

Class 1-111 at P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm School

# Making Sense of Our Community

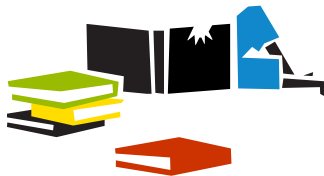
Places and Spaces Close to the Heart



# Making Sense of Our Community

Places and Spaces Close to the Heart

By Class 1-111 at P.S. 197  
John B. Russwurm School



Behind the Book / New York

Behind the Book's mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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Printing: BR Printers; coordinated by Kathleen McCourt and Lauren Parrott

Special Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who helped facilitate and create this amazing virtual program, especially our Fall 2020 interns Lancy, Lindsay, Merav, and Rachel.

Due to COVID all Behind the Book programs were provided virtually. We recognize and appreciate our teachers and students for persevering during this very challenging time.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

This book was made possible by a generous grant from The Korein Foundation.

We dedicate this book to every community that we love. They help all of us feel connected and supported. These places help create special moments that stay in our hearts forever. We would also like to thank everyone that supported us during our Behind the Book journey. You are truly appreciated!

## About the Program

When we look outside our windows, what we see may not always be pretty, but it's alive! That's the message of *Everything Naomi Loved* by Katie Yamasaki, the book read and explored by Ms. Pinkney's first-grade class in this engaging Behind the Book program.

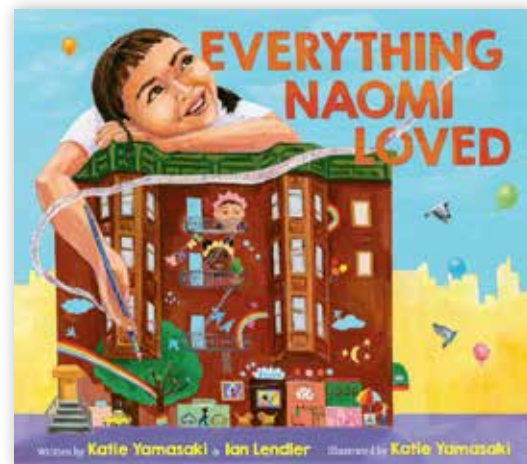
The students thought about their streets in their community and what places were really special to them. Some places were important because of the people that are there—their schools, places of worship, and even favorite stores.

During Katie's first visit, she talked about how communities are formed, how they begin at home and then extend to other places. Students created lists of favorite places in their neighborhood and explained their significance.

Katie returned for a second visit to lead students in an art workshop. She described her process of creating the illustrations for *Everything Naomi Loved* and how she designs and creates murals. During this workshop, students again shared their favorite neighborhood places and made 2-D murals that featured their favorite people, places, and things.

Behind the Book drama teacher Karen Butler worked with students to analyze characters and participate in activities that helped the class act out their feelings and thoughts. Students used all the ideas they had explored with Katie to write poems about their favorite places in the community. Through their work, displayed in this book, the class demonstrates the many things they love in their neighborhoods.

We hope that it inspires you to explore your neighborhood and continue to build community!



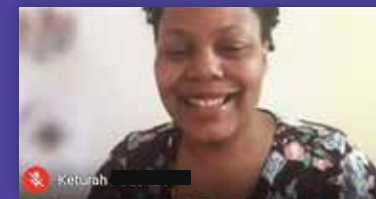
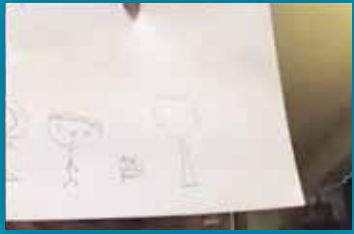
# Contents

Truth'ful .....	2
Aaron .....	4
Aniyah .....	6
Jurnee .....	8
Tamari .....	10
Allison .....	12
Aaron .....	14
Aniyah .....	16
Jurnee .....	18
Tamari .....	20
Truth'ful .....	22
About the Visiting Author, Student Authors, and Behind the Book .....	25
Common Core Curriculum Learning Standards .....	26











# The Best School

by Truth'ful

At school I touch my pencil  
I see what I wrote it looks  
good

I hear my teacher.

