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Back Cover - Art by Jessie Lungsuwan, Grade 12

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# ELEMENTARY

Declan Hogue Grade 3 GR



















Quinn Butts Grade 3 CS

Lillian Johnson Grade 4 BF



#### **Fall Poem**

Written by Azrielle Wheeler Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is violet red like a falling leaf that just dropped of the beautiful tree and a sweet smelling flower that I picket

and a sweet smelling flower that I picket from the ground.

Autumn is red like a pretty red rose and a betting heart in my chest.

Autumn is orange like an orange cat that jumped in my yard and candy corn..... mmm candy my favorite.

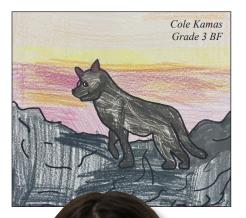
Written by Bella Upham Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is golden yellow like the hay riding in the back of the truck I go riding on and the crisp and crunchy leaves on the ground.

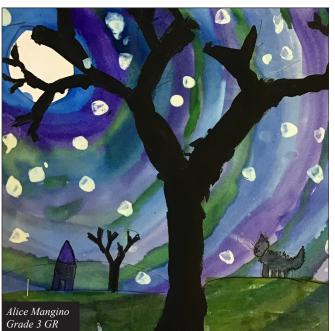
Autumn is auburn red like a juicy candy apple that sticks to my teeth as I bite into it and the red licorice in my candy bucket.

Autumn is cinnamon orange like a fresh baked sweet potato on the dinner table

and the strong, smelling spices in my mom's soup.









## Artist Spotlight

Skylinn Benitez Grade 4, Center Street

Why do you enjoy creating art?

I like that you can draw anything. You can just let your imagination run wild.

What are your favorite things to draw?

I like to draw animals and plants. Sometimes I'll just draw scribbles and turn them into different things.







### The New Puppy!

Written by Adrianna Swartwood Grade 4 Big Flats

The new puppy yips: "yip yip yip"
She loves toys and loves to "whip whip whip"
Puppy loves to chomp "Chomp Chomp
Chomp"

She loves the pool "Splish Splash Splish Splash"

She loves her ball, and she'll play with one and all.

Puppy loves to snuggle, she loves to huggle. After all that puppy zest, it is time to rest!

## The Day I Found the Jazzy-Jumping-Jelly Bean-Bird

Written by Calais Morse Grade 4 Big Flats

I've never seen the Jazzy-Jumping-Jelly Bean-Bird.

Oh, what a myth I have heard! So today, I'm going to scout for one. Oh, and it will be so much fun! I packed and packed for two hours straight, Oh, I just hope I won't become bait! Finally, off I went.

(I also decided to bring a tent.) Not too long later I saw Bouncing-Boing-Boing-Fish.

And I thought, wait a minute, that is not my wish!

About five more long minutes later, I saw a Green-Bean-Alligator.

I thought, that's not what I want to find. I guess I am falling behind!

Twenty more long minutes have gone away, And a little Lady-Bug-Squirrel wanted to play.

I told him I cannot hang out, Because I am really out and about. Finally, thirty more minutes have flurred, And there it was, the Jelly Bean-Bird! I took a picture, CLICK

But then it flew away. Although, that was an awesome day!

#### Fall Poem

Written by Carson Vieselmeyer Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is cocoa brown like a juicy candy apple from my nice neighbors and like a big football in a, NFL game when the Bills win.

Autumn is orange like an orange soda so delicious and like a basketball that is bright orange.

Autumn is lion yellow so scary like popcorn that I eat at the movies... yummy



#### The Snow Globe Adventure

Written by Antonio Rios Grade 4 Big Flats

One snowy day Antonio and his friend Mathew were playing tag, and Mathew was it. They were both running extremely fast. Then suddenly Antonio tripped and fell into a weird portal. Mathew went tumbling behind him. When they were both inside the portal it seemed, they were floating in the purple, silver, green, and red air

Then they both landed in the snow. Once Antonio landed in the frigid snow, he saw these two Titans come racing towards him, and huge hands latched onto the snow globe, and they shook it. He went high up in the air, so high Antonio could see Mathew flying up on the other side. Then they both went crashing down. Antonio landed in a bush, but he was all right. He was searching for Mathew when he was walking in the forest, and Mathew suddenly popped up from the snow. A light behind appeared Mathew.

It looked like an angel, and then it said "I am the ghost of Christmas." The angel walked away. The boys didn't know if they should follow the angel or stay there, but they decided to follow it. The angel led them to what looked like a town filled with people.

Once there, the angel invited them into a shoe store where the owner said "welcome to the Maxwells Shoe store. "Would you like to buy anything. "The place looked amazing. The workers were elves and there were giant candy canes, and small trains.

The boys noticed the angel had disappeared. Antonio and Matthew explored the place, and they found a tiny door. They crawled into it, and the room got bigger, big enough that they could stand now, then they saw the light again. Once they were close enough to the angel Antonio said "Can you please bring us back to where we came from?".

Then the angel said, "First you must bring me back the Christmas star."

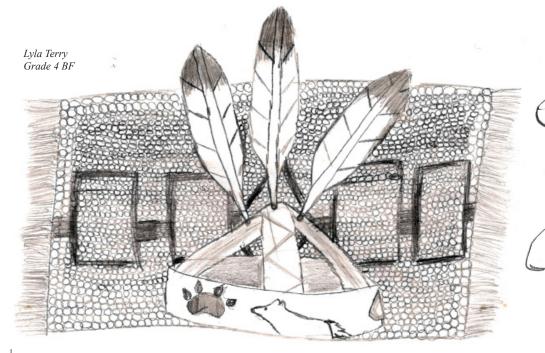
Mathew asked the Angel where to find it, and the angel said, "Go to the place where the lights shine the brightest," The light vanished.

Mathew said, "I saw a Christmas tree on the top of the mountain, maybe it's there" Without thinking they both set out to the mountain. Once they were out of the village there was no turning back.

They began their journey up the mountain. After walking for what seemed like hours, they found the majestic Christmas tree. It was super bright and seemed to glow from inside, and it towered above the town. Now they must decide who would have to climb up and get the star. To decide, they started playing blue shoe to see who had to go. Mathew won, and Antonio had to start climbing.

Once Antonio was past the first ornament, he was already high up the tree. He climbed and climbed until there was one more reach. He stretched his arm as far as he could, and when he grabbed the star he slipped, and he fell when he was falling Antonio looked down at the ground, but Mathew wasn't there, the Angel was there, and the weird portal was back.

Antonio dropped the star, and the Angel grasped it in mid-air. Antonio felt warm inside as he fell through the air, and he fell into the portal. Matthew was there too. Everything seemed to stop, and it looked like he was back on the school black top. He turned on his back, and everyone in his class was standing in a circle watching him. Then Mrs. Aepelbacher asked him "Are you guys ok." Antonio got up, and said ""it was the greatest experience ever."



