



STORIES OF MAGIC AND MOMENTS **YOU NEVER FORGET**

By Classes 801 and 802 at Harbor Heights Middle School



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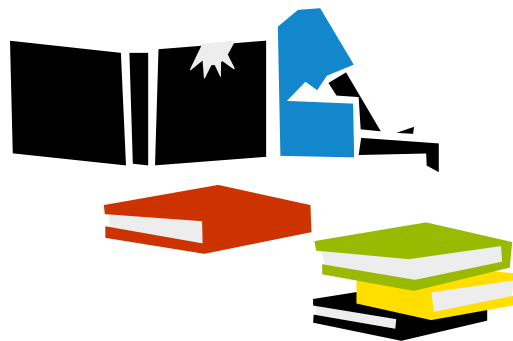
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In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students’ work as received from the teacher.

We would like to thank our generous funders: The Korein Foundation, who supported the creation and publication of this class book and The Guru Krupa Foundation, whose contribution made this program possible.



DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our families, the Hispanic community and all people of color, and anyone struggling with challenges like ours.





ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The 8th graders in Mr. Owen's 801 class explored immigration and identity in a 6-part program beginning with the reading of *They Call Her Fregona* by David Bowles.

The author visited the class and talked about how his own Mexican American background inspired the book. They also met with Arlène Elizabeth Casimir, an educator and activist, who led a discussion about emotions and identity. Students were inspired to write poems expressing their own feelings about these themes and then shared their work with one another. Teaching artist Imani Whyte-Anigbor, through a partnership with Young Audiences of New York, helped them create mandalas, geometric arrangements of symbols, to illustrate the emotional progressions in their poems.

The 8th graders in Mr. Owen's 802 class analyzed how immigration affects people within the United States. Over 6 workshops, beginning with the reading of the book *On These Magic Shores* by Yamile Saied Méndez, the students studied many aspects of the immigration experience. They hosted the author and representatives

from organizations working with immigrant communities. They participated in writing activities and created related artwork.

During her author visit, Yamile described her struggle with loss and how that loss was expressed in the book. Speakers from The Bronx Defenders, an organization that provides legal services for immigrants and low-income communities, explained how their services work to help those with complex legal issues. With Behind the Book volunteers, students developed creative narratives using elements of magical realism like those they read in *On These Magic Shores*. With the help of teaching artist Odalis Valdivieso, through a partnership with Young Audiences of New York, the class created Japanese-style books portraying either the emotional development of characters in the book or that of their own original characters.

Throughout both programs, the students examined how the trauma of the immigration experience forces families and friends to consider the importance of their relationships, and they learned how they can best show their love and support.

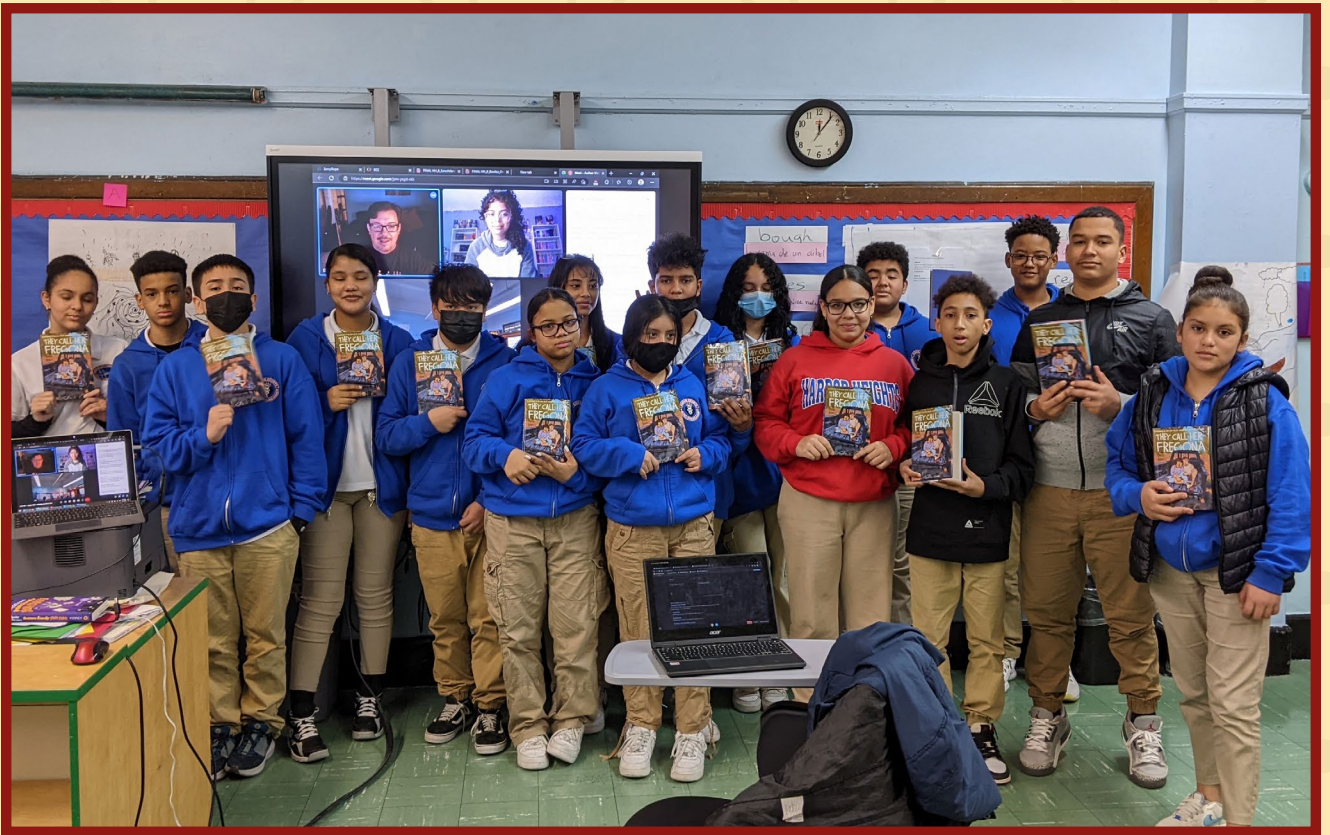




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MY LIFE IN 2019

When i lost my little brother
my heart broke like a two continent separated
but god knows what he does

The situation does not improve
but one day the tears calmed
down just thinking about him
my heart fluttered.

My life was like a rock
but after a boom!
It changed my life and
I was happy with my family
because I knew that he was
in a happy place and, my sadness said bye.



By Anthony





MY YOUNG LOVE

When we met, I felt a connection with you that I hadn't felt with anyone else
You make my life like as if I wanted to be your wife.
You make me happy like as I would never be unhappy.

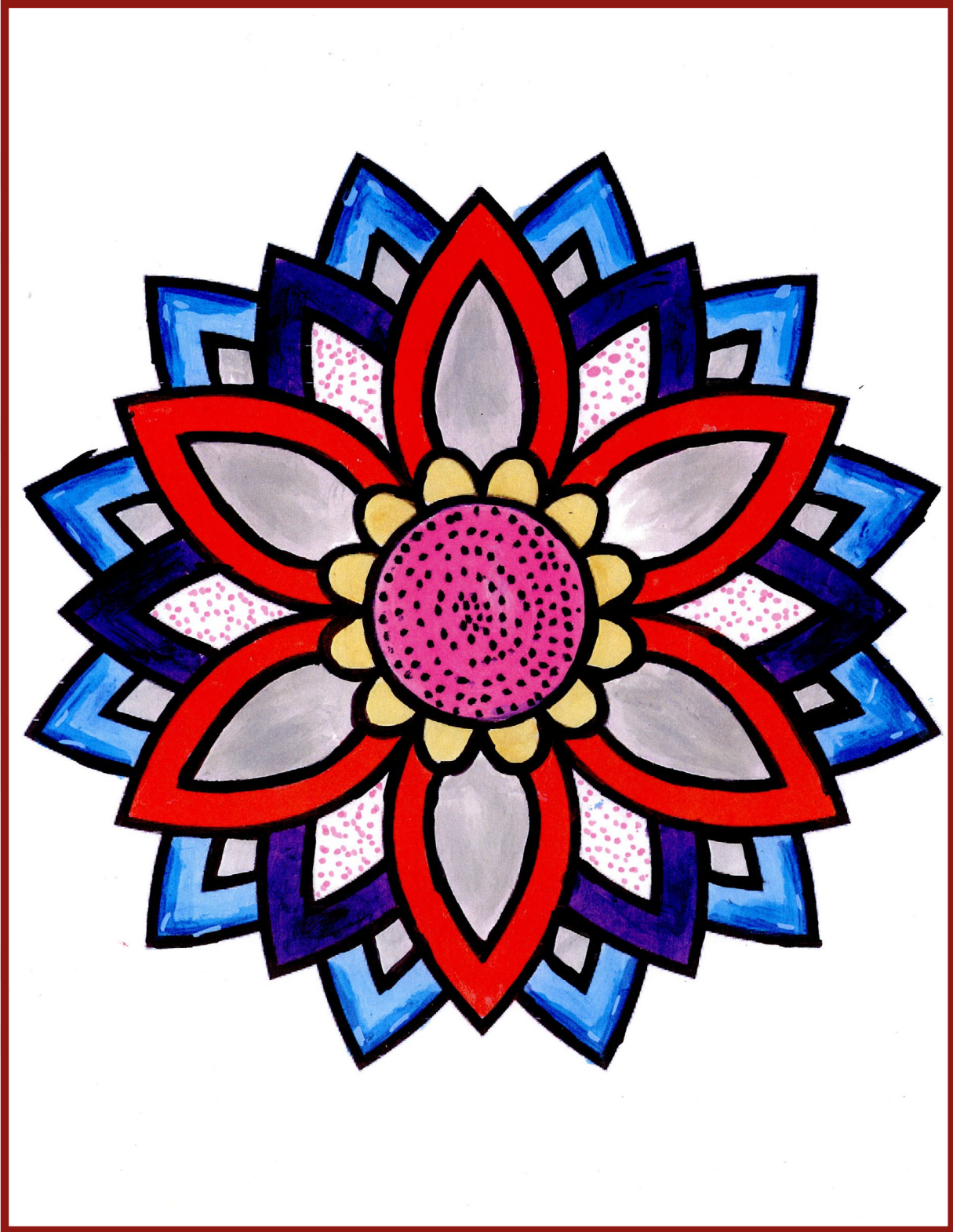
My life is a dance stage, since you came into my life
and when I dance I feel good like you make me feel when you are
by my side, every moment that we have together
believe me that I will never forget about it.