She asked what is  $4+10=?$

A. 14 B. 20 or C! wait

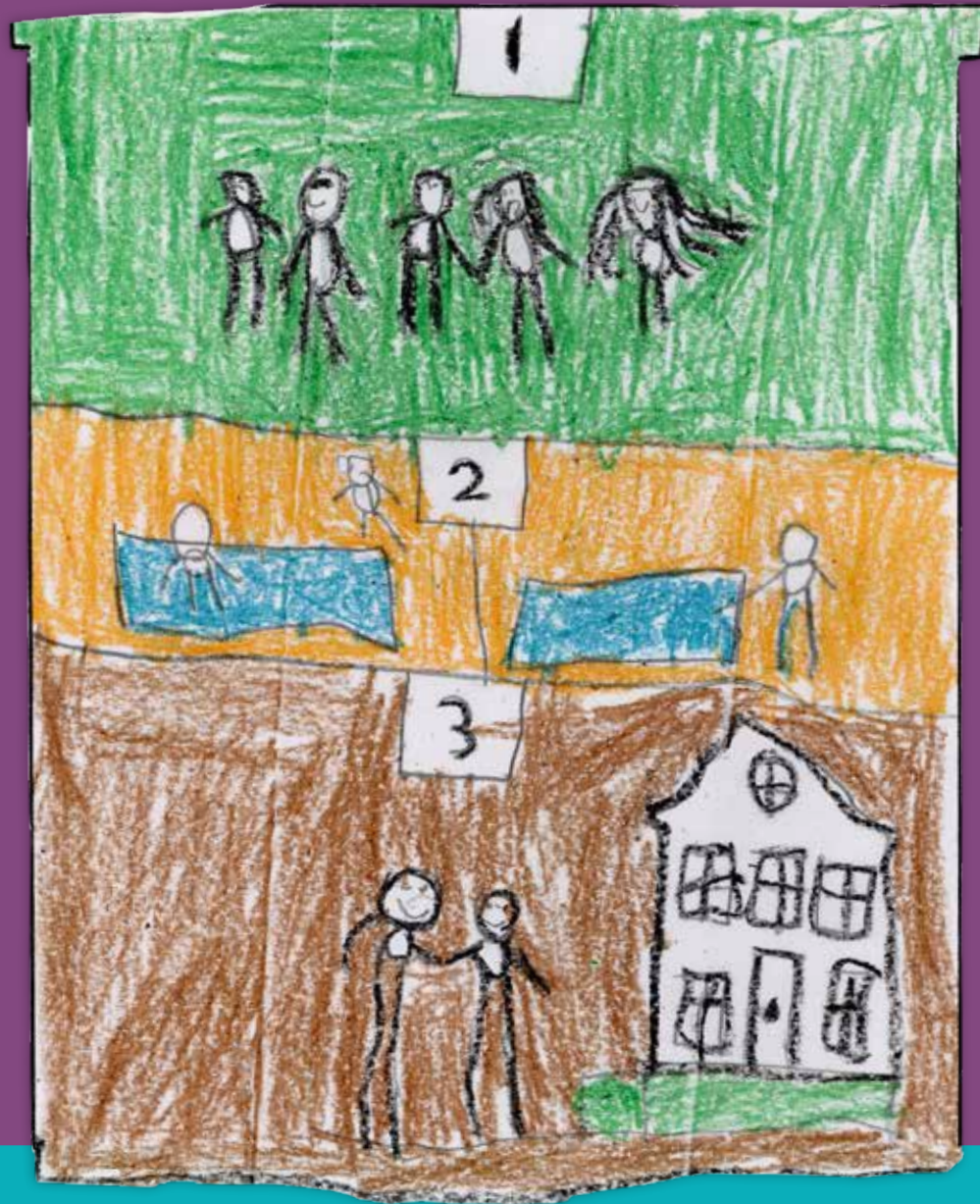
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,

12, 13, 14...

it's 14!







# The Pool

by Aaron

I go to the pool with my silly  
friends. I hear bubbly water.  
I touch the water it feels wet.  
Now I go to my red and green  
house. I see my mom and  
dad. I am excited!



# Park

by Aniyah

I see some rocks out  
the park  
I touch some rocks.

I wash the rocks  
I want to see the colors  
colors

I see some rocks out the p.

