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# Voices

A Student Literary  
and Art Publication



## Greetings, Roseville Area Schools Community!



I am so thrilled and proud to introduce the 2023 edition of *Voices*, a student literary and art publication featuring the work of students from throughout our school district.

*Voices* gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate – with all of you – our students’ voices, backgrounds, stories, and talents.

This year, our *Voices* theme is Who We Are. Students reflected on what makes them unique through their personal stories, their identities, and their points of pride. They thought about their community and the importance of their families and neighborhoods.

Thank you to our educators who nurture our students to create for *Voices* and give them inspiring opportunities and assignments.

Our students highlight the importance of each of us and all of us, our bonds and our gifts. Enjoy looking at Who We Are through the eyes of our children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny".

Dr. Jenny Loeck  
Superintendent  
Roseville Area Schools



*In My Thoughts* by Ashwini, Grade 12

## Who We Are

*By Quinn, Grade 5*

We are a never ending wave,  
Rushing and carving through rock.  
We are migrants. We are native.  
We are rebellions still trying to make our mark.  
A world of colors, a world of things that make the day  
That’s who we are to this day  
But mistakes do happen, that is true.  
A way for us to learn, we are human.  
That’s who we are. We are people that come  
And go and go in a never ending cycle.  
Who you are is up to you,  
And that’s a truth not meant to be broken apart.

Disclaimer: Selected pieces were chosen from work submitted by teachers and students in spring 2023. Due to space limitations, not all submitted pieces can be included. More *Voices* submissions can be viewed online [isd623.org/learning/voices](https://isd623.org/learning/voices). Also, in a few cases pieces have been lightly edited from their original form.

# Home

By Ilsa, Grade 6

## I come from

I come from a loving and accepting small blue home  
I come from a book loving family  
I come from hugs, smiles, and kisses  
I come from Minnesota, a state up North

## Home is

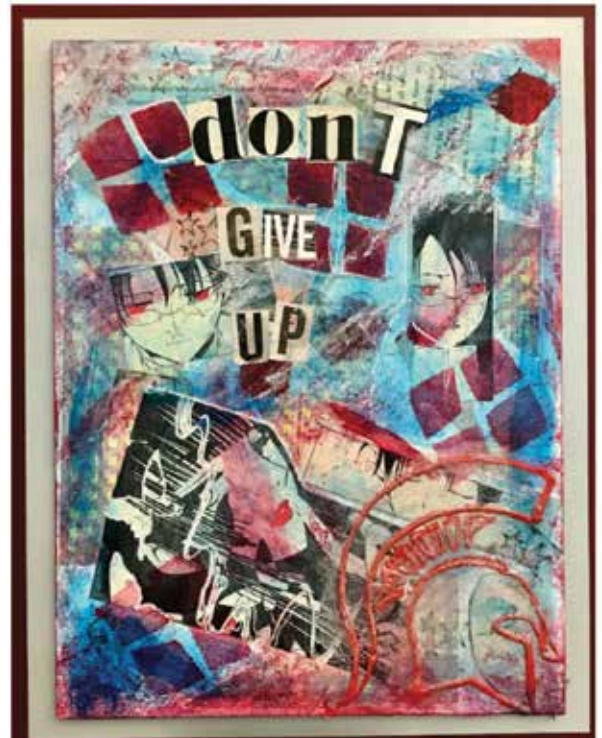
Home is a comfy yellow chair and tea while I read  
Home is when I am in South Dakota with my grandparents' horse  
Home is when I am with my family and friends  
Home is at the craft store  
Home is at my art desk  
Home is with my dogs

## I carry

I carry memories of people I have lost  
I carry my dogs leash as we go on walks  
I carry my nintendo switch  
I carry my thoughts and ideas  
I carry my knowledge for the future  
I carry a clarinet

## I offer

I offer my wisdom and knowledge  
I offer craft ideas  
I offer lame dad jokes  
I offer kindness and empathy  
I offer tips for dyeing hair  
I offer the sound of the clarinet



*Don't Give Up* by Air Lur Ta, Grade 12

# Young Black Beauties

By Elayna, Grade 6

Why dis each other about our curls?  
Why body shame each other  
instead of uplifting each other?  
Why call each other mean names  
such as fat, ugly, nappy, and stupid,  
when we could be saying,  
“You’re gorgeous!”  
“You’re beautiful just the way you are!”  
and “I love your smile!”