I don't just want to love you in your good days, I also want to
be in your worst moments, no, I don't want to change you,
or that you change me, I want it to be you, and I can be me, but if you don't
want to be by my side and if you think that is the better for you do it
I'll understand you.

Maybe in another life, maybe in another time we can be together again,
because I know you love me the same way that I love you...



By Wendy





LOVE FOR YOUR PETS

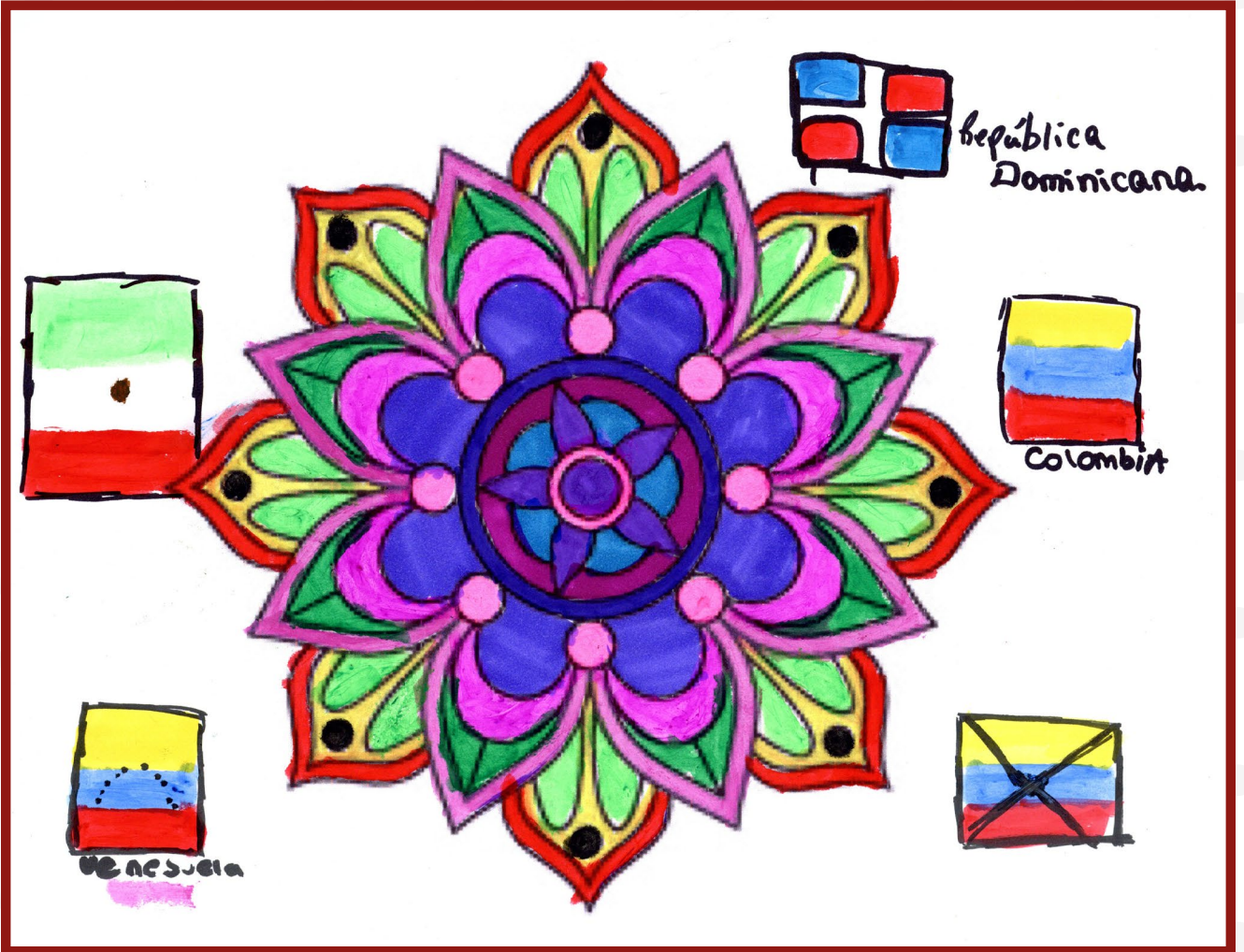
When I got my dyna bird.
I was as happy as a worm.
I treated her better than my brother.

She gave him a lot of love as if she was a human.
She bought her clothes so she wouldn't be ugly.
And she gave him a lot of food like a little pig.

She was so fat that she couldn't carry her.
And her clothes were already so small for her that she even tore there.



By Nicolle





Cuando me dijeron que iba a tener un sobrino/a.
Estaba tan feliz como una lombriz.
Y tan emocionada como una lagartija.
Ya que esperaba con tantas ansias ser tía.







THE MUNDIAL

The game begins the nerves begin to attack
our anthem begins to sing
now just to wait.

The referee whistles and the game is about to start.
The narrator's voice is as happy and emotional as the reggaeton music.
My face is that of a very happy excited clown.

All my relatives carry great emotion.
The players wear an imaginary crown.
time passes and suddenly my face when I hear the narrator say "Gooooool"
Then the second goal was heard and my heart was "bom bom bom".

Ecuador defeats Qatar that is the host of the World Cup
It was the happiest day of my life for that moment.
My country passes victorious and qualifies to play against its next
The rival is Holland.
"Let's hope he's victorious"







THE MOMENT THAT I **NEVER** BELIEVED

When I lost my grandmother the news was cold
I feel like something in my heart is like a void.

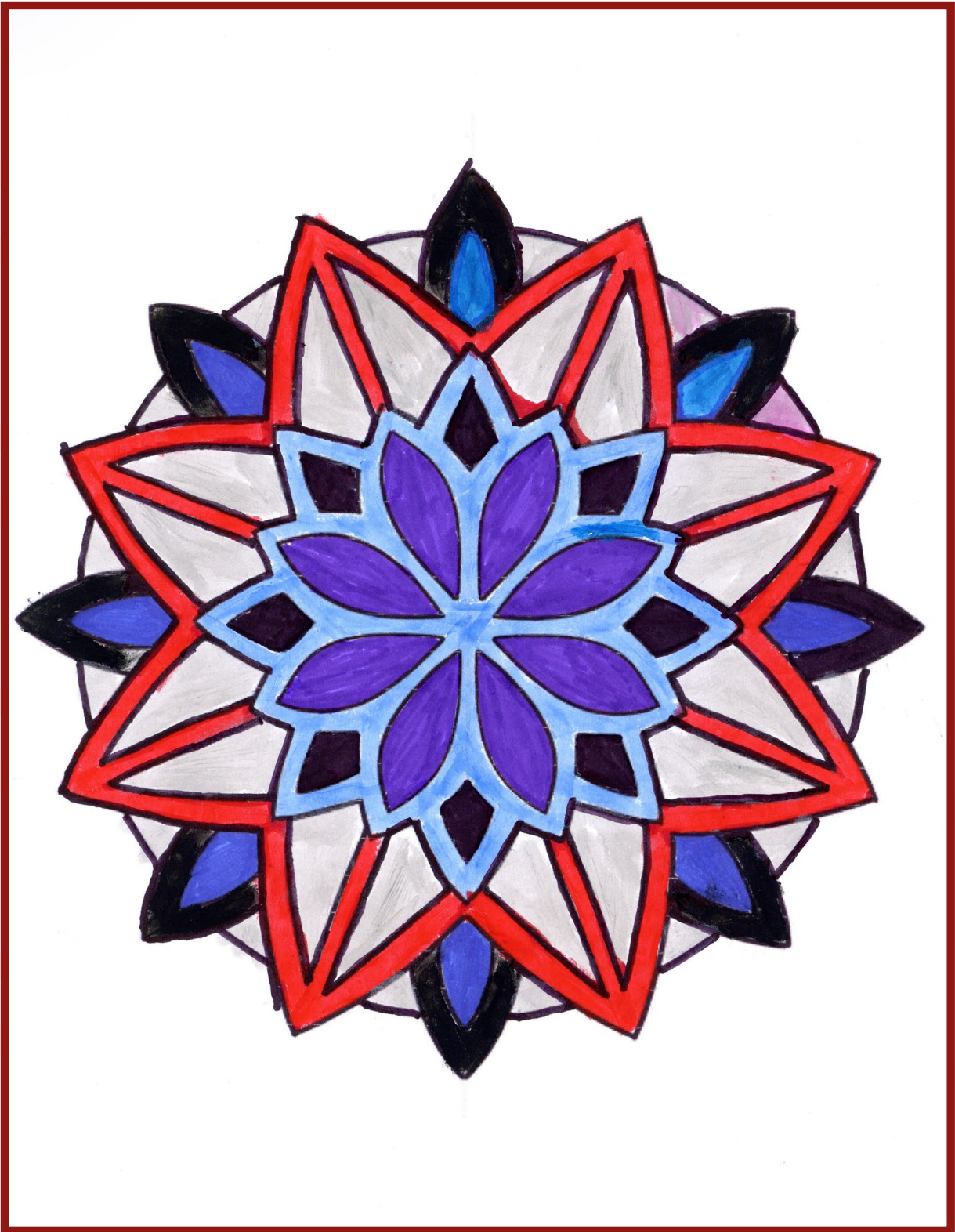
When I see every one of my family crying I feel Like a boom In my heart.
Remembering that day makes me want to cry.

