

# ENVOY

THE MAGAZINE OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT ● #24 ● 2023



ON WITH THE SHOW!



Smart Partners is the after-school mentoring program of The 52nd Street Project. Fivey is the program's annual magazine.

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- Row 1:** Katherine Chauca, Xavier Valentin
- Row 2:** Ramsis Ramirez, Samariah Alkandi, Evelyn Myers, Bella Galindo
- Row 3:** Diana Abrajan, Mateo Santoni, Josiah Perez
- Row 4:** Logan Centeno, Rebeca Vanterpool, Zion King Lamonge, Oliver Tanner, Small Black Bear
- Row 5:** Jason Devoe, Khloe Castillo, Emily Ponce, Jessica Elie-Pierre
- Row 6:** Tripod the Dog, Angel Drew Welsh, Katty Lopez, Jose Lujan, Jaelannie Rodriguez, Boris the Cat

# FROM THE EDITORS' DESKS

Welcome to the 24th edition of **Fivey Magazine!** This year, our Smart Partners embarked on a series of fun adventures. They explored many neighborhoods in New York City, indulged in yummy foods, immersed themselves in cool museum exhibits, enjoyed some movies, and pushed the boundaries of artistic expression through storytelling.



*Johanna Vidal, George Babiak, and Caylyn Wanj-Creager*

Within the pages of this issue, delve into the exciting journey of Smart Partners **Katty** and **Adaire** as they navigate the amazing neighborhood of Chinatown. Discover **Logan** and **John's** excursion to **P.J. Clarke's**, where they talk about their delightful experience. Follow **Sarah** and **Lynne** as they journey to the **Rubin Museum**, uncovering a world of artistic inspiration and so much more in this issue.

We really hope you enjoy it and that this issue offers a glimpse into the fun experiences shared by our community this past year. Happy Reading! — *Johanna Vidal* 🍷

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# CHINATOWN ADVENTURE

by Katty Lopez and Adaire Kamen



On March 2nd, 2023, we explored Chinatown!

We started with **Chinatown Fair Family Fun Center**. It is a retro arcade that takes you back to the 90's. It has games such as air hockey, **Crossy Road**, **Combo Boxer** (a game that hit Adaire straight in the face), **Connect Four: Basketball Edition**, "**The Weird Jigsaw Thingy**" (we never found out the real name, but this is what we call it), and other vintage arcade games. We had a lot of fun, and would definitely recommend it, but we did feel some of the games were too pricey. The prizes are easy to win! We won a big mustache and some pop rocks.



After our retro arcade experience, Adaire discovered we were near **The Chinatown Ice Cream Factory**, which has unique flavors you would never think existed, such as **Black Sesame**, **Durian**, and **Pandan**. Katty got **Lychee Rose** ice cream, and Adaire got **Red Bean** ice cream. (We also tried each other's flavors, and both were very good).



We recommend this spot for its exotic flavors; you would definitely not find them anywhere else. Katty in particular recommends the Lychee Rose for its beautiful rose smell and taste.

Before we left Chinatown, Katty decided she wanted to save her ice cream so she could brag about it to her sister.

Adaire did not think the ice cream would last for the journey from Chinatown back to the Project. Suddenly, it became a challenge for Katty to prove the ice cream would last through the new york city subway...at rush hour.



As the ice cream slowly melted, Adaire worried it would not make it, but Katty stayed determined to prove someone wrong (AKA Adaire) that you can bring a delicious ice cream from Chinatown, through the New York city subway system, at rush hour, back to Midtown.





Katty held on to that ice cream like all her life was there.

Adaire worried when a man in a business suit almost ran into her, when a few drops fell on the sidewalk, and when more of it began to melt but against all odds....

...the ice cream made it! 5

*You can listen to Katty & Adaire recount their adventures on the PROJcast episode 43. – Ed.*



# Books by Youngsters for Youngsters

In May and June of 2023, Caylyn Wan-Creager and George Babiak ran a weekly workshop for members devoted to the creation of children's books. The idea was to have a few members create illustrated stories for younger versions of themselves. They began with storyboards and then drew larger versions of each panel to be the pages of a short book. Presented here are four full story books by **Samaria**, **Mateo**, **Khloe**, and **Annabelle** and a sampling of art from an unfinished book from our young class assistant, **Jessica**. Please enjoy them, or, better yet, read them aloud to a young child! 📖



Samaria Alkindi



Mateo's storyboard



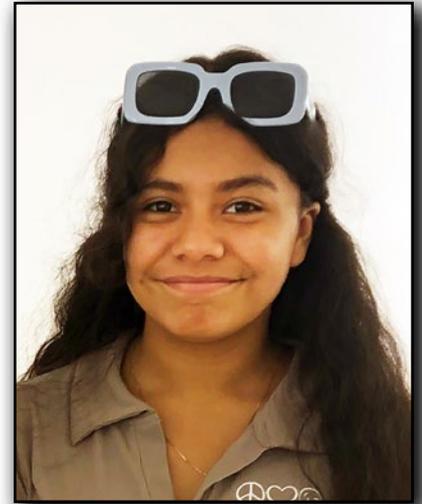
Mateo Santoni



Khloe Castillo



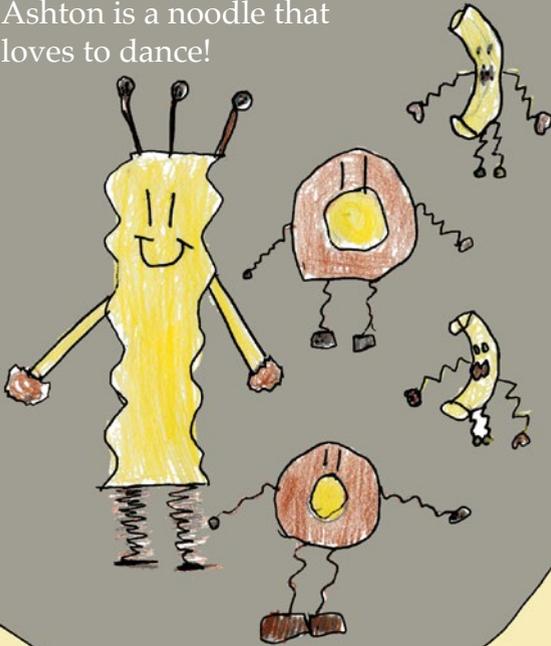
Annabelle Yam



Jessica Elie-Pierre

# The Love of Practice by Samaria Alkindi

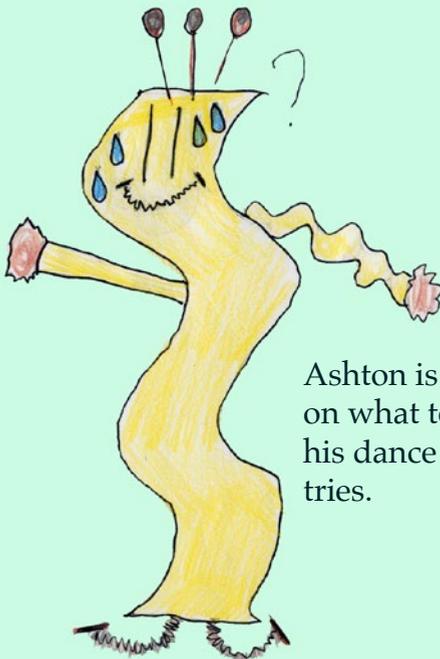
Ashton is a noodle that loves to dance!



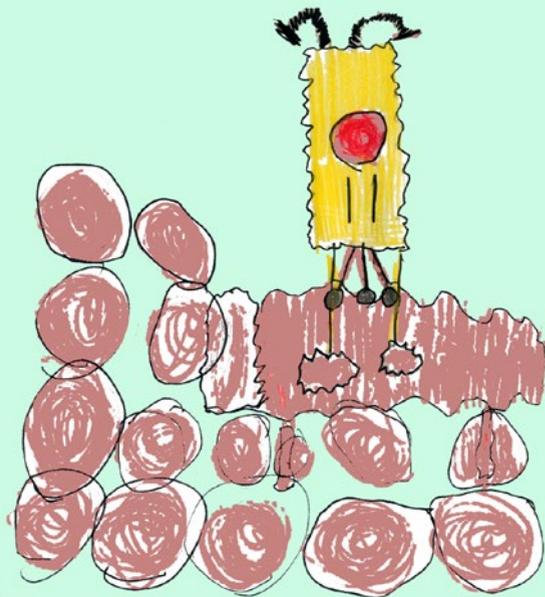
Ashton is not the best, but still tries his best.



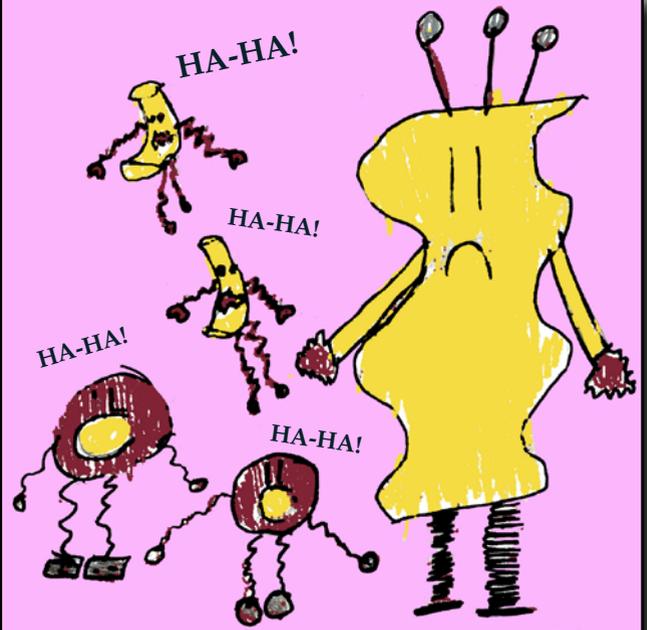
Ashton is confused on what to do with his dance but still tries.



Ashton goes home and practices really hard to get it right, but can't.

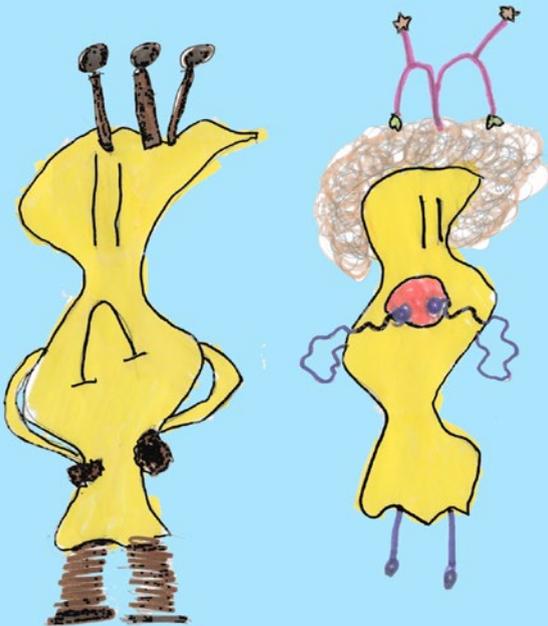


Next day, he shows up and does not-too-great and feels embarrassed.

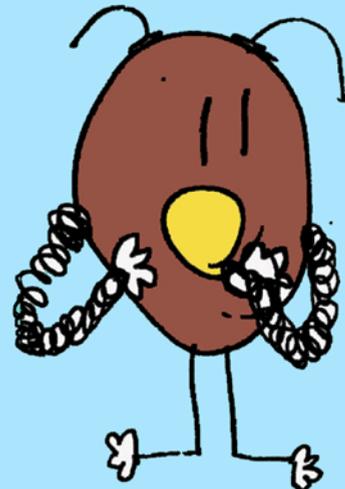


After they're done, the dancers in his dance make fun of the way he turns.