Brantley Evans Grade 1 CS



Chloe Buhian Grade 1 CS











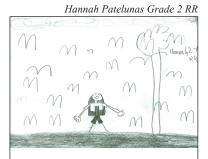


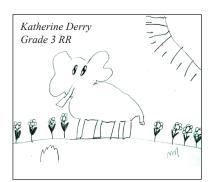




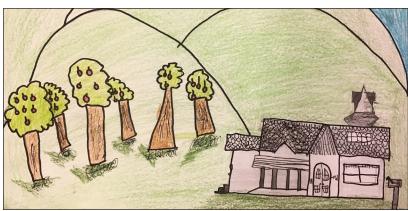










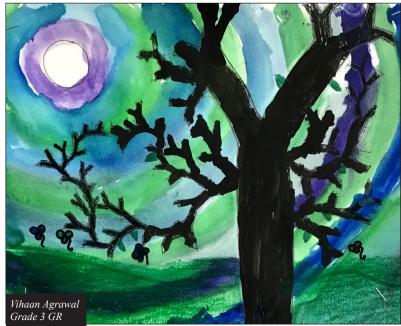


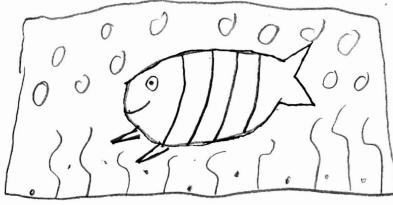








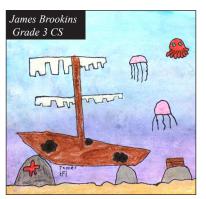














#### **TRAPPED!**

Written by Matthew Burczynski Grade 4 Big Flats

Cranking gears shook me awake. Inky darkness surrounded me. There was something cold and hard pressed against my back. I tried to remember where I was. As hard as I tried I couldn't' seem to remember anything for that matter. It was as if someone wiped my memory. Then, the place abruptly stopped. I heard muffled voices through the ceiling; it began to open up. Strangers started hoisting me up using a rope like-. Wait is that Ivy?! I thought to myself. I heard someone say, "Somebody take him in!" Before I knew it someone carried me into a tepee. I set my head on some leaves that formed a pillow, and I dozed off. When I woke up, I heard someone say, "It's been two days and he still hasn't woken up yet." Then I flung my head upwards to get out of the tepee and whacked my head on the doorway. I was eager to get out of the place as soon as possible. When I got out of the tepee, I asked the people outside how to get out of this place.

They said "Out? There is no way out." one boy said. "What?" I asked.

"I said, there is no way out." he repeated.

"Hold on. If there is no way out, then how-" I stopped myself in mid-sentence.

"Wait. What is that." I said pointing behind him at the icy walls.

"What is what" he said.

"That." I said as I pointed at the walls again.

"Oh that. Those are the walls. That's why we can't get out."

"What's so bad about those walls?" I asked.

"The Wolves." he replied

"Wolves?"

"Yes Wolves. They have been terrorizing us ever since we've arrived Here." he said.

"Why?" I said.

"Don't know." he said.

"Well, Let's just eat something I'm hungry."

"Ok I was hoping you'd say that soon."

"How do we get food?" I asked.

"We go ice fishing, how else." he responded. When we got to the ice fishing hole, we baited our hooks, (we used worms) I caught one fish just a few seconds after he did.

"Perch." he muttered.

"What's so bad about Perch?" I asked. He ignored

me. When we finally ate our fish it was just getting dark out.

"I don't think I ever got your name." I said to the boy.

"Ben. What about you?"

"Oliver." I replied.

"I am getting tired. Where am I going to sleep?"

"Good call it'll be dark soon. You can sleep in there." He said, pointing to a nearby tepee.

"Ok I said. But what about you?"

"I'll be that tepee to the right of you."

"Got it. Good night." I said.

"Good night. He said back.

I was awakened by the howl of the Wolves. Oh man Ben was right. The howl of those Wolves are terrifying. I thought.

In the morning I went to the fishing hole to catch some fish for breakfast. I thought I had caught a huge fish but when I tried to reel it in, I fell through the fishing hole and then I saw purple swirls as it sucked me in. When I opened my eyes, I was back in my bed. Whatever that was it was an awesome experience. I got out of my bed and looked outside, there was snow on the ground. I heard someone yell "Santa came!!!"

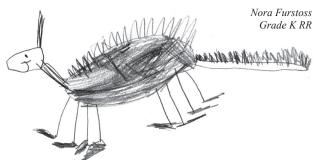
Hazel Fuchs Grade 4 BF











# Artist Spotlight

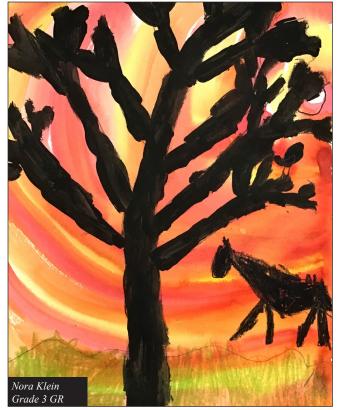
Selina Chen Grade 4, Center Street

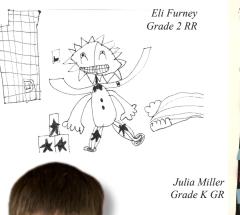
Why do you enjoy creating art?

I love art because you can make anything.
You can draw whatever you imagine.

What are your favorite things to draw? I like to draw people that I make up.











Artist Spotlight

Henry Schaut Grade 3, Big Flats

What is your favorite thing to draw?

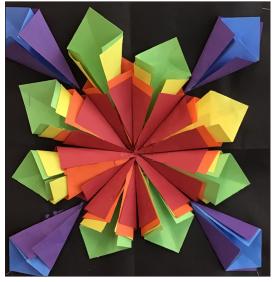
I love to sketch anything and everything.

Why do you love to create art?

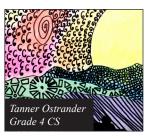
I love Art because you can make something you didn't mean to, then look at it in a different way, and it turns out actually really amazing!

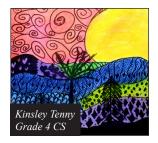




















Landon Westrick Grade 1 GR



## **Fall Poetry Collection**

Written by Cassidy Dzniennik Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is peach yellow like a creepy candlelight in a haunted house and goldfish yellow like the goldfish I have at home.

Autumn is dark orange like a pumpkin I just picked from the pumpkin farm and a hot flame that I just lit.

Autumn is acorn brown like a crispy leaf that just fell to the ground and a doe that was running across the street.

#### Written by Gracelyn Noelle Strykowski Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is cocoa-cola brown like a big mud pit that I jump in after a rainstorm and the warm apple cider that I drink on a cold day!

Autumn is red violet like a leaf floating down to the ground on a sunny day!

Autumn is colorful like the Small World that shipped on the ride at Disney World!

#### Written by Jaxon Farrell Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is cherry red like a red pumpkin I carved with a mad face and a cherry drink that Is icy cold that I drank Autumn is electric yellow

like a power outage we had yesterday at my house

and the car parked out back that was yellow.
Autumn is orange

like an orange falling leaf like a pumpkin and a car speeding down the road.

#### Written by Katherine Derry Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is pumpkin orange like a jack-a-lantern I just carved that is glowing in the night

and like that pretty I saw that fell from a tree. Autumn is red apple

like a yummy apple that I picked in Fall and a red apple colored backpack when kids go to school.

Autumn is bear brown like a hibernating sleepy bear and nice crumbling brown leaves.

#### Written by Kolten Marmor Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is blood red like a rare juicy steak from Libs and like a red crayon that I color with.

Autumn is bear brown like a dark, dark brown leaf that I had in my yard

and brown sugar that I bake French toast with.
Autumn is banana yellow
like a corn yellow like gold

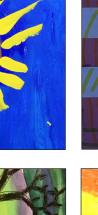
and messy, messy egg yolk yellow.

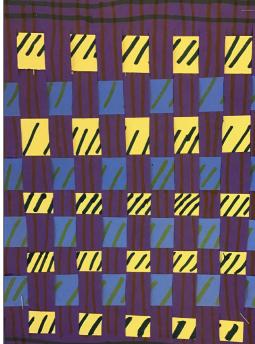


Adrianna Strong Grade K GR



Nyla Mullen Grade K CS











Quinn Spirawk Grade 3 Big Flats

## What is your favorite thing to draw?

I love drawing realistically. Sometimes, I just draw randomly, like made up cartoon characters. Honestly, I just love drawing mostly everything!

### Why do you love to create art?

What I love about Art is that you can make whatever you want. I want to be an Art Teacher when I grow up. This summer,

I plan to have an Art Stand outside, where people can just stop by and grab some of my paintings if they want to.





Carsyn Wright Grade K GR







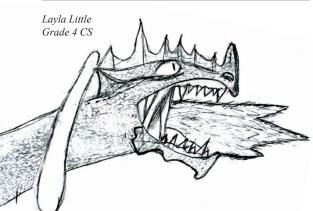












# Artist Spotlight

Jayce Rodriguez Grade 3 Gardner Road

What is your favorite kind of Art to make?

Lusually draw characters

I usually draw characters from games or movies.

# Why do you love to create art?

14

I love that you can do multiple different things with art materials. I also like to create ventriloquist dummies and puppets for fun. I usually take a tiny piece of cardboard and tape string to it to cover a hole in the mouth. I use a stick for its neck to move the puppets.