We need to be encouraging each other,  
not putting each other down.  
We need to stop mean mugging each other  
and start smiling.  
We need to be there for each other,  
and not be the one to ignore.  
We already get this enough from our peers.

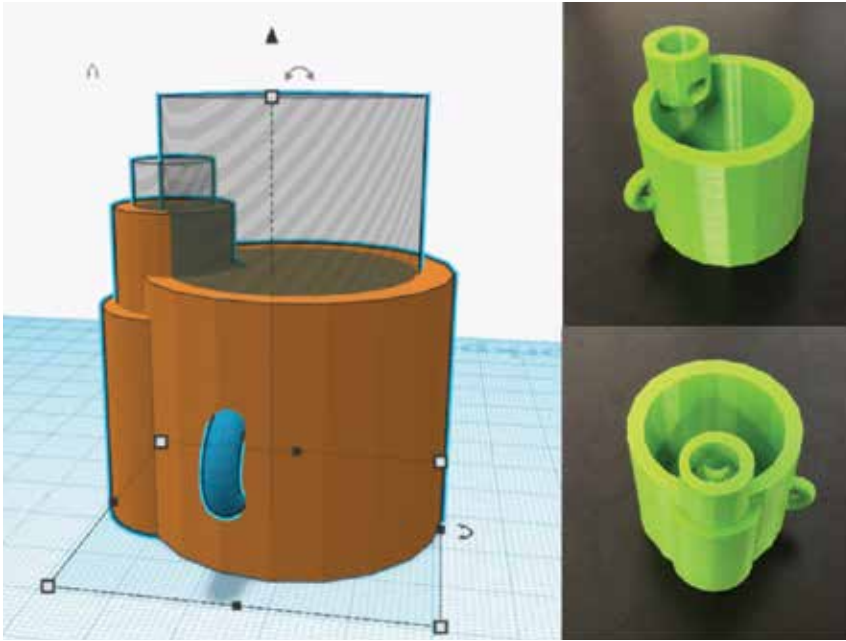
Why do it to each other?  
Why be the problem when we could be the solution?  
We are young and strong African-American beauties.  
We need to start acting like it.

# I Like Me

By Shualai, Grade 1

I can sing, eat, and teach.  
I am Hmong, Asian, and smart.  
I have a family, a spirit, and bones.  
I love me!





## The Gigacup

By Ed, Grade 4

We can take things to a whole new level with imagination.  
ADHD is not a disability, as you might think it is.

## Who Are You?

By Ella, Grade 7

Are you brave?  
Are you loyal?  
Are you empathetic?  
Are you considerate?

Do you show mercy?  
Do you give kindness to everyone no matter what?  
Do you value integrity?  
Do you treat others with respect?

What makes you, you?  
What is it you do?  
What is it you say?  
How are you, you?

“Who are you?” is just a question,  
It’s what you say and do that answers it.  
How you choose to answer that question depends on you,  
So, who are you?