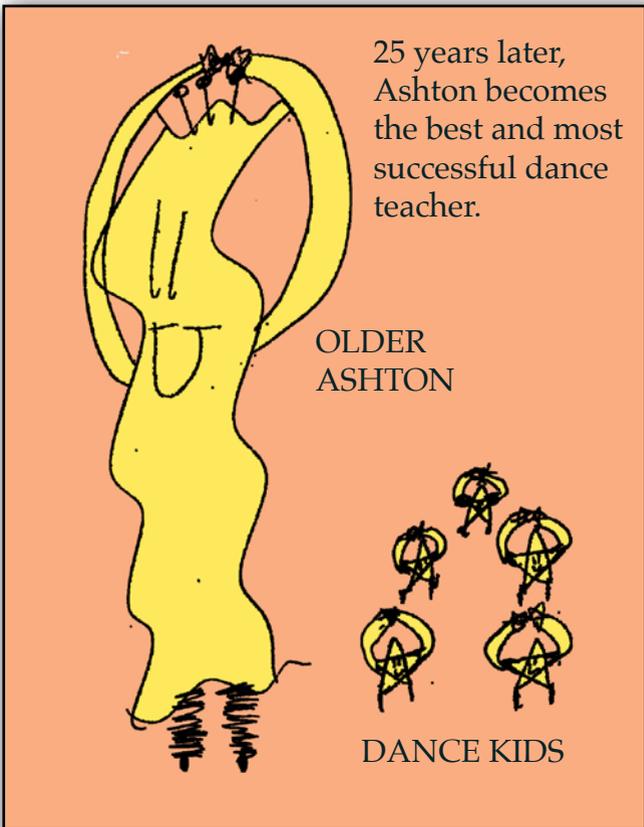
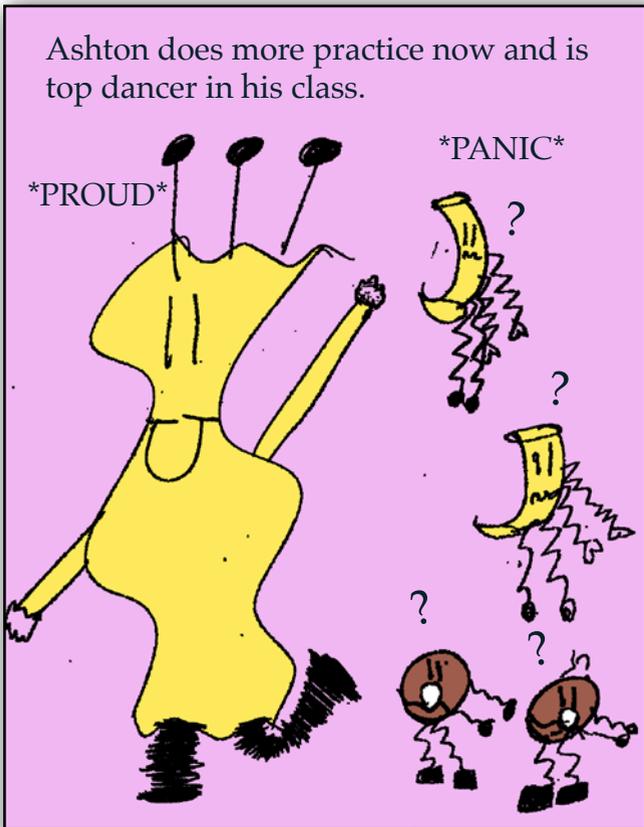
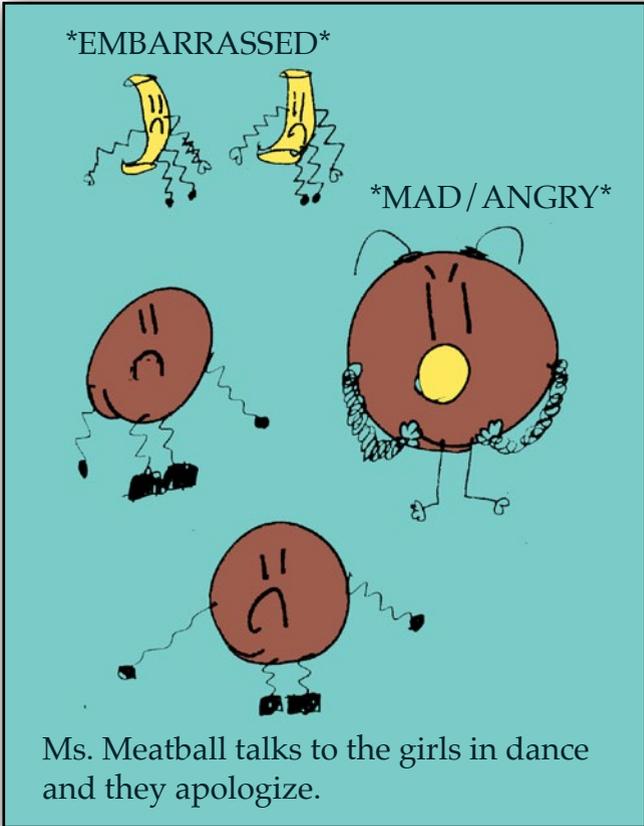
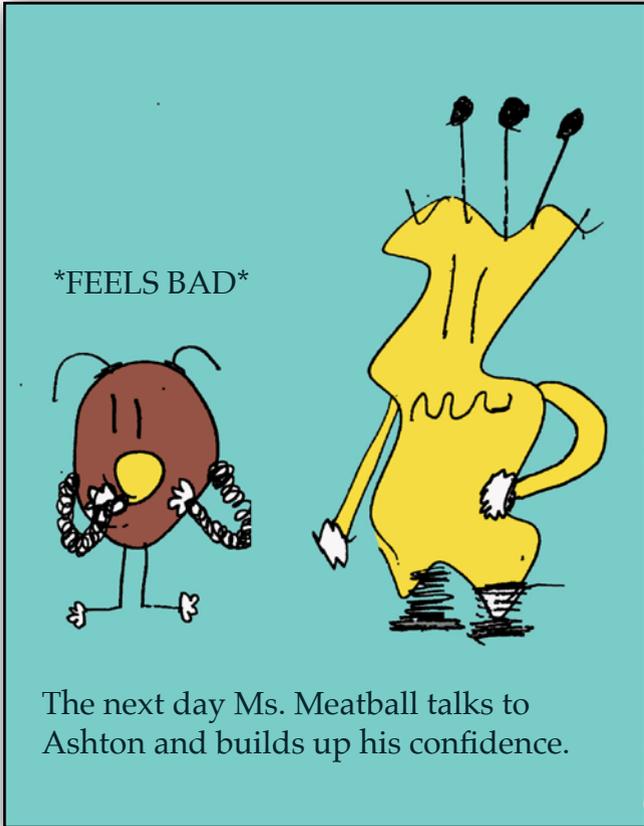
He goes home humiliated and talks to mom about what happened.



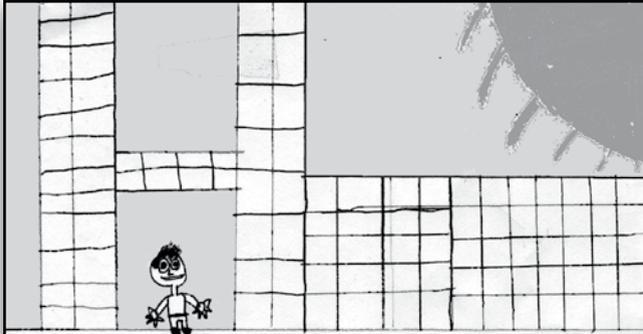
\*SHOCKED\*



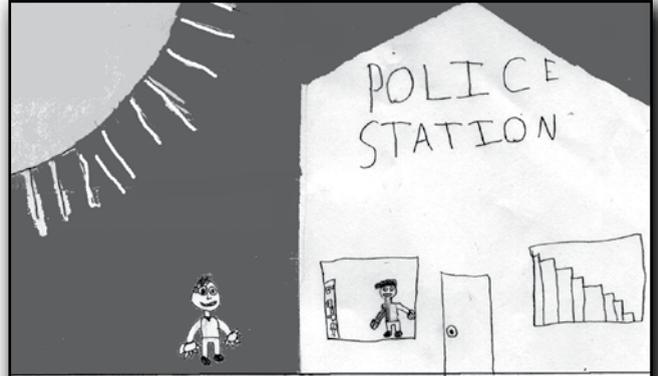
The dance teacher, Ms. Meatball, overhears and now is going to talk to Ashton tomorrow.



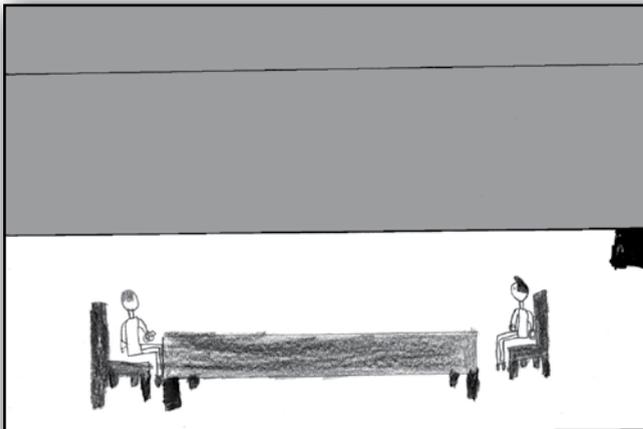
# Conner the Robo-Cop by Mateo Santoni



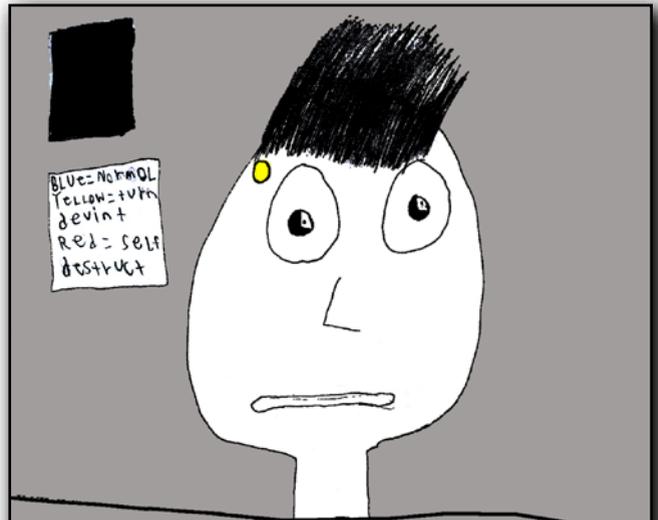
This is Conner.  
Conner is a robot cop.  
You could say he's a  
Robo-Cop.



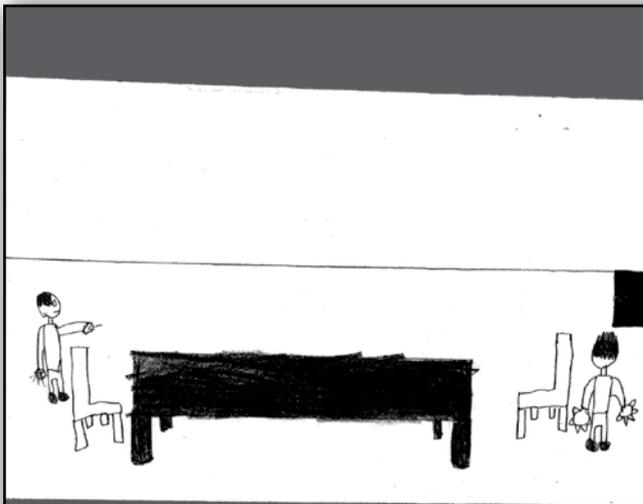
Today, Conner is going  
to the police station to  
interrogate a deviant  
robot.