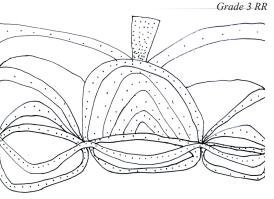




Eonna Cleveland

Grade 1 GR





Nathan Hughson

### **Fall Poetry Collection**

Written by Neola Castellano
Grade 3 Ridge Road
Autumn is buttercup yellow
like a pretty sun floating in the sky
and a yellow butterfly fling in the pretty sky.
Autumn is pumpkin orange
like a pretty orange leaf on the ground
and a pretty ginger orange.
Autumn is apple red
like a red leaf falling to the ground
and as red as a hot flame burning in the fire pit.

Written by Raegan Blitz Grade 3 Ridge Road

AUTUMN is candle light orange like making a pie with my family on thanksgiving

and jumping in the colorful leaves that have fallen on the ground.

AUTUMN is red violet

like a leaf floating down to the ground on a sunny day

and rousting a marsh mellow on a dark night. AUTUMN is bumblebee yellow like a flame on a flickering hot fire and raking yellow leaves on a nice day.

Written by Scott Pike
Grade 3 Ridge Road
Autumn is apple red
like a red leaf on a tree
and like my red Lexus that my dad drives.
Autumn is golden yellow
like a bus driving kids to school
and a golden duck in the pond.
Autumn is salmon orange
like a fresh water salmon that I just caught
and like a hot fire outside at my grandparent's
house.

Written by Vinnie Denicola Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is cherry red
like a sweet Shirley temple
that I drink at dinner,
Autumn is yolk yellow
like a school bus driving kids to school
and Fortnite skin.
Autumn is blood orange
like a rotten orange that was left in my mom's
closet
and a leaf that was on a tree in my grandma's
yard.

Written by Maverick Carman Grade 3 Ridge Road

Autumn is flame orange like a pumpkin that I carve on Halloween day and the leaves that I rake into a pile to jump in. Autumn is blonde

like a corn maze that I go through for fun and the stalks of hay that I use for decoration. Autumn is Carmel brown

like a pumpkin pie that my family eats for dinner in fall yummy

and a candy apple that I eat at a Halloween party.

