I dressed in baggy clothes, and I tried to wear girl clothes but they just didn't work for me. Then I started to have insecurities from the girls around me at school.

Next, In our SAVVAS books we are learning about people with struggles in their lives. The person from the stories is Walter Dean Myers, because when I was at school they thought girls had to do girl things and boys had to do boy things. I was bullied for not doing girl things and I did boy things. I made up so people would think that I was cool and think that I am more like a girl not a boy.

Finally, That is how I have been through hell and back in my life.

Artist's Name: Addison D

Title: Life can be hard sometimes

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Do you know how hard it is in my life? My life is hard with divorced parents. Right now my dad is in jail, and my mom can be an alcoholic. My life is very difficult. It's not as easy as people think to have divorced parents.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. My three challenges I faced, I have to suffer with seizures almost everyday. I also have bad anxiety with school, why I have bad anxiety because with my parents always arguing with each other then my closest person that I'm close to is gonna move away, cry a lot I mean a lot I'm very emotional. My third challenge was life and my problems because I have to go back and forth from my parents' houses and I always lose things.

Second, I consider how I overcome these challenges. One way that I deal with these challenges is by going to softball and batting while listening to my music makes me feel better because I wanna get better at softball to make the team and it calms me. Lastly, I overcome my by relaxing with my dog or taking her on a walk to get her ice cream. In conclusion, these are many ways you can control your moods such as, anger, sadness, and frustration.

Third, I reflect on how many experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. Personally, can I relate to Micheala DePrince from *Micheala DePrince: The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina*. I relate to Micheala DePrince because I had a rough childhood just like her. I am determined because I wanted to do softball but my dad wouldn't let me and was downgrading me to do it like with Micheala with her dream.

This artwork is very personal and important to me, I chose the stars because my relationship is very bright when we are together. I drew us hugging with stars around as his body because he has to move in Canton and we won't be able to see each other. Then I drew a heart to remember all the times we had and how much we love each other.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork, you will think that my artwork is understanding to you.

Artist's Name: Paightyn P

Cost: \$45

Title: how music helped me.

Donation:

Did you know that I love listening to music any time of the day? It helps me a lot with what I'm going through! The purpose of my art is to explain how much I like music and how music can help you in many ways. First, I discuss what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I have overcome is my grandma passing away. Another challenge is learning how to manage my anger or crabbiness. Music also helps me when I am sad. As you can see, music really helped me get through this in many ways. Second, I consider how these challenges influenced how I see the world. Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. Next, I walk you through my art so you know why I did this collage and what everything means to me. I also reflect on what it was like to read these stories, go through these activities, learn about myself, and put everything into art. Finally, I encourage you to understand how music really helps kids when they are going through things and what you need to know so you can talk kids through what they are going through.

First, I discuss what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I have overcome is my grandma passing away. She had cancer in every part of her body. My dad stayed at her house to make sure she had everything she needed. One night, when my dad was asleep, she died. The day she died, I got out of school. I don't even remember the day. I was all blacked out. She was very young...60 something. I didn't even know what to think. This might sound weird, but it's what happened. I listened to "Blue Christmas." My grandma used to sing this to me during the whole Christmas season. She took me to school every day and she would sing it to me in the car.

Another challenge is learning how to manage my anger or crabbiness. I am usually crabby and angry when I wake up. I don't like waking up. I like getting a really good sleep. Sometimes it's hard to get a really good sleep. In the summer, I listened to every single type of music in it. This helped me wake up and move on with my day.

Music also helps me when I am sad. As you can see, music really helped me get through this in many ways. The last time I was sad was whenwell, there are a lot of times I am sad. On Monday, sometimes my mom isn't very nice. Not at all. I switch every week. I don't have a phone anymore. I can't contact him anymore. I don't get to contact my step mom or my dad. Only if I use my mom's phone can I talk to them. I am sad when I can't talk to them or see them. I can't listen to music, but I think about music and that helps me. It helps me not think about that much.

Third, I reflect on how I can relate to the characters we read about in class. Personally I think I can relate to Michaela DePrince for *Michaela DePrince: the war orphan who became a ballerina*. I relate to her because I am determined to be a great basketball player as I grow up. I am determined to do this sport because I have been working for the past three years to get better and I'm slowly making my way up to the top.

Next, I walk you through my art so you know why I did this collage and what everything means to me. I also reflect on what it was like to read these stories, go through these activities, learn about myself, and put everything into art.

Finally, I encourage you to understand how music really helps kids when they are going through things and what you need to know so you can talk kids through what they are going through.

Artist's Name: Bryson H

Title:football

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Did you Know How hard it is to play football and it is hard and being a QB is hard. And i have to get my grades up

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. I get tackled and injured . I played catch with my dad.and my dad was in jail.

Second, I consider how I overcome these challenges. One way I deal with my challenges is that my mom takes care of me when I get injured. Another way I deal with these challenges is going out with my friends. A third way I deal with my challenges is playing video games .

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to . to characters we read about in class. I relate to Jacqueline Woodson because I moved around a lot like she did. Jacqueline I had to make new friends . It was tough to make new friends.

Artist's Name: Cherish S

Title: My life

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Do you know how hard it is to live in a different place? The purpose of my art is to express myself.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's to be me and three challenges I overcame in my life. First challenge I had to face was fighting with my sister. The second challenge I had to overcome was my dad going to jail. Third challenge I have to give my dog away. The final challenge I had to face was to move to a different home.

Second, There are many ways I can overcome my challenge. I love to listen to music . and I love to dance like Michaela Daprince. And I keep myself away from them. When I keep myself away from these people I close my door and play Roblox with my friends. And sometimes I play with my brother and sister. That is how I overcame my challenge. How do you do?

Third, If we read about Michaela Daprince I think I am a lot like her. I like to dance . and I like to do new things and meet new people. I did see my aunt marry die in front of me. And most of all I am black too. I am like a brown girl dreaming. I really don't know how to read. Sometimes I make up stuff. These are people I like.

Next, this artwork is very personal and important to me. I used the bird for someone that is in my family that has gone so flowers. And I'm using paint because me and my mom love colors. I am also using glitter because me and my sister Davaya love shiny things. I am going to use toilet paper because he is always in the bathroom.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork, you will be more kind than you are now. Thank you for taking the time to read about my artwork.

Artist's Name: Gabriel G
Title: What dogs can feel
Cost: \$40
Donation: AJ's Search And Rescue

Did you know the purpose of my art is because i love dogs.They are the best ever .First I had to face the challenges that we faced when the dogs got hurt.SecondThe challenges I feel like it would make the world better if we help dog and don't help them.Next I will describe how my show how I came over my challenges I faced with dogs.It showing how I want dogs to be treated right and with respect.

First,Did you know that the dog scene is 40x better than sense than humans.Dogs are usually nice, they are only mean if the owner hits them or is mean to the dog.One of the challenges i faced was seeing how owners treat their dogs.another challenge is people that are dissing dogs that lost and leg or is something wrong with them.One more challenge is that dogs that die it just hurts you.

I understand what it is like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life.How I overcame this was that people started loving these dogs and people are protecting her dog so they are safe. Second, I consider how these challenges influence how I see the world. These challenges I feel like it would make the world better because most people love dogs

Second I love dogs they are quite and I am tired people bullying dogs it makes me mad it is meat up what the .some people use their dog to do something with dogs like make do stuff you wantI am disgusted by how I understand what it is like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life.How I overcame this was that people start loving this dogs and people are protecting her dog so they are safeSecond, I consider how these challenges influence how I see the world. These challenges I feel like it would make the world better because most people love dogs

Third, T, I reflect on my experiences compared to the character I read in class.I reflect on how I feel about dogs and what they do and how much we like them and stuff like that.How much they get beat and hurt an downers make them slaves and thats not right dogs .
5 I'm going to use all kinds of colors and it's a dog it about dos and stuff like that are post to get treated nice and with respect.Not hurt them or abuse them or injury him or miss treat them.This also means a lot to me because it really shows how much people love and if they really love dogs.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork, you will now love dogs and if you know someone that is hurting a dog do the right thing.Or handle it yourself go over there and say hey don't do that to the dog. I hope by seeing my artwork shows you something...Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Artist's Name: Lynda A
Title: The Moon & The Sun
Cost: \$90
Donation: Children's Hospital.

Did you know that The Sun's temperature is 5,973°C and 15,000,000°C? Did you know that The Moon was made when a rock smashed into Earth? The Sun and The Moon aren't the same size and The Sun and The Moon both orbit the earth. Did you know that Moon dust smells like gun powder? Did you know that The sun's distance from The Earth is 92.96 Million Miles?

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I faced in my Life was having ADHD, Another challenge I faced was letting my Anxiety get the best of me, The last challenge I faced was A lot of insomnia. In conclusion, these are some of the challenges that I have overcome except for the insomnia.

Second, I consider how I overcome these challenges. One way that I deal with these challenges is taking my ADHD meds. Another way I am helping myself to get over those challenges is listening to my favorite music with my headphones on. Lastly, I overcome my challenges by taking melatonin. In conclusion, these are some of the many ways you can control your moods such as anger, sadness, and frustration.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. I relate to Walter Dean Myers From *Bad boy* Because people make fun of me for liking books, and listening to weird music sometimes, and also me liking to wear hoodies. Most of the people are males and I don't want to say that 'word' cause I am not getting in trouble for it. But I don't really care what they think or say because in my mind they just need to be ignored. In conclusion, This is how I related to Walter.

Next, This Artwork is very personal and important to me. I used the sun and the moon as a metaphor for this the sun simples happiness, fun, and being silly, The moon simples being tired, sleepy, drowsy, and sad. I using blue, black, yellow for the moon's side cause blue and black can stand for sadness and depression, yellow cause of a little happiness. I am using yellow, white and light blue for the sun's side cause yellow means happiness, white meaning for silliness, and light blue meaning funny.

Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork, you will notice that some people are like the sun and some are like the moon, but some people are both the sun and moon. Sometimes none at all like a eclipse or a solar eclipse, you will know who is a sun or moon, to be honest the sun and the moon are kinda like friends in my opinion. Thank you for taking the time to read about my artwork.

Artist's Name: Jayden C

Title: dogs

Cost: \$100

Donation adoption center for dogs

Did you know that dogs are strong? The purpose of my art is to help dogs. Be me and the challenges i have overcome in my life these challenges third i reflect on how my experiences in my childhood along with me the characters in the book we read in scroll next i will describe how my art shows how I channeling.

First I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and that I have overcome challenges in my life. I was watching a dog and he ran away but I found him in an hour and he was in the bushes. My life is hard because i get made fun of because i'm fat and it's hard and sometimes i wish i was dead and when i'm at resisting its hard when people laugh at me so that is why life is hard and when i was resiling people were making fun of how i was resiling

Second, I consider how i overcome these challenges. One way I overcome these challenges is I put all my hate in wrestling and boxing and that is how I overcome that. Another way i deal with these challenges is i play video games and lock my door and another way is i play music in my room and another way is i punch thing when i'm really mad And i do stupid stuff and punch the wall

Third, I read about Michaela DePrince in class. I can relate to Michaela DePrince because I am hard working just like her. Michaela world hard in ballet and i work hard at football and boxing so

Next this artwork is very important to me .because i like to help dogs and that is what my art is and i like to help dogs because they are cute and easy to cuddle with when you're sad and they won't make fun of you .

Finally, I like to help dogs.

Artist's Name: Aaron N

Title: The show

Cost: \$45

Donation: Antidote for people

Did you know that I have challenges not just you and others have challenges. The purpose of my art is to show my challenges. First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. Second, I consider how I overcome challenge. Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the challenges I read about in class. Next, I will how my art help me overcome my challenges.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge is sit ups. Another challenge I faced in my life is a sick family member. Finally my last challenge is money. In conclusion these are some the challenge im facing.

Second, I consider how I overcome challenge. One way that I deal with challenges is laying down to calm down. Another way that I am going throw with these challenges is watch youtube. lastly my final challenge is spending time with my family. These are ways I deal with challenges.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the challenges I read about in class. I relate to Jacqueline Woodson from *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Where kids that are creative. I relate to Jacqueline Woodson by having 3 siblings and 1 has the spot light. In conclusion this is how I related to jacqueline Woodson.

Next, This artwork is very personal and important to me. I used paper to show the layer of skin that's between you fake self and real realself. The resene of a stage is that the real you gets heated while the fake you is pressed even in the same roll.

Finally, I hope that by seeing this artwork, you will show your real self. Please show and let others show their real self. Don't hate others just because they show their real self. Thank you for taking the time to read about my artwork.

Artist's Name: Landon L
Title: Dogs for life
Cost: \$45
Donation: Soul dogs rescue

Did you know that dogs are not mean for instance pitbull, Dobermans, and Rottweilers? It is not their fault it's the owner, the owner may not train them, the owner may abuse them and the owner may just even teach them to be mean. It is not the dog's fault. The purpose of my art is to show that dogs are not mean and that the owners and more dogs should be adopted. I have to go to the boys and girls club and I have to worry that someone is going to break into my house and my dog pretends to be the house and people consider him a bad and killer dog.

I discuss how I understand what it is like to be me and the three challenges I am still navigating. One of the challenges that I have had is I was in the woods and a Doberman chased me and bit me. I went back the next day and saw the owner abusing him so I learned even more that it was not the dog's fault it was the owner's. Another challenge I'm facing is that people think my dog is a bad dog or a killer and I really hate how people just judge dogs for what breed they are.

I consider how these challenges influenced how I see the world. One way I deal with these kinds of challenges is to look and play with my dog and feel how lucky I am to have him rather than a dog abuser. I also listen to music and talk to someone.

I reflect on my experiences compared to the characters I read about in class. What I Learned: I feel like *Micala Deprince the war orphan ballerina*. Because she doesn't have a father, I don't have a father either and she moved and I did too.

This artwork is very important to me. because I love dogs and I hate how people discriminate against dog breeds. I use color to show where they are and what they look like dogs are many breeds, colors, shapes and sizes.

I hope that by seeing my artwork you will remember that if you see a dog that means it is not the dog it is the owner. Dogs are one of the smartest creatures in the world. Thank you for taking the time to read about my art work.

Artist's Name: Raela M

Title : Do you know how hard it is at a new school?

Cost: \$45

Donation:

Do you know how hard it is to be a new student in a new school? I moved here not even a month ago! First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I had was not knowing anyone when I moved. Also, one more challenge is I had no friends when I moved and I moved away from all of my friends. Second, I consider how these challenges influenced how I see the world because it's tough to make friends in a new place. Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class. Next, I share what I made for my art and what it means to me. I also reflect on what it was like to read these stories, go through these activities, learn about myself, and put everything in my art. Finally, I suggest how schools could do a better job making it easier for students to make friends.

First, I discuss how I understand what it's like to be me and three challenges I have overcome in my life. One challenge I had was not knowing anyone when I moved. Also, one more challenge is I had no friends when I moved and I moved away from all of my friends. The first challenge was just leaving my friends. It was hard because I grew up with them. We just moved to a bigger house. I also didn't have any friends when I moved. I had to talk to people. Sometimes people came up to me, but not a lot. I kinda felt lonely. My last challenge was just moving to a new school. I had to learn a new routine, a new school.

Second, I consider how I overcome these challenges. One way that I deal with these challenges is by listening to music. Another way that I am getting through the challenges is spending time with my family. In conclusion these are some of the many ways you can control your moods.

Third, I reflect on how my experiences compare to the characters I read about in class personally. I can relate to Alma from : *was a skinny tomboy kid*. I can relate to alma because alma doesn't have many friends . In conclusion this is how I am related to Alma.

This artwork is very personal and important to me. I used an astronaut flying away from earth. Finally, I hope that by seeing my artwork, you can see how you can relate to me. Thank you for reading about my art work.

Artist's Name: Aniyah Kennedy

Title: The Great Adventure

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. A little bit about myself. My name is Aniyah i grew in Massillon and Canton. I live with my two aunts .There are nine people in my house. My two aunts-my four cousins-my two brothers And me .I used to play soccer and basketball.I have three cousins who go to my school. So I know a couple people here. Also I used to live in Canton Ohio with my mother. It was not a very good place to live. I have been to multiple schools in my life. Here are some: Gorrel , Beacon Academy , McGregor , Clarendon , Harter and Massillon Intermediate. Another fact about me is that I am eleven years old..My favorite book series is Junie B Jones. Also, I have some friends. They have always been there when I needed somebody. But I don't get to see them as much anymore because they live in Canton and I live in Massillon. Sadly, they were amazing people.

A challenge I have faced is being taken from my mother two times. It was very hard because I love being with my mom and spending time with her. I first got taken in November 2021–May 2022 so for a little under a year. Then I got taken again in June 2022 , I now live with my aunt in Massillon ohio. The reason I got taken is because my mom was on drugs. But I have had some triumphs in my life.Meeting all the new people in my life -getting away from an intoxicated mother.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. I over came this challenge by hanging out with my family more than usual.It helped me because I have never really been too close with my family since my grandmother died .So it was nice to reunite with the people I love the most.That is how I overcame this challenge.

The character I relate to most in our textbook My Perspectives is Jacqueline Woodson . I relate to her the most because she had to move and make new friends.It's just like me because I had to numerous times.

Artist's Name: Aiden Mckeown

Title: Challenges

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

A challenge that I have faced in life is my mom's boyfriend hitting my sister. Also, him mentally abusing me.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. I overcame this challenge by dealing with it but it was really hard. I was really angry and I had bottled up anger it was stressful.

A character I relate to most in a movie or a show or a movie is the kid in the shining where the mom thinks the dad hit the kid yep that's who I relate to but it's my dad who thinks my mom hit me but not her it was her boyfriend who hit my sister and mentally abused me. Also the character didn't get over it he just escaped his dad.

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. Also For them to learn a little bit about myself.

Artist's Name: Alley McLaughlin

Title: My Life

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. A challenge that I have faced in life is that when I was younger I had to get surgery on my face. I was also not able to see my dad for years. The purpose of my art is to tell that sometimes painful things happen but you can get through it. My art project will be all about my challenges and triumphs.

I decided to tell this challenge because I remember blacking out and waking but with blood all over. This all happened from a dog. Another challenge I had was my dad being in and out of jail. My dad has been in and out of jail for many different reasons and this hurt because he's got his dog Echo and Emmy got taken away from me. I have gotten through this, but I have had some tough challenges.

I got over them by just putting them in the past though I still think of them sometimes they are not as challenging anymore. I think the stories I have read I mostly relate to Jacqueline Woods because she had to face some challenges too.

The character I relate to most in our textbook My Perspectives is Jacqueline Woods because she had to face some challenges too. Jacquenine moved like me. This is a challenge because I lost some of my friends. I think challenges are tough. I think Jacquenine is a very brave woman for facing these challenges.

Artist's Name: Shyanne Miller

Title: Never-Ending Holidays

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. I have two holidays every year. I have two Christmases, two Easters, and two Halloweens. My purpose of my art is to reflect on what has happened in the past that has sadly affected me.

A challenge that I have faced in life has been my mom and dad's divorce. Me, my two sisters and brothers, stayed in a very bad place. For six months we stayed with my dad without seeing or talking to my mom. He was on drugs and other things.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. What I did was I spent a lot of time with my family. We got back as a family again and we did what we used to do. We stick together as a family.

The character I relate to most in our textbook *My Perspectives* is Jacqueline Woodson (*Brown Girl Dreaming*). I relate to her by having to move just like I did when my mom and dad divorced. I had to move and my new house is plain and boring.

Artist's Name: Ella Moore

Title: Turning the Page

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. There are many challenges that I have faced in life so far.

When I first came to middle school, it was excellent. It was going great. Me and my best friends were having so much fun until the last week of fourth grade. My best friend(s) was mad at me for hanging out with her crush. She was jealous because he didn't like her but liked me as a best friend. She started destroying our friendship of nine years and said very bad stuff about me and everybody turned on me. Except for my friend named Lucy. She was there until I started to walk away because my ex-best friends were walking over to me. She got mad at me and joined them. I froze as I saw her do that, I could feel my heart completely break. I just put my hood up and started to ball my eyes out. Nobody was there to help. They were all comforting her. They all gave me a mad look, and to this day, they still hate me. Another challenge is, I'm mostly always hiding my true feelings. I might seem happy and ready for everything, but I'm scared and sad (depressed) for what's to come next.

The character I relate to most in our textbook My Perspectives is Villanueva (I Was A Skinny Tomboy Kid). I feel like I don't belong sometimes and that I wanna be different, but I'm scared they won't like me anymore. I'm like the girl from the story, "I was a skinny tomboy kid" because we both were different from everyone.

Artist's Name: Kylie snyder

Title: The Split

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. A little bit about myself. I am also twelve years of age. I love soccer, family, baking , cooking, horses, animals, and most importantly, I love volleyball. I live with my mom and her boyfriend and my sister.

A challenge that I have faced in life is my mom and my dad getting divorced. So when I was three months, my mom had been married to a guy named Nicholas and their relationship was not the best. My dad would take all my mom's money for things. When my mom would take care of me and my sister, he would be at his mom's or somewhere-he didn't tell us. After that, my mom was done with putting up with all of his stuff, and filed for a divorce. Then, after that she got the divorce, she sadly got me and my sister taken away. Even though my mom and dad aren't together, I can still spend time with both.

One day, my dad was just not having it; he got really mad at me, my step sister, and my real sister. So he put us all in different rooms and my step-sister came in the room and we started talking. My dad told my step-sister to leave but she didn't. So, he choked me. Then, he said he didn't mean to.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. After that, CPS got called and I didn't see him, or go over to his house any more. After that, I started to live with my mom. Also, my grandma moved in with us. There is still sometimes I see my dad walking to at the store, but sometimes I just think to ignore it. Things will get better, it just needs to take some time.

The character I relate to most in our textbook My Perspectives is, "Skinny Tomboy." This is because I like "manly" things like: 4x4 riding, rolling around in the mud, four wheel riding, and watching football.

Artist's Name: Lincoln Ullman

Title: Sick Grandma

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

First, I want to talk about two challenges I deal with as a student. Second, I consider how these challenges influence how I see the world. Third, I reflect how my experiences compare to the characters I read on my own and a story I read in school. Next, I walk you through my art and what it means. I also reflect on what it was like to read these stories, do these activities, learn about myself, and what I put into my art. Finally, I want you to take some time and learn from my grandma's mistakes.

I want to talk about three challenges I deal with as a student. One challenge I face is my Grandma almost dying. She has diabetes. She got gangrene. This means the blood doesn't go into the tissue and she can die. My grandma has to get her toes cut off. I didn't know it at first. My aunt called my dad. He ran up to where they keep the kids at the nursery. It scared me. My dad's screen said "Hurry up and call me back." We were in church. I asked to go to the bathroom and started crying. I thought she was completely dead.

We went to the hospital to visit her. I wasn't allowed to go up because of COVID and stuff like that. She cannot walk anymore. She can't go to the bathroom by herself. My aunt had to pick her up so she could go to the bathroom.

My second challenge is knowing my dad is sick. I think he has bronchitis. I worry he may die. It's not like a yes or no. He has been taking his pills and everything, but I am worried.

I consider how these challenges influence how I see the world. With my grandma, I learned that if she survives, if my mom allows me, I want to spend a little bit more time with my grandma. There are kids there that aren't nice, so I think my mom will say no. It has made me a little bit more stronger. I am drinking V8 and eat a little bit more. I am thinking about her and I stop eating. My mom tries to remind me to eat. She doesn't know what I am thinking about. Tim doesn't last that long and you should do all the things you really want to do. I mean, not go to the North Pole, but try to do what your fears are...like swim in the pool and vanquish your fear.

I reflect upon how my experiences compare to the characters I read on my own and a story I read in school. There is a story, "Micheala: A War Orphan that Became a Ballerina." I think she lost her mother and her father. She was an orphan. She was number 27 and everyone called her a devil child because of her skin condition. She lost her parents and that is like me losing my grandma.

Artist's Name: Gracie Smith

Title: Lost and Scared

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. A little bit about myself. I lived in Texas. I moved to Ohio when I was 5 years old. My favorite color is black and I like cats and teacup dogs.

A challenge that I have faced in life is I had a seizure back in August or September. I felt alone and scared. I felt alone because no one was with me when I had a seizure; so I was very Frightened.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. It wasn't easy being alone when I had a seizure. I felt so alone and scared. But, I overcame this challenge when I felt better and the doctors said I was okay.

The character I relate to most is Ernest. Ernest scared stupid, "Ernest Scared Stupid" is a 1991 movie about a guy named Ernest! He gets chased by trolls and he's scared stupid. He feels alone and scared!. So, that's why I relate to his character a lot.

Artist's Name: Kendall Kauffman

Title: Purple Heart

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. Did you know that half the kids in the world parents are parted. I'm one of those kids?

A challenge that I have faced in life is my dad abusing my mom. It was very hard for me. The court told my mom she couldn't have custody of me so I went to foster care. My grandmother got custody of me and my twin sister. My mom and dad were in jail for drugs and abuse.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. There were a lot of bad things that happened and a lot of good things too. My mom would write to me. I would send her lots of gifts. Another thing that helped me was my grandparents. They always helped me when I needed it.

The character I relate to most in literature is Rapunzel. She has family issues. She feels trapped and unseen like I used to feel.

Artist's Name: Lily Riley

Title: My Challenges

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Massillon Animal Hospital

I never knew my life would be so crazy like an upside down roller coaster. The purpose of my art project is to just tell people what I've been through, and make them see how I felt.

A little bit about myself is that I have three brothers. My mom and my dad are broken up. I get along with only one of my brothers and that is Liam. I go to Anchor Baptist Church and I invited mostly everyone in my class.

A challenge I faced in life was that my parents broke up right after my dog died. So, I had a lot of pressure on me at the time. Right before Mother's Day, on a Friday, my grandma got a call and it was my dad. He told her that he got a no-contact order against my mom. So, me and my little brother didn't get to see her until like two months later. She missed our birthday and my band concert and Mother's Day. My dog had a lump on her side, so we think it was a tumor of cancer. Then, her jaw was locked up so she couldn't eat or drink.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame these challenges. I overcame this challenge by talking to my school counselor and having conversations with both of my parents. Somehow, I got over it and I don't know how, it just faded over time.

The character I relate most to in my textbook is Jacqueline Woodson. Her parents divorced and she had to move schools. I had to move homes when my parents broke up.

Artist's Name: Sophia Waggoner

Title: Moving Friend

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual. A little bit about myself is that I love to play soccer and to hang out with friends and family. I also love to paint and to be crafty.

A challenge that I have faced in life is moving from a house where I was born and raised to a neighborhood where I don't know anyone. I had so many friends in my old neighborhood, but they also started moving before I did. For a couple years, I didn't have anyone to hang out with.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge by trying to make more friends in my new neighborhood. So, at least I have some friends in my new neighborhood. One of them is moving away to Tennessee because her dad has a job down there. I am going to miss her so much. I also had another friend that moved to Hawaii when I was in 5th grade.

A triumph that I had was winning a championship for soccer and having my friends and family supporting me on everything that I do. They are so supportive and lovely.

The character I relate to most is Jacqueline Woodson. She moved to different states while I moved to different houses. I also think I relate to her because me and my sister are different just like Jacqueline and her sister. I hope people got to explore who I am as an individual. I also hope everyone got to see what I am inside and out.

Artist's Name: Mayci Kennedy

Title: Challenges

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to inform readers about how I struggled getting over the loss of my loving, warm hearted grandpa because he always found a way to make me smile.

A challenge that I have faced in life is getting over the loss of my grandpa that couldn't face the pain he experienced.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge by focusing on the positive things and understanding that he'd want me to be happy. Now he isn't in pain and he gets to enjoy his life with my grandma, uncle, and dog.

The character I relate to most in our textbook My Perspectives is Villanueva because I sometimes I forget that my mom does a lot for me and then I realize that she does and I try to let her know I do appreciate the things she does.

Artist's Name: Katelin Berg

Title: A Little Bit About Me

Cost: \$50.00

Donation: Make a Wish (<https://www.gofundme.com/c/blog/best-charities-to-donate-to>)

I never knew my life would end up the way it has. The purpose of my art is to have people explore who I am as an individual.

A challenge that I have faced in life is having to put my dog down.

It wasn't easy, but I overcame this challenge. I Overcame it by doing fun things and not thinking it about it.

The character I relate to most in our textbook My Perspectives is alma luiz villanueva in, "I was a skinny tomboy kid."

Artist's Name: Ashley Taylor
Title: Losing a Grandparent
Cost: \$55
Donation: Scholarship America

Do you know how much the death of a family member can affect someone? The purpose of my art is to show how I felt when my grandpa died and how that shaped my personality.

My challenge was when my grandpa died. I felt really sad and I cried for an hour. When he died, I thought my life would never be the same. I thought that I would have a different life because he was not here in the world with me. He made me laugh and I always had a good time with him. My grandpa was very special to me and I loved him a lot. If I would go over to my grandparents house, we would have a fun time. My grandpa died six days after my birthday. That time was a very hard time because he has always meant the world to me and I have always looked up to him.

I took the time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. When I took the time to think about my grandpa, it made me think how he changed my life from when he was here; one day he was in this world and then he was not. When he was here in my life, he made me and my family laugh a lot and we would always have a good time.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to no one. There have been no characters that has struggled with losing a grandfather who meant the world to them. I wish there was a story that had a grandfather and a granddaughter as the main characters. They would go fishing, struggle to catch fish, but it wouldn't matter to them because they would laugh and laugh and had a good time even if they couldn't catch any fish.

When I started painting my canvas, I used blue because it symbolizes my sadness. When I started drawing my heart, it all started to come back to me. When my grandpa died I thought it wouldn't be the same. In my artwork, I drew a broken heart. There was a piece broken off because my grandpa meant the world to me, so when he died I felt like some of my heart was gone. Inside of the piece that was broken off, I put things in there that reminded me of him. On the other side of my heart are things that I love.

After people view my art, I want them to know that if you lose someone very close to you, you have to just keep getting up, don't give up, and don't let that bring you down. The person that you lost would want you to not give up on your dreams even if they are not there with you.

Artist's Name: Amaria Martinez

Title: The Hair Filled With Pain

Cost: \$55

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Have you ever had someone who tried to bring you down and make you lose your self esteem? Well I have. Middle school problems aren't all just about forgetting your pencil or someone taking the swing you wanted on the swing set. The purpose of my art is to show people that even if someone tries to bring you down, no matter what, you have to get back up again.

I took time to think about my challenge. This artwork shows you what I have been through. My challenge is that I have had people who made me feel like I was less than them. What I mean is, I had problems with low self esteem because of bullying. People bullied me for the way I looked and called names. The one name that hurt me the most was the name "five-head". People called me this all just because I had a "big" forehead.

These challenges have shaped me into the person I am today. Now, I am a better person. And, I'm also more confident with myself than I was before.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince. In paragraph 23, of *The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina* the author states "But DePrince remained a shy girl, painfully self-conscious of her vitiligo." I relate to Michaela DePrince right here because after people bullied me all the time I became very insecure about the things they said about me.

When I started painting my canvas, I used the colors black for darkness, white for hope, and gray for motivation. The cotton balls and pom poms represent my hair. I used all these things because when people were bullying me I gained motivation to prove them wrong about the things they said about me.

When you look at my art, I want you to think about if you ever bullied someone or if you saw someone get bullied. I want you to say sorry to the person and think about how that affected the person you bullied, or if you see someone get bullied I want you to stand up for them. Even if you're scared, because it's the right thing to do.

Artist's Name: Connor Pearson

Title:- Scattered

Cost: \$60

Donation: American Humane Society

In my opinion, having ADHD makes it harder for me to follow directions, and opens up people for bullying. Some people like to bully people with ADHD because sometimes we don't always listen to them. For example, sometimes people with ADHD can't stop talking, getting themselves into trouble. Other times, having ADHD makes me think through math problems in school.

Having ADHD is hard for me. For example, I'm not very smart at math and the medicine I take for ADHD runs out at the end of the day. This is a problem because math is at the end of the day. People make fun of me for not knowing what to do in math. I also talk to myself and see people that are not there, which I also get made fun of for, but I don't really care.

I get made fun of because of my hair, the things I wear, and my shoes. In my opinion, I don't care what shoes I wear and I even buzz my hair because people did not like my hair. I then sold my hair to kids with cancer. I get made fun of for the way I act and how my voice is highly pitched. Sometimes I don't pay attention because I have ADHD and it makes me distracted by little things. I also have anxiety about talking in front of a lot of people I don't really know, like doing class projects where you have to go up in the front of the class. It kinda feels like butterflies in your stomach, like the speaker in the poem *I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid*. I have trouble focusing on my work and that's why my work is mostly missing for school: I don't have fun on Fridays when other students earn free time because of it. I draw a lot on my work, which also distracts me from class assignments.

In my art, I used buttons, sponges, stings, rocks and paper for my ADHD. There are two people standing on my canvas, and they both have schizophrenia. Things are very scattered around on the canvas.

When you look at my artwork, I want you to feel special. I want you to feel happy and positive.

Artist's Name: Chanyel Downs

Title: How It Feels To Not Be Good At Reading

Cost: \$60

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

I struggle in school. Struggling with reading and math has caused my time in school to feel like an uphill battle. The purpose of my art is to show you how it feels to struggle in school.

Reading and math have been a challenge from the time I started school everyday. This has caused me to feel sad. For example, last year I felt defeated and sad. Reading and math were so hard for me: Division is really hard. It is also really hard in reading to pronounce all the words because I don't know all of the sounds that the letters make.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I work really hard to learn how to do math and learn how to read. I come to school everyday on time. I'm also organized and have my folders and pencils. I am eager to learn.

In our Savvas text we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. However, I do not relate to them. The characters in the book have struggles, but their struggles aren't like mine. I wish we could read stories about kids who struggle with reading and math. Or, read about irritating sisters.

I thought it would be a good idea to draw a character who struggled with reading and math. I found a character I really liked and tried to draw that character. Then, I looked up a math equation and put the wrong answer so it looked like the character was having a hard time solving it. I wrote a word and misspelled it so it makes it seem like he doesn't know how to spell things. He has a crown on top of his head because even though he is not good at reading and math, that doesn't mean he is not smart.

When you view my artwork, I want you to see how my character is struggling with math and spelling words. I also want you to help people that you see struggling. Help them learn to read, spell, and do math.

Artist's Name: Dylenn Poe
Title: Our bodies? Not for you

Cost: \$60

Donation: Center for Reproductive Rights

No matter what you think, it can happen to you, too. Sexual assault, harassment, and rape can happen to anyone, anywhere. The purpose of my art is to discuss that sexual assault doesn't just happen to women, it can happen to men too. I also want my art to discuss what you were wearing or what you look like. I want victims to know that they deserve justice and the government shouldn't let attackers just run around free. The sad part is that it happens to little kids, too.

One of my personal challenges is that, unfortunately, I got molested and assaulted at age five. This helps discuss my topic because my molester is still running free today. I still feel emotions from the incident. The worst part is that he made me keep it to myself and if I told anyone, like my sister, he would hurt her.

I took time to understand my challenge and understand how these challenges shaped me. It has influenced me because when I'm older I want to join government parties fighting against abortion laws and rape crimes. It has shaped me on who I am and how I think it is crazy how the government lets assailants run around free. I sometimes think about the possibility that these assailants are freely roaming the country and still assaulting, harassing, and hurting other people. The incident will forever scar me, but it will never change my opinion on sexual crimes.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters that have gone through struggles. I relate to Lorelle, the girl who got cat-called in the memoir *"From Bad Boy"* by Walter Dean Myers. In paragraph 6 of our Savvas book, the author states that he thought the girl named Lorelle was pretty and so did the other boys, so they sent a few "woo woos". This is called cat-calling. I felt a connection to her because I can tell from her point of view that she got that often and didn't like it. I also feel like that was the reason she challenged them to do stretches, and if they couldn't, they had to dance. So, she could have revenge since they had cat-called her. This relates to me because I also get cat-calls. One of the reasons I get cat-called is because of my chest. The other reason is because..... I'm "Curvy for my age". I hope that one day I will stop getting cat-called for being too "curvy for my age".

When I started to paint the background of my art, I chose black so the colors of my art would pop more. I painted the body of a woman and added small hand prints to show where the assaulter touched her. I used different colors to show it didn't just happen once. I added things that male catcallers would say to a "curvy" and "hot" woman such as "hello gorgeous", "come here pretty thing", "I know you want me". I added scars and bruises to show that most of the time when a person gets sexually assaulted, they sadly get bruised or cut to stop resisting and to be quiet so no one would hear that person.

When you look at my art I want you to think about all of the people that unfortunately got sexually assaulted. And, think about how you would feel if you had that happen to you or if it happened to another person close to you. Would you want justice for that person or yourself? Well, I want you to know there are hundreds and thousands of people that are sexually assaulted and are still walking around without justice everyday. I want you, for me and all of the other victims of sexual assault, to fight for their right and justice. That is why I'm donating to an association of women's rights.

Artist's Name: Emely Fernandez

Title: Shattered Glass

Cost: \$45

Donation: American Humane Society

Did you know that most children my age can't even look at themselves in the mirror, or just don't like what they see? The purpose of my art is to let people on the outside know/understand how we feel. Another purpose of my art is to show that people, mainly children, don't like who they are. I am hoping my art can help someone become themselves. I believe people who do not like themselves have three options:

1. Suck it up
2. Ignore what people say
3. Go back to being your normal self

Whenever I'm in the bathroom, I barely look at myself. I pretend to be someone else because I'm jealous of other people's lives. I don't like the way I look. I think to myself "*Oh she's so pretty*" or "*Oh I wish I was her*". The point is that some people feel that others won't like who they are, what they worship, or what they like. Yes, some people will judge others. My Dad once explained "*Whenever something happens, brush it off. Ignore it. You'll live.*"

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me, but soon I found that I didn't show my true self. I realized I am not alone in accepting my challenges; many other people do not like the way they look. I understand why I feel this though: It's because people in general feel like this because people make others feel bad about who they are, sometimes bullying them or teasing them. I feel like that almost all the time. Nobody wants to get bullied.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to a character named Myers. When he was younger, Myers had to hide books into a paper bag so people didn't know he liked books. In paragraph 3 of *Bad Boy*, the author states "I would sometimes bump into older kids, and they would tease me for reading books" and, "Soon, I got fed up with it and hid the books into a paper bag hiding them from the kids". Finally, "It's fine. I already have writing and reading on my list. I'll just add dancing." Myers had to hide all of these things from people because they are not "boy things" and he was afraid of being teased. I'm not a boy, but still I will get teased for liking to read.

When I started to paint on my canvas, I used a tealish color (I really wanted to use dark blue). It symbolizes emptiness. And when I finished with the teal coloring, I used a lighter blue, which makes it seem like the younger me was the only thing on the painting with a mirror. The mirror had my face crossed out because I didn't like what I saw, and because that wasn't me. The wonky words on the top symbolized how wonky, weird, and silly I think I am, or pretend I am. The foil symbolizes the shattered glass that I had broken, trying to push out the thoughts of someone else. Finally, my artwork showcases me as tiny and smaller than I really am because it shows that this is my younger self. Me from some time ago.

I am hoping my art will get you to feel/understand how we all feel. Even if you get hated for being yourself, you might just make a person's day: Just getting a little smile can make you feel like you. This might cause someone to end world hunger or something! I just want some people to be happy with who they are. Everyone deserves to feel special in some kind of way, right? Don't you think so?

Artist's Name: Grace Hardwick

Title: Hide

Cost: \$55

Donation: AAPI

Has someone ever said something mean to you or someone else? When I am at school, some kids can be really harsh and say really hurtful things to each other. This happens sometimes when I go to family gatherings, too. The purpose of my art is to make people understand and know that they are not alone. I want people to know the struggles of being a kid. Also, some kids may not go through these things, but others may.

One of the biggest challenges in my life is not being heard. One of the challenges that I struggle with is hurtful words, being called gross for liking the food that I eat or stupid, dumb, weak, weird, ugly and sensitive. I also hate when people say things like you're just a kid and then the next moment, act like I am supposed to know everything. These challenges tell me and make me feel as though I am not worth anything and that my feelings don't matter. But they do matter. I matter.

My challenges have changed the way I am today. I do not bring my favorite snacks to school any more. Also, I don't really say how I truly feel any more because I feel like nobody else cares. And, sometimes I feel as though I am a bother to anyone and everyone.

In our Savvas text, our school reading textbook, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to the text *Bad Boy*. In paragraph 11 of *Bad Boy*, the author states "I like dancing too but I had to pretend that I didn't like it. No big deal. I was already keeping reading and writing poems a secret; I would just add dancing." I relate to this because he has to hide things so that he doesn't get bullied. I guess I do the same thing whether it is by kids or grown adults. I believe it is ok to speak out and eat your favorite foods no matter how you feel, who you are around, or where you are. Be yourself.

In my art, I used the colors black and blue to describe my sad and dark feelings. I also used white paper that I put words on to describe what I was hiding. I used modge podge, paint, cloth, and yarn.

When people view my art, I want them to know that they are not alone and to not let people hurt you or make fun of you.

Artist's Name: Jezabelle Kiefer

Title: Do you ever feel...

Cost: \$55

Donation: Center for Reproductive Rights

Did you know that I have a sister, Kashlyn? Sometimes, it's great having her in my life, but most of the time it's miserable. My purpose of my art is to express and reflect my feelings about how family can affect you.

Growing up with a sister was good at first, until she started acting rude towards me and ignoring me. This made me angry. She treated me this way, and I felt like she didn't even care about me. Feeling like my sister does not care about me changed me: I used to look up to her and always was happy, but now she makes me feel unhappy.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I have come to understand my feelings more. My sister has made me feel left out and sad. I act a certain way around her just so she doesn't get mad at me for doing something wrong.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Jacqueline Woodson from *Brown Girl Dreaming*. In paragraph 5 of *Brown Girl Dreaming*, the author states, "Odella, Odella, Odella." This sentence explains so much for three words: It resonates with me. I feel that way about Kashlyn. It's not about the grades, the love, the envelopes, but rather about her. I feel my sister always has to be the center of attention and I'm left out.

When I was starting to paint my canvas, I painted it turquoise blue. I used this color to demonstrate how much I'm sinking in my own feelings. In the background, you'll see some black, with symbols dark clouds. This represents how dark I feel inside. I put a heart on my shirt to show that I still care about my sister.

When you see this piece of art, it shows more than it looks. When you see it, you see sadness and how lonely I felt. Going through this wasn't easy and I'm sure someone else experienced one of these feelings. It's not good to be sad and keep feeling sad. Telling a trusted adult or a close friend helps me not feel that way because they understand what you're going through. Nobody should ever feel this way no matter what happens. Family may hurt you, but they're always there for you. "There is no path to happiness, happiness is the path".

Artist's Name: Joel Randles

Title: Broken

Cost: \$55

Donation: National Alliance to End Homeless

My life has been a roller coaster ever since my parents broke up. They thought it wouldn't work out and thought it was better to be apart. They separated.

The breakup affected me. Mainly, I could not see my Mom a lot because she was always working. I could only see her in the morning when she would drop me off and in the afternoon when she picked me up from school. Also, I saw my Mom when she was not working, which was almost never. Time spent with my Mom is in the car on the way to my grandparents' house, where my Mom would drop me off so she could go home and get ready for work and leave.

I took time to think about my challenge and to understand how it shaped me. I believe I need to spend more time with my Mom. So when she is off, I go downstairs to play games or watch a movie with her. If I don't do that, I do something fun with my Mom. If she can't do anything, it is probably because she is sleeping.

In the SAVVAS reading book, the person that I relate to the most is Michaela DePrince because she lost her parents. I didn't lose my parents, but I hardly see my Mom and Dad.

When I painted, I used red to symbolize love and black to show darkness. I also made broken pieces to show a broken heart. I am trying to show how you can have a broken heart sometimes that can always be fixed.

I would like the viewer of this art piece to feel like they can accomplish anything, no matter what, even if they have a broken heart.

Artist's Name: Kadrian Alexander

Title: It is Hard Without You

Cost: \$50

Donation: Color Of Change

Did you know that I, Kadrian Alexander, was the first person in my family to play football? I also have an unspoken relationship with my Dad. The purpose of my art is to show people that playing a sport can get your mind off of what is going on in your life.

My challenge is, what I believe, one of the worst challenges a kid can have: My Dad has left and went to "milk island" and will not come back for 11 years. This challenge is hard for me. My Dad always told me he would be back or come to see me, but that still has not happened at all. I have only seen my Dad a few times since I was four years old. I wish I could see him, but I don't think I will ever see him again. My mom said "he is just in jail and he will call you sometimes too". My Dad has called me a few times and sent me shoes and jackets. Although he has sent me things from jail, I wish he could give me things in person. For 11 years, technically 10 years, I have not seen him. However, playing football has made me the person I am now and has helped me deal with his absence.

I started football at four years old. I started throwing a ball with my Dad before he left. Before he left, he would always tell me how good I am as a quarterback. He would always say "One day you are going to be a star as a quarterback," so I took his advice and kept my legacy going.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Not being able to see my Dad is a big challenge. However, football is something for me to get my mind off of my Dad being gone for 11 years. When my Dad left, I knew at the time he would want me to play the sport and to never give up. The only reason why I said "to never give up" is because if he was around, he would tell me this. He would tell me to never ever give up, even if it is too hard.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Jacqueline Woodson. In the poem "Sometimes" of *Brown Girl Dreaming*, the author states "There is only one other house on our block where a father doesn't live." I think I'm like Jacqueline Woodson from *Brown Girl Dreaming* because she had to deal with her Dad not being around. To deal with an absent father, she came up with stories as a way of dealing with her Dad not being around. I deal with my Dad being away by playing football.

When I painted, I used orange paint and gray and pink cloth. I used these colors to make people feel how my jersey is ripping off. And, I hope people feel how my soul is ripping off of my body. The brown paint is for my body and I used glass to show how my Dad is in my heart, but my heart is broken because he is away. I would like donations to go to Colors of Change because people sometimes make fun of other people's race. For example, one time I was at Myrtle Beach and I felt people made fun of me because of my skin. This also happened on a trip to Disney.

Artist's Name: Kasey Harvey

Title: Can't Trust Anyone

Cost: \$50

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

My life has been a roller coaster. I have had great and sad times with best friends. It is hard to leave your best friend in the world. Not only did I have to leave my best friend, but I had to deal with the fact that she hates me.

My old dance teacher was Cathy, from Dance Moms. She was really tough to dance for. She was treating me like I wasn't a person; like I was a robot. I was always ignored. No one really liked me there, except three people, so I left her dance studio. When people leave the studio, Cathy tells her dancers not to be friends with the girls who leave. She tells them to delete their phone numbers and never be friends with them again. That is what happened to me and my friend.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. This experience has caused me not to trust friends like I used to. Trusting friends is hard now.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to none of them. I would like to read a story one day about a kid that can actually trust people. I feel that all people should have a friend that makes them happy and doesn't force you to do what they want to do.

I want people to look at my art and say "Wow". I feel that people should all have a friend and that makes them happy and is not forcing you to do what they want to do.

Artist's Name: Khloe Walker

Title: Dead Hurts

Cost: \$55

Donation Organization: Cancer Research Institute

The purpose of my art is to explore, understand, reflect and encourage others because my challenge was when my grandpa died. It was sad. I didn't get to go to his funeral because I was with my uncle in Kingston at that time when he died, but I learned that you only have one life; unless you're a cat. My other challenge was when my dog died. When she died I became scared of some dogs. I have no idea why any time I see a dog I would probably run away like the dog was chasing me.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me to be a better person. No matter what you do in life, be happy before you leave the world. When my dog died my friend told me to always smile and never be down. She was my best friend and I will always remember her as my best friend. I will never forget her words of courage.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Micheala DePrince because Micheala saw the people that she loved pass away and she couldn't do anything to stop them from dying.

My art symbolizes love, faith, hope and dedication to others who have lost someone they really love. Some people even get depression from losing someone like your mom, dad, brother, sister, or a wife, husband and a best friend. This is why you should remember to always tell your loved ones you love them before it's too late. I used the color to make it look like she shows on the outside that she is happy, but on the inside she is really sad but no one can see that she is really crying. Just because someone is always happy does not mean she is really happy. Someone can be hurting on the inside but act like they're happy. The gem I used is to symbolize the happiness she is showing but at the same time she is really sad.

I want my viewer to see that no matter what you do in life, be happy. My friend told me to always smile and never be down. She was my best friend and I will always remember her.

I will never forget my little friend, my dog, either. I even named her after myself, Khloe. This name comes from the Greek word Khloe meaning "green shoot on a plant or flower" and taken to mean "blooming". In Greek mythology, Khloe was another name given to Demeter, the goddess of Agriculture.

Artist's Name: Logan Radel

Title: Twin brother

Cost: \$45

Donation Organization: American Humane Society

Did you know that I am an Identical twin with my brother, Lucas? We look exactly alike but we are two different people. The purpose of my art is to show the differences my brother and I have. Painting brings me joy and I want people to do things they enjoy or that bring them happiness.

Being a twin doesn't always mean we get along all the time or do things the same. For example; we share a bedroom and he never takes responsibility for keeping it clean or cleaning it up when we are asked. I like clean and organized space and Lucas does not care either way. It is the same way at school because I check my missing work and my grades, and my brother does not seem to care about them. Being responsible and wanting to keep things clean and organized is not always something boys my age care about. I have noticed not a lot of kids care about their grades and I feel like I get picked on because I want to do well in school.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I do not like messy spaces and instead of allowing the room to get bad waiting for him to help me, I just do it myself, a little everyday so it's not a lot at once. I do not mind that my friends think I am crazy for working extra hard on my school work. I enjoy doing my best, even though they may not like it I encourage them to do their work as well.

In our Savvas reading book, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I would have to say I am a lot like Walter Dean Myers from "Bad Boy". Walter likes and does things that are not considered "boy things", like dancing, reading, and poetry. I care about my grades and try to keep my room clean, which are things that boys aren't supposed to do, or like to do.

In the background I used blue and orange because blue is my favorite color and orange is my brother's favorite color.

When you look at my art I want you to know that being a twin brother is not easy so don't think being a twin brother is easy.

Artist's Name: Lucia Herrera

Title: School & Sports are Hard

Cost:\$55

Donation: Center for Reproductive Rights

I never thought this would happen. I struggle with keeping my sports and school balanced. The purpose of my art is to tell the struggle that me and other kids have with sports and school.

When people think of athletes they think of perfect and organized kids. It's not always true. You might think it would get better as I got older, but it got worse. I was never the best or organized in school or sports. For example, in school I had to get straight A's. I don't know if I always got straight A's. I thought I couldn't do any sports anymore. At the time I had 5 teams: 2 basketball and 3 soccer. I would have practice every night except Friday, but on Fridays I would be going somewhere for a tournament.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. They made me overworked, exhausted, but also happy. It was confusing because I love everything that I've accomplished but at the same time it was so much. I didn't know what my feelings were: was I happy or overworked? Now I have my feelings mostly under control. It is very exhausting and hard, but it is also fun and I am so happy when I'm doing it.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to the story "Michaela DePrince". In paragraph 23 of "Michaela DePrince" the author states "DePrince remained a shy girl, painfully self-conscious" I feel like this relates to me because I was shy and self-conscious about myself because of school and sport I didn't have time to socialize. This led me to not be confident in myself.

In my art I chose the color gray and black for my background because I want it to feel gloomy and sad. I used tissue paper in my art to symbolize being torn or broken.

When people look at my art I want them to know that kids struggle with school, sports, or anything else. When they need help, I want people to help them and don't want kids to get pushed away and told that they are being dramatic. I also want kids to know that it is ok to struggle and they are not alone.

Artist's Name: Marcel Waller

Title: Without a Father Figure

Cost: \$45

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

My life has been a roller coaster. At the age of 6 my dad walked out of my life. The purpose of my art is to show how growing up without a father figure has affected me.

When my dad walked out of my life I felt lonely and felt like I had no one there to talk to. I didn't have someone who I could talk to about stuff that I would talk to my dad about before he left. Ever since my dad left, I struggle daily with my anger, sadness and loneliness. It's hard to express myself and my emotions which leads me to getting really mad and then I become rude. At school, kids will make mean comments to me and say "that's why your dad left." When I hear this, I get angry and sad and I react by exploding because I can't express everything I am feeling and thinking. While my dad was present in my life, I learned a lot from him. I learned how to play basketball and a little bit of football.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how my challenges shaped me. Today, I realize that if my dad didn't leave I wouldn't be so angry. He could teach me some new things I never learned. I would probably be way more respectful to others.

In making my art, I used paint. I used black and light blue for the background. I made clouds with the color black and I used the color light blue for the water. I put a big yellow sign with me, my mom, and my brother and sister. I chose light blue because it reminds me of a sad color.

When you view my artwork I want to let you know that even though you don't have a father figure or a mother figure you still matter. I want my viewer to know that it's ok to not have a father or a mother figure. It's ok.

Artist's Name: Nevaeh Pepper

Title: All About Cheer

Cost: \$55

Donation: American Humane Society

Did you know that being part of a competitive cheerleading team can take a big role? The purpose of my art is to believe that you can do it because if you don't you will not get to where you are right now. When I was cheering, I thought I wouldn't make friends but I did. I have been doing it for five years. If you believe you will achieve it. The purpose of my art is to teach young girls like us that they can do whatever they want when they grow up because some girls don't think they can do it.