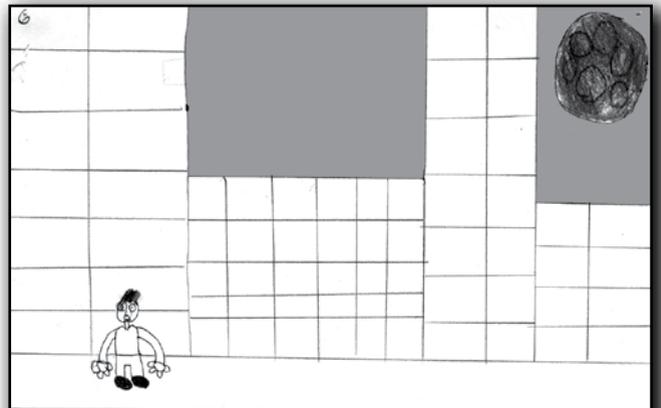
Conner was interrogating  
this robot because the  
robot robbed a bank.



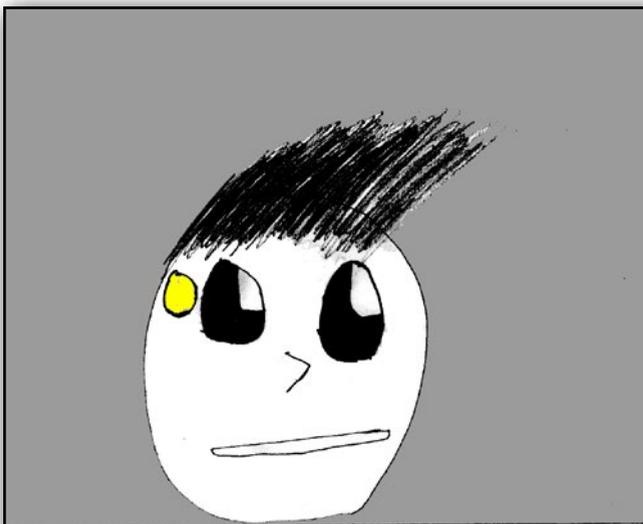
But while Conner was  
interrogating the robot, he  
thought to himself, "This is my  
own kind. After this, they're  
gonna destroy him."



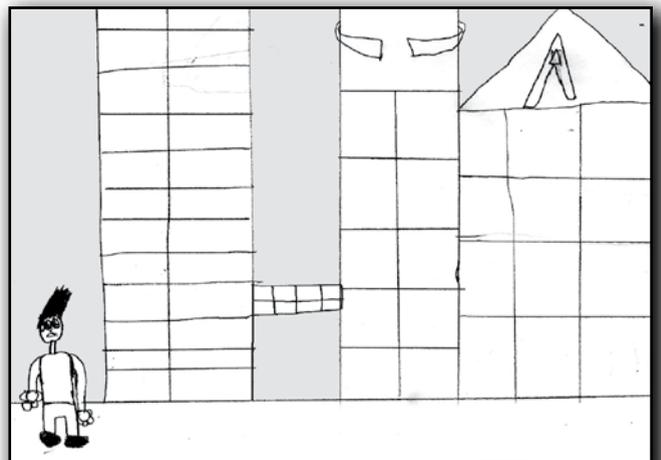
Conner walked out of the room. "He didn't say anything. He's useless, destroy him if you want." Conner walks out of the room feeling bad about what he did.



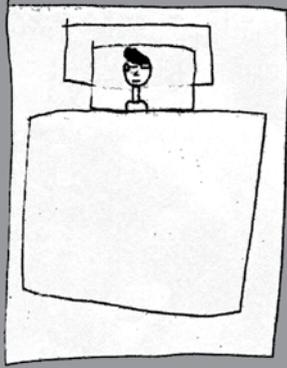
While Conner takes a stroll, he thought to himself, "What did I just do? Oh no, I'm turning deviant. I can't do this, they're all gonna destroy me."



When Conner was thinking to himself, he thought "What if I tell the humans 'No'? They're gonna destroy me."



Conner had a long day.  
Conner went home...  
...and fell asleep.



Conner woke up much better.  
He feels good to tell the humans about everything.

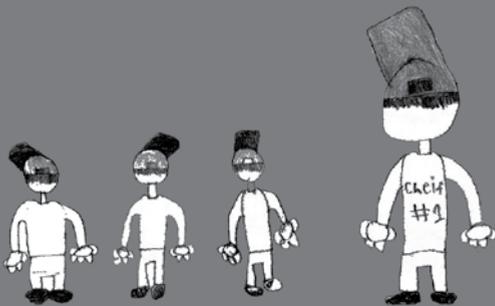
Conner walked inside the police station to go talk to the humans.



Conner busted in to tell everyone not to destroy the deviant.

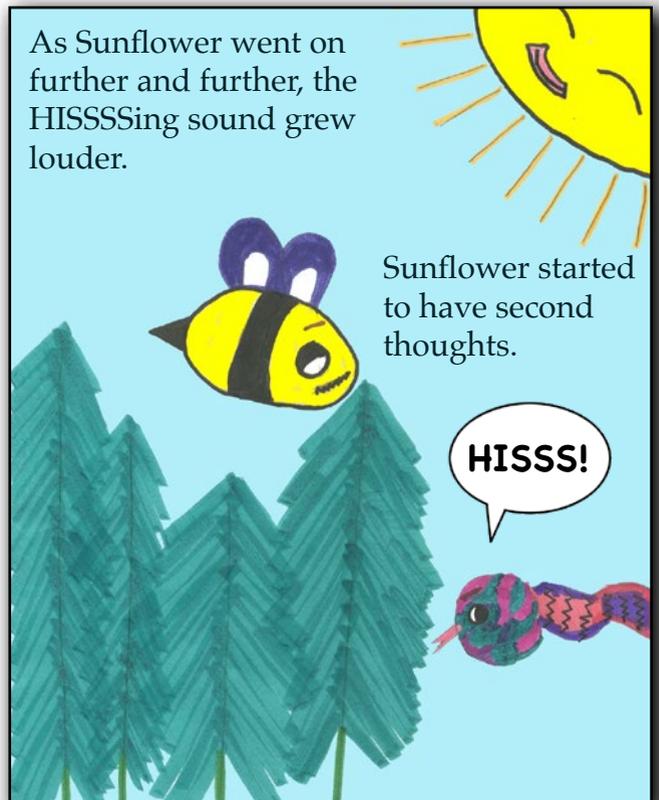
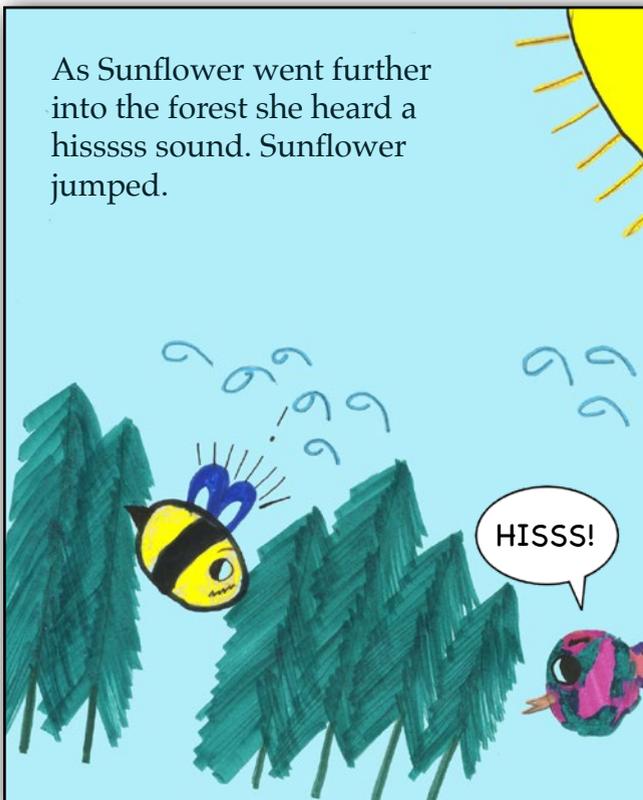
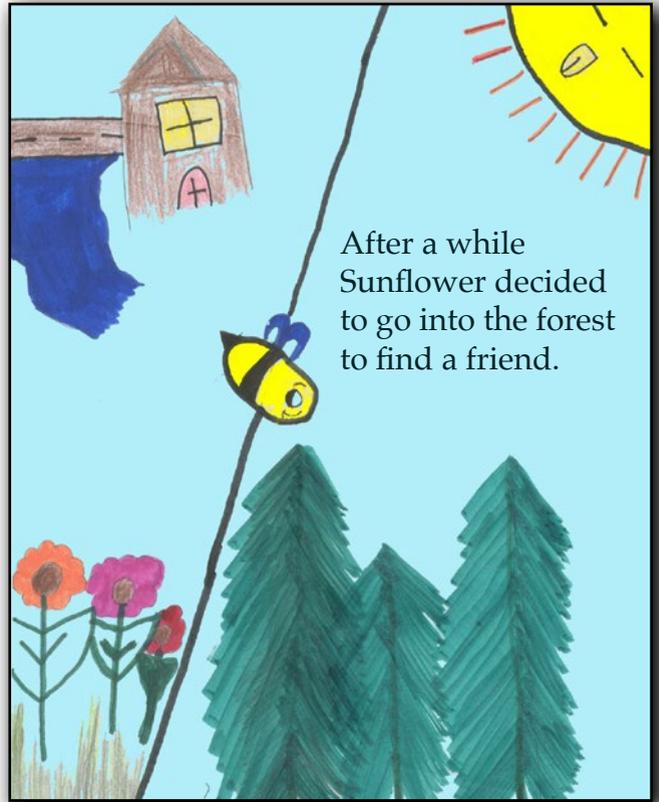
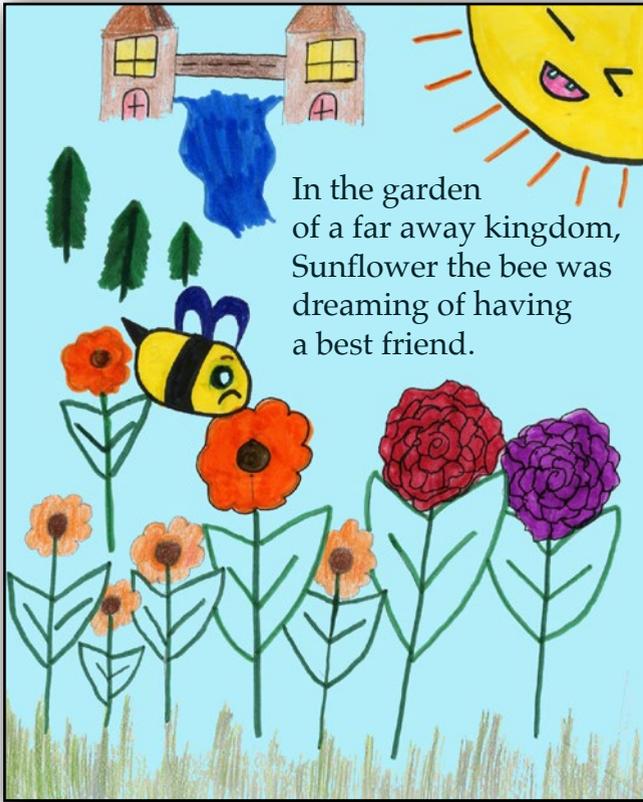


Conner tells the police officers that he wants to be human and he found out...