# Grade 5 & 6

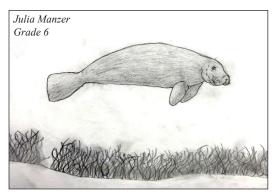


Leah Johnson Grade 6





Noah Cady Grade 6

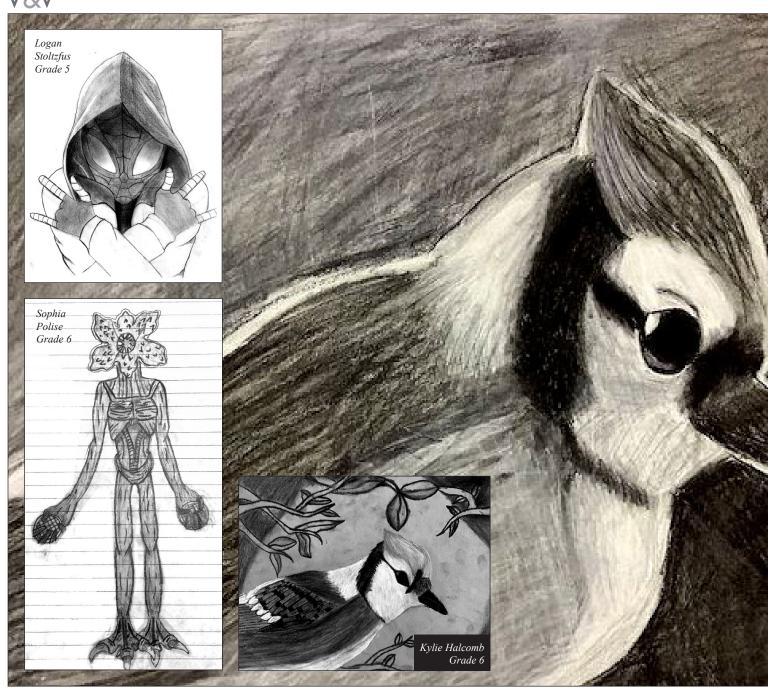


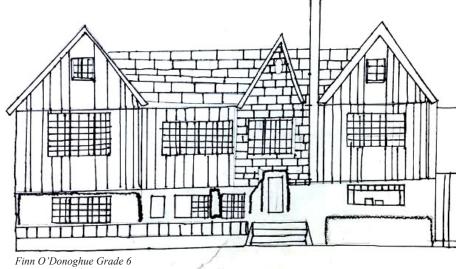


Logan Stoltzfus Grade 5







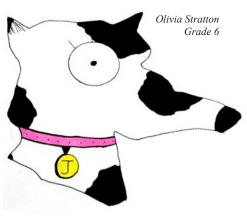


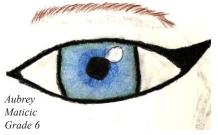


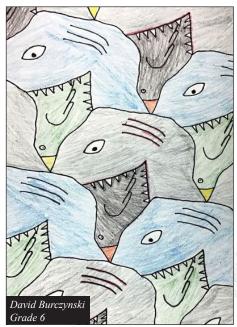
Kenneth Kailbourne Grade 6







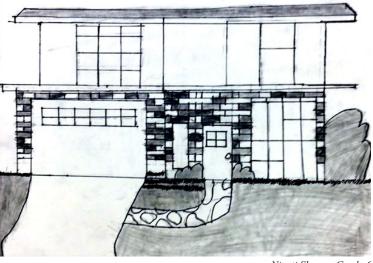










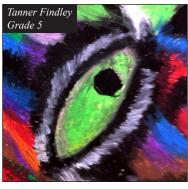


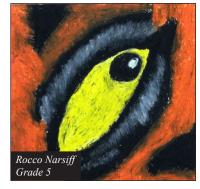
Niyati Sharma Grade 6

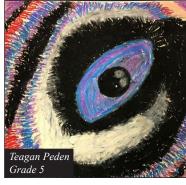


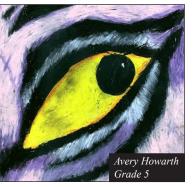




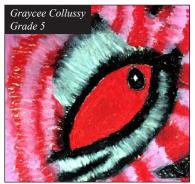


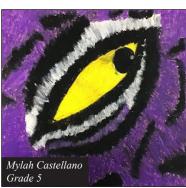


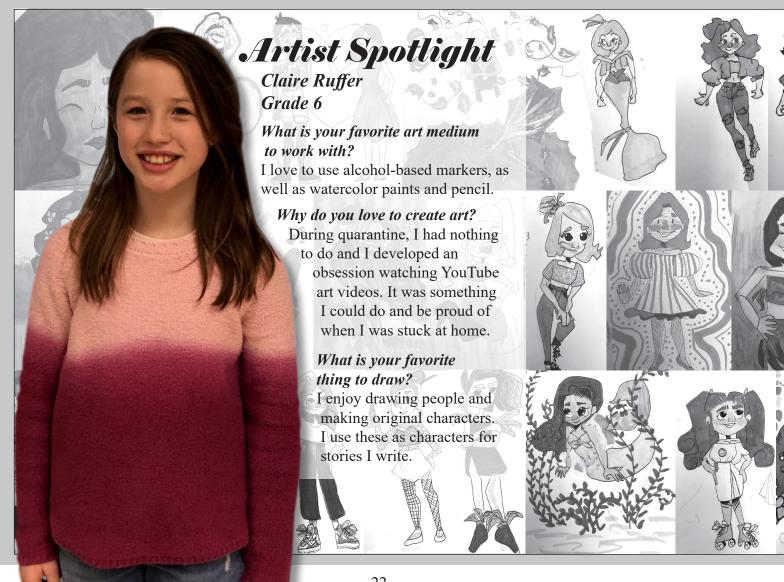












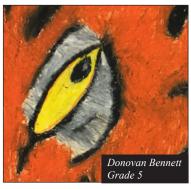


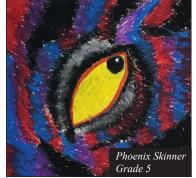
























Annabelle Francisco Grade 6



Jameson Grover Grade 6

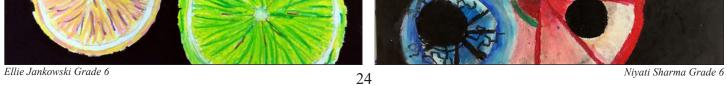


Gabrielle Harris Grade 6



Cassidy Johnson Grade 6







Mylah Castellano Grade 5



Meghan Cleary Grade 5



Logan Earl Grade 5



Gabriella Matteson Grade 5

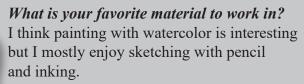


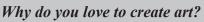
Nicholas Seymour Grade 5

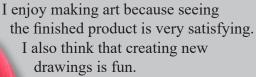


# Artist Spotlight

Jeff Cain Grade 5

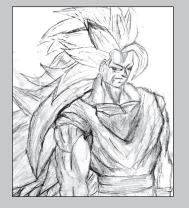








Personally, I like drawing large and muscular characters from Dragonball Z. Broly is my favorite character and he can be very difficult to draw. I think the challenge is fun.











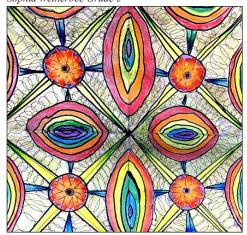
Sophia Wetherbee Grade 5

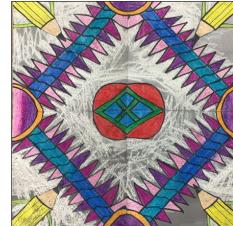


Connor Miele Grade 5



Hannah Rohr Grade 5





Trainian ton Grade 5













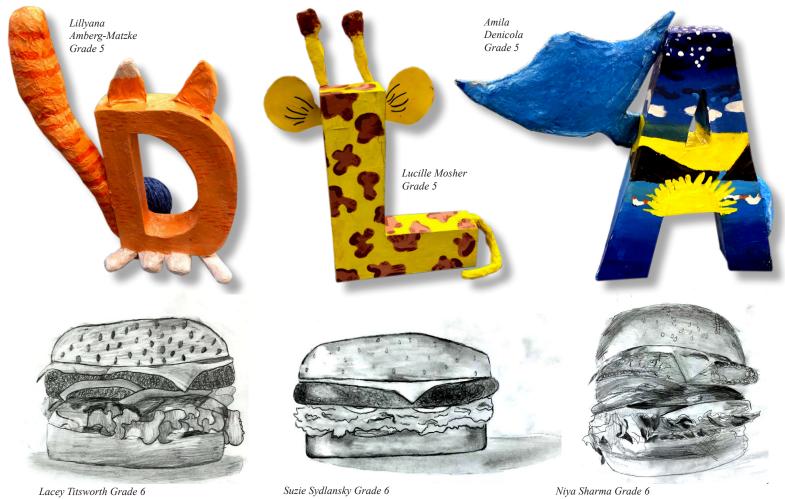












Suzie: Peel dried glue off my head. Sinks are gross!

Hannah: I can always learn something new in art.

Jack: I love to create art because it is a challenge

Jack: Peel dried glue off my head. **BONUS: Why Do You Love Art?** 

Suzie: Art is fun and makes me calm.

and super fun!

# Artist Spotlight

Hannah Sydlansky (Grade 5), Jack Sydlansky (Grade 6), & Suzie Sydlansky (Grade 5)

## Would You Rather ...?

... Create Art Using Pencil or Paint?

Hannah: Pencil.
Suzie: Paint for Sure!

Jack: Pencil. I'm bad with paint. ... Draw People or Animals?

Hannah: People.

Suzie: Animals. They are more fun to draw.

Jack: Animals. My Snoop Dogg drawing looks more

like a Snoop Cat.

... Have Paint All over Your Clothes or Clay In Your Hair?

Hannah: Paint all over my clothes.

Suzie: Clay in my hair. I can wash it out and it won't stain.

Jack: Paint all over my clothes. Clay never comes out.

...Have Glasses Drawn on Your Face In Sharpie or Have an Oil Pastel Mustache?

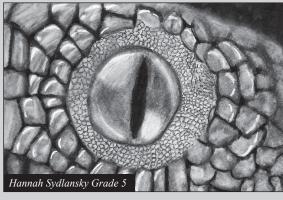
Hannah: Oil pastel mustache. I can just wash it off.

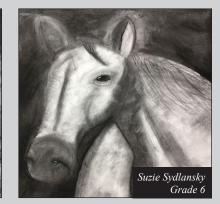
Suzie: Oil pastel mustache.

Jack: Oil pastel mustache. It's way funnier.

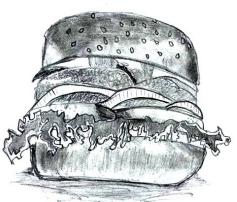
...Peel Dried Glue Off Your Head or Clean the Art Room Sinks?

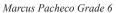
Hannah: Clean the dirty sinks.













Cassidy Johnson Grade 6



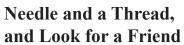
Peyton Peterson Grade 6











Written by Kurtis Kohler Grade 5

Little Ozmo, when someone's in trouble, a hand he would lend. But the people, they won't be his friend, for they were scared of his needle and thread.

Ozmo might be scary with his needle and thread, but all he longed

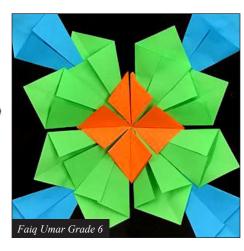
for, was a friend.











# MIDDLE SCHOOL

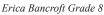
Grade 7 & 8



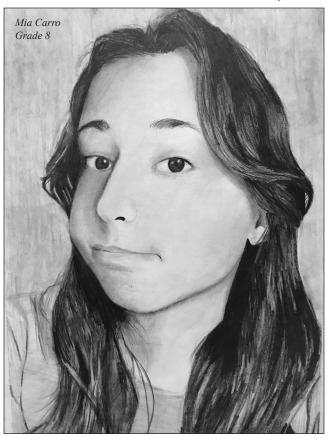


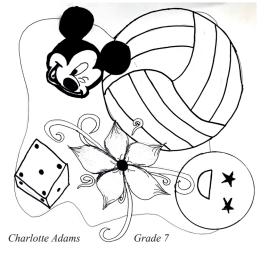


Brianna Giblin Grade 8 Charlie Bourgeois Grade 8

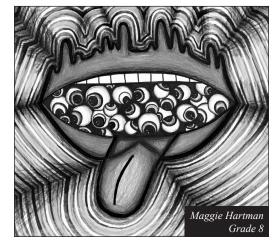














## **High Jumping**

Written by Alexus Borek Grade 8

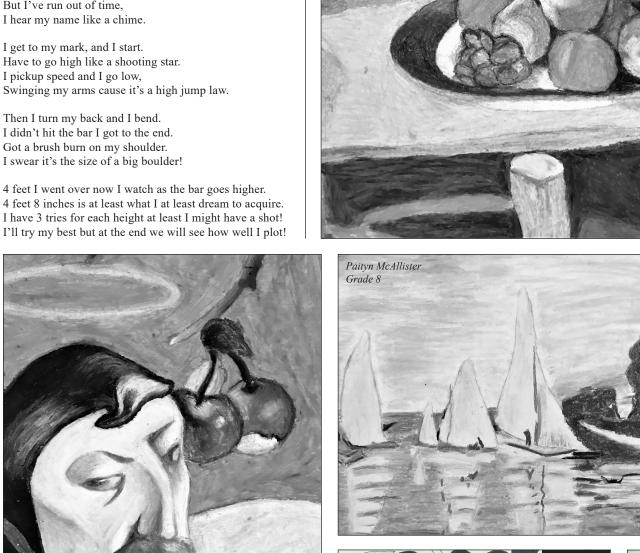
Setting up my marks, Hoping not to do remarks. Ready to bend my back. Let's hope not to hear a crack!