Every day I feel better even though I always feel a crack in my heart.

Sometimes I want to die because my grandmother was everything for me.
That day I was like an abandoned dog because she was with me my entire life.
I realized that crying is not going to improve anything.

If someone lost some very important family or friends, the only thing we need to
know is that they will always be with us, and even if we cry, they will never come back.







EL DÍA QUE MI HERMANA SE FUE A USA

Mi hermana se había separado de mi
hace 6 años,
Fue mucho dolor, pero ahora
lo curo con todo su amor.

Tenia el corazón roto,
Acordandome de ella y
Viendo sus fotos.

Estar sin ella era como
una agonía los primeros días,
Me acostumbre, pero
Mi corazón era un total deslumbre.

Bum, bum,
sonaba mi corazón
La mañana en la que la vi irse,
La tristeza que sentía
aumentaba cada semana,
Era irresistible.

THE DAY MY SISTER WENT TO THE USA

My sister had separated from me
6 years ago when you moved to Broadway,
It seemed so easy, but no way.

It was a lot of pain, but now
I heal him with all his love.

I had a broken heart
remembering her and
Looking at your photos.

being without her was like
an agony the first days,
I got used to it but
My heart was in a total dazzle.

Bum Bum,
my heart sounded
The morning that I saw her leave,
The sadness that I felt
increased every week
It was irresistible.







RECEIVING THE **PLAYSTATION 4**

I was so happy like when i play soccer

My face is excited clown

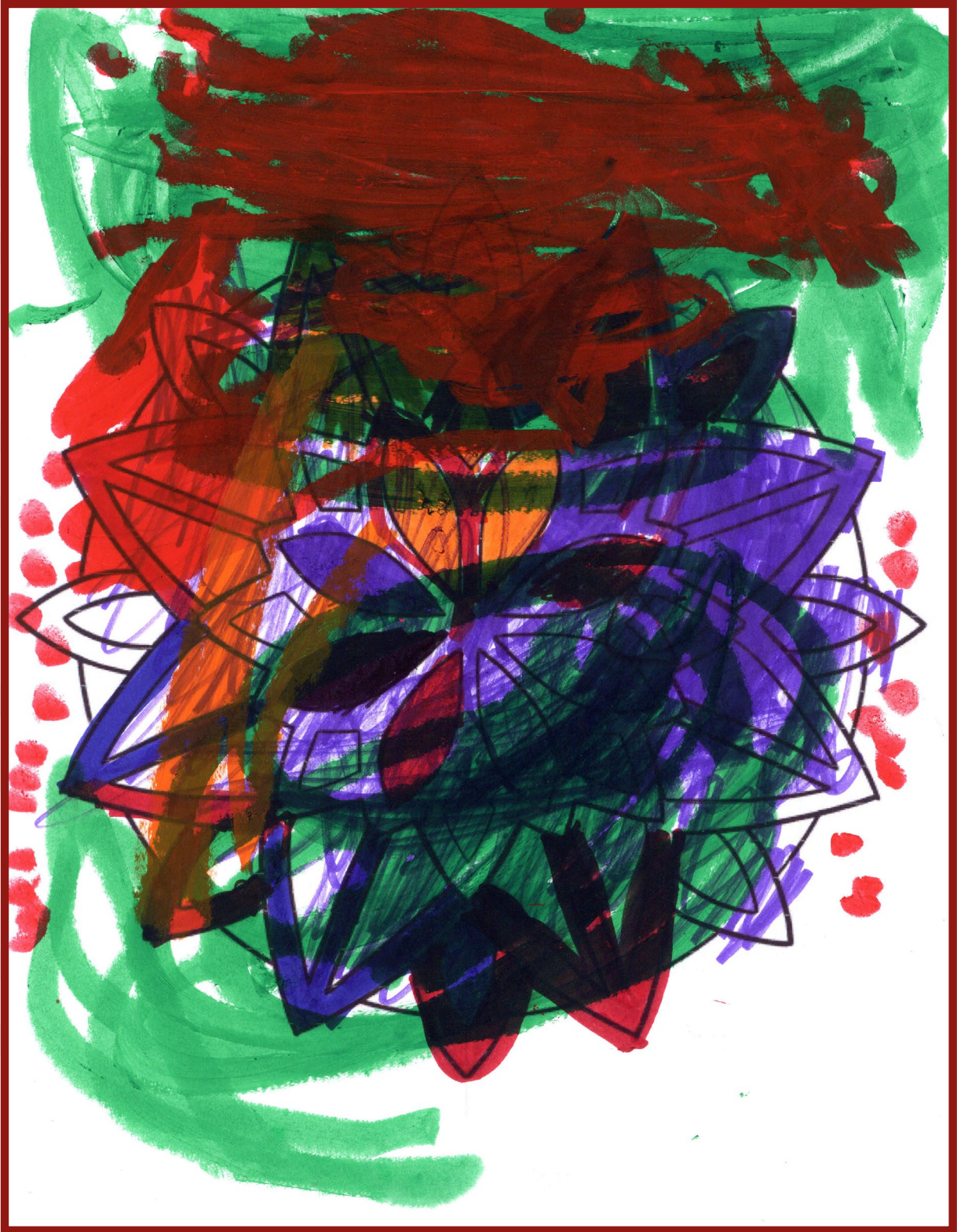
Very very happy and I hugged my mom because I was excited. And my mom says that
Uniquely different, you and I

"But, doing as we damn well please

We're products of intelligent design"



By Adrian





THE SADDEST DAYS OF MY LIFE AND BORING

When my gaming laptop crashed
I could not sleep
I felt a boom in my heart

I feel very bad as if I were a doll.
My mom passed out one day and it was the worst day of my life.
One day when my ps4 broke I felt so sad as rain.

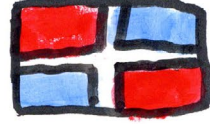
When I received my ps5 I was excited as a rabbit,
Until I lost the desire to play and I was bored like the sun.
Once I told myself that I was flying in the air like a plane, until I got up and my heart
just went boom boom.



By Faustino



Dominican
republic





MAYBE YOU FEEL IDENTIFIED WITH THIS...

When I left my dad in Dominican Republic
I was full of sadness.

I remember the last day on Dominican Republic...without my dad
I feel really bad.

I feel like when someone lost his dog
Or when people lose their job.

I miss him so much, it was a moment like a crack! in my heart
When I spent time with my dad, time was money.
Sometimes I remember the happy moments
That I spent with him and... I realize how much I miss my dad.

QUIZÁS TE SIENTAS IDENTIFICADO/A CON ESTO...

Cuando deje a mi papa en República Dominicana
Estaba llena de tristeza.

Recuerdo el último día en República Dominicana... sin mi papá
Me siento realmente mal.

Me siento como cuando alguien pierde a su perro.
O cuando la gente pierde su trabajo.

Lo extraño mucho, fue un momento como un crack! en mi corazón
Cuando pasaba tiempo con mi papá, el tiempo era dinero.

A veces recuerdo los momentos felices
Que pasé con él y me doy cuenta... de cuánto extraño a mi papá.

By Raysa





MEMORIES OF PEOPLE YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN

His little hands were
cold as winter her heart
It's as silent as a world without
life boom boom boom his heart
it rang when she stopped breathing
I felt the world was dyed black and
the light that shone so brightly in her eyes
the eyes that filled with light when smiling.