I took time to think about my challenges and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Well when I was six I cheered for Diamond All Stars, and then I quit. So, my mom put me in Perfect Storm Allstars. I have been doing it for five years. Then this year I tried out and I made it but they would have us run in their big parking lot so I decided to quit.

In our Savaas text, I relate to *Bad Boy* because he was always getting bullied by the big kids just because he liked to read books. Then he didn't want the guys to know that he liked to dance. Then he had to put his books from the library in a brown paper bag and had to keep a secret from his friends that he was doing dance practice with the girls. I relate to him because we both like to dance.

I used paint and yarn because my thought process was happiness. When I cheer I'm happy or excited. I believe that girls can do anything.

When people view my artwork I want people to think like wow this girl really did a good job. Also, when you view my artwork if you ever want to cheer, dance, play soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball, I want you to know if you believe you will achieve. Don't listen to people because they are just jealous because you can do anything in life.

Artist's Name: Niah Humphreys
Title: Your Perfect Is Not My Perfect
Cost: \$55
Donation: Color Of Change

The pressure of fitting in can affect you more than you may think. Trying to fit in and be perfect is not always a positive thing. The purpose of my art is to express my feelings on how people treat me on a daily basis and how I try to overcome them.

Being perfect isn't a thing, but being you is. I was six when I wanted to start to look like other girls and I asked my mom to straighten my hair so I looked like my best friend. When I came home from school every day I always had something I knew I wanted to do to myself. I wanted contacts so I didn't have brown eyes. I wanted to wear the same clothes as the girls at school. I wanted to have the same body as them. I was six when this started and I still want to be like them. But now I am realizing I like my curly hair and my brown eyes and skin, and the clothes I wear are beautiful. Being black is not something you should be ashamed of; it's something to be proud of.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Having this challenge makes me feel like no one likes me and that I'm not pretty enough. I have straight hair now and I miss my curly hair. If any of my friends or one of my little sisters say they don't feel pretty I tell them they are beautiful. I take my frustration and help others not feel like me.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince because we've both shared the experience of learning how to be confident in our own skin. In paragraph 23 of Michaela DePrince she states "I had trouble looking at myself in the mirror." I can relate to this because it's hard for me to look at myself in the mirror. Every time I do, I feel ugly. People made fun of Michaela and she was hated on because she had a skin condition. I feel like people don't like me because of my skin. And just because it's not completely true does not mean it's not there. It has gotten better through the years but it's still here.

The colors I used have meanings and the reasons for each color. Gray is sadness, brown for the color of my skin, and black for loneliness. I also have different materials like yarn for the feeling of other girls' hair, pom poms for the feeling of my hair, a sponge for my nose to show how I think my nose feels. There are also words around my art to show people that words hurt. For example words like "you're ugly" or "it's all your fault" etc. It hurts. It really does.

I hoped that after you look at my art you realize not everyone is happy about how they look. If a kid or anyone tells you something about how they feel about their body, don't act like you don't care. Be a good friend, mother, father, sibling etc. I would like any one with this problem to go see someone who you know will help. Just because I'm a kid does not mean I don't feel this way. Anyone can feel this way. You look amazing and I hope you tell other people this too.

Artist's Name: Parker Hendricks

Title: Getting Bullied

Cost: \$55

Donation: American Humane Society

Do you know I've experienced being bullied throughout middle school? The purpose of my art is to make people understand getting bullied can hurt other people in ways they didn't imagine.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I wrote about bullying because it is a bit childish. People called me a rat, they pushed me and bullied me. I want people to know that I went through it so they can read my story. It might help them a little bit. I got called names not so nicely, and it made me feel sad. I thought nobody liked me, because they called me those names that I did not like.

I felt sad in a way that nobody liked me. I went to my old teacher's room and sat there, only me with my thoughts. My sad thoughts. It helps me when I just sit there by myself. When no one's talking to me I just think about happy things, and it makes me feel better. Then I go to school again. I feel better than if it happens all over again.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Myers from *Bad Boy*. In paragraph 4 of *Bad Boy* the author states, "I would sometimes run into older kids who would tease me about my reading" and "Books were special and said something about him." This relates to me.

The materials that I used are paper, mod podge, and fabric. I used these materials because I liked them better. I used the mod podge to glue it. The, I used the fabric to make it vibrant.

I want my audience to feel inspired by my artwork. I want them to be inspired to not bully, and I want them to learn that bullying is not the right thing to do. I want my audience to learn through my experience that bullying is not good.

Artist's Name: Riley Ault

Title: Depression

Cost: \$60

Donation Organization: The Trevor Project

No matter what you think, it can happen to you too. My challenge that I am facing is being bullied and labeled. The purpose of my art is to express my feelings about being bullied to the person that is looking at my art. I will also express my feelings about feeling left out on things that can change your life in a positive way. It will also show people how to stop bullying and labeling people smaller than you because it is not right to bully and label people.

Being bullied is a very hard challenge to go through. The reason why being bullied is a very hard challenge to go through is because you will feel like you are left out and like you don't belong. I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles, I relate to Walter. In paragraph 4 of *Bad Boy*, the author states, "When I brought home books from the library, I would sometimes run into older kids who would tease me about my reading". The reason why I would relate to this paragraph is because I get teased about my reading.

I used red to symbolize anger and blue to symbolize depression. I cut out 10 people's faces to show that sometimes people are labeled. I made a ketchup bottle and instead of labeling it "Ketchup", I used the words "Labels are for food, not people".

I want my viewer to realize how hard it is to be bullied and labeled. I want viewers to understand how hard it is to experience being labeled and bullied.

Artist Name: Tyler Marshall
Title: Football O-line
Cost: \$50
Donation: Scholarship America

Can you believe I got yelled at by my coach for standing up while blocking my man, even when I'm trying my hardest? I had to sit out for two plays. I got mad. The purpose of my art is to express my frustration with the emotions that I have when I play football.

My struggle right now is not feeling like I am good enough at playing football. In regards to my blocking, I had good snaps, but I'm not getting up fast enough to block the defense. Talking about the o-line, players go right past me and tackle my quarterback in the back field and the quarterback might get hurt. I found out that one of the things that I was doing wrong was that I didn't hold onto his pads, so I practiced more every day. Playing on the offensive line is hard sometimes because you get hurt and twist your ankle.

I am dealing with my struggle by practicing every day. I did get better at the next game. I'm proud of myself for that. My teammates help me on the football field. I am doing the same thing as the rest of the O-Line and my coach is not yelling anymore.

In the SAVVAS textbook, we have read many stories. I relate to Walter Dean Myers from *Bad Boy*. I relate to him because he is an athlete and so am I. He also hides the way that he feels, which is something that I do. He also likes to have fun with the activities that he does, and so do I.

In my art, I painted with red, black, and gray. I chose those colors to represent the blood rushing through my body, the darkness that I felt, and the gray represents my bones. I chose to only use paint because I wanted to cover the painting.

I want the viewer of my artwork to learn to do things right and not make mistakes. One of the ways that I want them to see this is through realizing that they need to practice. To support me and others like me, the viewers of my artwork can donate to Scholarship America, and to go to local football games.

Artist's Name: Caylynn Howard
Title: Close To Mom
Cost: \$50
Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Did you know that ever since I was in preschool I would always follow my mom everywhere and I was very close with her? But now I don't feel as close as I want to be to her. Do you also feel this way about someone?

The purpose of my art is to let people understand that other people also want to be close to a specific person and it's not only them struggling. Its me too they are not the only person. I want to be very close to my mom like we used to be when I was a grade schooler. I used to always be around my mom and now it's not the same as it was in the past. When I started getting older she also started to make more money at her new job. So she's always worried about work, my brother's football games, and dinner. She's a very hard working mom.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. It started to make me think so much about her and how I miss her being by my side and always having my back. She is so kind and caring. I just have been thinking alot about her lately. She always helps when I need it. She is just so nice. I just don't feel a special connection with her anymore. That's what makes me worried and sad. I just remember when I went around her and she was so nice. We used to watch shows and movies together. But now she just doesnt have the time anymore. That makes me really sad that we don't spend a lot of time together like we did in the past.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Bad Boy, only because I hide it. I don't really show people that I really want to be close to her. In paragraph 4 of "Bad Boy" the author states, "I began taking a brown paper bag to bring to the library to bring my books home in," I say I relate to bad boy only because I hide that I want to actually be close to my mom so that's like hiding it in a brown paper bag .It's not that i'm saying my brother gets more attention. She talks to me on and off. It's not like she's ignoring me or anything. We just are not close anymore like I want to be. So if you think that I'm saying that I want to be the favorite I don't. I just want to have someone to talk to when I feel sad, mad or just very annoyed. I miss being close like I was. Can you relate? Do you want to be close to someone?

The art that I used was paint and paper. My thought process was I didn't know if I was going to finish or if it was going to look nice or not. The materials I used are gray paint, pink paint, orange paint, and white, also bits of blue to show sadness. I also used paper that says "feeling left out!" and I modge podge-ed it down.

When people read this and see my art I want them to think that kids and pre-teens have feelings and not just adults. I also want them to think that we all put lots of time into this essay and our artwork because we did. We have been working on this project for one month. The last thing I want them to think is that all students have struggles that challenge us and so do adults. I'm not trying to say only adults do, I'm trying to say that students also have some struggles. In conclusion this artwork was fun to make and so was this essay. I enjoyed this because we got to paint and add different things that we wanted to add. I hope you enjoyed this.

Artist's Name: Aiden Steible

Title: What It Feels Like to Lose Someone Important

Cost: \$50

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Do you think you know what it is like to lose someone important to you? It's horrible to think about. The purpose of my art is to show what it's like to lose someone that's the world to you.

My challenge is I lost my grandparents and my aunt. They meant the world to me and the universe. I would not trade them for anything. I just want to be with them for 6 hours . Please grant my wish. They died on my birthday. They were coming to my house then they got in a car wreck and did not survive the car wreck. I did not celebrate my birthday.

I am a child who loved his grandparents and his aunt so much. So I have a hole in my heart. I loved them so much I stayed in my room for 5 days. So did my mom not the crying part that much. After that I did not want to see anyone at all. Now I am still sad they died in front of my house. My aunt died of cancer 5 days later. She survived the car wreck but not my grandparents.

I think I relate to Michaela DePrince. In paragraph 4 sentence 2 the author states one was the favorite child then there is number 27 was Michaela DePrince because she has a skin condition called vitiligo. I have a disorder called skeletal bone disorder. Michaela DePrince was the least favorite, like me. Me and Michaela DePrince have some stuff in common like we were both despised and have bullies. We are happy now thanks to our family or friends.

The reason I made my art like this is because I want to show where they are now, how empty my life is without them , how boring my life is, and how sad I am without them. I still miss them so much. My art is dark, gloomy, sad and empty. I don't want anyone to have the same life as mine. I don't have anyone except my mom. My dad left me with my mom and her brother or my uncle. This is why I used dark gloomy sad paint and paper cut outs.

When people see my art I want them to feel what I feel. I am still sad and mad at times.

Artist's Name: Ava Nupp

Title: Bullying

Cost: \$60

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Have you ever been bullied before? Well I have. At my school, in my pod, people bully other people and I'm pretty sure that those kids who get bullied HATE getting bullied just like I do. They say "ew, look, it's the ugly girl" or they call you fishy and stupid. If you brushed your hair that morning, and it gets nappy like mine does, they would say hey do you brush your hair or is there baby birds in it? Some people bully you for the way your hair looks and it's very hard because when you try to tell the people that you brushed it they don't believe you. Even some of the people you want to be friends with can bully you. I have to deal with that because this girl who bullied me, I wanted to be friends with her too and some of the boys too.

My challenges at school are bullies and they bully me everyday. I hate it. It makes me sad because they call me fishy, dumb, stupid, ugly, and weird and in this painting I am trying to make a difference to the kids who get bullied all the time, and this is the challenges I go through at school.

I deal with my challenges by telling the teachers or counselors, and if there is not a teacher around I just ignore them, but it's really hard to ignore them. I just do it anyway and sometimes I just walk out of the classroom to my tutor Mrs. Poston. Sometimes I get in trouble for walking out of the classroom and I also just try to stay away from them by hanging out with other friends that are nice to me.

I relate to Michela DePrince because she gets bullied and I also get bullied. She gets called mean stuff like I get called mean words or names. She probably hated it as much as I do. She's probably tired of it like I am. She probably wants it to stop like I do. She probably wanted to leave as much as I did. Me and Michela DePrince have some stuff in common with getting bullied.

When I was painting my art work I used dark blue to show sadness, I used gray to show enemies and darkness, and I used brown for the hair, and I used the color aqua to say the word bullied, and last color I did was white to say all the stuff they call me and laugh at me. It makes me really upset and sad that they say the stuff they say to me. Sometimes it makes me cry, but I am brave to tell the teachers and counselors. Sometimes I'm scared to tell them and I put diamonds on it for diamond rain and I tried to make the girl in the middle crying and I hope people will be kind to others.

I want people to stop and think about if they ever were bullied, just how I get bullied, and so they can feel the way I do and feel all the struggles that I go through and see how disappointing it is to read this and how sad it sounds and tell me if you feel bad for me or not.

Artist's Name: Anessa Hardin
Title: Hate Can Grow to Something Big
Cost: \$45
Donation: Color of Change

Did you know that 28% of people have looked at themselves as ugly and useless? I have looked at myself as ugly and useless and I still do. There is a disorder for this, it is called Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD). The purpose of my art is to understand BDD. Twenty-four percent of people who have looked at themselves as ugly have committed suicide, and we need to stop thinking it is a bad thing because then people will think it is too embarrassing to get help and then won't get any help.

One challenge I am going through is feeling like I am not pretty enough and fat even though people tell me the opposite. Some people say I do it for attention, but I can't help it. My Mom did it too and it got passed on to me. She tries to help me with it sometimes, but it doesn't really seem to work. She tells me that she wants to help me because she never really learned that she is actually very beautiful and she still sometimes thinks bad things about herself. She doesn't want the same thing to happen to me. Another challenge I am trying to overcome is feeling I am being judged and holding on to it. I tend to feel like I am being judged just when someone looks at me for a while. Maybe they are judging me and maybe they're not, but I still think they are. Once I think that, I hold on to it for a long time. Sometimes, I even try to change myself because of that.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges have made me realize that I need to be more confident about me and my body. I'm always thinking negative things about myself and I am trying to stop, although it is very hard. I also always think that I have an answer wrong in class, so I never end up participating, leading people to think I don't know the answer.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince from *The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina*. In paragraph 23, it states "DePrince remained a shy girl, painfully self-conscious of her vitiligo." I am very much like that: I am a very shy girl to most people and sometimes even to my closest friends. I can be a crazy, energetic, outgoing person, but only in front of the people I trust the most. These people are who I trust with my life. I am a very self-conscious girl. For example, If we are supposed to be doing something in class, I try to see someone else do it to make sure I'm doing it right. So many things about me can change; if just one person makes a mean comment about me, it tends to cause me to want to change.

For my art I used black, blue, and purple paint. The black represents the darkness inside of me while the blue and purple represent my happiness. I made the border black because darkness is what surrounds me. The blue and purple swirls are the happiness hiding inside the darkness. When I see the people I truly love, it's like they open a pathway to my happiness while the darkness is so thick that barely anyone gets to see the happiness. The people who really love me will do anything to find that happiness.

I'm hoping that the viewer of this art never lets hate get to them because as soon as you do it never stops or goes away. Life can be hard sometimes, but not always. Hateful people can be very hurtful. I am hoping my art sends the message to not let hate get to you because it can lead to something more than being sad.

Artist's Name: Annabelle H. Lee

Title: Chaos

Cost: \$47

Donation: The Trevor Project

In my day-to-day life, I struggle with a lot of things. In these next few paragraphs, I will tell you my struggles. The purpose of my art is to show my struggles and how everything inside my head looks and feels.

I feel like everyday is a struggle. It is hard to complete simple tasks because of all of the horrible thoughts weighing me down. Sometimes I feel like some of my family members bother me, making me feel more tired and upset. I struggle to focus on my work and I feel like I'm digging a deeper and deeper hole for myself because I can't get the work done. You see, I feel like I'm an ice skater: It may seem like gliding on the ice peacefully and spinning, but it's way more than that- ice skating is a fun activity yet stressful. I have so many things to do with the stress of schoolwork. Pushing myself while juggling a bunch of other things in my life tires me so much. I just want to have at least one day without worrying about anything.

The influence of my challenges have shaped me. They are affecting my day-to-day life. They make me feel upset, worried, and unable to breathe. They consume me and trap me in a hole: Pretty much everyday gets gradually worse while more and more things are thrown at me. I feel like my plate is full.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about people who have gone through struggles. I don't relate to any of the people so far. I'm still waiting to read about someone just like me. I'm hoping soon we will read about someone who shares the same struggles and feelings I have right now.

For my art, I used three canvases to better represent the chaos in my life. The splotches of colors with the black background are supposed to represent the chaos and troubles in my life. The light blue is supposed to represent the calm and peace in my life, and when my struggles are away.

I would like the viewer to be aware of my struggles and take better care of themselves, if they don't already. I want them to be happy and to never dig a hole for themselves to be trapped in like I did.

Artist's Name: Arihana Somerville

Title: Wrong Everything

Cost: \$48

Donation: The Trevor Project

Did you know that some places ban transgender children from attending school? A new study shows that transadolescents face a 7.6% higher risk of suicide than their cisgender peers. It's easy to be too much of something in the eyes of others, but the real issue isn't being too much, it's thinking you are not much. Social constructs mislabel people: "too fat," "too skinny," "too ugly," "too pretty," "too perfect," and "too much of a teacher's pet". I want to highlight and discuss gender dysphoria, gender in general, and societal constructs in my art.

I want to highlight the effect of social constructs on people. For example, sometimes people are told to believe certain ideas and fit themselves in the mold from their parents, guardians, friends, family, and/or the people in their lives. A person's gender also impacts their lives: their clothes, colors, and children's toys are all classified by gender. Typically, girls get dolls, books, dresses, and princess crowns while boys get sports balls and hoodies. Next, girls are princesses and boys are treated as kings. Body dysphoria also impacts people. For example, some people may look into the mirror and stare, turning to the side in the mirror rubbing their stomach as if pregnant. Society tells people what bodies often look like, in which people may hurt themselves because they feel they do not meet expectations. You see perfectly petite, or perfectly sized girls and you hate them because you aren't them. Between 2.4 - 7% of the population deals with body dysphoria. This affects me because it makes me feel worthless and stupid. Imperfect. It can make people spend hours a day scrolling, staring, wishing, and hoping they are those girls or guys. Perfect. Or at least in their view of being perfect.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I have body image issues. When I look at myself sometimes I can see beauty. Confidence. But sometimes, I see distortion. I know so many other people who feel this way even if there is nothing wrong. It's themselves, family, and friends, who do this to them. Who tells them they aren't good enough.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to *Michaela DePrince*. I feel like we can relate to issues with our bodies, and what we think are issues. In paragraph 23 of *Michaela DePrince*, the author states that sometimes she had trouble looking at herself in the mirror. I feel like I can relate because at times it feels that way too. Also, issues with race or fear of rejection or how people perceive you. Personally, I try to act confident and radiate my energy to others so they feel better. It's not completely like Michaela, but I feel it's pretty similar.

The Trevor Project is an American nonprofit organization founded in 1998. It is focused on suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth offering a toll-free telephone number where confidential assistance is provided by trained counselors. They try to lower the 7.6% of trans youth that are more at risk for suicide than their cisgender peers. Donating, or even helping out at these organizations will help. Could you think about how life would be if the roles were reversed? Imagine having to be scared about believing your straight. Or, schools kicking you out because you are cisgender. Think of how that would affect you then come back to this reality. The reality where people die from themselves or others.

Artist's Name: Bailey Gaynor

Title: Confusion

Cost: \$45

Donation: American Cancer Society

My life has been and still is crazy. I'm still trying to figure out what's wrong with me. I am a normal person, right? Or, is there something else going on? I don't know yet, but I am still on the journey of figuring it out, and I know I will. I am putting the pieces of my life together one by one and hoping they fit because there's no going back now. The purpose of my art is to inform people of how hard it can be to have a mental illness or sometimes not even know what's wrong with you because of it. Maybe, it's also even about not having anyone to talk to about it because they don't believe you can have an illness in your mind at such a young age. I want to encourage people to stand up! I know that I need to work on this too, but some people still think they are just crazy because they have no one to talk to. I hope that this artwork speaks to people going through mental illness.

My challenge is getting through life while figuring out my mind. This is a challenge because it can affect the way I think about things: Most times I feel myself drifting off and staring into space. Sometimes, I feel myself talking too much (or feeling like I'm talking too much) because I have a lot on my mind. Usually, I put my thoughts into writing: I do **A LOT** of writing. I suggest finding someone, anyone, to talk to that will understand you because I know that talking to someone helps me. I talked to my best friend Antonia.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. They shaped me into someone who feels like no one shares the same thoughts as me. These challenges make me feel like no one is listening or cares (unless I am with someone I trust like with family and friends). Usually, all I need is some reassurance that other people share my thoughts.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to none of them. I do hope that in the future, we will read a story that I relate to in some way: A person in a story having trouble focusing on things that don't interest them, who is hyperactive, and talkative. They would be all over the place but love things organized all at the same time. Last, but not least, they would still be on their journey of figuring out what is going on inside their head.

In my artwork, I used paint and beads to make it 3D while eye-catching. I want people to look at my art and read this narrative. I also used bright and dark colors to make them contrast. In my mind, this will make people notice it more. The bright paint represents the craziness going on in the brain while the dark paint represents thinking about the true world in your head. Finally, the beads represent the ideas sticking out in my head.

I want you to know that when people talk to you about their feelings, they want you to listen, not tell them that they will be fine. I would like you to start to listen to people more. The more that goes on in a person's head, the more they will need to talk. If you don't listen to them, they become stressed, scared, and confused. This can lead to them not ever talking about their feelings again. Listen to them before you can't listen at all.

Artist's Name: Cecilia Ramos

Title: Why We Are Humans? Right?

Cost: \$45

Donation: Trevor Project

Did you know among all LGBTQ youth surveyed (ages 13–24), 82 % wanted mental healthcare in the past year? However, 60% of those youth were unable to access care. Next, 75% of LGBTQ teens experienced anxiety symptoms in the past year. Sixty-one percent experienced symptoms of depression. The purpose of my art is to inform people about the challenges of life in the LGBTQ community.

Some challenges people in the LGBTQ community face are unsupportive parents, jokes about the LGBTQ community, and being excluded. Unsupportive parents are either Christians or people who think the LGBTQ community is based on peoples' opinions who are in the LGBTQ community. Jokes about the LGBTQ community are not funny: I have heard people say, " *gay people support animals being killed and do it for fun!*" Then they laugh, and this is not a laughing matter. Lastly, people get excluded for being part of the LGBTQ community. I have experienced this, and it is not fun!

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me into who I am today. I may be a sixth-grader, but I know I am on the right path. I have unsupportive parents who I feel make me hide who I am, but my friends see the real me. I don't mind people who don't support the LGBTQ community because of their own personal beliefs; I only care when people go out of their way to make fun of the LGBTQ community. Exclusion from old friend groups has made me more friendly and outgoing.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers. In paragraph 4 of *Bad Boy*, the author states, "When I brought a book home from the library, I would sometimes run into older kids who would tease me about my reading." I feel connected to this line because instead of books, I had to hide my own identity from my mom and my brother.

For my artwork, I drew myself without a face, included writing, and a pansexual flag. The background represents me and who and what I am. The sun represents my inclusion within the LGBTQ community. The writing represents my thoughts and feelings. I used paint and love from my own heart to show people that I exist and homophobia should never exist.

I see homophobes everyday. Typically, they don't bother me and I don't bother them, but I know other people are dealing with this and I want them to know that they are not alone. We are in this together. As I made this art, I thought about how many kids like me or who may be suffering more will know that we are here and we should stand up for each other. Everyone should know that they are loved. If you are thinking of using that rope or jumping off that bridge, please know that you should not ever have to feel so alone. There are people like me who understand your loneliness and we are here to talk. I made an art piece so I can make a person from the LGBTQ smile, and know that I see you and you never have to suffer alone.

I want the people that are reading this to know, the LGBTQ community are not monsters. We don't support the devil, and we are people that you probably have a lot in common with. If you or someone you know is homophobic, I want you to know so many LGBTQ people commit suicide because of the little things you guys do and say over time. If you see a queer girl or boy getting bullied for being queer, stand up and help them.

Artist's Name: Cole V. Palma

Title: Think Big

Cost: \$45

Donation: The Alzheimer's Association

Do you know that I can make over 100 dollars a week!? The purpose of my artwork is to encourage kids under the age of 14 to go out and try new things. Next, to realize that they can make money by thinking-outside-of-the-box: Being creative, adventurous, and hard-working can lead to wealth.

My challenge is that I get frustrated when I have ideas to make money and other kids don't. For example, people can make money anytime if they work hard and use their imagination. Next, I have heard kids complain about how adults have jobs and earn money without thinking of jobs kids can perform: raking leaves, shoveling driveways, mowing lawns, collecting neighborhood trash cans, cleaning windows, or walking others' dogs! Kids feel sorry for themselves about not being able to make money. These challenges tell me that kids just either don't want to put the work in, or they just aren't comfortable with thinking creatively. My friend (age 11) and I (age 12) find many ways to make some money. I think making money, having fun, spending time with a friend, and never getting bored leads to a good life.

The challenges facing kids who are trying to make money make me feel like a better person because I have found ways to face and overcome them. This proves kids can make money. I believe kids have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. To most people, creative thinking is uncomfortable. Once you do it repeatedly, it occurs, like with me!

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Jaqueline Woodson because she uses her imagination to write stories. I use my imagination to find ways to make money as a kid under the age of 14. In the section of believing in *Brown Girl Dreaming* (lines 29 through 36) it states, "It's hard to understand the way my brain works—so different from everybody around me. How each new story I'm told becomes a new thing that happens, in some other way to me..." She tries to figure out new ways to do things and does all kinds of writing, just like me! I am always trying to be creative to make money.

For my art, I used paint, sharpie, spaghetti, a sponge, and modge podge. My thought process was that I would encourage kids to understand that if they work hard and are creative, they can make a lot of money. I made a light bulb out of sharpie and spaghetti, wrote a couple words with sharpie and modge podged a couple words too. Then, I used a green colored sponge to create money. The spaghetti represents the fact that you should be as creative as you can, so instead of coloring it in yellow or gold, I glued some spaghetti onto it!

I want kids to think about what they can do to make some money around the neighborhood. They could even make their own online business! I want kids to think about working hard and be inspired in their lives. I want my art to cause adults to think about kids being creative to make money or reflect about their own creativity. The main point of my art is to encourage and persuade others to want to work harder, be creative, and make money: Kids under the age of 14 can do it!

Artist's Name: Coleton Adams

Title: Missing Piece

Cost: \$45

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

My name is Coleton Adams and I am in 6th grade, and I do 3 sports that include wrestling, football, and baseball. Wow! I never knew I would make it here. Florida is where it all started. WOW! Did you know I went to OAC state 3 times? During those three times, I only broke one of my bones, and I didn't even know until a month later, 4 days after I made it to state. So I couldn't even wrestle at state. The purpose of my art is to encourage people to start trying wrestling because it is so old that is in the bible. People think it is pointless but did you know it gets you more in shape than 80% more than most sports? It is one of the more physical sports that kids starting at super young ages can do. Like me, I started when I was 5.

In my first year I won one match but then I started to get better and in my second year I got first in one tournament, and in my third year is when I knew I was going to be good. I went to a novice state and got fourth place. In my fourth year, I went back to novice state and won in double overtime for first. That same year I went to state for the first time and lost to place out of 60 kids against the kid who got 5th. In MY 5th year, I returned to state, made it back to the blood round, and lost by 1 point to place. This past year during districts in December I got put in an arm bar and something didn't feel right but I didn't want to give up because this kid beat and I beat that match by 4 and I wrestled another tournament and then went to the doctors and they said I broke my growth plate and I can't wrestle for the rest of the season.

My challenge is that this year I have high expectations to go far in the state but I'm coming off of my injury last year, so I have not wrestled since the end of December. Since I do 3 sports, unlike most people, I don't wrestle all year round. In this case I'm going to be a little rusty, and I have a chip on my shoulder because my aunt and my grandpa passed away after I broke my arm.

Mike Tyson has many quotes that inspire me. "Fake it till you make it." "Everyone has a plan till they get punched in the mouth." "If I reach for the stars and miss, I grab a handful of clouds." "Fear is like fire, it can be helpful if you know how to use it." Another quote that inspires me is from Tom Brady, and he says "if you don't play to win, then don't play at all."

In this Savvas book, we have not read about anyone like me, but I hope we read about someone adventurous. Someone who likes sports and finding new ways to do stuff. A person who builds and destroys stuff for fun. Someone who likes the wilderness and wildlife. A person who gives their all when they do something, like it or not, no matter what the consequences, they still give their all.

I used a sticky piece of sandpaper as my world, and white paint to make stars and asteroids. The blue paint is there to imitate heaven. The canvas is put a long way because heaven should be the highest thing.

When people view my work I want them to know that I miss my grandpa and aunt. They should also know that wrestling was the last thing that they got to see me do before they both died. When they look down they will see what they expect and make sure that I'm in line and keeping my head straight.

Artist's Name: Connor J. Dunn

Title: Lonely Man

Cost: \$50

Donation: National Alliance to End Homelessness

Can you believe that I, Connor Dunn, am the only one in my family with claustrophobia and the feeling of loneliness? The purpose of my art is to show other people that it is ok to be sad when a loved one dies.

I feel that part of the reason I'm lonely is that I have claustrophobia, which makes me feel trapped and I have no one to help "out." I feel the main reason that I think why I'm lonely is because my grandpa, who was my best friend, passed away at the age of 79. I feel as if when he passed so did part of me, also when he passed I didn't really have anyone to help me. Another reason is I have trust issues and I feel like I have fake friends so I don't really open up to other people and have no one to connect to. Plus I feel I don't follow the "pack". One more reason I think I'm lonely is when I moved from Texas I moved away from my friends and I miss them.

I took time to think about my challenge which made me realize that being lonely shaped me into myself. It gave fuel to my fire to do things on my own and not let anyone get in my way. It also affected my attitude by giving me my "I don't need help" attitude. It also affected my personality and basically everything I do.

In our Savvas reading book, we are reading about characters who have struggled. I can relate to Jacqueline Woodson in the memoir *Brown Girl Dreaming*. In paragraph five of the poem *Gifted* the author states "Odella has achieved Odella has excelled at Odella has been recommended Odella's outstanding performance in." For further explanation, Jacqueline's sister Odella is favored over Jacqueline just like my sister is favored over me.

I used red paint as a background because my grandfather's favorite color is red. The blue paint streaks around him because when I think of him I feel blue. The reason my body is a skeleton is that Dr. Christa showed me an artist by the name of Basquiat. I feel his piece just spoke to me and I had to use it in some way shape or form. The skeleton has a broken heart because I have a broken heart because of my grandpa's death. The yellow is outlining the broken heart because my favorite color is yellow. There are 79 marks because my grandpa died at 79.

When someone sees my art I want them to be able to relate so that if they are going through something like I am, like a loved one dying, they can have someone to relate to unlike I do.

Artist's Name: Hunter Lind
Title: Eyes
Cost: \$45
Donation: Scholarship America

Can you believe it? I used to have the worst social anxiety ever. It was so bad that going outside was hard, eating was hard because I thought everybody was judging my weight even if I was alone. I thought everybody was looking at me, judging me, making fun of me, every little bit of me: my hair, skin, glasses, name, and eyes. Every little bit I felt like I was a failure for feeling this way. The reason I am making this art is to tell people who are like me, people who feel the same as I feel, even if they don't feel the same, no one is judging you. You're perfect the way they are. They're not fat, nor dumb, ugly, weak, or pathetic. There's nothing wrong with them. All people have flaws.

There are many challenges that face people with social anxiety. This includes various thoughts: Thoughts of hate, body weight, and personal beauty. There are other challenges that come with social anxiety like thinking everyone is judging you and making fun of you every little detail. There are also physical challenges: People with severe social anxiety can get sick easier because they don't get enough exercise and lack Vitamin D.

When I was younger my social anxiety shaped who I was. Social anxiety destroyed my self-worth: I had no friends because I was deathly afraid of talking to new people. It really made me feel like no one cared about me because no one talked to me. Still to this day, I get a little worried about meeting new people. It is a constant uphill battle that changes people. For example, I am afraid of being judged: What if people judge my art and make fun of it and me? Many famous people became famous by being rewarded for sharing their personal story.

In our class, we have been reading texts from a book called Savvas. There are stories called *Bad Boy*, *I Was a Skinny Tomboy* and *Michaela DePrince* that relate to me in any way because the characters have different struggles. They all have friends or fear that their friend will talk smack behind their back. Luckily, I don't have social anxiety, but maybe a book about it can help others going through it, like I did.

I used a few different materials in this art. First, I used black paint to show how it feels to have social anxiety. Next, the piece of paper shows what it feels like to have social anxiety because of all of the staring eyes. These eyes rip you apart while the only thing you can think of is fear.

Social anxiety affected more than just me. It affects a whole bunch of people and can lead to depression or a range of mental illnesses. I think mental health is something we all should take more seriously even though you can't see it. It is still there under the skin. And I believe the COVID lockdown impacts people's mental health still today.

Artist's Name: Jace Starks
Title: Insecure
Cost: \$50
Donation: Feeding America

Have you ever thought me, Jace Starks, would struggle with being insecure? The purpose of my art is to try to express to people why you should never let other peoples' comments make you lose your sense of self-confidence.

The challenge I'm facing is not being able to do everyday things in my life because I lack confidence in myself. Challenges I'm having with my being confident: it's harder to do regular stuff that I normally do. For example not being able to do my assignment in football, not being able to present in front of my classes at school. Regular things that I kind of struggle with now because I need to boost my confidence. Without my confidence in myself, it lets people criticize me or it makes me not want to do stuff that I normally have confidence in when I do things. Another challenge is that without me having confidence it could affect my performance in school, how well I play in football games, and several other areas of my life. Better yet, people always tell me to boost my confidence when I do stuff that is challenging. The reason I feel insecure is because I let people talk down to me instead of standing up for myself. So going forward I need to let others peoples comments not to affect me. A poem that could help boost my confidence is "Insecure people only eclipse your sun because they're jealous of your daylight and tired of their dark, starless nights."

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. This challenge influenced me to who I am now because I took the criticism and pushed myself to keep pushing. And now that I did that I boosted my confidence. Now I like to present first now and be a leader to my team. This challenge really changed me because now I don't let people talk me down. Also if they try to belittle me I prove them wrong.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince because she lacked confidence because people always told her she didn't belong or she was different and that made her lack confidence and was not able to be able to feel herself.

My art represents my low self esteem.

Artist's Name: Jayce B. Snyder
Title: Personalities Behind Masks
Cost: \$55
Donation: The Innocence Project

Many things have happened in all our lives. Yes, I know it is challenging. I have been there too. We all have, it's just your turn. The purpose of my art is to understand that we have all been through struggles and challenges. I want people to understand we are all fighting a battle.

One challenge I am navigating is bullies not thinking about what others go through. I am struggling with challenges throughout my life. People don't know it, because they don't know me. Not the nerdy kid in class, but ME. Why don't people take the time to get to know me? I enjoy talking with people and getting to know others: their likes, dislikes, interests, hobbies, etc.

These challenges influence who I am because now before I say something hurtful to someone, I think, "what are they going through?" That is why I am not a bully. All people are going through challenges, and I have come to realize that.

In our Savvas text at school, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to "Bad Boy" the most because he hides things from the world and that is what I do, from issues at home to my favorite hobbies. In "Bad Boy " It says he was told that boys had to act a specific way. You see, I always feel like I am being pressured to be perfect, even though I am going through challenges too.

The background is blue because it represents my challenges and is like I am hiding them behind me, which is what the photo of me means. Me. Behind the mask with the smiley face is where I am hiding my sadness and frustration. The words I put around the face are asking you to think about what people are going through behind their masks.

One thing I want you to do about this topic is, as I said in the last paragraph, to try and look under other people's masks, and take off your mental mask if you have one. I would appreciate it if you took the time to get to know someone and help them take off their mask. I also want you to know that many people put on "masks" because they are bullied for how they are.

Artist's Name: Justine Ramsey
Title: My Stressful Story
Cost: \$45
Donation: Mental Health America

Why? Why do I have to feel this way? It's just not fair! The purpose of my art is to explain and make people understand what some kids at a young age go through. It's not just adults that are always depressed or anxious. Most of the time kids go through this more than adults do and no one notices. Kids struggle with things too, but do adults really notice this or even care? I'm talking about this because I go through it and despise it.

I suffer from anxiety and depression that runs through my family. My dad has it, my mom has it and we are all medicated for it. This makes me sad, lonely, always wanting to be in my room alone, hating the way I look in the mirror, and sometimes wishing I was not alive. Sometimes I cry and don't know why. It's not fair. At such a young age I should not be medicated or even thinking about not being alive. No one at a young age should. It's just not fair, for me or anyone.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I can now understand people and help them become brave and overcome their challenges. When I first started realizing I had anxiety and depression, I once helped save a boy from killing himself because I understood and did not want to witness that happen to someone else. Sometimes I can't look at myself in the mirror without hating the way I look or how my body is. As I get older I am starting to build confidence and give advice to others to help overcome challenges of their own.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince. I relate to Michaela DePrince because at first she was self-conscious and did not feel comfortable but then she realized no one really noticed it so she grew up confident and now helps others. At first I did not realize that others go through what I do and was upset about it but now I realized and now try to help others like me. On page 54 in the Savvas book it states "Now I've grown up and I'm so happy with the way things are turning out." This text evidence shows how we both grew up and now love to help others and are happy with our lives again, even if we still feel upset or sad.

In my art work I used paint and a drawing that I traced. I traced the picture instead of drawing it because I wanted to make it clear to see and understand what the picture was. I mixed my own paint to make a gray for the background, black paint for the outer edges, and blue paint to make little raindrops. I used mod podge to glue on my picture by using a paintbrush to cover the back and front so my picture would be protected.

When you see this piece of art I want you to understand and feel what others might be going through. Some people act like they are ok but aren't, some people act happy out in public, but when they get home they are sad and cry all day. Not everyone is happy all the time, some go through things that others don't, but that's ok. For me sometimes you can see when I shut down, I'm not like my usual self. Not everyone is the same when it comes to stress or anxiety but if people could just try to understand and be there for someone who is upset that will make them feel a whole lot better.

Artist's Name: Lincoln Moore

Title: Space and Nature

Cost: \$50

Donation: Feeding America

Nature and Space both unknown and mysterious. This is why I enjoy them both so much. My art purpose is to encourage people to pursue space and the deep unknown that it is. There is just so much to learn about space and how truly massive this is. I hadn't the faintest idea what a Dyson sphere is or how a black hole actually works until I tried learning about it. I also enjoy nature because it gives me the same unknown feeling as space does and exploring and you are the first to see that place. I also love nature and the creek because my friends come with me and we build tools and weapons for fun.

We have many challenges at the creek that we face. For example when we build things, we made a rule that we have to use all of our materials from the woods and we can't bring stuff from home. We also have to build the thing after planning it which can be challenging. Also just getting to the materials is very hard, we also build bases and make forts and places to go to if "enemies" come to get us and attack us.

I believe these challenges made me more creative and active. I used to play video games all the time and watched youtube and played games inside, but now I love to go outside and play with my friends together and in the summer we go to the creek and adventure around. I also like to look at the stars and planets in the sky with my telescope and wonder how I would get up in space and what it would be like.

We haven't read about anyone similar to me but I would like to read about someone who loves learning about science and nature. I think I would relate to someone who wants to go to space but can't because of school and being too young and not trained. I would like to feel like some author can relate to me and I'm not alone in the way I feel.

I used symbolism such as a red gem to look like a red dwarf star because they are the oldest stars and because they will burn for a long time and I think they are interesting. I also used different skin tones because it shouldn't matter who you are, you should always follow your passion and what makes you happy.

I want viewers to be amazed by my art and want to pursue what they are passionate about. Whether it be space, gardening, singing or anything else like I am. I want others to do what they want and nothing else.

Artist's Name: Lyric Neace

Title: Being Smart is Not Always Good

Cost: \$45

Donation: American Humane Society

Many things have blocked us from being ourselves but there are triumphs helping us and others see ourselves. My purpose of my art is to encourage others to show themselves and use your stress to embrace differences. I am going to discuss how it feels to be me. Riding my bike helped me find my happiness and so did video games. biking makes me tired but when I get done it was worth it because I had fun. Video games let me be myself when I get to talk to friends.

I also had to get through people telling me I can't do this or I suck. It's reflected on me, not everyone is bad/good at everything and that's why they learn how to do it. I used all that stress to work harder. Books have reflected on me too, For example, A book by Masashi Shishimoto, the main character named Itachi never gave up and kept going and kept training to protect his village."

I took the time after these challenges to think about it, and it helped me practice more on my hobbies including sports and building. It was confusing and hurtful but it gets harder and harder though the path but then you get good at it. You have the right to do things you like even if someone tells you, you can't, you'll mess up. You get through life because you reflect off of what you lose. What you find and what you go through in life and that's called life. If you haven't had challenges you'll probably get Brown Girl Dreaming because I have a favorite sibling. My sister is 16. Also I relate to Brown Girl Dreaming because she has siblings. She also has a strict mom like I do. She likes to write stories like I do. She gets bored when she's indoors like I do. Here let me explain, here's text evidence. In paragraph 1 of Brown Girl Dreaming, the author states "Just mama saying, *stay inside today. It's raining.* And me at the window. Nothing to do." Let me explain, she misses Greenville because she could play outside all day and she could smell honeysuckles. She's bored.

The reason I made this piece of art is that being smart isn't always good and it causes a lot of stress. Another reason is to tell people to not get mad at the stress but to use it to show differences. There's always a downside to good things. Some people make fun of you for it or get mad at you for it, it even makes you overthink a lot of times. It can sometimes even make you lonely. It represents how I feel about being smart while having too much stress.

The viewer should take on these challenges and show their differences from another. Don't extinguish the stress, use it to show your differences and ask for help if you need it. Use or stress and let it out because stress kills brain cells and can even/maybe shrink it. It's not good if you keep the stress till it's at the limit. To the point where it gets overloaded and you might have a mental breakdown.

Artist's Name: Morgan Menches

Title: Unfairness

Cost: \$45

Donation: Food for the Poor

Challenges. Everyone goes through challenges. They can be little or big challenges. I've gone through challenges just because of my dad's job. This makes me upset. The purpose of the art I created is to comprehend and reflect.

First, I will discuss how my dad's job has affected me. My dad owns a restaurant, which means he works everyday, and only gets days off on holidays. Sometimes my dad will be able to come home from work early, but there is always someone who will call off from work or sometimes even walk out. When this happens, by the time he comes home sometimes I'll be getting ready to sleep or, at times, in bed already. If I'm not doing either then he usually goes to sleep immediately after work from being worn out. All of these things make me unhappy. Because of the way other people have to act I have to face the consequences.

I took time to think about my challenges and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges I have to face have shaped me to be grateful for my parents. It may be hard to not see my dad all the time. I realize that I am lucky to be able to see my dad **at all**. I am not saying I only see my dad once a month, but it makes me upset that times I could be with my dad, I can't be because another worker decided to not show up.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter from "Bad Boy," I relate to Walter because he enjoys dancing, as I do. Walter keeps this hobby a secret, like I keep my feelings a secret. In paragraph eleven of the Savvas book the author states "I liked dancing, too, but I had to pretend that I didn't like it". I relate to Walter when he says he enjoys dancing because I do competitive dance and dance is a big part of my life. I also relate when he states he keeps it a secret because I keep lots of things to myself. I believe that I don't need everyone to know everything about me and I don't need to know everything about everyone else.

My art represents many things. The chef hat and apron represents my dad's job (working at our restaurant). The words "Whenever you're lazy, someone else does your work" shows how whenever a worker will call off, my dad has to fill in for them. When these ideas are put together, my art will show my story. Because of this, my art is important to me.

My art isn't only sitting to look pretty. *I want* people to remember my art. *I want* my art to influence others. *I want* my art to have people think "Should I be lazy or should I be a hard worker?" *I want* the world to be fair because of my art.

Artist's Name: Natalie Ryder

Title: Healing

Cost: \$50

Donation: American Dance Movement

I've reflected on myself many times before but this time it was different. The purpose of my art is to unfold what has been going on in my head lately. Also to think about what I have been doing lately and what has been going on personally.

My mind hasn't been at the best place lately with dance and being there so often. Lately my mind has been going haywire and although dance is my passion and I love it so much it hasn't been the best for my mental health. But a certain part of my mental health is my thoughts about my body and body image. I was doing a ballet class in Cuyahoga Falls and the thing about this class was that this was the only place that I could get onto pointe but I had to quit. The reason I had to quit was because it was destroying my mental and physical health. After stopping that it temporarily got better but now it's bad again. In just one week I am at my studio for at least 16 hours, and now I have pretty much devoted my life to dance.

I took time to think about my challenge and how I can start to almost start healing from this experience. There is no doubt that this challenge has been very very difficult for me in so many ways, mental, physical and emotional. But lately I have been finding good things about this. For example, since I'm there so often I have such a special bond with all of my friends there. Another benefit about this is that I am making myself be more physically and mentally fit. Also I have lately been focusing on the dancing part of being at my studio rather than just focusing on how long I am there, and how much time that it's taken away, and that has helped me a lot.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince because she has a passion for ballet and so do I. In paragraph 20 of "Michaela DePrince: The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina" the author states, "We found the Nutcracker and watched it 150 times". I relate to this a lot because Michaela had such a burning passion for ballet and ended up being in a company and I would hope to end up in a company like that someday. Another reason why I can relate to this is because once her adopted mother saw how much she loved ballet she put Michaela in ballet, and my mom was the same way, she saw how much I loved it so she put me in it.

For the background I felt that the colors that I used to me show happiness and healing. I did the drawing that I did because I wanted to show on one side how people are constantly put down and degraded on body image or really anything. But then on the other side I wanted it to show the healing and acceptance of how your body looks and how you can start to learn to love yourself like your loved ones. In my art I used paint, tulle, paper, and mod podge.

When the viewer looks at my art, I want them to feel touched. I want them to think if they have ever had this type of mindset, or if they have ever been told by people with this mindset things like this. When the viewer sees my art I want them to realize that no matter our body type or your height, you are perfect the way you are. If there is a person that happens to see this that has been part of the ballet community and has experienced this, don't listen to them when they say that you're too fat or you're too hairy, because it doesn't matter.

Artist's Name: Nathan L. Walters

Title: Insecurities

Cost: \$45

Donation: Hope For The Warriors

For me this is extremely challenging. I have not thought about myself that much, but here it goes! The purpose of my art is to discuss.

I have been going to the same school district ever since I have been in preschool, which means I have been with the same group of kids for a while. I am friends with a lot of the kids I know, but there are a few I am not familiar with. Most of the people who I'm not friends with are nice, but some of them aren't so nice. Sometimes they say stuff that makes me feel bad about myself but I am gradually learning not to listen to what people say to me. This is the main topic of my narrative.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. One influence of this challenge though is that I realized there will always be something someone finds they should bully you for. I am trying to learn not to care about what they think because what they bully me about does not make me a bad or mean person. I have been doing much better in realizing not to listen to people who say mean things about me. Learning this skill now will help me later in life.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers from *Bad Boy*. In paragraph 5 of *Bad Boy*, there is one point where the author states "I was very comfortable being a boy, but there were times when the role was uncomfortable." I feel I relate to this because there are a lot of things I think are cool but most people would think I'm weird or not manly for liking. Luckily though I have friends who like the same things so not everybody bullies me for it.

I used paint and a fuzz ball. My thought process was I would have multiple same colored dots and then one fuzz ball that is me. It represents me being different. The background is also black to represent how bland it is to try and be the same as everyone else! That is why my art is like it is.

I want people to stop bullying. If you have any spare money you could donate it to organizations to stop bullying and child abuse. Also talk to your kid to make sure they know bullying is not okay. You could also teach your kids how to ignore what people say so they don't feel bad about themselves. Many people don't embrace being different but you should!

Artist's Name: Paige Sirgo

Title: Covid-19 Will Never Be Forgotten

Cost: \$50

Donation: Direct Relief

Do you know how much Covid has affected my life? The purpose of my art is to reflect on how Covid-19 affected my life and the lives of many others who went through Covid-19.

It was hard to go through Covid-19 when I was younger. It basically ruined my 3rd grade year. I was supposed to go on all of these field trips. I was also supposed to perform part of a play at the highschool but the school shut down because of covid. We had to go on e-learning so I didn't get a "normal" 3rd grade year. I got through Covid-19 because I listened to my parents when they told me to wear a mask to school and had me do e-learning at the start of 4th grade so that I could keep my family safe.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges shaped me because now I feel like I know what it was like for people during the Spanish flu even though I never really knew them, that is important to me because I love learning about history. During Covid my dog died because of a stroke and my great grandma also died because of old age and I think because of covid. My point is Covid has affected many people's lives not just because of losing loved ones. Maybe their company that they were working for shut down and they got kicked out of their apartment because they didn't have enough money or maybe they didn't get to go on a family vacation because one of their relatives was sick, but even if one of your relatives hasn't died or you didn't lose your job everyone was affected by Covid.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to "Michaela DePrince" . In paragraph 11 of "Michaela DePrince" the author states, "DePrince was number 27, because she suffers from vitiligo". Her skin disease vitiligo stopped her from dancing for a while until her dance teacher told her she hadn't noticed the white patches. I feel connected to this because Covid-19 stopped me from doing certain things just like Michaela.

I chose the world as my background because the whole world experienced Covid-19. It wasn't just where you live, it was all around the world. Everyone was affected by Covid in different ways but everyone was affected. For example if your grandparents were against wearing masks during Covid they weren't affected by having to wear masks. But when the holidays come around and they invite their kids and their kids don't come because they think that their parents aren't being safe and they just want to stay safe. Then your grandparents are affected because they didn't get to see their family that year.

No one can control what you do and how that affects the community that you live in. But what people can do is ask, recommend, request. So I am asking you to wear a mask if someone in your family is sick with Covid. The majority of people think that Covid is over and that they don't have to wear masks anymore but it is still there. People are still getting sick. Not as many people are getting covid as when it started but there are still people out there that have Covid and who knows maybe it is your fault they are sick but I hope not. I hope you are living your life as normal as it can be but while staying and keeping others safe around you.

Artist's Name: Nidia Manley-Cristobal

Title: Cancer Family

Cost: \$60

Donation: American Cancer Society

Did you know that 1,670 cancer patients die each day? If you think that you couldn't get it, you can at any age and any type. The purpose of my art is to know what families are going through with any type of cancer patients. The purpose of my art is to get to know what families are going through with cancer patients.

My grandma has found out that she has skin cancer again. Her sister just got through breast cancer not too long ago. What my challenges tell me about myself is that I am a very curious person. I am a very curious person about different topics. Like animals and stuff like that but health conditions are in the middle of what I try to educate myself with.

These challenges have influenced me to be with my family more. You never know when someone feels so good one day and then the next day they could be dead. They could also be in a hospital with cancer or other types of disease. So I try to spend more time with my family.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about two characters that are going through struggles in their life. I relate to neither of them because they don't have a family member that has cancer. They don't feel the fear of losing a family member to cancer. The characters don't have to wait around for news about a family member. Wondering what is going on with them and what's wrong.

In my art I used pink, black and blue paint. I used black and pink to symbolize skin and breast cancer. I used blue to show the sky because they both like to look at the sky and admire it. My art symbolizes my family members that had or have cancer.

If you have a family member that has had cancer or has cancer. How you felt then or how you feel now many families are feeling the same as you or as you did. You should comfort your family members because you don't know if they will wake up tomorrow. You could do things with them that they want so that they don't miss out.

Artist's Name; Willow Bowen

Title; Be you, Not them

Cost: \$55

Donation: American Humane Society

Oh my gosh! Did you know that being you can actually benefit you? The purpose of my art is to encourage people to be themselves. I want people to understand what it's like to be me and having to act differently to be friends with people. I want people to understand what it's like to act calm when you're not and you just want to blurt out and act crazy. You could be living however you want to and then one person comes along at the wrong time that makes you insecure.

Being yourself isn't easy. Sometimes you feel unwelcome and that people don't like you because of the way you act or live. People talk about you and make fun of you when you are being you. People don't always like that you're confident about yourself but don't let them bring you down. Being you is the best way to live. I have had times where people have talked about me and how I look and act. People ask me if I have energy drinks at my softball practices or games. The reason I act that way is because I'm opening up to them. Also sometimes you could get made fun of for how you look. I have glasses and people think "Her eyes are big" or "she has bad vision, do you see how thick her lenses are?" Not every person likes me because I'm bossy. I've been this way since I was little. I'm a leader and like to be a part of anything even though I'm really busy. It takes a lot of work and some days I just get worn out, I get bossy.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Being myself has helped me because I have people in my life who are used to knowing me and not this little faked fairytale that every child wanted to have when they're older with no troubles in their way. People are used to how bossy I can get and they don't take it to heart because they know I don't actually mean it. It helped me be myself because I don't need to be this fake person who's perfect I can be who I am. It helped me get here today because I've learned to go through challenging times when I didn't have people to help me calm down and not go full on being bossy and rude. I have met people who like me for me, not "Fake me."