Having my goal in mind, I'm anxious I need to unwind! But I've run out of time, I hear my name like a chime.

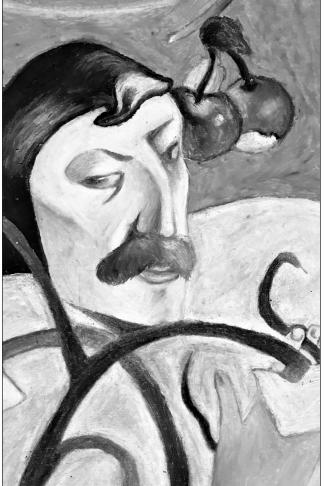
I get to my mark, and I start. Have to go high like a shooting star. I pickup speed and I go low, Swinging my arms cause it's a high jump law.

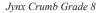
Then I turn my back and I bend. I didn't hit the bar I got to the end. Got a brush burn on my shoulder. I swear it's the size of a big boulder!

4 feet I went over now I watch as the bar goes higher. 4 feet 8 inches is at least what I at least dream to acquire. I have 3 tries for each height at least I might have a shot!



Alyssa Ketter Grade 8



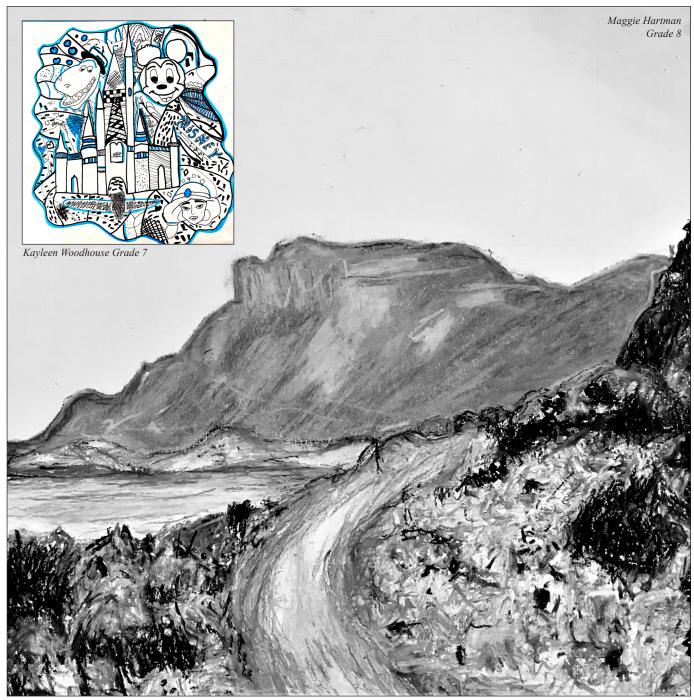
















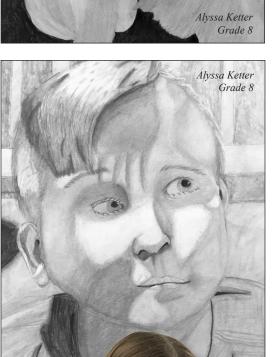


















Artist Spotlight

Breanna Van Gorden
Grade 8

Who is your favorite artist?

Vincent Van Gogh

What is your favorite medium to work in?

Pencil and pastel. I love the colors and layering to pastels.

I love making pencil drawings because there's so many ways to use pencils, like shading and crosshatching.

What is your favorite thing to draw?
Anything realistic, like animals or people.





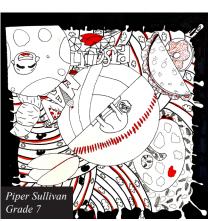


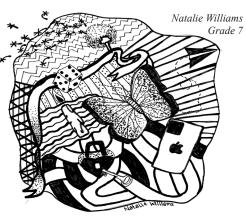






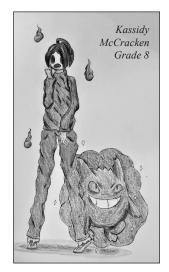
































### The Story of Mono and Six

Written by Eli Ames Grade 7

### Chapter 1

It was an ordinary day. A kid named Mono had a normal life until he went to sleep one night. He woke up in a forest next to a tv. He wandered off into the forest to find a house. There were old, rusted traps outside of it. Mono soon went into the house and came across a young girl about his age trapped in a room. She was playing with a music box and her name was Six. She was a normal girl but with a dark past. They start to go on an adventure until they stumble across a horrifying monster known as the The Hunter. He chased them down into a shed where Mono and Six trapped the Hunter and he was stuck there forever.

#### Chapter 2

Six and Mono find a long river. They use a door that was from a destroyed house to sail across the river. Then Mono and Six found a city. The buildings tilted and looked like they were about to fall. They found a school and they entered the school hoping to find others just like them but all they found were more monsters. One of them was a teacher that could extend her neck to 300ft long (creepy), and she chases

Mono and Six into a vent. They run through a library and Six gets taken. Mono found a secret room with a key, so he took the key, found a door, and opened it to find Six tied to a chair, so he untied her, and they ran and escaped the horrifying schoolteacher.

### Chapter3

Mono and Six then stumbled across an abandoned hospital. Inside was another horrifying monster called the Doctor. He crawled along the ceiling to move, and it scared Six and Mono. They had to hide under beds and find keys to unlock a lot of doors and they found mannequins that move in the dark but cannot in the light. Mono had to venture off alone and Six had to stay behind and guard the entrances so that no monster leaves or enters. Mono had to fight all the mannequins to find a key for the elevator and then he got Six. Then Mono and Six escaped the abandoned hospital and ran as far into the city as they both could. They found a yellow raincoat that Six put on and they continued but what Mono did not know is that the yellow raincoat changed her and reminded her of her old ways from "Little Nightmares II."

### Chapter 4

Then Mono and Six ventured off through abandoned hotels, houses, and buildings. A new monster chased them into an old kid's room. Mono hid under the bed and Six got caught by the monster. It took her into a tall

tower. At the very top of the tower, Mono was chased by the monster until Mono stopped and then noticed he had powers. He used them to defeat the monster and then Mono scaled the tower to look for Six.

### Chapter 5

Mono then found Six but she was a tall monster herself. To defeat her he had to destroy her music box. He used a hammer to do that. Then Six returned to her normal self and then they had to run because the tower was falling apart. Mono almost fell into a dark pit but Six saved him and caught him. She did not pull him up, instead she let go and dropped him into the pit. Six escaped but Mono did not but when Mono fell to the bottom of the pit, he did not die. He then just sat there and grew taller and thinner and then he realized the monster that was chasing him was HIMSELF.

### Chapter6

Yet of all the monsters Mono fought it still was not enough to get him home because there was one more monster. He had to fight. The monster had no name, but it had long arms, but short legs and the arms could grow up to 20ft long. Mono could not defeat it without Six. Yet Mono thought Six was gone. He did not know that Six was the last monster he had to fight. When Six dropped him into the pit that is when Mono lost the fight and was trapped forever.





### Time

Written by Evan Sedlak Grade 8

What is it?

Occasion, chance, opportunity

That is what it is to everyone else

But to me

Time is a paradox

An expression or revelation of inner or inherent contradiction

Time is a contraption

A beautiful yet disgusting contraption

It cannot be slowed nor stopped

Sometimes it feels as though there is too much of it

Other times it feels as though there is never enough

What makes time?

What came before it if not time itself?

How can anything or anyone make time

If time itself is needed to make it?

A paradox

Time

What is it?

