

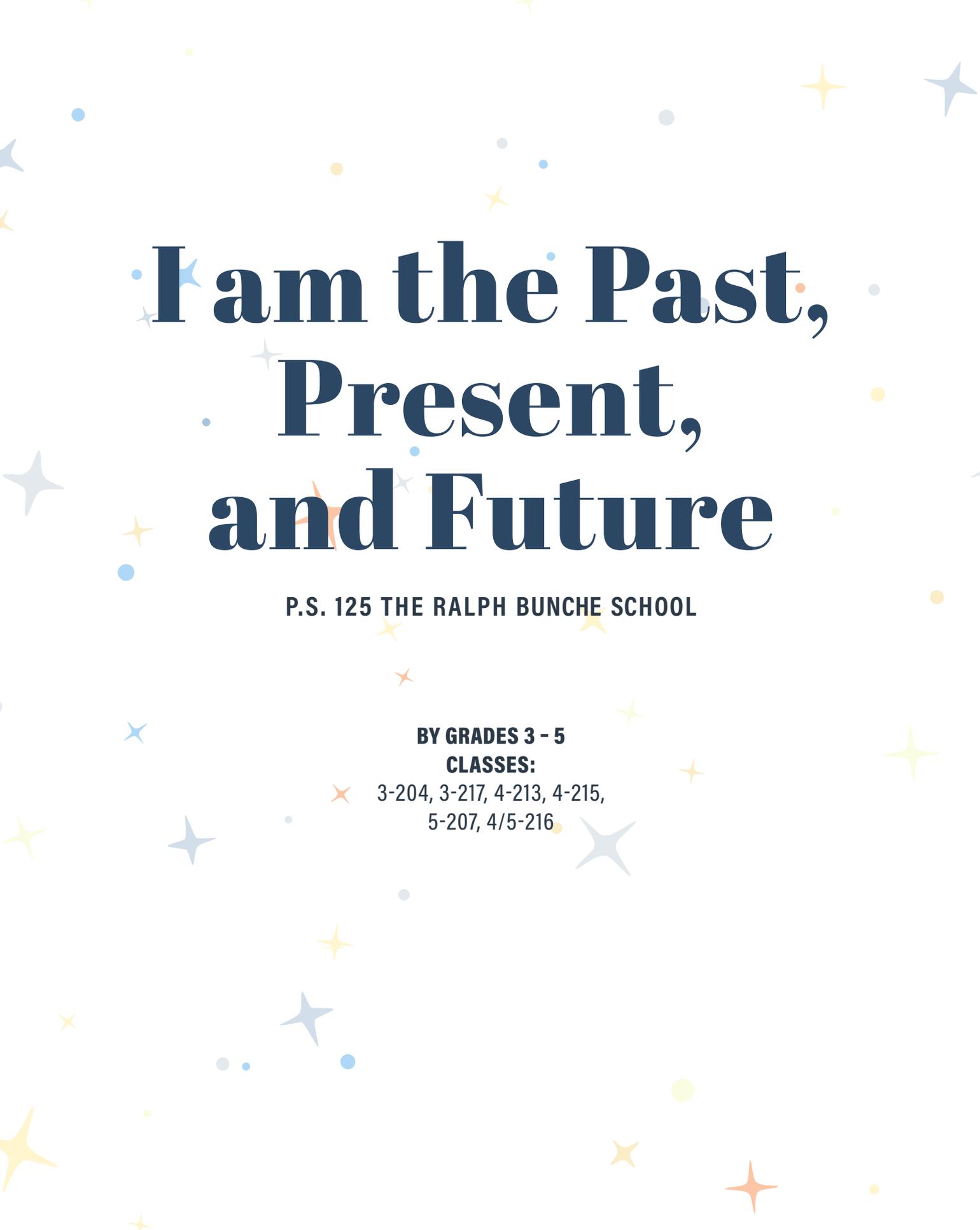
I am the Past, Present, and Future

BY GRADES 3 - 5

CLASSES:

3-204, 3-217, 4-213,
4-215, 5-207, 4/5-216

P.S. 125 THE RALPH BUNCHE SCHOOL

The background of the entire page is white, decorated with a variety of colorful stars and dots in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and grey. The stars are of different sizes and orientations, some with a soft glow. The dots are small and scattered throughout the page.

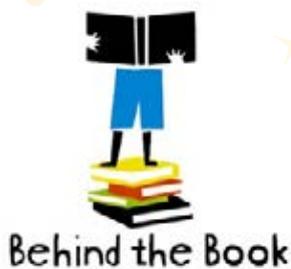
I am the Past, Present, and Future

P.S. 125 THE RALPH BUNCHE SCHOOL

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5-207, 4/5-216



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.

Visit us at www.behindthebook.org

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Behind the Book - 216 West 135th Street - New York, NY 10030

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Teachers: Kendra Britton, Elizabeth Flanagan, Pura Luna, Joel Rivera, Amy Scoufaras, Kelveia Tineo, and Shakira West

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to Penguin Random House for donating books for all students and teachers.

To Yael Leopold & Emanuel Batista for reacting quickly and efficiently to make this program a success.

To all participating teachers for teaching the book and guiding their students in writing and art.

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**.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to our ancestors who paved the way for us to be here, made huge sacrifices, many of whom fought for freedom and against injustices. Our ancestors include mathematicians, scientists, activists, doctors, educators, writers, artists, musicians, and so many others. They remind us that through horrible and unimaginable times and experiences during history, we also remember the greatness from which we come and our ancestor's brilliance, perseverance, and beauty. Our past prepares us to be our best selves in the present and to make positive changes for the future.

We also dedicate this book to the inspirational, brilliant activists and writers Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson. Thank you for encouraging and affirming our school community, supporting us in finding our voices and to be advocates and activists for equity, ourselves and others, unapologetically.

Lastly, we dedicate this book to our families, friends, and P.S. 125 educators. This book was the product of learning about Black History through exploring who we are and knowing that Black History does not start with slavery. Throughout this experience, we reflected on how our past shapes our future, and by reading *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* we saw pictures and illustrations that looked like us, celebrated who we are, and affirmed our belief now and always that Black Lives Matter.



About the Program

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and Newbery Honor winner Renée Watson, co-authors of *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, joined Behind the Book (BtB) for an all-school author event at P.S. 125 in Harlem on February 2, 2022. Six classes of 3-5th grade students, 110 in total, took part in this special event focused on this important book, which provides a pre-colonial context for Black history, while also exploring the horrific realities of slavery and the resiliency and contributions of Black Americans.

Prior to the workshop, BtB held a professional development session with teachers to prepare them for teaching the book, providing them with discussion questions, a program plan including an introductory workshop, writing, and arts activities, and graphic organizers to assist with the writing process. Each student also received a copy of the book, which they read in their supportive classroom environments. In response to the text, students wrote "Where I Am From" poems, a perfect way for young people of all ages to explore their own complex identities. BtB's teaching artist made a video to guide them through the creative process. They drew self-portraits and created collages out of images from their poems to complement their writing.

On the day of the event, the school bulletin boards were filled with beautiful writing and art inspired by *Born on the Water*. The

younger students read other books for Black History Month, and their work was included on bulletin boards for Nikole and Renée to see as well.

When the authors took the stage, the students were excited and rapt through the entire workshop; they listened as Nikole and Renée read poetry and discussed their creative process and reasons for writing the book. Then students got the chance to take the mic themselves. They stood in front of their peers, the authors, and special guests to ask questions, and some even shared their poetry. All of the adults involved were impressed by how thoughtful and moving the students' work was, and how serious they were in their preparations.

The most passionate writers were invited to a smaller group conversation with the authors. "I liked the book because maybe people didn't know the history of Black people," said Shima, 9, a fourth grader. "Maybe they didn't know it didn't start with slavery." Students also had the opportunity to ask questions about journalism, poetry, and other genres of writing. Finally, the event concluded with an autograph session.

Behind the Book would like to thank Nikole and Renée, the principal, teachers and staff of P.S. 125, our special guests, and especially, our wonderful students, for making this an event to remember.

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Where I'm From

by Renée Watson

I'm made up of east coast hip hop and island tradition.

I'm from Baptist hymns and secular jigs.
Tambourine playin', late night stayin'
at the church house, or my friend's house, or
their friend's house
(on the weekends).

Where I'm from there are corduroyed hand-me-downs
and family keepsakes. Family pictures on the wall.
Open bible on the coffee table.

I'm from that side of town.
Where the media only comes for bloodshed.
Blood wasted.
Never for blood restored, celebrated, or regenerated.

I'm from hopscotch and double dutch.
From hide-n-seek and pac man.
I'm from curry goat, rice and peas and beef patties.
From turquoise-blue water, white sand, and dreadlocks.
Reggae is in my blood.

Grew up in the Pacific Northwest.
A place where rain falls more than sun shines.
I'm from Douglas Firs and Pine trees.
Where we walk under waterfalls,
drive up windy roads to Mt. Hood
and escape to the beaches on the Oregon coast.

Where I'm from music takes away the blues.
I'm from Bob Marley. Mahalia Jackson. Aretha
Franklin. James Brown.

I'm from Jackson 5 records and New Edition tapes.
Where I'm from we rewind tapes over and over and
over again so you can write down the lyrics and
memorize them.

Where I'm from the whole neighborhood is your
family:
ladies sit on their porches looking out for you,
shooing away boys like flies,
callin' your momma to tell her what you did
before you can get home and lie about it.

Where I'm from people ask my friend,
"Is that your hair?" and she says, "Yeah it's mine.
I bought it!"

I'm from divorce being passed down to children
like a family heirloom.
From single mommas pushing strollers,
praying that their babies don't have the same
struggles as them.

I'm from a little goes a long way,
from sun's gonna shine after the rain.

I'm from perseverin' souls and hardworkin' hands.
From a people destined to make it to their
promised land.
I'm from been there, done that, can and will do
it again.

Now you, tell me—where you from?

Class 3-217

Amia	10	Javell	28
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I am From...

I Am from America

from my stuff toys and nature

I am from my mom and dad

And from my mom always saying "eat before you leave the table"

I am from plants that my mom gave me whose smell reminds me of when I go to the park.

I am from something that I like to do after school is go to the park and arcade my favorite song.

I am from Julia and Luis

And from my mom's mac and cheese and rice and beans.

I am from those moments when happy means that you feel nice and want to do nice things.

By Amiyah (Mimi)

12



I am From...

13

I AM from my Bunny
from RBS, it's like my home

I Am from a goofy brother and Sister
and from my Dad Always Saying "get off your phone"

I am from my daisy in my room that smells
Like Strawberry's.. whose color makes me feel happy But
in the morning its makes me Tired.

I Am from my indoor Pool in my Apartment
And Olivia Rodrigo

I am from Elaine Troy myself and Bella, Giovanni Luki Wera
Titi, TIO (uncle) and from my moms good
Mac n cheese

I Am from those moments when I play with my
Dogs Bonnie and Ceed

Anthony



I am From...

I am from the blue sea on my walls.
From my Dog comforts me.
I am from the people who loves me
And from my Homework.
I am from Mr. Tree
I love my Switch and biscit
I am from the vr to psk
And I listen to calm music.
I am from my mom and dad.
I am from Hogdogs to Say Yum
I am from those moments when
people are Happy

By Antonio



I am From...

I Am From my favorite plush and notebook

From my phone and work

And From my grandma telling me to do the best I can.

I Am From a rose, it smells significant

Whose smell makes me feel at peace.

I Am From my hobby after school to do homework

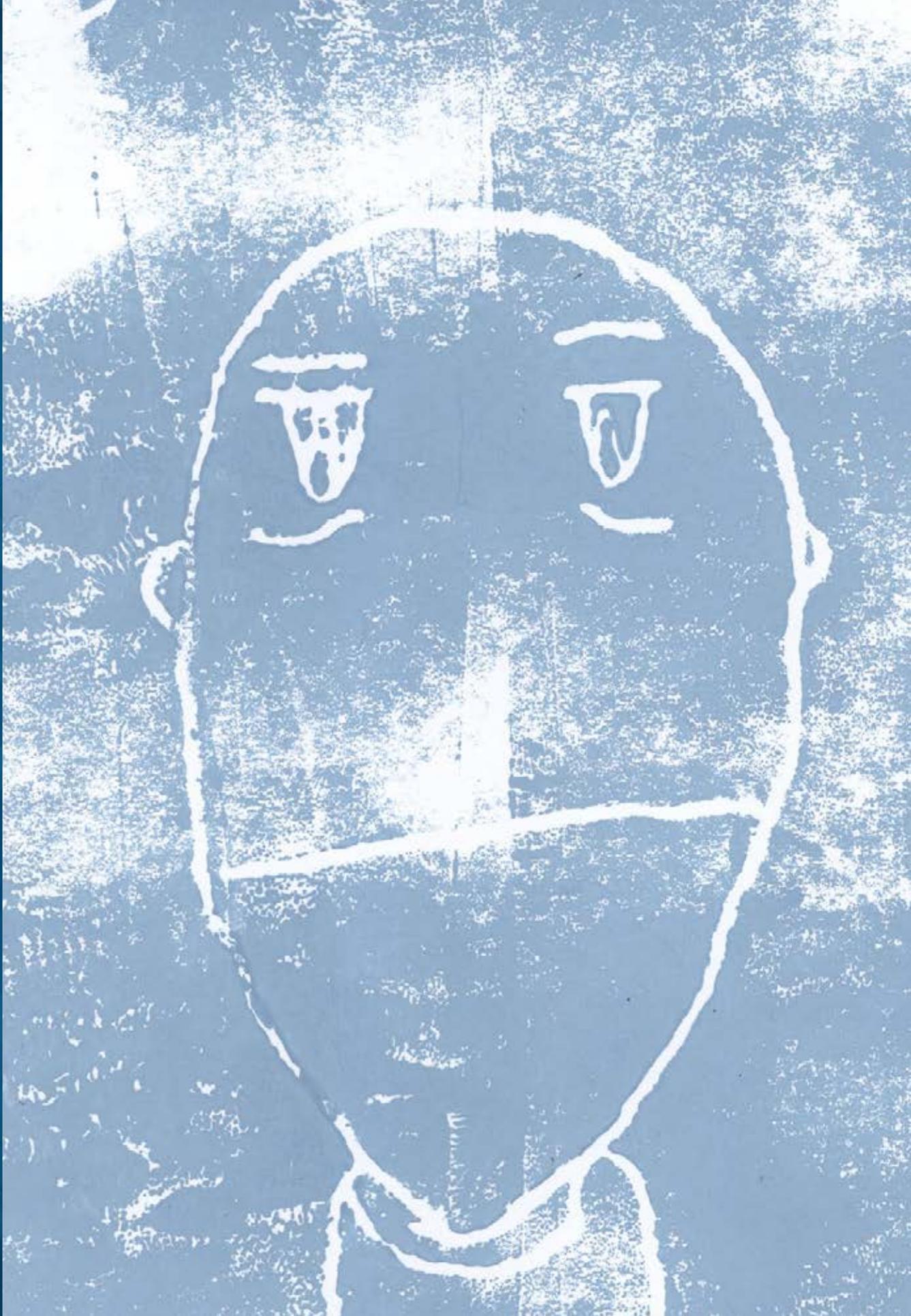
And I dont have a favorite song.

I Am From my mom Zina and my dad Anthony

And a person with no favorites

I am from those moments when quiet, alone and peace

By Babou



I am From...

I am from my bed

From the park

I am from nice

And from my Mom always saying to charge my iPad

I am from my favorite flower. It gives me good luck

I am from playing sports and movies

I am from Alex and Jake

And from my mom's pancakes

I am from my mom's house and my dad's house

I go to the park and am happy.

By Cadence



I am From...

21

I am from my bed to the kitchen
From the lovely community in Manhattan,
I am from the people who make me happy
And from my Dad's famous "feed the dogs Cadence!"
I am from the leaves you see in the Fall.
Whose different color are all around
I am from drawing 24/7
And the sound of the sweet rock and pop
I am from Debbie and Ty
And from my mom's amazing pizza.
I am from those moments when I am loved.

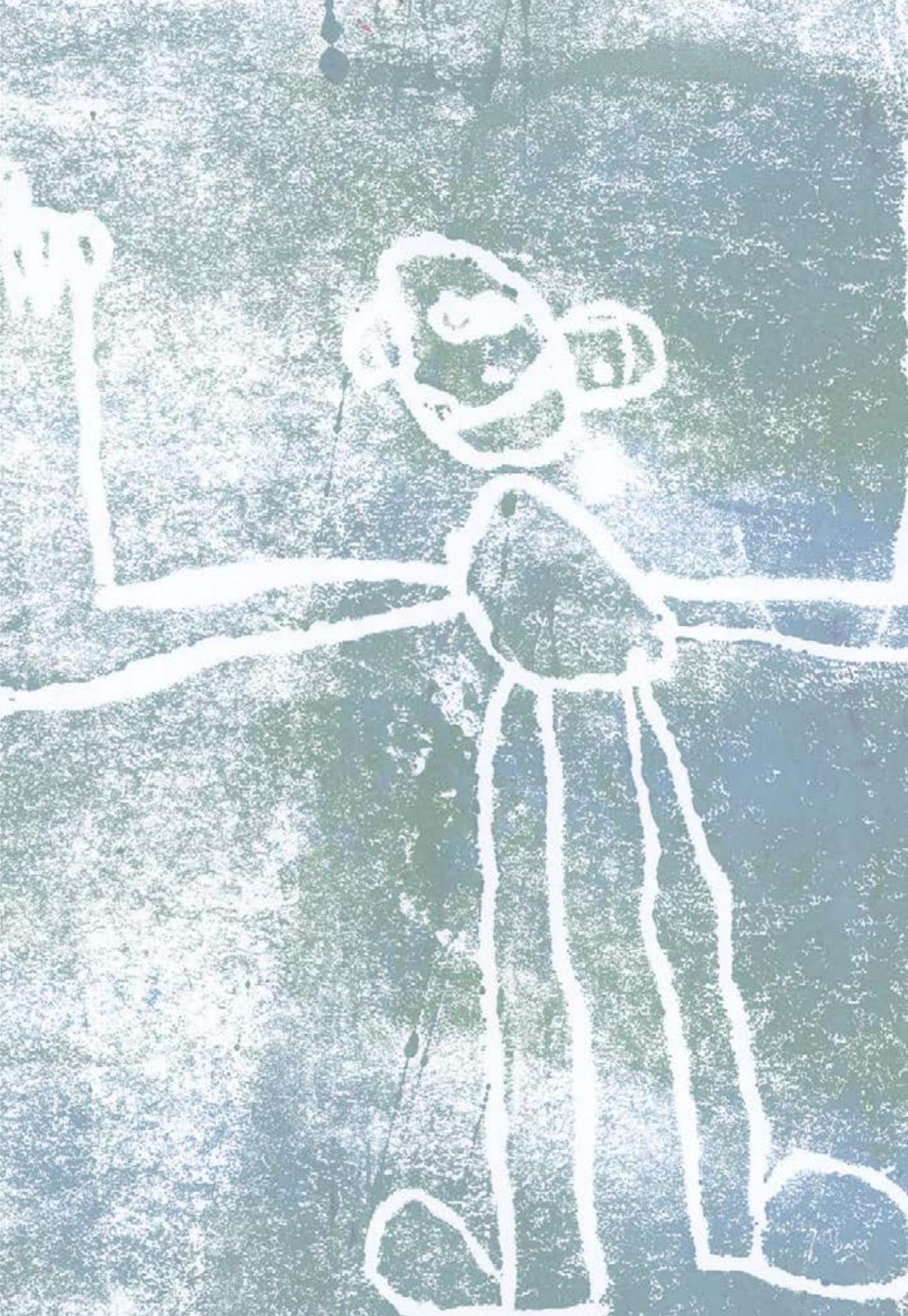
Cadence - 2017



I am From...

I Am From my wrestlers
From hot Wheels and hot Wheels track
I Am From mean
and my mom telling me to take A shower
I Am From Venus fly trap
whose cause it is a living plant
I Am From washing tu
and never going to give you up
I Am From Daisy and Christian
and From my Aunt Marilyn's grilled cheese
I Am from those moments when I am out with my sister

By Eric



I am From...

I am from my computer.
From Coney Island and Six Flags.
I am from irritated,
and from "do your homework!"
I am from trees
because they give oxygen to live.
I am from playing on my computer.
I like to play ROBLOX.
I am from Earline Dunlap and Larry Dunlap
and from spaghetti.
I am from those moments when I am on the
computer.

By Jaiden



I am From...

I am from Africa

From my Grandma's house.

I am from family

And no But my mom does.

I am from my Boy Blades

Whose I just like them.

I am from math and science

My favorite subjects

And Summer sixteen.