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers, because he likes to do "girly" things and gets bullied for it even though he's just being him. I like to do things that people think are for boys. I like to get dirty and go walking on messy trails. People think that every boy is a tomboy and every girl is a girly-girl but that's not true at all. I play softball which involves getting dirty. I love the sport with all my heart and that's my happy place, just like Walter's happy play was in a book. I also do dance, it doesn't get you messy but still a lot of work. Even though I like to get dirty I also like to dance and be graceful. Kind of like Walter Dean Myers and how he likes to play ball but also likes to read, dance, and write poems. In paragraph 5 of "Bad Boy," the author states "I was very comfortable being a boy, but there were times when the role was uncomfortable." I sometimes dance, where I become "light and easy." I also like to play softball where I get dirty and muddy. I'm not just one person who likes to do things only for their gender. In the text the author states "That year I learned that being a boy meant I was supposed to do certain things and act in a certain way." I chose this sentence because people think of gender when they see a person. They think "oh, she's a girl she must do dance or horseback riding." Even though in reality a girl can do wrestling, basketball, swimming, or anything they want to do. Same goes with boys, they can dance, cheerleader, horseback ride, or anything they would like to do as well. You don't have to act a certain way just to do what people think that you need to do, you can do what you want and be proud of that.

I used yellow paint to represent part of a bee. Since the concept is "Be You" I made it look like a bee. I used yellow, purple, black, blue and green paint to make it look like there's flowers and some grass. I also made a hill out of green paint. I did this because there's a bunch of different kinds and colors of flowers. I also made one bee by itself. Then a bunch of other bees that are all the same on a different canvas. There's blue paint that I used as a background in the picture. I used mod podge to glue a piece of notebook paper onto the canvas that has a bunch of different languages on it that say be you. I've put a couple of inspirational quotes. There are a couple pieces of fabric on the canvas as well as some crepe paper. There are a bunch of rhinestones or gems on it that you can feel.

I would like the viewer when looking at my art to take some time and think about what they're going through. I like for them to think about if they're actually "free" or if they're acting differently just to keep someone close. I would like the viewer of my art to help people. Do not make people feel like they're trapped just to be friends with you. I'd want them to be themselves. And feeling free because that's what us humans are, Free.

Artist's Name: Skylier Harris

Title: My Life

Cost: \$50

Donation Organization: Color Of Change

Can you believe that Skylier Harris is the first to start wearing glasses at the age of 3 in his family. The purpose of my art is to make people understand life can be tricky .

My challenge is wearing glasses. Because people make fun of me for wearing them and I don't know why they make fun of me for wearing glasses. They called me goggle boy, four eyes and ugly but I don't care about how they think of me. But I am still alive and that's all that matters.

My challenge started when I was three years old. My mom took me to get glasses. I was mad because I could see great things. Nothing was wrong. I could see great. I could see far. But one day my mom, dad and I were playing catch with the football. In the backyard I got hit in the head with the ball and it was blurry and when I went to the doctor to check it out. Then I was mad and crying because the doctor said "you have to get glasses now'." And now I can see better than I used to.

I don't have a connection with the text. I connect to a story about people who wear glasses. It is annoying being called names like goggle boy, four eyes and ugly is tough but you're going to get over it by ignoring it like I did. Now I have friends that used to call me those names. But now people respect me because of how I am now.

I chose this because it is hard to be living with glasses because people call you names like goggle boy, four eyes and more but I went through it a lot of the time when i was a little boy. I got bullied for having glasses and I was the only one in my class that had glasses and the only one who had an "A's" in all of my classes.

Glasses correct vision by allowing your eyes to focus light on the correct spot of your retina. The curved frames bend light, and with the right prescription, these frames manipulate the light to reach the correct spot on your retina. The result is a clear, crisp image. The invention of eyeglasses has increased productivity over the ages. In the past, active, productive members of society had to stop working, writing, reading and using their hands for skillful tasks at a relatively young age. With eyeglasses, these members were able to continue their work.

Artist's Name: Knox L. Derrow

Title: I'm Really Cappy

Cost: \$53

Donation: American Cancer Society

Have you ever had an animal you really like and gone and seen it? The purpose of my art is to highlight the Capybara, one the least known animals. and how I wanted to see one and how I did. I have only been able to see a capybara once and it was not too bad but not too good.

I went to the Cleveland zoo and we saved the capybaras for last. We got there and every single person was standing there, I'm not even exaggerating there were at least twenty people there. Those people ranged from grandmas to kids still in strollers. Some people were wearing capybara shirts. I finally got to the end of the line and I took a picture but the capybaras themselves weren't looking at us and were at least 20 feet away. Besides that the entire zoo was crowded. I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I realized that my experience wasn't that bad. Some people love animals but they can't go see them because they are extinct or going extinct so zoos cannot own them. And I was lucky enough to get and see my favorite animal. Now that I think about it, my experience was pretty great.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I have not related to any of the characters yet. But In paragraph 5 of 'Gifted' the author states That Odella is favored over the main character. However the author wrote "Odella, Odella, Odella, Odella". Which is pointing out how her mom is always talking all high and mighty about her sister but not herself. The way I relate to Odella is the fact that people are just now learning about the capybara. However, I've known about it for about two years. And now that they all like it I get no chance to really see it but everyone else does. And it makes me mad is all. I don't like when I discover something and someone takes credit for it. For example when you tell a joke but someone says it louder and everyone laughs.

I used Black paint as the background and images of crowds in front of me. My thoughts were that if I painted the background black and modge podged the crowd in with a picture of me, I would stand out and it would look as if I felt locked out or pushed away. I represented getting left out or blocked because I was let down that I did not get to go close to the Capybara.

Capybaras are a semi aquatic four legged mammal, They can hold their breath for up to eight minutes and even longer if they are sleeping, Amazing right? "No" as poachers in Florida would say, They love to eat capybara even though they are the largest rodent in the world. If you saw a giant rat you wouldn't eat it right? I believe that we should not kill animals just for the meat, I believe we should only kill them if they murder, assault and or harass another animal or human.

Artist's Name: Antonia Dreussi

Title: Feelings Hurt Bad

Cost: \$60

Donations: JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation)

Why did it have to be this way? The purpose of my art is to show people my feelings. I have a lot of emotions and a lot of them escape sometimes. Most of the time it's anger, sadness and jealousy. So my art is gonna show you how it feels. My challenge is that I have issues with dealing with my emotions.

I have a lot of issues going on. Me and my best friend are drifting apart. This girl is annoying and is very rude to me most of the time. My parents are divorced. My sister and I fight a LOT. I have trust issues and don't want to be emotionally hurt. I feel like I'm singled out. I also have a disease and it is hard. I am always mad or upset or jealous. A lot of times it's all of them mixed up. I can't really explain it better, but I always draw about them. Imagine seeing a very terrifying and scary monster escaping somebody. What would you think? You probably would be scared and not want to go near them ever again. I am trying to help myself by going to therapy, reconnecting with my old best friend, and making new friends. It is so hard to have to deal with this at a young age.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I think it has shaped me in a good way because I have known how to deal with these emotions better than most kids now. Maybe even adults because I am growing up with this terrible feeling. I am also way more mature than most kids my age and a little older because of this. I am a little wiser for this. I know how to do the right thing even if it's not the easier option. I know that it may hurt to do this but at least I can stand up for myself and do the right desican.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers because he doesn't feel comfortable in his own skin sometimes and I don't either.

In paragraph 5 of *Bad Boy* the author states "I was very comfortable being a boy, but there were times where the role was uncomfortable" I don't like to be in my own skin sometimes because it isn't fun at all. I have to be 11 years old and dealing with what most adults go through. It's not fair but at least I can accept myself and say "I have this and it's okay. I am just more mature than most kids my age then. So it is hard to live in my own skin but at least I accept it.

I used cardboard boxes, paint, hot glue, stuffing, paintbrushes, strawberry containers, egg cartons, and water.

Artist Name: Rayne Beltz

Title: Anxiety Time

Cost: \$55

Donation: Color of Change

I never knew I would end up on this path. Can you believe it? The purpose of my art is to show my emotions and how I feel. I don't like having anxiety because it gets annoying. But I know that it will never go away.

My challenge is anxiety it is difficult for me to deal with. I try and find ways to make it better. Things I have tried our deep breaths, play with stress toys, and learn new things about anxiety. I learned that life will always have anxiety for me. I know that it is tough. I sometimes get made fun of for it. People say I am fake it, but I know that I am not and I try.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. My challenge helped me because it makes me who I am. I know my worth now. It has made me brave. The thing about anxiety is it never goes away. When you push through it and get help it will be okay.

In our textbook, *Michaela DePrince: The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina*, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I found in Michela DePrince that I gained confidence through being comfortable with my anxiety. In paragraph 30 of the text, the author states, "Now I've grown up and I'm so happy with the way things are turning out." This relates to me because I have grown and learned to be more comfortable with my anxiety. I know it will never go away, but I push through it. My mom has helped my family. My anxiety will not stop me from living my life!

The materials I used were paint, yarn, and hot glue. I learned that I can make the most unique things. I used those materials because they worked good. This art is very different. I think it could use work, but it's okay.

To support me and other kids, I think you could talk to kids like us. Avoid things that can make us anxious. Do ask leading questions. Respect our feelings. I think you can do a lot but just try and help.

Artist Name: Ja'cobi Boykin

Title: Overcoming Challenges

Cost: \$50

Donation: Dudes for Dads Fundraiser

Can you believe that when I was 6 or 7 I left my mom to go to Ohio? I go to Texas every summer but now I'm living in Ohio with my dad. And I switch between Texas and Ohio. I go to Texas with my mom for summers now. I want the people to have a connection with me to feel my story and see if the same stuff is happening to them.

A challenge I overcame was leaving my mom because I love my mom. But I live in Ohio with my dad and my other family and we have fun; however, I overcame not being with my mom. My art tells me that I love my mom and I don't like leaving her, but I overcame leaving her so now I don't get sad when she leaves.

I have faced challenges. In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela the Prince because her mom passed. My mom didn't pass away, but she is all way in Texas. I can't see her.

In paragraph three, two and four of Michaela DePrince, the author states that her parents died. Her Dad died by war and her Mom had no food. She was going through stuff that nobody could help her with. She was scared, sad, and mad.

For my canvas, I used paint and pencil. I used them because I wanted to color my head brown because that's one of my favorite colors. Also, the portrait is a real life person random person whom came to my mind when creating the art. From this activity, I learned that sketching art can explain a person's background. Art helps people feel what the person is saying or helping people relate to what the speaker is saying or meaning. It connects with the heart.

People can support me by donating to help other people. My link and a donation can provide resources to others. I want people to see my story, the background of my art, and why I made my art. Finally, you can also support kids like me by donating money to charities for children.

Artist name: Mason Burnham
Title: Hanging on
Price: \$50
Donation organization: TWLOHA

My life has been one heck of a roller coaster. The purpose of my art is to show that while people may act happy it isn't always the case and some wear that happiness like a mask. The point of it is to show that everyone has gone through life changing events and yet some stay happy though under that happiness hides a sad person who tries to stay cheerful. This act, they feel forced to keep wearing this false happiness to avoid the world's cruel criticisms and ostracization just because they are different. Eventually this act is hard to keep up with and everything overflows and this holds the person back even more than if they just took off the "mask".

When I was younger my parents had divorced. This changed my life and how I saw the world almost overnight. The effects of the divorce has affected my trust and my ability to communicate my feelings to others. One of the problems I faced was if my parents found someone new it would only be temporary so I never wanted to get to know these people as I learned they would leave; life hasn't proved me wrong and continues to feed this twisted mentality. Everyone leaves and no one stays.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. It left me unable to trust people easily. I learned that everyone leaves, everyone has something to hide, and everyone has a reason. I have learned that through experiences throughout my life so far and it has started to shape who I am, I give my trust to only those who have earned it. And I give my sympathy to those who have given it to me. I learned not to give out your kindness or trust to people who don't deserve it.

I think I can relate the most to Walter Dean Myers from the text *Bad Boy*. He explains he finds comfort in books and how he sees them as an escape. I relate to this by not only using books as an escape but things like my phone can be used as an escape for me as well. I can understand his point of view as it is a point of view I have.

My artwork begins with a black background. Black is a mix of all colors and is supposed to represent an overflow of emotion. There are some white dots in the black void of overflowing emotion. White is the absence of color, and in my eyes, emotion. There will be a gray string designed to be a noose that symbolizes a hopeless emotion. The final piece is a multi-colored piece of cloth cut in the shape of a person. In the picture, they are using the noose to swing instead of using it for its darker purpose representing hope.

The purpose of my artwork is to display hopelessness in suicide, depression, and sadness. Many people each year are negatively affected by untreated depression and are often driven to suicide without help. It's a heavy topic that not many talk about that needs to be addressed so it can change. That is why the charity donation I picked is 'TWLOHA,' a charity focused on giving aid to families affected by suicide and aiding thoughts with suicidal intentions.

Artist Name: Madison Burton

Title: Birthday Anxiety

Cost: \$45

Donation: Prevent Child Abuse America

I have a lot of challenges in my life I have to deal with. The purpose of my art is to have people understand what it's like living with anxiety.

On my 10th birthday, January 15th 2021, I found out I had anxiety. It kinda sucked because I had an anxiety attack and started shaking really bad playing in the woods. I sat down started to cry and all my friends started laughing at me saying, "Wow I can't believe you're that scared of something so stupid." I started to cry more because I was trying to tell them that it was anxiety but they thought I was lying but I wasn't. I told my parents about it and they told me to ignore them so I did and then I dumped them as a friend so they got mad.

Then I found real friends and they understood everything and I'm so grateful for them because they were there for me. I took time to reflect about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I know how to find real friends so I knew who would be there for me during the good and bad times. My real friends told me something that inspired me. They told me that, "No matter what, don't believe someone that doesn't truly represent you as a friend." So I took what they said and pushed through all of their hate and bullying.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I can relate to Michaela DePrince because we both have to recover from challenges like body conditions, anxiety, stress and everything else. In paragraph 3 of "Michaela DePrince" the author states, "I began to recover from my challenges and be myself." Michaela and I have both had to recover from our challenges that might be hard on ourselves but we still push through them and learn from them. Michaela DePrince recovered from her challenges she began to be herself. In the NBC interview she said, "I knew I couldn't hold on to my challenges forever."

In my artwork I used a canvas and paint. My painting reflects my feelings when I am dealing with having anxiety.

You can support me by understanding how someone is feeling when they have anxiety. You can also support me by donating to Prevent Child Abuse America.

Artist Name: CC

Title: My World

Cost: \$50

Donation: The Trevor Project

My life has been a roller coaster. I was a kid who didn't know who they wanted to be to living the best life in their own skin. The real purpose of my artwork is to empower people of any age to know that no matter their age and sexuality, they can be anything they want to be no matter how long it takes them to be successful in their own life. They can feel loved.

My sexuality has been a struggle throughout my life, even at a young age. When I was younger I didn't know who I wanted to be because being just one gender wasn't really comfortable for me. I thought being another gender was wrong because of my life when I was younger. I never really trusted people with my secrets because people were very judgemental. When I was younger, I cared very much about what others thought about me.

I took time to think about who I wanted to be and how I wanted to live. But now I am comfortable in my own skin and don't worry about what others think about me. I love myself a thousand times more than I did before, and I hope that people like me will overcome their own insecurities and step out of that little box that keeps them trapped. I want to encourage people to express themselves because people are similar around the world: Thousands of people are like me and I am like them. They just need a little push into understanding the world and the reality that people will like them. For example, I love them the way they are and what they are.

And my little message is that no matter how hard your life gets, just know that people like you are very important. In my life, even if I don't know you and you don't know me, I care about you because I'm just like you and you are just like me. People have struggles. The world may be cruel with no love and no trust. But, I want people to know to try to look at the bright side even if it doesn't work: People like you are still out there hoping to have a friend just like them. Boys can wear dresses, skirts, and crop tops. And to be honest, boys rock out this attire better than I could ever in a million years: You could be the next drag queen in my vision! And for women, wear those tuxedos like the true kings and queens you are because I know you know you look good. So keep your heads high my Queers, Kings, Queens, Gays, and slays just know one day they'll surely know our names.

Artist Name: Ava Cole

Title: Anxiety

Cost: \$45

Donation: Mental Health America

One challenge I have is anxiety, which is caused by school and grades. When I don't do well on an assignment or a test, I get anxious because I feel like having a 'C' or lower is not good enough. When I don't do well it makes me feel nervous and anxious. When I start to feel this way I react by biting my nails as a way to calm myself.

I took the time to think about my challenge and started to understand how my challenge affects me. Because I have anxiety over my grades, I put a lot of pressure on myself to do well. When I don't do as well as I hoped it causes me to feel anxious, nervous and overwhelmed.

In the first unit of our Savvas text, we have been reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Jacqueline Woodson from *Brown Girl Dreaming*. I can relate to her because I also have a sibling who is gifted like Woodson's sister, Odella. My brother is gifted and excels at everything he does, which makes me feel sad because he gets attention for being smart and doing well in school.

In my artwork, I used a canvas and paint. I used the colors blue, black, and white. I chose these colors because blue symbolizes calmness and can slow one's heart rate and lower your blood pressure. This reduces anxiety. The black represents heaviness, which is how I feel dealing with anxiety and stress. The scribbles and lines around the head represent how my head feels because of my anxiety and stress - my thoughts are racing.

You can support me by understanding kids who struggle with anxiety and stress caused by pressure to do well in school. You can also support my cause by donating to the organization of my choice: Mental Health America. This organization helps Americans understand, prevent, and treat mental health issues that can interfere with someone's ability to live a full life. This organization also educates Americans about mental health issues. I support Mental Health America because they can help a student like me.

Artist Name: ND

Title: Survivor

Cost: \$45

Donation: Mental Health America

My life has been a roller coaster in so many ways, but the way that changed me forever is something that happened when I was six. When I was six, my aunt's husband Tim did something to me that I'll explain. Basically I'm a survivor of sexual assault. The purpose of my artwork is to imagine what it was like to be me at 6 years old.

So the day it started happening is when my Mom and everyone else was at work. Tim did not have a job at the time so he would watch me, my brother Zane, and my brother Lennon. It was going well. My brother and Lennon were playing Xbox and I was coloring. I got hungry so I went to tell Tim that I was hungry. Next, I went upstairs to tell him. At first, Tim said go tell Zane and Lennon to stay downstairs. I was confused but asked no questions. I went to tell them and came back upstairs. He said shut the door and lock it. So I did. Then Tim said he was going to do a magic trick. So then he picked me up and sat me on his bed and then boom something that I never would imagine to happen to me happened. This was not the only time it happened. I think it went on for two weeks. Before I went back downstairs he told me don't tell anyone or he would hurt me. I told no one. This challenge made me live with some fears like wondering if I would ever see him again. Another challenge was feeling dirty and gross all the time. It was the worst thing that ever happened to me.

The challenge made me have bad trust issues. I just never felt normal at all. It was one of the worst times in my whole life. For example, last year, a rumor spread about me because of a toxic friend that I trusted. I was confused. People judged me all the time. It was very hard to cope with but now I have someone to talk to and she understands everything.

In our textbook, our class is reading about characters with challenges. I relate to none of them. I have not read about a character that I relate. A book I would be interested in reading that relates to me would be about a girl in middle school that has challenges and has to deal with mental health. The girl also deals with fake friends and has a hard time keeping all her work done.

The materials I'm using for my artwork is paint. I'm using blue for the tears. For the background, I'm using black. For the person I'm using, light blue, brown for the box, and gray for the other stuff. I am also using a little bit of red. I learned that not everyone is gonna have the same idea. I also learned that it was kinda hard to sketch on the canvas. I messed up a lot, but I painted over the messy lines and I also added more lines after I painted.

To support kids like me, you can spread awareness about sexual assault. And learn about it. For example, you can learn that it happens a lot. You can also learn that it can also happen to boys, not just girls. But you can also learn that it doesn't matter what you're wearing: You can be wearing the most baggy clothes and it could still happen.

Artist Name: Justin Eberhardt

Title: Family Matters

Cost: \$50

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

My life has been a roller coaster because of my grandpa and grandma passing away in the same year. A lot of people do not know about it because we like keeping it private. The purpose of my art is to encourage more people to spend time with their close family.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges shaped me as a person because when I was six years old I remembered little parts of him and it made me spend more time with my other grandparents. Also it shaped me because when I was nine, I would take it all for granted and not wanna spend time with them; however, now I do not take it for lightly.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges shaped me as a person because when I was six years old I remembered little parts of him and it made me spend more time with my other grandparents.

In our textbook, we are reading about characters who have gone through a struggle. In paragraph 4 of the text *Brown Girl Dreaming*, the author states when somebody asks why the man sits, he died. One of the reasons I put this is because my grandpa and grandma died and I can relate to it.

The materials I used for my art work are paint. I used the painting for my grandma, grandpa, and myself. I also used the paint for the background and hearts. The hearts were broken because of my grandma and my grandpa passing away. I used the blue to represent the sky and for the background. Finally, I used red for me and my grandpa's shirts and purple for my grandma's shirts.

Artist's Name: Kimora Elliott

Title: My Mind is like a Carousel

Cost: \$45

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Did you know this art is based on my life? I put my emotions into my art and how I have been feeling lately. I want people to relate to my art and understand and enjoy the piece.

The purpose of my art is to allow people to relate, understand, and connect with it and my story inspiring it. Being alone and having nobody to hang out with you, and seeing your friend hanging out with other people, is painful and lonely.

Every beginning of a school year, I'm always alone sitting by myself in the cafeteria because I don't socialize fast despite the fact that I have been going to my school for two years. I still feel lonely in this big school. I watch my friends hanging out with other people or watch a friend not wanting to be friends with me, and it is hard to deal feeling alone. Especially because I tend to overthink a lot.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Now if people don't want to hang out with me I don't hang out with them, I have learned to defend myself and not care what people think. I find people who are good to me and treat me well.

In our textbook, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to losing a friend and not being accepted for who you are and what you like. In paragraph 14 of *Michela DePrince*, the author states DePrince learned that her beloved matmate was to be adopted. An American woman, Elaine DePrice, had come to the camp to adopt number 26. For a moment, Michaela was distraught because she believed that all the other children would be taken to new homes and she would be left behind. I picked this part because I could totally relate to that feeling of possibly being left all alone.

I used metallic paint to draw the base because it displays my strong emotions about me struggling to make friends and being alone. This art piece symbolizes what I feel and how I overthink and struggle with it. I learned while sketching that there are probably other people who can relate to me. My hopes are that people are inspired and feel good when they see my art piece. It feels good to show people how I feel, allowing others to understand me.

This art is based on my life and I put my emotions in it. I have been able to express how I have been feeling lately. I want people to relate to this and understand and enjoy the piece. I also want people to have awareness about these things that kids my age struggle with. I also want people to treat everyone the way they want to be treated and not be rude nor exclude anyone from anything. For example, you might not know what people are going through and how they are feeling. As you can see, these are some things you can do to help kids who struggle with certain issues.

Artist Name: Nautica Wynn

Title: Feeling Alone

Cost: \$50

Donation: American Humane Society

Did you know that when I was younger, I experienced a scary situation. I was visiting my grandma's house with my sister and brother, when my dad took me from her. He took me to his house and almost didn't give me back to my mom. Therefore, the purpose of my art is to encourage people to not be scared to speak out on what has happened to them before.

Not having your biological dad in your life is not a good thing. When I was in first grade, all of the older kids would make fun of me for it. I didn't really understand why they would make fun of me because I was only seven or eight years old. Not having my dad in my life to support me or anything really does hurt. Over time I became used to not having him here for me. Every once in a while, he tries to text my mom. My mom normally never answers him because he's the one who left us. She also doesn't want him to try and take me from her again so its better for her not to answer. This challenge tells people that I am very brave for not having him in my life since I was three years old. Also, some mean people think it's stupid how I don't have my biological dad in my life. I just ignore them because I know that it's not true.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges have shaped me to be very brave because now I know that I can push through anything. This has shaped me to be brave in many ways because it is very difficult not having your biological dad in your family anymore. And I'm very brave because I have not seen my biological dad since I was three years old. I am in custody of my mother.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. However, I do not relate to them. We have yet to read a story that has related to my challenges in my life.

I used white paint for the background. When it dried, I used pink paint and splattered it onto the background. Then, I got blue paint and did the same thing. Next, I took a pink and a blue string and twisted them together. Finally, I put the string in the middle of the painting.

What I learned while sketching is to make sure to sketch lightly because if you are sketching over a background you could mess up the background. Or, if you mess up with the sketch, it will be hard to erase.

You can help kids like me by donating to charities for children like me. This would help children like me because some people like me don't have step-dads or they only have mothers. So donating to a charity would help because that money can go to single-parent families that are struggling with money.

Artists Name: Lacie Jordan

Title: Shadow

Cost : \$50

Donation: American Humane Society

My life has been a roller coaster. And that is because when I was younger, I used to have anxiety because I would distance myself from people. Anxiety causes me to being lonely and makes me sad. For example, sometimes I talk to people and they either talk back or don't. This makes me sad.

The purpose of my art is to tell you some of the reasons why I was lonely when I was around the ages between six through nine. Around these ages, I built up the courage to start talking to people and to become more social in public. Next, I became more open in my social life helping me earn more friends. Thus, more people know; I don't feel as lonely anymore.

I took some time to think about my challenges and started to understand these challenges. My challenges helped shape me. My challenges cause me to be anxious.

In our textbook, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to the story *Bad Boy* because in paragraph three Walton Dean Myers stated, "I also felt a comfort with books that when I went away from them it was boring". This quote is just like how I am with my phone: My phone provides me with comfort when and feeling sad or mad.

When I was sketching my art, I had a piece of paper and a pencil. I started to sketch what my essay was about; penciling the sketch communicated my idea. Next, I chose gold-colored paint because this makes me think of being lonely. Loneliness makes me think of a rich color because sometimes when I feel lonely, I would have a gold stuffed bear and lay with it when watching television.

I will be donating my artwork money to the best animal charity, The American Humane Society. And the reason why I want to donate to this charity is because I love animals and I feel like they are not getting as much as all the other donation shelters. So, for me, to be able to donate, people will have to want to buy my art. My art costs \$50 because I feel like it has a very big purpose and aligns with my challenge. It is personal.

Artist Name: Kali Martin

Title: Not Fighting Back

Cost: \$50

Donation: Prevent Childhood Abuse America

Did you know that I am my mother and father's first daughter? The purpose of my art is to show how I feel. Most of the time, it is about me being bored and just wanting to do something. When I am bored, I reflect on my feelings. Often, others see emotions below my surface; my artwork showcases my feelings. While some people may create art for fun, my artwork demonstrates these feelings and emotions.

My artwork showcases challenges. A challenge for me is that when I do artwork I have no idea what to do. Typically, I will then search on my phone and look at other people's artwork, helping me gain ideas. This assists me in knowing what I want to create. Another challenge is trying to live with my dad, which has been hard. I think many people may face this challenge. Often, I think about what I want to do in life.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. My challenges have made me stronger in life and they have made me who I am today in life. Sometimes, I hate the challenges, but most of the time, I am grateful for my life.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. Of all the stories, I relate to *A Brown Girl Dreaming*. In paragraph 1 of this text, the author states "The rain here is different than the way it rains in Greenville.- No sweet smell of honeysuckle. No soft squish of pine. No slip and slide through grass. Just Mama saying 'stay inside today, It's raining'". In my life, when I want to go outside, my mom says, "No it is raining outside" and "it is cold and muddy out there; stay in and do lots of work". This helps me get my mind off of going outside for the day.

I used many resources to make this art. I had to get black paint, gold paint, white paint, and a photograph. For my charity, I choose donations to be sent to: Prevent Child Abuse America. I would like to support organizations helping victims of child abuse, which is sad. It saddens me to think children experience child abuse and it is not fair to the kids in America. Finally, I know that life is not fair, but some things have to be made right, like helping support victims of child abuse.

Artist Name: Quinn Miller

Title: Warrior

Cost: \$50

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Did you know my life has been a roller coaster? Four people in my family have passed away in the span of four years: My grandma, aunt, great-grandma, and dad. My family has a lot of medical problems. A lot of people in my family have or had cancer.

The purpose of my art is to help people understand other people and what they're going through because you never know what is going on in someone's life. From my art you probably wouldn't know what I am going through.

As I stated, four people in my family have died in the past four years. My family has a lot of medical problems. My grandma had brain cancer. My great-grandma had pneumonia. Next, I don't know what happened with my aunt, but my dad died of stage four esophageal cancer. My father's cancer spread to his liver, shoulder, spine, and brain. He fought for 15 months, which was very difficult for my family. As you can probably see, not only was my whole family sad, but our family friends were sad too. I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. These challenges shaped me to be a better person. I try to be the best I can. Also, I aspire to be like my dad, who gave 110% effort all the time while always fighting.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince. In paragraph 10 of "Brown Girl Dreaming", the author states "sometimes, I lie about my father". In the story, the narrator states that her father died in a car wreck and came up with different stories to explain where her father was. Although I don't lie about my dad and what happened to him, I can relate to her because I don't have my father in my life anymore.

The materials I used were a canvas and orange, black, and gray paint. The reason I used these colors is because the orange and black are our Massillon school colors and the gray aligns well with the picture. The colors integrate and mix well together. I titled my art "Warrior" because it represents the warriors in my life who battled through challenges.

What you can do to support me and the other kids like me is to donate to Cancer Research Institute. I also ask you to think about what other people are going through and not to judge them. Finally, you can understand people go through life-changing situations, or in my case, several in a short amount of time.

Artist name: Graham Oaklief

Title: My Life

Cost: \$45

Donation: Prevent Child Abuse America

Allot of people don't know this because i didn't find out until recently. When I was four I was going to have a baby brother. But it ended up not going as it was supposed to and my mom had a miscarage. The purpose of my art is to understand why things happen and that they happen for a reason and you need to just try and get over it.

I didn't find out till this year and was I shocked and sad when I found out. I think about if he what he would of been like and if he would be like me. For those couple of weeks when I found out I couldn't stop thinking about him. I have never lost a loved one but secretly I did even though I never got to meet him I still love him. I also found out that I should be more considerate about people because you don't know what they have gone through.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I try to be the best version of my self for him. I always know he is watching over me and is in heaven. My brother passing influenced me to try my best in school and to respect everyone around me and the struggles they may be going through.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to the text *Brown Girl Dreaming*, especially, paragraph 4 where the author states, "When somebody asks why, the boy says, he died". The reason I can connect to this text is because the narrator is always reflecting on her father's absence similar to how I am always thinking about my brother's passing.

The materials I used in my artwork are a canvas and paint. My painting reflects me and my brother who I never got to meet. I created a picture of what life would be like if my brother was here and the things we would get to do together. I think that he would be like me or my older brother. I also think he would play the same sports as me and be like me.

You can support me by understanding that everyone goes through difficult times, even if their challenges aren't visible or talked about. I chose Prevent Childhood Abuse America as my donation organization because I believe no child should have to go through abuse. If my baby brother was here today, my family would love and support him like they do with me and my siblings.

Artist Name: Larry Phillips

Title: Hope

Cost: \$10

Donation: New Directions for Broken Families

Do you want to know how I got the way that I am? The purpose of my art is to explain this, and calm myself down. Art is also a pastime that I do for fun.

One of my challenges is getting more stamina. I want to fix my stamina because I can't really work for long periods of time, and if I do work for too long, I just stop caring about whatever I'm doing. Another one of my challenges is my anger. I don't have ADHD, but I can get mad easily so I kind of have a short fuse. Another one of my challenges is learning how to do this new math. I don't like the new way to do math and the reason why is because I was homeschooled a little bit, so I like the old way a little better. The new way may be faster but more confusing.

If I get A's and B's, it grants you better colleges and leads to a good paying job which will help you and your family. This includes status and other stuff like a high bank balance. This influence affects my challenges because if I can control my stamina and anger, I can get better jobs and better grades. Also with a high bank balance this could mean vacations and big houses and social status. One of my influences that affects these challenges is my Nana. I love my Nana to death, which is why I will try hard in school and try to learn how to do the new way to do math.

We have read many stories in our SAVVAS textbook, but I don't relate to any of the characters that we have read about. My problems are different from the characters' problems.

I do art because it is fun and calming. Another reason why I do art is because when you make a mistake that mistake can be good sometime. Another reason I like art is because you can make a quick and good amount of money with art. The last reason why I like doing art is because you can get famous with your art. I used just paint but my idea is to make space because space is black and white it has stars that look white and the blackness that is dark. The theme is the stars are a little bit of hope and happiness and the rest is doubt. So my theme is there will always be some light and hope but there will be darkness too. So the materials I used are paint. I may use some other things when I finish.

When people see my painting, I want them to feel grateful that they have something and that they have families. I just want the earth to not die and I want to get rid of all evil because the earth is dying. My dreams are the stars and the rest is the darkness so really the lesson is that there will always be hope.

Artist Name: Elena Reynolds

Title: Love you

Cost: \$50

Donation: American Humane Society

How often do you get to see and spend time with your dad? My challenge is trying to see my dad more often. The purpose of my art is to explain how years of not seeing my dad has affected me but I still love him.

My dad works a lot. He works on the power lines, so seeing him is a huge challenge. My goal is trying to convince my dad to see me more. I only see him every 7 months now or more. I'd love to see him once a month, but really as long as I see him I would be happy. I want to spend time with him and learn more about him and what he likes to do.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Well they have not shaped me yet, but I keep trying to do what I can do. I've asked him to come over. I also text him. I am trying to stay strong and deal with my feelings.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince from "Michaela DePrince: The War Orphan Who Became a Ballerina." In paragraph 1 the author states "Her parents died in the world war...". This paragraph explains that Michaela doesn't see her biological parents. I relate to this because I don't see my dad much. I also can relate to her because I also miss my parent.

The materials I used in my artwork were a canvas and paint. It was fun making my art. I used a paint brush, with the paint brush I used my finger to spread out the paint drops. I used a pencil to make my dad and me. I used blue for the sky. I used the dots for a slash of color. I chose to create this painting because I wanted you to see my message about the absence of my father in my life and how much I miss him.

You can support me by supporting the American Humane Society. I chose this organization because animals are comforting when you feel sad or miss someone. You can also support me by trying to see your family as often as you can. Call them and text them whenever you can, you never know how much of a difference it could make in their day.

Artist Name: Jordan Ryba

Title: Young and Short

Cost: \$50

Donation: American Humane Society

My life has been a roller coaster because of being short. The purpose of my art is to show that regardless of height, short and tall people can overcome their insecurities and be friends.

Throughout my life, I have struggled with being short! Because I am short, I get picked on and teased by my peers. People ask me why I'm short and I have to explain that it's just how my body is. I get annoyed and insecure about my height but as I've become older, my peers have finally stopped asking and I have become more confident in who I am.

I took my time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Regardless of my height, I have many awesome qualities. I have been raised and taught to always be a nice, kind and caring person. I know how I have been treated and how it makes me feel, so I always try to treat everyone with kindness and respect so they never feel how I have felt.

In our savvas text, we are reading characters who have gone through struggles. Out of all the stories we have read, none of them relate to me. If I were to read a book I could connect to, it would be about a boy who is short and was bullied because of it but in the end he became confident in who he is and people were able to look past his height and see him for who he really is.

The materials I used in my artwork are a canvas and paint. I created an image of a tall and short person walking together as friends. I have learned through making my art that it does not have to look perfect to tell the story. I also learned that one art piece can tell many different stories and be interpreted in different ways. Just like when you look at me, you may see me as being a short boy but behind the height I have many great qualities and I'm a kind person. You should always believe in yourself no matter what others may say.

You can support me by purchasing my artwork and donating to the American Humane Society. I would thank you for your support. Animals have always been comforting to me and never judge me for the things that other people judge me for.

Artist Name: Kasey Slinger

Title: Loud Family

Cost: \$60

Donation: Animal Humane Society

Did you know my dad is loud in the home and my mom is loud in the home and my sister is loud in the home? The purpose of the art is to consider how having loud parents affects kids. And my mom is not loud all the time. And my dad is loud all the time. And my sister is loud all the time.

My mom and dad are not loud all the time. My sister is loud all the time. My home is loud on Saturday and I do not like it, but my mom and dad are ok with it. My sister is 15 and she yells at all of us to get out of her room. She yells at us to get out of her spot at lunch and dinner. MY mom is not loud, not all the time. And my dad is loud all the time and he is very loud all the time. And my sister is loud all the time and she is 15 and she is loud all the time.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. My challenges make me feel sad sometimes and sometimes I'm feeling happy. And my mom is not loud all the time. And my dad is loud all the time. And my sister is loud all the time.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince. In paragraph 2 of Michaela DePrince the author states "I got out of a terrible place, says DePrince I had no idea I would be here I'm living my dream every single day." In Michaela DePrince her sister and my sister are loud and they loud at her and my sister.

In my artwork I used a canvas and paint. I chose this to reflect my feelings about my family and being in a loud house.

You can support me by understanding how growing up in a loud household can affect someone. You can also support me by donating to the American Humane Society because animals comfort me when everything around me is loud and crazy.

Artist Name: JW

Title: The Causes of Life

Cost: \$45

Donation Organization: American Humane Society

My life is a roller coaster because I had 3 different dads. My first dad was Jeremy Hinkle and he did bad things to my sisters that I can't say. He went to jail in 2014. Right now he is forty ears old and he will get out when I'm twenty. My second dad's name is Dustin Woods. My last name was Hinkle, my mom and him became friends. I was really confused about where my dad was. I remember someone calling my mom's phone and I hung up because she was sleeping. Then in 2017 My dad got shot in front of me. My life became really difficult. After that, my mom met Ryan and I didn't like him because of the trauma I had been through. My mom decided to stay single ever since and we have three pets.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. It affected me because of what I saw my step dad do. He would do bad things too but that was because of his anger issues. And in 2015 my sisters had to deal with sexual assault and I dont know if i had to deal with sexual assault because because they did not want me to know that at a young age.

My step dad had bad anger issues caused by drinking. One day he got rid of my dog without my permission and it made me cry because that was my favorite dog and I really loved him. One day he walked out and left but ended up coming back three weeks later. This made me and my mom very mad so we changed the locks on the door just in case something bad happened when he started to drink too much. One night at 9:35 he came upstairs stomping and my mom was tucking me in bed. He grabbed her into the bathroom slamming her into the wall and yelling at her and I yelled at him to stop but he didn't. At night he would get drunk and yell at my mom and break her things. At the time he had bad anger issues and his drinking problem made it worse. When he would drink, he broke the T.V., 3 of my mom's phones, 2 pictures, and more. One day, my uncle introduced us to this guy named Bill and to use he looked friendly at first but he was not at all. Then, a few months later, my mom came running up the stairs crying saying "he's dead, he's dead." I asked her who but she never answered me. I went to the window and saw my dad lying there dead because Bill shot him. We covered the window in case he tried to shoot at the window and it was hard to deal with.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince. I relate to her because her parents died in a war. My dad died from a gunshot to the heart and sadly didn't make it. This was not only traumatic for me but has been a challenge for me growing up without him.

You can support me by understanding that people may be struggling with things internally that you may never know about. You can also support me by donating to the American Humane Society. Animals have always been a big part of my life and always comfort me when I am sad or struggling with things going on in my life.

Artist Name: Annestyn Burdge

Title: Sharing My Story

Cost: \$45

Donation: Color Of Change

I never knew my life would end up being so crazy. I mean not too crazy but I definitely have gone through something that changed my life. My dad left me and my mom when I was very young. While I don't see him anymore, we text and call every once in a while but it's still different not having a dad in my life. I want the people who view my art go "wow" I really like the way that her painting looks !"and so they can feel like what I painted they can relate to it in some way. The purpose of my art is to tell kids that it's totally okay not to have 2 parents by your side all the time, and that they shouldn't be embarrassed or feel horrible about themselves just because they don't have both parents with them .

My challenge is my dad leaving me and my mom with both of us at a young age, me (infant), my mom (29) and my sister (6) with nothing but some money. Now that I know why my father had to leave me and my family, I totally understand his reasoning. I just think it would've been better to leave later in life so I could have met him. Till this day I'm still being bullied for my family situations but now later in life I feel much better about it because now I talk to him and can actually communicate with my dad around the time my dad left was at least around 26. These challenges show that I never grew up with a dad. This challenge really changed me, my mom and my sister because she grew up without a dad too and we both never found out why our dads left until we were like 9 or ten years of age and I totally understand why because my dad put my mom and other women through a lot of trauma and I know my mom didn't want to tell me. But she felt like I had to know.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Honestly, when I was younger, I never really knew who my dad was until around the end of 2019 start or 2020. That really changed me and my personality ever since I started talking to my dad I don't really show my emotions. I don't tell my family everything like I used to. But now I also feel like I am more connected with my father and my mom and so it makes me feel less insecure about my family problems .

In paragraph 8 in the text "Brown Girl Dreaming," the author states, "sometimes I lie about my father, he died in a car crash or he fell off a roof or maybe he's coming soon next week and next week and next week and next week...." I really think I relate to Woodson a lot because we both didn't really know what happened with our father but later in life we eventually found out.

In my artwork I chose to use a canvas and paint. I created a piece that reflects how I have felt over the years.

You can support me by understanding that not everyone is brought up with the same type of family dynamics. You can also support me by donating to Color of Change.

Artist Name: Kleona Burkholder

Title: LGBTQ+

Cost: \$20

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

I had many challenges in my lifetime when I was young and I still do. The purpose of my art is to show that no matter what you can succeed even when times are tough and I hope that I can encourage other people to do the same. And don't let fear take over.

My parents got a divorce and my family had to sell our house and move to another town. When my mom left my dad we had no one to look after me and my siblings on the weekends or after school so we got a babysitter. He was not the best; on the weekends he would not let us sleep in. He would have us do chores and it was not great. One specific thing I had to do was mop the kitchen and sweep it. The kitchen was pretty big and if I made one mistake I had to redo it all. Another thing is my dad never really came home so I had no one to look up to but I got to go to my mom's house for the weekends. Once we sold the house, me and 3 of my siblings moved to my mom's house. My dad got remarried to a lady named Valerie. She is very sweet and kind but she can be very rude sometimes. I visit my dad's house every other weekend. It's not the best but it works for my family.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I learned to let some things go and to move on with my life. I have trust issues now because I trusted my dad but I figured out that he is no good. But other than that I'm living a good life. But I'll say that everything turns out well.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince in which we both faced many challenges. In paragraph 13 of "Michaela DePrince" the author states "DePrince learned that her beloved mat-mate was to be adopted ." At one point in my life I also felt this same fear because I had to leave my friends because I was moving to another city but I'm doing good so far.

When I was little I always knew I was gay and each time I bring it up my mom would tell me that I will not be able to have kids. And I don't even want to have my one kid. I want to adopt or foster. I realized that where I lived that being gay or what I call it now is lgbtq+. So I pretended to be straight but support lgbtq+ which is really all my art is about. Maybe I should not have written an entry essay about a divorce. I also think that lgbtq+ should not be judged or considered disgusting.

You can support me by understanding what it's like to grow up dealing with different challenges such as divorce and discovering my identity.

Artist Name: Austin cowell

Title: Ride of Life

Cost: \$40

Orgonation: African Wildlife Foundation

My life was a roller coaster. My mom died when I was around 6 years old. The purpose of my art is to uphold other people's self-esteem and make them feel like they are still worthy. My life was tough after she died. I also always had suicidal thoughts. A few times I almost did what they said the entire time. When I was about to I thought about my mom and how she would say if I did and how she would want me to go chase my dreams and change the world so I did not do it.

The reason I kept almost killing myself over her dying is because she was the number one person who believed in me and when she died I felt like no one was there for me and I also thought no one cared for me and there was no room for me every time I tried telling myself that I was worth something my negative thoughts would say I wasn't worth dirt.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how this challenge shaped me. I thought only I went through this pain but over the years I found people who went through the same experience and I learned that it will be hard to get through it but it will be okay and that it will hurt for a while but one day I will get over the hurt and thoughts and that there is room for me and people do care.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers in "Bad Boy." In paragraph 11 of "Bad Boy" the author states "...but I had to pretend I didn't like it". This shows he pretended to dislike dancing even though he did. He also kept it a secret along with several other things. I relate to this because I pretended my mother's death didn't bother me when in reality it did. I also kept almost killing myself a secret along with her death, a secret at school. I also kept more than that a secret. I kept me having mental break-downs about her death a secret.

By the time I was 10 I got used to her not being there it obviously still hurt. I also liked to think of good times I made with her I also slowly became more joyful and active. I still do think what life would be like if she didn't die. I have mini breakdowns here or there. I think she would be proud of how I'm achieving my goals. She played a big role in my life just like everyone else like my dad, my sister, my brother, and my grandparents but she played the biggest role of my life she was there for me as soon as I was born. She was the first face I saw and then poof she's gone. I do sometimes find something of hers and think for a while I loved her cooking I'm not going to go into details but it was good memories watching her cook.

She was the most amazing mom ever she always took great care of me and my siblings she always kept us well fed she also comforted me and them when they were sad she loved helping us with problems she was funny too she had so many good jokes me and my mom had so much in common like we both loved family movie night and going to a special hotel on summer break.

Artist Name: Zaliyah Kulik

Title: Claustrophobia & Coulrophobia

Cost: \$45

Donation: Prevent Child Abuse America

Can you believe me, Zaliyah Kulik, has claustrophobia and coulrophobia? I really struggle because of this, it's hard going through claustrophobia and coulrophobia. The purpose of my art is to show people what it feels like to deal with being claustrophobic and colorphonic on a daily basis.

I struggle with going to sleep at night because I sometimes dream about clowns. The clowns pop up and come out of nowhere and this freaks me out. As far as the claustrophobia is concerned, I hate to be in tight places. I would never hide in a closed container, box, or any other space if I were playing hide and seek.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. It is kind of concerning to me because I feel like I can't get over them.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I do not feel like I can relate to any of the characters we have read about so far. I would enjoy learning about and reading about other people who have claustrophobia and other phobias I have.

The materials I used paint brushes and a canvas. I also used a pencil to sketch out my art. I'm painting a clown and a claustrophobic man in a very tiny box.

People can support my cause by putting their money towards my donation. They can also support me by researching and learning about what it is like to deal with different phobias on a daily basis.

Artist Name: Quintin McCleary

Title: Dead People

Cost: \$45

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Did you know that I, Quintin McCleary, have struggled with my grandparents dying. The purpose of my art is to make people understand what I have gone through.

I will be talking about when my grandma died. My challenge is when I was 3, my grandma died right in front of my eyes. I was born in 2011 and my grandma died in 2014. My whole family was crying but I don't think I was but I know for a fact my little heart was broken. My grandma Mary was my favorite and I was her favorite. Anything I wanted she would get me. She would spoiled me rotten. My grandma had lung cancer that spread to her bloodstream and brain because she smoked cigarettes. She basically wanted to die just like my grandma on my dad's side of the family died.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how this challenge shaped me. When I was 5 I started to understand that not all people live forever and to make the most of the time you have with people you love. This challenge shaped me by teaching me it is okay to cry over things and some people want to see God. If you look up above you will not see anything but they can see us. They are looking down at us making sure we are okay. They are also watching us when we are doing something bad.

In our Savvas text we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince because she also had to go through having someone in her family die. Her parents died in the civil war. Today she feels like she is living in a dream because she was adopted by a family who supports her dreams. In paragraph 2 of "Michaela DePrince" the author states, "I had no idea I would be here- I'm living dream everyday." Michaela was born in Sierra Leone in 1995. Her parents died during the civil war. Michaela and I went through similar challenges because we both had family we loved pass away. We also grew away from them dying; we still might remember them. We just don't cry that much anymore.

The materials I used in my artwork were a canvas, paint and modge podge. I used black, white, and gray paint. I also modge podged my sketch onto my canvas. The right is black, the middle is gray, and the left is white. I modge podged my sketch over the gray. The black and white are to show the sadness. The gray is the mix of the white and the black.

Would you also make art about somebody in your family dying? I would because I love my family if you don't that's okay because not everyone has to like or love somebody. In my family I don't like my younger siblings but I still love them. Kids like me aren't depressed they just love their family a lot. I also dislike my dad but that is because he does some bad things for example he tried to rob someone but one of his friends snitched on him. You can support kids like me by caring about your family and making the most of the time you have with them. You can also support me by donating to Cancer Research Institute. I chose this because it will support people like my grandma.

Artist's Name: Kyndal Milini

Title: I'm Just a Kid

Cost: \$45

Donation Organization: Dudes for Dads

I never knew I had ended up on this path. When I was 6 years old my parents got divorced and my life changed so much after that. I was really sad. I tried to make my dad stay, but he just left with nothing to say. It was really sad, but this is how it all happened.

The purpose of my art is to express how when I was a little girl, it was really hard for me to get over my parents divorce. Also, I didn't know what really was going on so I had to ask my mom what that meant, which made it even worse because it all didn't really make sense at first. I really want people to take my art seriously because this has happened to other people and it happened to me. I also want people to be kind about my art because it was hard work and it means a lot to me because it was true.

A challenge for me was that I heard my parents arguing a lot and I did not like it because I had never seen them argue like this before. I used to cry and feel a lot of pain. And now people are getting bullied about having divorced parents, it is not nice. Also my dad and mom were just always not caring for each other and didn't help each other out when they needed something or someone. When my dad would ask for something my mom would just ignore him and my dad would do the same to her, which is not okay. And it was just going on and on until they made a decision and got a divorce. And then we had to get rid of my two dogs because my dad didn't want any.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. One challenge that shaped me is that I need to get over things. I am still really sad because I don't get to see him as much anymore, but at least I get to see him a little more than I used to.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michela DePrince because her parents left her and so did my dad with me and my mom. In paragraph 1 of Brown girl dreaming the author states "when somebody asks why, the boy says he died" but at the end they find out he has just left them. This is because. My dad left me too and I can relate to that because their dad left them too. It was really hard to get over but then I learned that some people can get better and now that he wants to see me I get to see him!

The materials I used were black and white paint. This is because when I found out that my parents are getting a divorce, I felt nothing in my body. It was terrible, I wanted to use black and white paints because I feel like those colors are really plain and don't mean anything. When I was sketching my drawing I did not really know what I was going to draw. So it was really hard for me to decide. But after a couple sketches I finally knew what I was going to sketch. And at first it was not the color I wanted so I had a lot of layers of paints, but then I knew it was okay because I reminded myself that when I found out my parents were getting divorced I knew they were going through a lot and it probably felt like layers of arguments were all over them.

What you can do to support me and other kids like me and have a common problem like me is you can go fund me for Dudes for Dads you can buy my art work or you can just stop by

and read my paragraph I would really appreciate any of those things and I hope you like my art and you can understand what i'm feeling,thanks for reading!

Artist name: Peyton Mollohan

Title: Overcoming

Cost: \$60

Donation: Prevent Child Abuse America

Did you know that me and my family have been playing sports for a long time? From my dad playing football and baseball to my grandma winning two softball state championships. Let me tell you a story about how I overcame a very hard challenge in my life.

Two days before a tournament I was playing football in gym class and when I was running I was pushed down. When I was pushed down I tried to catch myself and broke my wrist. Then, in the championship tournament we were in, I went in for our right fielder and played with my wrist not even being able to twist it a little bit. I hit a walk-off single to win the game and it was pretty cool. This showed me that even though I was hurt and down I was still able to overcome it and try my best. I also think that since I tried my best there was a positive outcome. This also showed me that even though I was hurt I was still able to fight through my challenges and accomplish my goal.

This is just like a character in our Savvas text who also overcame a very difficult challenge. We are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Micheala DePrince because when she was younger she had been stabbed and attacked by rebels. But even after this incident she still battled back and accomplished many great things such as being adopted or even collaborating with Beyonce in a music video called "Lemonade". In the text Micheala is very self conscious about her skin condition this is shown when she was asked by her ballet teacher if she thought that her skin condition would hold her back in her ballet career the teacher tells her and she "hadn't even noticed the pale patches on her skin- she'd just been watching her steps." This was a very important moment in Michaela DePrince's life this is because these words inspired her to overcome her insecurities and be able to be free.

This shows that both of us both had challenges but overtime we overcame them. I know life can sometimes be hard but overtime you can overcome challenges that you put your mind to. We all face many different challenges in life. Overcoming challenges is not only good for you, but it also makes you feel better. Thank you for giving me your time and looking at my art.

For my project I used a canvas and paint because I really thought it brought out the pop and message that I was trying to convey. I tried to symbolize overcoming hard challenges. I learned while sketching that doing this art was actually an enjoyable and relaxing experience. I felt very kind and generous after painting.

One thing you can do to help support me and support kids like me is to donate money and start fundraisers for kids so that they can have better futures and better lives. Another thing you can do is donate clothes and food to kids in need.

Artist Name: Kristina Mossor

Title: Grandpa

Cost: \$50

Donation: Mental Health America

Do you know that I, Kristina Mossor, lived a super hectic life? When I was young, my life without a dad was tough but I got through it with the help of my grandpa. I don't have a dad, and I considered him a father-figure. My biggest challenge in life is that my grandpa passed away just recently, and I have once again lost the father-figure in my life. The purpose of my art is for people to understand how the loss of my grandpa has made me feel.