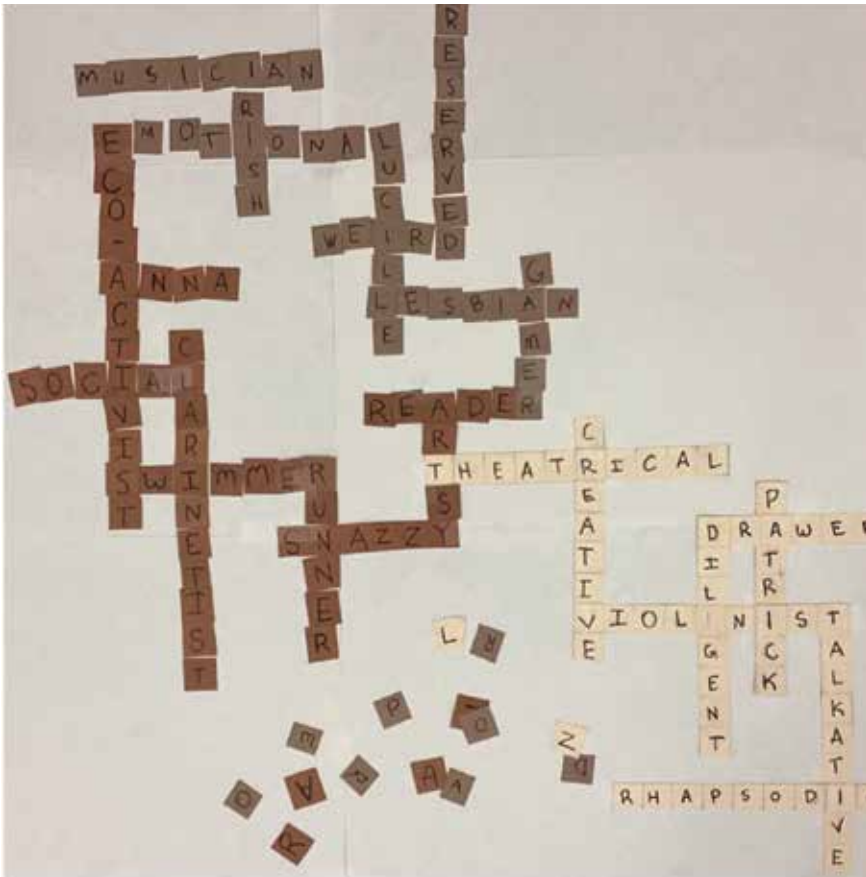
## Who Am I? Kuv yog leej twg?

By Kalia,, Grade 9

Who Am I? - Kuv yog leej twg?  
Looking forward I see the uncertainty of  
the future ahead of me  
Looking backward I see the culture of the  
Hmong people’s lifestyle  
Now I know - Tam sim no kuv paub  
I am Hmong - Kuv yog Hmong



Who Am I? Kuv yog leej twg? by Kalia, Grade 9



## Scrabble Selves

*By Anna, Lucille, and Patrick, Grade 6*

There are differences in our personalities, what we like, and what we do.

## Who We Are

*By Meghan, Grade 7*

Who are we  
 We are parents, adults  
 We are kids, and students  
 Teachers, poets, artists, and preachers  
 We are beautiful we are brave, unique, and kind  
 We stand out, and we fit in, we work hard, we relax and  
 Enjoy life, we are the student council, or the chess club, and  
 So much more, we are builders, technicians, dancers, musicians  
 Independent, smart, confident and passionate, we are proud and strong  
 Who are we? We are who we want to be, what we want to do, we are who we are

## This is Who We Are

*By Sylvie, Grade 4*

White, black  
 mixed together  
 we are here in any weather  
 Tall, small  
 there's no wall  
 in between us  
 we're glued together  
 Music, art  
 Is who we are  
 Math, reading  
 They're not far  
 Red and Orange  
 Are right in line  
 We are all on one twine  
 We are strong  
 We are brave  
 We can break through any cage  
 This is who we are

## Who We Are

*By Natalie, Grade 6*

We are all people  
 We are all alive.  
 Every one of us  
 Every sister, every brother.  
 We are all united til the end of time  
 We are a community.  
 Big and bold,  
 Strong and weak.  
 We are all united.  
 We will fight for what is right!  
 All of us will make a difference  
 Love is stronger than you think.  
 We are a community.  
 That's who we are.

## I am a German Shepherd

By Jayden, Grade 5

I am spiced cider  
I am a termite  
I am the Badlands  
I am wood  
I am fallen leaves  
I am a German Shepherd  
I am dirt where new life starts  
I am a tree branch  
I am lion's fur  
I am a camel  
I am cinnamon  
Courage is  
The new 2022  
And all the new  
Voices  
Ready for me and  
YOU!



## Live Your Dream

By Stella, Grade 4

Some people are outgoing and a little crazy. Some people are shy and keep it to themselves. I think anyone can be anything. Live your dream and be who you are!