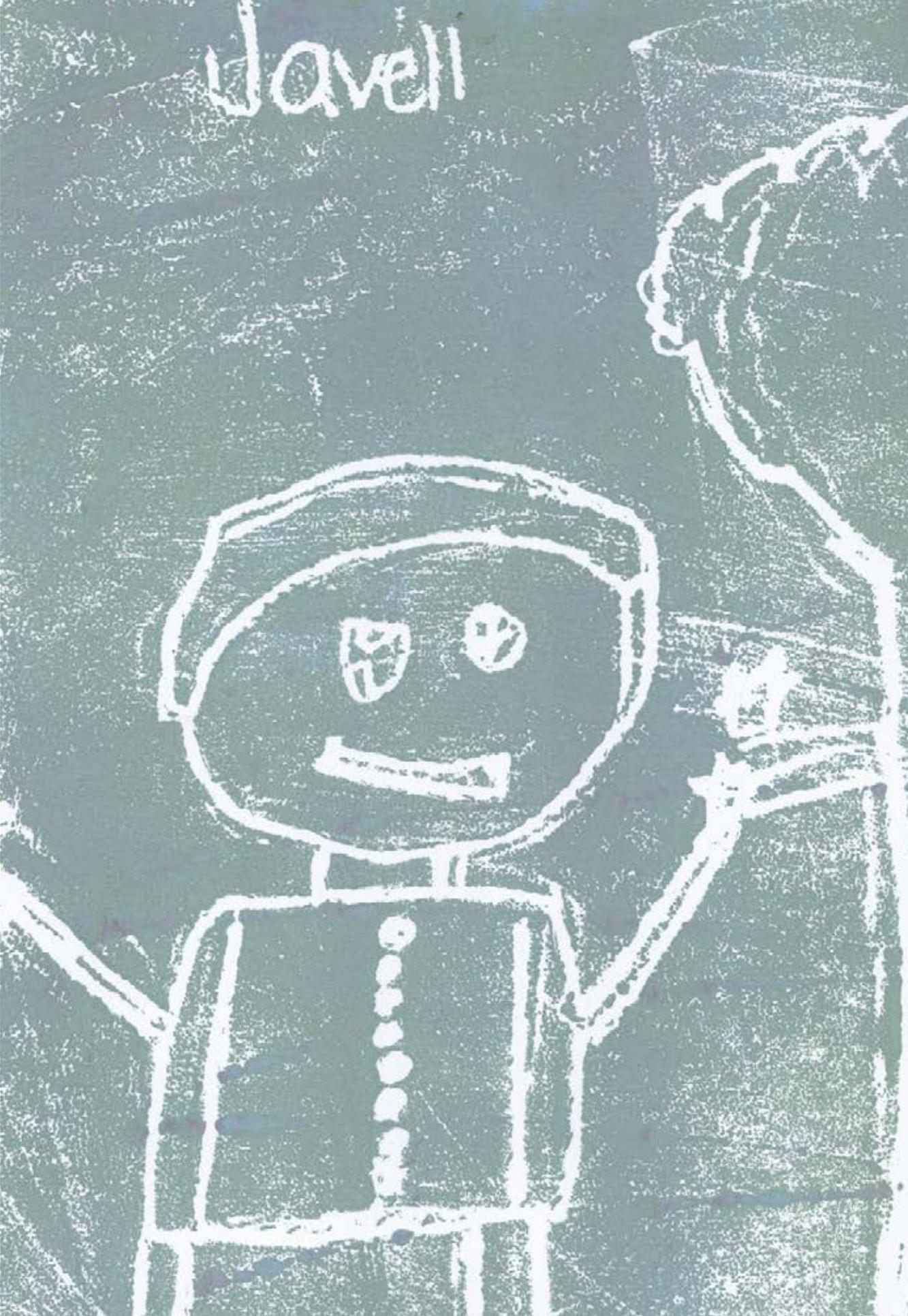
I am from Jahsil and Nasany

And from my mom's famous mac and cheese

I am from those moments when

My mom's Birthday makes me feel wonderful

Javell



By Javell

I am From...

I am from my bed.

From a home.

I am from love.

And from your homework.

I am from a tree of love

I like to play with my friends.

I am from I like to play video games

and Pokemon cards and Ben Azelari's song

I am from dad and Mom.

And from I like eating my dad's mac and cheese

I am from those moments when

my living room is soft.



I am From...

31

I am from a room that is as cold as ice ^{cream}
from an iPod and a teddy Bear.

I am from nice, calm

and from do Your homework.

I am from a rose that smells as good
^{as it can be} whose it smells as good as Pie.

I am from getting ice cream

and trader Olivia Rodrigo.

I am from Jennifer and Dallas

and from Burgers and fries.

I am from those moments when

I talk to my mom

Jazzy

By Joelle



I am From...

I am from my room to the couch.

From a world of fashion.

I am from Target and Abuela/gandma's house.

And from Mama's mmmhhhh.

I am from Hawaiian flowers I have seen.

Whose Pretty, mean and nice.

I am from Taco Bell mmmm.

And Dojacat and Bruno Mars.

I am from Mama and DADDY.

And from mama's mac and cheese.

I am from those moments when Mom and Dad make me feel happy.

Zoelle

Luna



I am From...

I am From

I am From pink walls in my Bedroom.

From a home and a beach.

I am From Love

and from finish your Home work.

I am From a tree I love to climb,

whose my family loves me.

I am From to iceskating to sewing.

and Blackpink to Taylor Swift.

I am From Elba and Noel

and from rice and beans!!!

I am from those moments when I feel loved

LUNA



I am From...

I am from my mom

from my DAK DOLL

I am from my DAK DOLL

And from I Love to help my Grandma with chores.

I am from daisies

whose daisy color makes me happy.

I am from to go to morningside Park

and I like to make things.

I am from mami and Kasha

and from mac and cheese

I am from those moments when happiness happens.

By Nicole



I am From...

I am from my very large rooms in Oregon.

From my catfish and Legos

I am fun.

And from 'Did you do your homework today?'

I am from two grape plants that always give you
the best grapes in the world.

I am from books that are always filled with fun
adventures.

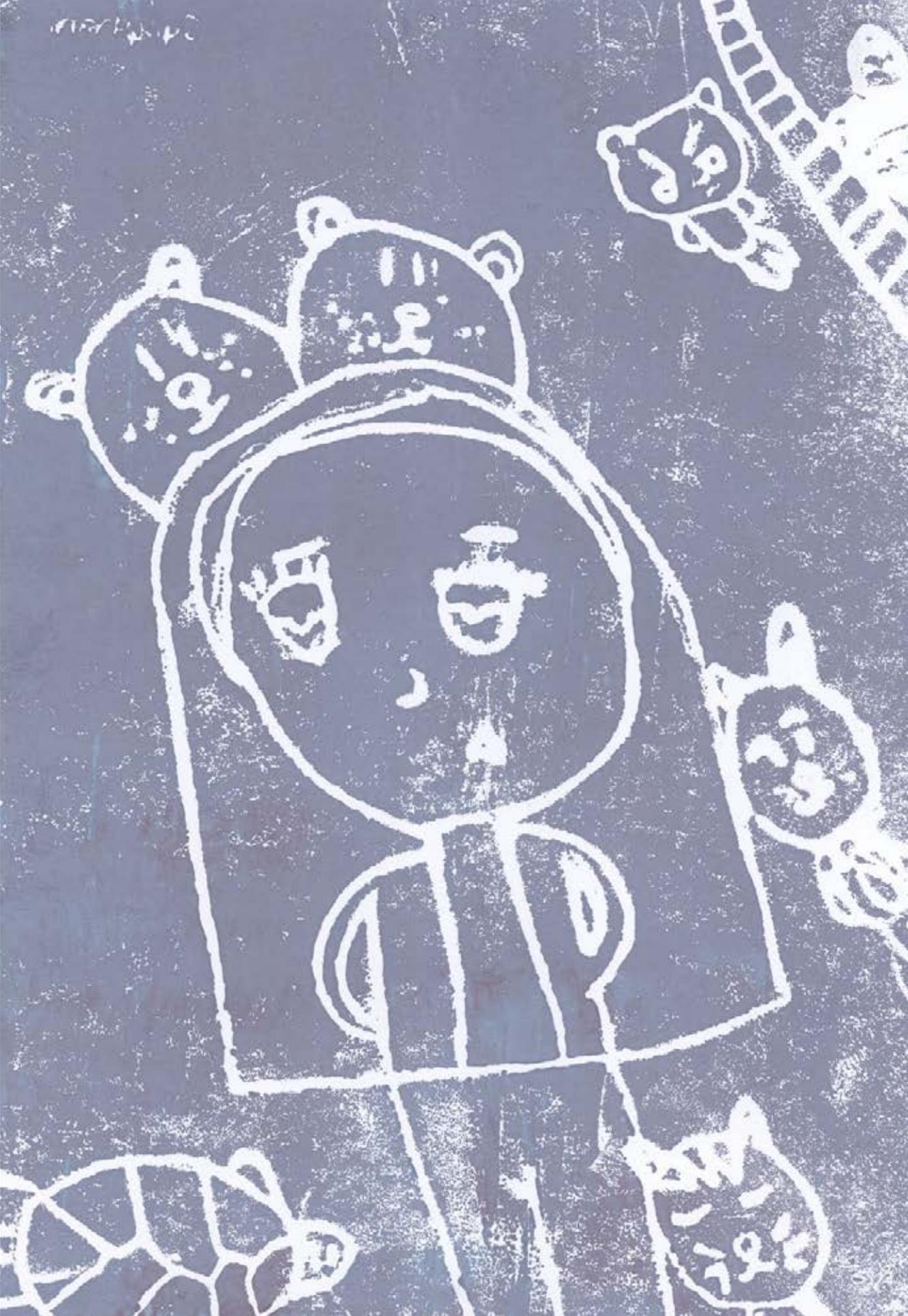
I am from bookshelves of books and lots of art
supplies and dragon songs.

I am from Charlette and Wiskers.

And Chinese Dumplings and Chinese Noodles

I am from those moments when I first went to
China.

By Symphani



I am From...

I am from seeing people walking by:
From different types of food.

I am from going to people homes for
the holiday.

And from peachy painted walls.

I am from walks up the hill.

whose time is spent going to the
park.

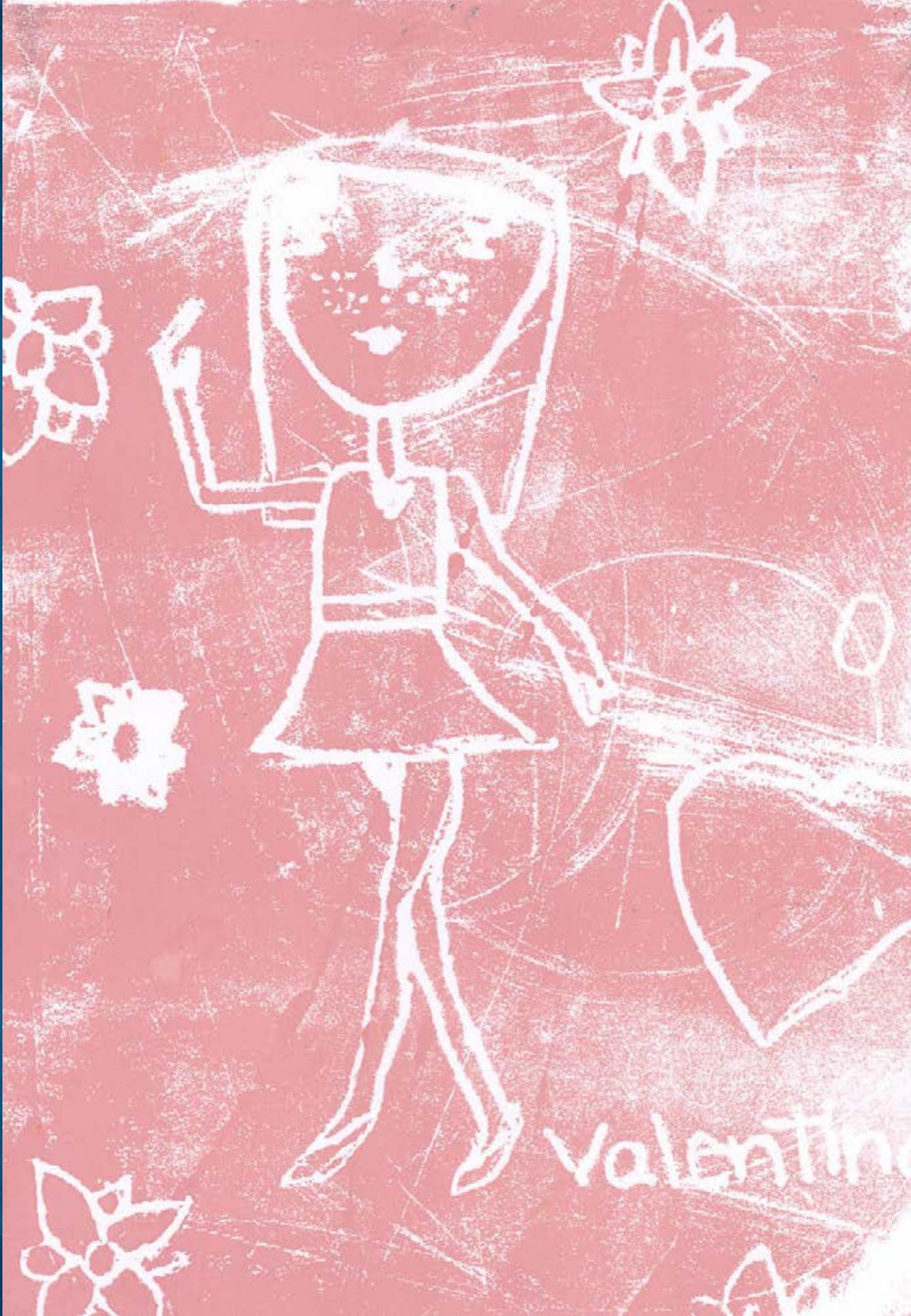
I am from ballet class on the
weekend.

And music to take away the blues.

I am from playing hopscotch and
homework.

And from pizza on the weekend.

I am from those moments when
people are happy, sad and mad.



I am From...

I am from blue walls and pink all around me
From friends and teachers at school
I am from playing games with my family
And from love and peace

I am from roses are red, violets are blue
which make pretty colors all around me

I am from pictures and art
and my teacher's relaxing jazz

I am from my mom and dad
and my grandma's memories

I am from those moments when my parents
say 'I love you'.

By Valerie



Valerie

I am From...

45

I am from where I live at my home
Sometimes and at My dad's home
From my stuff at my Mom's and other stuff
that my dad buys

I am from I have dad and Mom
and sister and nephew

And from eating vegetables

Kind of doing my homework

I am from flowers

Whose smell I like

I am from using my phone

And dropping all my money

I am from Mom and Dad and pizza

I am from those moments when I sleep,



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I am From...

I am From my COMPUTER
From home and Japan
I am From a Serious FAMILY
and From mom saying "Time for school!"
I am From Mount Everest
whose MOUNTAIN PEAKS are COOL!
I am From PLAYING games
and every type OF MUSIC
I am From MOM, DAD, and brother
and From SUSHI and rice bowls
I am From those moments when I am
PLAYING games.

By Cameron



I am From...

I am from stuffed animals
from my home and my cat
I am from a loving family
and from "it's time to go to bed"
I am from the spiky balls from the Sweet gum
tree that my cat likes
I am from my Thai
and Believer
I am from LESLEY and ASSANE
and from TACOS and FRENCH FRIES
I am from those moments when I sleep



I am From...

I am from a warm cup of hot cocoa
from a massive park and a great athletic club

I am from a cute family

and from "what could go wrong?"

I am from the rocky wall at the park

that is climbable

I am from reading

and alone

I am from Devon and Noah

and from pumpkin pie and my aunt's cornbread

I am from those moments when I am in the silent park



I am From...

I am from my brown sketch book full of drawings
from the wooden table where I create cool things.

I am from Harlem and a joyful family
and from a safe place to be myself

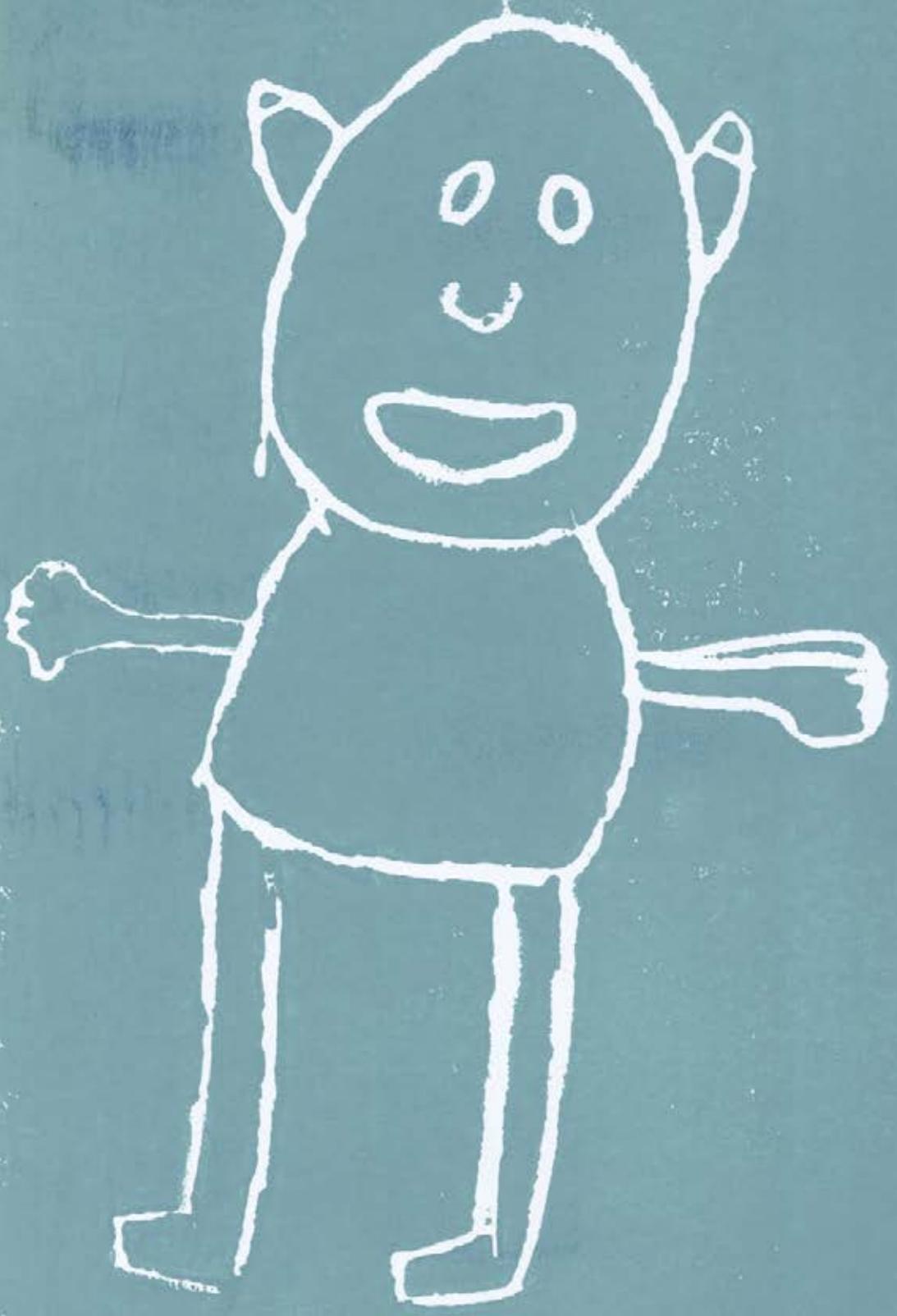
I am from the four seasons each year
whose that make me feel so good

I am from laughter, playtime, and struggles in the bed
and dancing to "monster" and "Jopping"

I am from Brian and Aliya

and from dad's mac'n cheese and mom's cheese
quesadillas

I am from those moments when I am relaxed
and feeling my very best



I am From...

57

I am from my PS5
from New York

I am from a crazy family and
from Dad always saying "do your
homework!"

I am from water that is good
and texture is "smooth" "gel"

I am from swimming and PS5 and
the song "start page."

I am from David and Sanayi

from chicken and ramen noodles

I am from those moments when I feel
calm.

By Emma



I am From...

I am from my sculptures, to my paint set and books
From my stuffed animals to the sweet waves of the beach
I am from a crazy family
and from my mom saying "Time to get up"
I am from the sweet smelling roses to the pretty daisies
whose petals are beautiful and pretty colors
I am from the smell of the paint to the perfect canvases
and the sound of pop music like "Kids Bop"
I am from my talented mom and my cool dad
and from the taste of my mom's rice and beans
I am from those moments when I am lying in bed

By Iris



I am From...