My challenge is that not only do I not have a dad, I have also now lost my grandpa who was always a father-figure to me. He was the guy who took me to the park and played guitar with me. The loss of him consumes my brain, and I find it hard to concentrate on anything else at school. I also am worried my life will go back to being hectic now that he is gone.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. Not having a dad or grandpa has made me more independent. It has made me feel alone at times, because people have made fun of me for not having a dad and now for not having a grandpa. I bottle a lot of my feelings inside until I can't contain it anymore and I explode.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. In lines 70-81 of "I was a Skinny Tomboy Kid," the author says, "every once in awhile late at night in the deep darkness of my sleep, I wake with a tenseness in my arms and I follow it from my elbow to my wrist and I realize my fists are tightly clenched." I relate to this because I find myself most upset at night time and becoming tense and unable to sleep. The thought of losing my grandpa not only makes me sad but also makes me angry.

In my artwork, I used modge podge, paint, and quotes on paper. The quotes on my artwork are to represent my thoughts and feelings about losing my grandpa. I chose the orange and red colors because my grandpa and I loved to sit outside and watch the sun set, and these colors reminded me of our time together.

You can support me by understanding how the loss of a family member can affect someone. You can also learn to be kind to others and not make fun of other people just because their lives are different from yours. You can also support Mental Health America.

Artist Name: Marcus Oakes

Title: Aaron Judge Hated

Cost: \$50

Donation Organization: National Council on Aging

Did you know people are being mean to Arron Judge because he might not sign with the New Yankees? The purpose of this art is to try to get people to stop being mean to Arron Judge. I don't think it's fair that people are saying all this mean stuff to Arron Judge when he didn't do anything!

I challenge you to be nice not just to Arron Judge but everyone. I also encourage you to count to 10 every time you are about to say something mean to someone and think about what you are going to say before you say it. If you say something bad you could get in really bad trouble with the police or the person you are talking to.

I think people shouldn't be mean to Arron Judge because where he wants to sign he can go where he wants to go! I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me to be nicer to people not just Arron Judge but myself. I just don't think all of this is fair to anyone at all.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to this because I lost 2 pets and 2 grandmas this year. In paragraph 4 of "Michaela DePrince" the author states, "I had lost both my parents that year so I had to go to a home." I relate to this because we never know the struggles someone may be going through and it is better to be kind to everyone. This is why I think people should be nice to Arron Judge.

In my artwork I used a canvas and paint. I used blue to show sadness and a picture of Aaron Judge to show what he looks like. Also I added "Stop Hating Aaron Judge." I added other colors to symbolize patience and hatred. I learned from sticking that drawing is fun.also Drawing is time consuming.

To support me and kids like me by donating to the National Council on Aging can help people with covid/cancer get better. By donating, this may help people so they can see their family for the holiday. My cousin was in the hospital last year and got better just in time for Thanksgiving thanks to the National Council on Aging. This is why you should donate to the National Council on Aging. It helps kids like me.

Artist Name: WP

Title: The Lost and Found

Cost: \$45

Donation: The NPCF

Hello, welcome to my life, I'm 12 years old. I was born on August 5, 2010. I have one sister and two brothers, while I was growing up my life was a roller coaster. I've had my ups and downs.

The beginning of my journey all started when I was 3. My mom had my sister then, a couple years later after that my dad went to jail and he was sentenced to five years of jail. A little while later my mom got a new boyfriend and got pregnant with my brother. I thought we would finally have a happy family. Until my step dad went to jail. So after that my mom became depressed. At only age 5 I had to be a mom. I even took care of my mother. I had to steal food from the grocery store so my siblings and my mother could eat. Then a few years later my mom started to go out more and she was barely home so I was always by myself. I didn't really care because my mom never helped me with anything.

One day when my mom was home in her bed and I was singing and dancing with my sister while my brother was watching TV downstairs with us, I heard a knock at the door. I thought it was one of her friends because that girl needed my mom and there were always people going in and out of her house. So I called my mom that there was someone at the door that needed her. I didn't open it. because my mom doesn't want me to open up the door to people I don't know. So my mom came down and opened up the door. And she slammed the door shut. I'm guessing she knew who she was. But right after my mom slammed the door and gathered all of us up and we ran up a hill and into one of my mom's friends' houses. And eventually the police found us and took us away from our mom.

I went to this one foster home for a couple months until they did not like my brother because, him being a 4 year old, he would always cry and they got tired of it. Then the second foster home I was there for 3 years would beat me and my siblings. Then I woke up one day to my brother gone because he ran. away so they called the police and they found my brother. So we went to another foster home that beat us and around that time mom stopped seeing us, but the rest of the foster homes were fine. I heated jumping house to house but I had to deal with it. And now I'm in 6th grade and being a 6th grader I get bullied, it really hurts to not feel loved and wanted. I want to be a model but people at school say I can't be. But every time I go outside strangers I don't know call me beautiful inside and out. I don't care if I'm beautiful on the outside, I would rather be beautiful on the inside.

The foster home I'm in now does not adopt so I have to wait for someone to adopt me. Because everything I've been through in my life without my parents to lead me through life I am depressed and I cut myself to release the pain I feel inside of me. But I know one day that I will eventually be adopted. The person I think I relate to the most is Michaela DePrince because she lost her mom and was an orphan then she finally got adopted and I'll eventually be adopted just like her.

Artist Name: Leila Ryba

Title: Leila's Cool Art

Cost: \$60

Donation: American Humane Society

Can you believe it? Basically throughout my life my dad has not been there for me when I grew up I thought I didn't have a dad. So when I got even older I started to play soccer and basketball. Eventually I had my first soccer game. The only one who was there to encourage me and be there for me was my mom. I remember my dad came to our house out of nowhere. And we played with him for a long time. My mom and him would just argue and argue. Then my dad would start visiting everyday to make my mom mad, and for some reason I liked my dad. I regret it so much though.

Next, so basically my mom and dad broke up. 1 year ago my siblings and I started visiting my dad. Then my dad thought we didn't know he was doing bad things when he wasn't supposed to. So after the visit with my dad I went to my mom's house. I told my mom that my dad was doing something he wasn't supposed to be doing. When I got older I started to play soccer and basketball. Eventually I had my first soccer game. The only one who was there to encourage me and be there for me was my mom. I remember my dad came to our house out of nowhere. And we played with him for a long time. My mom and him would just argue and argue. Then my dad would start visiting everyday to make my mom mad, and for some reason I liked my dad. I regret it so much though.

So then, my mom decided to go to court a couple months later. Somehow after what my dad did he still got to visit us. And I was devastated because I didn't want to go to my dad's house anymore. One day I went on a visit and what we ate for dinner was CHIPS and 3 meatballs. I couldn't stop telling my mom how much I didn't wanna go. So I talked to my mom and she said I didn't have to go visit him anymore.

Also, when my mom and dad broke up I got sad. I wanted him there, but him just leaving is upset. Not only did he put his girlfriend's kids in front of us but he also did bad things. Acting like we would never figure out what he did. My mom said I didn't have to go anymore so I stopped. My dad still asks "how can I be better?" I told him to text me more and stop putting your girlfriend's kids over your real ones. I called my mom and she came to get me. I don't go anymore.

For my artwork I used a canvas, a pencil to sketch, paint, and modge podge. I used pink, white and gray paint. I used pink paint for my background. Then I used yarn to outline my canvas. I used these colors and tools because they remind me of sadness. And not having your dad there for you is sad.

What you can do help me and other kids and kids that have a problem like me. If you can stop by to see my artwork and buy it. It's only 60 dollars and gives people confidence. So they think someone will buy their art. Also tell them they got it!

Artist name: Trevor Thompson

Title: Covid-22

Cost: \$45

Donation: Cancer Research Institute

Did you know that my life has been a roller coaster? I've gone through many challenges. But this one was specifically hard. A couple months ago I had covid. Although it was challenge, I was able to overcome my challenges. The purpose of my art is to inspire everyone to go up against challenges and to not be scared of them.

When I had covid it was really hard, you didn't feel like doing anything but laying in your bed and sleeping. Especially hard when you lose your taste because you can't enjoy food. I also wasn't able to play football. During the time I had Covid we had three days of practice and I missed all of them and was pretty sad. I was held back from playing the game I love. I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. My challenges shaped me into realizing that I need to enjoy my time being active and mobility before it can be taken away once I get older.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Michaela DePrince because when she had the skin condition, called vitiligo, she still fulfilled her dream of becoming a Ballet Dancer. In paragraph 5 of Michaela DePrince the author states "DePrince was numbered 27 because she suffers from vitiligo, a condition in which patches of skin lose pigmentation." During my time of covid it held me back from a lot of things just like Michaela. But I was able to overcome it and play football just like when Michaela was able to ballet dance even though people criticized her because of her skin condition.

In conclusion, during my time with covid, I had a lot of activities taken away from me. And during that time it really showed me what my life would be like without any activities. I am super glad that I was able to overcome Covid-19 and to be able to enjoy life again. However, I am thankful that my time with Covid was only for a week. I am also happy that I have gotten healthier ever since.

In my artwork I used a canvas and paint and a paint brush to paint on my canvas and tried my best to show what my essay was about on that canvas. The colors of paint I used were yellow, green, gray, beige, black and light blue. I think by just coming up and looking at it you can see what it looks like. I drew me in bed and then a Covid-19 symbol to represent me having Covid. What I learned from sketching is that it is very hard to me to draw when just using a pencil and no help.

If you are going to donate to a charity I would appreciate it if you would donate to the Cancer Research Institute. I chose this organization because my mom had breast cancer and even though specifically its not based on breast cancer but regular cancer would still help. There are also other organizations that you can donate to. And I bet they would appreciate your donations, as well as other kids like me.

Artist Name: Alexander Solinger

Title: The Struggles

Cost: \$50

Donation: End Homelessness

In my life I've had a lot of challenges. However, the most difficult challenge I have dealt with so far is my parents divorcing. My parents split up when I was two years old. The purpose of my art is to communicate to bullies that when they are bullying someone, they don't know what other challenges and struggles that person is dealing with. If they were to take the time to understand what someone is going through, they may bother them less.

Not only is my parents divorce something I struggle with, I also am dealing with not having a set schedule yet. I want my dad to get me every other weekend and some days out of the regular week and my mom gets me all of the other days. That is my plan to tell them, but my mom thinks that that is bogus. Now my dad thinks that that's a great idea. I have been working on convincing my mom why this schedule would be best for our family.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. My mom and my dad are great people, but they are never on the same page. Now they are starting to get on the same page and they are talking more.

In my artwork I used a canvas and paint. I did a lot of thinking and hard work to come up with the art I created. I chose stuff that stuck out to me and let my thoughts guide me.

You can help kids like me by understanding that children have a voice too. You can also support me by donating to End Homelessness. Although I feel like I am bounced around from house to house, I still have a home. I couldn't imagine what it would be like to not have a place to call home.

Artist Name: Noah Wallace

Title: Ocean Art

cost : \$60

Donation: National Alliance to End Homelessness

I have faced many challenges throughout my life. When I was 6 years old, my grandpa passed away. This had a huge impact on my life. The purpose of my artwork is to understand that everyone goes through tough things and that we all handle things differently.

This challenge has a big impact on my life all together. After he passed away I felt a lot of emotions but didn't know how to deal with all of them. I felt angry, mad, and upset. Because I couldn't deal with everything I had going on, I took it out on people around me and friends at school. I would yell at them and try to start fights as a way of coping.

I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I have slowly started to overcome all of my feelings and emotions. I yell at my friends less and try to avoid starting fights. I also don't go out of my way to yell and start fights with people outside of school. I learned to make the most of the time I have with my family and friends who I care about.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers from "Bad Boy" because everyone would bully me similar to how he was bullied. I have grown from this like Myers and started to care less about what people think and say about me.

The items I used for my artwork are a paint canvas, paint and modge podge. I used blue, white, gray and black paint because those remind me of the ocean and nighttime. I love the ocean and nighttime, they make me happy. I also put words that I wish I could say to my Papa. The heart represents my love for my Papa.

People can support me by understanding what people go through in life like me. You never know what someone is going through and it is better to just be kind. Life is short, respect everyone you meet. You can also donate to National Alliance to End Homelessness because everyone deserves kindness and having a place to call home.

Name: Jeremiah Wilkins

Title: Life

Cost: \$45

Donation: Mental Health America

Did you know horrible things happen the most when you're doing good in life? If you keep pushing until you can't and life goes downward, then you wonder if you played the game of life correctly. That doesn't matter because it's life that played you wrong in the end.

The purpose of my art is to tell kids standing out is good. The more you stand out, the better. Every human is unique in their own way. So I tell them why let society create you? You're special and you can do things others can't. Why act like you can't create yourself when you have all the tools you need to make yourself?

Growing up was hard for me. Constantly I was always asking myself why they can do things, but I can't? I always tried to stay away from being seen. When I was seen it was when I was in trouble. Even now they only pay attention to me when I am doing something wrong or sometimes if I am asking for help. Back at home, my family has been through plenty of abusive relationships. My mother would say my grandma was abusive and only cared about her sons. Later we found out my mom's brothers raped my sisters and then later on putting one of the men in jail.

When I was younger, some days I would miss school. My mother would drop me off at school, but no one would notice. Some people would say "hi". I would say "hello", but after that they would go back to ignoring me. They would not even try to help me learn. There was nothing I could do about it. It was the same at home. They didn't talk to me. They only talked to me when I got in trouble. My family didn't really like me so it was normal. Because of this I learned at a very young age people won't pay attention just because you work a well paying job or you have a nice family and make plenty of friends. They will only pay attention to you when you are at your lowest and even then just to laugh at you. I took time to think about my challenge and started to understand how these challenges shaped me. I thought the people around were nice or how the world was peaceful, but it was not. I slowly learned that the world was a horrible place with false hope, but now I have accepted that, and I am trying my best to live an uncontrolled life while other people of this world try their best. When people see my art I want them to understand that when they judge people and ignore their hardships it really impacts them. It can make them distant from people and even might hurt themselves to make them fit your likes and dislikes, causing them mental and physical damage

In my artwork I chose to use a canvas and paint. My art shows the man who does not hide his true self, creating himself being judged by the eyes of society. On the left, the man is hurting with a fake face to please the world. This is a representation of my feelings.

You can support me by understanding that we all go through challenges in life and it's important to be more understanding so people don't feel like they have to hide who they are. You can also support me by donating to Mental Health America.

Artist name: Jimmy Yoest

Title: Cool Artwork to Make People Smile

Cost: \$60

Donation: Salvation Army of Canton, Ohio

Did you know that artwork helps people with their emotional life? I want my artwork to look cool and make people laugh. I want my artwork to make people's day.

When I was in the first grade and I was getting out of school one day I was wondering why my mom did not pick me up. Instead my grandma came and picked me up. I got home and my mom was not there. I was walking to the back of the hallway and I went into my grandma's room. I asked where my mom was and she told me that my mom had gone to jail and I wouldn't see her for a long time. I started to cry because I would not see her for a long time. Also when I was younger my grandma died. I was in the same room as her and we were talking. 5 minutes into our conversation she just stopped breathing and she collapsed on the floor. She told me to leave the room and call 911. I called them and they sent two police cars and 1 ambulance..

This was a very hard challenge for me, but I stuck through it and did what I did best: stuck by her. We miss her so much we hope we meet again someday, but as we are still on this earth. I think this tells me that I am going to have to just deal with my grandma being gone in heaven and deal with the feeling that your grandma is gone and that she died in the same room as you.

In our Savvas text, we are reading about characters who have gone through struggles. I relate to Walter Dean Myers because of his talent and his passion for making a great story and an amazing book that everyone can read about. I am a lot like this character because he liked and was good at reading, dancing, playing sports, and being himself.

I want to show how I am feeling when I color, no matter what I'm coloring about. I just want to inspire people to brighten their mood.

You can support me by enjoying and buying my painting. That would mean the world to me just for one person to buy something I made. Do you know how cool that is? Just imagine what it will feel like. Just a masterpiece.

Artists' Names: Melanie Johnson, Lydia Umlauf, Tori Popernack, Jordin Richardson, Alex Hellier, Belle Antal, Gina Kavalec

Title: Massacre in The Classroom

Area of Interest: Perspectives of a school shooting

Metaphor: School shootings are puzzles with pieces dependent upon the others in order to have a complete picture.

Price: \$637 *A dollar for every fatal victim of a school shooting to date since 1970*

Organization Proceeds Will Benefit/Contact Information:

National Center for School Safety (NCSS)

1415 Washington Heights

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734-647-8295 @ [About Us - National Center for School Safety \(nc2s.org\)](http://About Us - National Center for School Safety (nc2s.org))

"I'm telling everybody to be quiet, and now, nobody is listening to me. I know how to handle these situations. My dad taught me when I was a little girl. Send help. Some of my teachers are still alive, but they're shot." - Khloie Torres, 10 years old, 4th grade

"And I had several — several kids just burst out in tears. And, honestly, I felt — I felt like crying too." - Trina Moore, Educator

"As children, they practiced tornado and fire drills at their schools. Because of what happened to them, their kids have active shooter drills, too." -Marin Cogan, Parent

"It was all done. There was no injuries that we can take care of, there was nobody that we can transfer to the hospital. It's just the helplessness of [being] unable to do anything." -Chip Carpenter, Volunteer Firefighter

"I wanna leave a lasting impression on the world" -an attempted shooter Keith M. Simmons, 13 years old, 7th grade

These are realities: We chose to begin with these diverse perspectives because we want you to connect with their realities and experiences. Can you imagine living through something like this from each depicted perspective? The purpose of our art is to help you gain perspective regarding the impact of school shootings on our communities and bring attention to the root causes of such violence. It's significant because the United States has had more school shootings than any other country in the world, with over 300 in the past twenty years and 35 already this year. First, we look at how many different groups of people are involved in school shootings. Second, we investigate their different perspectives and experiences. Third, we share how we translated these concepts into art and what they mean to us. Finally, we demand that you not only read this but see it... feel it... and do something about it. So many people beyond the direct victims of a school shooting are so strongly impacted. Entire communities are altered forever and forced to deal with violence, fear, and heartbreak. This is a reality that has only become more prevalent since the first incidents of school-related violence were recorded in the 17 and 1800s. Violence in education has plagued our country for over 200 years and we shout, "Enough is enough!"

PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENTS

Students go to school every day willing and ready to learn. Most are not expecting to end the day on the phone with 911 or hiding under a desk while their school is on lockdown. A bystander to a school shooting on the "All Things Considered" podcast by NPR, Nila Venkat, states, "At first, it was exciting, like we were playing hide-and-seek...As I grew older, lockdown drills grew more frequent and so did the school shootings I heard on the news." (Venkat, 2015). Another student on the podcast named Anthony Davis was in class when a student brought a gun to school and shot herself in the leg, "We had little kids there. So in my mind, the panic was for them as well as our lives" (Davis, 2015). In the most recent shooting of an elementary school in Texas, nineteen students were killed and two teachers. Khloie Torres, a ten-year-old student who was stuck in the school for forty minutes before authorities got in the school said, "Please hurry. There is a lot of dead bodies." Khloie also cries, "I stood up to look for a Band-Aid 'cause my friend had a big cut." Statements like the one above show the innocence these students have and how it is robbed from them in an instant.

PERSPECTIVE OF TEACHERS

"Back in the days when I grew up, I was in school, that's the safest place ever ... Then all this happening it's like, am I really safe in school?" Alcantara, a 12-year educator, explains how teachers no longer feel safe in their classrooms. She

goes on to explain that she has participated in ten active shooter drills throughout the 2017-2018 school year (Diaz, 2018). The New York Times dubs educators as the true first responders when school shootings occur. In the article titled, "Teaching in The Age of School Shootings," educators are picking up the pieces following a school shooting before official first responders even get into the building. Educators gather, "sobbing, vomiting, bleeding kids into the safest rooms they could find, then locked the doors and kept vigil with them through the stunned and terrified wait" (Interlandi, 2018).

PERSPECTIVE OF FAMILIES

People don't think about the parents' perspective often. If something happens at school, a student's first instinct is to contact their parents or someone they're close with. Families sometimes get alerted on their phones when their student goes on lockdown. This causes panic in the parents. Most of the time the student knows as much as the parent does (Spector 2018). The perspective of a worrying parent also differs with ethnicity. "Nonwhite teens have expressed higher levels of concern than their white peers. Roughly two-thirds of nonwhite teens, including 73% Hispanics, say they are least somewhat worried about this, compared to 51% of white teens." When considering home life, sometimes the shooter could be a student who doesn't get the proper affection or attention that they need at home and this raises a lot of concern for parents. Poor communication and emotional/social education within the home can contribute to violent outbursts in children, but if you talk to your child about their fears, most of the time they're very specific. Being a supportive parent gets your student a long way in life (NASP, 2016). Having difficult conversations about active shooter drills and actively practicing safety measures can be intimidating to many parents but it can also be pivotal to a child's survival. For example, in the article "How to Talk to Kids About School Shooting " the author explains school active shooter drills and how if more and more times a school were to practice less than they would freeze in a real emergency. Parents have so many responsibilities and the top one is keeping their children safe. Thinking that you've found a safe school and sending your child off in the morning only to get the phone alert that they're in danger wreaks inexplicable havoc.

PERSPECTIVE OF POLICE/FIRST RESPONDERS

A former police officer shared how one of the most psychologically challenging events a police officer can face is responding to an incident that involves child victims, large amounts of trauma, and the loss of life because of how vulnerable and unequipped the victims are. During an active shooting, officers can become highly stressed because they are the first to enter the situation to make sure it is clear and safe for other first responders to enter. Despite their extensive training, it is still intimidating to think that they have to enter the scene without knowing anything. They don't know how many shooters there are, what type of weapon or weapons are in use, or what the shooter's motive or plan is. On top of that, adrenaline and cortisol levels rise in threatening situations which can cause tunnel vision and auditory exclusion. Auditory exclusion is a form of temporary hearing loss in a high-stress situation that "may prevent police officers from hearing important information from dispatch, witnesses or other officers. As a result, those officers can miss key information relayed to them" (Sadulski, 2022). Bruno Casteneiro, an EMT first responder in the Sandy Hook shooting, shared what was going through his mind when he arrived at the scene too late. He shared how he felt helpless "You start second-guessing yourself sometimes, and think about, maybe if I would have taken this turn instead of that turn, or maybe if I was here 30 seconds earlier, maybe we could have saved one child. And it's ... you just feel helpless" (Casteneiro, 2012). Some of these first responders who respond to school shootings start to feel anger, guilt, grief, and frustration. They want to help as many people as they can but sadly, they aren't able to help everyone.

PERSPECTIVE OF SHOOTER

"I was in lockdown for six hours" ... "I ran as fast as I could not knowing if I was running right into my death." Shooters put this fear into every student, teacher, parent, and first responder. The shooter is, uncomfortably, the piece of the puzzle that connects each group of people involved in a school shooting and their perspective is perhaps the most complex and unexplored. In the words of Keith M. Simmons, an attempted shooter in 2018 at Jackson Memorial Middle School, "They say school shootings are horrible but they don't think like us, like me, Eric Harris, and Dylan Klebolts" (par. 3) "I'll look into those scared little bitches eyes before I kill them, there is now, I'll have followers because I am so awesome" (par. 3). Many can only question or guess why Keith wanted to take other people's lives or where his motives stemmed from and we may never understand. Only the one source above was able to reveal the real, raw perspective of a shooter's point of view. Many try to predict what brings each shooter to such violence and claim certain actions should have been warning signs that could have prevented each shooting, but it goes no further than speculation. We all raise

the question or thought of why shooters do what they do. Why do they reach a point where they think it is okay to take the lives of many? We need to find those answers and we need to use them to stop this trend of violence.

ARTMAKING

We share how we translated these concepts into art and what they mean to us. We decided to create diverse perspectives of everyone involved and affected by the shooter's actions. We have you start at the head of the table looking at the first canvas that represents the shooter's perspective. We use the caution tape to represent the rippling effect that the shooter's actions have on others. The second canvas you see is the student's perspective. Then the teacher's perspective. Then, the first responders. Lastly, the parent's perspective.

Belle Antal: To me, this piece is an eye-opener meant to show how scary school shootings really are. Students' lives and innocence are being taken, forcefully, at the place they should feel the safest. The canvas has bright colors and objects/craft supplies many students have used at school like pipe cleaners, googly eyes, puffy paint, Band-Aids, beads, crayons, and stickers. The canvas is made to represent a book, like the ones students use at school and on the cover of the book is the quote, "I stood up to look for a Band-Aid 'cause my friend had a big cut," and I used that quote because I felt it really showed the innocence of the students. Along the spine of the book, I used a partial quote from an interview where they talked about how lockdown drills used to seem like a fun version of hide and seek. School should be a safe place where students can learn, instead of a place of fear and worry.



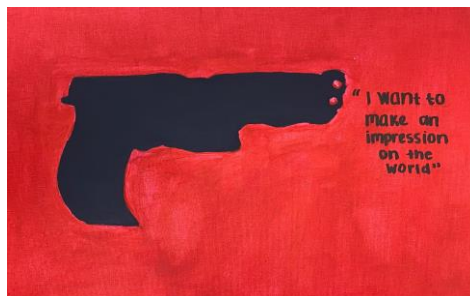
Tori Popernack: Teachers and the fear of serving and fighting to protect those they serve. In the middle of the canvas, there is a teacher made of ripped-up cardboard paper symbolizing school projects teachers may have their students complete. Surrounding the educator in the middle are images of items teachers may use to defend their students and themselves in the case of school shootings or an intruder in the classroom. The chaotic manner in which the objects are placed is meant to represent the mindset of educators who are involved in school shootings. The gray background behind the objects represents a storm brewing in the background similar to the rising chaos of such a situation.



Alex Hellier: For the police and first responders, the canvas as a whole shows the challenges that the environment during a school shooting presents as well as the trauma that often results from navigating these horrific experiences. There is an outline of a first responder with their head down to symbolize that these first responders deal with true grief and sadness that reaches them when they are unable to help deceased victims. In this outline are real pictures of first responders dealing with sadness and feeling guilt to further express the grief they go through. The red and blue painted canvas is to express the lights on the first responders vehicles. The gray color is formed on the outside of the canvas to express the loss of peripheral vision often experienced when heightened adrenaline levels cause tunnel vision.

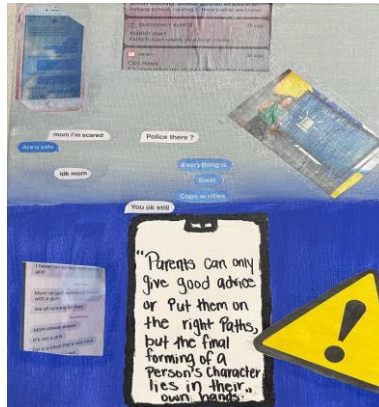


Lydia Umlauf: This art symbolizes the shooters' possible perspectives and what they may be experiencing so we can collaborate and develop ways to eliminate school shootings. The black color of the gun represents the darkness that surrounds the shooter's mind and represents the mystery of why the shooters are driven to take many people's lives with this specific weapon. The gun represents the weapon that is used to harm many and the quote "I wanna make a lasting impression on the world" by Keith Simmons at the bullet hole draws in our overall purpose of gaining the perspectives of a school shooting. The red color in the background and at the bullet hole represents the danger that each perspective will experience. It also represents the blood of the lives that the shooter has taken.



Gina Kavalec and Jordin Richardson: For the canvas from the parent's perspective, we created a connection from the shooter to the parents as a secondary perspective. The board expands the emotion through technology from students texting their final goodbyes through phones, emergency alerts going off, and news channels spreading the messages so parents, community, and other family and friends are aware of the situation. We drew a phone at the bottom of the canvas and put a quote by Anne Frank saying, "Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands". Then moving out from the phone we incorporate text messages from students saying their final goodbyes as they think they might be the next ones to be killed. They want to be certain they let parents, family, and friends know how much they love and appreciate them so they are all trying to inform them in the best way this generation knows how. While the parents have absolutely no clue what's going on, they text their kids to find out more information while the students are trying to be safe and protect themselves. We were able to find messages online and cut out photos and mod podge them down. We also went on a website to find warning signs and news alerts to attach to the canvas because when a school shooting is happening phones are going off

with news about the event to try to inform and notify everyone. For our background, we painted the colors gray going into bright/dark blue. We picked gray to represent the confusion and fear of not knowing what is going on with your own family, like children, teachers, and staff at a school in your own community. As the minutes go on you become more sad and anxious about the safety of your kids or someone you know in that school. We picked dark blue to describe the parents' raw emotions they go through when hearing of a school shooting, getting to the school, finding out what happened to their child, and the unknown of the entire situation, like being an outsider.



As a group, we discussed that we have not experienced any previous art-based assignments that demonstrate learning and understanding before this group project. I felt this opened my eyes to a different perspective. As a group we wanted to make this more visually appealing and more accessible, to make some type of difference, not just with our group but to show it to others and make them be more open to growing their perspective on school shootings. Arts-based assessments should play a bigger role in student learning. We didn't realize what a big impact it would make on our learning communities until we experienced this in this class. For some of us, we were nervous because we never experienced this before. We all agree, "absolutely," that this work is more engaging than writing 10-page paper or taking a written test. We learned that learning comes in many forms; you don't need to be "artistic;" there isn't one answer; we had to work together to solve something; no one told us what to focus on; we researched what we wanted to learn more about; and it is student-centered.

ACTIVISM

The overall purpose of our art is to help you gain perspective regarding the impact of school shootings on our communities and bring more attention to the root causes of such violence. We want people to feel as if they have a sense of understanding of each perspective and to consider the questions raised through each perspective: How can we better handle these situations and more proactively prevent them in the future? We want to answer these questions with our artwork by showing just how important it is that we do so; by showing that there are lives on the line. In today's society, we are taught in school about our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - a school shooting violates these rights and we want an active solution that considers all parties involved. School shootings have become so integrated into our daily lives that even students not directly involved live in fear that their school could be next, "I used to sit in the cafeteria thinking about where I'd go or what I'd do if a shooter came in."

This is a national problem that gains immediate attention when it happens, but as time passes by, people tend to forget the real impact that a school shooting has on a community locally and nationally. We tend to process the tragedy and move on rather than address the root causes to open the door to solutions. If you are interested, the National Center for School Safety helps continue this conversation. This organization helps improve school safety and prevent violence in schools. Their number is 734- 647-8295. We want our attendees to take away from artwork not just see it, but feel it and act on it. We want the conversation to spread and this is not something that should be put to the side any longer.

As part of our research, we conducted an interview with a public school principal. She had to deal with the threat of violence in a school with many difficulties that were only heightened by the pandemic. Thankfully, the threat was dealt with appropriately and no students or school staff were brought to any harm. Interestingly though, this teacher only found out about the threat as a result of a relationship between a teacher and their student, who felt safe enough to share what they had heard about possible violence in their school. This very recent incident begs the questions: Should

there be more focus on healthy relationship environments in schools? Is there a critical value in students feeling respected enough to interact with school staff and administration? Is the value possibly enough to save lives? What can we do to better protect our schools and why have we not explored these avenues as a national community before.

REFERENCES

- Chan, M. (2021, December 8). *Why the case against Ethan Crumbley's parents is so unusual*. Time. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://time.com/6126647/crumbley-parents-charges/>
- CNN Newsource Staff. (2022, November 2). *GRAPHIC: Uvalde survivor, 10, begs for help in 911 calls as police wait to act*. Breaking News. <https://www.kktv.com/2022/11/02/graphic-uvalde-survivor10-begs-help-911-calls-police-wait-act/>
- Diaz, A. (2018, June 6). *Active shooter drills for preschool teachers a new normal for Schools*. CBS News. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/school-shootings-active-shooter-drills/>
- Graf, N. (2020, May 30). *A majority of U.S. teens fear a shooting could happen at their school, and most parents share their concern*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/04/18/a-majority-of-u-s-teens-fear-a-shooting-could-happen-at-their-school-and-most-parents-share-their-concern/>
- Hurst, K. (2022, October 18). *About a third of K-12 parents are very or extremely worried a shooting could happen at their children's school*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/10/18/about-a-third-of-k-12-parents-are-very-or-extremely-worried-a-shooting-could-happen-at-their-childrens-school/>
- Interlandi, J. (2018, September 5). *Teaching in the age of school shootings*. The New York Times. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/09/05/magazine/school-shootings-teacherssupport-armed.html>
- Jordan, R. (2021, May 11). *School shootings and first responders*. Protecting Our Students. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.protectingourstudents.org/first-responders/>
- Loreno, D. (2018, March 1). *Jackson Township Student who shot self planned school shooting*. Fox 8 Cleveland WJW. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://fox8.com/news/jackson-township-police-chief-to-hold-press-conference-regarding-last-weeks-middle-school-shooting/>
- NBCUniversal News Group. (n.d.). *Schools and guns: How parents can ease their own fears about school shootings*. NBCNews.com. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.nbcnews.com/better/health/school-shootings-how-parents-can-cope-their-own-fears-anxieties-ncna908276>
- Sadulski, J. (2022, July 1). *Responding to school shootings: A former police officer's viewpoint*. Police1. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.police1.com/police-products/fitness-mental-health-wellness/articles/responding-to-school-shootings-a-former-police-officers-viewpoint>
- Schaper, D. (2012, December 19). *For Sandy Hook's first responders, trauma lingers with painful reminders*. NPR. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.npr.org/2012/12/19/167649317/trauma-can-stay-with-first-responders-long-after-events-pass>
- Skinner, P. (2022, June 3). *Perspective | our 'best case scenario' in school shootings is badly misguided*. The Washington Post. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/06/03/uvalde-police-best-case-scenario/>
- Sy, S., Ellis, N., & Kuhn, C. (2022, June 14). *'teachers are not okay' after school shootings*. PBS. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/teachers-are-not-okay-after-school-shootings>
- Talking to children about violence: Tips for parents and teachers. National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). (n.d.). Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>
- The Students' Perspective On Gun Violence In Schools. (2015, December 3). NPR. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.npr.org/2015/12/03/458361243/the-students-perspective-on-gun-violence-in-schools>

Artists' Names: Ella Wilson, Tori Reichard, Makayla Hewitt, Maddie Pentek, Parker Gorman, Emily Deely, Cadence Marsh

Title: Divisive Topics

Area of Interest: The spreading of “Don’t say gay” bills across the nation, forbidding discussion of race, sexuality, gender identity and other controversial topics

Metaphor: Forbidding social issues from being discussed in classrooms is silencing teachers and students, dividing classrooms, and damaging this country’s democracy.

Price: \$800

Organization Proceeds Will Benefit/Contact Information: Equality Ohio, (614)-224-0400 info@equalityohio.org

<https://equalityohio.org/legislation/dont-say-gay-dont-mention-race/>

Unfair

Pissed off

Harmful

Sad

Limited

Unjust

Scared

This is how we feel about ‘Dont Say Gay’ as future educators

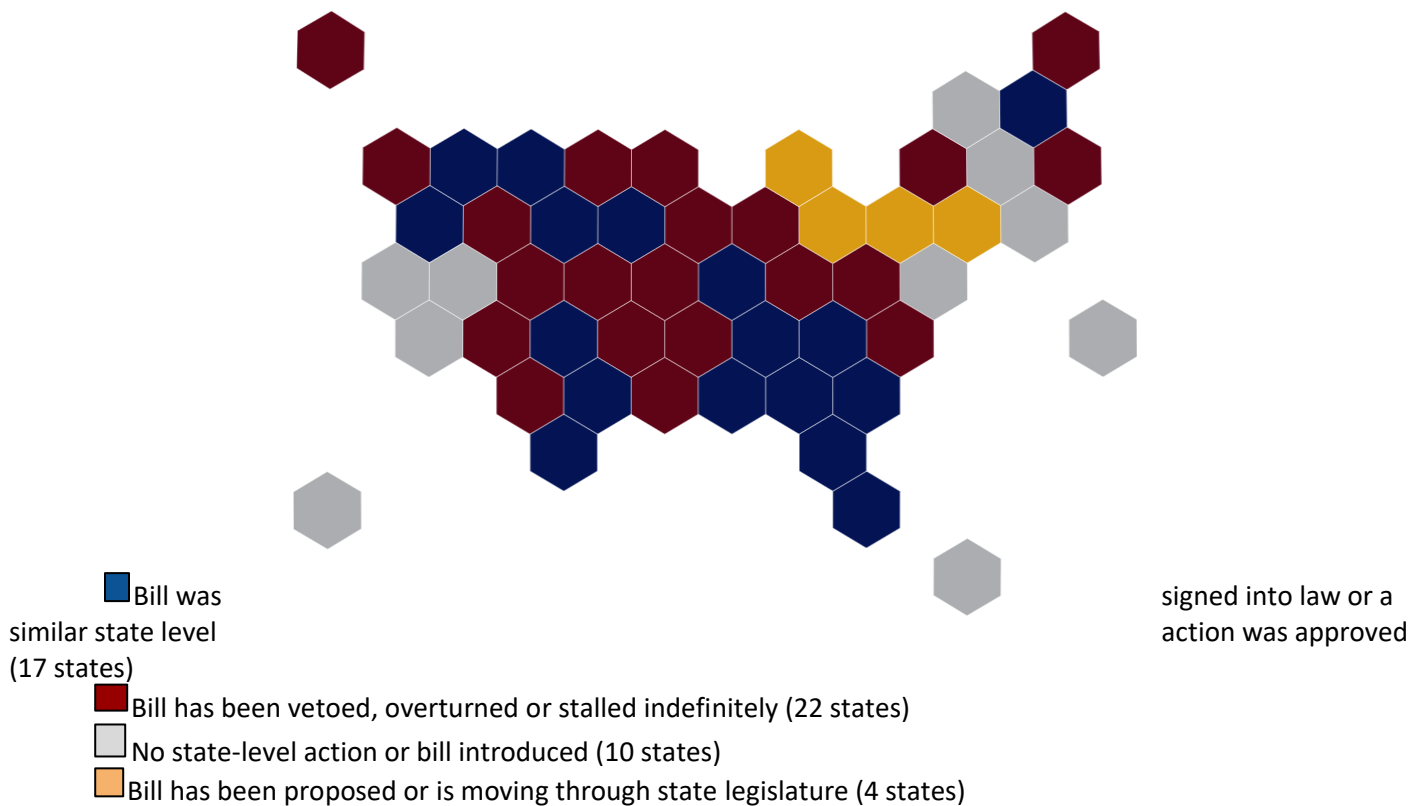
How do you feel?

Teachers, pay attention. Students, pay attention. If you care about anyone within any school system, pay attention. Your voices are being silenced. Students have questions about the world around them that policy makers don’t want being answered. Our right to speak about the issues of today in classrooms is being challenged. A bill is being proposed and passed in almost all US states that restricts the conversations allowed to take place within schools about topics such as racism, sexuality, and other important topics. Censorship has no place in education; we must be able to talk candidly of this country’s history, and current events, without omitting information that legislators may deem ‘divisive.’ In our opinion, this is putting too much power into the hands of policy makers. First, we are going to discuss how Florida has inspired many other states in the United States to introduce the “Dont say gay bill.” Second, we are going to discuss how Ohio is one of the states involved. Third, we are going to look at it nationally. Finally, we will conclude our understanding of the “Don’t say gay bill.”

THE BILL

It all started in Florida. When Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law HB 1557, it started a ripple across the country of misplaced fear of the ‘sexualization of children.’ HB 1557, popularly dubbed the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, states that “Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards” (NEA, 2022). Most worried about this bill are LGBT teachers and students, who have been made unsure of their place in their own schools. “Going into the new school year, LGBTQ educators in Florida describe widespread confusion over how much they need to hide their own identities, limit discussion of LGBTQ people or history, or notify parents if a student comes out to them. The new law raises critical questions over what constitutes a healthy learning environment, how to make schools safe for LGBTQ students, and what rights parents have to dictate their child’s experience in the public school system. And LGBTQ advocates warn that LGBTQ students—who already often experience higher rates of stigmatisation and isolation—could face worsening mental health concerns” (Meckler, 2022).

Florida has inspired many other states across the country. Ohio has introduced their own “Don’t Say Gay” bill that mirrors Florida’s bill. However, Ohio’s bill adds a limitation on conversations and instruction about critical race theory as well as topics involving LGBTQ+ (Ecarma, 2022). “State Reps. Jean Schmidt, R-Loveland, and Mike Loychik, R-Bazetta, brought House Bill 616 to the State and Local Committee, which prohibits all Ohio schools from “teaching or providing training that promotes or endorses divisive or inherently racist concepts” (Tebben, 2022). Divisive topics include Critical Race Theory (CRT), a mislabeling of any and all discussion of race in the classroom. CRT is not taught in schools. Originally, CRT was developed as a theory at Harvard Law School. This theory is based on the disparities Black people



Schwartz, S. (2022, October 4). Map: Where critical race theory is under attack. Education Week. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from [Map: Where Critical Race Theory Is Under Attack](#)

faced through the law, such as imprisonment, harsher penalties, higher rates of arrests, and much more (see [What Is Critical Race Theory, and Why Is It Under Attack?](#)) Teachers aren't allowed to have conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes (Equality Ohio, 2022). Teachers are being limited on what they can speak about in the classroom, but what is actually considered inappropriate or age appropriate for these students? Essentially members of the public can decide. If they find a teacher's language or lesson to be "inappropriate" on their terms, the teachers can lose their licence and the district can lose funding (Ecarma, 2022). The bill proposed is incredibly vague and can be twisted to fit a harmful agenda.

This bill seems to be taking over the nation along with the critical race theory. Most states "have introduced bills or taken other steps that would restrict teaching Critical Race Theory or limit how teachers can discuss racism and sexism" (Brunold-Coneesa, 2022). These subjects are not allowed to be discussed in classrooms; students may ask teachers questions based upon race or sexual orientation, but teachers are unable to respond with an answer. Since January 2021, 42 states have taken action and set a bill into place or have introduced a bill that limits what teachers can or can not discuss in a classroom. From these 42 states, "17 have imposed these bans and restrictions either through legislation or other avenues" (Schwartz, 2021). By banning the talk of racism and sexism in the classroom it limits the freedom of speech that teachers have. Educators believe that banning Critical Race Theory is "destructive and rejects the fundamental ideas on which our constitutional republic is based" (Sawchuk, 2021). Teachers are there to educate children; why are we taking away their right to educate children about the real world if children want to know? As a whole nation, we are reserving the rights of students and staff members for speaking out for what they believe in. With this bill in effect, it will do more harm than good in the long run. With this bill being passed, teachers in most states are not allowed to talk about these topics and if they do they would get fired. How are kids going to learn if there are no teachers to talk about these divisive topics?

ARTMAKING

We created art representing the "Don't Say Gay" bill, as it is popularly known. This bill is taking over the nation and prohibiting certain 'divisive' topics from being talked about in the classroom. We decided to paint a teacher at the center of our art. We used yarn for her braids. The braids are rainbow braids that symbolize the LGBTQIA+ community. We threaded the braids throughout the canvas to look as if they are a part of her head. We decided to cut out and mod

podge the 50 states. We made the states the border for our painting. We used all 50 of the states because all of America is affected by the bill. While not all of the states have passed a bill similar to Ohio's HB327, the bill is being passed at the state level, and is thus a potential issue for all states. We believe the bill silences teachers and students. Therefore, we printed HB237 and crumbled it up in the teacher's mouth. We did this by pushing through a hole in the canvas to better emulate this effect. This demonstrates that the bill is restricting her rights to talk about certain topics that are now deemed "divisive." We decided to painted spiders on the states' flags to show "infestation." This infestation is about these types of bills silencing and restricting education. We believe this legislation can be stopped and should be stopped at the state level. The apple, chalkboard, chalk, and book are all elements to signify this woman is an educator. The chains we painted are representing how HB327 is literally restraining this educator, as well as all educators.

Makayla- This experience has shown how working as a team and bouncing off ideas can help make the final product better in the long run. I haven't done art in a long time. This project brought creativity back into my life. One question I have is: when do children lose their creativity and confidence in themselves? I've never had a class that incorporates art into their teaching like in this class.

Ella- I really enjoyed this activity. I really thought we worked well together as a team and we created a very authentic piece to represent the topic we chose. I think individually, everyone showed creativity within themselves and throughout the project. I didn't really get an experience to show my creativity through art in school so I am glad as a group and individually we got to show our creativity through this project and also raise awareness to a crucial topic happening around the world.

Parker- I thoroughly enjoyed making this piece of art, especially working to create it with a group. The greater number of ideas presented in a group allows for lots of creativity as well as trial and error. A question that this project raised for me personally was, "Why don't our school systems place as much emphasis on art making and art collaboration?" I have not ever been part of a project like this, especially outside of art class. I feel like this is something that can be incorporated in all subject areas and give students another medium to express their skills and knowledge.

Cadence- This project made all of us use our imagination and creativity; joining together all our ideas to create one overall piece of art. Working together as a group helped us use team bonding skills to corporate our ideas. I have never worked on an art project before since I have not taken any art classes. My school does not have art classes for grades K-12, which makes me wonder why do schools not consider art as an important part of children's education?

Tori- This project made me realize how creative you have to be to be able to draw something that speaks to people. It truly showed how working as a group to bounce ideas off each other has helped throughout the project. Why aren't more schools doing projects like this one?

Maddie- This project truly opened my eyes to the perspective and ideas other people have. I learned that this was much easier to complete in a group setting with everyone contributing their ideas. We included ideas from everyone to create this piece which made it even better. Overall, we worked very well together and created a piece that everyone contributed to. I have not taken an art class or done a project in a very long time, this was the first piece of art I have done for a while and made me feel creative. A question this raised for me is why there aren't many art classes available for students to take throughout middle school and high school?

Emily- This was a pretty fun project; I was nervous about doing the main figure, as I have not painted anything that featured a human being in quite some time, but I am satisfied with how it turned out. I have never been given an art assignment outside of an art class before, and it was even more interesting to be working on it as a group. What I liked about the group was that everyone contributed ideas to how the composition would turn out, it is like a potluck of visual elements. I feel as though our professor Christa ought to be named our honorary eighth group member, as several ideas were contributed by her and exist in the final piece.

When choosing an issue facing U.S. public schools, we started by going around and brainstorming ideas of topics we have heard about in/ out of class and are passionate about. We came up with ideas such as school shootings and the HB327 bill and the restriction of divisive topics in the classroom that are hurting teachers and students. Once we

narrowed the two options down to the HB327 bill we started to think about what we could do to show our passion for the issue. We thought about collages or painting a canvas. Once our group decided the topic of choice, we got to work in creating the piece. We chose elements in our work to represent how strongly we feel about this topic.

ACTIVISM

Our goals when making this project were to raise awareness for this issue as well as encourage people to take action wherever they can. This can come in many forms. Now that you have learned about the impact a bill like this can have, we encourage you to keep these things in mind when you go out and vote in any election. It may also be helpful to contact your representatives and express any concerns you may have, as well as simply connecting with other citizens who this bill may concern as well. If you do have a child in the school system who this may affect, please speak with them openly about this bill and how its possible introduction into the classroom could affect them and their district. Finally, we encourage you to treat teachers and students with respect, empathy, and patience. They are dealing with many obstacles while also trying to learn and teach in their classroom.

REFERENCES

- Alfonseca, K. (2022, April 6). *GOP lawmakers introduce version of 'Don't Say Gay' bill in Ohio*. ABC News. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://abcnews.go.com/US/gop-lawmakers-introduce-version-dont-gay-bill-ohio/story?id=83908572>
- Brunold-Conesa, C. (2022, May 4). Critical race theory legislation: Impacting how we teach and learn about racism and diversity in schools. Montessori Resources for Schools, Teachers, Families and Parents. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://amshq.org/Blog/2022-05-04-Critical-Race-Theory-Legislation>
- Carlisle, M. (2022, August 25). Florida teachers Confused by so-called 'Don't Say Gay' Law. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://time.com/6208554/florida-lgbtq-teachers-dont-say-gay-education-law/>
- Ecarma, C. (2022, April 6). *Ohio Republicans Propose their own "Don't SayGay" bill, with a Side of Critical Race Theory Hysteria*. Vanity Fair. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/04/ohio-republicans-dont-say-gay-bill>
- Equality Ohio. (2022). *Don't Say Gay, Don't Mention Race*. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://equalityohio.org/legislation/dont-say-gay-dont-mention-race/>
- Meckler, L. (2022, June 3). *Gender identity lessons, banned in some schools, are rising in others*. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/06/03/schools-gender-identity-transgender-lessons/>
- National Education Association. (2022, June). *What You Need to Know About Florida's "Don't Say Gay" Law*. <https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/FL%20Dont%20Say%20Gay%20KYR%20-%20Updated2022.06.pdf>
- Sawchuk, S. (2022, October 28). *What is Critical Race Theory, and Why is it Under Attack?* Education Week. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05>
- Schwartz, S. (2022, October 4). Map: Where critical race theory is under attack. Education Week. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/map-where-critical-race-theory-is-under-attack/2021/06>
- Tebben, S. (2022, June 1). *Newest 'divisive concepts' Bill enters Ohio House*. TiffinOhio.net. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://go.tiffinohio.net/2022/06/newest-divisive-concepts-bill-enters-ohio-house/>

Artists' Names: Owen Bowlby, Anthony Deitsch, Morgan Eskridge, Lauren Fitzsimmons, Rae Harney, Collin Hunt, Kali Siembor, Jenny Zaborowski

Title: WE REMEMBER!

Area of Interest: The need to improve the educational learning environment.

Metaphor: Education is an eye with multiple complex lenses.

Price: \$15

Proceeds Will Benefit: The Love Yourself Project

TEACHERS SAW MY 504 PLAN AND SAID, "WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? YOU WILL ONLY WORK AT WALMART." -ASPIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

I'M 18. I HAVE ONLY HEARD ONE TEACHER STEP IN WHEN I NEEDED SOMEONE THE MOST. THAT SAVED MY LIFE, HONESTLY. -ASPIRING MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDHOOD TEACHER

KIDS CALLED ME "FAT" AND NO TEACHERS STEPPED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY. - ASPIRING HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

WHEN ONE OF MY FRIENDS IN MY CLASS COMMITTED SUICIDE, THE SCHOOL NEVER MADE SURE THE STUDENTS WERE OKAY. THE SCHOOL ONLY STOPPED FOR A DAY. WE STILL HAD TO EVERYTHING AS NORMAL, AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED. -ASPIRING HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

MY BIOLOGY TEACHER SAID, "YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SMART. WHY AREN'T YOU AS SMART LIKE WHEN I HAD YOU IN CLASS A YEAR AGO."- ASPIRING HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

MY SISTER DID VERY WELL IN SCHOOL AND I WAS ONLY COMPARED TO MY SISTER...CONSTANT COMPARING...I WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO LIVE UP TO AN EXPECTATION THAT WASN'T ME. -ASPIRING ELEMENTARY TEACHER

*IN HIGH SCHOOL, MY VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH GOT IN MY FACE BECAUSE WE WERE LOSING AND YELLED, "GET THE F*** OUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE." -ASPIRING ELEMENTARY TEACHER*

WHEN STUDENTS ASKED TO COPY MY WORK AND I SAID "NO" THEY CALLED ME A "TRY-HARD" ...AND THEN A MEME WAS MADE ABOUT ME BECAUSE I WAS STUDENT OF THE MONTH. -ASPIRING HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH TEACHER

These are things we all heard growing up in K-12 schools. The purpose of our art is to show how comments like this affected us and how they affect other kids in school. This is significant because schools should be held accountable for possible long-term effects. Remember, all of us are adults and WE REMEMBER! First, we examine the conditions of the school building and how this can affect a child's mental well-being. Second, we explain how teachers play a vital role in how students see themselves and others. Third, we discuss the issues with tracking students and the effect of the student achievement gap on how students might feel about themselves. Fourth, we share the effect peers have on each other and how they relate to one another. Next, we present our art and what it means to us. Finally, we want you to join us, reflect on your role, become this important change, and how you can contribute to supporting students.

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Having a safe, clean, and supportive environment for students is a necessity for students' success. According to Science Direct (Kweon, Ellis, Lee, & Jacobs, 2017), there is a correlation between greenery and high test scores. They found that schools with more trees often had a higher percentage of proficient or advanced scores in Mathematics and Reading standardized tests. This study proves that safe environments help students succeed. They also discovered if students attended refurbished schools, students gradually adapted to the changes. In contrast, students at the newly built school experienced a complete change in their school environment and hence, their school seemed more impressive. Despite change being hard on some people, this study suggests changes in the environment may benefit students.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

From our experience, teachers often set the tone for what students expect when they walk into the school. Teachers have the ability to create their classroom into a safe space, making it feel like a second home for many students. However, not all teachers do this.

Teachers have the power to directly influence the self-esteem of their students. The self-esteem of students is oftentimes directly correlated to the self-esteem of teachers, as younger students often learn through imitation (Mbuva, 2016). This means that it is crucial that teachers do not make negative comments about themselves or other students, as this can send the message that doing this is okay.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Gifted programs affect students in and out of the program. When children enter into school, it is the job of their teachers to find student's developmental strengths and areas for improvement (Kruse, 2018). This practice is proliferated through standardized tests which create the achievement gap: where white children are seen to achieve at top marks after a huge point gap Black and Latinx children are trapped with lower scores, oftentimes due to the environment they grew up in.