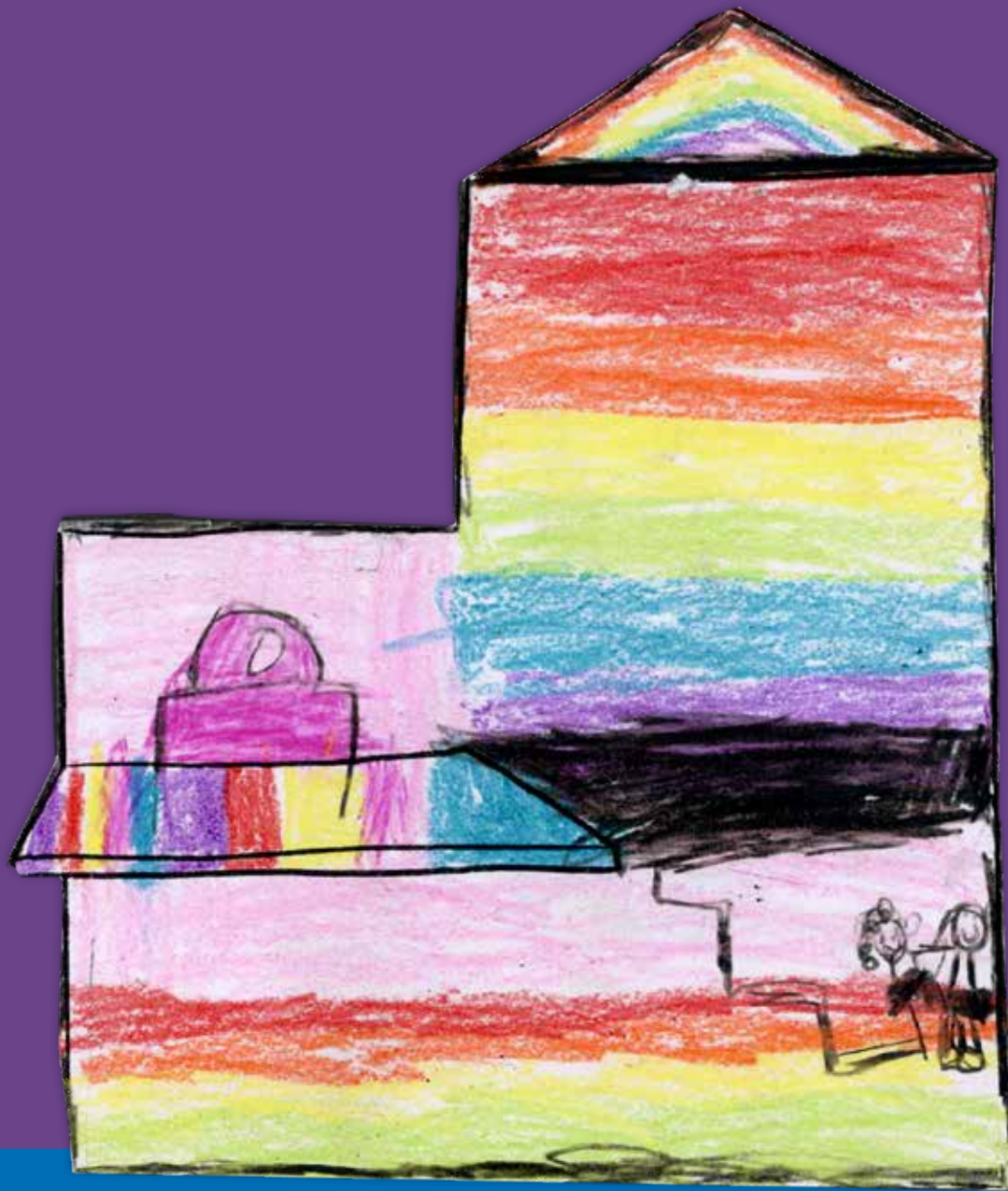
the park





# Dunkin Donuts

by Jurnee



I feel sprinkles and frosting

I see a donut I hold my mommy's  
hand while we are in Dunkin  
Donuts the donuts look cool  
and pretty we ate the donuts

We ate the donuts

It tasted so good

Yum!

Last we went home with  
a big smile!