61

I am from the doll
that smells like peach
from the sweet ice cream

I am from a kind family
and from "Iris do the dishes"

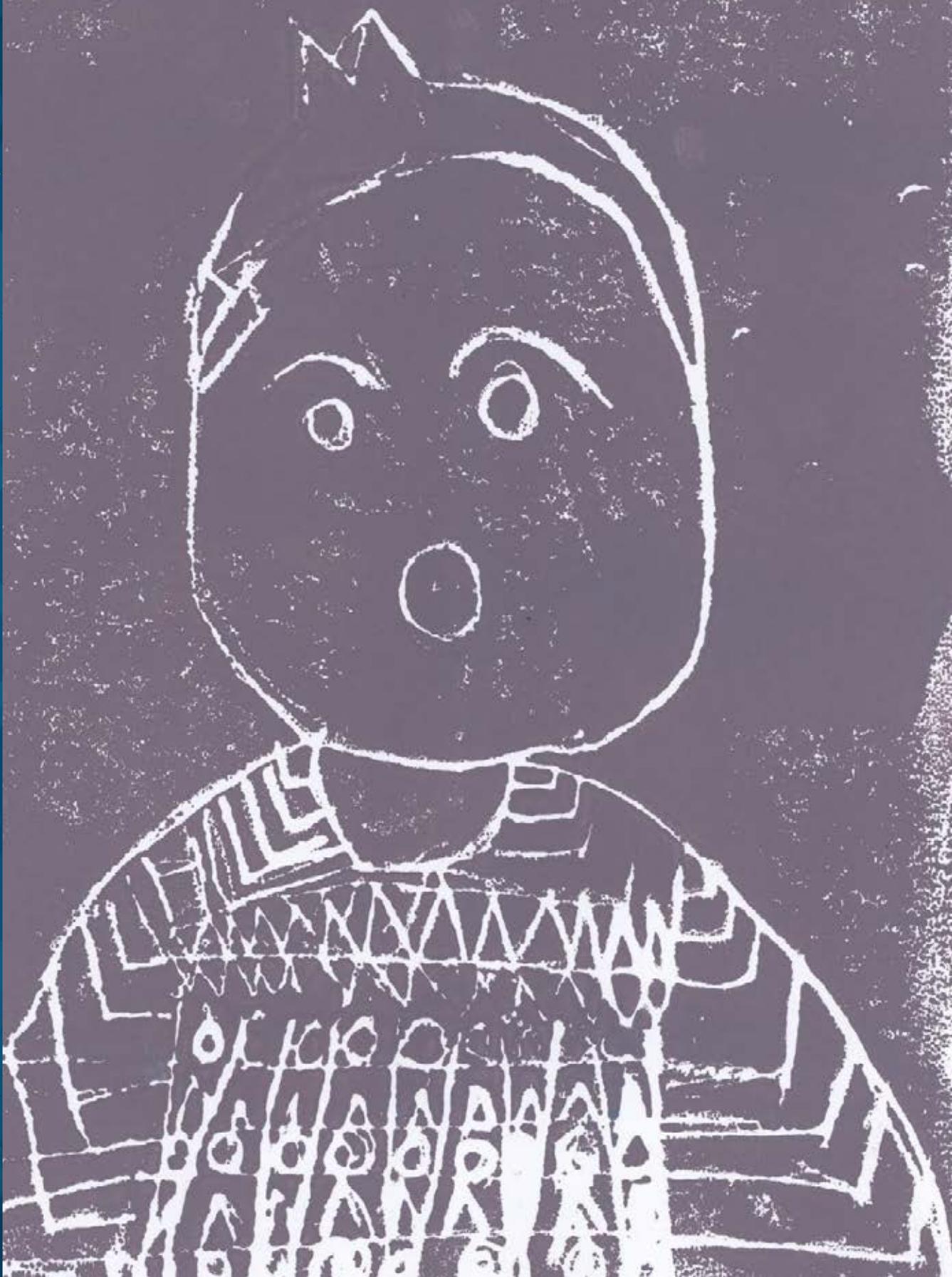
I am from the breeze
of an oak tree whose
wind is soft

I am from raving on the park
and from "Girl on Fire"

I am from Lila and Zoey
and from pizza that has
cheese and Zoey

I am from those moments
when I sleep

By Jacob



I am From...

I am from my bed
from Dominican Republic

I am from a loving family

and from where my family says "eat your food or it will eat you"

I am from a rose

whose petals look nice

I am from the park

and "Dance monkey"

I am from Ann and Henry

and from pancakes and bacon

I am from those moments when I feel excited.

By Janella

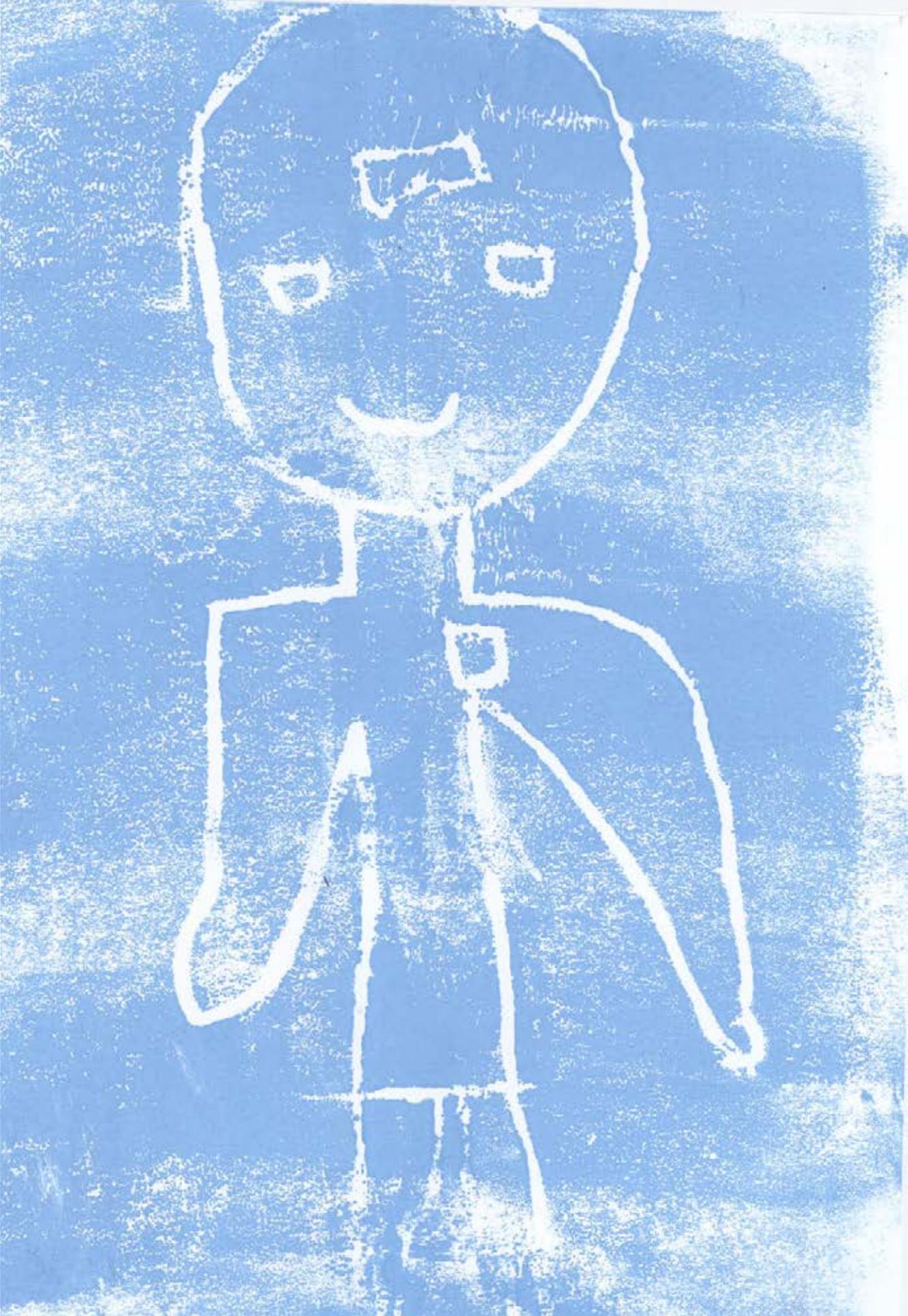


I am From...

65

I am from my stuffed toys
from the fresh sunrise and the water
I am from early birds who go back to sleep
and get things done
and from the saying "get up" or "wake up"
I am from the leaves falling off the trees
whose colors are beautiful and soft
I am from drawing on white paper
and sucker
I am from Shitley and Jason
and from my grandma's ma'd'n cheese
and mom's meatballs and spaghetti
I am moments when I get sleepy.

By Jayden



I am From...

67

I am from teddy.
from tablets and toy cars.
I am from kind and adventurous.
And from "Husbands don't give up"
I am from I love to climb my tree.
because it was my first tree.
I am from playing games
and chaos
I am from Jade and Kairi
and pasta and pizza
I am from those moments when
I am at the beach

By Jordan



I am From...

I am from my room

From New York

I am from a happy family

and from a happy family that likes to cook

I am from a flower

whose scent is pleasant

I am from sleeping

and piano

I am from Elisa Beth and Kobe

and from burgers and fries

I am from those moments when I am, sleeping

By Leandra ✨



I am From...

I am from my sketch book
from Albania and Manhattan
I am from a caring family
and from my Dad always telling me to do homework
I am from the cactus from my aunt
and I got my cactus when my mom was pregnant
I am from art
and the Diary of the Wimpy Kid
I am from LIS and Omer
and from my Dad's special meat and my mom's good
pancake's
I am from that moment when my baby brother was born



I am From...

I am from my big white pillow on my bed.
From my stuffed monkey and my soft bed.
I am from a family of multiple races.
And from when my father says "Lenox are you
done with your homework"?

I am from the bright yellow corn,
That I adore because of its astonishing smell and taste.
I am from the black Nintendo Switch at my home,
And the soothing I hear every morning.
I am from Christopher and Tania,
And from my dad's burritos and my mom's waffles.
I am from those moments with my family,

By Madison



I am From...

75

I am from my fluffy dog

From Morningside Park and a Pool

I am from a not so taped together tight family

And from the saying of "everyone here is a pig"

I am from the yellow petals of sunflowers

Whose yellow petals bring memories of my grampa

I am from a hobby of eating

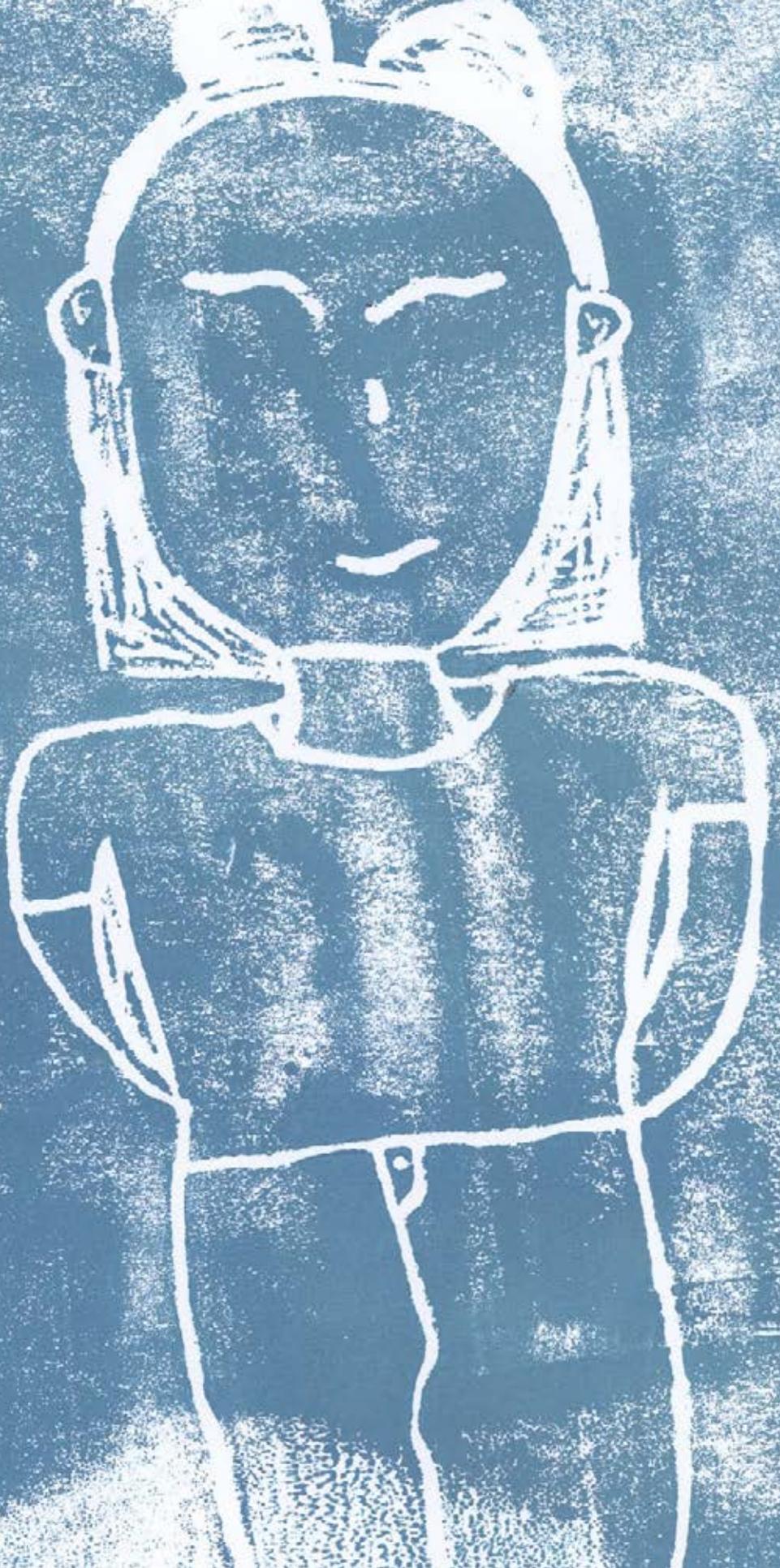
And Spanish and Pop music

I am from Sue and Henry

And from Abel's rice, chicken, beans and mom's chili

I am from those moments when I am in the cold pool.

By Melanie ✨



I am From...

77

I am From my Slime
From my grandmas house
I am from a happy family
and from "go to bed"
I am from cherries
Whose Fuits taste so good
I am from going to pizza
and am love Mwatifa
I am from lucia
and Nena
a happy family.



I am From...

I am from my Nintendo Switch,
from my scooter and toys.

I am from from happiness and from going to school

I am from my dog, Teddy, who is fun to play ^{with}
I am from basket ball, and calm music.

I am from my mom and dad,

from corn and ice cream.

I am from those moments when I'm having
fun, but relaxing, too.

By Minka



I am From...

I am From my Plushie Flamingos in my room
From East Harlem

I am From "We're not going out today"
and From Jonny always saying to eat My Food

I am From Bille

Who Smells Fresh and good

I am From me going to the Park

and listen to Dance Monkey and Bruno Mars

I am From Jonny Olett

I am From Mamma's good Bacon

Remember those moments when there is Peace
at home

By Sophie



I am From...

I am from the lamp that keeps shining bright
From my stuffed animal that has been there for me even in my hardest
times I am from a caring mom & loving grandma and a dog who
loved me dearly and from a mom who asks if I finished my homework
I am from a beautiful rose
Whose petals remind me of true love.
I am from a music family my mom knows how to sing
and my favorite song "Drivers License" by Olivia Rodrigo
I am from my mom and my dad
and from my mom's pasta and meatballs.
I am from those moments when i'm with my dog and family.



I am From...

I am from a safe for my money
from Central park

I am from a loving family
and from dad always saying "Do your home
work"

I am from water

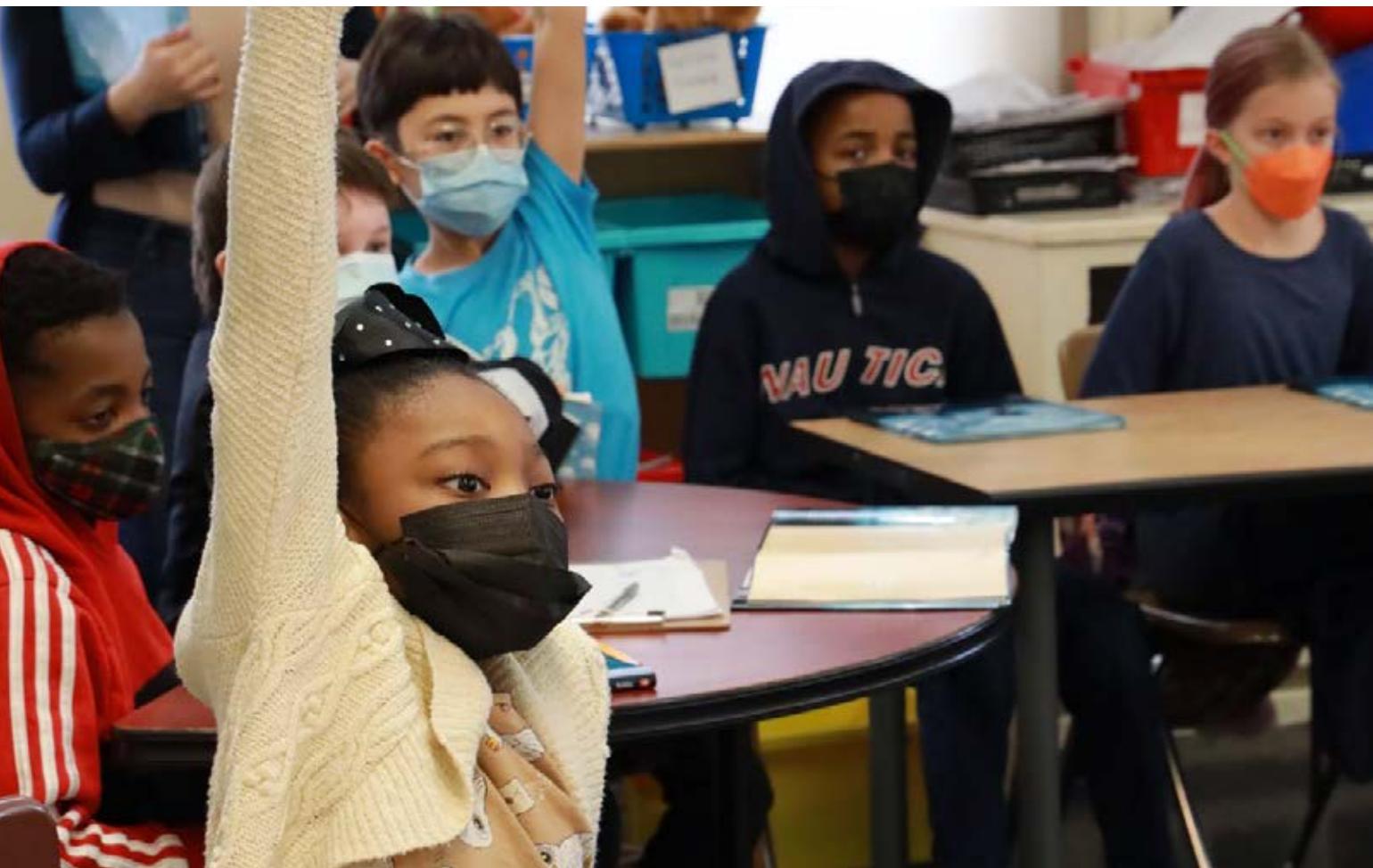
Whose waves are nice

I am from going to the park
and I am something else

I am from Jay and Jane

and from tacos and macn cheese

I am from those moments when peace



Class 4-215

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I am From...

89

where I am from is w Harlem.
I Love the peopl and I Love the
stores I wish that there
was less violence in Harlem

I feel at home with my mom
and my sister my bed
makes me feel at home
when I am on my bed I feel
at peace.

the sound of my baby brother
reminds me of home also the
smell of my mothers cooking
reminds me of home.

in Harlem there are a lot of
stores with beautiful clothes

in Harlem there are many
Harlem is my home because I feel
happy when I am at home.

Where I am From...

91

I am from Harlem, but my family is from India and Trinidad. I'm a mix of everything. The things I love about these places is the streets in Harlem. I love the clothes in India. But I also love the food from Trinidad.

Something I wish is for the fights to stop and the killing in Trinidad at least I wish.

The people that make me feel at home is my sister my dog my cat my bird too. I have a lot of pets but they make me feel at home. Things that make me at home is my stuffed animals make me feel at home.

Where I am From...

93

I am from west Harlem 125th Harlem is a home for me is a place where my family and friends lives in Harlem there are alot of different stores and a famous theater apollo.

people in the staircase peeing and taking a poop shooting and smoking, playing games until 4 o'clock in the morning where im from kids playing in the hallway having fun and playing marke polo and numbers the hallway of a building become the central prook for kids like me.

where im from people having cookouts and having fun hanging out with each other and meeting new people where im from young kids smoking and looking like zombies and shooting where im from my mom cooking rice and beans and fried chicken and collard greens where I from people walking around with knives, guns and other weapons where im from people rob people houses and hurt them



I like to eat
pizza!



Where I am From...

95

I'm from a place called Harlem
I feel home at Dominican Republic
I feel home at Harlem 125 street.

I love Harlem I love people the food
the buildings and its peaceful and quiet
I wish theres no violence and no fire
crackers at night.

I feel home with family friends friend
my turtle Julies
My turtle Julies makes me at home.