RECUERDOS DE PERSONAS QUE CREÍAS HABER OLVIDADO

Sus pequeñas manos estaban
Frías como el invierno su corazón
Es tan silencioso como un mundo sin
vida boom boom boom su corazón
sonó cuando dejó de respirar
Sentí que el mundo estaba teñido de negro y
la luz que brillaba tan intensamente en sus ojos
los ojos que se llenaban de luz al sonreír.

By Wisleidy





PEQUEÑA TRISTEZA

Mi perrita me miraba como si me tuviera miedo, claro es recién nacida
Al pasar el tiempo, meses, años ella siempre hacía
Algo para poder estar conmigo, mordía, ladraba, hasta hablaba
Ella es como un

Ella es un ángel siempre atenta a cuando llegara del colegio
Cada que ella escuchaba la puerta, ella decía guau guau, ella no me veía
Pero sabía que yo estaba ahí, al pasar los minutos, horas solo escuchaba el tic tac del reloj
Siempre triste se sentaba en el muelle
Fui a ver a mi perrita, pero, la encontré “llorando” de dolor, tenía un tumor en la barriga
Le dije a mi abuela pero como ella era pobre no pudimos hacer nada

LITTLE SAD

My dog looked at me as if she was afraid of me, of course she is a newborn
As time passed, months, years, she always did
Something to be able to be with me, bit, barked

She is an angel, always attentive to when she arrives from school
Every time she heard the door, she'd say woof woof, she didn't see me
But I knew that I was there, as the minutes, hours passed, I only heard the ticking of the clock

Always sad he sat on the dock
I went to see my dog, but I found her “crying” in pain, she had a tumor in her belly
I told my grandmother but since she was poor we couldn't do anything

I went to see my dog, but I found her “crying” in pain, she had a tumor in her belly
I told my grandmother but since she was poor we couldn't do anything.

By Jose





MY GREAT REUNION

I had just opened my eyes
The first thing I see is my brother.
I haven't seen him in years.

So I ran to hug him, and my mom hugged me.
The hug from her felt like that of angels.
The scream of my grandmother throughout the house
My daughter is here, my daughter is here.
Thank God my daughter is here.

After all I hug him, greetings and so on, then we left,
to open the presents cra cra cra And she had brought me
beautiful things like clothes and so on.
Then I spent the whole day with the whole family.
I was grinning from ear to ear for my mother.

MI GRAN REENCUENTRO

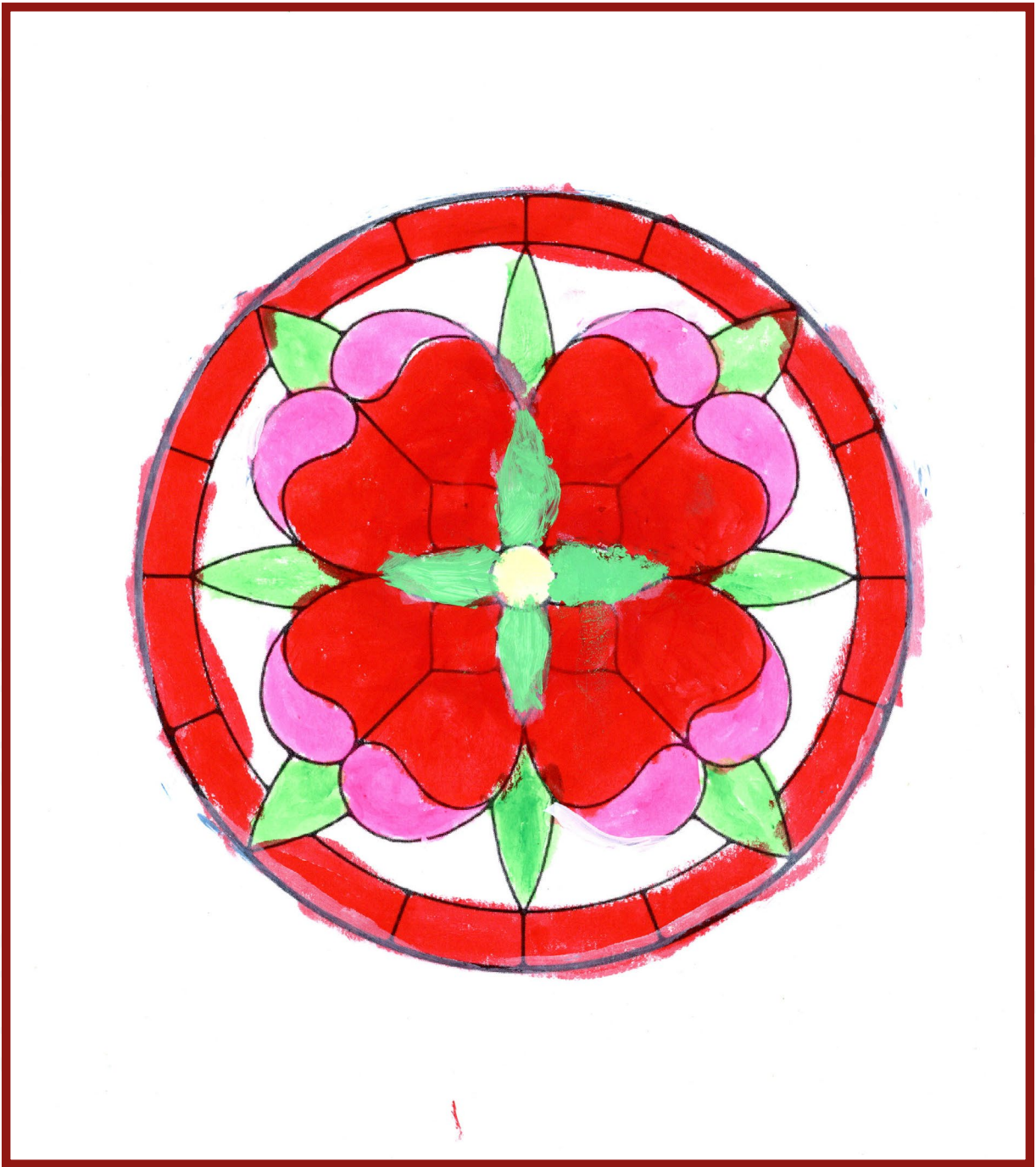
Acababa de abrir los ojos
Lo primero que veo es a mi hermano.
No lo he visto en años.

Así que corrí a abrazarlo, mi mamá me abrazó.
su abrazo se sentía como el de los ángeles.
El grito de mi abuela por toda la casa
Mi hija está aquí, mi hija está aquí.
Gracias a Dios que mi hija está aquí.

Después de todo lo abrazo, saludos y demás luego nos fuimos,
para abrir los regalos cra cra cra Y ella me había traído
cosas hermosas como ropa y demás.
Luego pasé todo el día con toda la familia.
Yo sonreía de oreja a oreja por mi madre.

By Dalianny





By Naomi



A GREAT ROAD TRIP

The day I travel
it was like writing on paper
the route is facilen

The view was gold
through the window you could see the birds flying

The day I travel
the sunset was seen

The day I traveled was like being on a mountain watching the sunrise.

UN GRAN VIAJE POR CARRETERA

El día que viaje
era como escribir en un papel
la ruta es facil

La vista era oro.
por la ventana se veían los pájaros volando

El día que viaje
se vio el atardecer

El día que viajé fue como estar en una montaña viendo el amanecer.