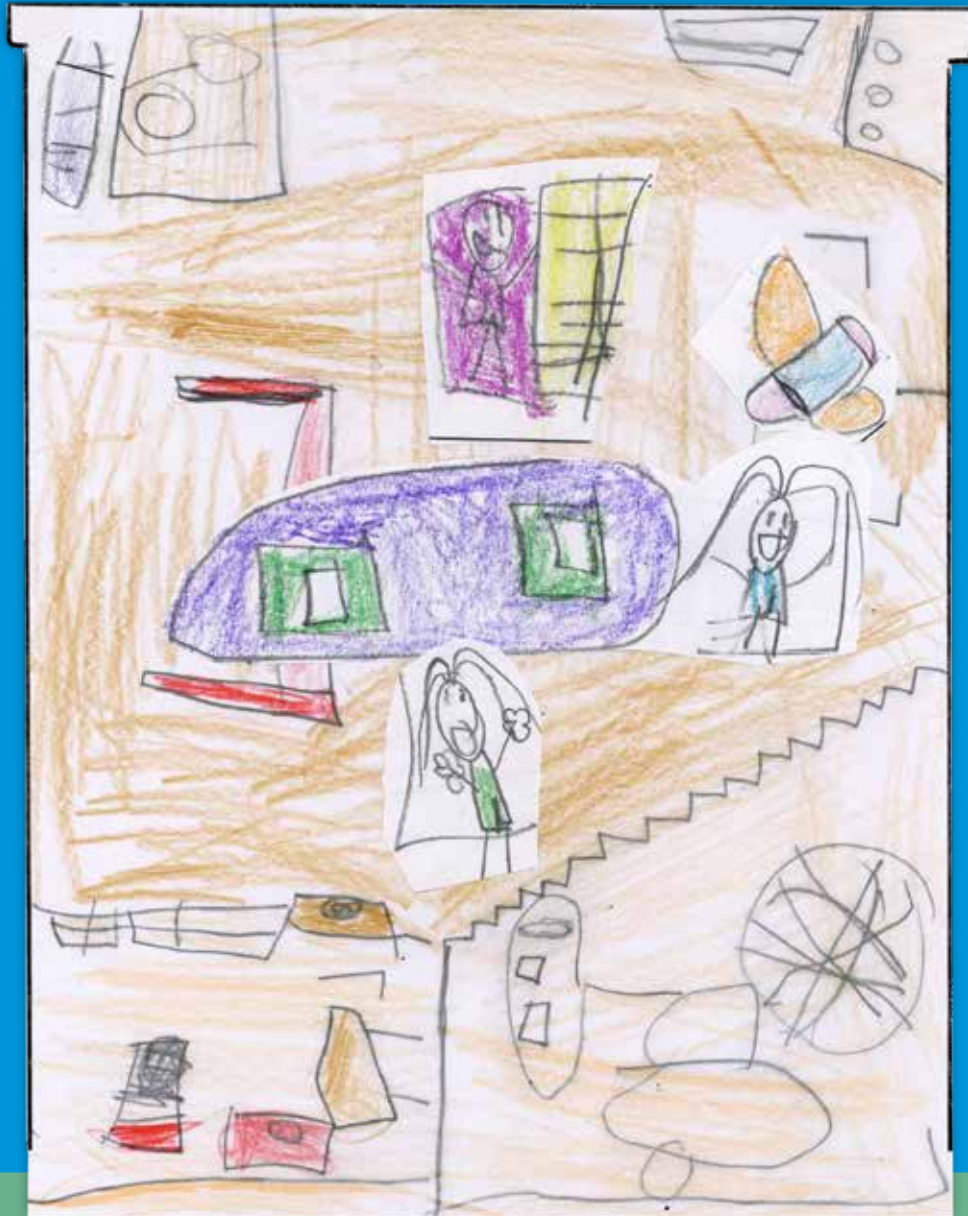
# Me And The Pool

by Tamari

I like to go to the  
COMMUNITY pool  
I See and smell I like the  
pool  
I love the pool I touch  
the pool







# Park Fun

by Allison

At the park I see kids my  
friends

I touch the swing and play  
on it

My grandma brings food

I smell it and taste it

I hear Jaiden calling me



# Laundry Mat

by Aaron

I go to the Laundry mat  
with my mom.  
I see the laundry in the  
machine it is getting clean.  
I smell the laundry the soap  
it smells like apples.  
I hear and touch the  
laundry it rumbles and feels  
WET!  
Now I go to my house.







# Supermarket

by Aniyah

I go to Supermarket to get

cupcakes for my party  
I taste the sugar

I hear a lot of people

I see people and food

I smell a lot of things

But I smell cupcakes  
a lot



# My Church

by Jurnee

touching the doors  
to get into the church  
speaking, eating on break  
singing with other people  
I hear things sitting still crying  
a little ð feeling happy ð







# The Park

by Tamari

I like to go to the park

I like to go to the park

I see people

I run in the park I can hear

I can hear people

I touch Marquise

I like to go to the park



# The Truth'ful Supermarket

by Truth'ful

Do you see the sun?