Occasion, chance, opportunity



# HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9-12



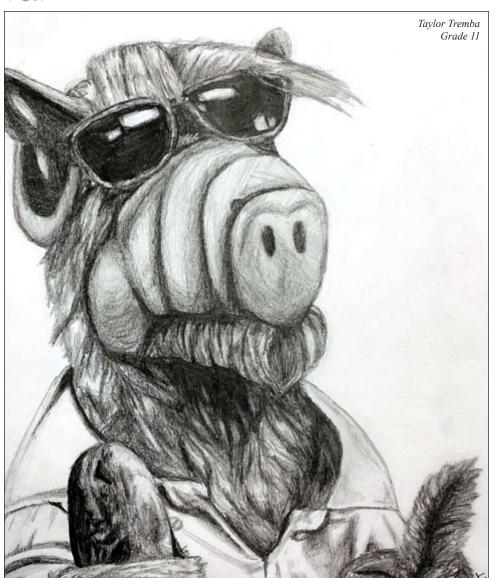
Sophia Lotocky Grade 12







Luke Thomas Grade 12

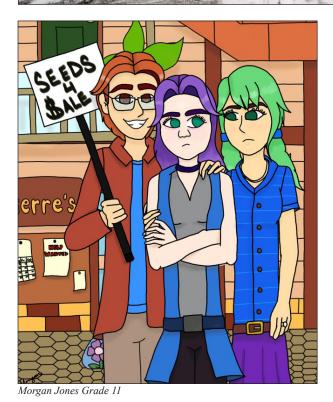


### **Moon Wind**

Written by Haley Stone Grade 10

The wind rushed against Lily's face. She sat sideways on her broom stick flying through the night. Gazing at the moon that was shining through the hole that the clouds have created. The warm wind hitting her face like she was a dog sticking her head out a car window. She took in a deep breath of air and could smell the cold freshness of fall. Orange, red, and yellow leaves glistened in the background of the beautiful night. She could see a couple stars playing peekaboo within the clouds. Lily stopped and sat in the middle of the air on her broom stick the moon and clouds above her and the field below her where she could see deer frolicking in the night with each other. She took in one last breath of the soothing night and decided it was time to head home. What a wonderful night.

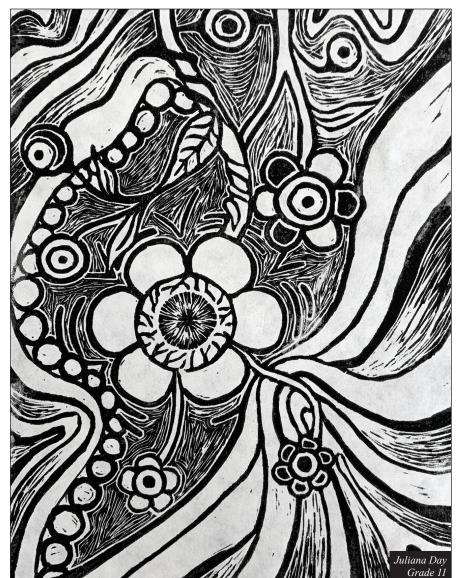






Will Aepelbacher Grade 12

46



### What Color Am I

Written by Allie Benton Grade 12

I am not the color yellow I don't radiate sunshine with my beaming smile Or fill people's chests with bubbling happiness I am not the color green

For I am not as calm as a forest at dusk

And I don't have a belly hungry for adventure I am not the color blue

For my voice isn't melodic like a bird

And I'm able to keep my sadness hidden deep beneath the layers of my skin

I am the color red

Not because of its association with confidence, or love For I know little of either

But for the scarlet color of blood

Which runs through all of us

I am the connection

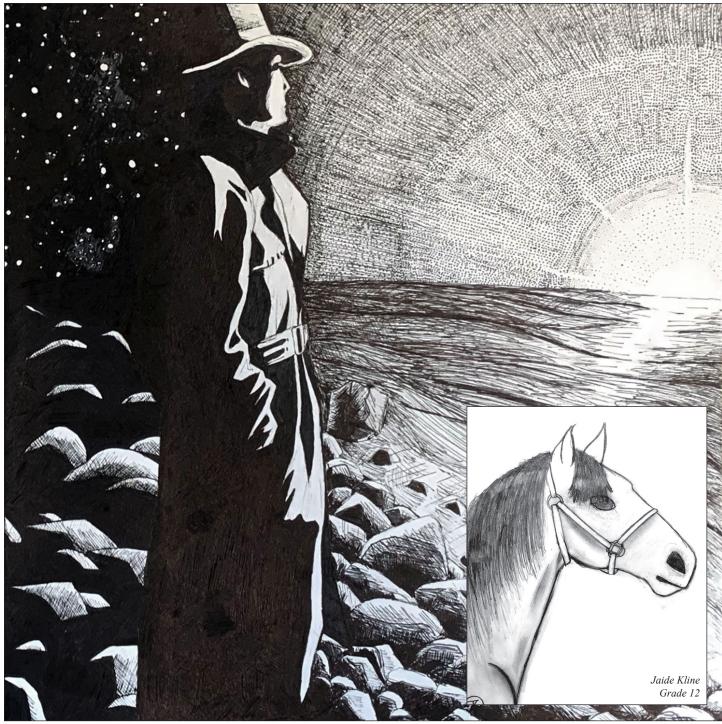
I am the in-between









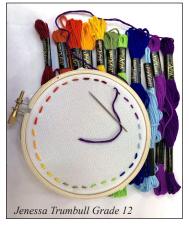


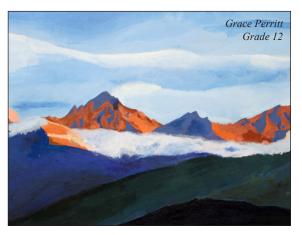
### **Scraped Knees**

Written by Allie Benton Grade 12

Chill October air had nothing on me
For I was the birthday girl,
Cold doesn't bother me
My aunt and I were swinging at the playground
Her vibrant purple laughter filling the air
The blue squeaks of the swings interrupting our
thoughts
When I fell off, down I went

My knees, oh how they bled
And the pain turned my vision red

















Isabella Paddock Grade 12

## **Unified Sports: A Life Changing Experience**

Written by Palmer Benesh Grade 12

Basketball had always been a huge part of my life ever since I was little, and it had been my favorite sport up into high school. I was captain of the team my sophomore year, but the game was just not as fun as it once was. My sisters were both all-stars on the varsity team, and I felt I had to live up to their legacy. The pressure I put on myself was unhealthy: I felt as if I couldn't make mistakes, and that ruined the game I once loved. I finished my sophomore basketball season and had no fun at all. I did not see the purpose of playing anymore, and I was not getting any fulfillment or satisfaction from playing on the team.

My Spanish teacher approached

me after my sophomore basketball season, asking if I had ever thought about playing Unified basketball. Unified Sports joins people with intellectual or physical disabilities (called Athletes), and people without disabilities (called Partners), on the same team. The main goal of Unified Sports is to build friendships, encourage inclusivity, and achieve a new level of understanding. I actually had thought about it before, but there was a rule that said I couldn't play Unified if I played basketball for the school. So, I finally decided it was time for me to quit and I believe it changed my life.

Quitting basketball was not easy. I received a lot of flack from the coaches and my friends who were on the team. It was not a popular or traditional decision, but it was the right one for me. Thankfully, my parents fully supported it, and I was excited to finally be able

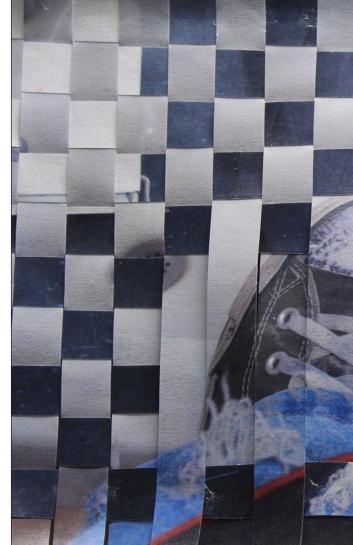
to play Unified basketball my junior

Walking into my first Unified practice, I did not know what to expect. I was nervous because I had never done anything like that before. I awkwardly introduced myself to a few of the Unified Athletes, but after the first day, it already seemed like we were becoming a family. We won a lot of games, but we also had the most fun I've ever had playing basketball. All the stress I used to feel melted away when I played with them. Seeing the Athletes score their first points of the season and then dance down the whole court with the biggest smiles on their faces are some of my favorite basketball memories. We even won the championship that year, but even if we had lost that game, I don't think it would have affected the team. They were just excited to be out there together.

Being on that team made me realize how grateful I was to experience the team aspect of sports, but it was the Athlete's first time being on a team. It was their first time they could wear a jersey that read "Horseheads" on the front. It was their first time they could go on a bus to an away game. And it was their first time they could say they were on a Varsity sports team. I was just fortunate enough to be able to experience that with them.