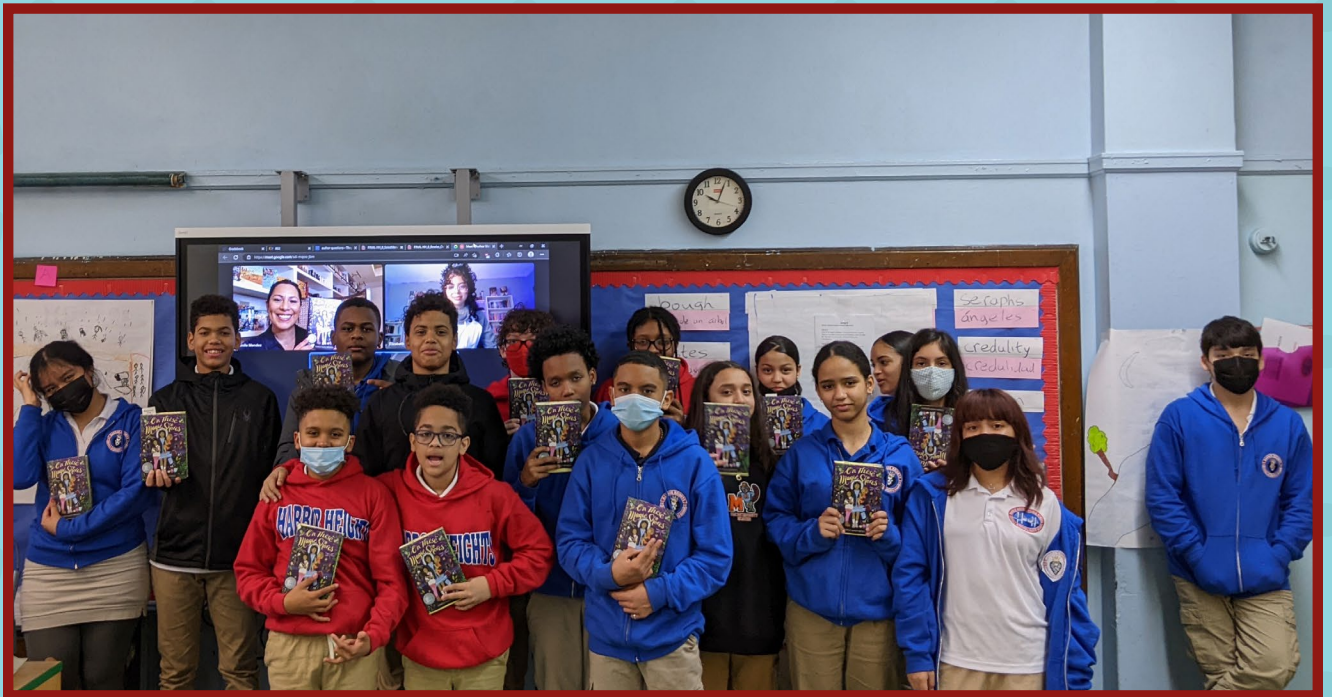
By Gabriel



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THE

“A new school? In the United states? Fine”,
“sleep Emma, tomorrow

You’re going to school”. “ok mama”. The next day i got ready and got into my mom’s car, i kept thinking about what could happen, i was an immigrant, and the others weren’t...what would they think of me...When i got there i saw how everyone was so different from me, they didnt stop seeing me, whispering things, i tried to ignore them.

I went to my class, i saw how everyone sat down instantly when they saw

Me,they looked at my necklace,como si se sintieran atraídos a él, but I didn’t mind, there was only one chair left, but it was in the corner. I sat down and the teacher told me to introduce myself to the class. I didn’t understand much English but the little I did understand I went and introduced myself to the class, “Hola, me llamo Emma” I saw the teacher and I sat down. After that we went to the cafeteria, I sat alone, I noticed how a girl was approaching me... “you’re the new girl right?” I couldn’t understand everything that she said, “ no se tanto ingles podrias decirlo en espanol?”. She was looking at me, and threw the food on me laughing, everyone was laughing at me. I went to the bathroom running. I felt so embarrassed, i waited until lunch was over, when classes were over i ran to my moms car.

Porque estás tan callada? My mom said, “nada mama no paso nada” she looked at me and keep driving, Arriving home, i ran to my room and locked myself without saying nothing to my mom, “Emma que tienes”,

I didn’t answer i had an idea in mind to use witchcraft in the girl that made me pass an embarrassing moment in school, i didn’t think it twice and i made my necklace with witctcraft everytime i wish something to happen will happen just thinking about what i wanted it will come true, i couldn’t wait to use it and make her embarrass.

The next day, i felt happy, i got ready and grab my necklace, i went to the car,

I saw my mom, I smiled at her, she looked at me with a confused face and didn’t say anything.

I got to school and the first thing that came to my mind was the girl, the girl that threw the food on me, “i want her to fall and hurt her leg” i smiled thinking about it, i saw her stand up, i knew what was going to happen, “muy bien” me dije a mi misma, she was walking and she didn’t see that there was a metal close to her chair, and then she fell, i laugh, i couldn’t hold it,but then there was a girl with black hair that came up to me “hola, me llamo jaslyn, yo tampoco se tanto ingles crees que podemos ser amigas?” “si claro”, i was happy that i finally made a friend, i felt for the girl i made the witchcraft so i decide to go and help her, “Thank you” she said and smiled at me, “de nada” i saw her and she grabbed my hand and she gave ne a cracelt that saif “best friends:, we became best friends even if she didn’t understand me talk in spanish but she teach me English, i was happy that i was different from everyone, and by the time pass i stated to make friends.



By Lesli





HUMANITY'S HIDDEN TALENT

Once upon a time in a land far away there lived a man named Patrick and he was not a normal human since he was the only one with superpower at his time. Patrick was murdered by monsters that were invading his land. After Patrick died by the monsters, his soul and spirit has been passed throughout the world.

200 years has past since that dramatic day and now superpowers are a normal thing in the human life. There was this little boy named James and he was the only one without superpowers but one day everything changed for James, James took a nap but then he suddenly woke up in a magical place.

James knew it was a dream so he started exploring the magical place. Time has passed and James sees a person floating with glowing eyes. James noticed that he could see through him and he screams "AAAAAAAAAAAA A GHOST"

The mysterious person says to James "calm down i'm not going to harm you, My name is Patrick"

James says to the mysterious person "my name is James"

Patrick tells James that "you wasn't really born without superpowers you just haven't unlocked your natural talent deep inside You". Patrick decides to help out James and train him to unlock his powers so he could protect his city from monsters. After James was done with his training he felt different he was like a new person. When James was about to leave the magical place James tells Patrick that "I swear to you Patrick that i will avenge your death".

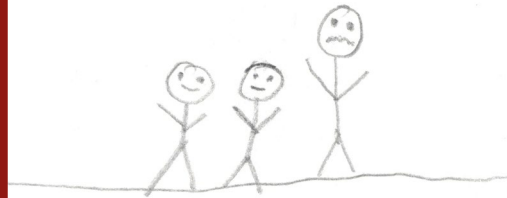
2 weeks have passed and James is getting comfortable with his new superpowers, but suddenly some monsters appear. James realizes that those are the monsters that killed Patrick and he decides to fight them for revenge. James starts losing the fight but suddenly Patrick appears to give James a power up boost to help him fight the monsters. After that James comes up victorious and leaves the place. Now everyone recognizes James as the reincarnation of Patrick.



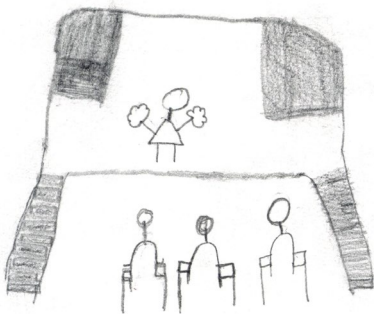
Mina was Life

She feels
nervous

She is **worried** of
being alone with her sisters



She was **scared**



But she still got
through all that



MY GRANDMOTHER IS A WISH

It was a typical day that the father “Brayan” goes to the supermarket and gets food for the mom to cook for the kids.

And then the father goes to bed and he wants to sleep, but the kids start to play videogames and they start to be loud, and then the father gets up out of bed angry because the kids don’t let him sleep a little bit.

Then the father grants them, he takes their video games, phones, and the tv. Then he goes to bed to try to sleep again, but the mom starts hearing music and cooking and the father gets out of bed more angry because it is the mom that doesn’t let him sleep, then they get in a fight.

And then the mom kicks the father out of the house and the father goes to his mom’s house a little wild because he doesn’t have the money to buy a house.

Then they passed wild and someone called the father to work and he said “yes”.

The other day he went to work and was close to his wife’s house.

And then he start to work and the wife go out to take the trash out and she sees him working in a house. Then she approaches him to talk to him but the father don’t wanna talk to her, and then then kids go out to play and see the father and they want to hug him but he disappear because his mom make a wish to him to disappear, and then the kids see that he disappear. They start to look for him, they go into the house that he was working, but they don’t find him and decide to go to they grandmother’s house that is father’s mom. They go to the house and find him eating, but when he sees the kids he want to disappear again but he can’t because his mom was doing something else. Then the father and the mom collide

Mom says, “sorry for kicking you out of the house because I was mad in that time”

Father says, “it’s ok I was mad too but sorry for fight with you i’m sorry”

Kids say, “thank you father for coming back to the house, we love you father” and then the father, mother, and kids start hugging.



Como
Minerva Se
Sentia

Ella estaba
~~triste~~

Ella Se
Sentia Preocupado
Porque Estaba
Sola en la
Casa con sus
hermanos
pequeños

Ella Se
Sentia
Asustado

Cuando ayude
a Edinsson a
Perdonar a Su
novia

Ellos Pejaron y
no Se querian
hablar

Le dije a
Edinsson que
le escriba desde
mi telefono y
que la Perdone

y despues
los dos se
perdonaron



A NEW BEGINNING

This was it, a new beginning. Lena was nervous but excited

"Lena, Lena!! Don't leave me!!", begged Molly. "I have to, I want to Molly im sorry....", she responded "

"I love you Molly. "she said "bye everyone".

"Bye, we'll miss you" said her family.

Lena started flapping her wings, she went up high. While flying off she looked at the wonders of her city she knew she was going to miss it. After she passed her city she saw pony hill, she was up so high that the ponies look like little dots running around everywhere. Then she saw Mermaid island the most beautiful and colorful island!!! They were beautiful, swimming, singing, and brushing their hair. They had beautiful long luscious hair and each of them had different color tails. She kept flying and finally she arrived at Dark bow. It was really dark and the streets were empty. She landed in front of a dark building and saw through the window a Dark fairy her wings were so dark that it looked like a very dark shadow.

"I didn't think it was true" she said "This town is full of Dark fairies".