The sound of my mom cooking and
my tv reminds me of home
the taste of my moms hot rice and
meat reminds me of home.

when I am happy excited mad at my
brother reminds me of home My room
playing with my friends with my sister

T/10

By Tyla



Where I am From...

97

I am from Harlem where there are everything right there at my building it is a park with dirty slides but the kids can still play regardless of.

What I love about Harlem is next to a building is a store. Where I am from the guy behind the desk waves at you because you are little.

I wish there was less violence in Harlem. I wish drugs in Harlem.

Where I am from I feel at home with my aunt that lives above me I feel at home with my mom and cousins and dad. My messy bed with a cover to be a pillow.

Make's me feel at home. My mom and aunt talking in the middle of the night. Make me feel at home.



snam

Best

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Rydam

Where I am From...

I feel at home in 130 my neighborhood
street called harlem comfortable
And safe. I love harlem because
of the nice people and
outfuley bildings. I wish I could
change kid naping and harming people.
my mom my brother my teachers
such as Mrs. luna and Mrs. fineo. My
laptop My phone my bed. Songs that
my mom plays like michael Jackson.
When I get tired it reminds
me of my soft bed at home.
Spaghetti if I eat spaghetti it
reminds me of my moms good spaghetti
my toys remind me at home also
the smell of my moms good food
when im playing with my toys



Charli

Born New York

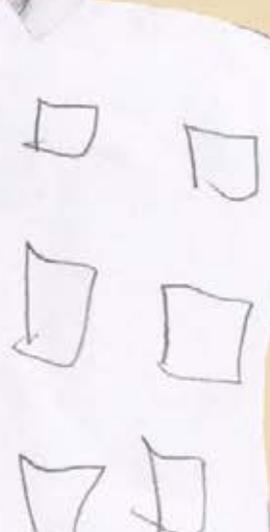
Born New York. I was born in
New York on 4/7/2012. Where I LIVE it is
Sunny and Sweet. Where my mom
cooks food where I live is here.
I grow up in Queens where my
dad works. Born in Queens that
means I love me. Mama always
said "inside is good some times
but nothing good like us. I didn't
know what that means nothing is
good without you. That's why I
love you and am proud. I
am in New York.



Noel



Brain



Where I am From...

I am from 125th Harlem there are
are Parks to Play. I love the Parks, the
lights, and there are Stores everywhere.
We will never run out of Storage
in Harlem. I wish to change the
noise at night time. Do you know that
Harlem have fireworks and firecrackers
at night time and it is not
a holiday.

Where I'm from I hear the sounds
of my family that makes me feel
at home. It is my sister yelling
and my tv playing on the news
and some music. the tastes of food
reminds me of home It is my Mom's
Macaroni and her fried chicken tastes
Sweet. When I get annoyed I lay on
my bed and then feel relaxed. Where
I'm from My sister and brother
Play video games.



Where I am From...

I am from 20th street in Brooklyn. In Brooklyn it is calm. People are in their homes. In 20th street there are people like me arabic. The women are wearing their hijab. I wish there was less shooting and more stores selling more food products.

My mom makes me feel at home. Something that makes me feel at home is my bed and phone. My bed is the softest bed you will have and my phone is amazing.

Where I from kids play in the park all afternoon and I can hear it. Then tastes that remind me of home is khal.

Where I from everyone is happy and nice. My community was happy when I move in the house. It looked amazing so many room but the best part was with my mom.

POPPY
PLAYTIME



Jose



Where I am From...

1. I'm from where people help the communitive provide opportunity for children like me. I'm from the people who help each other and work together.
2. Where I'm from I can go to the park for air and get some exercise also. I'm from Harlem I attend PS125 school. We are a communitive and help each other.
3. Where I'm from I hear my dog. I walk into the door then my dog bark's time she move her to say hello. Where I from evry day is a bad day my sister
4. always's arguing and my boy brother saying play with me all day long.
5. Where I'm from I have different taste like rice, beans, Mac and cheese and lot's of chicken.
6. Where I'm from the feeling I feel is my family, friends and my dog

I Love my
my mom

this is
my dad
and I
love him



Rodas

Hi I am Rodas
from 2015-4 and
I love to
play Soccer



I am From...

Where I am from I am from 125 west Harlem but I feel at home in New Jersey because my grandparents live there in New Jersey. I feel the love of my grandparents I love that the people are nice and the service is really good. I wish that there was less garbage to make the world cleaner.

The person that makes me feel at home is my mom she makes me feel at home.

Something that makes me feel at home is my bed that makes me feel at home too.

The sound that I hear when I am at home is my TV and my phone. At home when I taste pasta and lasagna it reminds me of home. My home is full of taste, flavor, and feelings.

a feeling that reminds me of home is being happy

At home. A memory of playing and reading with my mom



Where I am From...

I am from 125 st in Harlem. I love the lights in Harlem and people. I wish there were less violence in Harlem.

I wish there were less homeless in the streets.

I feel at home with my mom and my stuffed animal bulldog it makes me feel at home and safe. I Harlem I feel home with so many colorful people.

people talking loud remind me of home and my mom's food remind me of home.

When I feel calm it reminds me of home. An event that captures my home life is when my family comes to my house.

I LOVE all the colors in Harlem and I LOVE all the music in Harlem and that's why I LOVE my home in Harlem.

Divine



Where I am From...

I am from Queens. Where kids relax and play. Most of the area is filled with fresh air. (I wish that Queens was a cleaner area).

Where I'm from my sister and brother will always have my back. (When I lay down in my bed I feel at home).

Where I'm from I can listen to the sound of rain while I am eating soup.

Where I'm from I can watch movies with my mom and relax in bed.



Where I am From...

115

I feel at home when I am at my house
on 129th street in hawena. I would like to change
the littering at parks because sometimes the litter can
lead to the wilds. My mom and brother make me feel at
home because we have the same home as me.

I love my home because I have very valuable things at my house.
Things that make me feel at home are my drawing pencils
because I love drawing.

Sounds that make me feel at home are the birds that
chirp when I wake up and look out the window, tastes that
make me feel at home are the tofu my mom makes
for snacks.

Feelings that make me feel at home are
the sun glistening through my window when I wake up
sunny days.

Events that capture my home life
are when I went sledding with my
mom and brother.



Where I am From...

I am from 125th W. Harlem, Harlem is where my family lives. I fell ~~at~~ home at Harlem.

What I love about these places is that you can get to know people. For example, one day I was walking home with my mom, I saw this lady with some kids and I wanted to join them and they let me play with them. It was so fun to play with them. What I wish was different about Harlem is the littering all over the place.

What I love about Harlem is the very nice people you can find. Some nice people who makes me fell at home is my mom and dad and my dog and family and friends. Also my dad's phone makes me fell at home and also my mom and dad's love.

The noise from the street reminds me of my home for example the ambulance driving by my room. Also the food of my mother fried chicken, mac and cheser, and candy yams, coller greens reminds me of my home.

Being relaxed, Tired of my big sister being annoying, reminds me of home.



Where I am From...

I am from 120th street, parks
buildings and people.

I love to play with video games because
they are fun to play with.

I wish my house was underground.
My friends make me feel at home
because they are kind.

My little brother crying and tv.

The good smell of steak sizzling.

Tired from school.

christmas and thanksgiving
capture my home.



Where I am From...

121

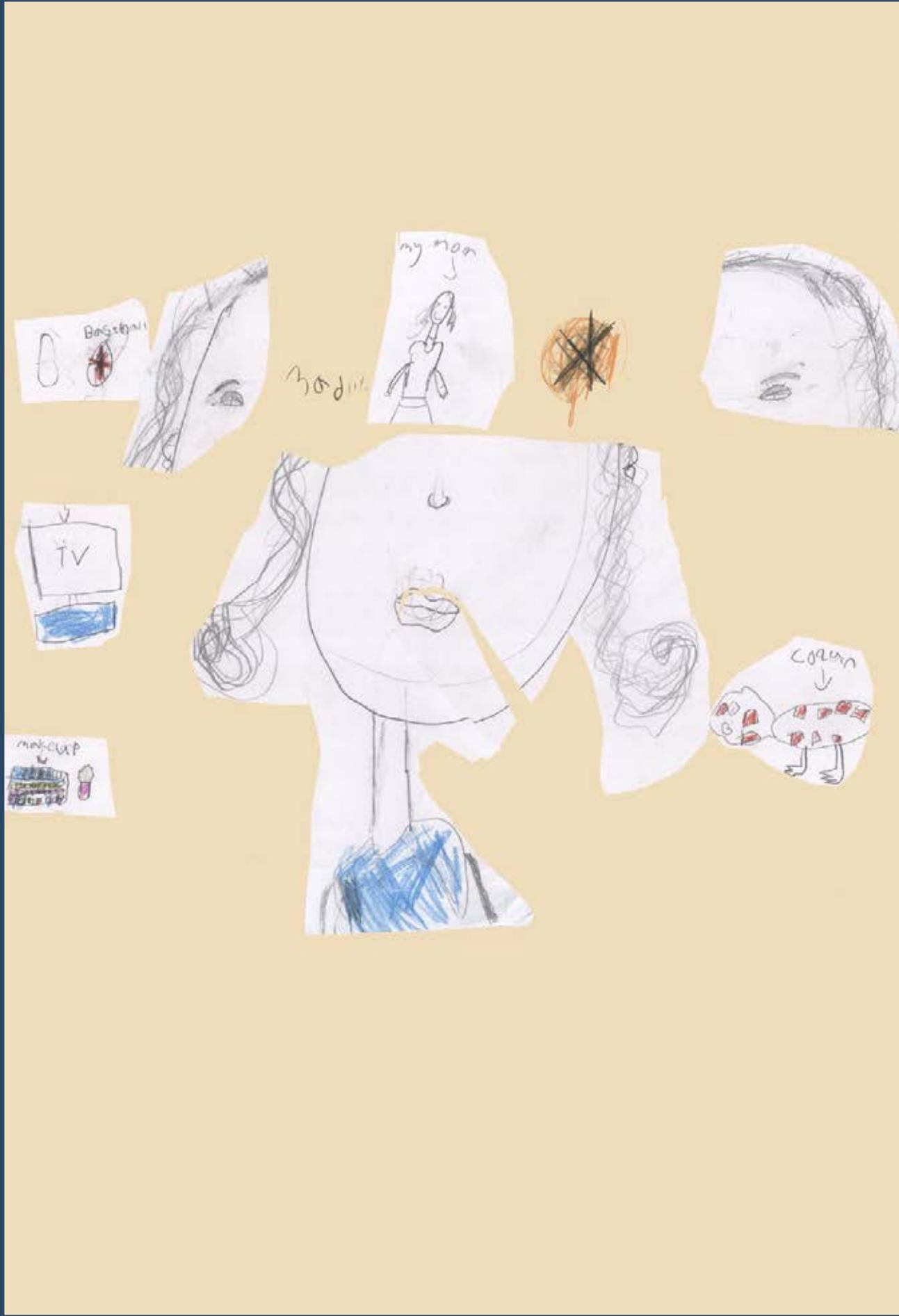
Where I am from is Santa Cruz California where the sun is every where. Every day is summer. The sun embraces our bodies and minds. It is so sunny that we have to wear T-shirt, shorts and sunglasses.

I'm from libraries and beaches and to active yards where the streets are spotless and peaceful.

I'm from books and stuffed animals all my friends and family are happy and laughing.

I'm from crashing waves and people laughing where the tastes are bitter, sweet, umami and spice.

I'm from excitement, joy, happiness, laughter and happy children





By Elna.



Class 4-213

Jolie 126

Vivienne 128

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Liam 146

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Mako 156

Leonard 160

Natalia 162

Kokoska 164

Yahima 166

Where I am From...

127

Where I'm from, I could read and play on many different devices, where I'm from, we don't care if we are boring or stylish. Where I'm from we leave our windows open for fresh air, where I'm from, before school we do our hair.

Where I'm from you could take after school naps, where I'm from we do not need paper maps. Where I'm from street lights turn on at night, where I'm from adults pay bills for water and light.

Where I'm from we have to wear masks to protect ourselves from covid, where I'm from, when people go traveling, their cars are loaded. Where I'm from people order burgers with tomato, lettuce, and cheese. Where I'm from, on hot summer days people want to feel the wind and its breeze.

Where I'm from people protest about black lives matter, where I'm from, popular places are filled with talking and laughter.



I AM FROM

NEW YORK

Where I am From...

where I feel at home is at the its
big lights and bill boards time square
things that I love about new York is
the cold weather and the snow I wish
the street were cleaner and not so dirty.
My friends Makayla and Kaitlyn and they make
me feel at home. Spending time with
my family and they make me feel at
home. When I first arrive to 15 125
I felt like I was at home.
sad and happy and make funny making
memories with ur family

Hiro



I
wanted
it to
be normal



Where I am From...

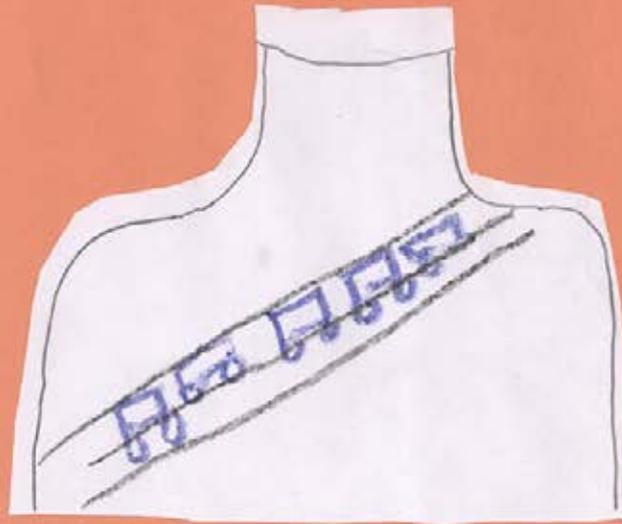
131

Places that make me feel at home are California, Japan, Harlem. What I love about Japan is very clean. What I wish is different about California that there were no wild fires.

People that make me feel at home is my family, cousins, grandparents. Things that make me feel at home are the amazing animals at the zoo, the clear sky. Sounds that remind me of home are the dogs barking, the cars and buses honking, and a large crowd of people.

Taste that are the crunchey popcorn, the chesey french fries, the icy ice cream, the sizziling hamburgers. Feelings that remind me of home are happy for the dogs barking with each other when they play, the sad people when they lost their jobs, the mad people when they got in the fight. These are the things that remind me home.

Joel



Where I am From...

A place with a lot of tall buildings, busy streets and a lot of traffic, This is New York. I love the place where people are giving homeless people money for food, clothes, and shoes.

I wish that NYC will stop littering and to stop being mean to people to people before you get to know them.

People who make me feel at home are my grandma, grandpa, dad, and my mom because they help me out with everything. My dog, my sketch book, and my

IPad because they all keep me company and they make me feel happy.
I feel happy.

People in our home and putting loud music and dancing.

Kids playing board games and playing tag are the sounds

of home. I remember going to a restaurant to eat rice

with chicken, kids eating, adults eating a full plate,

kids eating half a plate or a full plate. I remember

when kids danced, played games, and adults dancing

with family or friends, kids playing games in their

devices. Events that capture my home life is when kids

went to our house and we played board games.

By Richard



Where I am From...

135

The city where I live never sleeps. At night the stores close without making a peep. In summer the kids play all day, while the grass just sways from side to side. I love this place.

There are a few problems, though. Like trash on the floor. This I wish I could change.

The people that make me feel safe are my family and friends. They make me feel happy. In winter I feel at home when the snow is falling and I am cozy.

The sound that makes me feel at home is cars going by at night. A feeling that reminds me of home is, calm.

When I can relax, my favorite thing to do is play games with friends.

Mario



Where I am From...

137

I am from New York, the sounds of blaring car horns fill the air. I am from Canada where no matter what happens, everyone cares.

The way you can easily have a smile on your face, the way you never have to pick up the pace.

Sometimes when I look in the sky, I wish that nobody would ever lie. When I walk into the office and see my mom's pleasant smile, it reminds me of the calm pleasant Nile.

When I hear my dad's footsteps coming down the hall, it reminds me of the many footsteps in the mall.

The tall trees that greet you as you walk, the kind old neighbor who always stops to talk. The fancy old car that drives down the street everyday, the sign on the highway saying, GO THIS WAY. The sound of wet rainboots

along the metal grates, the sound of the loud, quick trains, The taste of my dad's delicious fish, the taste of my mom's cupcakes as you make a wish.

Feeling happy makes me think of playing games with my sister, feeling angry reminds me of times when people hurt me. When the fireworks go off on the Fourth of July, I stare up at the beautiful sky.



Where I am From...

139

A place where the buildings are tall the lights never go off, it's the city that never sleeps. I am from New York.

I love those days when it snows and you curl up in your bed and get cozy.

I wish there were no homeless people, you wouldn't see people sleeping on the ground.

The people that make me feel at home are my mom. She always makes waffles that come out the kitchen that bring joy and hunger.

I love those days when I am on my sofa and get all cozy and I watch Netflix all day.

The sound that makes me feel at home is the sound of cars beeping and siren screams for help.

The taste that reminds me of home is the taste of noodles with tomato sauce, hearing the slurp of sucking them up.

The feeling that reminds me of home is when I wake up on a school day and my mom makes me go.

The event that makes me feel at home is Christmas and it is snowing and you open presents with your family.



Where I am From...

141

I feel at home where the streets are never empty. This is New York, where I'm from I'm loved. Where I'm from I wish for know more racism.

Where I'm from people make me feel at home. Where I'm from there is always chatter where I'm from there's places with good food I've never tried.

Where I'm from we have family events. This is where I'm from.



Where I am From...

143

I fell at home where a blue lake shines. I fell at home at the cottage. I can run around in the clean cut grass or swim in the big blue lake or a game of cards in the sun. I wish my friends can come over in the hot sun on afternoons and play in the lake after a good hot tub

The person that makes me feel at home is my father after a calm afternoon in the park or a gorilla all stuffed in black fur and people eyes that are bigger than his brain in size.



Where I am From...

145

where i'm from a campus building stands in the middle of a popular city. Amazing food everywhere you go. I feel connected to a place where you'll find any thing you need in a super market.

Where I go to visit my grandma and I have so much space to run around outside in my grandmas yard with the huge trampoline to play in. I love it when my cousins come to stay and we play together. My whole family is there too.

I wish that my cousins could stay for longer and we can play together longer.

I like playing soccer in the sunny fields kicking the ball across the grassy floor. I like the baked potatoes my grandma makes for dinner after a long day outside. sitting with my family eating lunch under the warm sun. that is my favorit event of the day.



Where I am From...

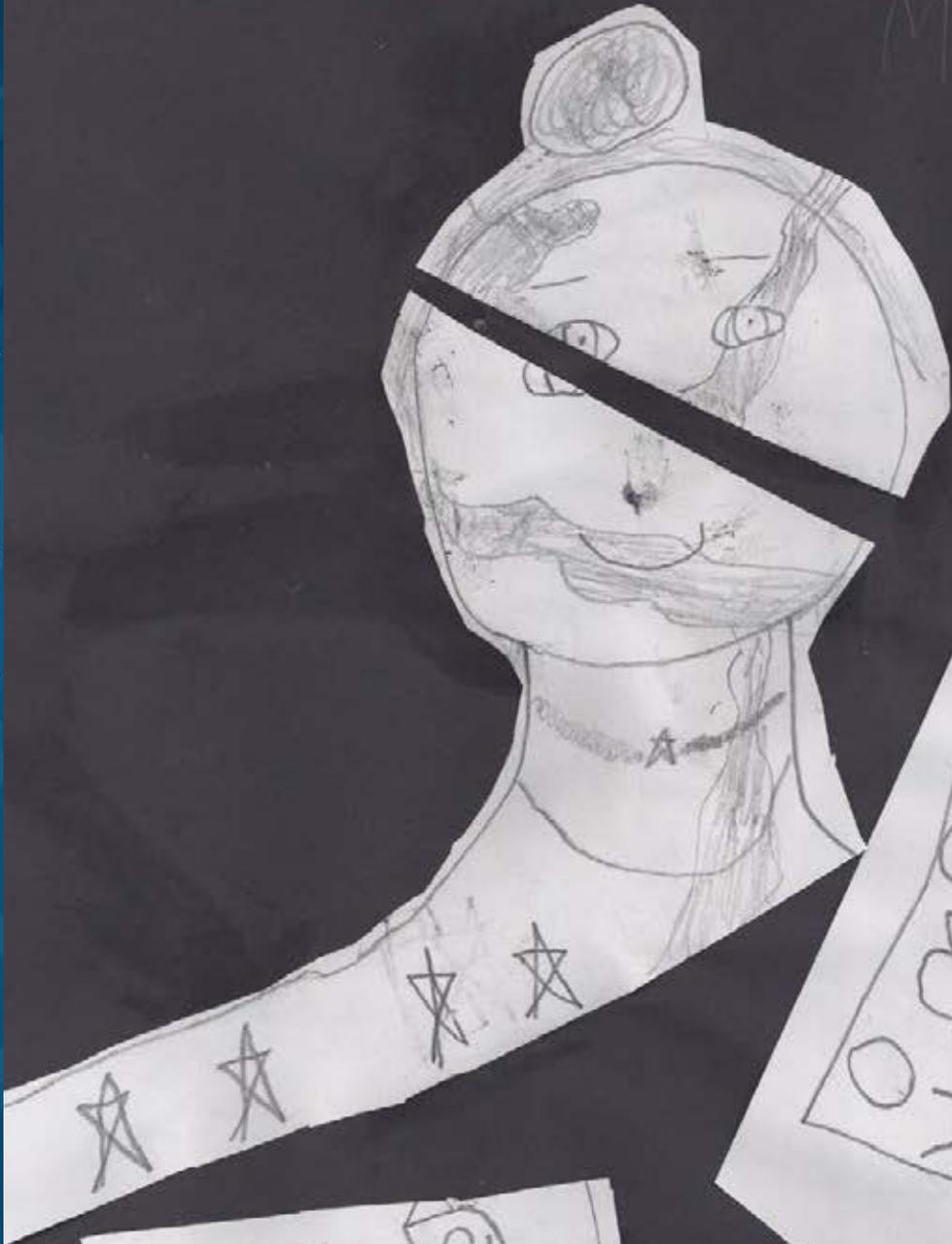
147

Where I'm from
my house is very loud because my mom is
always on the phone or work calls. I like
that some people work together and that
they not mean.