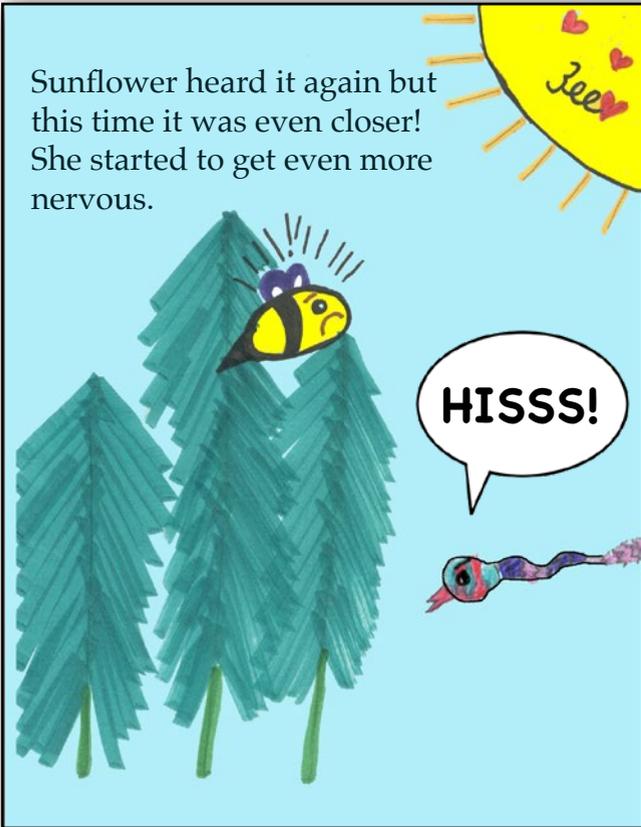


They don't care!

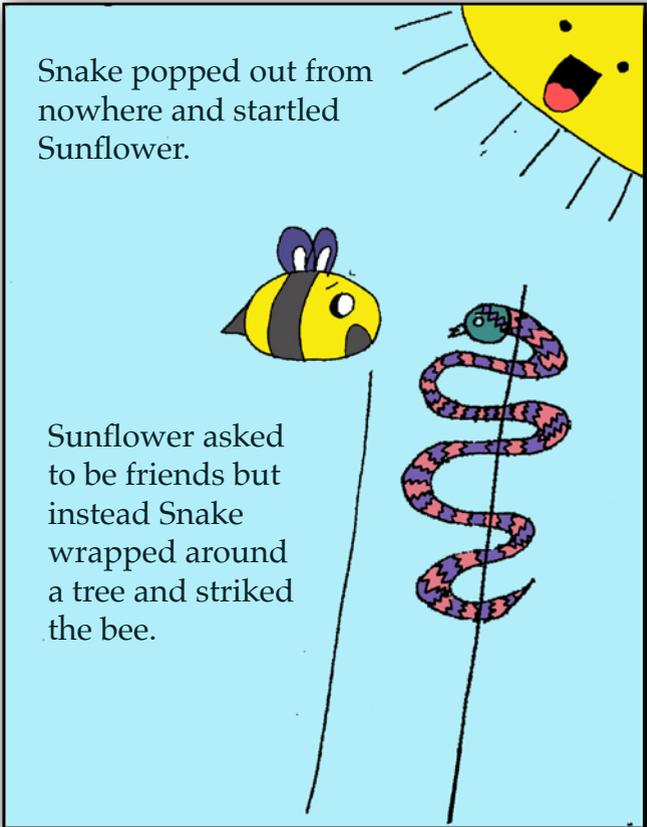
# Sunflower and Her Adventure by Annabelle Yam



Sunflower heard it again but this time it was even closer! She started to get even more nervous.

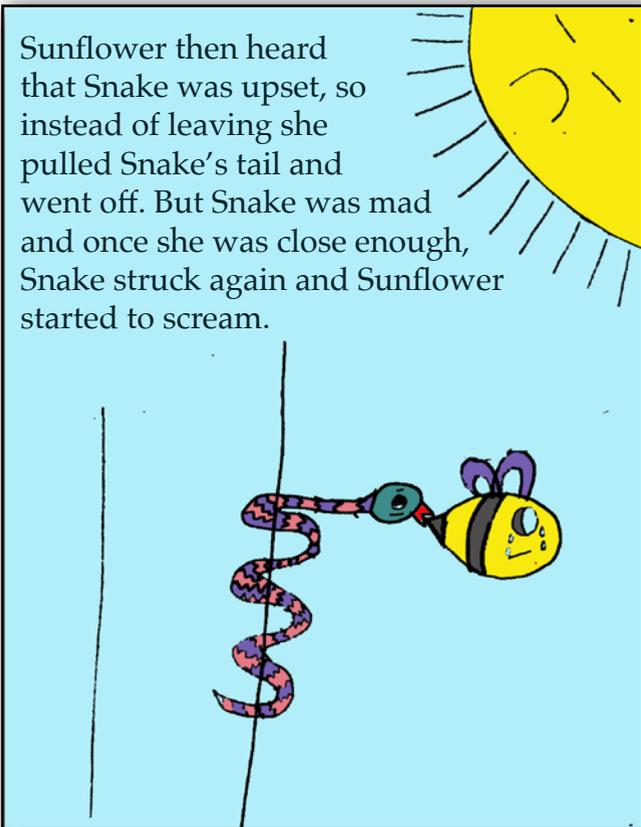


Snake popped out from nowhere and startled Sunflower.

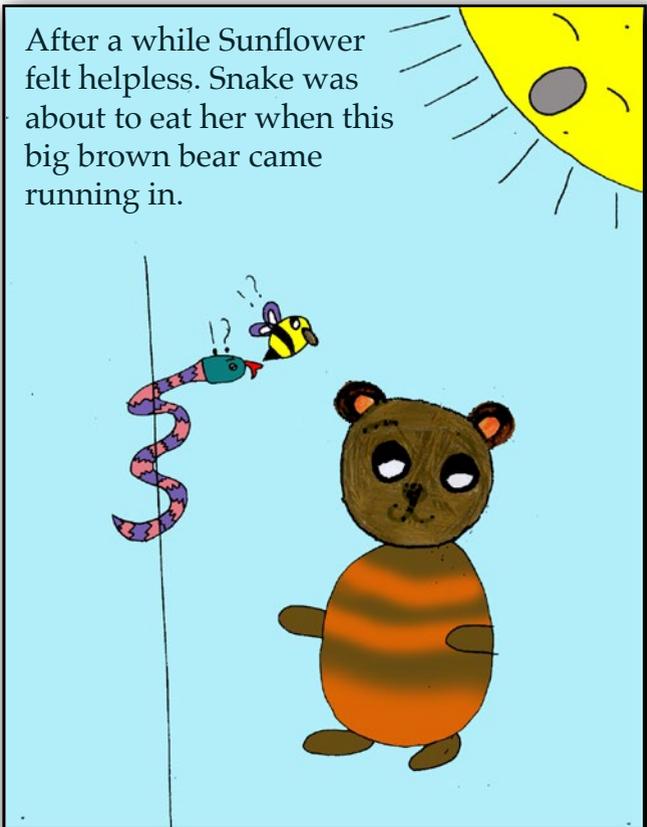


Sunflower asked to be friends but instead Snake wrapped around a tree and struck the bee.

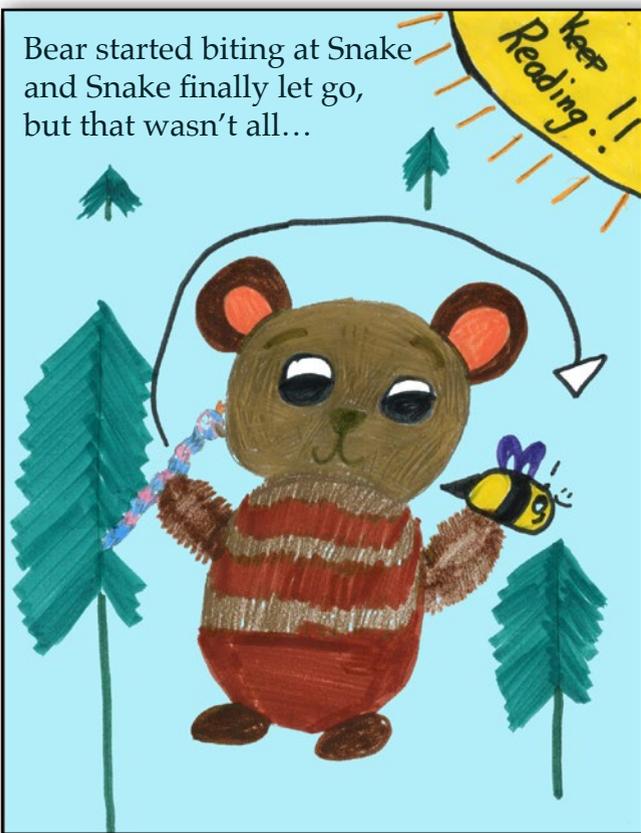
Sunflower then heard that Snake was upset, so instead of leaving she pulled Snake's tail and went off. But Snake was mad and once she was close enough, Snake struck again and Sunflower started to scream.



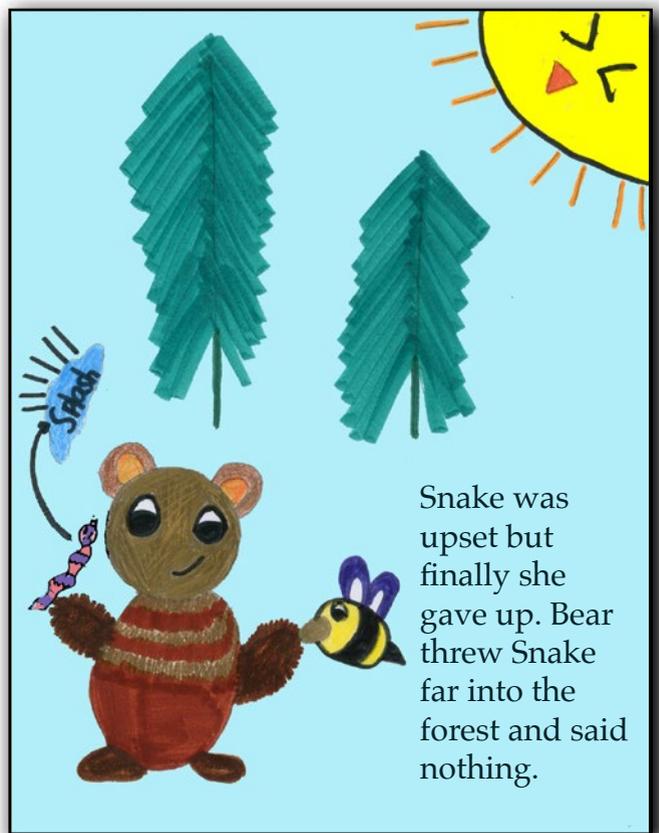
After a while Sunflower felt helpless. Snake was about to eat her when this big brown bear came running in.



Bear started biting at Snake and Snake finally let go, but that wasn't all...

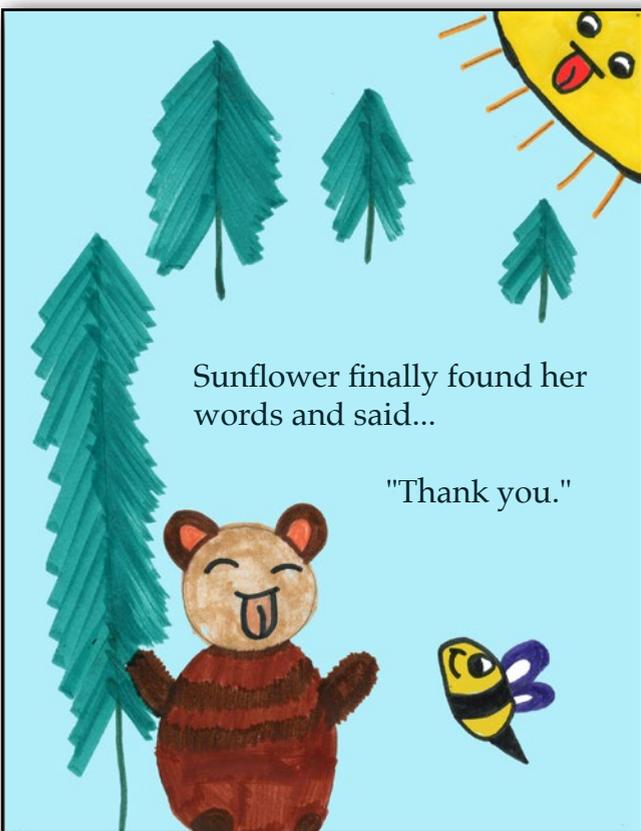


Snake was upset but finally she gave up. Bear threw Snake far into the forest and said nothing.