## I Like Me

By Du Du Soe, Grade 1

I can play, I can sing, and jump.  
I am a friend, I am Karen, and kind.  
I have short hair, I have a baby,  
and I have a sister.

## Who We Are

By Brenden, Grade 6

We are a school of fish  
A cohesive posse that have worked so hard together like a colony of ants  
We are little and big who work strong and hard  
Together so we can be the amazing people we are  
We are a big heart that gets bigger each year  
We are the ones that are incredible remodels  
We are all incredible and we all have our own special talents  
We are a strong community that never gives up  
We are a loving Roseville community  
That's who we are.



## I Like Me

By Camille, Grade 1

I can sing, dance, and run fast.  
I am Spanish, smart, and a sister.  
I have a pet, a family, and a brother..  
I love me!



**Who is \$h€?** by Penelope, Grade 6

## Who We Are

*By Riley, Grade 5*

We are diverse.  
 We are strong and we are unique.  
 Even when the darkness engulfs  
 Us, we shine our light, our beauty.  
 We are resilient.  
 Even when the earth itself cries,  
 We persevere.  
 We fight for our rights when  
 We are pushed, shoved and starved,  
 We rebel. That is who we are.  
 Through the hardships of life and  
 Long wars with no ends, we fight for  
 Good. The rebels, the workers,  
 The survivors. That is who we are.

## I Am

*By Libby, Grade 6*

I am bright and full of might  
 I eat good food  
 Without attitude  
 I read and write  
 And I like flying kites  
 I sit here, polite  
 And upright  
 But tonight  
 I will fight  
 For what's right



**Self Portrait** by Daniel, Grade 7

## Celebrating Different Skins

*By Jamery, Grade 6*

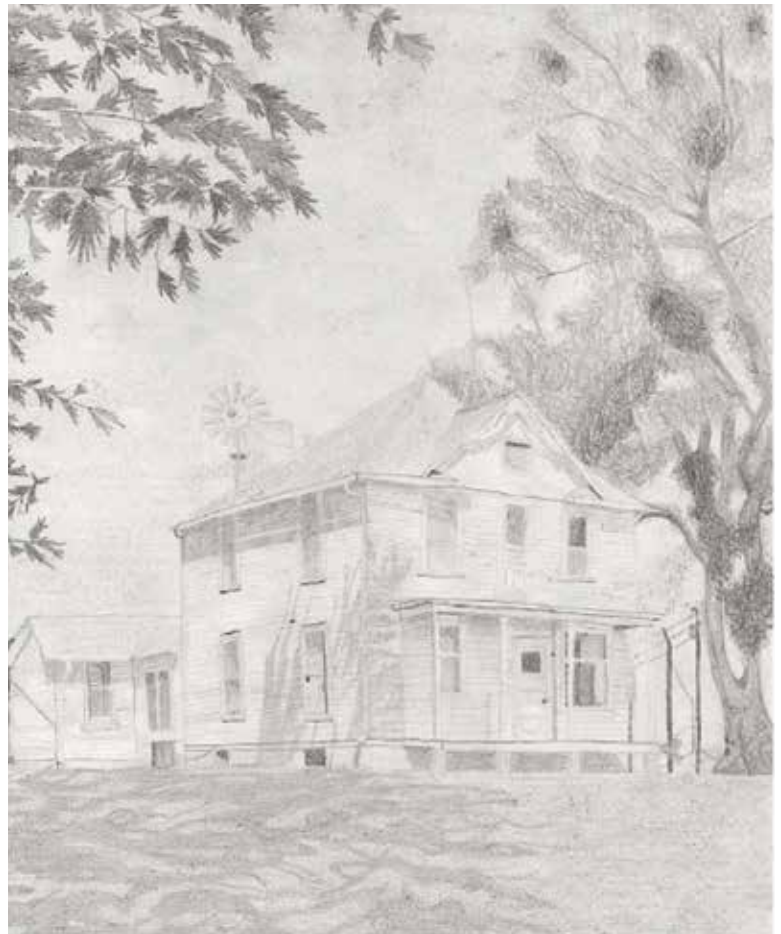
My skin is voyager brown  
 My skin looks like autumn  
 My skin is the inside of a birch tree  
 The color of the sunset  
 My skin is the color of the autumn leaf falling  
 My skin looks peachy gold  
 Smooth like a fresh peach  
 My skin is everything  
 Beautiful like a butterfly