My mom, brothers and dad make me feel
at home because my brothers crack jokes
that are corny. My two stuffed pets make
me feel at home one is a frog and the
second is my teddy bear.

Sounds that remind me of home are
my dad's meditation music. Taste that
remind me of home are my mom's
rice and beans.

When I'm home I feel loved. I remember
the first time I rode my skateboard
board. I fell. Next time I will
watch out for rocks next time.



Madison

Where I am From...

149

A place where I feel at home is a busy area where people never go to sleep and lights never go out. I love when people tell jokes and they will laugh at it and also talk about what they love. What I wish will be different is if people was more kind and no more conflicts. I feel at home in a place where there is laughing all the time and talk about family business.

A thing that make me feel at home is a small toy that easily gets lost everytime and very day. Sounds that make me feel at home is loud music, cars beeping and bombing. Feelings that remind me of home is when happiness comes to anger when light becomes dark. Events that capture my life is sad to funny to happy to mad all the memories at home where family comes first all things is true.

clothes



Where I am From...

151

Where I'm from there is loud music and laughter. Tall buildings and dogs barking. I love that I can feel safe day and night.

I wish that I don't have to see homeless people begging for food and limping step by step.

When I'm home my mom makes me feel at home. I also love when my cats rub their furry heads on me. A sound that makes me feel at home is the people chatting and laughing. A taste that makes me feel at home is my mom's home-made rice and beans.

A feeling that makes me at home is when I'm playing with my cats running around the house.

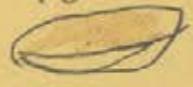
An event that happens in my community is when they close off the road and there's loud music.

family



Mackenzie

Food



Christmas



spells



Where I am From...

153

I am from America where we are calm and peaceful. In America we are not hurtful to others. In America we always are here forever.

I love that my friends and family stick with me. I love that they always love a treat. I love how I am never alone and they are always by my side. I wish that there is no more conflicts and drama so everyone can be kind. I wish that everyone could be fine. If everyone would be nice we would all be fine.

I am at home with my iPad and my TV. I am at home with my family. I am at home in a comfortable place with peace.

People that make me feel at home are my mom and dad. People that make me feel at home are my family and friends.

When I am alone they give me love and comfort. The sound of the loud microwave makes me feel at home. The sound of the loud tv waves. These sounds may be annoying but its ok.

The taste of cheesy macaroni tastes so good. The taste of fast food is so cool. These foods are the best. My feelings are the coziness of my soft bed. My feelings are the hug of my mom. Sometimes its not soft but its okay because it does not always have to be. Events are christmas, opening gifts and joy. Maybe I can get a toy. Christmas is the best time of the year. Nobody would shed a tear. Christmas is my favorite event. Hopefully I would see it again.





I am From...

157

I am from America where you can play on the bright yellow monkey bars and never stop. There is no time when it is dark you can always find one more Spark.

I love that wherever I go I am never alone and whatever you do there is always someone supporting you. I wish I could change that there is no more garbage anywhere that way the world would be so much cleaner. I wish there was no more global warming that way all the polar bears would not be endangered.

People that make me feel at

home is my mom, my brother
my dad and friends. When I
am not at home I think
about them then I am
not so alone. Some things
that make me feel at home
is my cat and my bed. When
I am far from home I
imagine I am with those
things and I am not so alone.

Some sounds that remind me
of home is the loud beeping
car horns on the busy highway
another sound that reminds me of
home is the sound of the
warm heater ticking.

Some tastes that remind me

of home is my dad's warm curry with all sorts of different color vegetables and all sorts of nutrients.

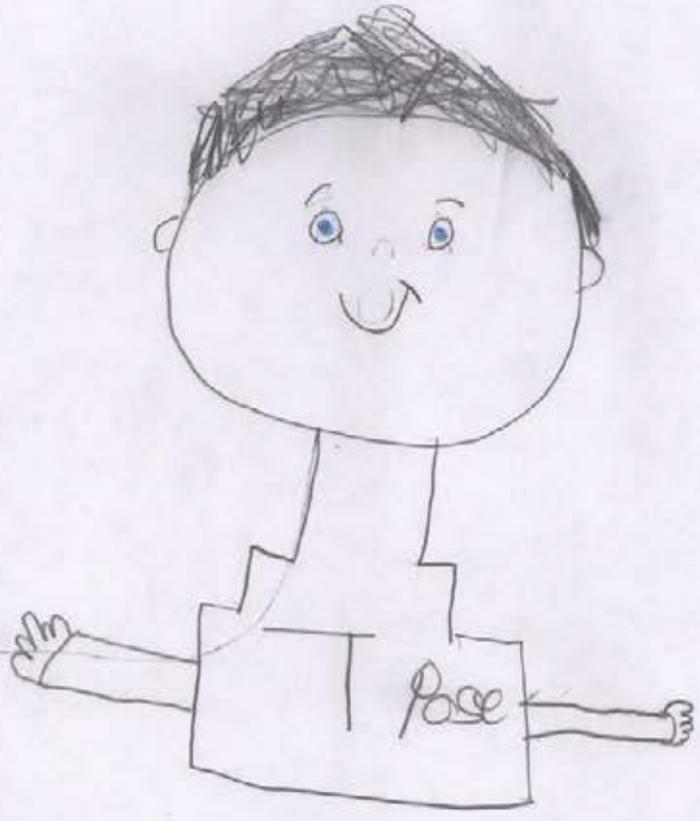
Another taste is my dad's warm miso with tofu seaweed and more. Some feelings that remind me of home is the

feeling of my soft furry cat.

Another one is my soft cotton pillow. Some events that capture my home life is when

we celebrate Japanese children's day when we hang up fish flags and watch them sway in the wind

Leonard



Where I am From...

I come from new york where the streets are filled and busy
I love the space, toys food and more! But there could
be more room for play in my room. people that make me feel
at home are my mom, dad, Sonic plush and the toys in my
room make me feel at home. The stove running and the
sound of my dad playing fortnite. Happy, sad etc
are the feelings of home.



Where I am From...

163

I am from a place that never goes to sleep and that is awake and that it's lights never turn off. I am from New York. One thing that I love about New York is that my home is there and that I can trust it.

I wish that there were less crimes and that it was a peaceful city. People that make me feel home are my mom and my dad because my mom loves me and cooks for me. My dad also loves and he takes care of me also he cooks for me and my mom.

In my room I feel at home with my stuff animals. Sounds that remind me of home is the sounds of the cars and the sound of the tv.

The taste that reminds me of home is Hotdogs and Icy's.

Joyful, happy and excited remind me of home. Christmas and Easter is the event that makes me feel like home.



Where I am From...

165

I am from a city where the city is in a shape of a animal. where I am from every big park has its own dance. Japan is what I call home.

when I go to bed the warm sound of my grandma's voice and the odd ice that I sneak in my mouth. Japanese songs that my friends sing with hope. my stuffies that smell like the flowers of my home my Japanese home.

The food that I love that I eat with my family. The people that make me feel at home are my mama who holds me tight my papa who protects me, my grandparents that make me feel welcome wherever I am. That's what we call home.

one thing I would like to change is that I wish that my home was bigger. I miss the happiness that Japan sent me every morning as a gift.

Yahima
★♥♥☽

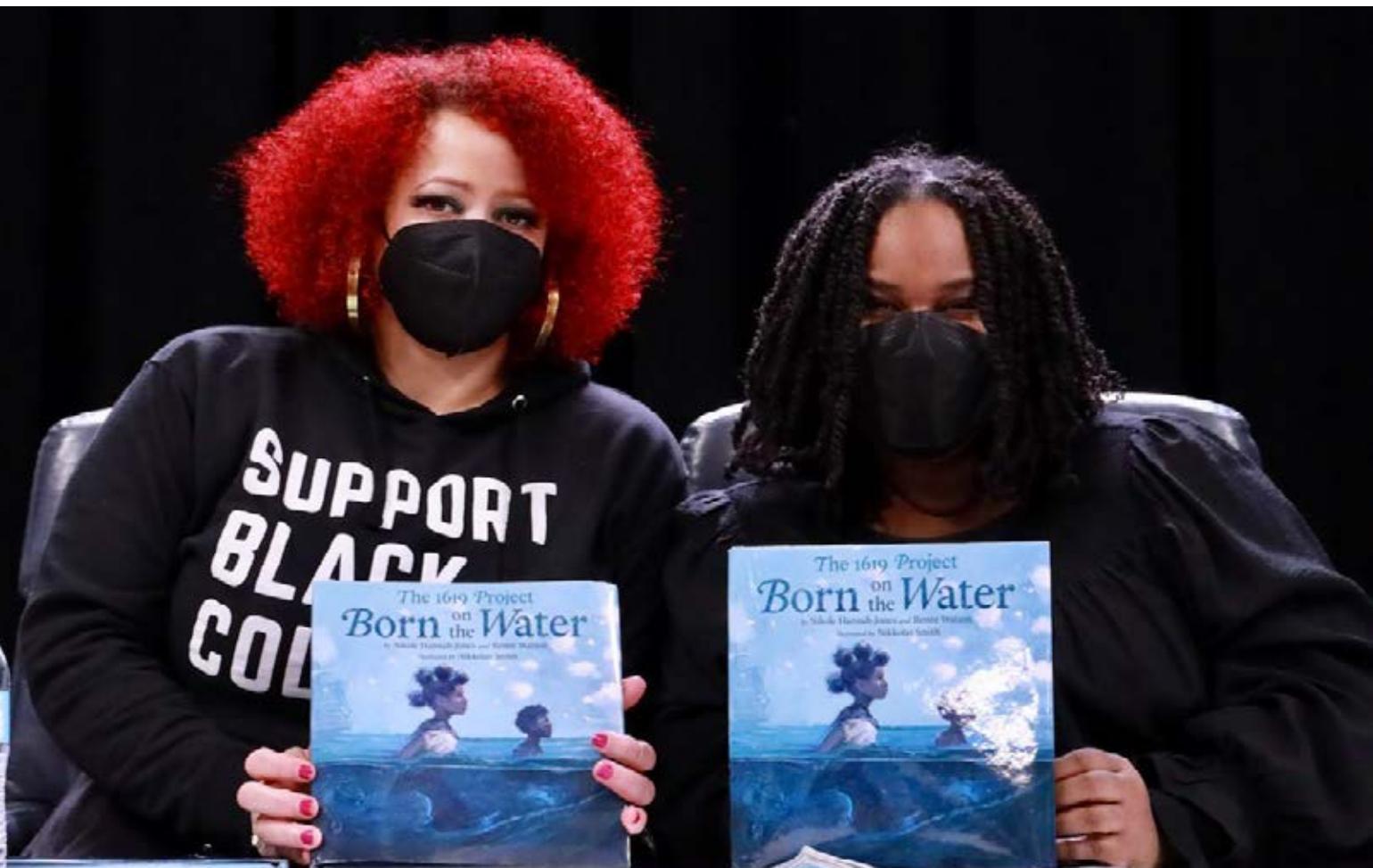


New York City

167

Where I'm from there are rainboots
against the ground. As if nobody heard
a sound. My MOM'S SOUP "Gloop! Gloop!"
We share smiles with anyone, MOM
goes out for her daily, she almost knows
evreyone.

Bagels and hotdogs fill the air,
Meanwhile outside dogs honk and
blair. Dads Coffee spills evreywhere!
Back Pack On for the day, I'll come
back with a happy face. Raw chicken
fills the air. While My MOM plops
the chicken in the pot, I get my
p.j.s on. The next day the sun
shines in my face. I shuffled
outside, in delight. Dad calls
out "Breakfast is ready!" I run
back inside, "this day is a good one!"
"It oughta be just fine"



Class 4/5-216

Robyn 170

Makayla 172

Kevin 174

Ismael 176

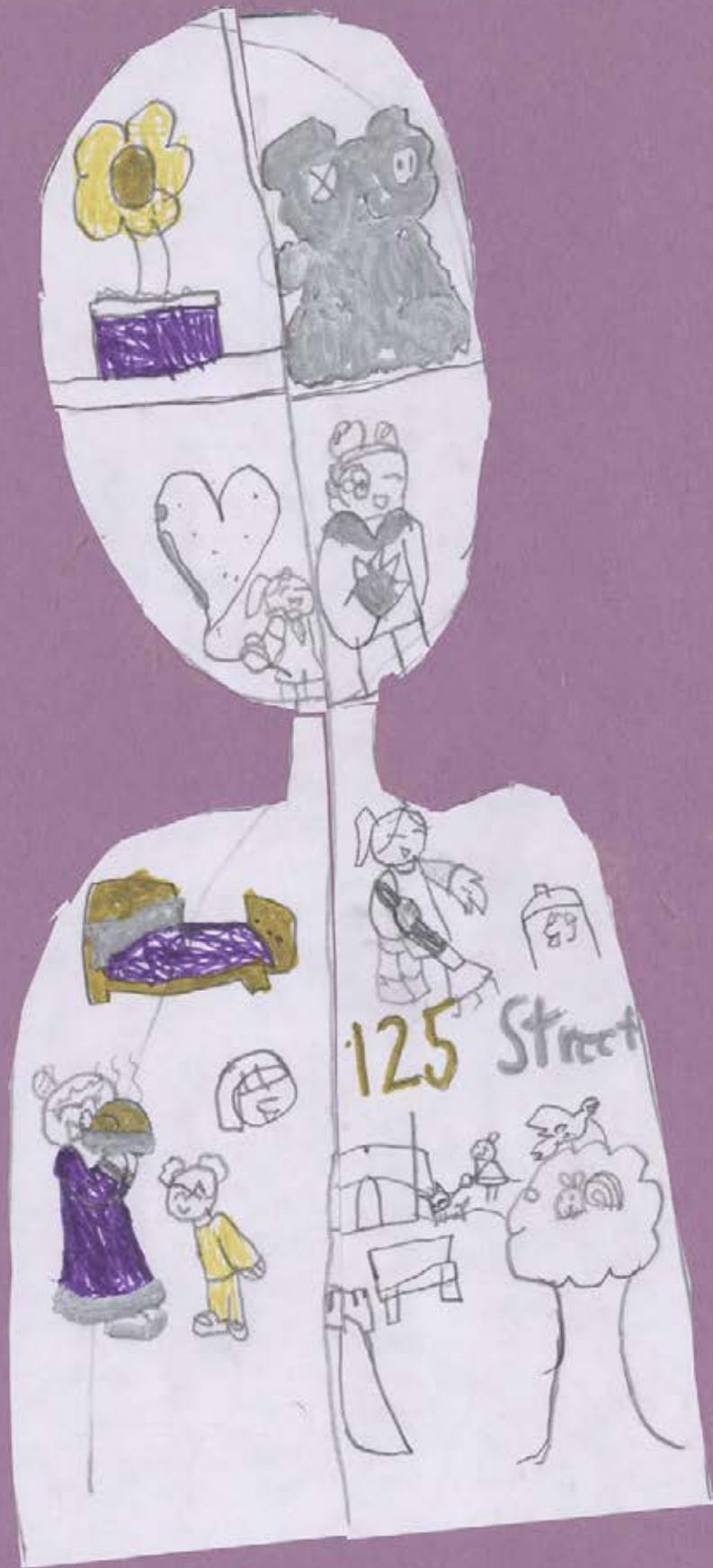
Cassidy 178

Sidney 180

Osniel 182

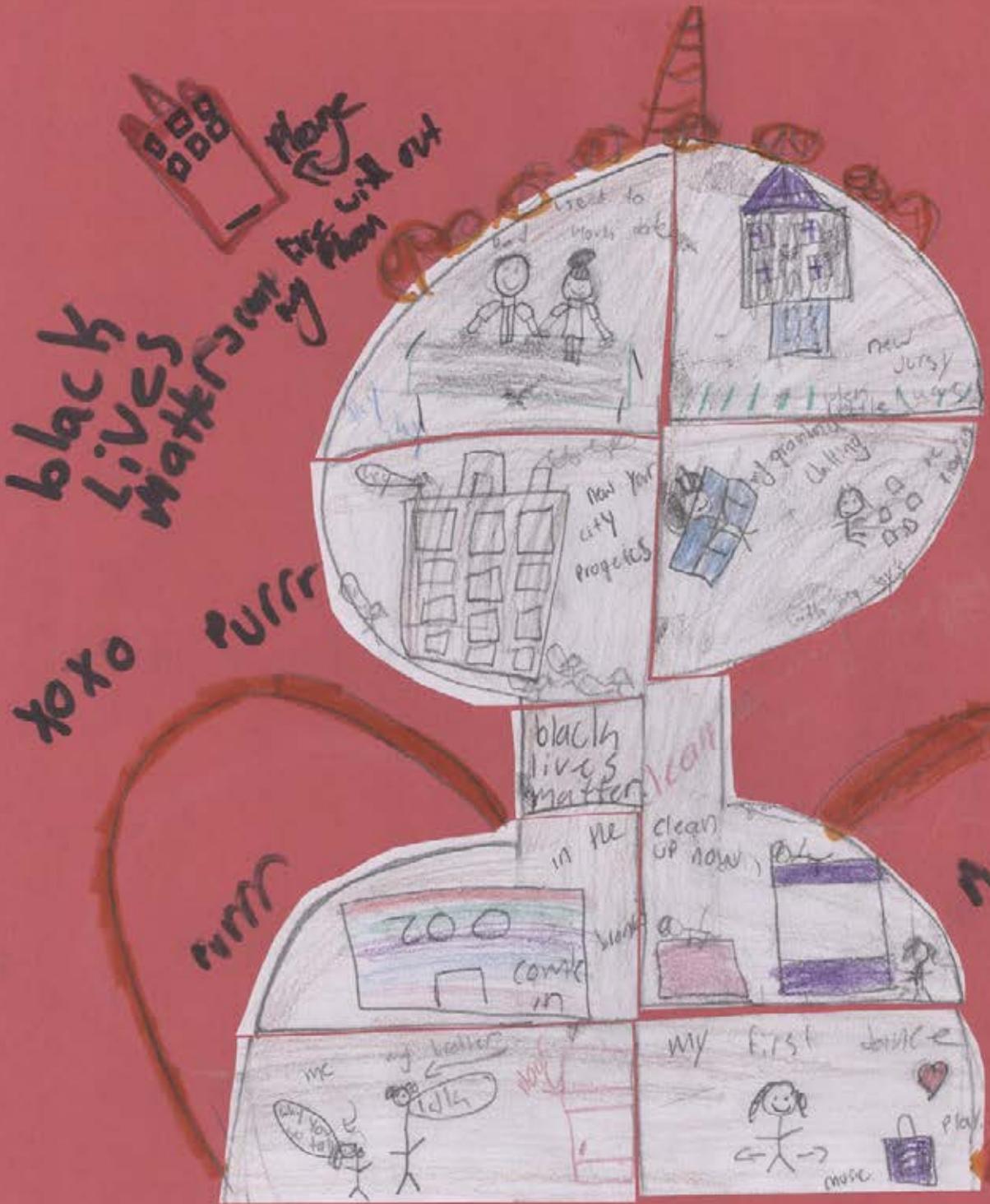
Chance 184

Mailee 186



Where I am From...

I am from my plush toys. I am from
my old bed. I am from a small apartment.
I am from a small plant whose bits growing
all day and all night. I am from old shoes
and old clothes from mom and dad. I am
from Baliz clothes and Baliz bags and Baliz
Baliz scarfs. From eating Spanish food. I am from
my Great Granma and Granpa. From tmalis
and ipainads. From me and Great Granma.
I am from these moments of birthday party
and new year's.



Love

I am From...