It was cold so she went to a nearby Hotel to stay for a few days. She registered in the hotel everything was black the walls, the furniture, everything in the room!!!

"Boy, they sure love black" she said "maybe it needs a little color".

She combined all her powers to make the room colorful and beautiful. Yes, Lena was a princess. She had every power you could possibly have water, air, Earth, and even fire but she didn't use it. She thought that fire was only controlled by evil so she never used them. She went to bed and got comfy then fell asleep. The next morning she went to her aunt's house. Her aunt was an Earth fairy and fire. She is really powerful. She rang the doorbell.

"Oh, finally, you're here!!" said Auntie Mae. "Come in. Come in!" "How was your trip?"

"It was good." I answered.

"Do you like it here already?"

"Well the people here are cold and dark but I'll get used to it," said Lena. She and her aunt talked for a while.

"I'm sorry honey, but can you get me some tomatoes from the red market?"

"Red market?"

"Oh yes, here we have different markets for different colored food and veggies," said her Aunt. "Well ok."

She went to the red market and got the tomatoes. On her way home she bumped into someone and dropped the tomatoes.

"Hey!!" She said

"WHAT!!!!" said Josh, "Can you help me please."

Josh looked at her and it was love at first sight.

"I'm sorry," said Josh. "I'm Josh."

"I'm Lena," she said.

"Beautiful name." She chuckled, "Oh I have to go see you around Josh."

she picked up the tomatoes and runned home

"Bye," he said.

She got home and told her Aunt what happened on her way home.

"Wait, what's his name again?" asked her aunt.

"Oh, his name is Josh" responded Lena.

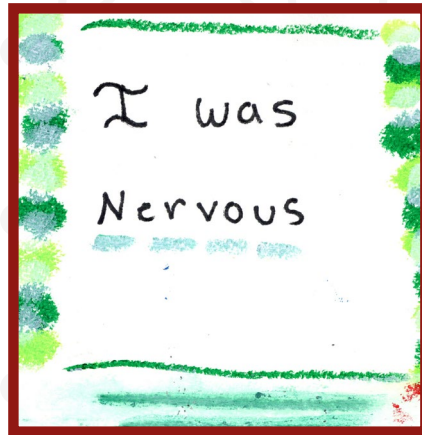
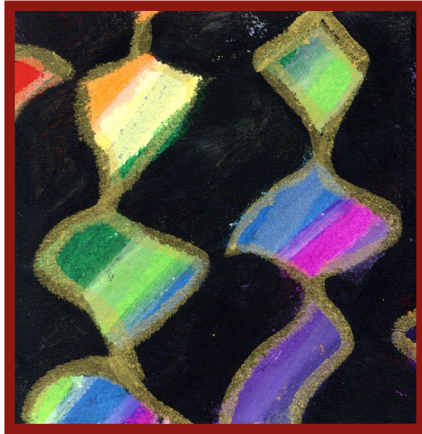
"JOSH !!!" she screamed "I think that's the prince, but he hasn't talked to anybody for years after his mother died."

"I think he has a crush on you" she said.

Lena blushed so hard she looked like a tomato from the red market.

A few years passed and Josh and Lena got married, had children, met new friends and ruled Dark bow and Fairy Island together.







THE FIRST TIME IN THE UNITED STATES

One day Brayan came from the Dominican Republic when he got off the plane he said he was very cold and I didn't have a jacket when he went through immigration to leave the airport he couldn't because he was very cold and he asked the person for help but they didn't want to help him because they didn't He knows what he says because they don't speak Spanish. Then

"Brayan left, thank you marino for helping me and giving me that jacke and then he asks Brayan where are you going to live".

He tells him marino I don't know the truth because I'm new in New York and I don't have a family here then he tells him.

"marino can come to my house for a while for free but After I worked, he paid me, he paid me",

"Say Brayan, a lot of thankyou, Marine, I don't have a word to say".At the end of the story, Bryan has a job but he doesn't want to give Marino money to pay the rent for the house.

"So Marino tells him, Brayan has to give me money or if he doesn't, you're just going

to leave here because I can't pay the rent by myself".

"Brayan told him I put the money on the table and it disappeared, I don't know how that happened", then

"Marine told him you need to leave because that's a lie because in this house nothing disappears you are softening up a lie so as not to pay me",

"Say Brayan I don't know what's going on I put a thousand dollars on the table to help you pay the rent but I despise the money Brayan was sad because he doesn't know what happened to the money then Brayan left home to live on the street because he had no family" After a week passed,

"Marino found the money in the table and went to look for Brayan to apologize, but Marino didn't know where Brayan went". One year later, Marino found Brayan selling a car and immediately apologized for what happened. And

"tells him that he was correct that the week he left he found the money in the table".



I want
to help my friend
because he isn't

He feels better
After he took
his medicine

He's thankful
because me and
my friend
took the
medicine

I want to
help my friend
because he doesn't
get over his ex.

he trying to
over his ex.

He feel better
because he is get over
her.

He thankful
because I help
him to get over



WHEN AUTUMN LEAVES FALL

When paradise had first appeared, it surprised everyone, even the ones who inhabited it.

They introduced the planet they lived on as Faereth, and introduced themselves as well, telling us that they were the magical creatures that we had written about, that we spoke about, for so long,

The Elves.

That was centuries ago, however, and after a brutal war and decades spent learning to trust each other, the two planets finally came to a truce and built a portal to represent that truce. The portal was made using the technological marvels of Mankind and the advanced magic of Elvenkind, a portal that allowed humans and elves to travel back and forth through Earth and Faereth. I heard about what it was like there, I heard about how beautiful, relaxing, and diverse the place was, and I heard about how kind and friendly the elves tended to be, so once I got the chance, I packed my bags and said goodbye to life on Earth. It wasn't like I was going to miss it all that much, after all, it's really not like humans are as nice or as accepting as they say. I thought that because of how diverse Faereth was, that it wouldn't have any of the problems Earth had, but considering what happened to me, it seems I was always wrong. Maybe I was wrong about other things! Maybe paradise never

really existed, maybe the promise of there being a kind god watching over us was a lie, for what kind

of god would ever let something like this happen besides a malevolent or uncaring one?

...

I remember.

I remember the day I made the choice to leave, I remember the tears on my mom's face and the disappointed yet sad look on my dad's face as I told them what I was planning to do.

I remember them trying to convince me, basically yelling, "Oh sweetheart, you can't leave us! You'll break our poor hearts!"

And still, I wanted paradise, and still, I insisted, so eventually, they gave in and told me that they would support this decision, though, only after I promised that I would call and visit every once in a while.

I took up a new job at an office building and worked for about a year or two to get the money I needed to get my passport and move out after I spent far too long scouting out potential houses. Once I got the money though, I packed my bags, hugged my parents goodbye, and bid adieu to my old life on Earth. I thought that that would be the end of it, I would head on into Faereth, and live a happy and fulfilling life amongst the elves and all the other magical creatures that were there, but life doesn't just give you what you want does it? No, it just has to make everything hard.

Thankfully, getting to the portal was deceptively easy, all I had to do was take a short plane flight to the United States





and go through the standard airport procedures. Maybe it was because the bond between humans and elves had grown so strong to the point that they felt like anyone could go through the portal, who knows. But like I said, going through the portal was deceptively easy. Now, I know that Faereth wasn't nearly as accepting as it made itself out to be.

After I had traveled to the little town my house would be in, I unpacked my things, called my parents, and spent a few days making sure everything was just right before I decided to go out and meet my new neighbors. I was so happy, finally living my dream of residing in a cozy, little cottage in the woods where there were all sorts of magical creatures, all of whom I could live in peace with. But that was my fault, it really was. I always knew that it was a stupid dream, but I guess I'm stupid as well.

When I tried to finally meet my neighbors, I was only met with fake smiles, rude comments, and worst of all, disgusted stares as I tried to talk to them. I thought that maybe the people in that specific town were just bad with new people and I kept that same, hopeful, naive, and innocent mindset that I always had. I tried talking to them again and again, but each time there were less smiles and more stares and comments, comments about me and my species. I didn't want to accept the idea that the place that I had heard so many good things about was bad, so I just kept trying to make myself fit into the community, but things just got worse. The comments turned into full on rants about how people like me didn't belong here and I didn't have to see any smiles

or stares as anyone who wasn't basically harassing me was avoiding me. Eventually, I had enough, I locked myself in my cottage and stayed there for weeks, thinking I was safe, but all the elves in the village went talking to each other about the new nuisance in their town, and they decided to do something about that nuisance.

One day, I woke up to screaming and shouting all around my cottage, and as I got up to look around my window, all I could see was hateful faces yelling that I should have gone back to Earth when I had the chance, and fire. I've always hated fire, it didn't matter how small a flame could be, it could still wreak havoc and destroy anything in its path. Maybe they knew, and maybe for that reason alone they decided to use it to destroy me.

...

I remember.