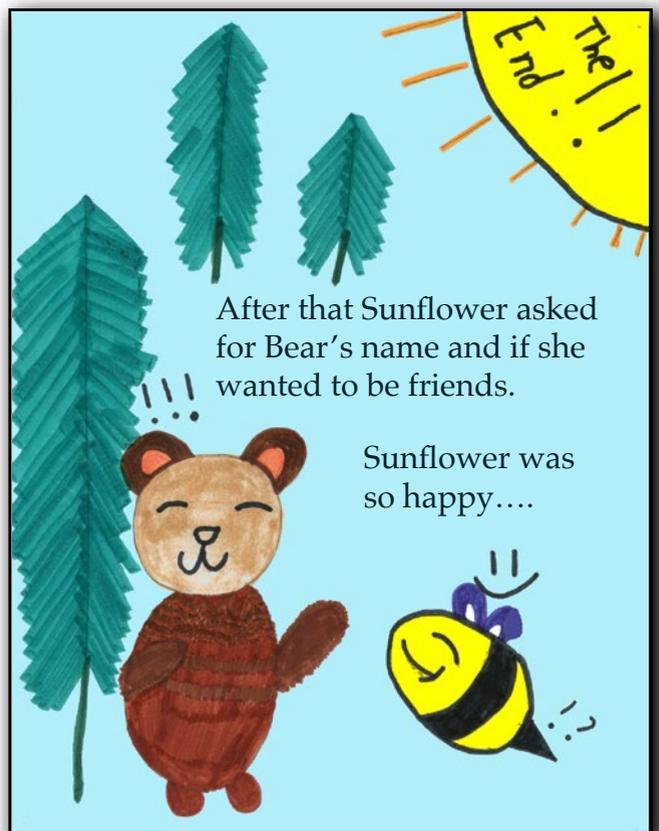
Sunflower finally found her words and said...

"Thank you."

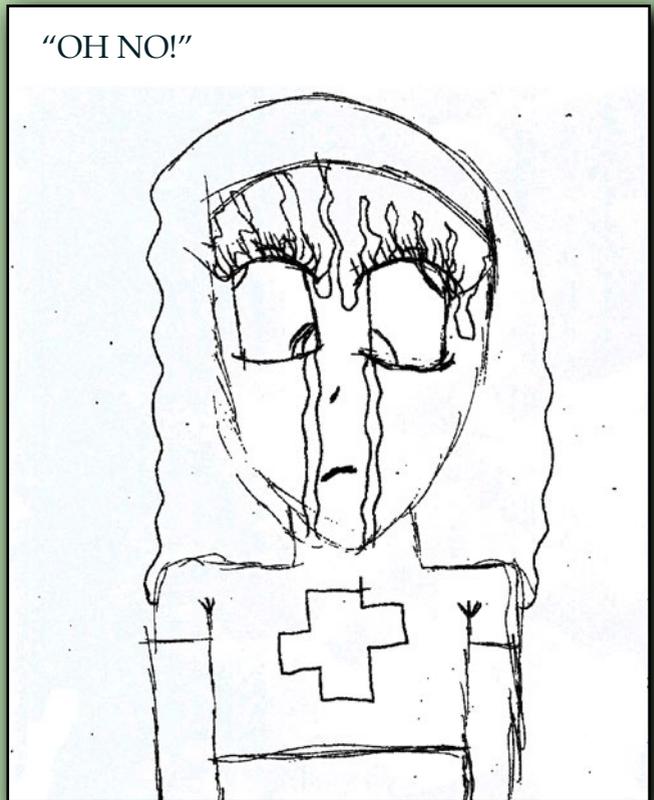
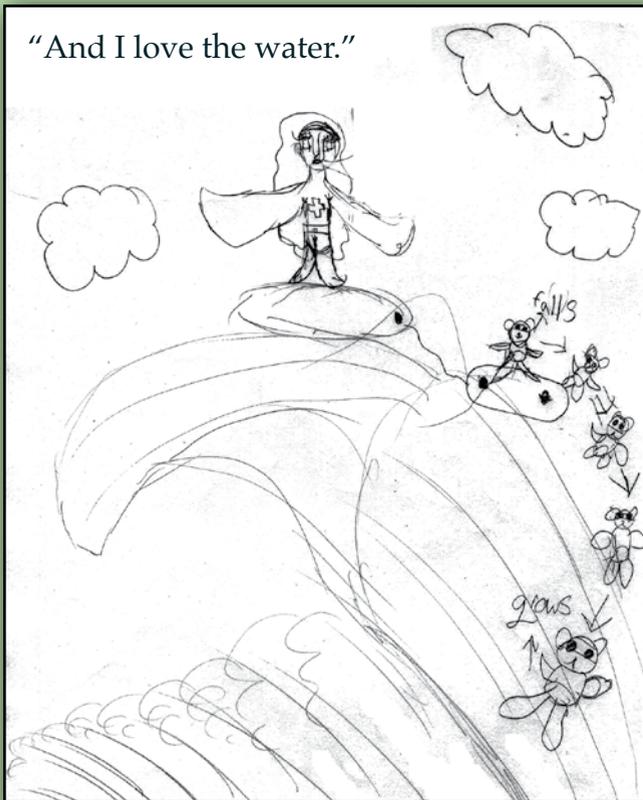
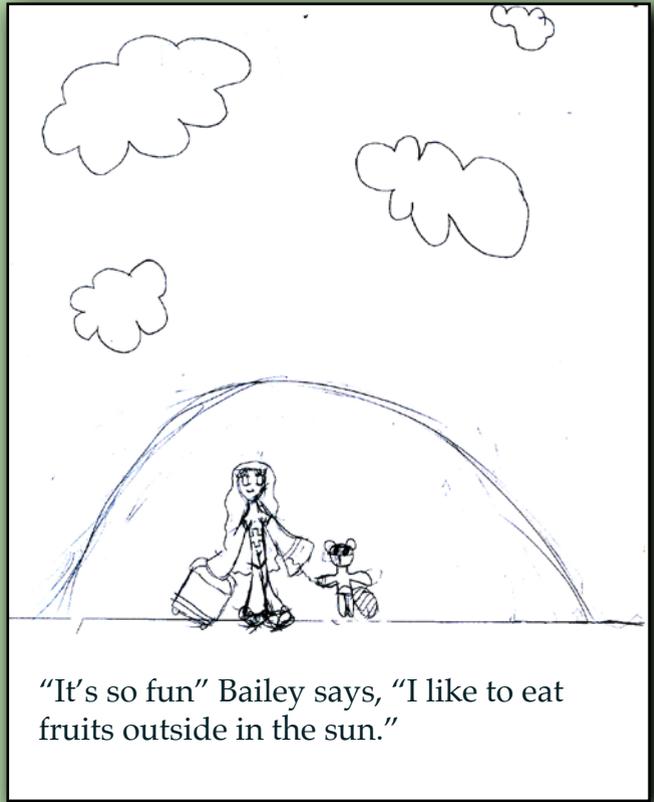
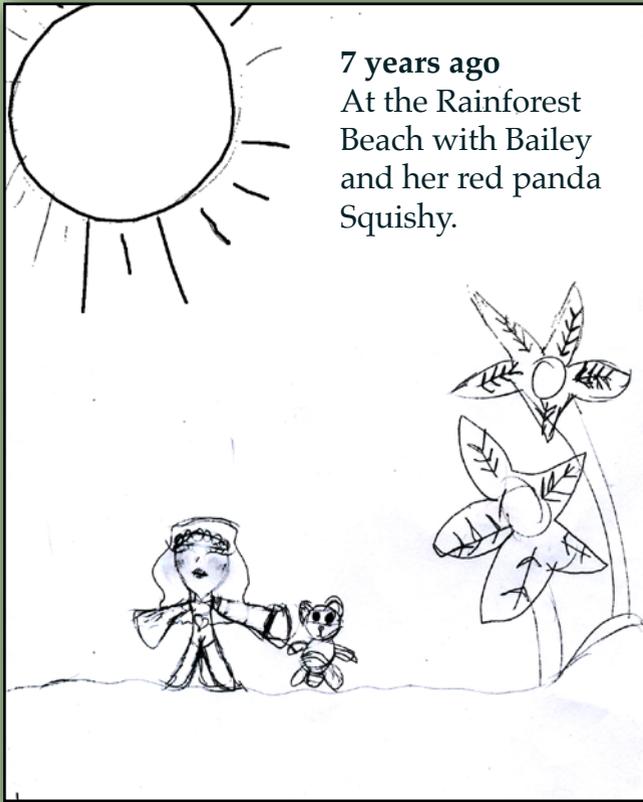


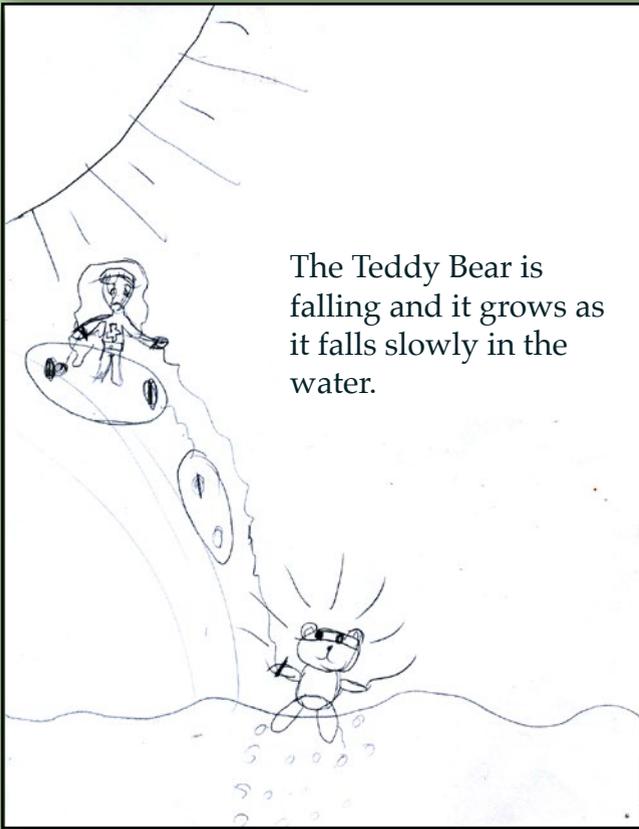
After that Sunflower asked for Bear's name and if she wanted to be friends.

Sunflower was so happy....



# A Savior is Always a Friend by Khloe Castillo

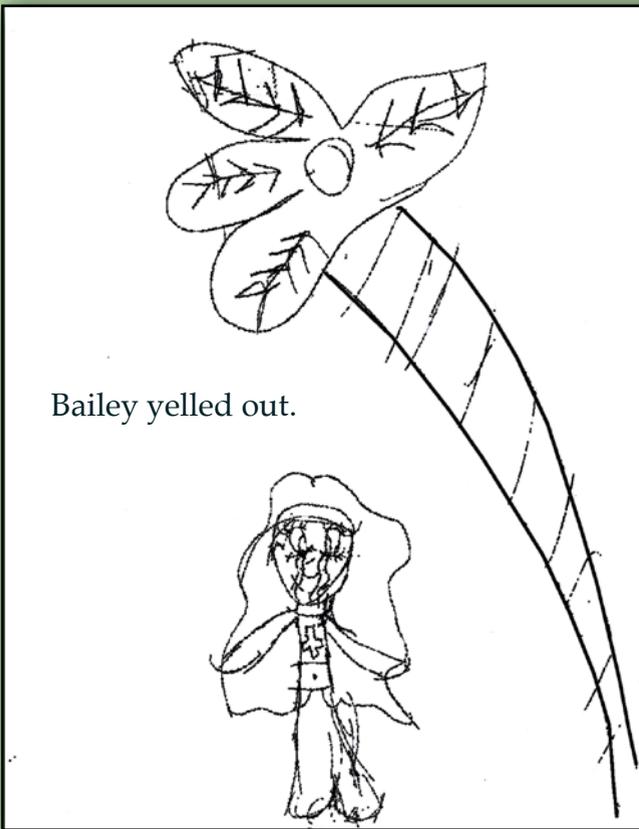




The Teddy Bear is falling and it grows as it falls slowly in the water.