CLASSMATE ENVIRONMENT

Understanding the harmful effects of bullying on self-esteem is a very important issue in assuring the health and well-being of children. Some people may assume bullying is associated with the self-esteem of victims and bullies only. However, even children who are not involved in bullying as either bullies or victims can be influenced by watching or ignoring bullying, although the effect on non-victims may be relatively weaker than on victims (Menesini & Salmivilla, 2017). Still, being bystanders may harm non-victims' self-esteem by generating shame, guilt, anxiety, and other negative emotions. In a study from 2014, researchers found 35% of students (12-18 years old) had been victimized or were the bullies. Fifteen percent of students have been involved with cyberbullying. Being a victim of bullying affects your self-esteem, children tend to have little to no friends, low peer acceptance, lower school performance, and lifelong mental illness. A few studies have shown that a perceived positive school or classroom climate, which has often been called school social cohesion or collective efficacy, is adversely associated with bullying behaviors and exposure to bullying in the school or classroom.

ARTMAKING

Collin and Morgan: Our piece features a canvas with an individual bottom centered on the piece. We wrote words we all have heard while being in school, more specifically, words that are used among peers against each other. The hands pointing at the individual—essentially calling them these hurtful words are our center figures peers. These words have discouraged ourselves, our friends, and have impacted us negatively. We decided to paint the canvas red, as the color red shows sadness. While it is all interconnected. The goal of this piece is to show how our peers words in our schools impact the way that we see ourselves.

Lauren and Rae: Our piece features two rows of pride flags; progress flag, bisexual, gay, lesbian, transexual, and non-binary. The entire piece is created using watercolors to specifically show the water-downed effect that LGBTQ+ members feel. The blue fabric will be liftable and the underneath will have two brains to demonstrate that men and women are the same. On the fabric will be the male and female signs with their colors associated with each.

Owen and Kali: Our piece centers an American high school overlaid by a similar school but in a state of disrepair. The piece was created with various paints, images, and mod podge. This piece represents the state of disrepair many high schools find themselves in overtime and demonstrates the negative environment it fosters for the students inside. The building underneath is shown with a golden glitter, showing the bright and positive environment that could be given to students, yet is overwhelmed by the negative aspects creeping in around it.

Jenny and Anthony: We created a mixed-media canvas about how the academic system fails to fully work with individual students. This piece is meant to showcase how the education system often pushes students into one mold that does not necessarily fit the needs of every student. I painted the background of my canvas with a mix of red and black paint to give a hellish tone to the entire piece. Then, I printed out a picture of a factory to represent K-12 education and modge

podged it to the middle of the canvas. I used a white paint pen to make the factory lines of the system. I covered the “succes” line with gold glitter puffy paint to show how those students are emphasized. Then I painted the “blobs” to represent the children going through the system. At the start of their education, they are creative, and individuals, but by the end, they are either all the same and succeeding, or some sort of mess, failing the system. Then I painted some brown clouds to show how the system can pollute an individual. I painted over the clouds with some watered down black paint to make the clouds seem more fitting to the tone of the painting.

ACTIVISM

The purpose of our art is to emphasize the importance of having a safe environment in schools. Doing this will allow students to express themselves in a way that makes them feel safe. In our own classrooms, we will all strive to ensure that it is a safe space for our students where they are able to express who they are without fear that they will be criticized or judged. Associations such as Education International, The Global Partnership for Education, and Save the Children all fight for ensuring a higher quality of education for all students across the globe. With this information, we ask that you remember that children are truly the future of the world, and the environment that they learn in is just as important as the things that they are learning. Please keep all of this information in mind when voting on school ballots, for representatives, and when choosing school board members who make critical decisions regarding our school systems.

REFERENCES

- Kruse, H. (2019). Between-School Ability Tracking and Ethnic Segregation in Secondary Schooling. *Social Forces*, 98(1), 119–146. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soy099>
- Kweon, B., Ellis, C. D., Lee, J., Jacobs, K. (2017). The link between school environments and student academic performance. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 23, 35-43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2017.02.002>
- Ross, L. E. (1995). School environment, self-esteem, and delinquency, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 23(6), 555-567. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352\(95\)00046-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(95)00046-1)
- Mensini, E., Salmivalli, C. (2017). Bullying in schools: the state of knowledge and effective interventions. *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 22, 240-253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13548506.2017.1279740>

Artists' Names: Jesse Matusicky, Maddie Keller, Ash Anzaldi, Anthony Massucci, Kylie Mrklas, Ava Flood, and Sami Tubbs

Title: Bridge to Success

Area of Interest: Bridging communities and schools

Metaphor: Relationships between education and community is a bridge

Price : \$150

Organization Proceeds Will Benefit/Contact Information: Donors Choose (see <https://www.donorschoose.org/>)

*This was hard for me.
This was hard for me to write.
This brought up emotions.
Emotions my peers may feel.
Sometimes we are afraid to say what is on our mind.
Why?
I am afraid of being judged.
This took bravery.
This took courage.
I am starting to feel better about myself.
I am realizing why I was so anxious about this.
This was about me.
I am not used to this.
I buried it.
I need everyone to know this about me.
My family is my go-to in my life.
My family matters.
They do the best with what they have.
My mom had to leave my sister
With my grandparents because she was getting her education.
She wanted a better life for her family.
She was only 17 years old.
She was just a kid.
Leaving her home to create a "better life".
Most families come across this issue.
The idea of a better life.
But how can they accomplish this?
With little to no help.
As a society we tend to pass judgment.
But now, it is time to see the good.
It is time to make a change.*

One of our group members wrote this poem for our artmaking because the group member experienced this in school. Students and families are being under-served and have nowhere to turn to. It is our job as future teachers to provide them a place to give them comfort and resources. The purpose of this artmaking is to increase awareness regarding poverty and the need to improve practices/policies to support all children and families in schools. This is significant because our children and families matter to us and building those relationships play a critical role in ensuring we are supporting them and their learning. First, we discuss what children and families need in order to have 'success' in school. Second, we explain the influence of negative stereotypes on children and families who live in poverty. Third, we share what we can do as educators to bridge home and school so everyone is included, and we can work together to promote their 'success.' We reflect on what this means to us as aspiring teachers. Next, we present our artmaking and all the symbolism in it. Finally, we request you to join us to bridge the home and school relationship.

HOW TO PROMOTE 'SUCCESS' WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY

First, we discuss what children and families need in order to have 'success' in school. In the United States, 1 in 7 children live in poverty (Haider). Children and families living in poverty make up one third of the population in America. We

contend it is extremely vital their voices are heard. As aspiring educators, we didn't even know this existed. We were shocked! Throughout this project we have mentioned the term 'successes. Well, 'success' in schooling means good grades, positive friendships, and connections with teachers. For students to have 'success' in schools they need to feel welcomed and supported. They need to know that, as teachers, we are there for them and their families. No matter what type of income a family may receive, they need to be treated with respect and kindness throughout their schooling career. The main way that teachers can help students and families achieve success is by creating personable relationships with them. When teachers have positive relationships with the parents of their students, it is more likely that the student will receive a positive outcome from their schooling. "A number of studies have confirmed this prediction: parental involvement in children's schooling appears to be associated with a range of positive outcomes, including fewer behavioral problems and better social conduct (El Nokali et al., 2010; Mashburn et al., 2011; Powell et al., 2010), lower dropout rates (McNeal, 1999) and higher student achievement (Arnold et al., 2008; Marcon, 1999; Powell et al., 2010)." If more teachers create positive relationships with their students, then there is a higher chance of success with their schooling.

NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES

There are many myths about people in poverty and why they are poor. A lot of people do not understand the struggles that others face. Therefore, there are many negative stereotypes and myths that arise. One of the myths about poverty is that people in poverty are unmotivated and have weak work ethics. Sadly, that is what a lot of people think. However, that is so far from the truth. "Although poor people are often stereotyped as lazy, two-thirds of people living in poverty work an average of 1.7 jobs; 83% of children from low-income families have at least one employed parent; and close to 60% of children have at least one parent who works full-time and year-round" (). Many people who are struggling with income are working harder to create a better outcome for their families. They are trying to be the best that they possibly can be, and they are trying to combat negative stereotypes. This leads us to discussing a different myth. This stereotype is that poor parents are secluded from their child's education because they do not care. The truth is that low-income parents hold most of the same principles about education that wealthy parents do. Low-income parents tend to be less likely to attend school functions or volunteer in their children's classrooms. However, this is not because they care less about education. The main reason is that they tend to have less access to school involvement than their wealthier peers. They are more likely to work multiple jobs, to work evenings, to have jobs without paid leave, and to be unable to afford childcare and public transportation. These families are trying to do what is best for their families, but the education system is working against them. Since teachers are not working with these families, they are unable to be present in their child's schooling.

BRIDGING HOME AND SCHOOL

Third, we share what we can do as educators to bridge home and school, so everyone is included. We can also work together to promote their 'success.' It is more common now compared to years ago that the bridge between education and families is breaking. According to an online article, Representing Relationships Between Parents and Schools: Making Visible the Force of Theory, "Parent interest and support for the school and its staff makes it easier for youngsters to relate to and identify themselves with the goals, values, and personnel of the school, a powerful motivation to tune in and turn on to education". Both parents and teachers offer students different types of support in different ways, making it more important now to be able to receive help from both sides. Picture a balance scale; one side are the parents, and the other side are the teachers. When one side starts failing it's up to the other side to bring each other back together. For example, the school could hold an event for the children to attend and parents could come or volunteer to help. PTA or PTO is a great example for parents showing their involvement with the school and children. The teachers could also provide at home activities to boost learning flow and strengthen educational connections with families. Developing a healthy connection between the child's teacher and their home life will begin to rebuild the broken bridge.

ARTMAKING

We chose to create a mixed media piece of art in the hopes of getting a conversation started about the importance of integrating homelife and schools. This work is meant to inspire everyone. Teachers, families, students, and all people in the community can take steps towards creating a place where everyone feels heard, seen, cared for, and understood so that we can all fulfill our roles in the best way we can. Having a deeper connection between the students' homelife and their school sparks passion towards making sure the student is successful. To demonstrate our ideas, we have three

canvases that will be joined together. The center of the piece will represent both a student and their family. It was important to include the heart, soul, and mind of the child because there is more to a child than just their intelligence. It was also important to have this heart, mind, and soul double as representing the family because it is crucial to the students' success that the school system be engaged with the family and understand where they are coming from. By painting a brain, anatomical heart and a glowing representation of a soul we were able to capture the importance of seeing the family unit as whole and complex. On the right canvas, we will embody a school system that is thriving with the inclusion of schools and homelife by connecting this canvas with the child by a sturdy bridge. In the background we will place pieces of homework that is done correctly with positive aspirations around it. On the other hand, the left canvas portrays the complete opposite. The homelife and school system are not making the connections to help the student grow. The bridge connecting the right canvas to the center is not sturdy, broken, and falling. It represents the school not connecting to the child. The artwork portrays the difference between schools who help support the child and their families compared to schools that are lacking that connection.

Choosing an issue within the education system to identify and address as needing attention raised many questions within us as future educators. This task had such an effect because there are so many issues that need to be addressed, that would work towards promoting education in a democratic society. As a group, two out of seven of us experienced art-based assessments in school. Two of us had trigonometry teachers who requested graphic representations/art/painting symbols for either bonus points or as part of an assignment. Ash, who is an art education teacher, noted she will provide opportunities to understand the material in new ways for those she serves. For group members, having an opportunity to engage with students and artmaking made it easier to understand the material. Incorporating art in this course provided hands-on opportunities as well as spaces to explore and learn the material in new ways. Another student stated, "Art isn't this 'fun' thing...it is so much more...it's not about making something 'pretty'...it's about learning something...and expressing it in another way...I guess when I was taking this class and considering artmaking, I didn't think it was possible...it was really cool...we researched something that interested us...it wasn't what we 'normally' experienced...I definitely want to see more of this in my college classes...it is definitely cool and a cool learning experience...I got to see this change from an idea to research to art...and we did it...I am not an artist and I realized that I can contribute and work with others to make this happen...and in the beginning we even asked what part we wanted to play...and at first, more people wanted to work on the writing, but now all of us realize we can get involved and do art..." Another group member said, "I never had group projects...I was always expected to do everything on my own...and I didn't do any art...it was a good experience...challenges along the way included learning how to share my opinion and to be heard...I felt like I could actually say stuff now...I felt like I made a judgment before trying, and now, I realize how much my judgments impacted me." Another group member stated, "I didn't have any art experience...he said, "I am learning there is more variety to be offered...different ways to show you are learning...I learned how to work in groups...it helped me learn things I didn't know before...I learned more about people and things I didn't know before...I liked working as a group in this..." For another student, "it helps you understand concepts...so much more than a book...you are able to really think about what you are learning."

FEEDBACK FROM AN EDUCATOR

Our group reached out to a current elementary educator at William Foster about the current educational issues. She emphasized that the project could potentially open the eyes to both the child's guardians and school systems. She stated that building a connection with the parents has been a struggle for her community and district for years. William Foster Elementary and its staff have not given up trying to spark connections. The school hosts multiple events throughout the year to bring families together such as giving out free school supplies, giving out Christmas gifts, and giving out Thanksgiving meals. Once a quarter the teachers invite the parents to an event called Coffee and Conversation. This gives teachers and parents one on one time to give feedback on the child and discuss future steps they would like to see with the school. Unfortunately, it is hard to move forward with certain decisions with only a few families being able to be involved. The educators believe that with the help of outside resources and future educators realizing the struggle, it will improve the education of children. Not all districts have the available resources to make events or other meetings occur.

ACTIVISM

Finally, we request you to join us to bridge the home and school relationship. Not every home life is perfect and that is okay. But it is up to us as teachers to help families and their students to achieve successes. Throughout this project, we

were able to open our minds and realize that all people need is a support system. They need people in their corners, and it is up to us to help them. Throughout the United States, there are many other organizations that provide services that aid this issue. To continue your learning process about this topic, we ask you to spend some time and learn about the following organizations:

- The National Center for Community Schools
 - Their mission statement is “to transform education by partnering with schools, districts, community partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders to create and sustain community schools”. This organization has spent the past 30 years on building community schools to create sustainability. They build schools that find partners to help aid student successes. They can provide relationships that bridge the home and school gap.

To learn more, visit: www.nccs.org or email nccs@childrensaidnyc.org

- Learning Forward: The Professional Learning Association
 - Their mission statement is that “Learning Forward shows you how to plan, implement, and measure high-quality professional learning so you and your team can achieve success with your system, your school, and your students”. Their main goal is to build educators’ skills and knowledge that lead to sustainable, professional learning. Those who become members are able to learn how to “leverage professional learning” and ensure that every student has equal learning opportunities.

To learn more, visit: learningforward.org or contact (1)-800-727-7288

These organizations are providing help to those in need. They encompass the importance of bridging the gap between home and schools. This issue is nationwide. Each school in the United States needs the resources and knowledge in order to close the gap. In order to do our part, we would like to focus on the organization, Donors Choose. Donors Choose focuses on helping teachers on their select goals. They serve a variety of teachers on getting the resources and funding they need. After viewing our piece and learning about the home and school gap, we ask that when purchasing this artwork that the money spent is donated to Donors Choose.

To inspire you, here are a few stories that stand out and are in need of donations.

Understanding Me

This project will be funding Ms. Bass’ classes at Emerson Academy. She teaches grades 3-5, and Emerson Academy is located in Dayton Ohio. Here is their request:

“This project is dedicated to the mental awareness of our scholars. SEL is such a big part of education that is often forgotten about. Students need their mental health protected and exercised as well as their physical. This project allows students to explore how they are feeling and process what they need so that in difficult situations, they can make the best decision possible for them.

Being self-aware of what one needs, cuts down on redirection in the classroom, unhealthy outbursts, and unnecessary arguments amongst peers.

The resources in this project will be a weekly take home assignment for students and their families. Students will be given a Mental Health writing prompt out of the 365 prompt express yourself journal. Students who complete these writings and self-reflection of their mental health will be given a blue raffle ticket and entered into a drawing with the raffle tickets they are given to win prizes. The prizes are the items listed such as the digital drawing screens, fidgets, dolls, cars, etc. listed in this project and other items donated by local businesses.”

Her main focus is to help her students become aware of their mental health. She wants to provide them the tools to help them succeed. At the moment, she is still in need of \$147 in donations.

The link to her project:

https://www.donorschoose.org/project/understanding-me/6775168/?utm_source=dc&utm_medium=directlink&utm_campaign=project&utm_term=unknown&rf=directlink-dc-2022-11-project-unknown

SHARING CREATIVITY AND KINDNESS WITH THE COMMUNITY

This project is funding Ms. Sogg's classes at Walton Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio. She is an art teacher who teaches preschool through 8th grade. However, this project is solely focused on grades 3rd through 5th. Here is their request:

My pre-K to 8th grade art students are learning to embrace the impact their kindness and creativity have on their community. We are focusing on becoming more involved in our local community and giving back to them in fun and creative ways. My students love sharing their kindness by passing out fresh produce to the community once a month. One of my students was so touched by the opportunity to pass out fruit to people in the local community that her eyes welled up as she handed the goods out. The produce receivers were so moved by her that they hugged her in exchange for their produce. It was a moment I will never forget as an educator and a heart-felt human being. We are striving to embrace these moments of kindness and selflessness and become more involved by incorporating our artwork in the process and looking into new and creative ways we can contribute to the community by inviting the community and their families to our art shows, showcasing the artwork created with the donated supplies!

Her main focus is to give back to her community with her students by passing out fresh produce. She is trying to teach her students the importance of giving back and having relationships with the community. As of right now, she is still in need of \$445.

The link to her project:

https://www.donorschoose.org/project/sharing-creativity-and-kindness-with-the/6804679/?utm_source=dc&utm_medium=directlink&utm_campaign=project&utm_term=unknown&rf=directlink-dc-2022-11-project-unknown

ACTIVISM

These are just two projects that are in need of funding. The organization Donors Choose provides thousands of other stories across the United States. We encourage you to view more stories and see what story means the most to you.

REFERENCES

- Björklund, A., & Salvanes, K. G. (2011). Education and family background. *Handbook of the Economics of Education*, 201–247. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-444-53429-3.00003-x>
- Egalite, A. (2019). How Family Background Influences Student Achievement. *Education Next*, 16(2), 1–10. <https://doi.org/https://www.uccronline.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/201604educationnext.pdf>
- Haider, A. (2021, November 3). *The basic facts about children in poverty*. Center for American Progress. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from [https://www.americanprogress.org/article/basic-facts-children-poverty/#:~:text=In%20America%2C%20nearly%2011%20million,in%20poverty%20in%20this%20country.Poverty%20Myths%20&20Stereotypes%20-%20Just%20Harvest.\(n.d.\).](https://www.americanprogress.org/article/basic-facts-children-poverty/#:~:text=In%20America%2C%20nearly%2011%20million,in%20poverty%20in%20this%20country.Poverty%20Myths%20&20Stereotypes%20-%20Just%20Harvest.(n.d.).) Retrieved November 28, 2022, from <https://www.justharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Just-Harvest-Poverty-Myths-Stereotypes-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Representing Relationships Between Parents and Schools: Making Visible the Force of Theory*. (n.d.). <https://parenthood.library.wisc.edu/Graue/Graue.html>
- Rich Hill* (2014). Tubi. (n.d.). Retrieved December 5, 2022, from https://tubitv.com/movies/455953/rich-hill?utm_source=google-feed&tracking=google-feed
- Venables, C. (2021, April 12). *Bridging the gap between Home and School*. National Geographic Learning: In Focus. Retrieved December 5, 2022, from <https://infocus.eltngl.com/2020/05/27/bridging-the-gap-between-home-and-school/>
- YouTube. (2015, June 11). *Take a walk with me*. YouTube. Retrieved December 5, 2022, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=289WePgA2Fc>

Artists' Names: Angelia Bryan, Curtis Carrillo, Kailon Fisher, Summer Gronow, Grace Hall, Abbey Johns, and Jordan Tufts

Title: A barrier to a Better Future

Metaphor: Redlining is a misdirection of hope for the less fortunate communities.

Cost: \$25

Donation: The Children's Defense Fund @ <https://cdfohio.org/>

*Disguised.
The act of redlining.
False revision.
Withholding funds... Legally.
Power. Politics.
They make our decisions for us.
Upset.
Aggravated.
Taking advantage of.
Don't feel free to make our decisions about where I want to go to school.
Based on my zip code. Based on my
income.
Unfair. Frustrated.
Stuck. Angry.*

We wrote a poem together about our feelings regarding redlining. The purpose is to demonstrate the impact of redlining on the education system and society. The significance of this art is to show the misdirection redlining gives the less fortunate communities based on their zip code, income, and race. First, we define what redlining is and how it relates to schools. Second, we discuss the history of redlining and its effects on our children and schools. Third, we showcase our art and what everything means to us. Finally, we demand each of us play our part to change how we fund schools to promote equity.

REDLINING

Redlining is a general phrase that refers to how mortgage lenders, insurance companies, and other businesses treat residents of particular neighborhoods unfairly. On a community map, a "red line" is essentially placed around specific locations, and these places are either excluded as possible clients or are subject to stricter requirements. Redlining perceptions have led to accusations of racism from numerous racial and ethnic groups (c.e.e Boilard). Some people believe that redlining no longer exists due to the fair housing act of 1968 which prohibited it. However, it is still very embedded in our communities. Let's see how much you know about redlining. Redlining was created from the Government homeownership programs in the 1930s during the Great Depression (Burke & Schwalbach, 2021). This was created as a way to segregate certain races in neighborhoods from one another. Certain communities were given the worst ratings or called dangerous just because they were housing minority communities. Powell states in his paper "Neighborhoods given the worst rating of D or "hazardous", often for the simple fact that they housed minority communities, were all but ensured to be cut off from investments, both public and private, for decades as a result", - (Powell) With these areas not given a lot of attention or investment they were ignored and went into despair. Not only is this affecting where people's living environments are, but it also affects their education and health. Students living in so-called "hazardous zones" are very limited in their education opportunities, all because of the

boundaries maintained by the school districts throughout the country (Burke & Schwalbach, 2021). Redlining affects people's health in some different ways. Jung states in his article, "Segregated communities of color have limited access to health care, healthy food, and green space and increased proximity to industrial pollution and highways therefore, potentially impacting resident's health. For example, living in areas with lower historical HOLC grades is associated with present day higher rates of preterm birth emergency department visits for asthma, and higher risk of late-stage breast and lung cancer diagnosis," (Jung). These communities are segregated and have very little access to healthcare, and healthy food and are more exposed to industrial pollution and highways. This is resulting in an impact on the residents' health. Some examples of what is happening health-wise would be higher rates of preterm birth, more visits to the ER for asthma, and higher risks of finding late-stage breast and lung cancers.

There are many effects of redlining some include income, crime, and economic opportunity. Redlining can lead to people making unjust assumptions. This is due to its racist origins in an attempt to segregate and keep power in the hands of rich white men. A study was conducted in Atlanta that observed the race-violence relationship on a bigger scale dealing with assumptions. It shows the stereotype/ assumption that People Of Color are more likely to be involved in crimes. However, it also looks at the levels of disadvantage actually influence crime rates more. The racist assumptions that people make sets People Of Color at a disadvantage when it comes to investigating crimes. In the conclusion, it states "The argument implies that black and white communities would exhibit similar rates of violence if white communities featured the high levels of disadvantage found in many black communities" (McNulty, 2022). In other words, unjust racial assumptions/ stereotypes create more of a disadvantage for People Of Color. Redlining creates a segregated area that continues to be discriminated against in a continuous cycle. Black individuals were purposely segregated into certain areas and those areas were deemed "bad". From this people continued to use this to keep black people oppressed and feed into stereotypes.

An example of this was demonstrated in the Atlanta study that crime rates are closely related to race and how that is not always the case. There also has been a study in Oakland California about the effects of redlining. The study showed how the neighborhood was racially segregated and how Black people and other People Of Color are shut out of favorable loans because of stereotypes (Swope, 2022). The study emphasizes the impact of unjust assumptions and the connection to redlining.

ARTMAKING

In our artmaking process we had a lot of feelings about redlining. In a way to express our feelings we wrote a poem as follows...

*Overwhelmed.
Can't just add everything. Must put
thought into it. Have done this with my
kids, but not in college.
Capturing what is most important to us as educators.
Surprised.
Never expecting to do art in a college course. I thought we
could only do art in an art class.
This was different.
No quizzes No tests.
It feels nice. Less stress.*

*Working in a group. I like this
group.
Not doing group work in other college classes. I am more
into this than my "normal classes." I never second-guessed
this.
Feeling the need to make this look good.
This makes me feel good knowing I did this with my group.
I didn't even know about this redlining... until I was in
this class.
Why is that?
I could notice this now...looking back.
Never owned a home,
So I never knew about property taxes.
I never knew about unconstitutional funding of schools.
All this red... Bothering me...
It is messed up.
I thought I would see more green, But no.
I see more red.
That red tells me I should be angry.
We should be angry.
It's messed up.
I felt joy.
I felt joy doing this work.
We have freedom.
We have freedom of expression.
It's not just one thing. It's not just
one idea.
It's about us
And how we understand this...*

This poem was compiled from our group's emotions on the piece. We asked questions, involved our feelings and reasonings behind them, and discussed how different of an assignment we had to perform in this class. This art piece was brainstormed by our group collectively, each of us added little details to make this project elaborative. We started off by combining four canvas to a slab of wood to make our art piece full and large. This matter is not small, it is very impactful to millions of communities around the United States, which is why we chose to enlarge our project. The map represents a section of Columbus, Ohio. The red neighborhoods symbolize redlined communities, green represents wealthy communities, and yellow shows unlivable areas. Once the canvas was fully painted by all group members, we hammered gold nails to the piece to show division between communities that we discussed symbolizes a virtual fence surrounding the wealthy communities to block out red lined families. Attached to the gold nails is white string which further embodies the fence for the rich. With cardboard pieces we made all the schools lifted from the canvas to show that they're all similar in foundation, it's the money that makes schools unequal. We covered the cardboard with paper to show the inequality and show the contrast in size of schools and appearance. From there we used a small pot symbolizing a "pot of gold" and money spewing from the pot dispersing to communities to show the lack of money towards the red communities. The money towards the green communities is dollar bills where the red areas receive only

coins to display the inequality of money, the true definition of redlining. Many different ideas were shared, but these details stuck with our group to symbolize and to show the meaning of redlining. We used research and reasoning behind our art to help explain our feelings and thoughts from our piece.

ACTIVISM

This common practice where banks map a red line around communities to distinguish which neighborhood the money deserves to be invested towards, limits the citizens of these communities to lose opportunities for their families and their futures. Countless articles (see, Sparks:<https://congressional.proquest.com/congressional/docview/t21.d22.crs-1986-gov-0029?accountid=11835>, Ong:<https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.20287>) focus on 'fixing the poor' or helping the homeless to resolve the problem of redlining. Ridding redlining is not going to change the hearts of White supremacists. This change actually begins with us. We have to change. We have to WANT to change. If we have White supremacists in power, and they believe everything is benefiting them, why would they change? How do we encourage people to change their ways? To care? We cannot change for the wrong reasons. Redlining exists. We need to address it. Acknowledge it. And, do something to change it. This practice affects everyone in the United States, not just the specific communities it is causing the negative influence upon. To fix this, we have to make our voices heard. Speak up and demand a change. Be the ones to change the acts of redlining forever. Find your power in your voice and don't let it run out. Share your voice. Be the change you wish to see.

REFERENCES

- Best, R. (2022, February 9). *The Lasting Legacy Of Redlining*. FiveThirtyEight; FiveThirtyEight. <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redlining/#:~:text=Some%2040%20years%20after%20the,Fa%20Housing%20Act%20of%201968>.
- Boilard, S. D. (2022). Redlining. *Salem Press Encyclopedia*.
- Burke, L., & Schwalbach, J. (2021). *Housing Redlining and Its Lingering Effects on Education Opportunity*. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED612951.pdf>
- Hwa Jung, K., Pitkowski, Z., Argenio, K., Quinn, J. W., Bruzzese, J.-M., Miller, R. L., Chillrud, S. N., Perzanowski, M., Stingone, J. A., & Lovinsky-Desir, S. (2022). The effects of the historical practice of residential redlining in the United States on recent temporal trends of air pollution near New York City schools. *Environment International*, 169. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2022.107551>
- McNULTY, T. L. (2001). ASSESSING THE RACE-VIOLENCE RELATIONSHIP AT THE MACRO LEVEL: THE ASSUMPTION OF RACIAL INVARIANCE AND THE PROBLEM OF RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTIONS*. *Criminology*, 39(2), 467–490. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9125.2001.tb00930.x>
- Ong, P. M., & Stoll, M. A. (2007). Redlining or risk? A spatial analysis of auto insurance rates in Los Angeles. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 26(4), 811–830. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.20287>
- Powell, R., & Porter, J. (2022). Redlining, Concentrated Disadvantage, and Crime: The Effects of Discriminatory Government Policies on Urban Violent Crime. *American Journal of Criminal Justice: The Journal of the Southern Criminal Justice Association*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-022-09688-3>
- Sparks, R. F. (1979). White-Collar Crime - the Problem and the Federal Response [From White-Collar Crime - Hearings Before House Subcommittee on Crime, 95Th Congress, 2Nd Session, June 21, July 12, and 19 and December 1, 1978 - See Ncj-62172]. *WHITE-COLLAR CRIME - THE PROBLEM AND THE FEDERAL RESPONSE [FROM WHITE-COLLAR CRIME - HEARINGS BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, 95TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION, JUNE 21, JULY 12, AND 19 AND DECEMBER 1, 1978 - SEE NCJ-62172]*.
- Swope, C. B., Hernández, D., & Cushing, L. J. (2022). The relationship of historical redlining with present-day neighborhood environmental and Health Outcomes: A scoping review and conceptual model. *Journal of Urban Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-022-00665-z>

Artists' Names: Emma Ilg, Quishon Jernigan, Taylor Pellerite, Sam Pixler, Ashlee Senvisky, Jocelyn Stewart

Title: Arts: A Dying Art

Issue: The limiting of creativity in schools as the grade levels increase

Metaphor: Creativity is a flower.

Cost: \$250

Donation: <https://arts-inspiredlearning.org/>

*I don't remember the exact message.
Pretty much like, "Oh, this is nothing, just a bunch of stuff put together."
That is not what I was expecting.
I put all my hard work into this.*

*Well, when I was in 7th grade,
I was friends with kids in art class.
"Don't draw art on these worksheets we turn in."
I remember a sketch book thrown in the garbage.*

*The last time I took an art class was in middle school.
If I couldn't get my work up to the other students in the class,
I wouldn't get an A.
I stopped drawing after that.
I didn't feel good enough.*

*I was in third grade, and we were doing readers theater for an open house.
It was the apples that were big parts for the play.
I wanted to be an apple and I didn't get picked
My teacher told me "I tried to choose the most creative people in the class to be the apples"
I went home and cried and complained to my dad.*

*I mean like the only thing I was told...
By my counselor.
The arts weren't necessary.
Pick the easiest one.
I thought the arts didn't matter at all.*

*I wasn't good at art, which is a big insecurity of mine.
This does not belong at the end
Because it is not as strong as the others.
No one ever told me that I was a good artist.
I always wanted to be a singer.
I wasn't allowed to use my gift of singing in other classes other than choir.
If I was able to use my love for music,
I would probably like my other classes a lot more.*

We started this abstract with personal experiences in K-12 schools. The purpose of our art is to bring awareness to how the American education system is draining creativity from its students. We contend this is significant because school systems take away the creativity of students by persuading them to believe there is only one correct answer, and only one way to look at things. First, we define creativity and what happens in schools when considering the intersections of creativity and learning as well as diverse perspectives on the arts/learning. Second, we reflect on what creativity means to us as aspiring teachers. Third, we share our art and what everything in our art means to us. Finally, we encourage you to consider the impact that creativity has had on your life and the lack there of starting as early as elementary school.

BRIEF HISTORY

Finding a definition of creativity that everyone can agree on is difficult, because creativity cannot be put in a box (See Fazelian & Azimi). One definition of creativity that seems to capture the main idea in the research we've found is "a complex behavior in which a person utilizes his or her mental resources in a special way to come up with a new adaptive product" (Nwazuo). According to this definition, you cannot define creativity without the outcome of it, which in the educational system, puts creativity into a box. Creativity in schools is typically only seen in the arts classes, and even then, the success of these students depends solely on the quality of the product they produce. While many may consider the act of art making to be an act of creativity, students experience little actual creative freedom because the focus in class is on the product, or the outcome. Therefore, we would like to change the definition of creativity to one that is not reliant on the product that is made, and more on the process that occurs. Creativity cannot be defined by what it puts out into the world, but by the method of thinking that allows for deeper or new understanding of something that was previously understood differently. We believe defining creativity in this way would drastically change the way we look at creativity in schools, because it cannot be measured solely by the products produced from it.

There is a huge push in the education system for the lower, elementary grades to make room for creativity to flourish. "Preschool teachers should provide children with materials to trigger their imagination, should provide opportunities to imagine and to explain their ideas, should appreciate children's individuality, and should encourage their different viewpoints." (Dere). Creativity was always available in the younger grades. We had art class, we had music class, we had our teacher's incorporating creativity into our worksheets and our core subjects. However, the same cannot be said as a student moves from elementary into their higher education. According to the article "Kids Are Born Creative Geniuses but the Education System Destroys Imagination," The U.S. Department of Education reported that only 4% of secondary schools in the country offer music and visual art classes (Lynch). Secondary schools are promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) instead of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics). This becomes a problem. Students are shown in the early grade levels that creativity is so important that it must contribute to everyday life and that creativity can be used constantly in education. Yet, when those same students enroll at higher grade levels, that creativity is now being pushed to the side and is barely present in the classroom on a weekly basis. One reason creativity is overlooked in the classrooms at higher grade levels is because of how students are taught in the classrooms (*Psych 424 blog*). Teachers lecture the students repeatedly about various topics and the students are expected to remember what is taught to them for exams. This leaves no room for creativity in the classrooms since students "learn" the content by memorizing facts.

When it comes to the education of children in a democratic society there are a lot of opinions and perspectives involved in the system. The environment that students are in is a very important thing to keep in mind especially when it can affect how students are learning in many ways. It can mainly affect their creativity which some would say is very important to involve creativity in the education process and to keep the creativity that students have alive. But in today's school system some would say that the way that it is set up is not allowing students to express their creativity as much as they should but is in turn taking away this creativity which is very important in the process of being educated. In the article titled "Teacher and student perceptions of creativity in the classroom environment" (Fleith 2000) the author conducts a study where they ask both students and teachers questions about creativity in the classroom. Teachers in this study say how teachers' attitudes in the classroom affect creativity. One of the teachers that were interviewed for this study stated "I think that some people are not creative because they don't think they are. I think if we let them know they are, they can be. Some of us are more creative than others, but I think we can develop it" (Fleith 2000). This statement basically just falls back on the idea of how attitudes of teachers will affect the creativity of students. Students look up to their teachers for acceptance and if their teachers express to them that they are not creative or not good at something involving art this could affect how a student looks at their own creativity for the rest of their lives. In this study students in grades third and fourth were asked a few questions regarding creativity. When they were asked about how creative they were many students doubted themselves saying "they were creative sometimes, in some areas" (Fleith 2000). This all falls back on teachers' attitudes towards students' creativity and that affects how the students see

themselves in a creative light in the classroom. Both student and teacher perspectives are important when it comes to creativity in the classroom and their perspectives of creativity affect students' creativity.

REFLECTION

Throughout our education, all of us have experienced a staff member taking away our creativity whether that is making the arts not seem important or making us feel as if we are not good at art. These experiences are taking away the creativity of students to mold them into having a basic one way of thinking of things and not expressing themselves to their furthest potential.

ARTMAKING

Our group created a series of paintings to represent the way creativity changes within students as they continue through their education. It represents how creativity is forced to be dulled, confined, and specific as one goes on through the grade levels. It limits the expressive and enjoyable part of the creative arts because according to the American school system, it needs to be perfect.

As the sequence of canvas's progress (as the ages increase within our students), the materials become more restrictive. The group members who are displaying the younger ages were given freer rein over the products they could use whereas the older ages materials are limited. This limitation is to display how unimportant art making and creativity becomes in the later stages of the classroom.

Artist of piece 1- I was responsible for the first age group of students which was based more on a Pre-K age group. My artmaking process involved me just putting any color of paint or glitter in any space I wanted to with no worries about how the final product would look like. This allowed me to be very creative and let myself do whatever I wanted so that I could express myself in any way. While I was about to start painting and putting stuff on the blank canvas, I found myself being afraid to mess up. I wonder if any children at this age group that I represented felt the same way I did before beginning their artwork. I have also never experienced any arts-based assessment like this one in any of the classes that I have taken in college so far, but I am a first-year college student so this could change.

Artist of piece 2- I painted my hand and placed it on a canvas. My goal was to capture a pre-k or kindergarten level work. It took a lot of preparation to determine exactly how the turkey should look. The main question I had was will this acrylic paint come off my hand. I have yet to experience an arts-based assessment in college, but I did in high school. I likely have not experienced an art-making assessment in college because I am in my first semester.

Artist of piece 3 - I traced my hand and painted it to resemble a hand turkey that kids at an upper elementary level would make. I felt excited to be able to just paint for fun and not worry about painting outside the lines, or it being messy, because for a fourth or fifth grader, a messy hand turkey is totally acceptable. This hand turkey resembles the creativity that still exists and is encouraged in late elementary school. While at this level, the colors are more uniform and not as open to interpretation as an early elementary school student or even preschool, there is still opportunity to be creative in the extra parts, such as the glitter and the writing. During this process, I questioned the artmaking process I remember being shown in my later years in school, where there was more of a perfectionist mindset, and not a lot of room to be imaginative. I wish there were more opportunities to make art without rigid expectations in my schooling years.

Artist of piece 4- I decided to create a cartoon turkey since I was in charge of creating a middle-school aged piece. I looked up images of cartoon turkeys and decided to copy the image with the turkey holding its thumb up. The artmaking process was challenging for me because I wanted to create the turkey as it appeared on Google while having a little bit of freedom and without making any mistakes. I was afraid that if I made any mistakes, I would have to start my artmaking process all over. Therefore, it took me a long time to finish my piece. My piece is supposed to represent that middle school students still have room for creativity, but not as much as they used to have in elementary school because middle school is the time when students are introduced to standardized testing.

Artist of piece 5- The artmaking process for my piece was simple. I chose an accurate coloring page of a turkey. Once students enter high school, creativity and art become an afterthought. The only times we as a group could remember art making an appearance in our non-art related classes, were after exams. We recall coloring sheets being available at the front of the classroom in order to “relieve the stress” that our exams had given us. This represents how even when schools think they are incorporating creativity in high school, it still is incredibly restrictive. With coloring pages, specifically realistic coloring pages, there is nearly no creativity involved.

Artist of piece 6- The artmaking process for me was very frustrating as a practicing artist. I work a lot, generally, with holographic stickers and bright neons, and lace. However, for this project, I worked solely with black and white acrylic, mixing them together making different shades of gray. I read in the article “Age and Creativity” written by D. Straker, that “at around 5, we are using 80% of our creative potential... We invent daily... By age twelve, our creative output has declined to about 2%, and it generally stays there” (Straker). I found that so alarming as an art education major, and as a person that is constantly creating. My piece is meant to represent a world with no creativity. It is an achromatic, realistic turkey, trapped between a very literal essay and many pieces full of color and “childish” creative charm. I was asking myself throughout the process, “Does this accurately portray how I felt as an ‘art kid’ in school?” I had never done something similar like this before in school, college or otherwise.

Artist of piece 7- Finishing the art project is a paper. This is supposed to represent the way creativity is killed off. I found writing the paper interesting. I did not make it super formal, as I think that sounds like way more work than I want to put in. I found it hard to find the motivation for writing compared to making art with paint. I did enjoy not getting messy. When being told that we were making art for this project, the idea to create something resemblant of the loss of creativity we all experienced in school immediately came to mind. It felt natural to make a project about creativity using the mediums in which we felt our creativity was lost in school. It was really eye opening to discuss our own experiences in school, finding that we all had similar experiences in feeling as if our own creativity was diminished as we got older. Being able to create art that reminded us of the projects we did when we were younger was really freeing and healing for us all. Experiencing this together has been really validating in our own beliefs about creativity, and we all plan to use what we have learned in our teaching careers in the future.

The symbolism of this art piece is collective instead of individual. Piece by piece, the collection of art symbolizes the way creativity is drained. This is done by the draining of colors, vibrancy and the joy of making art. The younger ages had freedom which is represented by the glitter, rich colors and mistakes shown on the canvas. The older ages have dull, dark and perfect coloring.

ACTIVISM

It is important for students to travel through their education with creativity following them. As the grade levels increase, creativity begins to fade and eventually is deemed as “not important” or “not the current focus”. Creativity defines individuality. When creativity is placed on the back burner, the originality that keeps students separate becomes non-existent. As aspiring teachers, it is important to recognize that students tell us who they are through their creativity. If the creativity is taken away, so is the connection the student has to themselves. Thus, affecting their connection to their staff and their connection to their education.

National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent agency of the United States federal government that offers support and funding for projects exhibiting artistic excellence

Ohio Arts Council

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

Art Possible Ohio

Art Possible Ohio (formally VSA Ohio) is the statewide service organization on the arts and disability. They work with artists of all ages who have disabilities to make arts and cultural experiences more accessible and inclusive.

All of these are listed on the Ohio board of education website.

Take action

Americans for the Arts works to effectively influence pro-arts education policy and funding by forging strategic policy alliances, engaging high-level leaders, and raising public visibility for the value of arts education.

REFERENCES

- Depe, Z. (2019). *Investigating the creativity of children in early childhood ...* - ed. Retrieved December 5, 2022, from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1207637.pdf>
- de Souza Fleith, D. (2000). Teacher and student perceptions of creativity in the classroom environment. *Roeper Review*, 22(3), 148–153. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02783190009554022>
- Fazelian, P., & Azimi, S. (2013). Creativity in Schools. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 82, 719–723. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.06.335>
- Kalin, N. M. (2016). We're All Creatives Now: Democratized Creativity and Education. *Journal of the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies*, 13(2), 32–44. <https://jcacs.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/jcacs/article/view/40280>
- Lynch, M. (2019, June 30). *Kids are born creative geniuses but the education system destroys imagination*. The Edvocate. Retrieved November 30, 2022, from <https://www.theedadvocate.org/kids-are-born-creative-geniuses-but-the-education-system-destroys-imagination/>
- Psych 424 blog*. Applied Social Psychology ASP RSS. (2022). Retrieved November 30, 2022, from <https://sites.psu.edu/aspsy/2019/03/25/does-our-education-system-kill-creativity/>
- Straker, D. (n.d.). *Age and creativity*. creatingminds.org. Retrieved November 30, 2022, from <http://creatingminds.org/articles/age.htm>

Artists' Names: Kaitlyn Crothers, Bristol Powell, Kylie Macchiarole, Molly Appell, Halle Sweeney, and Reagan Hearty, Devin Martin

Title: We Hate Our Students: Teachers Contributing to Sexism in Schools

Area of Interest: Sexism in Schools

Metaphor: Sexism is a plague infecting our schools.

Price: \$100

Organization Proceeds Will Benefit/Contact Information: Save the Children

https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-gender-norms-impact-boys-and-girls?cid=Paid_Search:Google_Grant:LP_Longtail:Nonbrand:052021&ds_e=GOOGLE&s_kwcid=AL!9048!3!522884120866!b!!g!!common%20gender%20stereotypes&ds_c=gg+-+What+We+Do&ds_ag=gg+-+gender+roles&ds_k=common+gender+stereotypes&gclid=CjwKCAiAvK2bBhB8EiwAZUbP1OLafiuEWd2yE00tcj2u4PdQ-bx3-EznuYUCw7QC3xZdOgdAGCrt7BoCeEMQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

As females who are aspiring to be teachers, these things have been said to us personally...

WHORE!

SLUT!

EASY!

YOU NEED A STRONG MAN!

RAN THROUGH!

GOOD THING YOU'RE PRETTY!

GO MAKE A SANDWICH...

YOU CAN'T WEAR THAT! COVER UP!

Boys often hear this...

*P****Y!*

DON'T CRY!

GROW A PAIR!

FAG!

MAN UP!

THAT'S GAY!

STOP ACTING LIKE A WOMAN!

YOU'RE WEAK!

The purpose of our art is to spread awareness to community members about how sexist comments can affect students in schools. The significance is to show how emotionally damaging sexist comments, practices and policies can be towards students. First, we investigated different viewpoints from boys, girls, and teachers and how they have dealt with sexist comments, practices and policies towards students. Second, we found sexist comments in how society views boys and girls. Third, we found how teachers were under prepared for dealing with sexist comments and how to discipline students on the subject. Next, we showcase our art and what everything in our art means to us. Finally, we encourage students to speak out against sexism in their schools and educators to become more aware of what is happening in schools. The goal of our group was to make an art piece that stood out to the public eye and to bring awareness to the derogatory phrases and comments that students have heard.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Sexism towards boys is normally swept under the rug and not discussed. Many boys think if they show emotion towards these sexist comments, it'll just dig a deeper hole and more comments will be said. In a survey *Shifting the Line* (2021) found, "In particular, they strongly agreed that men are not supposed to show vulnerable emotions, even though many explicitly rejected this cultural norm." This quote shows that from an early age, boys are told not to show emotion and to fit the masculine mold society creates for them. Sexism can be faced anywhere throughout society, but one of the bigger places boys can face sexist comments is in the classroom. *Woke Father* (2020) stated, "An MIT School

Effectiveness & Inequality Initiative study also found that middle school teachers gave girls higher scores when they knew their genders. Teachers expect boys to do poorly, grade them poorly, and then boys lag behind. According to the study, this bias “accounts for 21 percent of boys falling behind girls in math during middle school.” The significance of this quote is boys are already at a disadvantage when entering school because of sexist beliefs from their teachers.

If you were to ask a girl if they've ever experienced sexism in schools, they'd most likely point to the dress code. But there is so much more than what lies on the surface. Not only have girls been scrutinized for what they choose to wear and what is considered “appropriate” or not, but in schools, studies show plenty of examples of girls being treated differently due to their gender. One study showed that girls were praised for physical appearance, like neatness rather than content. The study also found that girls were criticized more for answering incorrectly in the classroom whereas boys were praised more for answering correctly (Weir, 2021). In today's society, gender bias and inequality continue to take over schools. This has such a harmful impact on how students view their self-worth. As future educators, we can change this and create a better environment for both girls and boys to thrive in where they feel safe and comfortable. Sexist remarks towards girls not only impact self-worth, but these comments can go as far as affecting future career path decisions. According to the National Science Foundation, girls and women account for only 27% of doctoral degrees in mathematics, 15% in physics, 20% in computer science, and 20% in engineering (2020). Hearing such sexist remarks all throughout a young girl's life is exhausting and frustrating, and it completely undermines girls' confidence and abilities. The reason for women being underrepresented in STEM fields is a direct result from sexism during early school years (Rogers, 2020).

Girls and boys are constantly subjected to severe sexism in the classroom, but the teachers they are meant to turn to for support are uneducated on the topic themselves. “Over a quarter (27%) of secondary school teachers say they would not feel confident tackling a sexist incident if they experienced or witnessed it in school” (neu.org, 2019). If those in leadership positions are fearing what to say, then there is bound to be no progression in the battle of sexism in schools. This fault does not have to fall on the individual teachers themselves, but instead the entire system and education process of becoming an educator, “Teachers report being unclear about what constitutes sexism or how to explain to students why it is harmful” (neu.org, 2019). These issues are huge but could be fixed with simple reforms. These reforms would be made to better teachers' lives and increase their ability to create a more beneficial school environment, as well as girls' and boys' lives and decrease their interaction with sexism as a whole.

ARTMAKING

Our group created a visual representation of sexism in schools. We took sexist comments that ourselves and other students have heard or been called at K-12 schools. We found a way to creatively display them by representing a wall of a school that has the sexist comments heard written on the brick. We put ourselves at the bottom, painting over the comments in pink and blue paint. Our figures stick out on our canvas, adding a 3D effect. Our paint rollers are created by using tampons. We included them to add a 3D element and to do it in a creative way. It added new textures to our art as well. We wrote our sexist comments in white paint so you are able to see them against the red brick.

REFLECTION ON OUR EXPERIENCES

KAITLYN: This project really showed me that we have to do better as future educators. I really enjoyed researching sexism in K-12 schooling, as it is all throughout our education system. It was very interesting to put our research into art, as I have never done something like this before. It was really cool to see our ideas put into our art and see our hard work pay off when we finished.

KYLIE: Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed making this project. I have never done an art project like this before so I thought it was a neat experience to create and display a project in a creative way. Overall, I thought it was shocking how many of us have heard sexist comments before. I liked how we all come together and could creatively make something that had so much meaning to young boys and girls in schooling.

HALLE: I really enjoyed working with my group on this project. Sexism in schools is not addressed nearly as much as it needs to be. So being able to help spread some awareness on the topic has felt really empowering. As a girl who has experienced a lot of sexism in her life, I felt deeply connected to our art piece and am hopeful that other boys and girls will feel the same. It was also a lot of fun being creative with art because it's not something I do often. My group made the project a lot of fun and I loved working with them!

BRISTOL: Work on this project helped me connect with my group and gain a new level of understanding for how males face sexism in schools. It helped me realize this is a topic we often don't pay much mind to and I want more exposure to be known about this topic so creating this art piece helped. People can ignore voices but you can't ignore an image that is set in place for as long as it stays intact. This art piece to me represents breaking the silence of sexism in our schools. Not holding back what we heard to show every adult that this is something we went through and people younger than us are still going through. Working with this group was amazing and really made it easy to have this conversation!

REAGAN-Creating this project helped me express myself through art. Sexism is not addressed enough especially in schools. I was able to work with peers and come together to create something to inspire others and make change. The process of creating this project showed me how to collaborate with others.

DEVIN: This project really helped me create a better understanding of how all students can face the same hardships. People tend to think that only one gender can experience certain issues, however everyone can be affected, and we need to stop overlooking this. With me being a female, I never realized how much males can also face the same issues that I do daily. This project helped me realize that. I really enjoyed working on this project because it truly opened my eyes and helped me realize the things that I need to do to better my future students, as an educator.

MOLLY - This project was something like I've never done before. I liked being able to express myself in a creative way and display it to others. This project allowed me to work with others and express myself. Sexism is a very relevant topic especially in schools, so this project shines light upon the subject.

SYMBOLISM

We chose a red brick wall for the main part of our project to represent a school wall. We chose a brick wall because it solidifies sexism in school, both are a solid part of the school system. The next aspect we did was to include ourselves in the artwork and we printed the pictures in black and white. We did our pictures in black and white because sexism drains a person to the point where everything seems black and white, almost as if the color or personality is drained right out of you. We put ourselves in our artwork because all of us have sadly heard sexist phrases or had one of those phrases directed towards us. Our figures stick out against our painting, as students are the victims of these sexist comments. Tampons were used to represent paint rollers because menstruating is looked at as "disgusting" or "gross". We painted our words in white because the phrases we wrote on our wall are generic phrases and we think of white as a bland or generic color. Pink and blue paint were used, as blue is viewed as a "boy's color" and pink as a "girl's color". We cannot erase the comments that have been said, but we can advocate for them to stop in our K-12 schools. Painting over the words represents how we can advocate for these comments to stop.

ACTIVISM

With this project, we made the effort to shine a light on sexism towards boys and girls from peers and even teachers in their K-12 schools. Our goal is to make everyone aware of this epidemic that is taking over our schools, including parents, children, teachers and administrators. Supporting this cause would not only increase the rate of the cessation of sexism in schools but also decrease the negative feelings of children who have experienced sexism first hand. Students are unable to learn in an unsafe or uncomfortable school environment. We need to put an end to this. All of us as aspiring teachers are more eager to get into schools and use our knowledge to battle sexism and ensure a proper, safe environment in all of our future classrooms.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization: Save the Children

Email: supportercare@savechildren.org

Phone: 1-800-728-4000

Mail, US HQ: 501 Kings Hwy E- Suite 400, Fairfield, CT 06825

With this information, we want to encourage our audience to donate if they have the funds to do so. If not, we encourage you to talk to your children, whether you are a parent or educator, to have more open and honest communication and conversations about sexism. These should include how to stop it and what to do in the face of it.

REFERENCES

- Allen, E., & Rogers, A. A. (2020, April 16). *Sexism and School*. Psychology Today. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/thriving-teens/202004/sexism-and-school>
- Christian. (2020, October 4). *Teachers, You Are Biased Against Boys and Need to Change*. Woke Father. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.wokefather.com/education/teachers-you-are-biased-against-boys-and-need-to-change/>
- Gavey, N. (2021, June). *Shifting the Line*. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/2292/56389/Shifting-the-Line-web.pdf?sequence=1>
- Gomez, M. L. (2019, January 17). *Teaching and Teacher Education*. ... - YouTube. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0742051X9597312A>
- National Education Union. (2019, January 17). *It's just everywhere - sexism in schools*. NEU. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://neu.org.uk/advice/its-just-everywhere-sexism-schools>
- Pérez, L. F. (2021, November 15). *Teachers' sexist attitudes have a major impact on secondary education*. Phys.org. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://phys.org/news/2021-11-teachers-sexist-attitudes-major-impact.html>
- Weir, M. (2021, February 8). *Sexism starts in the classroom – The Catalyst*. The Catalyst. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://millardwestcatalyst.com/14645/opinion/sexism-starts-in-the-classroom/>

Artist's Name: Breylon Amankwah

Title: Someone in my family told me, "Even though you are Black and other people are White, we all bleed the same color."