173

I am from new york city where you never hear or see my future.
From new jersey where my mom gave birth to me in a hospital.
I am from new york city where you can only see from the
projects. And I grow up in the projects with my family.
I am from new york city where you can see my beautiful face.
I am from new jersey when my mom gave birth to me on
APRIL 2 2011.

I am from new york city when I was 8 or 7 years old.
from new jersey and new york city I am from the bronks
where I love to go to see my grandma. And when
everybody respect others.

And from the bronks when my mom use to take
me when I was little. And from the bronks where
my grandma use to baby sit me when I was
4 years old. I am from new york city where I grow
up with my best friend. I am from

I am from new jersey when I grow up having a
little pink's pink car.

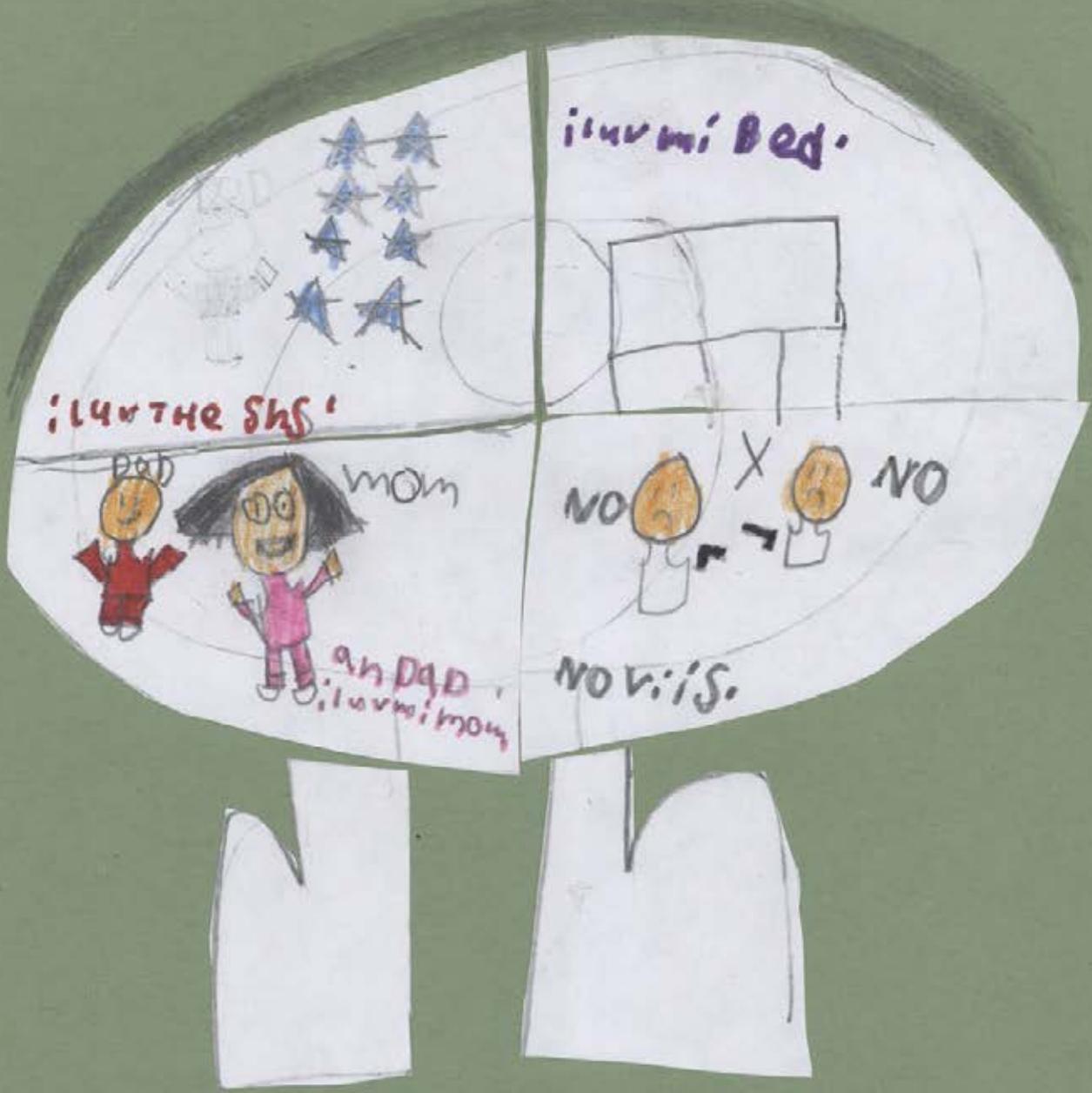
I am from the bronks where I use to share
a room with my sibling's. I am from new jersey where I
use to use my sibling's to clean our room. And from
new york when I looked up to my family. I am from
those moments that make me feel at home is
my friends, my family, my teachers, my class mates.



2/9/2022

175

I am from New York City
from Broadway I am
from the second floor.
from a lot of stairs.
I am from Kitty my cat
whose fur is white and
black I am from a line
I am from Roman Soriano
and from black hair I am
from chicken and
mashed potatoes



Where I am From...

177

I am from Harlem + Harlem

from my mom + hospital

I am from mom

and DAD

I am family

whose sound make me happy

I am from milk cheese

and breakfast

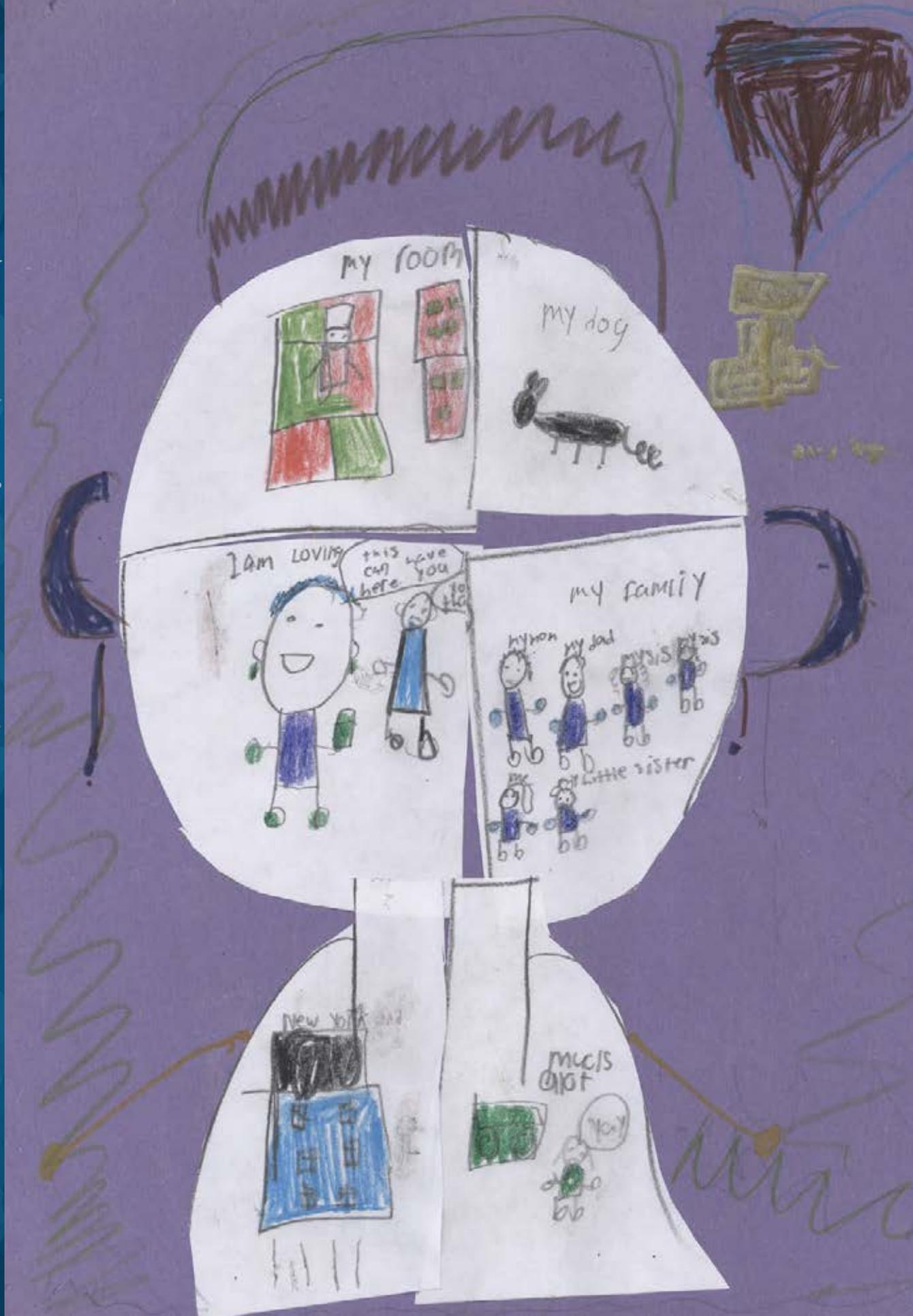
an from ferry wheels

from doot knock

and from no violence

I am from those moment

christmas Halloween



Where I am From...

I am from New York and Harlem

From the project

I am from a lot of love

and I have my own room and the color is pink

I am from a lot of people who

whose is black and white

I am from Harlem

From family

and loving and nice

and from the 12th floor

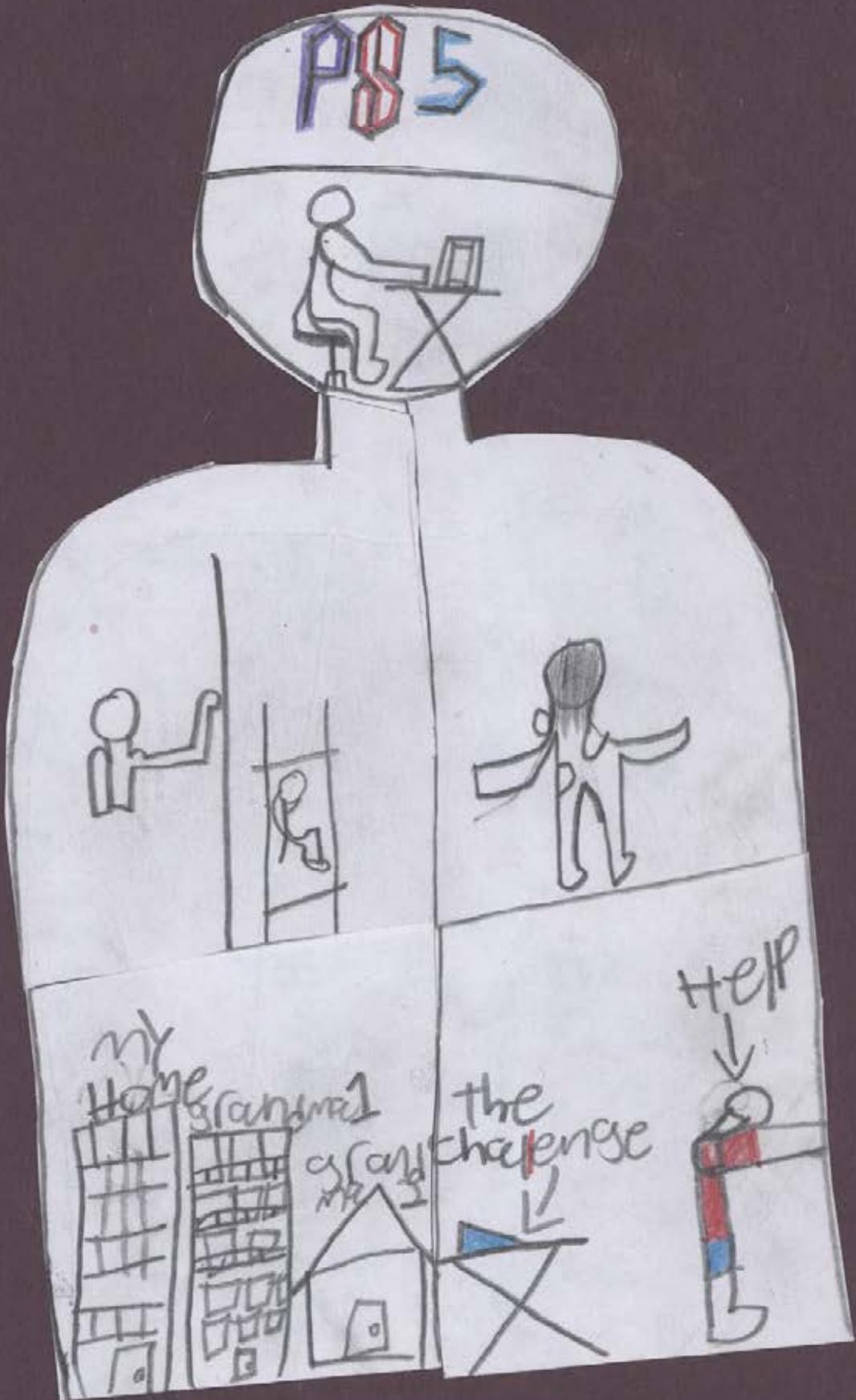
from nice people

I am from loving and nice and a lot of plants

From a lot of music

from a lot of dance

and from a lot of books in my room



Where I am From...

I am from Harlem, 103 to 135 then to Richmond Va.
From a place where I felt welcome even if I don't.
I am from a generation of old and new school
and video games and technology.
I am from noisy environments banging walls to
shooting.
Who's a book with graffiti me.
I am from a creative parent who I will always
love I am from a loving parent.
From perseverance and my favorite.
From my experience challenges will be tough
from all I have been through I am from comfort.



Where I am From...

183

I Am from nyc! and DRI,
from Harlem.

I am from Nintendo,

and iPad.

I am from my mom,

whose hugs make me happy.

I am from music.

from nyc LESALLE St.

I am from MACS and eggs.

and from my mom food.

from stores I listen to

I am from music I hear and I

love my hobby.

I Am from hip hop.

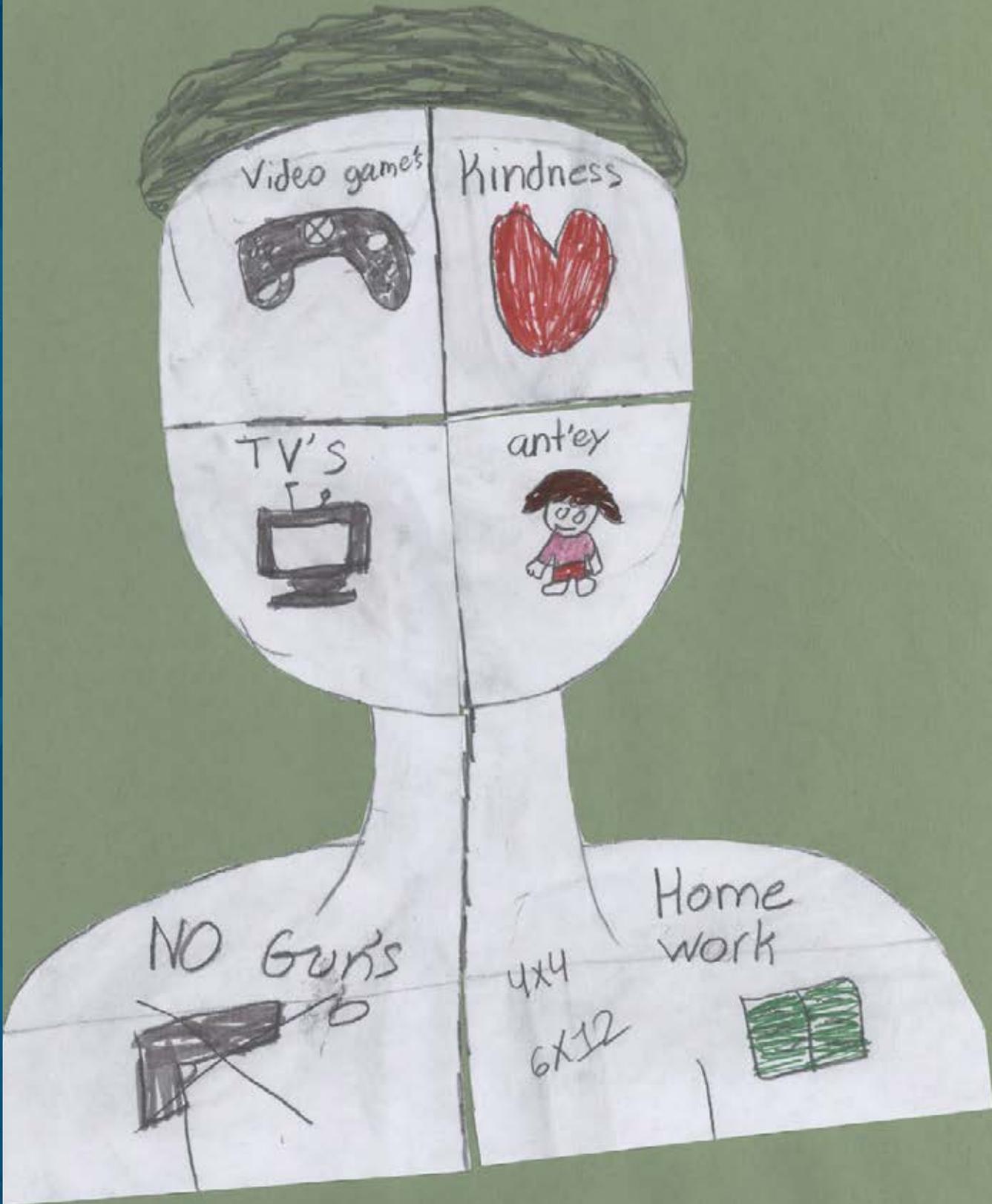
from getting stanky.

from iCarly! video games.

and from my dad buying me Raisinets!

I Am from those moments when

times were good and fun.



I am From...

I am from new york from brooklyn
I am from video games and books
I am from ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
from noise rods that I bont like
from my grandma and grandpa
I am from my dog and from
West 159st from game's I play
I am from grandma sins 1673
and my grandpa sins 1671 I
am from Vanellaa imm adictid to
it from tv's and from my ant
rose and video's I am thes
plasis.



I am From...

187

I am from sketch books

from dog mufasa sower sweet

I am from small rooms

and bed rooms nice

I am from home

whose my moms

iam from my dog

and my happy place

and school

from math

from reading

I am from my mom

I am from my dad?

from life

and from happy art

I am from those moments getting mufasa

my dog



Class 5-207

Marcus	190	Pedro	208	Justin	226
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By Marcus



Marcus

I am From...

I am not African. African is in me but I cannot return. I am not Latino. Latino is in me, but there is no way back. I am not European. European lives in me but I have no Home there I am new. History made me. My first language was Spanglish. I was born at the crossroads and I am whole.



Paris

Gyro, Haiti and Family

I am from the many toys cars I grew up with,
and from gyro and hot beef patties.
I am from family and good fortune,
and love and happiness. I am from
tree dotting sidewalks whose very
presence purifies the air. I am from
books and TV shows, mother and father.
I am from Christianity and justice and
everlasting love and unyielding kindness.
I'm from "Love Thy Neighbor". I am from
Haitian and West African descent, from
rice and beans, from slavery, from
revolution, from liberation and from the
warm touch of my great-grandfather.
I am from those moments with kindness,
justice, and equality.



My Nice Home

195

I am from my bunny stuffed toy from my beads and hair clips, I am from my folks who still live in my childhood home, and when i'm home with them, I usually feel the best. And always having some rules. I am from cactus and trees who always speak to me for fun! I am from my toy cars and toy dolls from my mom I am from a baker and a cooker, from a crafter, and from a artist I am from 1 foot of snow from rice and beans also stewed chicken. From when I learned to walk. And from my lego bricks. I from lots of things and family.