Both are sad and feel bad.



Bailey yelled out.

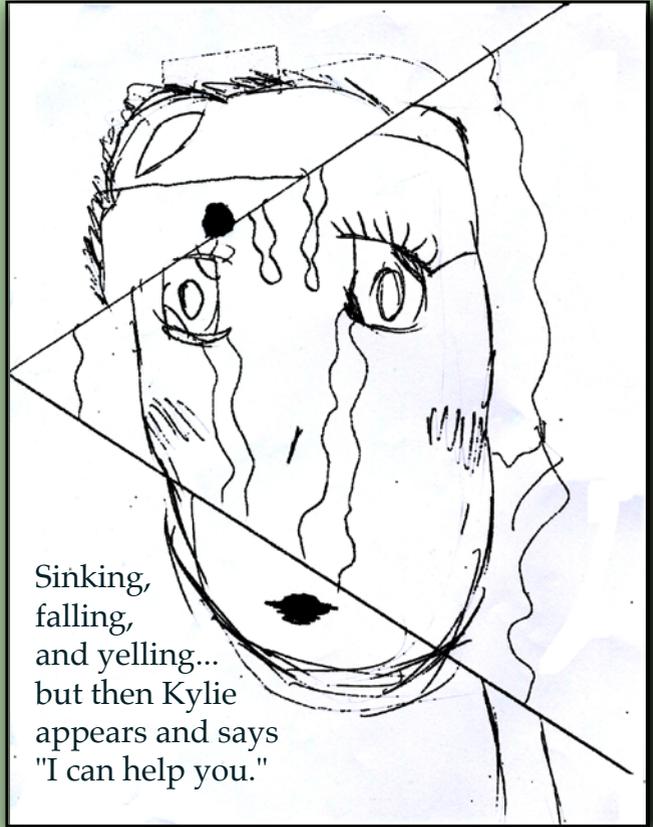


"Mom, Dad? Where are you?"

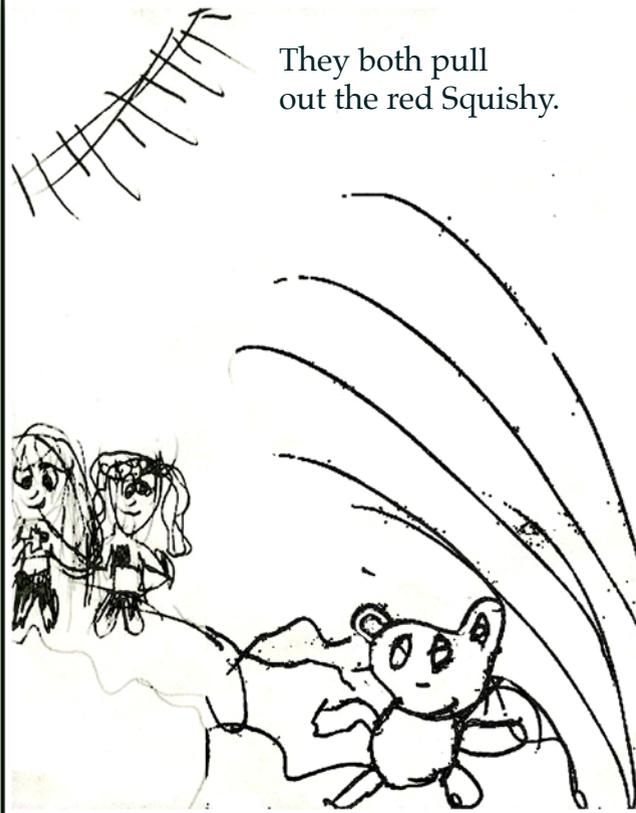
"HELP!!!"



Sinking,  
falling,  
and yelling...  
but then Kylie  
appears and says  
"I can help you."



They both pull  
out the red Squishy.



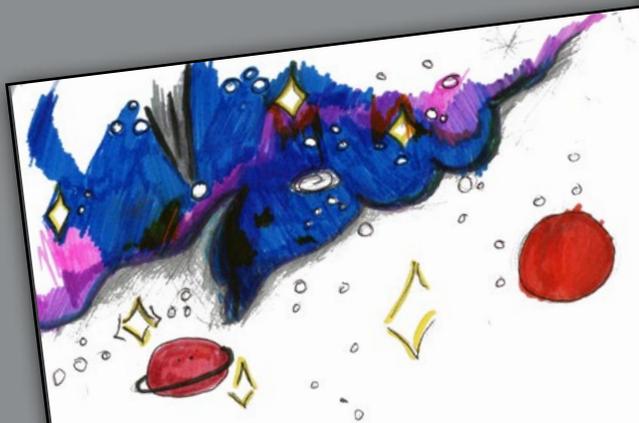
They become friends.



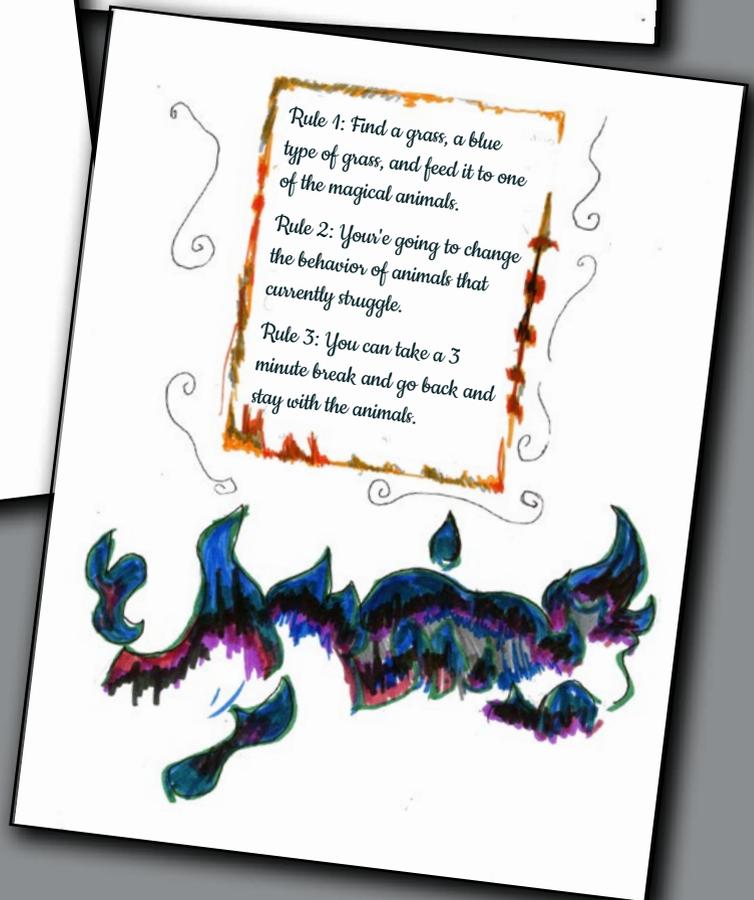
# The Rules

by Jessica Elie-Pierre

Selections from a work in progress by our class assistant.



(Deep Voice)  
You know  
why you're here...  
You broke my rule.  
I'm very disappointed.



Logan and John's

P.J. Clarke's

Excursion



Hey, it's **Logan Centeno** and my friend **John** here, and today we will be showing you our experience in this very fabulous restaurant called P.J. Clarke's. P.J. Clarke's is a restaurant in New York City at 44 West 63rd St. at Lincoln Square, just in case you (the reader) want to visit after reading this spectacular review.

*Atmosphere/Ambiance:* Spill the tea... How the heck was the restaurant like?!?!?! First of all, before we get into the good part of the review, we have to talk about the vibe of the restaurant, so readers won't get upset, if the atmosphere isn't, well, to their liking, which is quite hard. So, the vibe I got from there was a kind of classy old-timey vibe. Kind of like a picnic set. It was very fancy, I quite liked it, and it was very beautiful.

*Service:* Now we will get to the talk... How was the service? The service was fabulous! Our waiter, named **John** (like Mr Manolis sitting next to me), was super nice, and very chill! He talked to us, he gave us suggestions, he even chose my birthday dessert! And , not surprisingly, it was amazing. He also helped Mr. John Manolis, (who somehow came unprepared), choose his order wisely. The best waiter I have had in years!! (He even said happy birthday to me, and I didn't even ask! He even gave me a mint and a candle on my dessert, which is rare).

*Food:* Oh my god, that's good and all but... How was the food man???

Thanks for asking and all, the food was... AMAZING!!! The flavors in unison, combusting and exploding in my mouth, the fries were crispy, the steak was juicy, with a butter herb sauce, yum... Heck, EVEN THE SODA TASTED BETTER THAN BEFORE?!?!?! And, best of all, it came in a glass bottle!!! So, overall, the food was amazing!!!

**Dessert:** So... like... get on with the talk, man. Get on to the best part already. How good was the dessert?

Thank you for asking, reader! The dessert was also amazing! To be honest, it was extra amazing, as the waiter sang me Happy Birthday, and nothing goes better than a birthday song, especially, A BIRTHDAY BROWNIE. So for my dessert, I had a fudge chocolate brownie, with vanilla ice cream, with chocolate drizzle and a cherry on top! (with mint on the side). And, as you know, this is a free point, because all dessert is good, the chocolate especially! The flavors just went into a killing spree with my taste buds, because they died of too much good flavor!!!

So yeah, overall, straight easy 10/10

**Pics:** Come on, show us the pics, we need to see how good it is, oh my God! 🍷



You can listen to Logan & John recount their adventures on the PROJcast, episode 46. – Ed.

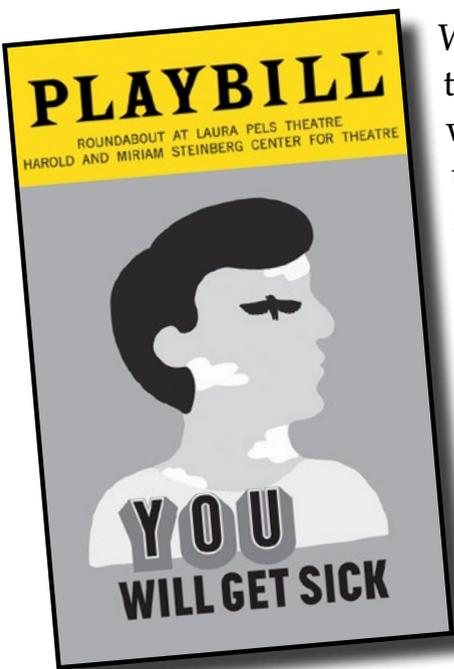


# THE SARAH & LYNNE REVIEW



On Thursday, November 10th, **Lynne Rosenberg** and **Sarah Lopez** attended *You Will Get Sick* at the **Laura Pels Theater**. This was Lynne's second time seeing the production, as she had previously seen it during its first week. Although still confusing, Lynne found more clarity the second time viewing it. Sarah on the other hand remains confused after having seen it just once. Despite a lack of narrative clarity, however, Lynne was significantly and emotionally moved both times.

They both enjoyed the fast paced performances that were put on by the entire ensemble, as well as the stage trickery and set design. Sarah particularly enjoyed that she never lost interest, despite the narrative ambiguity, and was intrigued by the main character's decision to call a stranger to talk about intimate personal information. Lynne also greatly appreciated the casting choices, where the "family" members (two brothers, and a sister) were all cast with performers of different races.



Where they both struggled with the play was attempting to tell the difference between reality and imagination with the main character's arc, and fully understanding the significance of the hay and the transformation into a scarecrow. They were also both confused by the presence or significance of the large birds, and wanted more development of the relationships between the siblings. Sarah feels there was a missed opportunity to add backstory and clarity with the family relationships, though Sarah did like the reveal of the brother as the narrator at the end.