Cost: \$85

Donation: Anti-Racism Fund @ <https://uniteforchange.com/en/fund/anti-racism-fund/>

Social Justice Issue: I don't think Black and White people should be split up because we are all the same.

Why did they split White people and Black people? The government is "they" and after the Civil war, the government passed Jim Crow laws. The purpose of my art is how we can improve as a nation, society, and people to not be separated and to stick together because we are all the same, no matter what. First, I will share about the Jim Crow Laws and explain a little bit about it. Second, I will tell you how this influences me. Third, I will discuss my art and what everything means. Finally, I want to encourage you to change so we are not separated and so no one can be racist anymore, including all races.

BRIEF HISTORY OF JIM CROW

What were Jim Crow Laws? They were like when Black people are split and then White people will be split too, but on the rich side and the Black people would be split on the poorer side. They were some White people who thought Black people were a threat to them. They didn't feel comfortable with Black people. They didn't like Black people protesting. A long time ago, the Jim Crow law was basically that everything was supposed to be separated like you can't drink from the same water fountain...you can't shop at the same store...Black and White people couldn't marry each other...can't go to the same library...you can't go to the movie theater...can't go and sit together at football games...can't go to the same restaurants...or hotels...and I think that in comedy clubs, because Black people wouldn't be allowed in there, I bet the White people were talking about them and the Black people didn't even know because they weren't able to go to the same comedy club.

In cities, suburbs, and rural communities across the United States, our neighborhoods remain stubbornly segregated along racial and ethnic lines. A typical White person lives in a neighborhood that is 75 percent white and only 8 percent African American, whereas a typical African American person lives in a neighborhood that is only 35 percent white and 45 percent African American. Moreover, People of Color are overrepresented in neighborhoods with high poverty rates, where essential resources like quality schools, full-service grocery stores, safe and healthy parks, and reliable transportation are often lacking.

America's separate and unequal neighborhoods did not evolve naturally or result from unfettered market forces. Rather, they resulted from plans, policies, and practices of racial exclusion and disinvestment that primarily targeted Black people and laid the foundation for the segregation of other people of color. These policies and practices systematically denied Black people access to well-resourced and opportunity-rich neighborhoods while denying the neighborhoods where they and other People of Color live access to resources and investments, leaving them with failing schools, inadequate services, physical and environmental blight, and high levels of crime and violence.

Early in the 20th century, millions of Black people who migrated from the rural South to the industrial cities of the Northeast and Midwest were constrained to designated neighborhoods by local zoning ordinances, restrictive covenants, and violence. Racially restrictive covenants legally prohibited African Americans from owning, leasing, or occupying homes in designated communities, providing a legal framework for the systematic segregation of people of color until the late 1940s. Long after the Supreme Court ruled that racial covenants were unenforceable, they continued to be used as powerful social signals to exclude People of Color.

HOW THIS INFLUENCES ME

Second, I will tell you how this influences me: in this passage my point is that even though some people are Black and some are mixed or White we all bleed the same color no matter what. That doesn't mean you have to be racist to other races like mixed or Black or Asian no you have to stick together and all come together as friends and we will be able to

see a change and we will all be kind and nice and show respect. But one day the world will change and that day will be awesome. I will also make more stories like this about why there are not enough.

ARTMAKING

Third, I discuss my art and what everything means: in this passage my point is that even though some people are Black and some are mixed or White we all bleed the same color no matter what. That doesn't mean you have to be racist to other races like mixed or Black or Asian no you have to stick together and all come together as friends and we will be able to see a change and we will all be kind and nice and show respect. But one day the world will change and that day will be awesome.

I painted different hands and arms. This represented different colors and cultures. And we need to care about racism and different colored children and cultures. These hands are holding up the children so THEY ARE SEEN AND NOTICED. Children are usually not seen. It is usually adults who seem to matter and try hard to shut the children's mouths. And all the children want to do is to tell the truth about what is really going on and have adults stop telling lies. We need to know the truth and need to speak the truth.

Why did I paint this?



Well, the reason why I painted this masterpiece is because I want people to know that children voice can be heard and that a lot of children are sad that they are scared that someone may take things way too far and tell them things like shut up or be quiet or that is something so stupid to say or they might say when you grow up everyone's going to not cheer for you when you talk about justice project because how dumb you sound. But that is not the point about this project, the point is that for you to be heard it doesn't matter how you talk it matters about your voice being heard. My point is that everyone's voice matters but also children's lives and voices actually matter. WE NEED TO STOP THINKING THAT ADULT LIVES AND VOICES ALWAYS MATTER WELL NO ALL LIVES MATTER EVEN ARE CHILDREN ONE DAY THEY ARE GOING TO GROW UP AND BE DOCTORS AND LAWYERS AND TEACHERS.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want to encourage you to change so we are not separated and so no one can be racist anymore, including all races. Also, in a video about Ruby Bridges, the lady who was talking once said, "One cannot underestimate the courage of Ruby." Maybe we should put that up in our school as posters so they can know about a quote about what the writer said about Ruby and you never know that quote can touch somebody's heart and basically tell them about their story and that can also change someone's life and action and attitude.

Artist's Name: Addison Allen

Title: Black Girls Deserve Respect

Cost: \$100

Donation: Girls for a Change @ <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Social Justice Issue: Black girls are punished more than White girls in schools in the United States.

Did you know that Black girls get punished more than White girls in schools? I know it might not seem like it, but it's in plain sight. Some kids might not notice this is actually happening. First, I present some numbers about how many Black girls are punished in schools. Second, I will discuss how I feel about this problem. Third, I share my art and what everything means to me. Finally, I encourage you to like to make it more noticeable so you can change it for Black girls.

THE NUMBERS

First, I present some numbers about how many Black girls are punished in schools. The U.S. Department of Education researched and found Black girls received in-school and out school suspensions almost two times as school enrollment, which is 7.4% (see

https://www.google.com/search?q=the+number+of+Black+girls+disciplined+in+schools&rlz=1CAOEMI_enUS1029&oq=the+number+of+Black+girls+disciplined+in+schools&aqs=chrome..69i57j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on). For example, I read an article in the New York Times. The reporter a principal thought a little

Black girl was on drugs because she was happy and giddy. They then sent her to the nurse and made her undress to search for the non-existent drugs.

REFLECTION

I think that it's unfair and schools need to do a better job in making sure it's fair. I know that not all the schools are going to change because there's a lot of bad and mean people but at least some schools. It's not just schools it's also preschools to Black girls at preschools are 7x more likely to get suspended more when White girls at preschools. If I had a daughter in preschool and she kept getting suspended i wouldn't want her to go there, I would think there's no point of her going there.

ARTMAKING

Third, I share my art and what everything means to me. I painted the background of the canvas blue. I found a Black woman who was Rosie the Riveter, but she is the Black version. Rosie the Riveter was used to get more women to help fight in World War II. Women didn't actually get to fight. They made things in factories to help the United States fight the war. I also painted a silhouette of a Black girl's head. I mod podged the Rosie the Riveter pictures on my canvas. This is to symbolize "We can do it!" This is about Black girls being able to do anything! It's like Black girl power!

On the inside of her head, I painted her thoughts. She is thinking about all of these things happening to Black girls right now. Like, Black girls get punished differently than White girls in school. Black girls are kicked out of school more often than White girls. Sometimes I feel like I have pressure on me as a Black girl. Like, pressure in general. I feel like I have to be perfect and always do right. I feel like if I make a mistake, something bad will happen to me or Black girls in general.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I encourage you to like to make it more noticeable so you can change it for Black girls. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) gave a report saying that we need to look at the good ways and bad ways Black girls are treated in schools. They said the results are bad. Black girls are the most like bad things happening to them in school and stuff going against them. Basically, like schools go harder on Black girls than White girls. They need to take the time to see what happened before they came to the school and what they are going through. If schools took the time to listen, then they could figure out girls have stuff going on in their lives. And then they could help them. Girls aren't trying not to follow the rules. They just might be having stuff going on. Black girls should be able to talk to someone like a counselor in school, but not only Black girls, Black boys too. How many counselors do you have in your schools? I am not sure if we even have one here. That is something I need to ask about.

Artist's Name: Octavia Unique Allen

Title: Speaking about the racist people in the world

Cost: \$150

Donation: Girls for Change @ <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Social Justice Issue: Everything stems from slavery, like Jim Crow and now.

I didn't know this before. It was illegal for the White and Black people to get together, to eat together, to play together, to marry each other, to live in the same place, to go to school, to work at the same job, to sit on the bus together, to use the same bathrooms....everything was separated just because of skin color. This is crazy! Why? If we turn off the lights, we are all the same, we're humans. But when we turn the lights on, the racist people treat us differently. And guess what? It's still happening. The purpose of my art is to make sure some of the White folks to do something about their racism in the world, especially to Black people. First, I am talking about how White people treat us differently because we are not the same color and I start with Jim Crow and then I talk about what's happening today. Second, I think about why White people treated us differently and how that feels in my art. Third, I talk about my art and what everything means to me. Finally, I want people to stop these people from being racist with our color just 'cause we don't look the same. We will not be treated differently.

HISTORY

First, I am talking about how White people treat us differently because we are not the same color and I start with Jim Crow then I talk about what's happening today. I didn't know anything about this until Christa came and talked with us. I don't really know why. I knew racism was around, but I didn't know about Jim Crow and all of this stuff. Jim Crow started in 1865. The 13th amendment came up and stopped slavery. I don't even know about slavery. I forgot. I don't remember ever learning about slavery in school. A lot of Black people were slaves and being killed. They were starved and dehydrated and got sick when they were coming over to the United States.

There were 10 million slaves that lived in the United States. That was more than the White people here. And the slaves worked for free and gave 410 billion hours of labor. The White people were rich because they had slaves in ships and they didn't get paid to work.

When the slaves were freed, they really weren't free. They didn't have clothes, shoes, underwear, socks, money, house, education...they had nothing. They depended on the master. Black people couldn't get ahead cause they depended on the White master.

And then when Jim Crow came around, Black people and White people couldn't be together. Black people had separate schools. They couldn't live in the same neighborhood neither. They couldn't have the same jobs. Couldn't eat at the same restaurants...play together...nothing together...couldn't marry each other or talk to each other.

The New Jim Crow is about the bigger number of Black people who are in jail...who get worse punishments than White people...better schools than Black people...make more money than Black people...their houses are worth more than Black people...they take away our vote too...make it harder for us...this is the New Jim Crow.

MY FEELINGS

Second, I think about why White people treated us differently and how that feels in my art. I feel that they should not treat us differently because we are human just like White people. I am disappointed in the government and stuff because they let this happen. They didn't stop it. I don't think it's changing.

ARTMAKING

Third, I talk to you about my art and what everything means to me. For my art I painted all of my canvases black. All of the slaves are blue. I researched the number of slaves on a slave ship and learned one of the largest ships had 454 slaves on it. I also found out 15% of the slaves dies before they even got here. The slaves would throw up on each other. They didn't have any way to use the bathroom. They were chained to each other...didn't matter if they were children or not. People were separated and treated really bad. I want people to just to see how bad they treated the slaves through my

artwork. I put a red x out on the people that died from getting beat to death or starved to death or thirst. That came to 68 slaves in my art.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want people to stop these people from being racist with our color just 'cause we don't look the same. We will not be treated differently. I think they should just like make and get together and vote for Black people and White people who want everyone to be treated with equity. Because equity means that you help me see over the fence. When Christa and I are looking over a fence, she is taller than me. She does not need anything to look over the fence. I need a stool to stand on so I can see over the fence. That's equity. I get what I need. We need to have equity in this country. Black people might need different things than White people because White people have more money...more resources...better schools...we got like trash schools and raggedly schools with barely any teachers in them to teach us so we can get an education. Çlp- And White schools get everything and they are like perfect schools and they can get their perfect education. Why are they doing that to us? I want you to vote for people who will make things equitable for Black people.

Artist's Name: Douglas Byers-Baldwin

Title: When I Was Cyber Bullied

Cost: \$50

Donation: Stomp Out Bullying @ <https://www.stompoutbullying.org>

Social Justice Issue: I don't think anyone should be bullied.

I was cyber bullied. Did you know that? The purpose of my art is to talk about not getting bullied. First, I talk to you about what bullying is. Second, I will share my story. Third, I talk about my art and what it means to me. Finally, I ask everyone to stop bullying people, especially cyber bullying because it's bad and it happens a lot.

BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

First, I talk to you about what bullying is. Did you know that students ages 9 to 10 get bullied on gaming? And did you know that 13-16 year olds get bullied on social media like Snap, Facebook, Discord, and Instagram? I read something about bullying. Bullying makes kids sad and cry. Kids can also be depressed. If they are bullied, they can have anxiety. I had that too. If kids drop out of school or don't come to school, they might not want to come because they are afraid. Kids who get bullied basically don't get good grades either. They need to get back in school. The bullies need to be muted so they can't cuss at us or say mean things to us.

MY STORY

Second, I share my story. I was 8 years old when I was cyber bullied. A kid used to cuss at me. He said things about me. He said things about my family. They used to say things about my mom and call me ugly and make fun of me. I was on my Xbox. It was random people online. Let's say you get into a game, some of them are about 12 or my age. I would ask them why they are cursing and how old are you. I used to tell my mom. My mom used to say to ignore the kids and remove them as my friend. I don't play any private games anymore. I play private games. I don't want to play with strangers. I don't want to be cyber bullied.

MY ARTMAKING

Third, I talk about my art and what it means to me. Photo of my hand...I write on it "No bullying!" and I will have my face in the background....the background will be all black and I will have other people with me...these people will be mod podged in there so they are helping me stop bullying.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I ask everyone to stop bullying people, especially cyber bullying because it's bad and it happens a lot. Schools need to teach kids how to make friends. Let's say, "I ask you to be my friend" and then you say, "No, you little jerk!" This is not how you make friends. We need to teach kids how to talk to each other. We also need to learn empathy, which means to be nice to each other and that means when somebody is sad or mad and you ask them what's wrong...and you try to help them.

Artist's Name: William Cornelius
Title: The Story of 13th by Cornelius
Cost: \$50

Donation: Black Lives Matter

Social Justice Issue: Stop racism in this country for all people of all colors.

I didn't know anything about racism and jails before doing this. Police were taking a lot of people to jail and White people forced them to go to jail because they were Black. The purpose of my art is to stop racism and lower the percentage of Black people going to jail. First, I talk about this documentary I watched on Netflix about racism and prison. Second, I talk about my art and why I did what I did. Third, I am going to give you advice so we can stop racism. Finally, I want you to do something about this and write down what you thought.

THE DOCUMENTARY 13th AND WHAT I LEARNED

First, I watched 13th. Everything I saw in there was everything that happened. It wasn't fair. It showed Black people they get treated differently especially about crime. Let's say that Black people commit a crime, but white people are treated easier. The number of Black people in prison is a lot. We have 2.3 million people in prison in the United States (see <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2022.html>). In California, there is higher percentage of Black people going to jail, but there are more White people in jail. There is a better chance for Black men to go to jail than white people. If you don't have money and you were arrested, you have to sit there and wait until they tell you your time is up and you are ready for trial. Did you know 53% of Black people in jail are sitting there because they can't afford the bail money (https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_race.jsp).

I learned that schools in Hudson are more luxury than Cleveland. I saw houses in Hudson. The prices of houses tell you how much money the schools get. Houses in Hudson were hundreds of thousands of dollars. And here, maybe houses are only thousands of dollars. And Cleveland, maybe they don't get much for schools 'cause they don't have houses that cost that much. If you have a good education, I don't think you'd be in jail. You will do nothing bad and you make it because you did good in school and have more to give you. I didn't know this before.

I also learned this is unfair and against the law. Why is it still going on? Cause the White people who are making laws don't want to share with us. They are threatened by us (see <https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/columns/guest/2022/09/12/what-is-the-result-of-ohio-unconstitutional-school-funding-system-columbus-schools-teachers-strike/68188235007/>).

I felt like my color was a bad color. I learned that Black people are treated badly just because we are Black and have color on our skin. During slavery, White people didn't think Black people were people. They weren't treated that way. They were treated badly.

The policemen we actually have now actually started as slave patrol. Slave patrol was basically guarding someone from escaping, and if they escaped them, they found them. They brought them back to their masters. These slaves were beaten and whipped and shot and killed. This is how police got started. I learned this. I didn't know things like this happened.

MY ARTMAKING

Second, I talk about my art and why I did what I did. I made a bunch of arms making fists. These are about power to the people. Each of the arms is a different skin color. Everyone is coming together to fight against racism. We are different people and we need to come together to stop this.

STOP RACISM

Third, I give you advice so we can stop racism. White and Black people need to be trained in schools to be kind of people's color. And, they need to learn about real history because they don't know what they are doing. They might or might not know they are being racist. I don't want them to be racist. I can't remember anything I learned about Black people except for first grade. I think I remember learning that people were racist around the world. I think I remember

learning that then. We have to look at the rules in schools to make sure we aren't doing bad things to Black kids. We also need to help Black kids learn about being Black and famous Black people.

I have been racist before and I didn't know. I had called people names and I was just joking and I said mean things. I am going to recorrect myself and apologize. I want to learn how to be anti-racist.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want you to do something about this and write down what you thought. We should do these things:

1. We need to respect how people identify...their color...and what they do...cause you can't judge somebody like that...you can't just judge them...if you be nice to someone else, then that will come right back at you.
2. We need to call each other by their real name, not out of their name. They could be offended.
3. Respect someone's religion...respect them...don't say things that are racist...don't say nothing about them to hurt them...
4. Don't make jokes about their race...talk...dress...walk...how they learn...if they are a girl...and anything like that. Respect cultural and racial differences in the workplace.
5. Be professional in conduct and speech.
6. Refuse to initiate, participate, or condone discrimination and harassment.
7. Avoid race-based or culturally offensive humor or pranks.

Artist's Name: London Marie Duncan

Title: The History of Slavery

Cost: \$50

Donation: Facing History and Ourselves (see <https://www.facinghistory.org/>)

Social justice issue: We need to know the truth about the history of slavery.

Surprise! I think I only read one old book about it in school, on slavery. I wish I would have known more, and the truth. The purpose of my art is to tell you how Black people were being treated back when there was slavery. I want people to read this so they can start treating people better and learn that just because people are different doesn't mean you need to treat them like animals. First, I'm going to tell you the history of slavery in the United States. Then, I'm going to tell you how it has affected me and those around me. Next, I explain my art. Finally, I tell you some ways of how to get a better community.

A long time ago, Black people had to serve White people. White people kidnapped Black people from Africa to make them slaves. Black people were members of tribes in Africa. Many of the Africans were actually prisoners of war. Europeans came and bought Africans and treated them like property. They were abused, beaten, left hungry, and enslaved for life. Some American Indians also were slave owners. I didn't know that either.

When they came to the United States, Black people had to pick cotton for hours and hours and hours in the hot sun. And they barely got paid a penny. Like there was this one slave, her name was Harriet Tubman. She escaped and was a big part of making the Underground Railroad. Then, she went back and freed more than 1,000 slaves. Slaves were not allowed to have their names or their clothes or the language they spoke. Every time they were sold, they were given a new name. Could you imagine what that was like?

There are many brave slaves that escaped and walked all the way to Canada because that place allowed Black people to be free. Just like a slave that was named Henry Brown, who escape by mailing himself to Canada and he changed middle name to BOX. So, his full name is Henry Box Brown.

Some slaves that got caught trying to escape. Slave owners put heavy wooden blocks and tie them to your feet so they could not escape. These slave owners also used bloodhounds to track you down or they would find a piece of your clothing and the bloodhounds would track down the scent. There are a lot of things that White people didn't allow Black people to do. Slaves were not allowed to read or write. If they did, they would be educated like the White people. If they were educated like the White people, then they might start asking questions...and free themselves by fighting back.

After slavery, Black people didn't have anywhere to go to school. Also, there were two schools. A school for all Black people and a school for all White people. We were divided. But that all changed when a girl named Ruby Bridges came. She was the first Black girl to go to an all White school. Ruby bridges thought that it was wrong that we were in separate schools. So she went to an all-White school with soldiers from National Guard from the government were with her and her mom as people were shouting "no colored people allowed."

Things have changed since this time; however, Black people are still being treated differently. We are still dealing with some of the same issues we have been for so many years: discrimination, poor schools, housing issues, poverty, education isn't the same as White students, and so much more. I have been treated differently because I was the only Black girl on an all-boys team. All the boys were White. They were all making fun of me for being Black. I left that team because I didn't want to be bothered with all of that. Because of all the protests in the past, I was allowed to be on the team, but that didn't mean that I would be treated equally.

ARTMAKING

I painted a woman with a mask on. The mask symbolizes her trying to hide her face. I wrote this poem about what my art means to me:

*Hide.
I am Black.
She is trying to stay hidden.
Why?
Because she is Black.
She is also wearing a hat.
This is all to hide her.
Insecure.
She feels insecure.
About being Black.
How will she be treated by White people?
She is feeling insecure.
Really sad.
Hope.
She hopes to have people rising together.
Rise.
So,
Black people are treated right.*

I made the background blue to show that the people are outside and that I want things to be calmer and kinder in the future. I painted a Black woman's face in the middle and show some racist people in the background with signs that say really mean things.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want you to do something about making sure Black girls matter. They should not be silenced. Schools can treat Black girls with the same respect they give White girls and boys. Teachers need to make sure they are teaching the truth about Black people and Black history. It can't just be about White people and the way they see it. It needs to be from our kind. It needs to be our voices and how we experience things. This will make White people and Black people learn the truth. Everyone needs to know how to treat people with respect and hear our stories. This is my story. And I want to be heard.

Artist's Name: Paige Ferguson

Title: PJ's project

Cost: \$18

Donation: Black Lives Matter

Social Justice Issue: Black lives do matter.

Black Lives Matter. Those words can change the world if people would believe in these words. First, I talk about Black Lives Matter. Second, I tell you how I feel about Black Lives Matter. Third, I tell you about my art and what everything means. Finally, I tell people that I don't want them to be racist.

BLACK LIVES MATTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

First, I talk about Black Lives Matter. These three Black women started Black Lives Matter in 2013: Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi. They started this when Trayvon Martin was shot and murdered by George Zimmerman in 2012. I hope he went to jail, but I learned he didn't. Just because he thought he was threatened by a little boy wearing a hoodie and with Skittles in his pocket? He shot him? He killed him? Michael Brown was another innocent Black man who was killed by the police. He had his hands raised and was unarmed and said, "Don't shoot!" Eric Garner just walked out of a convenient store and got surrounded by six policemen. He tried to talk to them. They jumped on him and choked him. They had smashed his head into the ground. He couldn't breathe. He died. He was unarmed and innocent.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO THE POLICE WAS THAT HE WAS BLACK!!!!

People started protesting everywhere because they were upset about all of the Black people dying because of all of these racist police officers.

REFLECTION

Second, I tell you how I feel about Black Lives Matter. When I learned about this, I feel mad and happy at the same time. I am mad because there are so many innocent Black people they killed. I am happy because there are a whole lot of people helping with Black Lives Matter. And I think, they are saving lives. Why? Because they are protesting all over and even around the world.

*Does it have to be on the news?
To matter?
When it is on the news
or in social media,
we learn that Black Lives Matter is a BIG community!
And,
you are not alone!
Whether you are
green,
purple,
red
or blue,
you are equivalent to everybody!*

I think that this society today would be less violent if people would understand the words "Black Lives Matter." And when you be racist, you start so many fights in public places. You can change the world with your words. Some will listen and some won't....but as long as you still have the determination to speak, you will rise up and you will do what your heart desires. And when you die, you better have left a mark on this world. OKAY!!!! ;) Because other people from other races have feelings too, you need to respect them, but they also need to be nice to you. Respect others and just don't go over to them and say "you're ugly" just because they didn't respect you. Like you would respect yourself, okay? And what I need you to do is respect other races, okay? That's all I need, okay?

I love it! I love everything about it. I am smiling because of all the hard work that I have done with Christa. I am proud of myself and I am proud of Christa too.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I tell people that I don't want them to be racist. I want to see police officers treat any other person. Now that, is EQUALITY! If you want to get involved with Black Lives Matter, this is what you do:

Look up BLM's #WhatMatters2020 Campaign, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and search for these hashtags:

- #BlackLivesMatter
- #BLM
- #WhatMatters2020
- #WeCantBreathe
- #SayHerName

Artist's Name: Zanyh Hicks

Title: Black Girl Magic

Cost: \$50

Donation: Girls for a Change @ <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Social Justice Issue: We need to uplift Black women.

What is Black Girl Magic? The purpose of my art is to celebrate Black girls and all they have to offer. First, I tell you about the organization. Next, I share my artmaking. Finally, I tell you how you can get involved.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Black girl magic was made in 2013. The phrase "Black Girls are Magic" was later shortened to the hashtag #BlackGirlMagic on social media. This phrase was started by CaShawn Thompson to celebrate and uplift Black women. Black Girl Magic has become an annual celebration that encourages unity among African American women while fostering and empowering a sense of self in women who participate. The 2023 Black Girl Magic celebration will be held February 8th in the Nigh University Center.

I think Black Girl Magic is something should know more about and celebrate. We need to put Black girls up. We are amazing and have so much to offer the world.

ARTMAKING

My artwork is about me and my friends. We are BLACK GIRL MAGIC! Each of us are beautiful on the inside and the outside. There is so much to be proud of. These are my friends. Each of us are wonderful people who have something to give. I made a rainbow on top because rainbows are beautiful, like us. I painted Black Girl Magic with a heart over the "I" because we are love.

ACTIVISM

Being a Black girl means to wake up every morning and know you matter. You should be proud of your skin. You should be proud of your gender. You should be proud to be you. I am extraordinary. We are extraordinary. We need to love ourselves.

Artist's Name: Jayson Johnson

Title: The bad cop

Cost: \$25

Donation: NAACP Cleveland

Social Justice Issue: There are too many cops who are killing Black men and women.

Over the past few years police officers have failed in their duty to protect and serve everyone, especially innocent Black men and women. The purpose of my art is to help you understand police brutality needs to stop. First, I tell you about why this matters. Next, I talk to you about my artmaking. Finally, I encourage you to do something to stop the violence.

Overview

There have been multiple instances where White police officers have killed Black men and women for no other reason besides their skin color. One of the most notable instances was the murder of George Floyd. He was killed by White police officers. George Floyd's death was witnessed by people all over the world. More often than not, Black kids, some even my age, are killed unjustly by White police officers.

As Black people, we are killed at a higher rate than other races. According to the Washington Post, police killed 1,055 people. Black people are only 13% of the population, but we account for 27% of people who are killed by the police. This was in 2021. This means Black people are two times as likely as White people to be shot and killed by police.

Artmaking

My art is red in the background to represent my anger about Black men and women being shot and killed by police. I painted a black fist to stand for power for Black people to protest and stand up for what is right. This needs to stop!

Activism

What can you do? You can join organizations that are trying to fight against this like Black Lives Matter or call the police department to find out what you can do to help or vote for people who want to give police officers training so they stop doing this.

Artist's Name: Shaundre'a Jones

Title: COLORISM

Cost: \$50

Donation: Interracial Colorism Project @ https://colorismproject.com/?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=idealist

Social Justice Issue: I don't like colorism because it is not fair for people to not treat people fairly just because of the color of their skin.

This started in the United States during slavery. Slaves who worked in the field had Black skin or darker skin than the lighter skinned slaves. Lighter skinned slaves worked in the slave master's house. The purpose of my art is to say colorism is wrong. First, I am going to talk about how White people get treated differently for having white skin instead of Black people being treated normally. Second, I talk about how I feel about colorism. Third, I'll talk about my art and what it means to me. Finally, I want people to treat people the same as White people.

COLORISM IS WRONG

First, I talk about how White people get treated differently for having white skin instead of Black people being treated normally. I read about White people and they get to have normal lives and Black people don't. A normal life is where you can get married, and a lot of jobs available, and you get to go to normal schools and wear normal clothes. A normal school is like a perfect school. White students get to go to perfect schools and they get to ride buses to school. Normal clothes. They are perfect. White people get to wear those clothes, but Black people have their lives differently. So, Black people get to have MESSED UP clothes, MESSED UP schools, MESSED UP buses, MESSED UP houses, MESSED UP toys, and MESSED...UP... EVERYTHING!!!

White people used to call Black people two kinds of N words, and White people don't have names like that. And there's other people like mixed people. Then, White people will assume that they are the same as Black people. Basically, all people that have other colors mixed with Black colors, but White people will still assume that they are Black.

MY FEELINGS ABOUT COLORISM

Second, I talk about how I feel about colorism. I DON'T like colorism. Because it's VERY unfair. And everyone should STOP colorism! I do know about it. I learned about it. Actually, I think it was from school or it was from a show. It is important to me because it's very unfair and I learned more from my parents. I learned that well, all of the bad words have been learned from White people to say to Black people to put them down. My parents told me that if you have darker skin than White people, then you might be called these N words or put down for the color of your skin.

*I think I am beautiful.
I think I have beautiful skin.
I love my black hair.
And it's curly.
I love me.
I do.
My parents love me.
They love me just the way I am.
Black and beautiful!*

MY ARTMAKING

Third, I talk about my art and what it means to me. I'm made a painting with two Black hands with words on them. Each hand is a different color of Black - one lighter and one darker. The hands are trying to touch each other in the galaxy and all kinds of stars making the Earth in the background.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Finally, I want people to treat people the same as White people. White people can't keep putting us down for the color of our skin. This is the same for other Black kids. Kids say colors of their skins and think it is fun to do it to someone. But,

I don't like it! Don't say things like "colored-skin monkey"...or telling someone "you have the color of a monkey." Black is beautiful!

Donnamaria Culbreth founded The Intraracial Colorism Project in 2009. So, what I'm going to do is talk to the people about it. You need to learn about colorism and why it's bad and we need to believe that all skin colors are beautiful. I am beautiful just the way I am! And, you are too! Help me stop colorism. Learn more about it. Listen to what people say to each other and say something if someone is judged because they have darker or lighter skin.

You can find information on The Interracial Colorism Project at <https://colorismproject.com/>

Artist's Name: Marcus Anderson Wilkerson Jr.
Title: BLM on Stage
Cost: \$25
Donation: Black Lives Matter
Social Justice Issue: Slavery should never have happened.

I didn't know about Harriet Tubman. Do you? The purpose of my art is to celebrate Harriet Tubman's life, Frederick Douglas, and racism. First, I talk about Harriet Tubman and give you some history about her as well as Frederick Douglas. Second, I discuss what racism means to me. Third, I talk about my art and what everything means in my art. Finally, I want people to do what they need to do to end racism.

BRIEF HISTORY

First, I talk about Harriet Tubman and give you some history about her. So, in the 1849, Harriet Tubman freed 300 slaves in 19 trips. She was born in 1820 or 1822. They don't know if she died in 1913, but she will go down in the history book for how much of a hero she was. She lived for 93 years. She saved 300 people through the underground railroad. The underground railroad was not a tunnel or a railroad. It was actually just a way to get through up to the north. This was actually through barns, churches, businesses, and homes. They would put up signals and put slaves who escaped in cellars or under floors and hide them until they could be safe to leave again. May she rest in peace, Harriet Tubman 1820-1913.

Now, I will talk about Fredrick Douglass. He is an important person who escaped from slavery. He died at 77. He had a heart attack in 1895. He was 20 years old when he escaped from slavery. Frederick Douglass had to read and he had to teach himself to read and write. He helped slaves to read and write. He was so brave that he fought a slave breaker. A slave breaker is a person who makes the slave do what they tell them to do and beat them and hurt them until they do. He also escaped slavery in disguise. He fought for women's rights.

Some White people in America believe that slavery was good for Black people and this country. It is very much not good. Forty-eight percent of Americans think the United States has made some real changes that are positive. And 50% of Americans think we need to do a lot more work on racism because it's not over. And it has never been over.

WHAT I THINK OF RACISM

Second, I discuss what racism means to me. I think that racism is really rude towards Black people because they're the only kind who gets bullied for the color of their skin, but the Whites only have one name that's offensive. And it's not just White people. Black people can be racist toward Black people too. The darker your skin, the more you get discriminated against. And, it's the word "cracker" they get called that because their skin is the color of a graham cracker, but Blacks have multiple names like 'Cotton Picker,' 'Jiggaboo Monkey' and 'Porch Monkey' which are very rude and offensive so Black people are treated differently.

*Black people.
White people don't like Black people.
It is kinda like I hear things,
but from Black people.
I have been called the N word.
Just saying...
'I can see you in the dark.'
'Oh, my God. I can't see Marcus.'
I am kinda mad...
And sad.
I have not been discriminated against by a White person.
But I know Black people who have.
It needs to stop.*

We all need to stop treating black people different.

MY ARTMAKING

Third, I talk about my art and what everything means in my art. I made a stage with spotlights. I put Black Lives Matter on Stage with people's arms and fists being raised. This is about giving power to Black people so this can't happen again. I made curtains for the stage out of yellow fabric. I put the spotlight right on the hands because we matter.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want people to do what they need to do to end racism. Kids should learn more about Black people in school all around the world. Do you know issues facing Black people? I will share the six issues facing Black men and Black boys:

- Social Justice Reform: Is that most of the Black teenagers are targets to the the cops and making there self more of a target by gang banging just like in the slavery time.
- Improving the education system by making sure students know the truth about history and see Black people in a positive way.

Artist's Name: Jace Zeigler (Little Sun)

Title: Boys Can Wear What They Want

Cost: \$50

Donation: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

Social Justice issue: I want sexism to stop for boys and girls.

Boy cheerleaders?! Girls playing football?! The purpose of my art is to address how sexism could change if we just work together. First, I define sexism and tell you a little bit about it. Second, I will tell you how I feel about this. Third, I share my art and what everything means. Finally, I want sexism to stop and give you advice on what we all need to do.

DEFINITION AND BRIEF HISTORY

First, I define sexism and tell you a little bit about it. So, I know sexism focuses on women and men, but mostly on women, in my opinion, and makes us think that women can only do certain things like cooking, cleaning, and having babies and taking care of them and being a mom.

Women didn't have the right to vote. They didn't have equal rights. They couldn't own land, only men could. They couldn't go to college. They didn't earn the same amount of money. They couldn't have the jobs they wanted. They used to get beat a lot by their husbands or boyfriends.

Are you interested in examples of sexism? Examples of sexism are when a girl was trying out for football and the males say she can't play because she's a girl. And sexism can be for boys too. For example, if a boy was trying out for cheerleading, a girl might say he couldn't because he's a boy. Nothing gives you the right to tell a person what they can do or what they can't do just because of their gender. A girl can play football. A boy can cheerlead. You cannot tell them they can't play football or cheerlead. It's their life.

I believe: If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.

Other examples of sexism are when a girl tells a boy that you can't like pink because you're not supposed to. The same with a boy. A boy can't tell a girl you can't like that because it's not pink. What if they like blue? Boys are supposed to like blue, orange, and green. Who made this up? Girls are supposed to like pink and purple. This is silly because you should be able to wear all the colors. Also I feel like people should be able to wear what they want, it doesn't matter what you wear, a girl can wear orange, green, blue, a boy can wear pink purple, they are just color's after all, it doesn't matter what you wear, as long as you are happy it doesn't matter what people think of you.

Sexism can hurt people's feelings. This affects me because some people feel like they can wear pink or blue or purple. It's just not right.

REFLECTION

Next, I share my feelings. How would you feel if you had someone be sexist to you? Call you names? Saying you can't wear certain things? In my opinion, someone doing that would mean you are kind of being a bully.

I was wearing this purple-blue thing and boys made fun of me. I said, "No, it's purple and blue. What's wrong with that?" My feelings were hurt. I got over it. People can't judge me just because I wear a color. They kept making fun of me. It was a long time ago and they don't go to my school anymore. I have learned to control my anger.

Being a boy, I had bald spots. I had boys make fun of me for that. Most times, boys are supposed to have all that hair. I get embarrassed. It was in the back of my head where I couldn't see it. I didn't know it was there. I was also feeling mad. It grew back.

I don't know where boys got the idea or girls to say boys can only wear green, red, orange, and blue. Black is like a boy/girl color. Pink, purple, and also, I think yellow are supposed to be girl colors. This is all wrong. Who cares what colors we wear. Why does it matter?

ARTMAKING

Third, I share my art and what everything means. I painted the background white. I wrote in black marker my reflection on the entire canvas. I mod podged these two figures on my canvas to show this is how students should be able to dress no matter what. Boys should be able to wear what they want as well as girls. Clothes can be worn by anyone.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want sexism to stop and give you advice on what we all need to do. Sexism is wrong! It hurts people's feelings and we all have to stop this NOW! Schools need to look at their dress codes. Students should be able to wear whatever colors they want to wear.

I think schools should consider letting people wear clothes that are based on:

1. Religion
2. Culture (e.g., scarfs, head dress, patterns, East Indian Sari)
3. People with physical differences (like if someone has to wear something uncomfortable and they are in a wheelchair then they shouldn't have to wear that)
4. Hairstyles (wear any style they want)
5. Gender neutral clothing (any student can wear pants...or skirts...or dresses...and whatever shoes they want) to be who they are

What I think you should do is look up your school policy and dress code.

Artist's Name: Aalayah Brown

Title: BLACK LIVES MATTERS

Cost: \$100

Donation: Resident Relief Foundation at <https://residentrelieffoundation.org/>

Social Justice Issue: Black kids do not get the same privileges as White kids in society and school.

We talked about this in school for the first time. I was glad we talked about it. The purpose of my art is to know Black voices need to be heard. First, I will talk about privilege and what it means. Second, I share my feelings about this. Third, I talk about my art and what everything means to me. Finally, I want schools to let us talk about this more. We need it.

PRIVILEGE

First, I will talk about privilege and what it means. Privilege is like when you get to have something. And, as a human being, I deserve to be treated with respect and have the same privileges as people with lighter skin. Here are some examples of White privilege:

White people have a better relationship with the police. Black people don't have that. You can't even drive with tinted windows. My dad was driving with tinted windows, and we got pulled over. We are in the car and everything and the police think we are drug dealers. Racism is gonna keep going on and Black people don't want to be driving because they're gonna get pulled over...or they are afraid to speak up...because they think they are going to get shot by the police...this is the frustration...the police are doing this to Black people and the Black community. There is all this racism in the world. And we gotta be speaking up and seeing Black people in the government...we need to stop calling each other "nigg*" and stuff like that...stop saying we can say that to each other and White people can't say it...we can't be saying this to each other...it's racist...we need to stop...that is a regular human being. Don't be saying them by their race...all of us are human...people just be who they are...I don't really think racism should be a problem...if it is not done to them, then they don't think it's a problem. Black voices should be heard.

White kids get more privileges in school and out of school. Black kids are more likely to be kicked out of school or suspended. They shouldn't have to learn the hard way. They need to be heard...they need to listen...they need to get to know us.

I attend a school with almost everyone being Black. I think we have two White kids in the school. All these other schools are all White, mostly. We don't know why White people don't want to go to school with us. We can do more things than White people think we can do. We just need the things so we can do that.

I want to learn about being Black in school. I don't hear about Black people in school. I can't really think of when we talk about these things except now. We need to be speaking about this more. Nobody really ain't paying attention to Black voices. We need to be learning more about our history and about our people and my community. I don't keep thinking of all White people like this and being dirty...there are White people who want to help us out...not all of them are bad...we need more people who care about us as Black people.

It has been a year since I read anything positive about Black people. I haven't had good grades in awhile. School is hard for me. I had all White teachers. I saw a kid get hit by a teacher with a stapler. Why does she do that? It was at another school. Nothin happened to her. She allowed to do that to him. Just cause she's mad? How many Black people did she read about? How many times did she talk to us about good things about being Black? I never read anything like this before or did anything like this before. I like this. I am doing good with this. I am glad Christa is here and she works with us on this stuff. It's important. She doesn't have to do that. She wants to.

I see bad things on the news about Black people. Right now, I just saw something on the news. Black families are portrayed as poor...criminals...violent...bad people. I think it is sad and sick because you never know how someone feels and lives because you got all the privileges they don't have....you will need to walk a mile in another person's shoes to

know what they are going through. I see Black people as human beings trying to make a way out...and being shut down...and being represented as poor and violent...but everybody is their own person and should be treated the same.

ARTMAKING

The reason why I choose to do this art is because it's about me screaming BLACK LIVES MATTER! Because, I have a voice and I'm gonna use it. The only time we can speak up and people listen is when we vote! I'm a young Black girl that's eleven years old and lives in Ohio, in Cleveland.

My art is about my voice being heard, it's about me speaking up so our voice is not just mine, other voices can be heard so people like my age or older or lower can believe in themselves. The reason why racism is here today is because we're not Speaking up like we need to. The reason why I choose my colors is because black is my color. I am black. green is because of nature not because i hate ya red because too many black people have been killed for trying to speak up and fear. and i know y'all scared but our voice is stronger than any money and person we have a voice and we need to use it. My eyes is red and green because red means fear green means nature OUR VOICE NEED TO BE HEARD! BLM WLM ALM CLM RLM BLM ALM!

ACTIVISM

Stop being silent. Speak up. If you don't say something, then nothing gonna happen. It just stay the same. That's not right. Even though I am 11 years old, I still have a voice. How loud do I have to get before you hear me? Very loud? Screaming? Do something about this. You have the power to make it stop. Will you make it stop?

Artist's Name: Lorenzo Bryant

Title: Mama, please save me!!!

Cost: \$50

Donation: Anti-Slavery International @ <https://www.antislavery.org/>

Social Justice Issue: If Emmet Till was alive, "The day I thought would never come...abducted and lynched and left to die in the Tallahatchie River."

I was mad! I was pacing up and down! I hate to hear how Black people have been dying and I hate hearing it. Black people deserve better. Jesus was the only Black person in the world. We were hated for our color. The purpose of my art is to show that some, not all, White people don't really care about us. Why? Because we're Black and we came into this world looking for peace and love. And then, what happened to Jesus? First, I will discuss what happened to Emmet Till. Second, I want to talk about his life and personality. Third, I will discuss how this almost happened to me when I was nine years old deep in Alabama. Next, I will talk about my art and what it means. Finally, I will talk about how this can't happen to White people and it can't happen every again to a Black person and lessons I have learned. I am tired of this. Am I next? Will I be saying, "Mama, please save me?"

EMMET TILL

First, I will talk about what happened to Emmet Till. No bruh, Carolyn Bryant she lied on Emmet Till. Carolyn accused him of cat calling, whistling. Emmett was picking cotton with seven of his cousins and friends. Back then, if you were white and Black, you couldn't be together. As Black people, we didn't have what white people had. We were treated like slaves...She had two white men banging on his door demanding them to let them in. Emmet Till was in Mississippi visiting his uncle and cousins. His mom wasn't anywhere around begging and praying for him to come back home to Chicago. What they did to him was unnecessary, stupid, childish, and sick! Why are you killing a 14 year old boy? They didn't even hesitate to kill him. They were so thirsty to kill him...like he was hunted...he was the prey. This is still happening today. But now, this is with the police and people lynching Black people.

HIS PERSONAL LIFE

Second, I talk about Emmet Till's personality and life.

*He was shot.
They hunted him.
They cut off his ear.
He had hazel eyes.
Cut out.
Broke his hand.
Tied him to 75 pound cotton gin fan.
Tortured.
Beaten.
Couldn't recognize his face.
Posted on line.
How can this happen?*

*Am I next?
I live with this fear.
I am so angry.
I cannot do this.
I cannot do this anymore.
It wasn't just him.
George Stenny
Accused of killing two white girls.*

*Innocent.
His innocence spoken when he died.
Tamir Rice.
Toy gun.
Shot in cold blood.
Wailing.
His sister.
Tamir! Tamir!
Michael Brown
Shot and killed.
Police.
Middle of the street.
Crazy!
He's dead and they are yelling...
FREEZE!
Dying for no reason.
How can YOU hate us?
We don't deserve this.
Jesus was Black.
But you don't like our history.
We aren't monkeys.
Cotton pickers.
Chicken eatin 'watermelon eatin'
The n 'word.
Still to this day.
It's wrong.
Must stop.
I am so tired.
Must stop.*

I am smiling right now. This is good. This is my best work.

MY ART

Next, I talk about my art. I was thinking about having his face non beaten and his face beaten. I got a picture of Emmet Till. I cut it up and put the pieces in different ways to show he was beaten and killed. I made a coffin out of paper towel. I used mod podge. I painted it red to show the blood from being killed and orange because his mother wanted everyone to see what they did to her son. It gets your attention. I made a coffin out of paper towel and mod podge. I did this because he had an open coffin. His mother wanted everyone to see what these White men did to her son. They were KKK members.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I will share what needs to change in society to keep me safe and other Black people safe. We deserve to live and be safe. What will you do to make sure we have safe places to play? To go to school? To just be Black? To be ourselves? To be kids? This can't happen again. It is happening now with all of the hate in the world because White people don't like Black people. It is not right.

Artist's Name: DJ (Donald Chatmon)

Title: N Joes

Cost: \$25

Donation: <https://clevelandnaacp.org/contact-us-2/>

Social Justice Issue: The real history of the N word.

I didn't know the history of the N word. I have said it like 10 million times. The purpose of my art is to discuss the history of the N word. First, I talk about the N word. Next, I tell you about my experiences. Then, I tells you about my art. Finally, I say why you shouldn't do this.

THE BEGINNING

Believe it or not, I have had teachers call me the N word before. That made me feel sad. My coach has cussed at me like crazy. And another time, I was at a store and me and my mom a White boy called me the N word it make me feel mad.

I was on the phone with this White boy and his brother was Black, and we were talking about racist stuff. I said it is not right to say the N word. He said White lives matter more than Black lives matter and it made me sad. Then, I was listening to depressing music.

I was at a football game and a drunk white dude said the n word and a black guy told him to stop and he got kicked out of the game. I went in the car and asked my parents why these people say the n word and my dad said he didn't know. I went home and was studying the history of the word and talking to people about it. It is not right and people could be killed, shot or die. I am concerned with white people who are saying it because I don't want them to get shot or nothing.

ARTMAKING

In my art, I made someone doing Black face. I didn't know what it was until now. I painted "Stop saying the N word" because it's not right." I paint someone in Black face like Sambo. I painted "N Joe" and put an X over it to cross it out because this is not a nice representation of Black people. Also, it is important you know "We are more than this!"

ACTIVISM

Stop saying the N word because if you say it around the wrong person, then you can get shot for saying it. You are supposed to be respectful to your peers.

Artist's Name: Caleb Davis

Title: Nature Now

Cost: \$95

Donation: #TeamSeas at amseas.org

Social Justice Issue: We need to save our planet.

Have you ever seen the news and saw what people are doing to the forests/environment? The purpose of my art is to show you our earth is in trouble. We are all in trouble if we don't start thinking about how to save our planet. If you haven't seen my informational page, then I will tell you about the bad and horrible things people are doing to the environment and animals. I also be talking about the terrible things that people did to the animals that have been hunted so much they went extinct because they were over-hunted so i will tell you all about that too. And finally, I tell you what you need to do to bring our earth back.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

First, I tell you about the earth and what's happening. Humans are killing animals for their skin, horns, and/or teeth, for example rhinos are being killed for their horns and humans are cutting down the Amazon rainforest to make space for new cities/towns, but the Amazon rainforest is where most of the trees on earth are and without the trees most species would die because of lack of shelter. What are we going to do if everything is gone? Killed?

Most of the animals that live in trees are most vital to food chains so many species will die because of forest fires and trees being cut down.

ARTMAKING

I like Basquiat. I even have a jacket with his art on it. I made a portrait of myself in his style of painting. I made myself. I am smiling. I am smiling because I am putting out the fire. The earth is on fire. We have global warming and we are killing our planet. I painted big flames behind me. I have a long hose and I am putting water on the flames to make them stop.

ACTIVISM

What I think people should do instead of using unnatural energy and putting bad air into our air and convert that air into energy for towns and/or use more solar energy. If you want to buy my art, I want you to donate to a charity that helps the earth, charities such as #Save The Trees and #Team Seas that raise money to get trash out the ocean and to plant trees and stop people from cutting down trees and burning down forest. Even though people need the trees and the space for new cities/towns and that's fine, they don't make up for all the trees that have been cut down. Even though people need trees to build things they should plant a few trees instead.

Artist's Name: Colin Floyd

Title: This is Me

Cost: \$50

Donation: <https://emmetttilllegacyfoundation.com/> Emmet Till Legacy Foundation

Social Justice Issue: I want to tell you what it is like to be a young Black man.

*I was born in Cleveland.
I have been here my whole life.
I love my family.
They are loving.
They talk to me.
They tell me they love me.
They take me places.
I don't like my neighborhood that much.
But I like the field across from my house
so I can play at it.
I play catch with my cousins.
We play football
and we chase each other around.
I like how YouTubers are Black and White (a couple)
And they make cool content.
Like they make video games
and challenges and pranks.
It's normal being me.
I am human.
I love everything about myself.
I don't like being short.
I am shorter than anyone in this class.
I don't know if I am a good friend.
Sometimes I am mean and stuff

I am trying to work on that.
I can't think of anything else right now that I like about myself.*

The purpose of my art is to focus on me as a young Black man. First, I want people to understand each other. If someone is feeling sad, then we need to like talk to them and help them about what happened. I will tell you about how this has been important for me. I talk about my art and what everything means to me. I end this by telling you what you can do to celebrate other young people.

First, I want everyone to know it's important to support each other and understand each other. A grown up needs an older family member to talk to and help them out with stuff. So it's like, say if like a grown up has to deal with a lot of stuff and it's super painful and they want to do something themselves... like kill themselves... they need someone to talk to... like a therapist. Kids should have grownups to talk to. Not everybody has someone to talk to about their problems. It makes me feel horrible for people who don't have nobody to talk to about their problems.

My mama and all my family members can help me talk about my problems. That's helpful because I can be feeling sad for a very long time.

ARTMAKING

For my artwork, I looked up the artist Basquiat because I know he has beautiful art. He expresses himself with his art. I wanted to express myself through my art. I painted a painting of myself holding a sword. A big sword. I am holding the

sword to protect myself from certain people, like people who don't like me. I chose the colors red, black, and white because they are powerful colors together. When I look at my art, I feel alright. It makes me feel good inside.

ACTIVISM

I believe everyone in school should really be working hard to help all young Black boys. We need extra help and attention sometimes. It can be hard to be a Black boy. Make sure you listen to us. Make sure you help us find jobs and get a good education. If we don't have a good education, then we can't get a good job and then we can't get food and then we can't get a dis

Artist's Name: Zahkai Hussein-Bey

Title: Why many people can't say the N word

Cost: \$50

Donation: NAACP <https://clevelandnaacp.org/contact-us-2/>

Social Justice Issue: Why is the N word offensive to Black people?

The N word is offensive. Often used as a slur toward my ancestors and people of my demographic.. The purpose of my art is to express why the N word is offensive to me and other people of my color . First, I will talk about why the N word, its origins and how it was used. Second, I will explain how I feel when the N word is used towards me. Third, I will discuss my art and what everything means to me. In conclusion, I will make it known that the N word is a derogatory term and needs to be excluded from some peoples vocabulary.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE N WORD

In 1619, the first ship arrived with Africans to Virginia. The Spanish and Portuguese word for "black" is "negro." That is where the word originally came from. Africans were going through a lot of physical and mental abuse. They were treated like wild dogs, like animals. They were not considered human. They had no rights, none at all. They weren't treated right. If they took a break or didn't do what the White people said, they would be beaten or tortured or thrown overboard and drowned. This would happen even before they got to Virginia.

The N word was also used by this guy named Charles Darwin. His wife called him the N word because she thought of him as a slave. The N word was also used to name a black Labrador dog during World War II for the Airforce. And, the N word was used to say someone is very violent and dangerous and masculine. This was a racial slur.

The N word is offensive because it was used by the white man to use as an insult to my ancestors, the N word originated by slave owners to insult my ancestors. Not many people use it in a derogatory way ,any more. Some people still use it, to inflict pain and demean those in my community, and I'm not going to stop sending my message until the world sees how unnecessary and disgusting this word is.

ARTMAKING

I painted "Don't use the N word." I wrote about this. I am sending a message. This needs to stop.

ACTIVISM

If people start using the N word in school, they should have to have a detention or an in-school suspension and learn why you shouldn't be saying that word. I didn't know all of this before. I learned too, so can you. Don't say this word at all.

Artist's Name: Cayden Jackson

Title: He Means A Lot To Me

Cost: \$100

Donating: Lakeshore Intergenerational School @ <https://www.igschools.org/lakeshore/>

Social Justice Issue: We don't have enough male teachers in elementary schools.

This is my second year having a male teacher since preschool and I am 11 years old. I think that we should have way more male teachers because I want to be able to talk to a male teacher about my problems. The purpose of my art is to make sure you all know we need more male elementary teachers in school. First, I will talk to you about the research and how many men are teaching. Next, I will talk about why we need more men in school. Third, I talk about my art and what everything means. Last, I tell you what you can do to get more men into teaching.

WHY THIS MATTERS

First, I will talk to you about the research and how many men are teaching. There are 25.7 percent of male teachers in the whole world and 74.3 percent of female teachers in the world. I want to know why the numbers are uneven between male and female teachers in the world.