Unified sports changed my life, my outlook, and perspective. It opened my eyes to how much more there is to sports than winning and losing. Going to basketball practice used to feel like a chore to me but seeing this experience through their eyes made me realize not to take things for granted. The Athletes on the team thought that I was there to help them, but they do not know how much they have helped me.





Mackenzie Wiehe Grade 12







### V&V I Found a Way

Written by Kiran Gulati Grade 9

I take in the view From eye to eye I look up above And see the dark sky

Think of a way, A fix, or solution Our Earth like a wasteland From all this pollution

This dangerous problem It is a savage Take care of it before It's too much to manage

Then, in an instant, An idea in mind I take to the books Answers, to find

Away with the cars It's just a start To make this place better We all have a part

I think of more ways Ways to save Earth Everyone should know This planet has worth

Atmosphere full All CO2 I'll tell everyone Just what to do

I think to myself In my thoughts, I dwell With everyone's help This might go well

I speak with the leaders People in charge This plan must go global It needs to be large

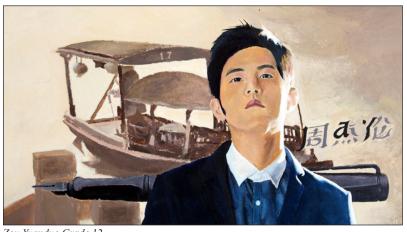
Call in the news Get all the attention Let all of them know I have quite good intentions

Tell them the project With hope in my mind We'll do this for us And all of mankind

"Let's fix this planet Make the skies blue! We can do this It's all up to you"









Karley Backer Grade 11











### The Deep Blue

Written by Hayden Chatlani Grade 9

When was the last time you went out to the deep sea? Real deep in, where only a few ships pass, and where none return. Let me tell you a story of the treacherous place that they call, the deep blue. Southwest from the southern tip of Africa. Yes, the bone chilling, teeth rattling, destination of death. It all started when my good friend, Professor Edison, and I were working. He, an Earthquake Specialist in the ocean, and me, a 24-year-old marine biologist. We were informed of an anomaly near the Midatlantic ridge in the south Atlantic Ocean. We weren't too concerned because there were numerous earthquakes occurring at the diverging boundaries. Despite our doubts, we left for our voyage to the West African coast research facility we had stationed there.

It took quite a while for us to reach our destination. When we finally got there the outside seemed quiet, but as soon as we entered through the front doors it was like an unorganized beehive. It was loud, it seemed like everyone was talking all at once. One girl with glasses was staring at a few papers while running around and accidently ran into a tall slender man. He was formally dressed. He helped pick up the papers then he walked over to us. "Dr. Chatlani, such a pleasure. Ah and Professor Edison. I have read your book professor; I admire your work." He said with haste in his voice. "I'm sorry to cut vou short but we were informed of an anomaly Mr..., I don't think that I caught your name." "Oh, my apologies I got carried away. My name is Dr. Pulges.

If you could follow me this way, I can show you to the manager of the project." He started to walk away. "Project?" Edison and I looked at each other with the same look of confused intrigue. We quickly followed Pulges as he turned the corner. He swung open two large black doors that seemed to have a heavy weight just looking at them. The room inside was dark with only the lights of a multitude of computers, glowing with faint silhouettes of people in front of them. Then, one giant screen with an underwater map of a place that I had never seen before.

A well-built man with stocky shoulders and an ominous presence. Like his pure existence emitted fear, he stood at the front of the room staring at the giant map. "Afternoon Dr., Professor." His voice shook my spine. "What you are looking at on this screen is what the locals call the deep blue. Eighty thousand feet of undiscovered ocean." He turned to look at us. He was a middle-aged man maybe forty or fifty. He had a few wrinkles and a giant mole on the left side of his head. He was dressed in a military uniform, a high-ranking one. "That's more than twice the size of the Mariana Trench though." Edison exclaimed. "I know. That is why I called you two here. The both of you are going to find out what's down there."

"This facility doesn't have the technology to explore down there." I was starting to realize what was happening. "But we have an army of D.O.E.S (deep

ocean exploration submarines) as well as the manpower to power all but 12 of them. You will lead the exploration." Edison and I agreed immediately because this was an opportunity to explore a part of the ocean never even seen before. "Good. My name is General Optasa. Welcome to the project, doctor. Briefing begins at zero-six hundred. Don't be late. We stayed the night in a nearby hotel and slept horribly due to our constant anxious thoughts about what could be down there. That next morning, the general debriefed us in a room with hundreds of people. Most were military personnel. He told us about how we would travel to the dive point in a naval carrier, and how to use the D.O.E.S. We soon set out to the ship. It was huge, like a wall of steel, or a skyscraper on its side. The people were loaded on using a ramp maybe ten feet wide. All the cargo and D.O.E.S. were loaded underneath the ship. We boarded and set off five minutes later.

We were given a tray with mashed potatoes, assorted veggies and some sausage from the cafeteria. Professor Edison found the coffee machine and poured himself a hot cup. We talked to some of the other crewmates. Some were ordered to join the project while others were in it for the money that it offered. Almost all the soldiers were American, One peculiar soldier by the name of Private Kertoo was curious and wanted to do something important with his life.

We had just finished lunch when, BOOM. An explosion, then panic. A man on guard up top yelled "Pirates!" I rushed to the window with Edison close behind. A swarm of small boats had surrounded us with more boats approaching rapidly. Another explosion went off on the other side of the ship. The carrier's firepower unleashed upon the pirates and destroyed six boats. We were no longer surrounded. The ship sped up and we drifted away from the smaller boats. They retreated to the fleet in back. An announcement was made by the voice of the general. "Everyone back to your business and will someone fix the damage please." He had a calmness in his voice that it was almost like he did this every day. After many hours of endless sailing and sea sickness, we made it to the dive point with no more encounters with the pirates.

"All right ladies, get ready to dive. We will submerge in twenty. Let's go people." The general's sharp voice bounced off the walls. Now it was time. Time to find out what was really down there. Anxiousness and fear were felt everywhere. It was very loud. The sounds of drills and sirens buzzed in my head. Edison and I made our way to two of the D.O.E.S. They were small vehicles, with oom for only one person. They had one arm that had a claw and another with a harpoon. We climbed in them to check the comfortability. It was a weird contraption. You had to lay down on your stomach. They were also very warm.

I climbed out and Edison followed. The General approached us regally. "Have you ever been in a machine like this doctor?" "No." I responded. "They really are something aren't they?" "They are impressive, but will they save us from the pressure of the ocean?" the professor asked. "I promise you that they will hold, and each pod has enough

oxygen to last three days.

"Enough talk though. Five minutes till we submerge." The general walked over to a bigger pod. It was painted a different color so he could easily be identified. Edison brought over our gear, and we suited up.

A crewmate in an orange vest came over and told us to get in our D.O.E.S., so we got in. We sat there for a minute then a pulley system pulled all the pods about fourteen feet off the ground. The metal poles we were attached to started to move and the giant back ramp opened. We could see the sea now, glistening and clear. Our subs powered on when we got about twenty feet out of the boat on the pulley. Then, a loud CHLING sound, and I plummeted to the water's surface. Edison was right behind me. He got to the end and then, BOOM, an explosion on the left side of the boat shook the water. Edison's sub came flying of the pulley system and landed dangerously close to mine. He was okay, just shocked. I looked across the horizon and saw the pirates again, but this time it was a fleet. The general screamed over the comms, "Submerge, Submerge!" I quickly hit the biggest button, forgetting everything in briefing. Miraculously it worked and I went down. Edison remembered the directions and controllably sank.

We watched as the carrier could not open fire in time and all the pirates launched torpedoes at the same time. The carrier blew with a bright explosion. Debris sank down and fell around us. A giant metal sheet was headed for us, so we turned the joysticks to evade it. We grouped up with everyone else and started our descent.