All in all, *You Will Get Sick* is truly a captivating performance put on by a fabulous cast with, perhaps, an intentionally confusing narrative. 5

# Disney HOCUS POCUS 2

# FILM REVIEW

BY KATTY LOPEZ AND ADAIRE KAMEN

(Please read in a fancy British accent)

On October 28, 2022, we viewed *Hocus Pocus 2* at **The 52nd Street Project**. Katty had already seen the film, but prefers the original. Adaire had not seen this one, but had seen the first one several times. She is yet undecided about which she prefers.

Adaire claims that the film *Hocus Pocus 2* still has the family jokes, and captured the “feel” of the original. Katty had caught more of the jokes this viewing than the first time. They both laughed viciously throughout the film.

Katty felt that the original film was more thoughtful, and she enjoyed the film with the better jokes. Adaire needs to rewatch the first before she reaches a final conclusion, but guesses she will agree with Katty and prefer the original film. “The original film was more intense and had more action,” claims Katty. Adaire thinks “I Put a Spell on You” is the best song from either film.

One of the best moments in the film *Hocus Pocus 2* was the walk that the witches did down the aisle in Walgreens. One of Adaire’s favorite moments in the film *Hocus Pocus 2* was when Mike realized he was making fun of other people, when he thought he had just been “making conversation.” They both thought that it was hilarious that Mary Sanderson rode on two robot vacuums instead of using a broom.

Overall, the film *Hocus Pocus 2* has its funny moments. It also has thoughtful and intense moments, and we would recommend it for everyone. 5



# EVELYN'S PINK DRINK

By Evelyn Myers (and Jasminn Johnson....she helped me a little bit!)

**JJ:** So Evelyn, what inspired you to want to make The Pink Drink?

**EM:** Because it tastes good and I love Pink Drinks. I wanted to learn how to make them homemade so I can make them at home or anytime I want.

**JJ:** Great! This was my first time ever trying a pink drink. I was excited to make it with you. When did you first try a pink drink?

**EM:** When I got the pink drink that was the first time I ever tried anything from Starbucks, it was a couple of years ago... like 2019. It was sometime between January and April, definitely before May but after December.

**JJ:** When you first tried it, did it bring you instant joy?

**EM:** Yeah! It has dried strawberries and I really love strawberries.

**JJ:** Me too! So what was our first step in making pink drinks?

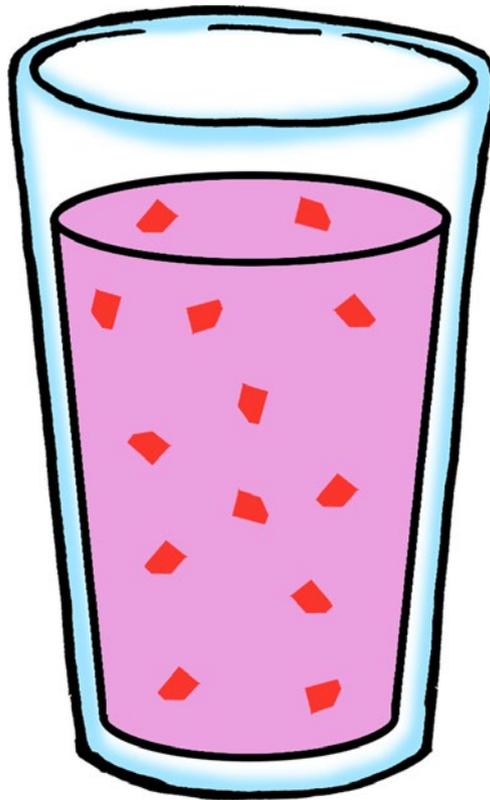
**EM:** Okay so we looked online to find recipes, then we found one that we liked. Then we went to the store and got everything we needed for the recipe.

**JJ:** And how much did it all cost? Do you remember?

**EM:** I would say...like 20 something.

**JJ:** Yeah that's about right. Then what did we do?

**EM:** Then we checked our recipes and realized we needed simple syrup, and you said you could make some.



**JJ:** Yeah, it's easy; you just need sugar and water. You need to boil water and then you put an equal amount of sugar in the pot. Stir until it's dissolved and then let it cool. What's next?

**EM:** We decided to double the recipe because we wanted to share with everyone at The Project. So we put six cups of White-Cranberry-Strawberry Juice in a large pitcher. And then we put two cups of Coconut Milk in the pitcher, and added  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of simple syrup then we stirred it all up. And we went with regular strawberries but if you want, you can use dried strawberries instead.

**JJ:** Would you say it's best to add the strawberries in before you mix it up? Or put them in your cup before you pour the drink in?

**EM:** It depends on what the person wants, but I would put the strawberries in a separate cup and then pour the drink in.



**JJ:** Yeah, I'd do that, too. What did everyone think of our drink?

**EM:** They thought it was good and it tasted just like the Pink Drink at Starbucks.

**JJ:** Did you think it tasted just like it or better?

**EM:** IT TASTES JUST LIKE IT! But what do you

think about it?

**JJ:** I think it's soooooo much better than the Starbucks one, but I might be biased. Then we made brownies and shared them with everyone. I had a lot of fun.

**EM:** Me, too! And I'm happy because I got to drink lots and lots of pink drink. I think I had more than everyone else.

**JJ:** Haha! You did! ⑤



*Lynne & Sarah went to The Rubin Museum to see a brand new exhibit called *Death Is Not The End*. While some might find the subject matter macabre, Lynne & Sarah found it fascinating. After their trip, they sat down in Jackson Square Park to discuss.*



**Lynne:** So, Sarah, we are sitting in a park on Eighth Avenue and 13th-ish, 14th-ish Street, having just gone to the **Rubin Museum**. We specifically went to go see a brand new exhibit that's there. What was the actual name of it? *Death Is Not The End*, I believe, right? I feel like there were a few things we noticed about the curation and the pieces of art themselves that stuck out to us. What is your recollection?

**Sarah:** Well, we definitely saw so many different interpretations of death. And I think what was most interesting, probably, for me, was how they honestly reflected the name of the exhibition, *Death Is Not The*

*End*, by showing so many different aspects of the afterlife.

**Lynne:** And from different cultures, too. So there was some Christian art, there was some Tibetan Buddhist art. There was some, I believe, there are a couple of pieces from Norwegian traditions. Something that I was struck by, that I think you agreed with me on, was that all the depictions were really detailed...

**Sarah:** For sure. There were so many people doing so many different things, and it seemed so crowded, I will say.

**Lynne:** Yeah, all the artwork seemed crowded. And I wonder if that's like, humans have such a hard time thinking about death because of course, it's the one thing we don't know. Well, it's not the only thing we don't know, but it's the thing we can't ever know until it happens, so we just crowd our artwork with as many thoughts as possible. Something we talked about is how the depictions of hell often looked like depictions of things humans made, like cities or ladders, or like the hard angles.

**Sarah:** Manmade things.

*Lynne:* Manmade things.

*Sarah:* Versus the soft flow of nature.

*Lynne:* Yeah. And heaven seems to have this aspect of trees and water and soft flow of nature.

And it's interesting to me to think that all of these things came from a person, like a person painted these things, and so our ideas - what does that say about us? That we are just always thinking about the human things as hellscape and the natural world as heaven?

*Sarah:* Well, I think it's also interesting because we're sitting in a park in the middle of the city, you know?

*Lynne:* Good point. Yeah.

*Sarah:* Which I think is why sometimes



people often call gardens "small heavens" or refer to them as small pieces of more spiritual or religious positivity.

*Lynne:* Yeah. I think also anyone who lives in a city or an urban center gravitates toward green spaces.

*Sarah:* Yeah.

*Lynne:* Like the first nice day in New York City every year when everyone suddenly goes to Central Park or everyone suddenly goes to Prospect Park. There is something that humans are drawn to, that green spaces are "better," there is something "better," and that maybe that's how we think about the afterlife, as well. What did you think about how it was curated, the combo of artwork or the different kinds of artwork we saw?





*Sarah:* Well, I think it was very interesting to see so many different cultural interpretations of art, which ultimately was the entire point of the exhibition. But I really enjoyed the mix, like the way that we saw some paintings, we saw some instruments, we saw some statues and especially - I know this was the same for you because we spoke about it - about the immense detail that went into it, like a lot of them. And I think that goes hand-in-hand with the thing about crowding, like you have all these people doing so many different things on one small piece of cloth, parchment, or paper. I think the question for you as an artist, you kind of mentioned to me about it earlier, but, like from artist to artist, what do you think went through their heads?

*Lynne:* Well, all I can think about when I look at those really, really detailed paintings or tapestries is where did they start? What was the part of the piece they started on? Because it looks like it took years to do. Some of them are so detailed with these tiny fine lines. Where do you - when you

look at a blank page - even when I do cartooning and I kind of know the joke I want to get at or I know the commentary I'm trying to make on something, starting is still such a hard point. So when I see something that is so much more vast than what I do, I just think, how did you get the gumption to even start that? And of course, they didn't have iPhones and they didn't have other stuff to do. But also I work quickly, I work pretty fast. And so the thought of really slowing down and working on something that is going to take months, is an interesting practice to me that I don't generally engage in, and is worth thinking about. And it makes me wonder, like in terms of this being about death, do you go into a huge project like that - like I wonder if some of these artists thought, "I may not live to see the end of this piece being finished."



*Sarah:* That's so true.

*Lynne:* Right?

*Sarah:* Yeah. I think it's interesting to mention how even though they're all based on religious texts, like the Bible, and from a bunch of other texts, I think it's interesting, a lot of these things weren't visual things.

A lot of what we saw spoke more about the artist than it did about anything else.

**Lynne:** Well, you raised the point that all of these texts began as oral tradition, and that it's when they get written down that - or maybe not, like what came first the written version or the artwork that accompanied it, is an interesting question. And I don't know what the answer is to that. I don't know that it was necessarily in the curation of the exhibit...

This was our second time to the Rubin Museum and we were trying to think of when the first time was, and we think it was when you were like 11 or 12 or something. What does it feel like to do something again that we did as a special thing when you were a kid?

**Sarah:** Well, I forgot that we went until you brought it up, but then I definitely remembered, but I think it's interesting to see how the purpose has changed for why we went there.

**Lynne:** What do you mean?

**Sarah:** Like, I don't remember what we went for, why we went the last time, if it was just like a regular visit. But I think it says a lot about our relationship in terms of maturity and similar mentality. We went for something that you thought that we both would find interesting and it's kind of gloomy and an interesting topic such as death.

**Lynne:** I think that's a great point because a friend of mine and I had lunch beforehand and he asked me, "Where are you off to?"

And I was like, "I'm taking my 15 year-old mentee to go see an exhibit about death." And he was like, "What are you talking about?"

**Sarah:** Exactly.

**Lynne:** And I said, "Yeah, but if you knew us and if you knew her, that wouldn't be a surprise in any way."

**Sarah:** I think that sums it up.

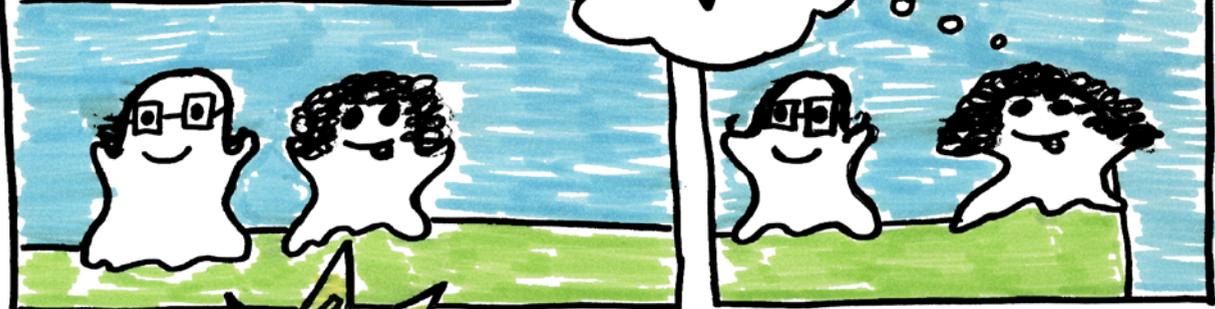
**Lynne:** That's probably the right way to end this article. ⑤



AN ORIGINAL COMIC STRIP BY ...