## We Are Who We Are and That's Okay

*By Megan and Nora, Grade 6*

I am black and that's ok  
I am white and that's ok  
I am crooked teeth and that's ok  
I am pencil straight hair and that's ok  
I am curly puffy hair and that's ok  
I am thighs that touch and that's ok  
I am big feet and that's ok  
I am small feet and that's ok  
I am long Lean legs and that's ok  
I am short stubby legs and that's ok  
I am velcro shoes and that's ok  
I am tied shoes and that's ok  
I am female and that's ok  
I am male and that's ok  
I am non binary and that's ok  
I am curvy and that's ok  
I am flat chested and that's ok  
I am straight and that's ok  
I am LGBTQIA+ and that's ok  
I am an immigrant and that's ok  
This is who we are and we're beautiful



## Farmhouse

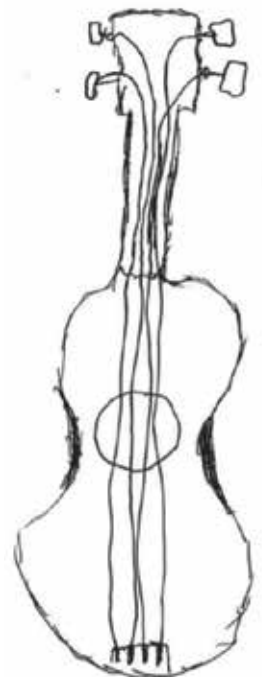
*By Zoë, Grade 11*

My dad grew up in this old house, where my ancestors of German and Irish descent farmed for generations.

## The Smooth Guitar

*By Troy, Grade 5*

My skin is like a gingerbread  
My skin looks like Baby Yoda's jacket  
It is Terrazzo Tan  
It is smooth like butter  
It looks like chocolate  
My skin is like a guitar  
It is a deer color  
It is the color of a woodpecker's head







## Difference Is Who We Are

*By Zain, Grade 4*

Sometimes we have so much to say  
 but too little to give.  
 Hearing all of this, but needing to live.  
 We all need to understand that this is who we are.  
 Be proud of this life  
 and create your own star.  
 Giving is something not everyone is born to do,  
 but if you have it, share it.  
 It makes you, you.  
 Don't try to be the same when you are different, because difference is  
**WHO WE ARE**



## My Aunt and Me

*By Penelope, Grade 5*

My aunt and I are really close and we hang out a lot.

## I Like Me

*By Katie, Grade 1*

I can play with slime, draw well, and touch my hermit crab.  
 I am Hmong, cute, pretty, helpful.  
 I have a hermit crab, soft cookies, cute plushies.  
 I love me!

## Sprinkles

*By Vanna, Grade 6*

We are like a tub of sprinkles.  
 Some of us are blue, some of us are green, some of us are pink.  
 Some of us like to read, some of us play football  
 Some of us are dog people, some of us are cat people, some of  
 us don't like animals  
 Some of us are tall, some of us are short,  
 Some of us get upset very easily,  
 Some of us were born here, some of us are from far away  
 But we all have feelings  
 We are all fallible  
 We are all human  
 That is who we are



*Untitled by Ashlie, Grade 11*

## I Am Poem

By Geneva, Grade 4

I am a dancer and a friend  
I wonder where space ends  
I hear my friends talking  
I see my friends  
I want a cat  
I am a dancer and a friend  
I pretend I am a superhero  
I feel content  
I touch my stuffed koala  
I worry when I don't finish important things  
I cry when I am stuck  
I am a dancer and a friend  
I understand multiplication  
I say I can do this  
I dream I can fly  
I try to be a good friend  
I hope I can be an astronaut  
I am a dancer and a friend