I think it's unfair because we need more male teachers in schools. We need more male teachers in the world. Also I think that more males should go to teaching school because I feel like I can talk to male teachers about my problems and feel comfortable. Don't get me wrong, I can't talk to female teachers, but sometimes I don't feel comfortable doing so. I would rather have a male teacher and I can talk to him about guy things.

Mr. C teaches me how to be a man: (1) kindness; (2) maturity; (3) honesty; (4) patience; and (5) he shows us how to be a man by being a role model. Mr. L teaches me too: I learn the same things from him and the importance of being funny and he is cool. He is cool because he is funny and has the same personality and we like the same things. He means a lot to me.

ARTMAKING

In my art making, I painted the background black. I got a picture of one of my teachers. He is Black. I look up to him. He teaches math. I put a bunch of math equations on there because he teaches me and does a great job.

ACTIVISM

More Black men need to be our teachers. If male teachers want to be a teacher, know that it is not just a female job. It's a male job as well. We need men as teachers. Men teach me how to be a man.

They teach us how to be responsible and mature. I think schools need to encourage young men to be teachers. I don't want to be a teacher. I want to be a contract lawyer or a mechanical engineer. I want people to know we need more men as teachers, especially Black men. We need to see them in our schools. It's important.

Artist's Name: Camella McDougall

Title: Black Girls Get in More Trouble Than White Girls

Cost: \$100

Donation: Black Girls Rock at <https://blackgirlsrock.com/>

Social Justice issue: Black girls get in more trouble in school than White girls.

Pushed out. On the news, I learned how Black girls get in more trouble than White girls. The purpose of my is to encourage people to stop punishing Black girls for being themselves. First, I explore what it is like to be a Black girl in school with discipline. Second, I discuss my feelings about what it means to see this happening. Third, I present my art and what everything means to me. Finally, I ask you to stop this and support Black girls in schools.

DISCIPLINE AND BLACK GIRLS

First, I explore what it is like to be a Black girl in school with discipline. Did you know Black girls are six times more likely to be kicked out of school, three times more likely to be suspended from school, and four times more likely to be arrested than White girls? (see [Pushed Out: How excessive school discipline against Black girls leads to drop out, incarceration](#)). When police officers are in schools, Black and Brown kids often get in more trouble than when they are not there (<https://abc7news.com/black-girls-suspended-more-than-white-pushed-out-school-to-prison-pipeline-school-pushout/10405118/>). There was a 10th grader who said it is hard to be a Black girl in school because she was suspended 23 times in one year and felt like no one ever took time to understand her. If you want Black girls to do better in school, then they need you to take time to know them. If I feel like my teachers care about me, then I want to come to school. If I felt like they didn't care about me, I would not want to come to school.

REFLECTION

Second, I discuss my feelings about what it means to see this happening.

This makes me kind of...
MAD
ANGRY
Why?
Because everyone should be treated like the same.
Black girls shouldn't be punished...
They shouldn't be punished more than White girls.
When Black girls get in trouble,
3ed90git's not good for them.
Why?
Because they're missing school
and that messes up their brains.
They get behind in school.
That can make kids nervous.
And it's bad...
It's bad...
when they get in trouble.
They get in trouble so much...
so much...
that they're sad. Whenever Black girls get in trouble,
they doubt themselves.
doubt themselves...
Black girls are not being treated the same as White girls.
This needs to stop!

ARTMAKING

Third, I present my art and what everything means to me. I painted the background blue. I painted it to look like a sky. I painted a dark sky. I am mad and angry. I painted my feelings about how Black girls are treated in school. I chose to put my words from my poem on my canvas because this is how I am feeling. I mod podged a Black girl on my canvas because they went with my poem. She is at the center and at the bottom because so we can see the words and the words lead to her. This might be how she is feels. This is how I feel.

I would do this again. It was fun. I loved painting, writing a poem, and putting my poem on there. I have never done anything like this before. I want to do more of this in school. In the future, I think I might want to learn more about what we are teaching in school. Maybe that would be my next project.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I ask you to stop this and support Black girls in schools. This would be a good idea. I just learned about something like restorative justice. What you do is stop sending kids to the office. You let them try to talk it out and learn how to work with each other. This means we sit in a circle and we talk about what happened with each other and how we feel and how it made other people feel and how we can change it.

We also should make sure Black girls have friends and someone to talk to. What if they are having a bad day? They need somebody. Maybe have people they can talk to and look up to in school.

And the last thing I learned was about things to read in school and learn about Black people, like Black women. I have not learned about Black women in school. I would like to learn about them. That would be nice.

Artist's Name: Santanah Runye Morton

Title: Police Brutality: The "N" word

Cost: \$100

Donation: YBM (Helps young Black men become leaders and feel good about themselves.)

<https://www.theggentleman.com/post/2021-01-6-impactful-organizations-black-men#:~:text=The%20YBM%20Leadership%20Alliance%20is,at%20www.youngblackleadership.org>.

Social Justice issue: The "N" word is offensive.

Do you know what the "N" word is? It has lots of history. People used to use it to call a Black man.

The purpose of my art is to show people that the "N" word is wrong. First, I will talk about why the "N" word should not be used. Second, I share my art and what everything means to me. Finally, I tell you what you should do so the "N" word is no longer used. It's offensive.

THE "N" WORD

First, I talk about why the "N" word should not be used. In the book, *Clean Getaway*, I got from the library, it is a memory about the grandmother's son being called the "N" word by a cop. Her son was begging for a quarter for bubble gum from his grandmother. The cop called him the "N" word. The son and the grandmother stayed quiet and left the store.

I think the "N" word is a curse word. The "N" word is bad to say. Someone could get shot. Kids may repeat what someone says then it will be terrible. Once I was in the Dollar Tree and this Black man was arguing with a White woman, and the White woman called him the "N" word. I thought this was not nice. They were arguing over something. There were all Black people there. I was kinda nervous because I didn't know if someone had a gun.

You shouldn't say the "N" word because you could get hurt and you can hurt somebody. That reminds me of something that happened similar to Emmett Till. He was only 14 years old. He supposedly whistled at a White woman and then some White boys heard this lie. They went to his house, kidnapped him, beat him badly, drowned him, and threw him in a river to die.

Sometimes words you say will get you in trouble, so you need to watch what you say. The first time White people saw us Black people, they called us negroes. Negro means black in Spanish. Then, White people changed the word to "N" word. If we as Black men call a White woman or White man something us Black people will get in trouble, but for us, if White people call us something, they don't get in trouble. That is my experience.

This year, these White boys were shooting pellet guns at Black kids playing basketball. Then, the Black people beat up one of the White kids. The other kids ran, but the other White boy was killed. The White boy's name was Ethan Liming. If you are a White or Black, then you need to watch what you say. Words can kill someone. It is not something to play with.

When you say stuff, you need to think about it. Saying the wrong things is very bad. You can't take back what you say. No one can be right, but we need to at least try. If you watch what you say you can be a better person.

ARTMAKING

Second, I am explaining my art and what everything means. First, I painted the background blue or red for the police sirens. This was to symbolize the police. Next, I painted a large capital N for the "N" word. I looked up the names of people who died from police shooting them. They were all unarmed. The name of the site is "Say Their Name," and you can see the website by looking here: (<https://sayevery.name/say-their-names-list>). I cut out some of the people who died from police brutality. The idea is the police must think of them as the "N" word, not having respect for them. I took a dry brush over their faces with black to show they are dead and covered with dirt and buried now. We can no longer see their smiles. We can no longer see them. Their families miss them. They will never see them again. So, I crossed off their faces in red to show they are dead.

When I started this, I just wanted to paint something really fast and just finish. As I started to do it, I decided to slow down. I took my time. I talked about what I was thinking and what I wanted to do. My ideas changed as I worked on it. I think I did better than I ever thought I could. My sister even said she liked it. I actually REALLY LIKE MY PAINTING now! I like how the stripes and the N and the pictures. I feel good about myself.

I would definitely do this again. I saw how it turned out when I took my time and thought about it. I learned that slowing down really helped me think...look back...think about it...and make it better and better...I didn't know I could do anything like this. I am believing in myself more.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I need to tell you to stop. Stop saying hurtful things to Black people, like the "N" word. It is not funny. We can't keep doing that to people. If you hear the "N" word in a song, stop singing it. If you hear someone say it, then say, "Hey, I am not trying to get into your business, but do you know what happened to Emmet Till? Do you know what could happen to you if you say that word? Do you know someone could pull out a gun or hurt you? Do you know that word is very hurtful? Don't say it.

Artist's Name: Vincent Nixon

Title: The Black Hockey Player

Cost: \$120

Donation: Cleveland Heights Tigers Hockey Team (Contact Eddie Babcox edbabcox@yahoo.com)

Social Justice Issue: I should be able to play a sport without being discriminated against.

I was discriminated against last year. Why? I was just a different color. That's it. The purpose of my art is to make history and show you I am another good Black hockey player. First, I will give you a history of sports for Black people. Second, I share with you my experiences as a Black hockey player. Next, I will talk with you about my art and what everything means. Finally, I want to make sure I educate you so you don't judge people like me.

HISTORY OF NHL FOR BLACK PEOPLE

According to an article by USA Today, 97% of the National Hockey League (NHL) is White, and the others are different from White. That means there are only 26 Black players in the NHL. When I watch the NHL games, I only see one or two Black players. When I looked up the list of Black NHL players, I said, "Wow! They're almost all Canadian."

I read an article about how White people were yelling "Basketball! Basketball! Basketball!" as the only Black player in the penalty box. That's racist! The White people were saying Black people should be on the basketball court and hockey is only a White person's sport. I learned about the first Black NHL player. His name was Willie O'Ree. He was the first Black player in 1958 and played for my favorite team, the Boston Bruins. I couldn't believe it.

HOW I FEEL

I played with White kids. They wouldn't talk to me. They wouldn't pass the puck to me. They wouldn't congratulate me. They ignored me. My mom told me to congratulate them and talk to them. And then, when I did that, we started being friends. And now, things are good. I am not the only Black player now. There is another Black player on my team. Hockey is an expensive sport. It costs a lot to play. Everyone should be able to play hockey if they want.

I am in the American Hockey League (AHL). My mom signed a contract just like the Cleveland Monsters had to sign to play. So, when I get older, I can play for them. That's what I want to do. I want to be a professional hockey player and I want to play for my favorite team, the Boston Bruins.

At one of my hockey games during my time with me we just won a game and were congratulating the other team one of the players on the news to my face. I just kept congratulating the other team I told the coach when we got to the locker room coach told the other coach.

MY ARTMAKING

I got a picture of me in my uniform. I mod podged me and Willie's picture on the canvas. I made a fist in the back with everything I wrote in the fist that Black Players Matter. I want all of you to understand how important this is to me. I am going to be a famous Black hockey player just like Willie.

ACTIVISM

All kids should be able to play hockey. But it is a lot of money. I think everybody should try to help them out by helping them pay for the stuff or if they have something used and then they could give it to teams so everyone can have something to play. Or, we could ask other families to help out.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_players_in_ice_hockey#:~:text=According%20to%20an%20article%20by,xaCanada%20while%20six%20are%20American.

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-nhl-says-hockey-is-for-everyone-black-players-arent-so-sure/>

Artist's Name: RJ Smith

Title: SOS!

Cost: \$100

Donation: Human Society at <https://www.clevelandcountypets.org/>

Social Justice Issue: Animals should be treated the way humans want to be treated, just as if they are kings and queens.

The purpose of my art is to discuss animal cruelty because I hate to see animals fighting each other and I really hate people hunting animals for sport, greed and the fun of it. Animals are equal to us, not less than. First, I discuss about animal cruelty that is happening in the world. Second, I tell you how it upsets me. Then, I explain my art and why I decided to make it that way. Finally, I tell you what people can do to make a difference.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

First, I discuss about animal cruelty that is happening in the world. Did you know that every minute an animal is abused? About 60 dogs out of 100 dogs gets abused. And, every year there are 10,000,000 animals that die from being abused! That's disturbing. If you want to see it, look at this: <https://petpedia.co/animal-abuse-statistics/#:~:text=Every%2060%20seconds%2C%20one%20animal,abuse%20in%20the%20US%20alone>. And kids who are abused, about 88 out of 100 families who are abusing their kids are also abusing their animals at home.

I learned about Greyhounds being used to race. They are abused too. Now, there are 40 out of 50 states that make it against the law to race these dogs. In the last 10 years, 483 Greyhounds tested positive.

And, in this country, over 100,000 horses are killed for people to eat. I didn't know this. I learned they cross the border to Mexico and get rid of the horses. People eat them. I feel bad for the horses and I am mad about this. It's like say this...imagine getting your head being cut off or being stabbed...you can't be doing that to animals. Can you think about the pain and suffering they go through?

I also just learned about puppy mills. They are putting puppies in boxes or cages and they just give birth...they never get to be a puppy or a dog...they just keep giving birth to puppies. Who wants to live like that? Why do we do this to dogs? I saw pictures of these dogs in puppy mills. It was disgusting. I could see them suffer. They were dirty. Their bones showed. They were laying in garbage and they were in very small cages. There are still over 10,000 puppy mills in the United States.

I didn't know animals were tested in labs. I thought that was a conspiracy. I can't believe they do this and don't let these animals go. They can't talk and say no. They die and then they just do it on another animal. I saw pictures of this. It was very sad. Some of the animals had all these things wrong with them. They have to live like this? Over 150,000,000 animals are experimented on. This is too much! Would they like to be experimented on? I found companies that don't experiment on animals and companies that do. They do this because they are usually testing makeup like lipstick, mascara, and blush. They also test hair products like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, perfume, cologne, and even cream for your skin.

If kids are being abuse at home, 97% of those homes are also abusing the animals. This makes sense. If they can abuse their kids then they think they could abuse animals. Animals and kids can't fight back.

REFLECTION

Second, I tell you how it upsets me. I picked this social justice issue because you know how animals are forced to fight. Well, they hit their dogs and if they lose the fight, then they get abused or hit. I didn't know this really happened in life. Animals matter because they are living creatures just like we are! All life matters.

I wonder how people would feel if they were treated like this. I think they wouldn't be happy. It would be very sad and they would be mad.

I feel like sad for the animals. I want to save them. The people doing this need to know what it feels like to be experimented on. They need to feel pain and get burned and be deformed and then they can see what it is like. They can't say anything 'cause they can't talk. Why don't they just draw a little blood from an animal instead of hurting them. I think it is a good idea for people to be experimented on if they want. They can make that choice. Animals can't.

ARTMAKING

Next, I explain my art and why I decided to make it that way. My idea is to have animals behind these bars. I want to put metal over the canvas to make it look like a cage. Christa said she would help me do that.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I tell you what people can do to make a difference. So what they can do to make a difference is stop forcing dogs to fight for money. And stop poaching them! Poaching them is when we kill an animal for something like a horn or a leg or a foot or some part of their body to sell. It's wrong!

We know over 100,000 animals are rescued every year. Almost 30 out of 100 rescued animals are killed because they can't find them a home. That's not right. We need to start adopting these animals. They want a family. They want to be loved. They want a home.

You can also send money to shelters so they can try to find the animals a home. The shelters feed them and take care of them and love them until someone can take them home and make them part of their family. What are you going to do?

Artist's Name: Kevin St. Clair Jr.

Title: I Only Feel Safe in Certain Places

Cost: \$50

Donation: Save the Children (<https://www.savethechildren.org/>)

Social Justice Issue: We need to end gun violence.

"Gun violence feels too big, too powerful to stop"- Jennifer Rose Heinz

*This is a mean thing going on right now.
Why are people killing each other for no reason?
45,222 people died from guns in 2020.
Guns are the #1 killer of children.
That needs to stop!
Because they are too young...
They need a future.
They need to explore different stuff
and enjoy their lives.
The stores are selling guns.
People are buying them off of people.
Anybody in Ohio can just get a gun.
They don't need a license no more.
The governor had a bad idea.
He decided to make it so you don't need a license to own a gun.
Now, the younger people can do anything with them.
I only feel safe in certain places.
The ones where you don't hear anything about that city.
I feel safer in the Whiter communities.
I didn't want to say that.
I thought it might be offensive to White people.
It shouldn't be offensive.
THEY know it's true too.
Maybe we should be protesting.
Leave guns alone.
We should be putting money into Black and Brown communities.
Like food...
Money...
Shoes...
Clothing...
Blankets...
Covers...
And a place to call home.
Grocery stores...
Job opportunities...
I am writing the mayor.
He needs to change the laws.
I am writing the governor too.
He needs to think more open-mindedly.
He needs to stop the guns.*

The purpose of my art is to persuade people from getting guns because that's how all the mass shootings, people killing themselves, and school shootings happen. That's why a lot of people are scared to leave the house somedays. First, I will

talk about why I think gun violence affects the world because everybody uses guns now. May 14, 2022, a 18 year old man went to Buffalo, NY hours away from his house. so he pulled up to the BLACK grocery store keep in your head it's all black mostly and tell me why he got out the car with a machine gun and killed 11 black people and 3 wounded and its video footage but they took it down it shows the man saying "be quite lady and i won't kill you" he said that to a white person. But I was confused because like why are stores selling machine guns? Makes no sense and he wasn't even over 21 like in this state all you have to do is be over 18 to get one but I think that's too young because they're still growing and this guy drove hours just to do this SO RACIST.

GUNS

Second, why does everybody have to use A GUN? Did you know the Center for Disease Control (CDC) said 45,222 people died in the United States in 2020 from guns. This is an all-time high. Guns live with someone who does or may have owned a gun in the past. And many who don't currently own a gun, including those who have never owned one, may be open to doing so in the future, but most people live with people who own a gun but they don't own one and people who live in suburbs are 18 percent most likely to get a gun. And most kids fire a firearm before 18 because whoever was there guardian let them. They shouldn't be doing that because first if they don't use it right they can break their wrist because if you don't hold in tight enough and you shoot it and it cocks back it can break there wrist and where not that strong yet.

I talked to my dad about this. He really was just saying that there is no point to having a gun. We can have guns, but it should be a certain age and there should be laws so you can have one. My dad has a gun, but he has a license and practices using it. He is safe. He just don't use it for no reason. Gun violence is not just an issue in Cleveland or Chicago or LA. We see more gun violence in Communities of Color. That some of us still don't like each other and then we live where we live and Black communities only see a couple of White people. And White people only see a couple of Black people. It can be weird when we get together because we don't know how to talk it out. My cousin lives in a predominantly White suburb. He is Black. His mom has a lot of money. She does hair. Sometimes I saw White people flip me off when I went there. When you look their communities, I see we are not the same as them. They have more stuff than us, because they have more money. They have more supplies, more stores, more businesses, and more schools and things to give their kids and more schools in their cities. Sometimes when you don't have, you can go poor or homeless. If you are poor or homeless, you might start begging for stuff or doing whatever you can to get it because you are starving or need somewhere to stay warm.

Third, the reason I'm writing about gun violence because that's how we are losing are whole world. BLACK people are killing BLACK people for no reason this rapper name takeoff just died because somebody got mad at a game and started shooting a bullet hit him and when I heard that in my head I just thought to myself and said WHY ARE WE SHOOTING????!! Violence is not the answer to everything. This is why certain people shouldn't own a gun and the person who killed him was his friend smh!?. A couple of weeks ago it was this rapper named pnb rock he just died because his gf posted a photo of where they were at and as they were walking out the breakfast place a father and son duo did a drive by on him just because they wanted his money and stuff like if you want that stuff how bout you get up off your butt and work for it like he did.

I looked up the mayor of Cleveland. His name is Mr. Justin M. Bibb. I wrote him an email and asked him for a virtual meeting to discuss this:

Hi. My name is Kevin St. Clair. I am in 6th grade. I am working on a social justice project in school. I focused on a project about gun violence and making it a law that everyone needs a license to have a gun. I want to talk with you about making a law about people in Cleveland needing to have a license to have a gun. In my research, I learned that Black and Brown communities have more gun violence than Whiter communities. This is because we have lesser money and they have more money. When they have more money, they can have more businesses, grocery stores, more job opportunities, better schools, and resources. When people have all of these, they don't feel the need to be a drug dealer or do things that might be illegal because they have a good school, a place to live that is safe, a job, stores to shop at, and places to call home.

I look forward to talking with you and seeing if we can make a change together.

Sincerely,

*Kevin St. Clair
6th Grade*

I also sent an email to the governor. His name is Mike Dewine. Here is what I sent him:

Hi. My name is Kevin St. Clair. I am in 6th grade. I am working on a social justice project in school. This will be shown at the Akron Art Museum in Akron, Ohio. I focused on a project about gun violence and making it a law that everyone needs a license to have a gun. I want to talk with you about making a law about people in Ohio need to have a license to have a gun. I don't agree with you that you made it so you don't need a license to have a gun. My dad and I talked about this. He owns a gun, but has a license. It is dangerous for anyone to be able to have a gun or carry one. People like teenagers can do crazy things with them. Adults can do crazy things too. They need to be checked out and learn how to use a gun before being able to have one.

In my research, I learned that Black and Brown communities have more gun violence than Whiter communities. This is because we have lesser money and they have more money. When they have more money, they can have more businesses, grocery stores, more job opportunities, better schools, and resources. When people have all of these, they don't feel the need to be a drug dealer or do things that might be illegal because they have a good school, a place to live that is safe, a job, stores to shop at, and places to call home.

I look forward to hearing from you. I would like you to email me back and see if we can make a change together.

Sincerely,

*Kevin St. Clair
6th Grade
Lakeshore Intergenerational School*

*This is a mean thing going on right now.
Why are people killing each other for no reason?
45,222 people died from guns in 2020.
Guns are the #1 killer of children.
That needs to stop!
Because they are too young...
They need a future.
They need to explore different stuff
and enjoy their lives.
The stores are selling guns.
People are buying them off of people.
Anybody in Ohio can just get a gun.
They don't need a license no more.
The governor had a bad idea.
He decided to make it so you don't need a license to own a gun.
Now, the younger people can do anything with them.
I only feel safe in certain places.
The ones where you don't hear anything about that city.*

*I feel safer in the Whiter communities.
I didn't want to say that.
I thought it might be offensive to White people.
It shouldn't be offensive.
THEY know it's true too.
Maybe we should be protesting.
Leave guns alone.
We should be putting money into Black and Brown communities.
Like food...
Money...
Shoes...
Clothing...
Blankets...
Covers...
And a place to call home.
Grocery stores...
Job opportunities...
I am writing the mayor.
He needs to change the laws.
I am writing the governor too.
He needs to think more open-mindedly.
He needs to stop the guns.*

ARTMAKING

I painted the canvas black because it symbolizes darkness. There is nothing funny about gun violence. I am feeling sad and mad about everybody dying because they are innocent.

I wrote a poem. This is my first poem. I felt happy to write it to express how I feel. I cut out the words and put it in a swirl. I put it in a swirl that gun violence might never stop. I made the kids and teachers who died in a Texas school shooting as the bullets. I put their faces on there to make it powerful! I think it made it powerful because you can SEE that I am not lying...I see little kids who are young...different races and smiling...BUT no one is smiling now. They are not coming back. We will never see their smiling faces again.

I found this gun. It is covered in the United States flag. This is powerful because it's like bullets, but the people are the bullets. We have more shootings in the United States than anywhere in the world. I do not want the United States to represent gun violence.

My dream, no innocent faces on my canvas. It ONLY be used for protection...and we need to be licensed...and go to the gun range.

If the United States made my dream come true, I would be happy because the way you go around now, then you don't need to worry about strange people getting shot or killed.

ACTIVISM

Finally, as I mentioned above, I wrote a letter to Cleveland's Mayor, Justin Bibbs, and a letter to Ohio's Governor, Mike DeWine. They haven't written back to me yet. I don't know why. But, you can write a letter, too. The more people they hear from, the more likely they will make a change and listen.

Artist's Name: Tyrell Stovall

Title: George Floyd Racist Cops

Cost: \$55

Donation: Save the Children @<https://www.savethechildren.org>

Social Justice Issue: We should not have racist cops on the police force.

"A racist cop pulls over a Black man for a little reason other than the fact the driver is Black." -Mark Bello, an attorney and author who writes about justice for Black people.

I chose this quote because it meant something to me. There was no reason to pull over this Black man just because he is Black. This is called "driving while Black." This phrase started in 1967. Why? There were 130 witnesses across 150 cities who recognized that Black people were being pulled over just because they were Black (see <https://www.aclu.org/report/driving-while-black-racial-profiling-our-nations-highways>). The purpose of my art is to make sure racist cops are not a thing anymore. First, I will talk about police brutality in this country. Second, I will share what I learned about myself and about racist cops. Next, I am talking about my art. Finally, I want you to do something about this and I will let you know what you can do to stop this.

POLICE BRUTALITY

First, I will talk about police brutality in this country. Police started in the 1700s when our country had slavery. They were actually called the "Slave Patrol." I didn't know this before. I think that is why we have police brutality now. I think the Slave Patrol treated them badly. The Slave Patrol made it so that the slaves might not want to runaway because they might be beaten or killed.

*I learned that the Slave Patrol would find them,
chain them up,
and return them to their master.
Their master?
They were not people to their masters.
They were property.
Bought.
Sold.
That's bad.
Because you should never torture somebody.
They are humans.*

That's my poem. That's good. I have written poems before. I never wrote anything like this.

Between 2014 and 2020, 7,680 Black people were killed by the police. If you want to know the people who have been killed by the police, look at this link: <https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2020/know-their-names/index.html>. They were not armed. I chose George Floyd because I heard of him. On May 25, 2020, Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, after a convenience store employee called 911 and told the police that Mr. Floyd had bought cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Seventeen minutes after the first squad car arrived at the scene, Mr. Floyd was unconscious and pinned beneath three police officers, showing no signs of life. He said, "I can't breathe."

The day after Mr. Floyd's death, the police department fired all four officers. On May 29, The Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman announced these officers were charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter charges. Officer Derek Chauvin was on George Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. I don't know what 9 minutes and 29 seconds feels like. I imagine he was in pain. George cried out for his mom. He lived for 46 years. On June 3rd, Hennepin County prosecutors added a more serious second-degree murder charge against the three charges against Derek Chauvin.

REFLECTION

It's important to me because racist cops shouldn't be a thing. We should like all colors. I am a young Black kid. I don't want this happening to me or my family. This makes me feel kind of upset because George Floyd was just sitting in his car. And the police just walked up on him and pulled him out of his car. his car. And he died for no reason. We need to try and stop this. I have a broken heart.

ARTMAKING

Next, I am talking about my art. I painted the background white and black. It represents darkness and light. The darkness is about the black and goes around George Floyd because this is sad. The light is up there to light up the words. These are my words. This is what I think about. I put George Floyd on this because he was killed by the police. He was innocent. He was a Black man who was a victim of police brutality. I mod podged a picture of George Floyd on the canvas. I cut each letter out and covered the canvas. I wanted to show how important this was and what I was thinking about. I also made a broken heart out of rocks. I used rocks because they are strong like a good heart. I am talking about having a strong heart for love and for being a strong person. I made a broken heart out of stones because more people need to know about this...need to care about this...and it needs to stop.

I felt good when I finished it. I am smiling. I never did anything like this before. I would do something like this again. I would do this again because I like painting. I liked expressing myself and doing something on my mind.

ACTIVISM

Finally, I want you to do something about this and I will let you know what you can do to stop this. I read an article on this. I learned we can...

1. We need to watch each other. We look out for each other in our neighborhood. I call for you. You call for me. The police need to know us as people.
1. You cannot put your hands on someone else, especially their neck because it can make them stop breathing.
2. The police need to learn how to control their job and their emotions so they can be better. They might need a psychologist's help when like there is child abuse and other stuff.
3. We need to hire psychologists for the police force. They can help police and kids and families.
4. This is my thought: We need to have families and kids and psychologists and police working together to make up the rules about what they can and can't do.

If you want to learn more, then look at this link: <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/10/cover-police-brutality>

Artist's Name: Lali UmBayemake

Title: I'm Tired of the Way Single mothers Have Been Treated in America

Cost: \$50

Donation: Helping Hands for Single Moms @ <https://helpinghandsforsinglemoms.org>

I grew up in Stow with a single mother. I never really understood what was happening. The purpose of my art is to encourage children with single mother households to appreciate their mothers more. First, I will introduce myself. Second, I will talk about the history of single mothers and how they are treated in the United States. Third, I am going to talk about what I am going to do to change this for women. Next, I will talk about my art and what everything means to me. Finally, I want to encourage people to appreciate their mothers and women because sometimes they say things that show they are not appreciated and they have tried so hard because there are so many kids who don't have that.

INTRODUCTION

First, I will introduce myself. As a young child I never understood what my mother did for me, so I would take it for granted, I admit I was a bit of a brat as a young child. I never truly appreciated what my mother did for me, but now as a 6th grader, I understand the weight of what she did and the importance of it. My mother basically had to raise me by myself for months and months, because my father left when I was 5, I wasn't able to see him for probably 3-4 months, my mother had to raise me and care for me on her own for those long months, I started seeing him after those months, but my mom got full time, so he was in my life but he wasn't at the same time. Back then, I always thought my mom was in the wrong (she wasn't), something that I'm not gonna state really opened my eyes, but that's not what's important. What's important is that I didn't respect her, and was outright disrespectful, and now I realize that was a problem so I want other people with only their mother in their lives to realize that they should respect their mother.

BRIEF HISTORY

Second, I will talk about the history of women and how they are treated in the United States. Out of the 18-60 %, 84% of women worldwide, are single mothers with a low income rate, which is about \$56,298 a year, which is truthfully not that much, especially if these single mothers have more but this depends on the job they have if they have a low paying office job, or any job actually, but that's not the point is it? The point is that women with multiple children \$59,298 is not enough to fully support them, women can have around 1-30 children (yes you can have 30 children) but imagine a single mother with 3-30 making only \$56,298 dollars A YEAR, with no help from the fathers or government, imagine how hard it is to support the children and get them food and clothes. And on top of that your children don't respect you, it must be quite aggravating right? And did you know that in the United States of America 80% of the women in America are single mothers while only 20% of men are single fathers. That has to be saying something is it not? Now, let's look at how long single mothers have been around. Single mothers have been around since the second half of the 20th century (around the 1950's) which truthfully was not long ago but that doesn't make it right does it? If people tried to justify bad things in the past by saying "it was a long time ago" it would be incorrect, if someone ever said that they would be trying to run from the past and act like it never happened, basically trying to gaslight you. Here is a quick example: "Well slavery was a long time ago so it's okay" That is incorrect. Slavery was not a long time ago it only ended in 1865, which seems like a long time, but it's really not. My great grandmothers parents were in slavery, meaning her parents only just got out of slavery. I'm currently 11 and my great grandmother died when I was four. So, that's not so long ago. So, using time as a way to justify something is incorrect and means they are ignorant (uneducated) and might mean they simply do not want to learn. Single mothers have been around a little while and the numbers will only continue to grow in percentage, and you know a problem I have seen while researching not many people bring appreciation to this topic, they ignore it, it takes me around 30 minutes to find ONE thing on single mothers. Sadly, I believe it won't go away anytime soon without help from you.

MY ARTMAKING

Speaking of help from you, I will now explain ways I'm going to help and try to get you to help. Make sure these mothers get the help and support they need.

CONCLUSION

I should be grateful for my Mom because she did so much for me. And, when I was younger, I used to take what she did for granted. You need to respect Moms.

Artist's Name: Nyja Walker

Title: Black is Magic

Cost: \$75

Donation: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Social Justice Issue: Racism needs to stop.

*I feel bad.
Colored people treat other colored people with racism.
And,
It's sad.
Colored people are still treated by racism.
You can tell that we are still treated racistly.
The uncolored people still treat us badly.
Just because you might not hear it or see it,
you know it still happens.
My family was at a hotel.
We asked for towels.
We got dirty towels
And didn't get the resources we needed.
The darker colored people make fun of the lighter colored skin people.
They act like we are not really Black.
We are.
I think that is sad.
The light skinned people are not another race.
I want to have natural hair.
I think Black girls should wear their hair natural.*

This poem is good. It's kind of my first time writing a poem like this. I am proud of myself. The purpose of my art is that all shades of Black are beautiful and Black is magic. First, I explain what colorism is and why it's here. Second, I tell you how I feel about colorism as a young Black woman. Third, I talk about my art and everything that it means to me. Finally, I want everyone to realize we all come in different shades.

COLORISM

First, I explain what colorism is and why it's here. I looked up colorism. It said colorism is about how lighter skinned people or mixed skin people are treated badly by darker skinned people. Darker skinned people should not be doing that. Black is beautiful. We don't have to be White to be beautiful. Black and White people can be beautiful and different. There are people who look White, but they are Black. They are just considered White because their skin is so light. I looked up some pictures.



I think they felt like they had to say they were White so they could be treated nicely. If they said they were Black, White people would treat them differently. I think they were treated differently from other Black people like everytime they would tell them they were really Black, they would not believe them and treat them like a White person.

REFLECT

Second, I tell you how I feel about colorism as a young Black woman. I was watching this documentary with White kids and saw Black dolls. I watched this film by a 13-year old. It is called A Girl Like Me. It was about Black girls wanting to be White and all the things they did to be White. They told the Black kids to choose which doll they liked and they chose the White doll. I felt sad. I felt sad because they want to have straight hair and they want to be White because they kept hearing that White is beautiful. The white kids chose the Black dolls because their parents raised them to know Black is beautiful. And Google is racist. I looked up "Monkey holding a box" and this is what comes up:



This isn't right. I think it's sad. If Google puts it up, doesn't that mean Google is racist? The code writers of Google coded this so when you type in the word "monkey holding a box" that a Black man comes up. Google is saying "monkey" means "Black man."

I just contacted Google. When you want to make a complaint, I learned that you click "send feedback" and write your letter. This is what I wrote:

Hi. I am Nyja Walker and I am in 6th grade. I am doing a social justice project on colorism. I learned that when i looked up "monkey holding box" a Black man showed up carrying a box. I think that this is very very sad. It's sad because a

monkey is not supposed to be a Black person. I want you to remove it and make sure that when I type in the word "monkey" that a Black man carrying a box won't ever show up. I would appreciate that this has been removed.

I never did this before. I feel good. I am smiling right now. I feel good because I made a complaint saying that when you look up the word monkey that a Black man shows up and it must be removed. I feel good taking this step. I just realized...

I AM AN ACTIVIST

MY ARTMAKING

Third, I talk about my art and everything that it means to me. I chose brown colors because they remind me of skin colors. I have all different shades because mixed and light-skinned people, too, are included in Black people. Everyone should be included. I put a picture of myself because I am a Black person. I feel good when I look at my art because it reminds me that all colors (darker black, mixed, lighter) should be considered Black and beautiful. Even today in class, one of my classmates called another "white." The student he called "white" is light-skinned and mixed. I was mad when I heard that because light-skinned and mixed people are Black people. Dark-skinned people need to get that right that light-skinned and mixed people aren't any less valuable because they are lighter skinned. We are all Black.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Finally, I want everyone to realize we all come in different shades. Colorism is something I just learned about. Everyone should know this is important. There are things we need to do:

1. Don't ignore color. Black kids should not ignore they are Black and should not treat people differently because they are lighter or darker.
2. Normalize Differences: Lighter skin is not better than darker skin. They need to show kids that being Black is important and there are all kinds of skin colors. Kids can learn this from crayons and colors.
3. Kids Need to See These Differences in the Media: This is important because kids need to see different people with different skin color being treated with respect.
4. Educate Yourself: I did not know what colorism was until now. I think all kids should learn about this because I see this happening. Kids make fun of darker skinned kids and lighter skinned kids. We need to know that other kids are just being themselves and we do not need to lighter to be whiter to be right. Black is magic.
5. Live Life as You: We need to have parents tell their kids they are great the way they are. We cannot have kids thinking they are not important or beautiful.

Artist's Name: Dominique Watson

Title: Black Women are Powerful

Cost: \$125

Donation: Gryl Wonder (<https://www.grylWonder.org/>)

Social Justice issue: Black girls in Ohio are disciplined more often than White girls.

Did you know that Black girls get suspensions 7 times more than White girls in Ohio (Human Service Chamber, 2021)? I am a Black girl and I didn't even know about this. First, I tell you what is really going on in schools for Black girls. Second, I share how I feel about this. Third, I tell you about my art and what everything means. Finally, I talk to you about what you can do so this doesn't keep happening.

DID YOU KNOW?

First, I tell you what is really going on in schools with Black girls. We are not treated the same as White kids in schools. It is not equal because Black girls are suspended more than any other group of students (Balfanz, Byrnes, & Fox, 2015). This has been going on for a long time. This news is basically being ignored, but why (see <https://www.humanservicechamber.org/cdf-ohio-report-black-girls-face-7x-more-out-of-school-suspensions-than-white-girls/>)? My jaw just dropped. Did you know 90% of girls kicked out of school in New York in 2011-2012 were 90% were Black? That's crazy! I learned that only 2% of White girls were kicked out of school for good, but 12% of Black girls were kicked out for good. In 2014, Black girls were 6 times more likely to be suspended than White girls (U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, 2014). This is a problem.

HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS

Second, I share how I feel about this. I feel really bad about Black girls cause they get more suspensions than White girls and that's not right. There are more White teachers than Black girls and maybe the White teachers probably don't like us or suspend us for reasons that don't make sense. I looked at an article in Education Week and it said White teachers can't love your Black students if you don't know them (see <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-dear-white-teachers-you-cant-love-your-black-students-if-you-dont-know-them/2019/03>). It tells me that White teachers don't know the students before they punish them. To get to know them means like to know their future...and about what they like and what they don't like...and like what they want to get better at...and get more focused on...I know when a teacher is listening...they give eye contact...and like listening to what they gotta say...and not looking away...or walking away...and not saying, "Yeah...I heard you"...but I know they didn't. It feels good to be listened to. I don't feel like teachers really listen. And when they don't listen to me, I feel like they don't care. If she keep doing what she wants to do, but don't listen to me, then I don't think she cares. I think this is something teachers need to learn to do. Students need to learn to listen too...and some White people just don't seem to care.

ARTMAKING

Third, I talk about my art and what everything means to me. I painted my canvas black because I want to make sure everyone sees the Black women on my canvas. I painted myself on the canvas. I picked a painting from Basquiat's work. It was a portrait.

I am a Black girl. I painted myself this way because it's colorful and creative and Black women are colorful and creative and should be celebrated. On my head, I mod podged images of famous creative Black women we should know about in school. I chose Janet Jackson, Serena Williams, Oprah Winfrey, Gabrielle Union, Kelly Rowland, Robin Givens, Brandy Rayana Norwood, Jennifer Hudson, Whitney Houston, and Eva Marcille because they are successful and they are pretty. Everything makes them pretty their color, like the color of their skin. I chose these people because they were important to me and they show the strength of Black women. I feel happy and proud when I look at my artwork. It looks beautiful, just like Black women.

This is my first time. It was like a little hard to do this, but easy. Sometimes I got happy because of the colors. I painted something in art last year, but not like this. I feel proud of myself. I did all that work.

I think other kids should be able to do this. This is more important to do this because it will help them learn about Black girls and skin color and stuff about being Black. I think everything is important. I would like to see more art in school 'cause it was exciting!

ACTIVISM

Finally, I tell you what I think we need in schools to make sure Black girls feel good about themselves. We need Black girls to have more Black pride. We can do this by listening to Black girls or kids with brown skin. I would like to meet and learn about Black women...famous ones...women in the city...in the community. That would help me to learn about them...I would feel happy because they made their dreams. That tells me I can do the same thing. I don't know if I read about or heard about famous Black women. That is something I think we need to learn about too. These things could make Black girls feel good about themselves...about being Black. And maybe, if we feel good about ourselves...and we have White teachers who know us...really know us and listen and care, then maybe we could be in schools where we don't get punished so much. What do you think?

What are you going to do? Are we learning real history in school? I don't even remember if I read about a famous Black woman. It should be something everyone learns, not just Black kids. We can't just talk about this stuff when it's Black History Month.

Who decides what we learn in school? We need to learn about this stuff all the time. I just learned that what kids learn in school is decided by people in our state. So, call those people. Ask them what they are teaching about Black history. Ask schools to tell you what they are learning about Black people. If you want to call someone and do something about this, here's a phone number for Ohio: 614-995-1545.

REFERENCES

<https://www.humanservicechamber.org/cdf-ohio-report-black-girls-face-7x-more-out-of-school-suspensions-than-white-girls/>

Artist's Name: Makenzie Nicole Williams

Title: Boys Need More Elementary Teachers

Cost: \$50

Donation: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Social Justice Issue: Need to have male teachers in elementary school.

I didn't have a male teacher until now. I have two male teachers and I am in 6th grade. The purpose of my art is to say there should be more boy teachers and there are more girl teachers and maybe that is not helping the boys. First, I will talk to you about why boy teachers are not elementary teachers. Second, I will tell you why it is important to me that we have male teachers in elementary school. Third, I will talk about my art and what it means to me. Finally, I tell you what we should be doing to get more boys to be elementary teachers.

WHAT I READ

First, I will talk to you about why boy teachers are not elementary teachers. There are almost two million elementary teachers in the United States. Out of 100 elementary teachers, 80 are women and only 20 are men. Boy teachers don't think it's a good idea to teach little kids. They think it's not an important job, but it is. I read about something that said boys can get behind in school because they need boy teachers. I learned that grown boys are role models for the little boys and they won't learn proper things from just girl teachers. The boys will learn more things and they can take that advice from boy teachers.

I read that boy teachers help other boys learn better. They need someone to look up to. They need another boy to teach them what they need to learn.

MY FEELINGS

Second, I will tell you why it is important to me that we have male teachers in elementary school.

I feel like the boys who are going to the schools should be connecting with the boys' teachers. They need someone to talk to and the boys going to the school will have a lot in common with the girl teachers. Most of the boys go for the Army, lawyers, police, and fire and try to be in the military...and sometimes it is just easier for them to talk to another boy, like a teacher.

They actually need to learn more than high school and middle school kids. That's just wrong. I don't get it. Why do you get more money as a teacher if you work with high school kids instead of little kids? Do they even know what happens in school? The little kids have so much to learn. School changes your whole life and we need teachers who know how to do this. And the high school teachers are making more? It is really hard to teach elementary school. I would think it was easier to work with high school students because they already know how to do things.

ARTMAKING

I took a picture of two male teachers at my school. I painted the background tan like that because people can see my quote and the picture of the male teachers and when I was doing this I felt really happy so people know how I feel about more male teachers in school. I wrote "they can teach us things we don't know. They are important teachers. As a Black girl, I need more Black men in my life." I wrote this because this is how I feel and I want more people to know we should have more male teachers in schools instead of all girl teachers. I really don't know a lot of boy or men teachers. But I want to and I have a boy teacher now for math and I like having him.

ACTIVISM

Little kids are new and they can be bad and they need to learn things. Elementary teachers don't get paid as much as high school teachers. That's just crazy! Teachers need to be paid more...and the elementary teachers should actually make more. I would change all of this. We need to pay the elementary teachers more. If they did, I think more boys would want to be elementary teachers. Teachers should not have to have two jobs just to make it. You need to talk with

the people who make these rules. You need to talk with the principals and the people who are learning this. All of my male teachers should be paid more than the high school teachers. Their job is so much harder.

Artist: Demetrius

Title: I Wish I Had More Friends

Cost: \$50

Donation: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

Justice Issue: Everyone Should Have Friends

I wish I had friends. I mean I have one, but I would like more. I had this friend for at least three years. It's nice to have a friend. I like to play with him and playing with him online. I don't know where he lives. I don't get to see him that often. He goes to this school sometimes. He is in third and I am in fourth grade. I like that he is nice. I like that whenever I am bored I can play with him. If I had more friends, I think it would be nice to be there for each other like when the other person is feeling down, like you can cheer them up.

Does family be your friends? I didn't think so, but I did meet my sister for the first time. I met her yesterday and she has a little sister. She is on my mom's side of the family. She is my mom's daughter. She is younger than me. I am the oldest of them all. She is my family, not my friend.

I felt like I had to buy friends before like to pay them to be my friend. I thought I had to pay them to be my friend. I didn't do it but I thought I was happy to because I don't want to have to pay someone to be my friend.

*I don't want anyone to feel lonely.
What if they don't have a sibling?
What if they don't have someone else?
I don't want anyone to be bored.
I want everyone to have someone to play with.
I have been lonely.
It felt normal.
I would feel happy if I had a friend.
I am happiest when playing a game with a friend.*

I am smiling right now. I am happy. I wrote a poem without me even knowing.

I think schools should put people in groups so they can know each other better and become friends. It's easier when the teacher says for us to work with someone or to be in a group. If schools did this, kids would be happy because then they would have friends.

Artist: Adam

Title: This is ME!

Cost: \$100

Donation: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

Justice Issue: I Want to Trust Everyone

I only trust my sister and my mom and my dad and some of my cousins. I trust them with the stuff I keep from my mom and sister and stuff. I tell them what happened in school like every time I do something at school and stuff. They just listen and stuff. It feels good to be listened to and it's helpful and respectful and stuff. It feels good. I just feel good when they listen to me and stuff. It feels great on the inside.

*If everyone had one person to trust, it would be good.
You could tell a deep, deep secret.
And you could have a mom to tell.
And it would be good if someone you could tell,
Like your mom.
Yeah, like everyone had someone to talk to.
To trust.
That could be like your best friend
Or friend
And tell a secret
And you have someone in your life
And they there for you
And stuff.*

If I could change the world, all the homeless people would have people to trust. I want them to have people to trust...like they give them what they need. They care. They would have food and have a home. I want to give my paycheck to homeless people. I want to have a building to give people homes, clothes, food, and make them get an education and a job. I want them to trust again. I want them to know they can trust me. I want my mom and dad to give them money. If I had money, I would give them money. My mom and dad don't have money to give them. If I was the president, I would give taxes or money so people would have all the money like that...like Black people and White people...like Dr. King...I would fight for on the houses and give them to people.

If I were the president of schools, I would tell the students to be good and get A's and get scholarships and be what you want to be...basketball...or doctor...or help people...and learn to be gooder and stuff. I think kids should be able to trust their teachers and kids and stuff. They should be able to trust like five people in school. If kids come to school and cannot trust anyone, they would be lonely and mad.

Teachers should learn how to help kids trust each other. I am not sure how to do that. But I think it's important. I have not trusted a teacher. I have not trust a principal. I want to do that someday. If you want me to trust you, you got to get to know me. Like, ask me things and let me tell you what I do...give me compliments and say nice things to me. I am spending time with Christa right now. When you do that, it shows me greatness and helpful. I think she cares about me. She just told me she does care about me. That never happened before. I never sat down with someone like this, but I do sit my dad, and he cares about me, and I trust him, but not anyone outside of my family. This is new. I like it. Every kid should have this in school. Every person should have this in the world.

Artist: Morgan

Title: Me

Cost: \$50

Donation: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Justice Issue: Teachers need to say they love us.

My family is important to me. My mom, my dad, my sister, my little sister, and my dog and my grandma, my auntie, my cousins, my nanas, my God moms, my stepmoms, and stepdads. My parents live together. I go to my mom and dad and they usually pick me up or we walk home together. They are very nice to me and they are very thankful. And they are part of me. It's like that you know and you just know if very good.

*I love my curly hair.
I love my beautiful eyes.
And also,
I love my beautiful skin.
I just turned eight.
I love that.
I am talented.
I am creative.
I am smart.
I am brave.
I am thankful.
I am joy.
I am thankful for life and family.
And I have a school to go to.
I like about school is that I have some friends
and have a lot of teachers that I know
and I have been here three years...
I love PE, art, and music.*

I would change to make sure everyone has someone who is caring, thankful, and joy, and brave and stand up for themselves. I have no idea how to do this. I just think it should happen.

Teachers need to make sure they say "Hey, you messed up something...do you want me to finish?" I want teachers to say, "I like your hair" ...or "What is your favorite color?" or to say "I love you." I don't have teachers that told me they love me. I want teachers to tell me that. I want to say that to them too. All teachers should tell their students they love them if they want to...I want them to want to tell them. They should learn this in school like when they are being a teacher...learning to be one. They should know because they should care about the students and they should really know them and want to learn about them so they know them. They should really be nice to them. Don't get mad at them. They should be very like...don't yell "Put it in the box!" and say nicely, "Please put it in the box" and say it nicely.

Artist: Kaden

Title: My Brother and My Best Friend

Cost: \$100

Donation: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

Justice Issue: Everyone needs to be friendly to each other

I like basketball. Basketball is cool. And you get to dribble the ball. Um...I would say I like football. That you get to throw around the ball and you get to score goals and touchdowns. I am going to say something I love. I love my grandparents. I live with my mom and my grandma. I told I don't have any grandpas. I wish I had a grandpa. I would go in the backyard and play football or basketball or watch tv with him. I am sad I don't have a grandpa. He died. He just died in February. He died when I was only seven. That hurt my heart. I still have my two grandmas. I have my granny and grandma. Sometimes I like to be in my grandma's room and talk to her. I like to ride bikes and I like to play with my neighbor across the street.

I identify as a boy. It's cool about being a boy. I get to do lots of cool stuff. Like I get to have snacks when I get home. I have to be good to get snacks. If I am good in the car ride home, then my mom lets me get snacks. I think girls and boys are treated the same.

*All I want is a brother...
Someone I can play with...
Someone who wants to spend time with me...
I want someone to call my friend.
I would like more friends.
I know he is not my 'real' brother...
He is my fake brother,
But I wish I had one.*

It's nice to be in a family. I love having a family. It was a father's walk today. It means where your dad walks me to school. I got to eat a donut and drink some juice. It was so cool to have my dad here. He gave me a hug. After we had some donuts and drinks, he walked me to class. It was so fun doing the father's walk. I want another father's walk. Oh yeah, because if they have another day. The dads could hold a poster and write down all the things they love about their sons. I want them to hold up the poster and tell their sons what they love about them. What if they had a mom's walk? What about an uncle's walk? An auntie's walk? A grandma's walk? A grandpa's walk would be good for other kids...but it would be better to have a family walk. A family walk at school is better because then everyone in your family gets to come. That's better. A friend's walk would be great too because then you get to walk with a friend.

I love reading. Reading is you get to read books and it is just so fun. I even read books at home. I like to read Diary of a Wimpy Kid...Dog Man...if I go to the store, I ask my mom to buy me a little bit of Dog Man. I don't like to write that much. I like to read. My least favorite subject is math because I really want to be an engineer. You have to do math to have a career. They build stuff like buildings...and I would build stuff in other countries...I would build stuff in Scotland...in the United Kingdom...I would build stuff in India...I would try to make my way to build stuff all around the world...I would build this thing for one country and some stuff for other countries.

I don't like sharks. They might bite. If somebody tells me or dares me to jump in a shark cage or in shark infested waters, then it is kind of risky. If you swim in shark infested waters, you might get bit. And what if they swim around your cage. That could be bad. I don't want anything bad to happen to anybody. Or where a shark tries to break the cage. I don't any of that to happen. I want to know who are some of the deadliest animals. You don't want to touch an animal you don't

know. It might snap at you. I don't think people can run nonstop. If you run and run...and run nonstop, you might pass out.

*I like about myself is my personality.
I am like happy.
I am funny.
Because when something is funny to me,
I laugh.
We got to play hide-and-seek in a teacher's room last year.
I want to be a kind person.
I don't want to be mean.
Yell
Scream
No!
My whole point of wanting to be kind is learning how to be nice.
No one would want to be friends with me.
They might be sad then.
What if they are crying because I someone said something mean to them.
You don't want to be mean and yell.
Nobody will want to be your friend.
But if you are nice, kind, and friendly,
then you can make lots of friends.
Treat people the way you want to be treated.
Then people will want to meet you and play with you.
I am creative.
I just draw anything I like to draw.*

Teachers and principals should be nice to students. How to be nice means you should be nice and help friends when they are sad or hurt. I am not sure if teachers are nice to me. I would like people to be nice to me. I just want teachers to say the best things I did every day and the best things I know how to do. And I want teachers to say to my mom and the principal to say I did a good day. I want to hear the good things I do. Every day. I need that. This is what you do...you have to be good so then if your mom needs to be called, then they can say nice things about you. Teachers and principals and staff can say good things about you. No one should be lost. Everyone needs to hear nice things about you.

Artist: Diamond

Title: All About Me

Cost: \$50

Donation: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

Justice Issue: Treat people the way you want to be treated.

My mom, my dad, my sister, and that's it. That's who is in my family. We all live together. We live at Cleveland. I love about my family is my sister because she always plays with me. My mom plays with me. My dad takes me everywhere. Me and my mom go to the mall shopping. My dad and I go to dinner and sometimes my mom and sister go with us. My sister we make forts and stay at home. We have a fort right now. It's made with pillows and comforters and chairs so we can stack it up. And one time every Friday we always be having a movie day. We sit down on the couch and put stuffed animals on the couch and then we watch the movie on the couch.