Do you hear the beat

I have \$10 bucks

I'm going to the

supermarket I see the

bread I hear the

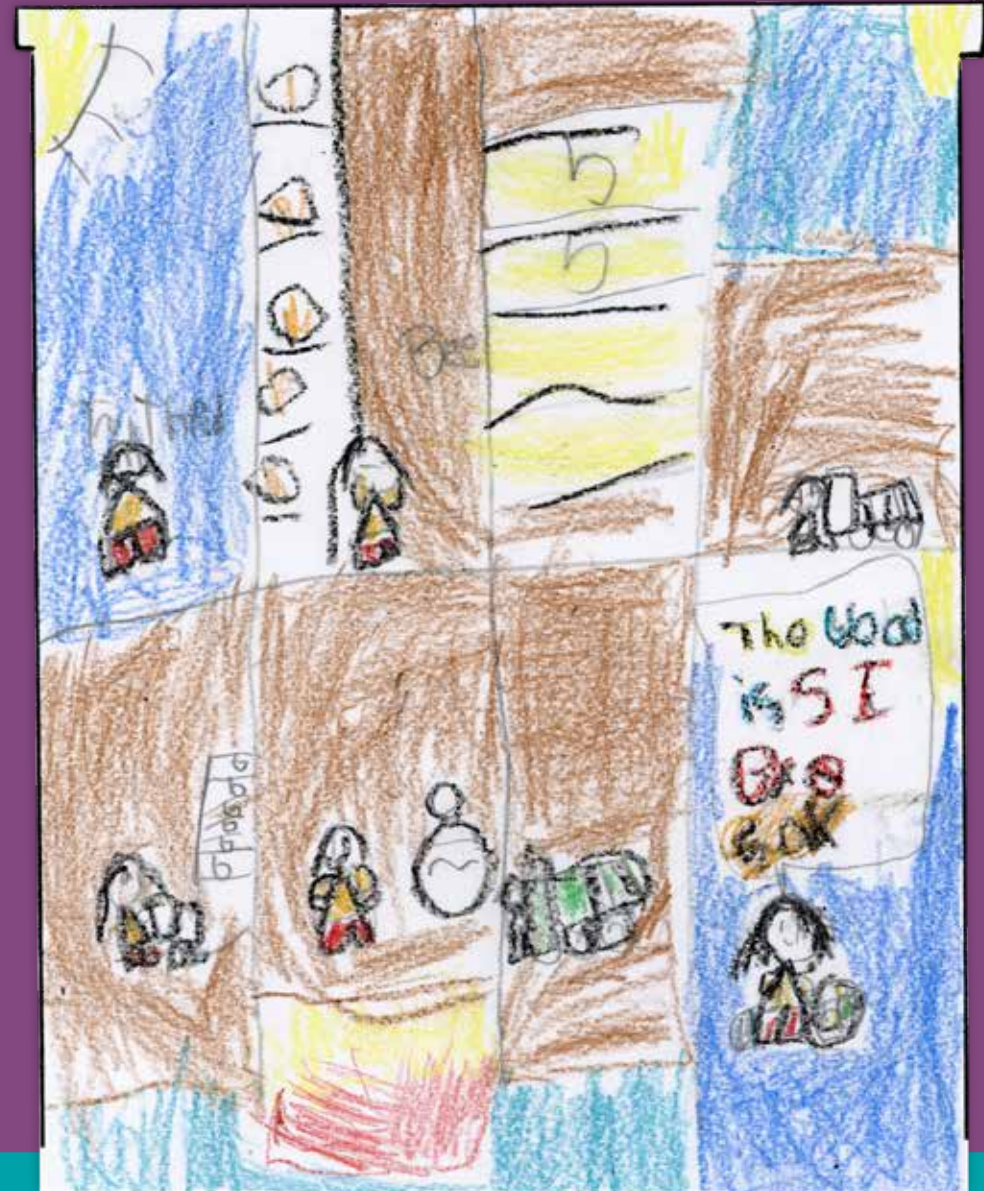
milk I touch the

cart I put the

bread and milk in

The milk is \$3 and

the bread is \$7!



## About the Visiting Author



Katie Yamasaki is an artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She works primarily as a muralist, children's book author, illustrator, and teaching artist. From schools to prisons, Katie sees her art as a vehicle for dialogue and a tool for building platforms for communication. She has painted over 80 murals around the world. She has published various books as both illustrator and author/illustrator: *Honda*, *The Boy Who Dreamed of Cars*; *Lifelines: the Black Book of Proverbs*; *Fish for Jimmy*; *When the Cousins Came*; *God's Big Plan*; and *Everything Naomi Loved* (co-author/illustrator). Katie has additional books in the works as author/illustrator, *Dad Bakes*, a biography of her architect grandfather, Minoru Yamasaki, *YAMA*, and *Place Hand Here*.

## About the Student Authors

We are a group of vibrant, expressive, and energetic first grade learners in the heart of Harlem. We enjoy writing, technology, and mathematics. We believe our special community places have a great impact on us as inquisitive learners.

## About Behind the Book

Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Common Core Learning Standards.



# Common Core Learning Standards Addressed

## **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3**

Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

## **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2**

Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

## **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3**

Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.



BtB empowers the next generation of readers and writers by nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in our students.

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