By Yaralise



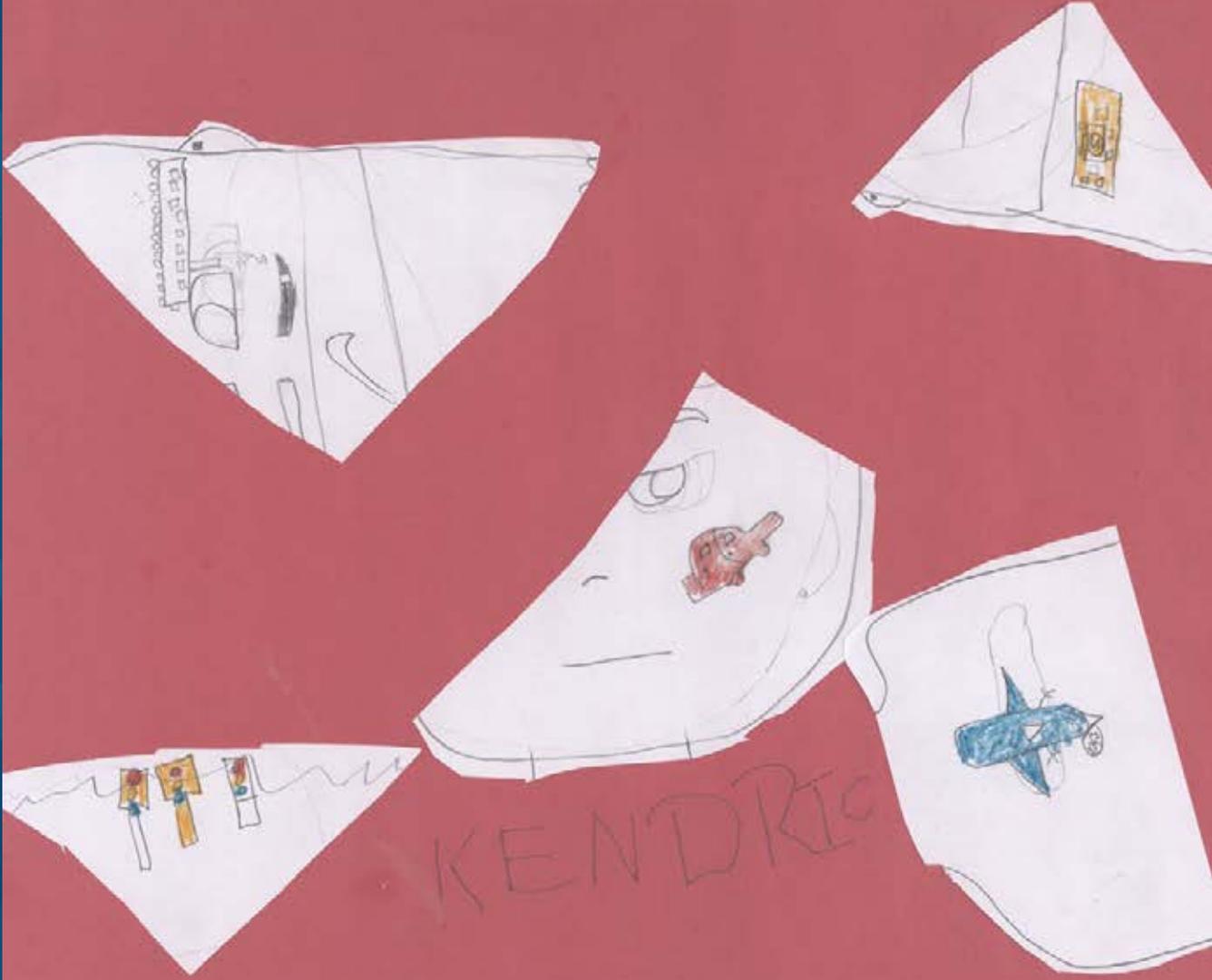
Yaralise

The Harlem City

197

I'm from where leaves fall down looking
crispy and ready for fall, flowers growing
to bloom some red, yellow and orange like
the sunset. The city lights shine at night,
being the beautiful city ever people sleeping
hearing the beautiful fireworks pop out
there windows at night. And kids thinking
its gun shots. I'm from kids playing outside
and neighbors watching them. I'm from
where adults have tea with there neighbors
and talk about the latest news. Parent
gossips to parent and parent about
how another mom takes care of their
child. I'm from where music takes
away all the rage you have. Parents
and children swaying thier body to the
beat instruments playing every single
day music that no one can get tired of
heritage food coming out of the oven smelling
fresh and ready attracting all the kids. I see
the stars dazzling of sparkle at night. I hear the
roughness of the ocean waves flowing at night.

By Kendrick



Brooklyn

199

I'm from with loud noise
tall boy playing with toys.
I'm from chopted cheese with
candy on a Friday nite. I'm
from xbox to PC to PS5. I'm
from waching tv on my bed.
I'm from riding my bike
on a Friday nite. I'm from
taco tuesday. I'm from playing
on my phone all day long.
I'm from 42nd street on the
weeking. I'm from Mand M stores
and that where I'm from
brooklyn New York.



Brownstone Dreams

201

I Come from the Smell of a hot deli Sandwich,
and I come from the Sight of Sky Scrapers.

I Come from the feeling of rough bricks,
and I Come from the Sound of Cars and trains.

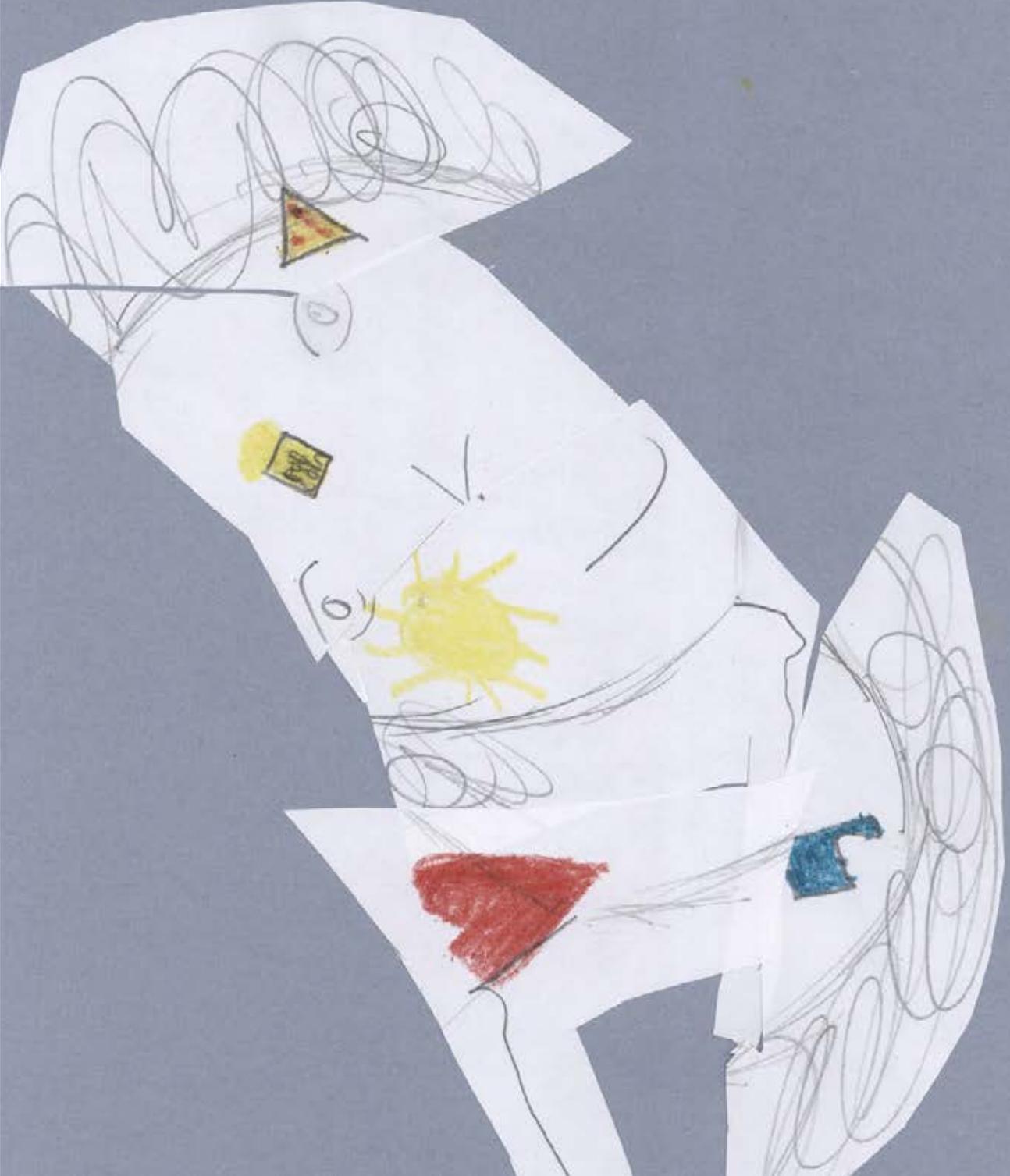
I come from the taste of hot-CoCo in the Winter
and lemonade in the Summer.

I Come from School.

I Come from lights.

I Come from books.

I Come from home.



I am From...

I am from the smart and crazy.

I am from oversized t-shirts that I wear every night.

I am from sports to keep me active.

I am from the state of America where dreams come true.

I am from jokes that make my friends laugh.

I am from extreme love from friends and family.

I am from brown eyes and brown hair.

I am from colorful plates.

I am from summer.

I am from soccer to have fun.

I am from Amazon where I order stuff.

I am from gaming where I try hard to win.



keisha

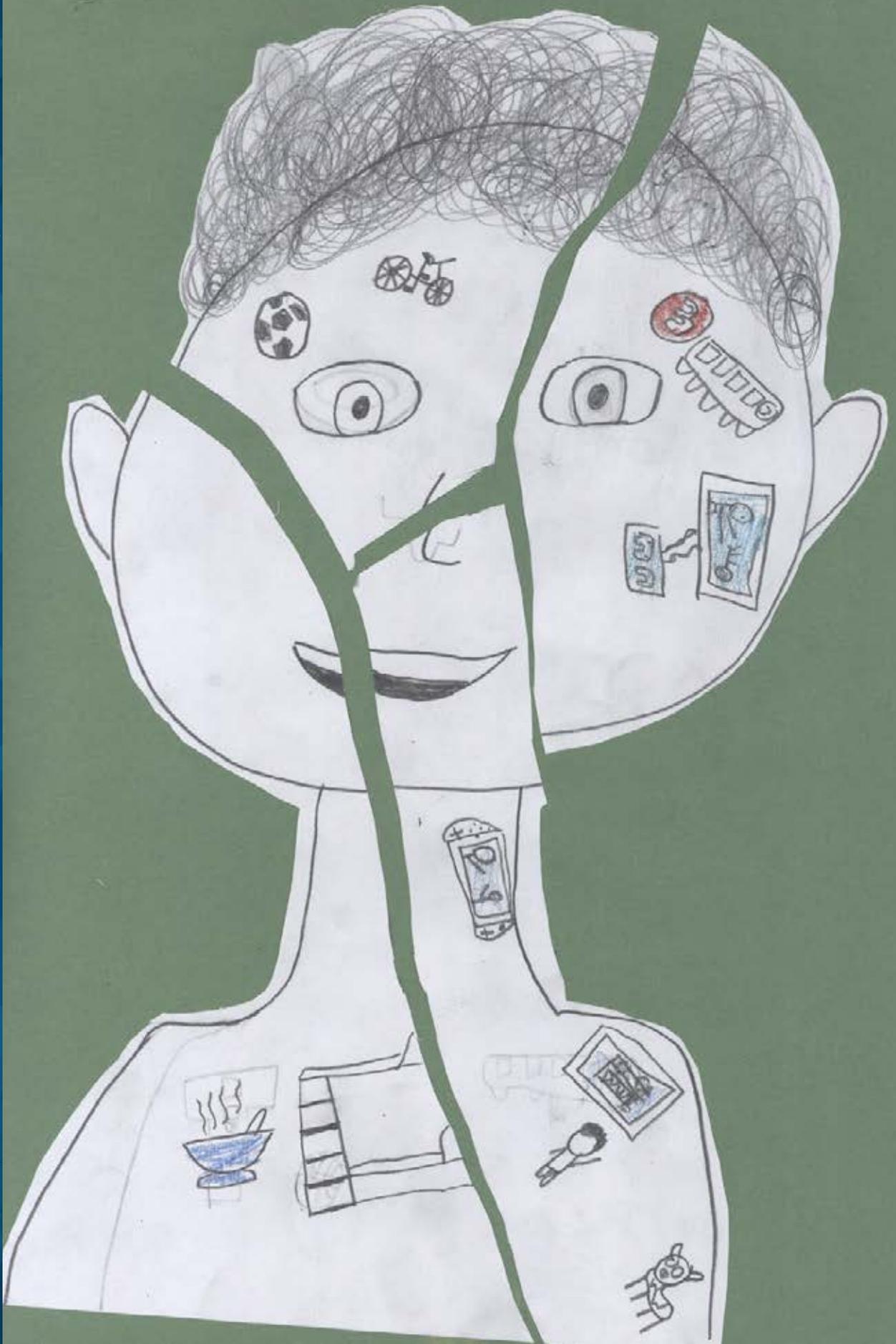
Where I am From...

I am from new york city, but I am haitian, really. new york city is full of things to explore and I am still exploring. My parents came from haiti because of my grandpa, that's why I am here, for a better life. and my parents has a better life. this is who I am, and I am here for a better life, and to explore. this is where i'm from.



My Lives Moments

Where am I from? I'm from bustling city streets, sirens wailing and music filling the air. I'm from tall buildings that scrape the sky with their high roof tops. I'm from crowded bike lanes and sudden pandemics. I'm from a great city with great people, and great places. New York City, where I was born, where I've always lived. I'm from endless trains and long ferry rides. I'm from one of 5 boroughs. Manhattan. From countless miles of stores, libraries, and museums. Apartments and parks. Subways and traffic jams. Where I'm from, everything has always been close by. I have had good times and bad ones. Fun times and boring ones. That's where I'm from. Where I belong.



Harlem, NY

209

I am from long intense basketball games and riding bike around the block. I am from playing video games with my brother and my mom telling me to walk the dog. I am from helping my mom with laundry and adventures in central park. I am from family game night and staying up late on Friday. I am from my mom telling me to clean my room and legendary sleepovers. I am from hanging out with my cousin and my brother buying me candy. I am from playing with my action figures and facetime with my friends. I am from carrying a heavy backpack and being late for school. I am from getting bundled up for the snow and playing in the public pool. I am from my mom's rice and beans and taking the subway late at night. I am from Harlem, NY.

By Airianna



By Jermaine



I am From...

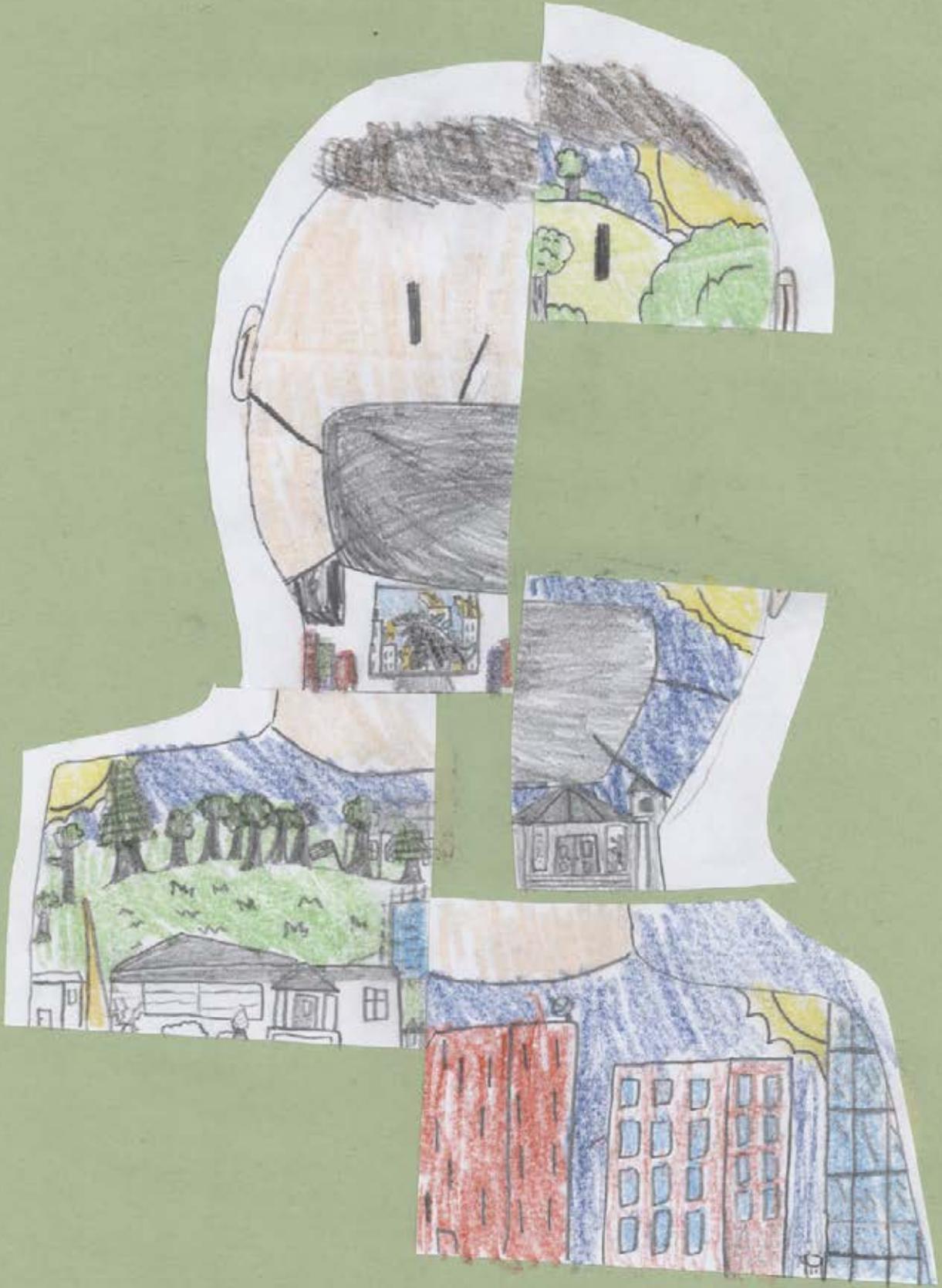
Where I'm from I was raised in Manhattan
West 125 Street. Where I'm from
people asking for money down the
street. Where I'm from people sleeping
outside my building. Where I'm
from eating chicken, rice and
lettuce. Where I'm from I play
basketball and attend school.
Where I'm from eating Cheetos.
Where I'm from with family.
Where I'm from ^{having} enjoying fun.
Where I'm from enjoying my life.

By Matthew



I am From...

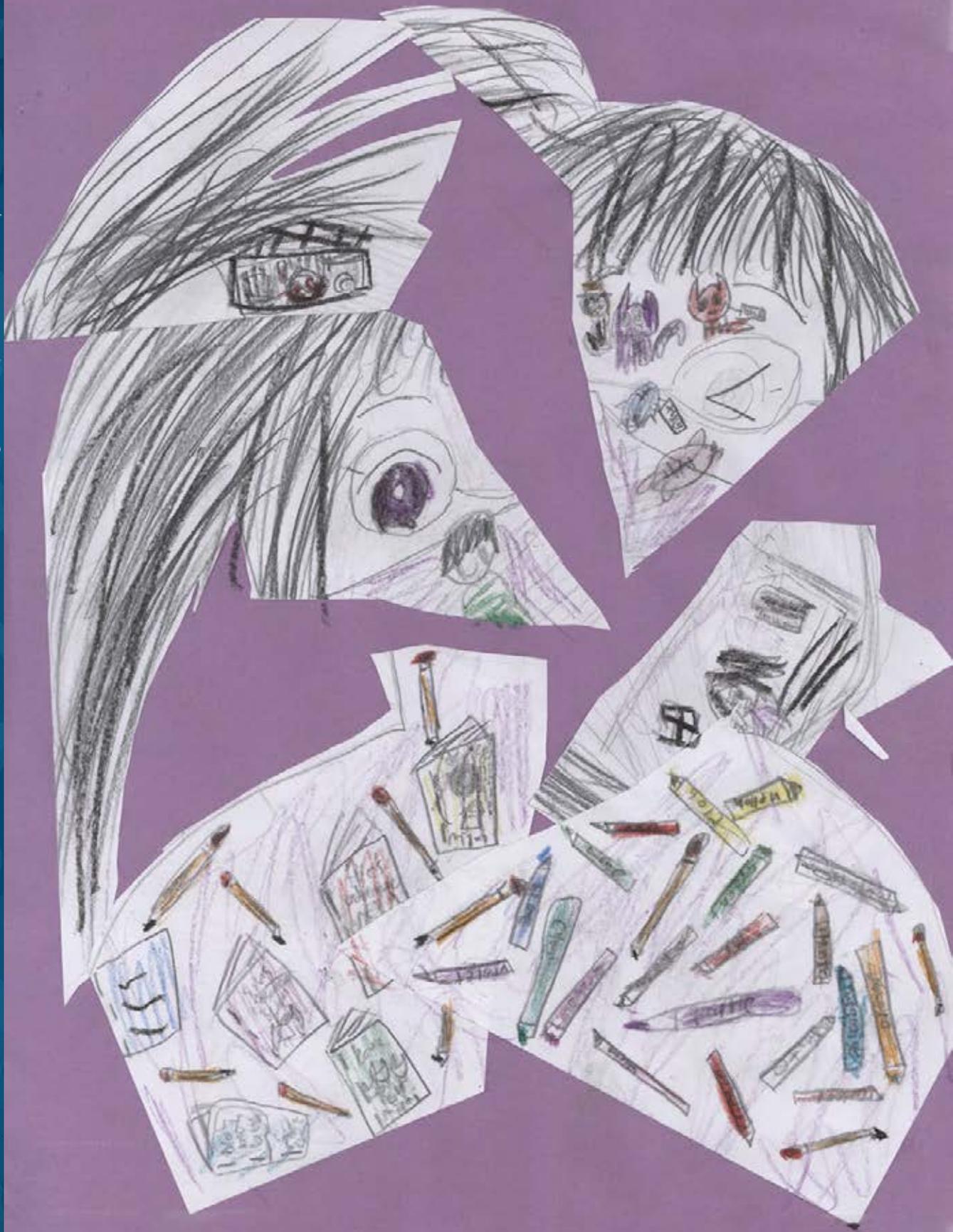
I'm from the city. I it's name is New York. Grow up playing games. The smell of past elites cooking it just always had me looking. Where I'm from is a place of lots of noise. Cars all around sirens going crazy people always lazy. I'm from the noise at 3am it always make me angry. the place I live has tall hill buildings of any kind. so ya that's just a little from where I'm from.