I remember the panic I felt watching them throw their torches at me, I remember feeling that panic be replaced with warmth, and that warmth was replaced with pain as the fire consumed my house and my body. I even remember asking god in my final moments to help me, but it seemed like god hated me as well. I guess that's fair, it's what I deserve for thinking that I deserved to go to a paradise that never existed, but other people don't have to think that, not when my spirit is still around to warn them. And so here I am, forever repeating this unfortunate, yet avoidable tragedy to any person that happens to pass by the ashes of my cottage and hear me. Talking about repeating, I guess it's time to do that isn't it? ...I





bet nobody's even close enough
to listen right now...

*the sound of crunching, autumn leaves
appears out of nowhere*

Wait...

Did you hear that?

*The crunches got closer, and with them,
came a human*

Hey! You there! You shouldn't be here!

"Oh really?"

Really! It's dangerous around here! In fact,
let me tell you a tale about a young girl wh-

"Yeah, people always talk about how it's
really nice around here, and I'm glad they
were right! So far everything looks beauti-"

*They stop as they look upon the ashes of a
burnt-down cottage*

"Hang on, I think something burned down
here... Yeah, there's a bunch of burnt
wood here, I guess I'll have to ask my new
neighbors about that."

*They continue to walk as if nothing
happened*

HEY! Didn't you hear me, where are
you going?

As I approached them, I noticed the phone
in their hand, the suitcase trailing behind
them, and the unfazed smile on their
face as they talked without a care in the

world. Only then did I know that what I say
doesn't matter, for the people who need to
hear my words the most can't hear them
at all. So, as they walked away, I floated
back to my house and sat down on an old
barrel, and now, I think. I think about my
past, I think about the falling leaves dying,
as Autumn goes on without me, and I think
about what to do now, now that I know
that my words are in vain...

What is a lonely ghost like me supposed to
do, except-

She gets an idea

... My name is Isidora Greywood, I died 3
years ago, and I have spent my entire after-
life repeating the same story over and over
to an audience that doesn't listen. I didn't
stop then and I shouldn't stop now.

...

God, why am I still doing this?

...

sigh

When paradise had first appeared...



Minerva first felt stressed
and was in denial.



Then, she felt a sense of
responsibility and fear.



She then felt relieved and a
bit upset when her mum came
home.



Finally, Minerva felt happy
and satisfied, though also a
bit sad.





SOUNDS OF A MAGICAL WORLD

One day, a young girl named Maria was walking home from school when she saw a strange old man sitting on a bench. She had never seen him before, and she was curious, so she walked up to him and said, "Excuse me, sir, do you need help?"

The old man looked up at Maria and smiled. "No, child, I am fine. But thank you for your kind offer."

Maria was intrigued. "Then why are you just sitting here all alone?"

The old man chuckled. "I am waiting for the magic bus."

Maria's eyes grew wide. "The magic bus? What's that?"

The old man leaned in and whispered, "It's a bus that can take you anywhere you want to go, as long as you believe it can."

Maria was amazed. "Where would you like to go?"

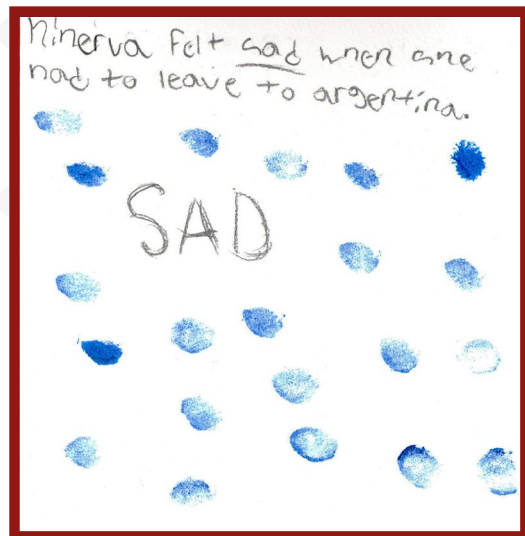
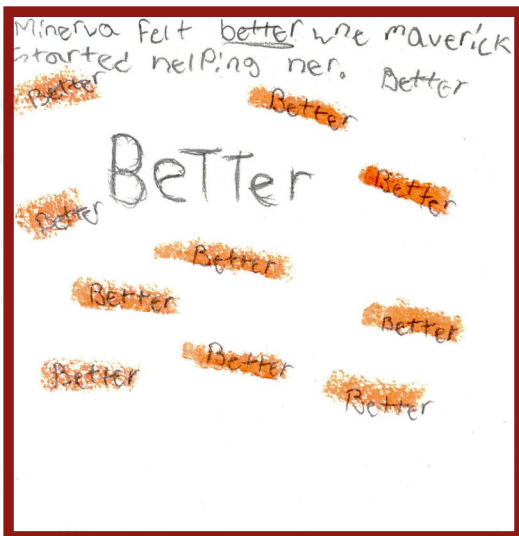
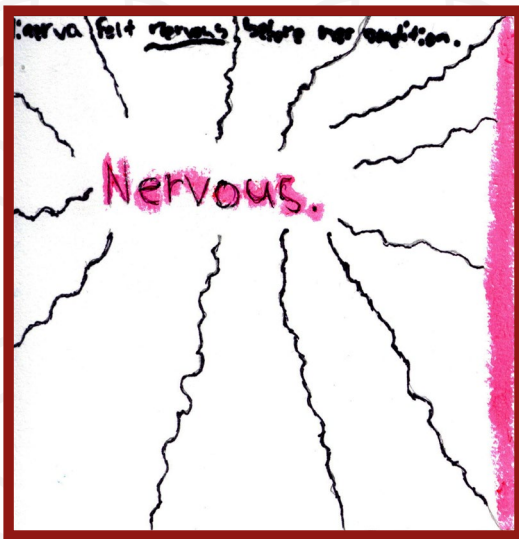
The old man smiled again. "Oh, anywhere my heart desires. The magic bus will take me there."

Just then, a bright, shiny bus appeared out of thin air and stopped in front of the bench. The old man stood up and turned to Maria. "Would you like to come with me on the magic bus, young lady?"

Maria was filled with excitement and nodded her head eagerly. The old man took her hand and together, they boarded the magic bus as Maria sat down and waited impatiently to explore the secrets of this magical world. Maria wakes up by the sound of an unknown creature the magic bus had stopped in a strange forest. Maria gets out of the bus to find where mythical creatures and magic is normally found. Is this really the world where her heart desires to be? Moments before she met the old man she remembered that she wanted more magical things in her life but people always told her to be realistic. Maybe this is really what Maria's heart desires. As Maria was wandering around she saw the old man. She went quickly to him and the old man saw something different within Maria. She seemed more happy and joyful I guess her heart really desired this view of the world but this is not the real world so Maria went into the bus and went back to the view of the real world even though the old man stayed because this was his world where he could be with people that also saw this perspective of the world as real.



Made
By
Oswaldo
R





THE MAGIC SECRET PLACE

An immigrant named Alexander came from Mexico to New York to have better opportunities and he did not have a place to live. He came alone without a family. He went around to look for a job and told a manager "Hola mucho gusto como esta?"

He made a face at Alexander. He was surprised at the man's face because no one looked at him that way in his country.

"Te hice algo a ti?"

Manager said "What are you talking about?"

"Perdon no entiendo ingles"

Manager screamed "Get out my restaurant"

Alexander went for so many jobs and every one gave him the same treatment. He got hungry and went into taco bell because he saw that the name was tacos so it reminded him home and he did not notice it was closed. He went to sit down without ordering. And the manager went up to him and asked him "why are you sitting here?"

"Perdon no te entiendo"

"Oh perdón soy Adrian te pregunte que porque estás sentado aquí"

"gracias a dios hablas español nadie había hablado español durante todo el dia"

They talked for a few hours. Adrian offers him a job at Taco bell. Alexander finally got a nice job with a mexican manager and he did he did not now where he would sleep so he's manager invited him to live with him while he got a place to sleep and the manager was very nice he's neighbor was so mean to him just because he was from a different country even though he did not really care that much he was a worker where the manager payed really good.

Alexander and Adrian left together and they went to his house. Few weeks went by and he started earning money. He found an interesting book on Adrian's shelf and something opened a secret hiding place he saw. It was lighting and with colors.





“Que pasa aqui”

while he walked around the place searching for something he heard a sound but he kept looking around he heard a voice and he stood there

“Que haces aqui”

not realizing that adrian was there standing just a second he ran up to the first stairs he saw everything was normal again.

“que paso era un sueño”

When Alexander saw Adrian he said you had a secret spot and Adrian just stood there. He left to work alexander got up and went to work to that day everything seem normal he kept dreaming the same thing 2 weeks past and he just seemed to earn more money he was tire after the work the day and he went back to the house and

seem no one was there he went to eat and then fell asleep he dreamed with adrian's secret place over again he just couldn't sleep he went and search for a bookshelf and he did find one then he went a find a book with the word magic and he found a book it opened a secret place.The next day he woke up in his bed like if nothing had happened he just couldn't remember anything.He got up normally and act like nothing had happend went and ate breakfast with adrian they did not had work that day.Adrian went to get groceries And alexander took a nap that day he did not dreamed the same thing anymore but it seem weird he did not dreamed it anymore. Adrian got home and made some dinner. Alexander got up and ate some dinner but it seemed weird adrian was not there he went looking for him but

By Gabriela





LEGAL AID SOCIETY: AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDE HELP TO THE IMMIGRANTS

They immigrants are passing through a very hard time in New York but they still good people who are very welcome to help them.