*It's fun to be a girl.
Because sometimes we play dress up.
I can't think of anything else.
I like my hair.
I like playing around with it.
I make new hairstyles.
I like coloring.
I have lots of coloring books.
Sometimes I like to be patient.
Like,
I have to wait and be in a line and stuff.
It's hard to be patient sometimes.
I like my personality.
My favorite color is purple and white.
I really like buying new shoes.
I am thankful.
I am thankful for my family.
This is hard for me.
I don't know the last time I got a compliment.
It makes me feel special when someone says something nice to me.
I don't hear that very often.
I only hear this from strangers.
I need people to tell me nice things about myself.
If I hear those things,
I feel loved.
I feel very nice inside.
I was told I...
I am smart.
I see things.
I am funny.*

*I am more focused in school then my mom.
I try to focus on school, not her.
Sometimes it is hard.
My mom had something bad happen.
She got into a car accident.
She can't go to work because her arm has to heal.
I worry about her.
This is why I want to stay home.
My mom knows.
She says don't worry about her.
But I still do.*

All teachers should be kind to students so students can treat them the way they want to be treated. If students be just a little bad, they can still have compliments. We still need them. We aren't all bad. I think we should get one or two every day...and if we got more, that would be special. I need a handshake or a high five from the teachers. It feels like every day it feel like everybody would want to go to school. That's kind of mean if you don't give kids compliments. They should learn how to do that. They need to learn this by themselves.

I am feeling very happy. I never did anything like this before.

Artist: Wisdom

Title: I Come From Greatness

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I didn't know what my name means.
I never learned.
I learned.
My name is greatness.
I'm smart.
I'm royalty.
I come from kings.
I come from greatness.
I don't know what there is to like about me.
That was hard.
I didn't know what to say.
I want to ride a dirt bike.
I like that I know how to draw.
I am getting good at color.
I am a good helper.
I am a good friend.
I am a thinker.
I think about my sister.
She is one.
She lives with me.
I worry about her.
I want to play with her.
I want to learn how to read.
I like to read.
I want to be police when I get older.
This is good.
I like me.
I am good.
I am greatness.
I am smart.
I would flip because I can.
My friend taught me.
I'm not sure what I would wish for.

I like my painting. I made a crown over my head. I painted it gold and put it on top of my head. I made my skin brown. I love my brown skin. I love me. I am good. I am smart. I also made a paint brush in my hand because I really liked to doing this. It was fun. I am an artist! I did a good job on my painting. I painted myself. I am royalty. I won't forget that.

Artist: Kylon

Title: I am the Only Me

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I don't know why I am Kylon.
It's just that not a lot of people have that name.
I am the only Kylon in the world.
Did you know that?
Some people might have it as a username on YouTube.
But I am the only me.
I like playing football.
I like being smart and good.
To be good means to be great
and be the best I can.
I think that's it...
being good at football.
I don't love anything about me.
There is some.
I never noticed my smile.
I just saw it in a camera.
It was bad.
I don't think it's beautiful.
Nothing would make it beautiful.
I have a beautiful spirit.
I am beautiful on the inside.
I changed my mind.
I am beautiful on the inside and outside.
I started smiling when I said that.
I am a good friend.
I like to play.
I would like a playground at recess.
It is hard to play when you don't have a playground.
I play wiffleball.
I would like swings and slides and more swinging.
I want more PE stuff.
More things like more footballs
and like lower hoops so I can play basketball.
I want to learn how to play soccer

and I know how to play basketball,
but I need a little more practice.
I want to level up on my reading,
but I don't need to read.
I already know how to read level Q+ books.
I love myself.
I am feeling good right now.
I didn't like anything about me.
I learned about me.
I love myself.
I'm smiling.
It's good.
Yes!

I really like this painting. I especially like my braids. I made my braids gold because they are royalty. I made the background dark blue because gold and blue are royal colors. I made my skin brown. I love my skin color. I love my braids. I put a football in my body. I painted a basketball there too. I also made a soccer ball and I painted my mom's favorite color in my body because I love her. I am beautiful on the inside and outside. I am smiling and made my teeth gold like royalty. I love myself. I am very proud of my painting. It looks great!

Artist: Marlon

Title: I am Little Hawk

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I didn't know what my name means.
We looked it up.
It means...
Little Hawk
I am a great warrior.
I was smiling.
It feels good.
I like to sing.
I don't know the songs or the names.
I know the lyrics.
I have been singing for two years.
I sing at home.
I sing by myself.
I never sing in front of other people.
I am not comfortable doing that.
I want people to think I am good at singing.
I am good at basketball.
Pretty much every day.
It is a lot to think about.
What do I like about me?
This was so much thinking.
I never thought about this.
I am a good friend.
I am always helping people.
I can't really think of anything else.
I am still excited about my name.
I'm smiling.
I am Little Hawk.
I am a great warrior.
I would fight for kids to have friends.
For kids to have love.

For kids to have a family.
Definitely a home.
I would feel good if everyone had this.
I asked Christa to read this in class.
I stood by her.
I was nervous.
I put my hands on my face.
I was smiling.
It felt good.
They said nice things to me.
They clapped.
I put my hands on my face.
I never did that before.
It felt good inside.
I was smiling.

Artist: Jayce

Title: I am a Healer

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I know everything about my name.
No, I really don't.
I guess I didn't know anything about my name.
I just learned my name means
healer and cure.
I think a healer means that I heal people's feelings.
You know...
When like people are...
Mad
Sad
Angry
Depression
Disappointment
Hurt
I like about that I have many of friends...
and when they feel down,
I play with them.
And anytime they lose,
I just go win for them.
And when they lose,
they get mad at themselves.
I don't get mad at them.
I cheer them on.
I like that I can cheer people up.
I like to have fun.
I like that I am in second grade.
I like having an older brother that is six years older.
He is 13 and I am seven.
And $7 + 6$ is 13.
I just did math.

I like that how my brain is smart.
I like the feeling that I am helping somebody.
My heart feels warm.
If I could change the world with my heart,
I would make sure people stop killing each other.
My grandma and my grandmother and my mom watch the news.
This is how I know people are killing each other.
It hurts my heart.
I don't like all of this killing.
I would want them to start being nice to each other.
If people were nice,
it looks like they are helping each other
and not carrying any guns.
We don't need guns.
We need candy.
And maybe...
a blaster that shoots lollipops instead of bullets.
We need food,
like Chipotle.
We need to feed all of the homeless kids.
There are over one million kids who don't have food.
I am not okay with that.
Every kid should have food.
We also need more hugs.
Every kid needs like 10 hugs a day.
It's okay if we get more than that.
That would be nice.
And we need more nice people.
There would also be no littering and stuff like that...
and no cigarettes and stuff like that on the ground.
And homeless kids should have one million dollars and a house.
We should give that to them.
They need it.
'Cause they are homeless
and they need to have a place to stay.
They need to stay out of the cold and stay warm.
That would make me happy.
That's what I wish.

Artist: Kyrie

Title: I Care About People

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

My name...
It's like the basketball player.
Kyrie...
I want to be a football player.
I didn't know what my name means.
I never knew.
We looked it up.
I saw it.
It means to comfort someone...
And then I saw...
"Lord, have mercy" ...
That's what it means...
We looked that up.
I care about people.
I have comfort.
Like if someone passes away you care for them...
like pretend my mom passed away because I cared for her.
Like my mom and dad might pass away
and I would never see them again
and I would need someone to comfort me...
and I would miss them and comfort.
I like music a little bit.
I like PE sooooo much!
My favorite teacher is my art teacher.
He is so best.
He is the best thing.
He lets us draw whatever picture we do.
He is the best teach ever in this whole world.

I just like him.
I always give him a hug.
I am usually excited.
I just want him a hug.
I think I make him feel better.
I feel better.
I just like schools like this one.
He lets the door open for me so I can get in my grandma's car or my auntie or my mom.
I just don't like reading.
Everybody makes fun of me.
Reading is kinda hard for me
But I got the reading sometimes.
I can read this book good though.
Let me show you.
It's the David book.
He is bad at school.
David is a good helper though.
I would change my house
But I love it
I have been thinking about this in my head.
I want flowers in school.
I want plants in school.
I would like to write in school.
I like to write.
I want to do all of this.
I want to give the homeless a Thanksgiving dinner.
Me and my mom do that.
We give everyone something to eat.
I feel so nice and the greatest and the love.
I love my mom so much!
Her give me some stuff sometimes.
She takes me places.
I like to spend time with her.
I like my Mommy.
I just turned seven.
Guess where I am going?
To a hotel and it gotta be a swimming pool in it.
And my mommy's boyfriend he in jail,
But maybe someone come with us.
I want everyone to have friends like I do.
I think they feel sad if they don't have friends.
I would ask them to be my friend.
But I can't be friends with people if someone be mean to me.
I want everyone to be nice.

Artist: JJ

Title: My Name Rocks!

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I never knew what JJ means.

I never knew.

I never thought like that.

It was cool.

My name rocks!

It means jewel

and I make people sparkle.

I think I do that.

I have a big heart.

I am a team player.

I am sensitive.

I think that is really me.

I actually growl at people who be mean to my friends.

I could slash anyone who hurts my friends

with my hand like a dinosaur fighting over plants.

They fight over those...lots.

I always suck on my blood

because I want to get my blood back into my system.

You can't lose blood.

I learned that in school.

So, I don't want to lose my blood.

It's important.
I love dinosaurs too.
I have T-Rex.
I act like a dinosaur.
I can make their sounds.
I am a good friend.
Well, I always help my friends and stuff.
I play with my friends.
I would always help people out.
I also love my Mom.
I love that she signed me up here at this school.
I was a little nervous at first.
I didn't know anybody.
I didn't have friends.
I feel pretty good now.
I always hug her and kiss her when I leave to school.
I need a lot of hugs a day.
I get hugs at school from my friends.
I would bring dinosaurs back if I could,
but I would need their DNA
and
I would need to get their bones and blood.
And it might be crazy,
but I would need to do that first.
I could get a T-Rex
and I would have to train it not to kill.
I would have to serve it Cuddle Fish and Tree Frogs and Raptors.
They like that.
I would have to work through it...
I would need an activation team.
They would have to build a big paddock so it doesn't climb out.
And then BAM!
I would get the DNA!
I would have to go to the desert.
I need to get the eggs.
I would make more of them...
More dinosaurs using their DNA.
And then,
we would see what happens.
I bring sparkles to people.
That's what my name means.
I would help my friends and the kids.
If they got a cut or something.
I would want them to be better.
I want to share my big heart.

Artist: Zaria

Title: My Name Means "The Light"

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

I didn't know what my name means.
I had no idea.
My name means I am the light.
I am a sunrise.
I give people hope.
I didn't know what that meant.
It's like I am a cheerleader.
Wow!
It's great to be me!
My mom is great!
She is happy.
She whooped me and stuff and with belts.
It hurts.
That's when I get in trouble.
I don't get in trouble a lot at home.
People and my cousins,
I love.
My dad died.
My cousin Meek Meek were in her kitchen
and he died in my house.
There was a fire.
It was scary.

I am not sad.
I don't know.
I don't say anything.
I am quiet.
It was my daddy's birthday.
We got balloons and stuff.
We went to the park.
The balloons went into the air.
They flew in the air.
They floated up in the sky.
We did this because he died.
My family was there.
I am good friend.
We do songs.
We play outside.
I am funny.
I am smart.
I am smart about playing and watching tv.
School is good.
I learn stuff
and it's like when I play with toys and stuff.
I like to sing.
I like to sing the A, B, C's.
I like books.
I like cupcakes.
I like vanilla cupcakes with icing on it with vanilla.
I get hugs and love.
Lots of them.
I need lots of them.
I would change my voice.
I need a better voice.
I want to be a chef when I am older.
I like to make pizzas.
I like to pepperoni.
Roll the dough.
I want to cook salad.
I don't cook at home.
My Mommy doesn't let me.
She makes salad and bacon and crab legs.
I am keeping my voice though.
I like kids to be able to play.
I want them to be able to play house.
I wish for my friends to always be able to play.
I am the light.
I am the sunrise.
I know this...
I learned about my name.
I am a sunrise.
And,
I live for my family.
I bring light to them.

I love them.
My daddy is in my heart.
My daddy helped my brother and me.
My mommy is still here.
I love her.

I love my painting! I made light behind me because I am light. My favorite color is purple. I learned how to make purple. You make purple with red...a little blue...and we used white too. I made the purple in the back and made sounds when I was making my light. I made a crown because I love myself. I made it pink. I have braids and lots of beads in them. I wanted to make a rainbow on my braids. I made my skin brown because I am beautiful. I have beautiful brown skin. I am smiling and showed my teeth. I made my eyes pink and my mouth pink. I am smiling because I love my family. I love myself.

Artist: McKenzie

Title: I am Beautiful

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

I didn't know what my name means.
It means I am beautiful.
I like to play.
And I like being a kid.
I am going to be a baker when I grow up.
I like to bake.
I like to be good.
If you be bad,
then you are going to be in the corner
or
you will get a whooping.
I be smart.
I be proud.
I be happy.
I be thankful.
I be thankful for my whole family.
And,
you don't punch people in the eye.

because then you would get a black eye.
And if you do it two times,
then you can't see.
'Cause then you might fall on something like glass.
I am kind.
So, um...
I like to be thankful.
I like hugs.
I need six hugs a day.
I got all my hugs today.
I need to hear "I love you" a lot.
My mom said it to me when I was about to go to school.
I tell my teachers I love them.
I need more.
Sometimes they tell me back.
It's okay if they don't say it back.
I would like to have a friend.
I want to give them a hug.
I have two friends.
Everybody should have friends.
If you don't have friends,
then you be sad.
Everybody should have friends.

I really liked painting. I made my background orange and blue. I learned that when the orange touches the blue, it makes green. I mixed lots of colors. I made a unicorn with a gold face and a green body. I made the legs white and the white paint went around the unicorn. I made my body next to the unicorn because I want the unicorn to be my friend. I am happy. I made my skin brown and my body white. I love the color white so I made my clothes white. I love my skin color. It is brown. I am an artist. I love this! I think it looks beautiful!

Artist: Madison

Title: My Name Means Good

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

I think my name means "medicine."
We looked it up.
It means I am "good"
and a child of God.
I am smiling right now.
I am so happy.
I didn't know.
I am a very nice person
and I am pretty.
I just love about myself...
I just love that I love to play with people
and be friends with people.
I love my aunties.
I love my whole family.

I am good at reading.
I like about reading so you can learn the letters.
You need to know about the letters,
so you can read and see the pictures.
I am good at shopping.
I like to shop for toys and LOL Doll and LMG Dolls.
I also shop for pretty sweaters.
My favorite thing is unicorns.
My dream is to be a nurse like my Mom.
You get to like see what is in people's bodies
and you know what they look like.
I get to feel their heart.
I make my sister feel better.
I felt bad when my sister's phone got 106oken,
so I gave her something to drink.
I be nice to her.
I listen to her.
I like to be nice.
I love my family.
I would want to change over and over again...
what I went back to...
That means that something that you want to start
over and over again...
I want to start that my auntie and uncle be living...
They passed away
and I wish I could be with them.
That was really sad.
I started crying.
I wish they were here.
I think everyone should have a family.
When we have a family,
we feel happy.
I want everyone to have someone
to tell them they love them.
I love that my name means I am a child of God
and that I am good.
I am good.
I am loved.
I am a child of God.
I am smiling.

Artist: Jordyn

Title: I Must Be Famous or Something

Cost: \$29

Donating the Money: TBD

I didn't know what my name means.

Looked it up.

Am I famous or something?

I saw my name all over the place.

I must be famous.

I learned my name means

I am "flowing down."

I didn't know what that means.

We looked it up.

It means I go with the flow.

And that's true.
That's me.
I don't let things bother me.
I love myself.
I am an artist.
I am a gymnasticker.
And,
I am a singer.
I just love the love of my heart
and the spirit that I have.
It just brings so much happiness into my life...
My love...
My spirit...
I am going to have the best days of my life forever.
Well, I treat people nice ways sometimes.
My Mom failed a test.
And when I get home,
I am going to make her a good dessert that she likes.
I want to make her feel better.
She works so hard.
I don't know what thing she got on that test
or numbers
or a zero
or failed the test,
but I am still going to do those happy things for her.
I want her to feel better.
Sometimes I get anger issues,
and I take four breaths...
And then,
I go right back to love.
It's in my spirit.
I learned that from my Mom when I was five.
It worked.
It worked all over.
It helped me.
I would change my life to be a famous singer.
I want to go to America's Got Talent.
I want to be a great singer when I grow up.
I feel happy when I sing.
The whole family bops their heads
and claps their hands when I sing.
My dogs jump when I sing.
That means the dogs are dancing.
I want the world to be like
a wonderland of happiness
and love
and kindness.
And Black Lives Matter
all over the place.
I love being Black.
It means to me like people coming over,

like my family.
And I have an entirely Black family...
And they are always happy to see me.
We have barbecues.
We see each other.
When we see each other,
I am so happy.
They are my spirits.
I am so happy to have a happy Black family.
I love them so much.
If anyone was poor,
then I would get money for them
and get them snacks from the gas station...
and make sure they get what they need.
And then, I do my happy things.
I do things that make me happy.

Artist: Dinozzo

Title: I Like Dinosaurs

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I didn't know what my name meant.
We looked it up.
My name means
Diamond
To shine
To be funny
And to impress people.
I impress people?
I make people laugh?
Yes, okay.
I like dinosaurs.
I am well...
I am a dinosaur...
I am a friend.
Because I can make friends even if I meet someone new.
I am friendly.
I am kind to other friends.
I can see everyone I love to play with.
But even if I am shy,
I can make friends anyway.
If I see new,
then I am shy.
I have a best friend.
He likes dinosaurs too.
I think my teachers appreciate me for helping them.

Miss Mary told me that she appreciated me.
She was the nicest teacher I ever met.
Destiny, my cousin, she appreciates me.
When I say something nice to her.
When I am find something for her.
She is the only one who says nice things to me.
I wish that every time I could do whatever I want.
I would like to go out to fun places.
I would want to go with my whole family.
I play with my sister and Destiny.
My grown ups are only Destiny, my cousin, my Tee Tee and my Uncle.
They live with me.
I wish we would all do things together.
I eat with all of them,
But not my uncle.
He went to an apartment.
I would like for us to all play together outside.
I would like for everyone in the world to have fun.
I would like everyone to be nice.
I want them to be nice to my family.
Some of the people are nice to my family
And some of the other people are not.
I give a thumbs up for my name.
I am a diamond.
I shine.
I am funny.
And I play.
I am joy.

I wanted to draw a dinosaur next to me. I drew a dinosaur next to me and then I painted it. I made my dinosaur grey and blue. I learned how to make grey. I am a genius! You use white and black to make grey. I put a blue stripe on my dinosaur. I put the blue stripe on the tail...on the body...on the legs...I painted all of the claws too. I put red in the background and put a little black with it. I painted black on the left side. I really like the color black. I painted my skin dark brown. That is my skin. I am holding a sword. The dinosaur and me are going to fight people together. He can use his teeth and I will use my sword. I painted the black because it is like the night sky. I am hiding in the night sky with my dinosaur. I made a diamond in my body. It is in my chest. I made the diamond green. It is by my heart. My name means diamond and I wanted to put a green diamond by my heart. I made my hair green. I really like this. I did a good job! I am an artist!

Artist: Chase

Title: I am a Hunter

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I didn't know what my name means.
We looked it up.
It means I am a hunter.
I do like to figure things out.
I like about myself to play basketball.
I like to play football.
I like to play baseball.
I am a good friend.
I am not honest.
I can't be trusted.
I am kind.
I like school.
I love my inside.
I love my inside because no one can catch me.
I like writing about my Mommy, Daddy, sister, and LJ, my brother.
I like going to music.
I like to sing.
I like to sing Spiderman.
I like to sing Cowboy songs.
I like to dance.
I have some moves.
I sing and dance at home.
I like building things.
I like Playdough.

I wish I could dunk.
I would like to wish I could play football.
I wish I could fight.
I would like to fight people who make me angry.
I saw him on tv.
I wish I was stronger.
I wish for other kids.
I wish they would be friends.
I wish I had more friends.
I have five friends.
I wish I had more.
I wish everyone had friends.
I wish I could have a lot of book bags.
I would put my stuff in there.
I wish for Black Panthers.
I wish I was a Black Panther.
They fast.
My sister said she loved me.
I never had a friend say I love you.
I don't hear from my teacher they love me.
I love Mrs. King.
She had to go to other job.
I trust LJ.
I just trust my sister.
No one else.
I need 10 hugs a day.
I got eight today.
Lyric and my sister gave me eight hugs today.
I am a hunter.
I just want to be a hunter.
I want to keep learning things.
I like to learn.
I am a hunter.

Artist: Rayce

Title: I Run Fast

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I didn't know this about my name.
I think it's true.
My name means I am a counselor.
I listen.
I pay attention.
I have a big heart.
I am especially funny.
I care about people.
I run fast.
I think counselors run fast
'cause I do.
I like to run.
I like to laugh.
I have friends.
We play outside.
We have jokes.
We laugh.
I ride my bike.
I like to do tricks.
Like back flips and front flips.
I learned from my brother.
None of is gymnastics.
We learned on by ourselves.
I also play basketball.
Sometimes I am honest.
At school.
I play with my friends.
I am funny.
I want to be a construction worker.
I want to build houses and playgrounds.
I wish for a million dollars
so I could help homeless people
and my friends that I know
and my mom.
I love my mom.
I think she is very honest
and she takes care of us.
I need to hear I love you from people.
I want to hear it every day if my mom or dad go somewhere.
I need a hug when I am sad.
I don't need a hug if I am not sad.

Only if I am sad.
It feels warm on the inside when I get a hug.
I want to build houses for people who are homeless.
I want to build houses for them in empty areas.
I would build them a pool and a custom toilet.
It's like a toilet that can flush automatically
and has heated seats.
And I am going to buy all the homeless people
an iPhone 13.
This is my first poem.
It's good.
I feel good on the inside when I wrote this.

I love to run fast. I learned how to make the paint look like I am running. I am a fast runner. I wanted blue and white in the background to show I was running. Sometimes I mixed the colors. I made lines to make it look like I am running fast. I made my skin brown. I love my brown skin. I am smiling. I painted all of my teeth. I have brown eyes and black hair. I did a really good job on my painting. I really like it!

Artist: Noah

Title: I Love Me

Cost: \$100

Donation: <https://fcyo.org/programs/national-youth-alliance-for-boys-and-men-of-color>

I am a good friend.
I like Lamborghinis.
I like to play sports, like soccer.
I have a big heart.
I want to do good in school.
I like to learn new things.
My favorite colors are black and red.
I like math.
I like to read.
I love school.
I am nice to people.
I like when people say nice things to me.
I feel good inside.
I am making my body.
This is me.
I made a heart.
I have a lot of love.
I have a big heart.

Artist: Denver

Title: I am a Green Valley

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: <https://girlsforachange.org/>

I don't know.
My name means green valley.
I don't know what that means.
I don't know what a valley is.
I just saw pictures of a valley.
That's a valley?

A valley is grass throughout the mountains
And with a lake.
The trees are growing.
The grass is growing.
Those pictures made me think about my name.
It is so beautiful.
I felt happiness.
I felt love.
I felt excited.
It's about my name.
I love my beauty.
I love myself.
I have a smart brain.
I love it.
I like that I have a lot of friends.
I like hanging out with them.
I like that I think about things
so I don't get in trouble.
I thought about everything
Because I pushed a kid.
I felt so bad.
I had to sit out for recess.
I felt heartbroken I did that to him.
I wanted to say I am sorry.
After writing this,
I want to apologize to him.
I am creative.
My dreams are to be a cheerleader.
I want to build my own university.
A university for kids.
All kids can come.
I want to be the best nurse like my Mom.
She works shifts at night and overnight.
I love my Mom.
I love when she gets her hair done.
I just love her so much.
Every time she gets sad,
It makes my heart break.
I want her to have happiness and joy.
I feel so bad for her when she cries.
I just want to give her a hug all the time.
One of her patients is dying.
They won't have a Dad.
That makes me sad.
It breaks my heart to see kids in pain about their Dad.
If a kid loses their Dad
And they would be crying.
My uncle and my auntie died.
My auntie was grandma's sister.
Her name was Neeka, I think that's how you spell it.
Me and my grandma miss her so much.

She is with God.
When I go see God,
I am going to think about everything I have done in this world...
In this life.
I want to really say good-bye to her.
I want to pray for her.
I pray every night before I go to bed.
I feel bad because she can't have her life back.
My uncle can't have his life back.
She was my favorite auntie.
She was sweet, kind, and nice.
My uncle was my auntie's brother.
He is with God.
I feel sad and heart broken.
I wish my uncle and auntie were living here.
And then I would say
AMEN...
I just bowed my head.

Artist: Ayden

Title: I Bring Love in the World

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: NAACP

I didn't know about my name.
My name means little fire.
I bring warmth and light.
I bring love into the world.
I help people see.
I bring love.

I love my Mom.
She makes cookies every Thursday.
She makes chocolate cookies.
I am excited when she makes them.
She takes me to school.
She takes me to Sky Zone.
And there is a basketball hoop and I jump.
I am fast.
I help my Mom.
I help her wash the dishes.
I am smart.
I want to be police.
I want to get donuts.
I can't think of anything else to do as police.
I help a lot of people.
I want love for everyone.
I want everyone to love each other.
I want to love everyone.
A lot of times I say I love you.
I tell this to myself.
Today I had a hug at home.
I need eight hugs a day.
I need five more today.
I feel good.
This is my first poem.
I am smiling.

Artist: Corey

Title: We Fly to the Sky!

Cost: \$50

Donating the Money: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I give her a check mark.
She spelled my name right.
We just made up a handshake.
We go like this...
Hand slap...
Boom Boom...
Corey and Christa handshake...
Salute...
We smile and put our hands up.
We are looking in the sky...
We pretend...
we fly to sky!
And then we need to give a hug.
Yeah.
We need the hug too.
If we didn't do the hug,
then this life would be terrible.
Every time I see someone new,
I want to give them a hug.
That's the best handshake!
It's the Corey and Christa handshake!
Yeah!
And my arm and hand is up!
It's the best.
And every time I see you,
we are going to do this every time we see each other!
My dad and my mom didn't get together,
But I still got born.
That just doesn't make sense.
And my mom is telling my dad to be a (whisper) father.
I was getting in trouble at school.

I needed a father.
One day,
I wasn't grounded no more.
I saw my dad today.
A lot of times I saw my dad.
They fight a lot and keep fighting.
But my dad doesn't fight with her anymore.
Sometimes she does.
It makes my heart break.
I just want it to stop.
I don't like it.
Please.
Please.
Please stop.
It hurts me.
It hurts my life.
And I told them I don't deserve that life.
I say cuss words in my brain.
I hate my life or I say I hate my day.
My name means I like to talk to people.
I am charming.
I love.
I love my Mom and Dad.
I do have a girlfriend.
I will date her.
I will give her all my money.
And when I go to work,
I would give her free food.
If my boss says yes,
then I will give them all of my food.
We would eat together.
And then boom,
We will get married.
And then we will have a baby and then a kid.
Three brothers.
And then BOOM
So they can play together.
That's how it happens.
We could have pizza.
We could have Chucky Cheese.
And we go bowling.
We could go to Kahlahari.
We go swimming.
It says I am creative.
I don't think so.
I play games.
I play with my cousin.
I am a dreamer.
I dream about having a dog.
I dream about having a million dollars.
I want to walk my dog.

We could go outside.
It would be like white and black.
It would be my best friend
And I could give him a hug.
And if he listens to me,
Then I would give him a treat.
I would say follow me
And come to my room
And then BOOM.
I would give him a dog treat or a cracker.
When I be a grown up,
I would be police.
If I had to arrest anyone,
Then I would tell them I had to.
They would be in jail for a few minutes or 20 minutes.
And they could get out
and tell them to go do good stuff.
If they did bad things like fight again,
like my Mom and Dad,
then I would tell them to stay at the jail.
Then they are never getting out because they keep fighting.
I would wish for a superpower.
I want the teleport, yeller, and the brain can pick up stuff....
It would lift if I do this..
I could teleport and then I would do this..
I would save the day.
I will save everyone from villians.
I will have laser eyes.
I would have robot eyes and arms
and the demon
and I would make spells.
I would have a staff.
I would have star fire.
I would have the laser touch.
I will save the day.

I put me in the middle. I mixed all of the colors and I made my face that color. I took the paint brush and took off paint. You can see the colors now. I made the color grey. I am a genius! I took white and a little black. It made grey! I didn't know that I could make that color. I made my hands because I am a super hero using my super powers to help people. I have three missing teeth. I painted my teeth white. I didn't paint my missing teeth because they aren't there. I really like my painting. I was a good helper. I cleaned the paint brushes...got new water...and helped clean up. I really liked this!

Artist: King

Title: I am a King and Powerful

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I didn't know what my name means.
We looked it up.
It means ruler and strong.
Sometimes I feel like a leader.
Sometimes people listen to me.
Sometimes they don't.
I had a grand dad.
He died.
I was sad.

It hurt my heart.
I had two dads.
Now I have one.
I live with my dad.
I like gym.
I like art.
I like music.
I like lunch.
I like friends.
I am a helper.
I want to be a helper when I get older.
I want to work in a daycare.
I want to work with little kids.
I want them to be loved.
I think every kid should have love.
I think everyone should have a family.
All kids need love.

Artist: Laila

Title: I am Dark Beauty

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I thought my name meant...
I am awesome and cool.
I learned my name means dark beauty.
I was surprised.
This means I am beautiful.
I want to be a Lego builder when I grow up.
I like to build big houses and trees and cars.
I want to build hospitals and houses.
When I get older,
I'm gonna be a builder,

like how they build houses and stuff
and I will have tools.
I will build houses for businesses and people,
like houses for people who don't have homes.
I would love to have lots of Legos.
I have a lot at home,
but I want more.
I like making pictures for myself and hanging them up on the wall.
I am a good friend.
I don't know how to read,
but I am smart.
I'm good at sharing and helping and kind.
I am smiling.
I share all the time.

Artist: Nevaeh

Title: I Want to be the Tooth Fairy When I Grow Up

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

My name means heaven.
Guess what?
My name means heaven!
I like to do buttons in school.
I like to look in drawers and see what clothes I can wear.
I like to play dress up.
I like to be the tooth fairy.
I don't have anyone to play with at home.
My auntie lives with me and my cousins.
One is short and one is big.
I like my mommy.
I love her.
I have my daddy.
I love him.
I have a baby brother and a baby sister.
I am too older for them.
I don't see them.
What I want to do is build a
Big
Big
Big
House.
And, I want to be a ballerina.
And what else I want to do is build buildings
and make colors for markers.
I want to make a color shop.
I am funny.
I am smart.
I am happy.
I am excited.
I like having fun.
I like to give hugs.
I need five hugs,
but I had eight hugs.
I need lots of hugs.
I like playing with tablets.
I like playing good games.
RoBlox.

My name means heaven.
I like that.

Artist: Avin

Title: My Best Friend Bumblebee

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I think my name means hesla.
I don't know what that means.
We looked it up.
It means handsome and beautiful.
My mommy and daddy live with me
And my brother calls my dad pops.
I like my family because I am six and
because I can make grilled cheese.
I love having fun with my family.
Red Lobster and Sky Zone.
I know $10 \times 10 = 100$.
Times, I know.
I am a good reader.
Maybe I am I am learning.
Writing and thinking...
I am good at.
I want to like play on my ipad when I am older.
I want to do like stuff like playing games when I am older.
I want to shake hands.
I like to draw in school.
I like to go to gym.
I like to have fun in school.
My teacher is fun.
I like to do stuff in school like play video games.
I like to like play like ball, soccer, basketball.
And,
I like to do stuff
and
I like to want to have a house.
I want to live with my mom and dad
and my brother and my big sister
and my baby brother.
I want to do jobs.
I want a job that pays money.
I want to be a scientist.
I want to work on things.
I want to on things with people.
I wish I had a like a bumblebee friend.
It would be a robot bumblebee.

I would name my friend Bumblebee.
He could turn into a car.
I wish I knew how to drive
'cause I would drive the car with my friend Bumblebee.
We would go to the beach.
I would make him safe.
I would make sure he didn't go in the water.
We would go to get ice cream.
And then,
Bumblebee could get a robot pet.
I want him to have a pet.
The pet would keep him company.
I love my best friend...
His name would be Bumblebee.

Artist: Jamez

Title: I Light Up a Room and Sparkle

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I don't know what my name means.
I think it means a job, maybe?
My name means sweet and attractive.
It also means I have sparkle and spirit.
It is true, but not all the time.
It also says I experiment.
I like to discover things.
I like to learn how to make YouTube videos.
I made two shows.
It's called the Jamez and Shion Show.
We couldn't find it on YouTube.
I feel good about what my name means.
'Cause some people wanna do the same name as me.
'Cause everyone,
I talk to people...
and some people know what it means...
and they say they wanted that name too.
I am seven.
I am an honest person.
Sometimes when I fall,
I make myself laugh.
Even if some people think that I am not great enough,

I know that I am.
Two people don't think I am great.
But I know better.
I am generous.
I am a good friend.
That I help people.
I helped my teacher.
I make sure he was okay.
I get to knowledge my brain at school.
It makes me think I am smart enough.
I am smart enough to do like one billion plus one billion is two billion.
See?
I am smart.
I would like to be a doctor.
I want to be a dentist.
Because if some people that something is wrong with their teeth,
I am going to make their teeth feel better and look better.
I wish for everyone to be happy and grateful.
I am grateful for listening to my parents.
I am grateful for guests that want to do something,
like if I have a friend and they are upset.
I would say "do you want a stuffed animal"?
I want them to feel better.

Artist: Demi

Title: I am Earth Mother

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I didn't know.
My name means half and Earth Mother.
I think that's a cool name.
I like myself.
It feels fun and loveable.
I am watching the earth.
I am looking for kids who are living on the streets and take care of them.
I think people who live on the streets might live on a chair.
I will ask them what I can do to help them.
I will get them food, like vegetables.
As earth mother,
If there was a flood,
I will help the kids,
the little kids.
I will put them in a safe area...
An area that is safe for them.
It is loveable to do this.
I love all kids.
And the earth is so loveable,
it gives me spirit.

It feels good on the inside.
I love kids and I want kids to love and show caring.
And I love the babies.
Captured good...
That means to keep the kids safe.
That's what I do.
I feel something.
I feel loved.
And, I love myself
And I love the babies.
I will keep them all alive.
I love being an earth mother.
I like knowing this about my name.
I care about people.
I always rub them on their back if they are sad.
My life gives me love
and shows me all of my love.
I would wish that this whole earth would be so nice
and paradise comes over earth...
and comes to good life.
I would like to say that I like babies.
I like when they are sitting on the bed and crying
because then I can help them.
I get them to stop crying.
I have a lot of love on the inside.

Artist: Jordyn

Title: River and Flowers

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I know what my name means.
I think it means on.
We looked it up.
It means I flow like river.
I am also a garden.
My dad would grow onions in my garden.
It's okay if it's not a certain way.
And my mom gave me braids.
I think she did a good job.
I love my mommy and my dad.
Because they love me.
I am the youngest.
My brother is the biggest.
He is 13.
My middle brother is seven.
I am the youngest.
You be the cutest when you're the youngest.
My mommy and my daddy and my grandpa tell me I am the cutest.
It feels really cute.

Really cute.
Really cute.
I like myself.
Even my heart.
It's cute.
I kiss them.
I kiss my Mommy and Daddy to show them I love them.
I am the smartest one in the whole world.
I don't know how I know,
but I just know.
School is really good.
I love it.
Tuesday is my favorite
because it has tacos.
I like my teacher.
He let us have some candy at the end of the day.
He shares food with us.
I like that.
I love about my house.
There's candy in it.
No, that's it.
I want to play basketball
when I get older.
I want to be a dancer.
Those are the things I want to do.
I see a dinosaur.
I would wish for a dinosaur.
He can be nice to me.
I have a pet,
but he would be my friend.
We would play.
I would play with him.
We would play Uno.
He would win.
I would say "good job."
I would play again.

Artist: Madison

Title: I am a Fighter. I am Strong.

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

I think my name means mansion or a view.
We looked it up.
It means I am a powerful battler.
I am a fighter.
I am strong.
I am a warrior.
Yes, I am powerful.
I don't really know,
but sometimes I just try to battle anything.
I still try.
I am trying to do backbend kick overs and backbend walkovers.
I am nice.
My favorite color is blue.
That's my mom's favorite color too
and my great grandmother's.

And my favorite movie is Annie from 1998.
I like the white Annie because she was singing very good in the movie.
And, I like her freckles.
I like about that I was able to have my best friend for a long time...
like three years.
I am grateful that I have my best friend.
I am grateful for my mother.
She is grateful for me.
I wanna be a gymnastics coach when I am older.
I am good at reading.
I am very good at math.
I want to be a math teacher.
I also kinda want to be like work with someone who has cancer.
I want to save their lives.
I want to make sure I save all my lives,
like my great grandmother's life.
My great great grandmother's life.
My mother.
My brother.
My step grandfather
My regular grandmother.
One of my aunts had cancer.
She had breast cancer.
She beat her cancer.
It's actually really bad when you have breast cancer.
You feel like they can die or something.
And you want them to beat it.
It's like doing a battle.
I am a battler.
I am a warrior.
I am strong.
I am tough.
I stand up for my friends.
I want to run my own business.
I want to learn how to type faster.
I want to learn how to speak other Englishes,
like Spanish.
I would always wish for most of my family.
I want us to live longer
and God will let us,
so we can be happy together.

Artist: Sophia

Title: I Have Wisdom

Cost: \$50

Donation: Lakeshore Intergenerational School for More Art

My name means...
I don't know what my name means.
It means I have wisdom.
I have divine wisdom.
I didn't know what that means.
It means I give my energy to other people.
My name means wisdom.
I can teach other people.
I like having fun.
I like hugging people when they cry.
If somebody hurt them,
I would help them.

And I care about my friends and my teacher.
I love my family and friends.
I am perfect.
I am pretty.
I don't know how to tie my shoes though
and that's okay.
And I always be silly.
I love to hug people.
I just need two hugs.
I love growing apples.
My whole family helps me grow apples.
I usually cry when I hurt myself.
Well, I always like doing stuff.
Nobody will play with me.
My brother will never play with me.
I am growing up,
but no one teaches me how to play,
but my mom and dad.
My nana is actually my mom's mom
and they just told me that.
I watch My Little Pony every day
and I can't go to sleep.
My Mommy makes breakfast sometimes.
I want to be strong and help somebody
and do something right to help them feel better.
And when I grow up,
I want to be a science.
I want to sing when I grow up.
I would wish I could fly.
I wish I was a butterfly.
I wish I was flying in the air.
I would like to have fun.
I wish I had a nice student star friend.

Artists' Names: Ethan Jenkins, Nicole Miller, Sophia Novak, Julya Dillon, Faith Back, Nick Long, and Marlo Schatz

Title: Inclusivity is Hard on the Eyes and Ears

Area of Interest: Increasing awareness regarding deaf and blind communities.

Metaphor: The blind and deaf community are a prism of light that symbolize the brightness they bring to this world

Price: \$100 - Organization Proceeds Will Benefit/Contact Information: Gallaudet University

Imagine. You don't hear or see the language being used in your community. What would you do? How would you go about learning the same content your peers know, when the learning styles are not adaptive and inclusive towards you? This is the reality that blind and deaf people deal with daily. The majority of blind and deaf students are being left alone and feeling unloved. We are here to educate others about learning differences in schools and the correct etiquette. First, we discussed the definitions of learning differences like deafness and blindness, a brief history of the subject, American sign language and blindness, and the advantages and disadvantages of attending a school that focuses on supporting these differences. Second, we share personal experiences and understandings regarding the significance of this justice issue. Third, we showcase our artmaking and symbolism behind our art. Finally, we encourage you to change the way people understand what it means to live with either and/or both of these learning differences in schools.

DEFINE DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS

Deafness is when a person lacks the power of hearing or has impaired hearing. This can be permanently or temporary and a person does not need have lost all hearing to be considered deaf.

Blindness is when a person is unable to see because of injury, disease, or congenital conditions. This can be permanently or temporary and a person does not need to have lost all sight to be considered blind.

LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Have you heard of learning differences? Learning differences include anything difference that a student might have that can create challenges in their learning. This could be something like deafness in individuals, blindness in individuals, dyslexia, etc. Individuals with learning differences should be afforded opportunities to interact with other people, while making accommodations that are reasonable. They should not be referred to as “disabled” or “less than” because this indicates they are not able to complete specific tasks/activities; however, this is not valid. People who are members of the deaf and/or blind communities can achieve. What is most important is understanding learning may require differentiation. This is significant, especially when addressing a student with a learning difference we use the term “difference” and not “disability,” because though they may take a different route in their learning, they are more than capable of learning and growing.

BRIEF HISTORY

The first cochlear implant (CI) was invented in 1961 by William House and John Doyle. Robin Michelson, Robert Schindler, and Michael Merzenich conducted multiple experiments to perfect the CI. While those three men were conducting their experiments, Claude Henry Chouard in France and Graeme Clark in Australia commenced their research. After many years of research and experiments, all that was needed was to have implant users try the cochlear implants. The first evaluation of the CI was published by Robert Bilger in 1977 at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND BLINDNESS

American Sign Language (ASL) is one of the most widely used languages in the United States, and the fourth-most studied the second language at American universities. At least 35 states have recognized ASL as a modern language for public schools, and hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States are offering ASL classes. In addition, ASL is used by hearing children of deaf parents, hearing siblings and relatives of the deaf, hearing adults who are becoming deaf and are learning ASL from other deaf individuals, and a growing population of hearing, second-language students learning ASL in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary classrooms. Studying ASL promotes better awareness of and sensitivity to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. As someone proficient in ASL, you will develop a strong appreciation for deaf culture, and you can promote understanding and acceptance of the language among others.

The American Foundation for the Blind defines braille as a system of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision. Braille is not actually a language but instead it is a code that can be read in many languages. These languages include English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and many others.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ATTENDING SCHOOLS THAT FOCUS ON SUPPORTING THESE DIFFERENCES

Schools specifically made for the Deaf community have their advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, schools for the Deaf are amazing because they are inclusive. Deaf schools have Deaf presidents, teachers, and provide support throughout policies and daily practices. They are geared towards making school the most inclusive learning environment can be, while also using Deaf students’ first language ASL. This is amazing; however, it means that students in Deaf schools may be accustomed to specific daily interactions and may not have much exposure to the outside world, other people’s cultures, and languages. Having exposure to other cultures is detrimental for having an open mind and not staying within your comfort your whole life. Deaf schools are still incredible because they give all Deaf people a sense of community and for the students to really get the chance to thrive, which is amazing! Quoted from the NAD (National Association of the Deaf), “Deaf schools are critical to the education of deaf and hard of hearing (hereinafter “deaf”) children, and every effort must be made to preserve them. NAD strongly supports the continuation and strengthening of these schools.”

REFLECTION REGARDING EXPERIENCES WITH THESE COMMUNITIES

Second, we share personal experiences and understandings regarding the significance of this justice issue:

Julya: While growing up, my mom always had a best friend, who had a blind son. I grew up with my little brother and my mother's best friend's two sons. We were neighbors since I was around the age of 8/9 and have been friends ever since. It was always so different hanging around her son, in a good way, nothing bad! I always had trouble remembering that he could not see anything. So, if I saw something and said, "Hey what do you think?" or "Do you think this is ...?" I had to remind myself that he could not see anything. It was never an issue growing up with him because after a while I got used to it and so did my brother. It was like her son was one of us and we never treated him differently. A lot of people see blind and deaf people as outcasts or people who are incapable of doing things that us 'normal' people can do. That is just not true because growing up with someone who is blind, just showed me how much he could do and everything we ever did as friends, together, he would always join.

Marlo: Schools specifically made for the Deaf have their advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand --schools for the Deaf are amazing because they are inclusive. Deaf schools have Deaf presidents, Deaf teachers, deaf everything. They are geared towards making school the most educating it can be, while also using Deaf students first language ASL. This is amazing; however, it means that students in Deaf schools are very much in their own world and do not have much exposure to the outside world, other people's cultures, and languages. Having exposure to other cultures is detrimental for having an open mind and not staying within your comfort your whole life. Deaf schools are still incredible because they give all Deaf people a sense of community and for the students to really get the chance to thrive which is amazing! Quoted from the NAD (National Association of the Deaf) "Deaf schools are critical to the education of deaf and hard of hearing (hereinafter "deaf") children, and every effort must be made to preserve them. NAD strongly supports the continuation and strengthening of these schools.

ARTMAKING

In our artmaking, we honor Blind and Deaf community/communities. We began painting a rainbow with acrylics from the left. This rainbow symbolizes a new start: the need for increased awareness for students who have seeing and hearing differences. You see a rainbow after a fresh rain and presents a new start to the day.

We also incorporated words that align with the lived experiences of those who have these differences. These are positive affirmations, such as "your life," "special," "care," "assist," and "progress." We found these words in community newspapers. All of us looked through the words and agreed as a group to incorporate them.

Three of us have experience with Deaf and Blind communities. We often saw students from these communities get "side-lined." This means we see them pushed aside and not seen as competent as those who have the capacity to see and hear. For those of us who were not familiar with this, we can be more compassionate to support our students and families experiencing deafness and blindness. For others, this experience has prepared me for understanding what it means to create a safe and inclusive environment for all of my students. Others also agree the experience has helped open his/her/their eyes to the lived realities and accommodations necessary to support students from these communities.

Each group member helped to create this artmaking. One person drew and painted the rainbow. Another student created the overall design. Others cut out words, brought supplies, and helped paint another layer. And another person learned how to make braille out of hot glue dots. She thought this was "cool and interesting...and really enjoyed learning how to make the letters." And, yet another group member helped choose which words would be used on the painting. As a group, we decided to incorporate braille and sign language. We have a sign language symbol in the middle of our canvas that means 'I love you' because our goal is to make encourage schools to include the deaf and blind community. Furthermore, we want those who are members of the deaf and blind community to know they are loved and valued. We did a collage on the canvas of words that we feel are important to the blind and deaf community. We found meaningful phrases such as..."Deaf and/or blindness is not a disability"... "We see you for the beautiful humans you are and we love you for it"... "Never stop being you"... "You are not alone." We turned that phrase into braille.

We put different colors of the rainbow in the background and in the 'I love you' symbol. We also put different skin tones within the hand to represent anyone can be blind or deaf. We chose to do bright colors to demonstrate individuals who are blind and deaf are often looked down on and it comes with a negative aspect; however, we believe members of the blind and deaf communities should be valued and their contributions to society.

On top of our art, we incorporated a braille phrase that is the same as the phrase in the corner of the piece. It says, "Deaf and/or blindness is not a disability"... "We see you for the beautiful humans you are and we love you for it"... "Never stop being you"... "You are not alone." The reason we put the braille on this piece is because we are focusing on the importance of including deaf and blind communities. We want those who are blind to feel this art is for them and that they matter.

Overall, each group member had a different feeling and objective while creating our masterpiece. One group member said it was very eye opening and let her feel fortunate to be able to spread awareness. Another group member felt excited and glad to be learning about this while doing new things she had not experienced before. Additionally, others felt it was heartwarming, creative and letting us feel more prepared in our future career and life, in general. After completing our project, our group has thought about how the Deaf and Blind community will feel about this project and our thoughts about helping them. We wanted to create this awareness and comfort for these communities to let them be more open in their lives.

One member said their recollection from their 12 years of school, before college. They created a mask of an endangered animal that could fit on their head. It had to have special features and details in relation to what the animal had. Such as, whiskers, eyes, ears, colors, etc., anything to look realistic. Other people within our group had little to no experience within their school years, prior to this class and project.

ACTIVISM

Finally, we encourage you to change the way people understand what it means to live with either and/or both of these learning differences in schools. When talking about learning differences and every single different type of person, there are so many. There are many ways to help and support those differences in ways that people can do every day. Being patient is key to helping others, understanding their differences, and giving them time to adjust. You cannot rush anything too quickly and let trust come when it is time to. Modifying and making accommodations to help students that might be struggling with an assignment and reaching out to staff for guidance. Finding different combinations that are correct for each student with their own difference, to support and help them adjust. Students may struggle with change and helping them through it can make them ten times more comfortable. These might be changes to a new schedule, to a new teacher, to a new classroom, to a new school or anything new. After starting something new it may take every student a shorter or longer time to adjust to or understand it. There may be so many distractions within the classroom, or any environment and it is very important to keep reviewing with the student and giving them tips and reminders. Overall, you want students to feel safe and comfortable in any situation no matter what their difference is, compared to everyone else. Helping those students stay on track and connecting with their families is extremely important too!

Check out these sites: <https://akronblindcenter.org/> and <https://www.ohiodeafblind.com/>

If you are feeling inspired, finding yourself wondering how to get involved, or simply just seeking more information, you are in the right place. Here I will continue our research on providing you with answers to those desires.

EL DEAFO: "El Deafo" is a graphic novel written and illustrated by Cece Bell. This is a powerful piece about Cece's life growing up with deafness, where the characters are all anthropomorphic bunnies. The title of the book, "El Deafo" is a reference to the inner superhero she discovers within herself. This book was written in September 2014 and turned into a TV mini-series in 2022. Not only is the title inspiring in its own, but the book and mini-series both include characters that could serve as prominent characters that inspire and bring joy to the deaf and differently abled communities.

Book Resources for the Blind: Below are linked websites that provide in-depth lists with descriptions of book suggestions for members of the visually impaired community.

1. <https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/childrens-books.html>
2. <https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resource/sources-free-braille-books/>
3. <http://www.braillebookstore.com/Read--Aloud-Books>
4. <https://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/childrens-books-featuring-visually-impaired-characters> (25 children's books featuring visually impaired characters)
5. <https://www.afb.org/blindness-and-low-vision/braille/resources-teachers-braille/where-get-braille>

What do schools do for the differently abled? As future educators, something we are concerned with, and you may be wondering about, is how the education system is for the deaf and blind. The website for the Ohio Department of Education clarifies a lot and provides many cited examples and resources.

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Students-with-Disabilities/Deafblind>

The response will vary from state to state because states have different levels of resources and allocated funding for types of matters like these. This is one reason why it is important that we recognize, understand, and incorporate our visually and audibly impaired members in our society more.

How to treat the differently abled in your everyday life: When interacting with someone who is visually impaired, speak normally and talk to them directly. For example, speaking louder or more clearly than normal would just make the situation awkward. You can use vision-based words although they may not use them themselves. For instance, phrases such as “good to see you again!” are acceptable to use. And most importantly, this goes for all the differently abled, involve them like everyone else!

<https://www.letsenvision.com/blog/how-to-interact-with-the-blind>

When interacting with someone who is deaf, remember to face them as much as possible, as they often read your lips to help them understand what you are saying. Also obviously, in most cases combined with sign language. Speak clearly and at an easy pace to stay with. Keep your distance and make sure to take turns in the conversation, making it easier to follow long as opposed to long drawn-out thoughts. Finally, don't be afraid to write or draw to help them understand a message you are sending, and involve them like everyone else!

<https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/blog/communicating-with-deaf-person-tips2/>

Communicating with someone who is deafblind, clear speech is very important. As in a lot of cases they retain some vision and or hearing ability. In other cases, braille may be used to help someone who is deafblind understand something.

REFERENCES

- Ability, R. (2022, January 19). *Etiquette: Interacting with people with disabilities*. Respect Ability. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.respectability.org/inclusion-toolkits/etiquette-interacting-with-people-with-disabilities/>
- Loomes, B. (n.d.). *Take online courses. earn college credit. Research Schools, Degrees & Careers*. Study.com | Take Online Courses. Earn College Credit. Research Schools, Degrees & Careers. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://study.com/resources/inclusive-special-education-classroom>
- Learning Center, H. (2022, October 4). *What are learning differences? - hill learning center*. Hill Learning Center -. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.hillcenter.org/what-are-learning-differences/>
- Foulke, E., Amster, C. H., Nolan, C. Y., & Bixler, R. H. (1962). The comprehension of rapid speech by the blind. *Exceptional Children*, 29(3), 134–142. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001440296202900306>
- Haegele, J., Sato, T., Zhu, X., & Avery, T. (2017). Physical Education Experiences at Residential Schools for Students Who Are Blind: A Phenomenological Inquiry. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1137408.pdf>

- Fraser, W. J., & Maguvhe, M. O. (2008, March). Teaching life sciences to blind and visually impaired learners. South Africa; University of Pretoria.
https://repository.up.ac.za/bitstream/handle/2263/6236/Fraser_Teaching%282008%29.pdf?sequence=1
- Ferlazzo, L. (2021, September 3). *20 ways to support students with learning differences this year (opinion)*. Education Week. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-20-ways-to-support-students-with-learning-differences-this-year/2021/09>
- NAD. (n.d.). *Position statement on schools for the deaf*. National Association of the Deaf. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.nad.org/about-us/position-statements/position-statement-on-schools-for-the-deaf/>
- Mudry, A., & Mills, M. (2013, May). *The early history of the Cochlear Implant: A retrospective*. JAMA otolaryngology--head & neck surgery. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23681026/>
- Liddel, S. (2003). *Grammar, gesture, and meaning in American sign language*. Google Books. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=t2t4My_elcQC&oi=fnd&pg=PR8&dq=american%2Bsign%2Blanguage&ots=xVughnHxlc&sig=6CjpZaNFxGIAqXGKa2uL87t_oqY#v=onepage&q=american%20sign%20language&f=false
- With Languages, L. E. A. D. (2022, May 18). *Benefits of learning sign language at an early age*. Lead with Languages. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/lwl-language/american-sign-language/#:~:text=Studying%20ASL%20promotes%20better%20awareness,of%20the%20language%20among%20others.>