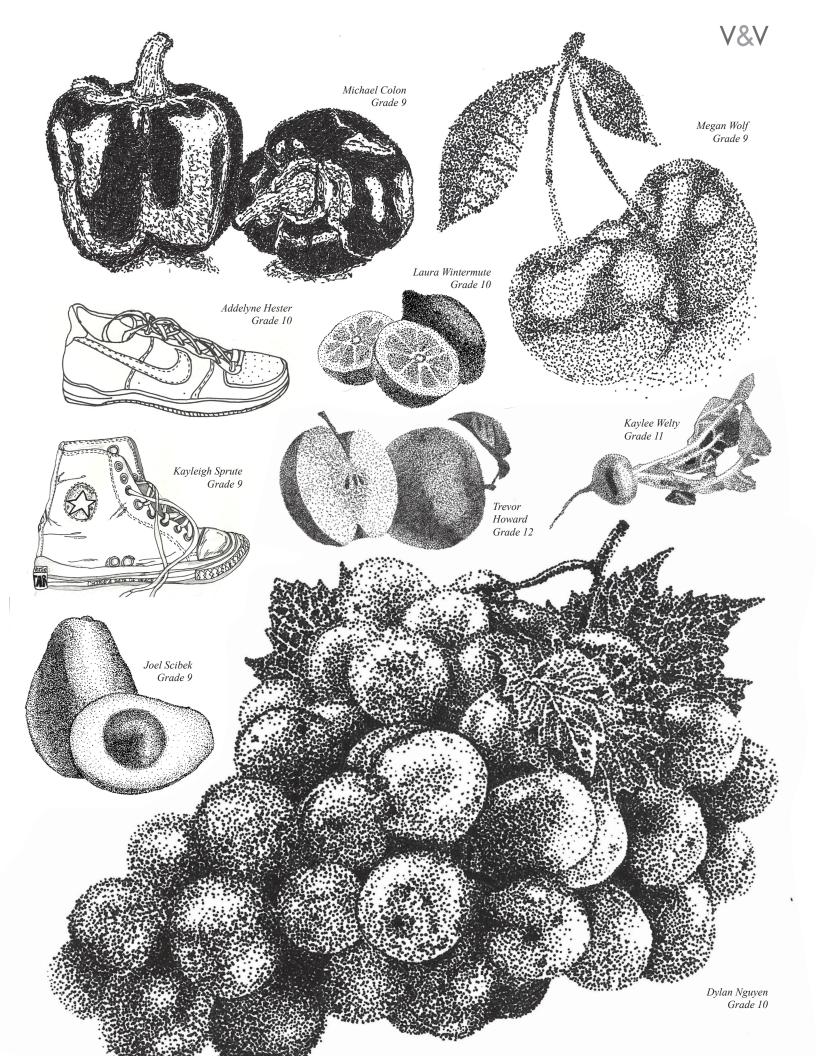
It started to get cold. When we got down to the bottom of the ocean, we skimmed across the sand till we got to the hole. It was enormous. There seemed to be no end. With no hesitation the other pods dove down deeper. We turned on our lights and followed reluctantly. It was quiet. Not a peep from the comms. Everyone was nervous.

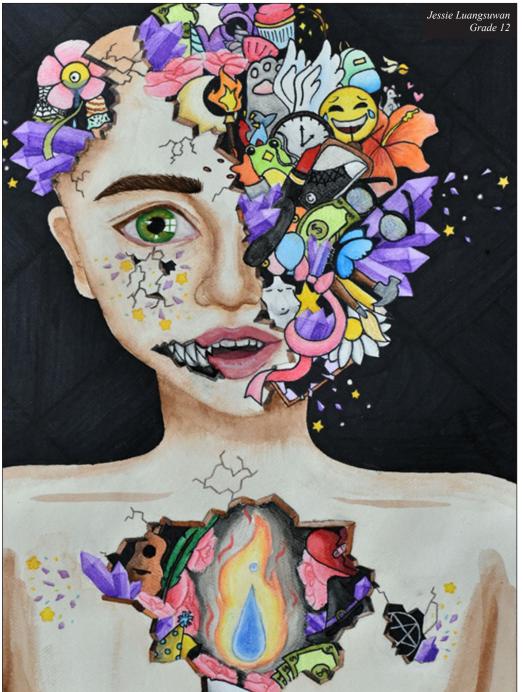
My meter in my sub read twenty thousand feet. My ears popped and my brain swelled for a second. After that I was fine. We sank for about thirty minutes. The creatures swimming around us became odder the further down we went, but no new creatures were found yet. When we reached the bottom, the hole had narrowed. The space between each sub became smaller and smaller. One pod came over the comms. "General, I found a hole in the wall. It seems to be a cave!" He sounded both joyful and scared.

The general made his way to the sub. "Good work soldier." He said proudly. "Everyone enters single file, Dr. Chatlani and Professor Edison up front." He entered first; his bigger sub barely fitting. I gestured for Edison to go first. He bravely acknowledged it and went in. I followed slowly.

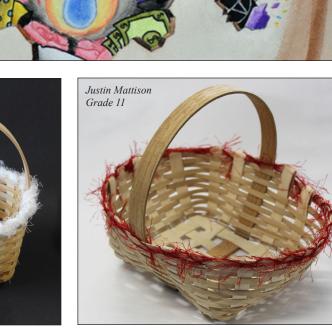
It was a windy tunnel. Almost like a snake. It took merely five minutes to reach the end. It spit us out in an open space. The surface was close. We went to the top and found ourselves in a big cave that was carved by human technology.

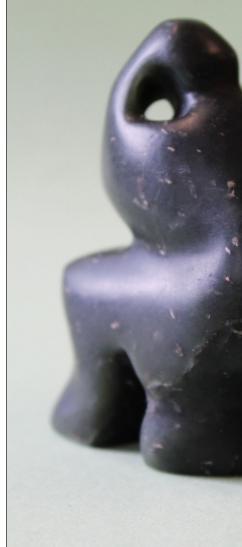
We went to the sand bank and docked our subs. When we exited the subs, we were immediately hit











Preston Ruhmel Grade 10









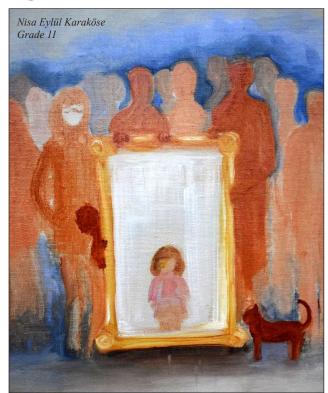






Nadia Powers Grade 10







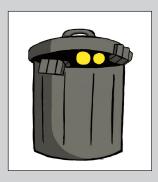






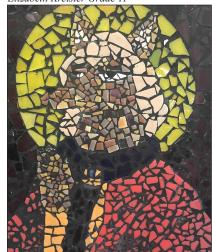






V&V

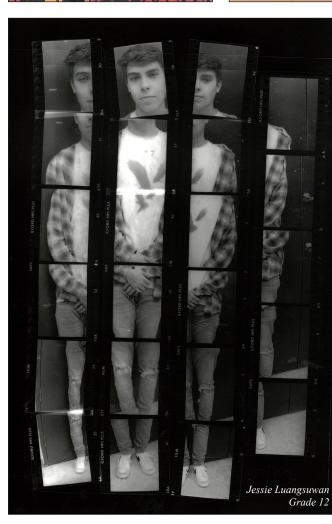
Elizabeth Kreisler Grade 11





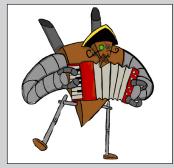


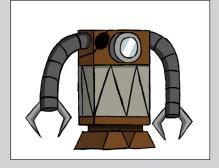






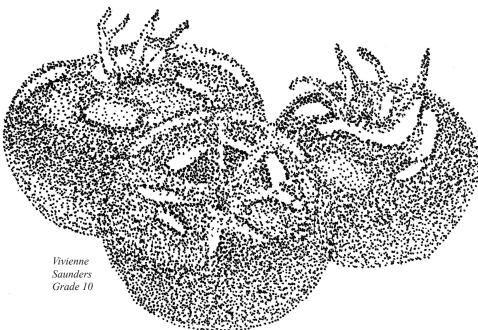








Delanie Cook Grade 12













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