One challenge faced by immigrants is obtaining law full status and an organization that helps with this problems the legal aid society.

The LA society can help immigrants by getting them a green card, visa , citizenship ,they can get legal care from an affordable team of immigration lawyers. LAS has been on of few organizations in New York City

that represent individuals in immigrations. This is a good evidence to support that individual immigration organizations in New York City defend immigrants with prior criminal convictions. In conclusion the LAS and other organization connect with immigrants community can help people with criminal convictions. To sum up the text is about what do they LAS can help they immigrants clients with criminals convictions. This is the better evidence I found because it shows more information and it has better explication of they text.





The legal aid society is one of the best organizations for immigrants because they have a hole group that concentrates on immigrants. Immigrant organizations help individuals and families find a community, achieve economic stability and self-sufficiency, learn and participate in a new social and political system, and become legal residents or citizens.

A challenge that they immigrants faced every time is they obtaining law full status and an organization that helps with this

problem will be the legal Aid Society. This brings to my mind to my aunt because my aunt was an immigrant and she wasn't legal here but now she is because she married her husband and he was born here so she all ready have her papers with her thanks good now she is an official american citizen



The Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

By Lisbeth





RUNNING FROM THE I.C.E AGENT, ICE CUBU

On a Sunday afternoon, Tyrone received a text from Paul telling him to leave the city because Ice Cubu, I.C.E's best worker, is going to go after him and his son Tyreek. Tyrone tells Tyreek everything Paul told him. They pack their bags and leave. In the car Tyreek asks, "Where are we going to go dad?"

"I don't know yet but we have to go somewhere safe," Tyrone responds.

When they get to the next city Tyrone thinks to himself, I think we are safe for now. I hope so anyway. He didn't realize he was far from safe. Tyrone got a motel room for him and his son and while Tyrone was carrying his car to the gas station, Tyreek accidentally burned the room down. Damn, that's the third time that has happened this week. I just hope dad doesn't find out. When Tyrone gets back to the room he sees that the wall has scorch marks all over. "TYREEK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WALL," Tyrone exclaimed worried and angrily.

Tyreek explains everything, that he has been developing his powers and that it's because he's a teenager and it's just him going through puberty. Tyrone sighs and says "Tyreek you could've told me, every other kid tells their parents when this happens so couldn't you."

Tyreek apologizes and asks Tyrone to help him calm them down and control them. Meanwhile, Ice Cubu pulls some strings and finds Tyrone and Tyreek and starts speeding towards them at an incredible speed. Tyrone has a hard time teaching Tyreek because their powers are so different. At first, Tyrone is trying to explain how he learned to control his immense strength but when Tyreek tries what his dad says he just bursts into flames. Tyrone is giving up but Tyreek keeps asking for help. Tyrone feels obligated to help even though he doesn't know how. "Tyreek, try thinking about yourself controlling your powers and then be the one in control," Tyrone told Tyreek.





Tyreek tried that and it actually worked then Tyrone had an idea on how to orally push Tyreek in the right way. One week went by and Tyreek wasn't fully in control so Tyrone had an idea. "Let's try to spare," Tyrone said.

Tyreek said, "Ok but what if I hurt you."

"I'll be fine, I'm pretty strong, you know," Tyrone said.

They went to the park and started to spar. Tyreek was surprised at his dad's super strength and speed. Tyreek could barely keep up then Tyrone hit Tyreek and Tyreek blacked out and when he opened his eyes everything in his brain clicked, it's almost as if Tyrone hammered the nail right in the wood perfectly. In the end Tyreek learned how to control his powers. Ice Cubu makes it to the city that Tyrone and Tyreek are hiding in and confronts them on the street.

Tyrone tried using his super strength to fight back but was somehow not strong enough to beat Ice Cubu. "TYREEK BURN HIM TO THE GROUND," Tyreek yelled at the top of his lungs.

Ice Cubu laughed and yelled in a conceited way, "YOU IDIOTS NORMAL FIRE DOESN'T WORK ON ME."

"LUCKILY MY FIRE ISN'T NORMAL," Tyreek laughed back.

Ice Cubu was caught off guard and got hit by a direct fire blast and screamed in agony and started melting at an incredible rate (Ice Cubu is a literal ice cube). Tyreek saved Tyrone and made sure he was alright. After that traumatizing yet exciting experience they went back to their old city and lived happily ever after. After saving paul of course.

By Joseth





ABOUT THE VISITING AUTHORS

CLASS 801: David Bowles is a Mexican American author and translator from south Texas, where he teaches at the University of Texas Río Grande Valley. He has written over two dozen award-winning titles, most notably *They Call Me Güero* and *My Two Border Towns*. In 2019, he co-founded the hashtag and activist movement #DignidadLiteraria, which has fought for greater Latinx representation in publishing.



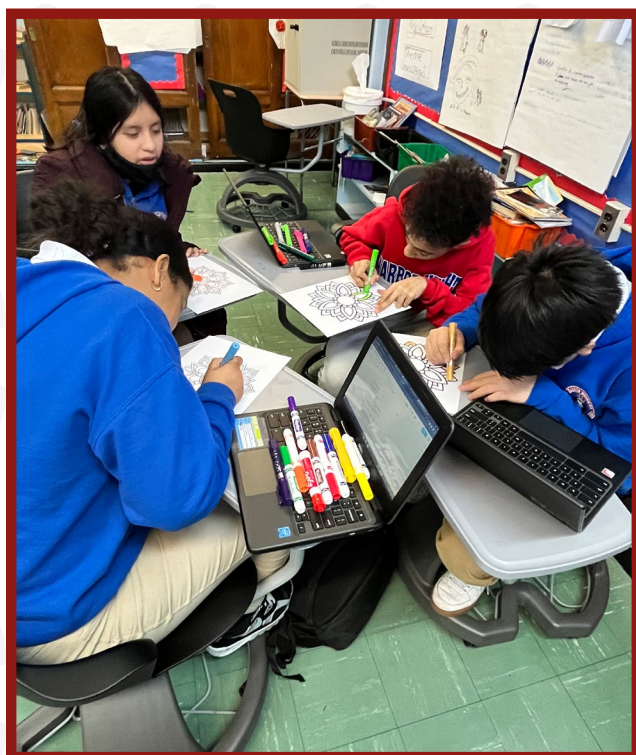
CLASS 802: Yamile (sha-MEE-lay) Saied Méndez is the author of many books for young readers and adults. She was born and raised in Rosario, Argentina, but has lived most of her life in a lovely valley surrounded by mountains in Utah. Yamile is also a founding member of Las Musas, the first collective of women and nonbinary Latine authors. She taught herself English with a Spanish/English dictionary, and now has been faculty at TinHouse Workshop and a speaker at The Vermont College of Fine Arts.





ABOUT THE STUDENT AUTHORS

Classes 801 and 802 of Harbor Heights Middle School are composed of students from all over the world. We are Spanish-speaking students born in the USA, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia.





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 Next Generation Learning Standards. The staff who has been behind the books this school year include: Executive Director Andrew Frank,

Director of Programs Anmarie Paul, Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator Alexandra Berndt, Program Administrator Kelly Choi, Curriculum Developers Keturah Abdullah and Roya Nabizadeh, Program Facilitators Tatiana Colgin, Amere Cortijo, Shirly Hernandez, and Elizabeth Valentín, Program Interns Avanti Tulpule, Kaylee Young-Eun Jeong, and Grace Riginos, Director of Development Amanda Carr, Development Manager Roshana Nabi, Operations Manager Christy Hood, Marketing and Communications Strategist Vivian Cruz-Rivera, and Student Book Art Director Adriana Moreno.



Behind the Book





NEXT GEN LEARNING STANDARDS ADDRESSED

GRADES 6-12, TYPES AND PURPOSES:

- **STANDARD 3:** Write narratives to understand an event or topic, using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured sequences.
- **STANDARD 4:** Develop personal, cultural, textual, and thematic connections within and across genres through responses to texts and personal experiences.

GRADES 6-8:

- **WHST3:** Write narratives to understand an event or topic, appropriate to discipline specific norms, conventions, and tasks.
- **WHST4:** Write responses to texts and to events (past and present), ideas, and theories that include personal, cultural, and thematic connections.
- **WHST6:** Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source by applying discipline-specific criteria used in the social sciences or sciences; and quote or paraphrase the data/accounts and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- **WHST7:** Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

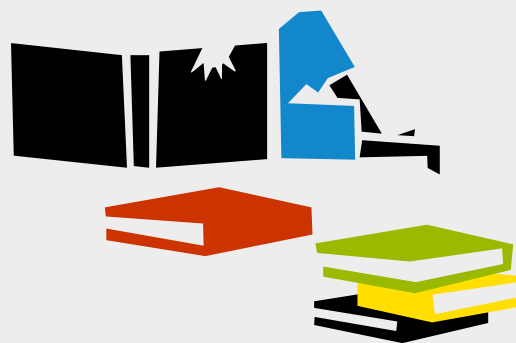




Behind the Book



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