The City

217

Where I'm from. I am from a place filled with lights. A place that never sleeps. I am from a neighborhood in the city. I am from parks streets and buildings. I am from where they filmed movies and the place tourists visit where buildings come from big to small and short to wide. I am from the place where buildings scrape the sky. The place where parks and playgrounds roam. I am from a planet to a country to a state to a city all the way to a child. I am from New York City.



I Am From...

Where I'm from, I was born in New York. Where I'm from, my home is my comfort zone where I eat tasty cereal on school mornings. I'm from a family that makes me feel at home, and I'm from a family that has a brother who beats me up. Where I'm from, when you're back from school and finished with your homework, you're allowed to play on the computer for a few minutes. Loneliness, homesickness, and fear reminds me of my safe, cozy home, and getting a warm hug or some company, or holding a stuffed animal helps me feel better. Where I'm from, I think you will like it too.



Mexirican

I am from the never lasting party's. From
the delicious smell coming from the kitchen. From
the neighbour that catches you up on all the
gossip. From going to sleep late at night. watching
movies. From going to the park after school
lets out late in June. I am from love.
I am from Harlem.

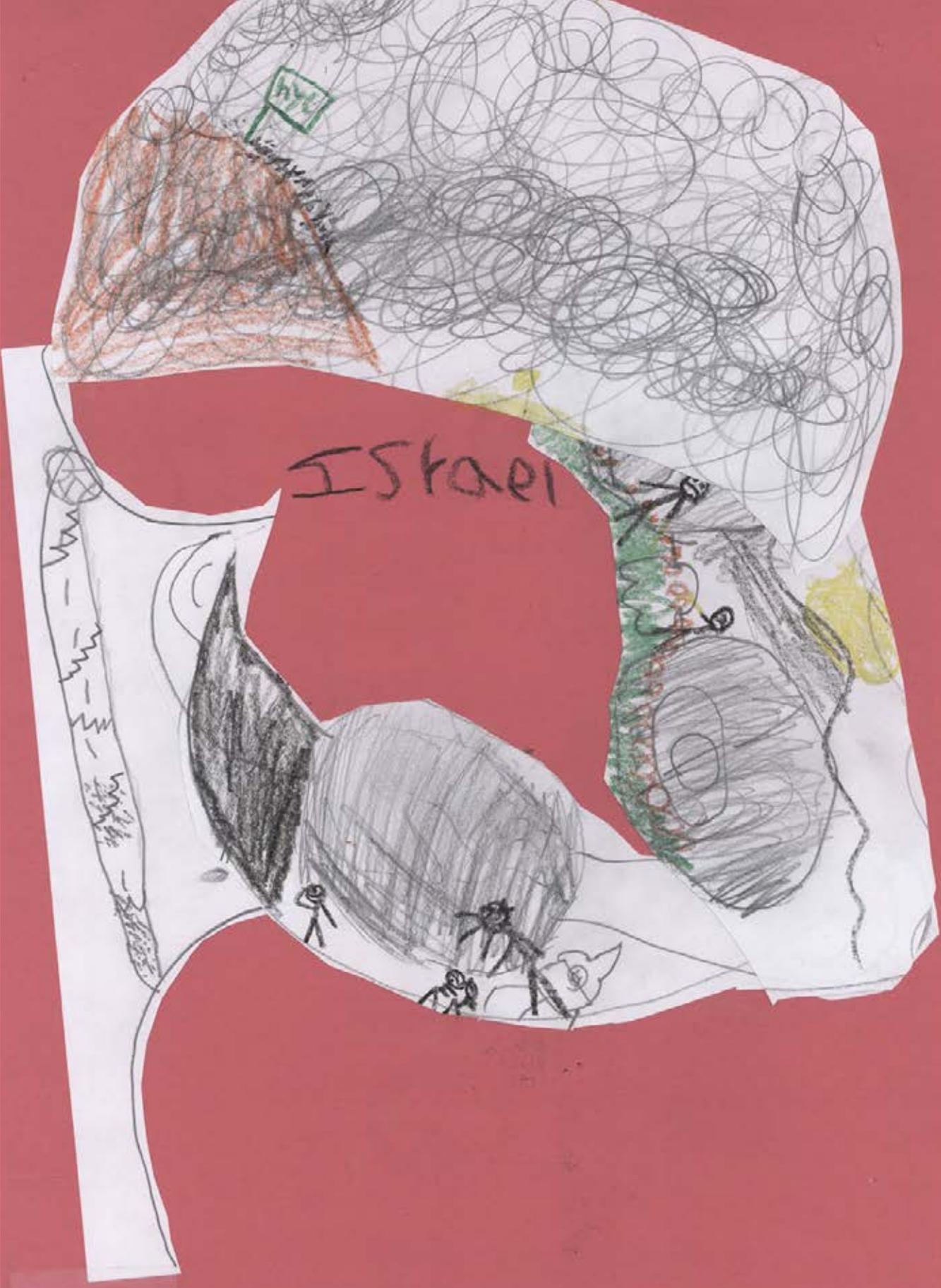


Brielle

Where I Am From...

I am from a place a place that I love
from the beach. were I am from is where
I wish they had games. where I'm from
is my mom allways make me feel like
home. where I am from is playing video
games. where I am from is allways my
mom's rice and beans where I am from
is feeling calm when I am at home. where
I am from is playing basket ball in my
house.

By Israel



where I'm from where the streets
are mean, and one person laughed at
two cops praying to live, where I'm
from, to be grateful that you and
your family live, and to always,
glare but to not explore the unknown.
To do risky things. Where I'm from
were the con's outway the pro's, were
the food is delicious, where I'm from
When the white man come to drop
off the cotton's for slavery NYC is
where I live.



Justin

I am From...

227

i'm from where the cars are
very loud and people yelling
to move. where i'm from we used
to play in the mud and when
we were back inside we were
all wet. i'm from where
the food is sweet and spicy
and the moon is shining.
i'm from the buildings that
are tall and scary and
going to the park every
day.



I am from strong love and my home. I am from video games and my warm couch watching TV while mom or dad serve me breakfast. I am from homemade supper and my nice, comfortable bed. I am from a place where people help people. I am from a place where a lot of events happen. I am from me and my brother having little debates when mom and dad help us get past it. I am from my family, my land, my country, and most importantly, me feeling my best.

I am from NYC.



IPads and Puppies

231

I'm from my iPad, under the blanket, with my headphones on. I'm from wishing my brother didn't have a volleyball, I'm (literally) from my mom, dad, (okay not literally anymore) my sister, my brother, and most importantly, my doggo Teddy. I'm from my blanket, my sister's and my figurines, iPad and TV. I'm from the loud noises of my lunch being made in the morning, and the coffee grinder scaring Teddy (well really everything scares Teddy so I guess I didn't need to put that), Teddy playing with my friend's dog Dean. I'm from ice cream, soup, mac and cheese, my mom's homemade burgers (world's better than McDonald's, mind you), pizza, homemade salmon teriyaki, and chicken. I'm from being annoyed because of my brother's volleyball crashing into me. I'm from taking care of Teddy.

Thanks.



Josiah



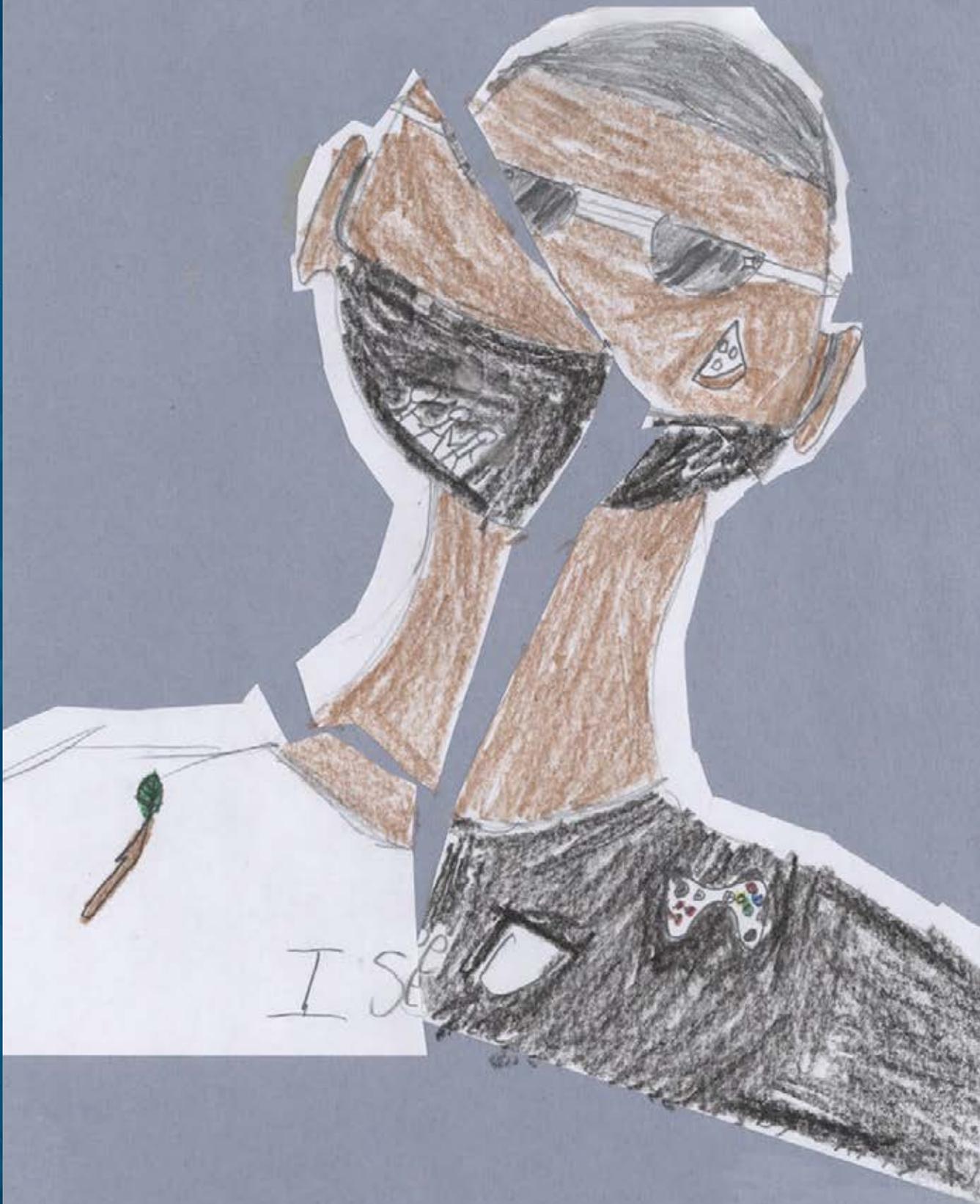
make
bar



Story of my Life

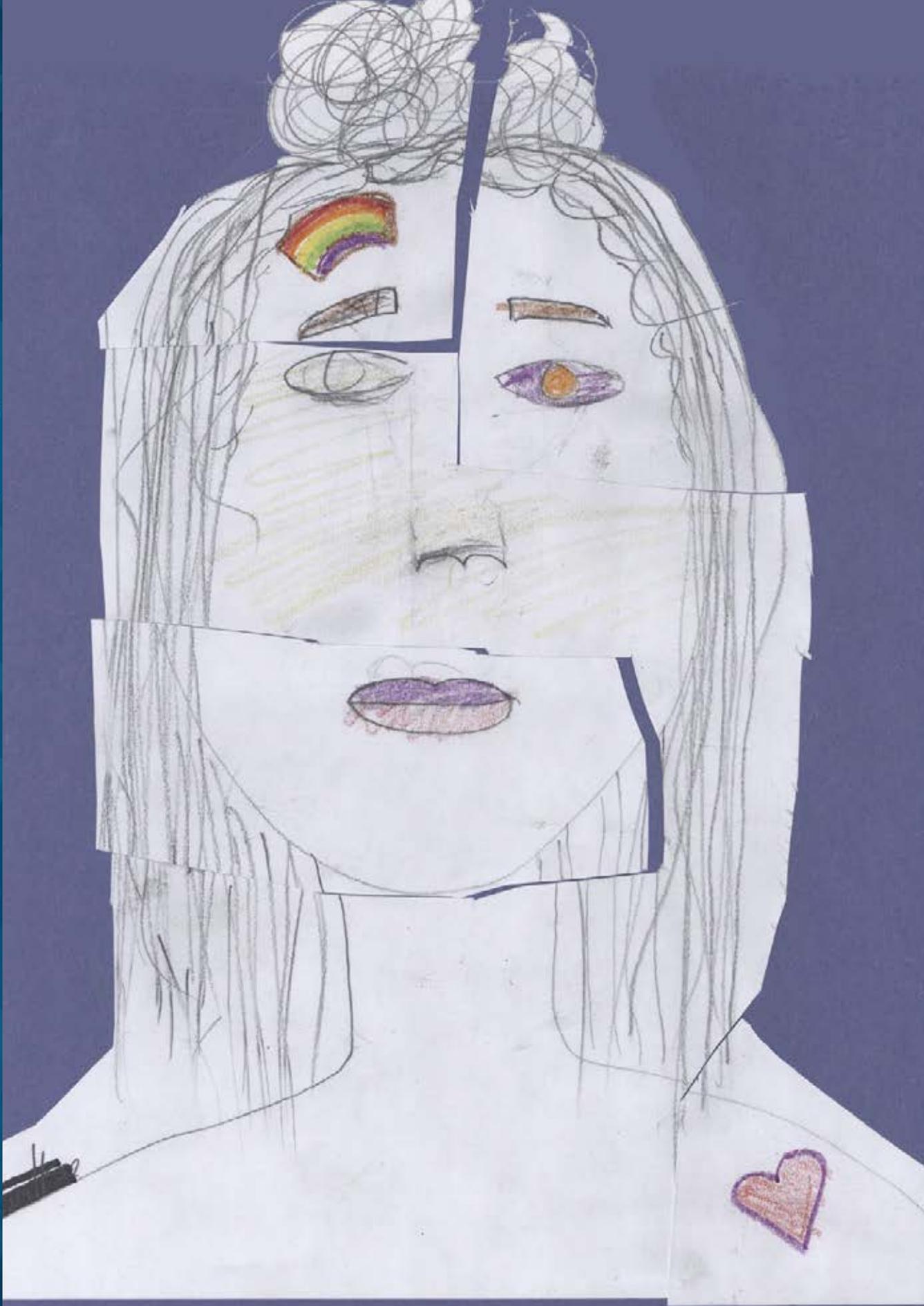
I'm connected to the park that
have's a big basketball court I wish
they will stop shooting. My mom and
my grandma and my dad my pss and my
Bed the police car and rap and
hip-hop candy and pizza happy and Soso
and sometime mad the movies and
partying for a birthday and staying
up in till three am.

By Christopher



Guyanese-American

Where I'm from people are serious and give you an eye when you look at them. Where I'm from if you said something extremely mean, my family will hunt them down and beat them up. Where I'm from if you did really bad things at school the teacher won't hesitate to take a stick and beat you. Where I'm from it's hot and beautiful. And that's where I'm from.



By Zoe

Warm Breeze

237

I'm from where you hear police sirens because
there was a shooting going around you people play
ding dong ditch and laugh i'm from where the sunset
sets so beautifully and you can hear the birds calling
their friends to your window i'm from dogs barking
from houses down the block when it hits dark
all you hear is loud tv's playing at 50 volume
I'm from you wake up because you hear a loud
alarm clock in your ear and scream at
the top of your lungs i'm from there's a
nice breeze that comes through your window
I'm from when you hear fire works you
duck down on the floor and hearing fire's
next to the corner store I'm from when
there's rats in the subway they run away
i'm from when the school makes you feel
welcome and at home and with family and friends.
I'm from my neighbors babysit you until
your mom come back from work i'm from where
you cook like it's your hobby i'm from when you play
with snow and it be freezing so bad i'm from playing
guitars and flutes and pianos i'm from eating pizza every
fridays at home and having movie nights.



A Peak Inside Noah's World

239

I am from the room with
stuffed plushies from bottles
of milk and mashed bananas.
I am from apartment 2A and
building 356. I am from the
aloe vera plant whose leaves are
strong like my mom. I am from
corn bread collard greens, from
the Larkins and the Wilsons. I
am from strength and resiliency
and from dancing fun from
New York to Florida. I am
from Christian values. I am from
African and American ancestors,
from Juneteenth to my tenth
birthday. I am from those
moments. I am proud to be
me.



Home from Home Place by Place

241

I am from getting ice cream on a hot warm
summer day from going camping mosquitos biting me
I am from going to movie theaters when fresh
movies come out and from getting butter all over
my hands I am from snow storms that came a
month late I am from mentally ill people screaming
like there is pain whose never going to help them
I am from trees getting chopped off from pictureing
where will the engine go? I am from getting
woken up by my brother's loud snores. I am from
eating warm hot waffles with drippy syrup getting
all over me and eating my father's cup cakes
without him knowing and celebrating each holiday
without missing any I am from all these places
from me growing up with them.



From the Prospect Park to Harlem

243

I am from the weekend trips to the mosque.

I am from happy days at the playground.

I am from the trees at Prospect Park.

I am from cartoon tv shows and bollywood
movies from Faisal and Khatun.

I am from those moments from the Prospect
Park to Harlem.

About the Visiting Authors



Nikole Hannah-Jones is an award-winning investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine. Nikole got hooked on journalism when she joined her high school newspaper and began writing about students like her, who were bused across town as part of a voluntary school desegregation program.

Her heroes are the race beat reporters, such as Ida B. Wells, Ethel Payne, Simeon Booker and Claude Sitton, whose fearless coverage helped move this nation closer to its promise.

Prior to joining The New York Times, Nikole worked as an investigative reporter at ProPublica in New York City, where she spent three years chronicling the way official policy created and maintains segregation in housing and schools. Before that, she reported for the largest daily newspaper in the Pacific Northwest, The Oregonian in Portland, Ore., where she covered numerous beats, including demographics, the census and county government.

Nikole started her journalism career covering the majority-black Durham Public Schools for The News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C. During her three years there, she wrote extensively on issues of race, class, school resegregation and equity.

Nikole is a native Iowan, a child produced by the hopes of both the Great Migration and those who migrated from foreign shores. She has also lived in Indiana, Georgia, North Carolina and Oregon. Now she is Bed-Stuy fly in Brooklyn.



Renée Watson is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, educator, and community activist. Her young adult novel, *Piecing Me Together* received a Coretta Scott King Award and Newbery Honor. Her children's picture books and novels for teens have received several awards and international recognition. She has given readings and lectures at many renowned places including the United Nations, the Library of Congress, and the U.S. Embassy in Japan and New Zealand. Her poetry

and fiction centers on the experiences of Black girls and women, and explores themes of home, identity, and the intersections of race, class, and gender.

Her books include young adult novels, *Love is a Revolution*, *Piecing Me Together*, *This Side of Home*, and *Watch Us Rise*, co-written with Ellen Hagan. Her middle grade novels include the Ryan Hart series, (*Ways to Make Sunshine* and *Ways to Grow Love*, and coming soon, *Ways To Share Joy*), *Some Places More Than Others*, *Betty Before X*, co-authored with Ilyasah Shabazz, and *What Momma Left Me*. Her picture book, *Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills* received several honors including an NAACP Image Award nomination in children's literature.

Renée grew up in Portland, Oregon, and splits her time between Portland and New York City.

About the Student Authors



This book was written by the third, fourth and fifth graders at P.S. 125, the Ralph Bunche School, during their 2021-2022 school year. We love gym, music, work choice, and our community. Even with all of the challenges of COVID and all we have been through, we continue to try to be our best selves, to learn all we can, and to be a good friend to others. We help each other and work together as we learn!

For this project, we read the book *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, reflected on and studied Black History, wrote "I Am From" poems about ourselves and created unique artistic self-portraits. We learned from the book, from our studies leading up to and during Black History Month, had conversations with our families and community members and had the amazing opportunity to talk with and hear from Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson who visited our school! Through our art, conversations, and writing, we learned that it is important to know our history and also to take a stand for our future. We will change the world!

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.

Next Generation Learning Standards Addressed

3W4: Create a response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience (e.g., poem, play, story, artwork, or other).

4W4: Create a poem, story, play, artwork, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience.

5W4: Create a poem, story, play, artwork, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience.

4R5: In literary texts, identify and analyze structural elements, using terms such as verse, rhythm, meter, characters, settings, dialogue, stage directions. (RL)

5R6: In literary texts, explain how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described. (RL)



Behind the Book



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www.behindthebook.org