MEL & ANGIE\*

Once upon a time there was 2 ghost BFFs...



\*Melanie Correa and Angie Toledo

# "SMART PARTRAITS"

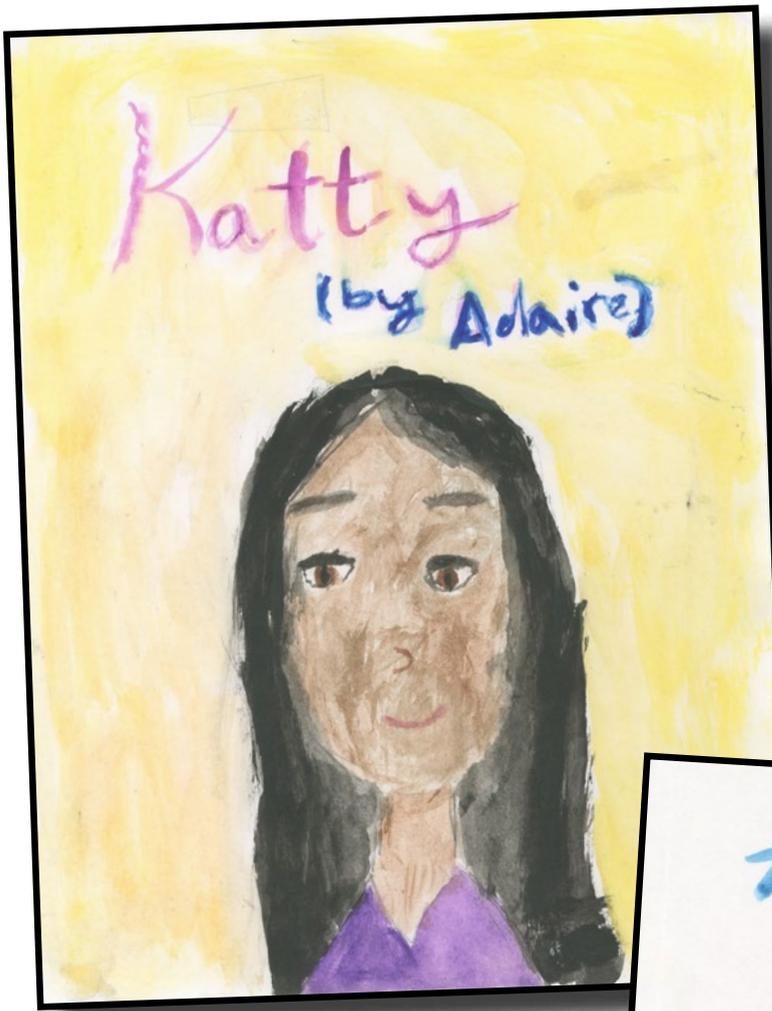
This year, some of our Smart Partners did portraits of each other. Or themselves! Here are the finished masterpieces.



← Angie Toledo, Self-Portrait

↓ Melanie Correa, Self-Portrait





↑ Portrait of Katty Lopez,  
by Adaire Kamen

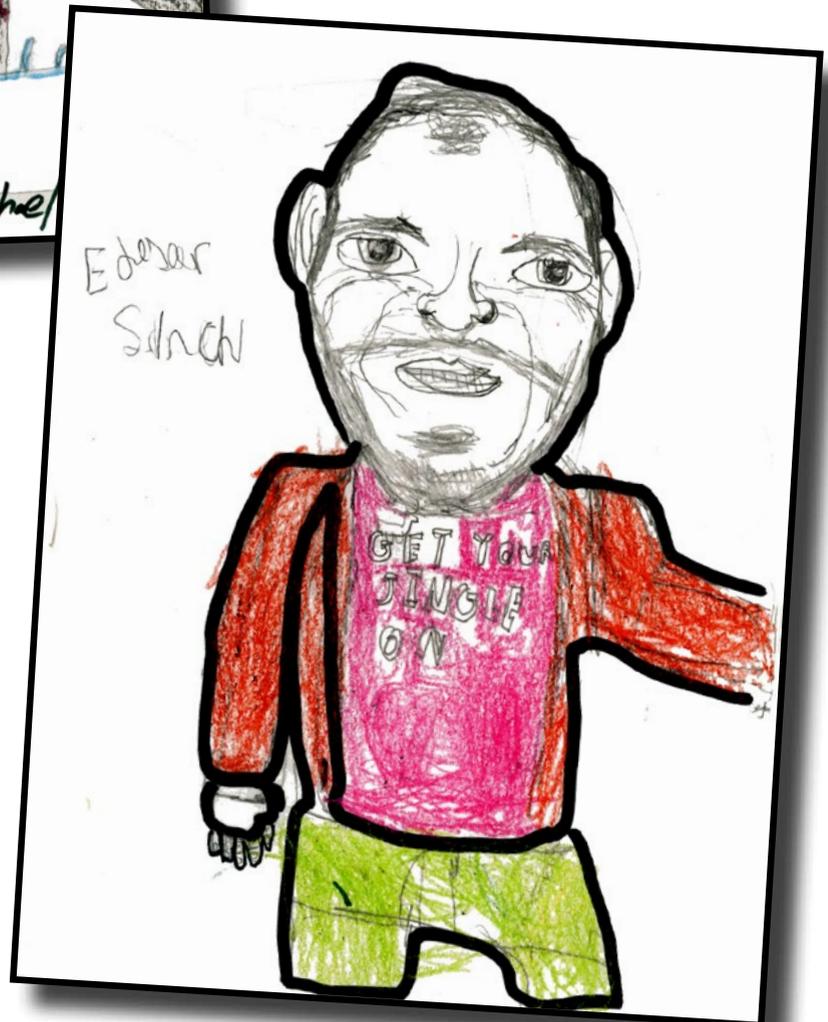
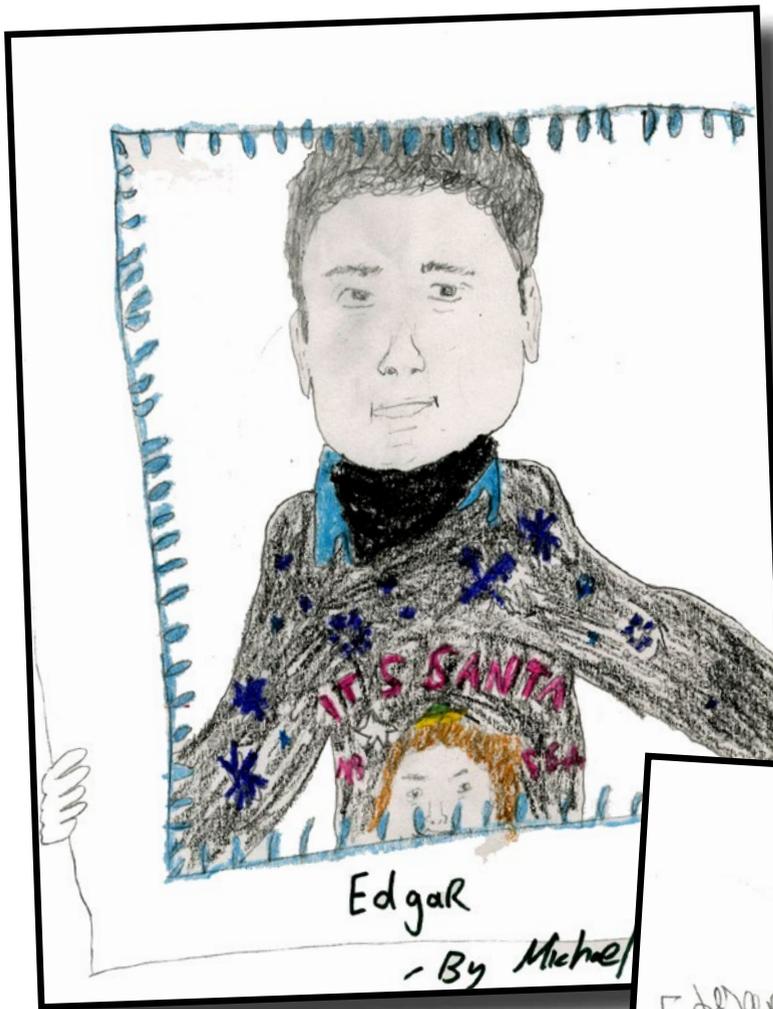
→ Portrait of Adaire Kamen,  
by Katty Lopez



➔ Portrait of Evelyn Myers,  
by Jasminn Johnson

⬇ Portrait of Jasminn Johnson,  
by Evelyn Myers



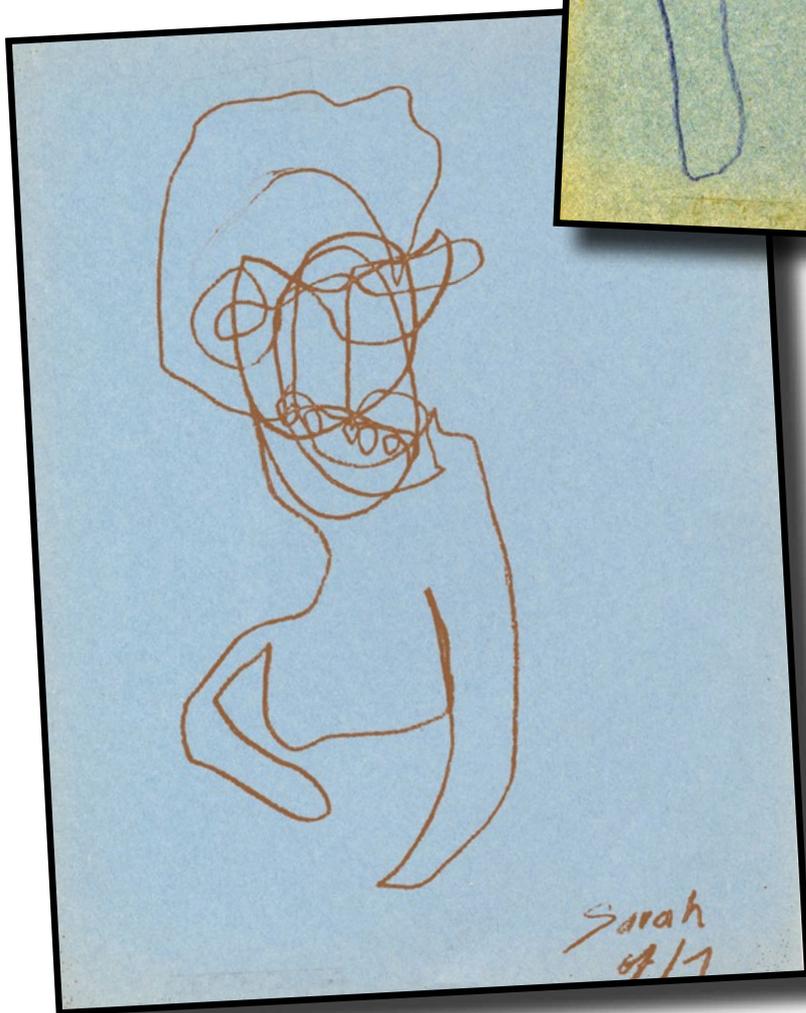


↑ Portrait of Edgar Sinchi,  
by Michael Propster

→ Portrait of Michael Propster,  
by Edgar Sinchi

→ Portrait of Sarah Lopez,  
by Lynne Rosenberg

↓ Portrait of Lynne Rosenberg,  
by Sarah Lopez





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