*Do Your Thing* by Sanayah, Grade 12

## I Am

By Henry, Grade 6

I am Henry  
Cranky, sassy, funny  
I am white skin with a lot of freckles  
I am Marvel or Stranger Things shirt with shorts  
I am hip hop with old 80's rock  
I am Taco Tuesdays  
I am Friday night pizza  
I am Leeann Chin weekends  
I am Irish  
I am Catholic  
I am Christian  
I am football and soccer  
I am basketball  
I am skateboarding and shopping at Best Buy  
My name is strong  
My name is Henry and Henry is me



*Untitled* by Nraahlee, Grade 12



## What We Can Be Together

*By Sydney, Grade 6*

We are like particles.  
 Alone no one sees us  
 but together we can be something beautiful

## What Makes You, You

*By Serena, Grade 1*

Everyone's unique and that's part of who we are.



## Shy Thoughts

*By Phuong, Grade 5*

People can be shy. The quadrilaterals in the picture represent small and big thoughts.



*Untitled by Arrianna, Grade 12*

## Who We Are Poems

*Students from grade 1*

Zavian

son child

gaming playing biking

happy kind

Zavian

Giselle

baby sister daughter

biking coloring scootering

artistic kind

Giselle

Natalie

daughter sister

biking coloring cuddling

funny active

Natalie

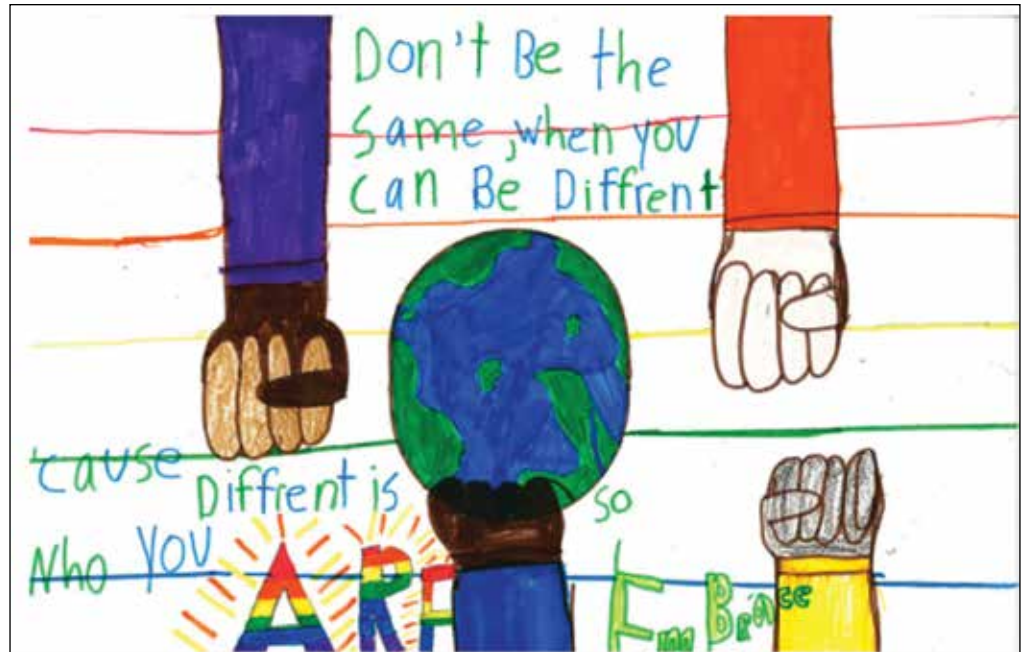
Keshaun

big brother son

running jumping biking

kind caring

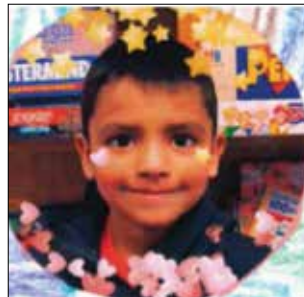
Keshaun



## Embrace Who You Are

*By Naomi, Grade 4*

You never need to change who you are because we all are beautiful no matter what.



## I Like Me

*By Dylan, Grade 1*

I can sing, game, and hug.  
I am Hispanic, a friend, and a boy.  
I have a pet, food, and sister.  
I love me.

## As a Community

*By Gianne, Grade 4*

Who are we? We are all human beings, we are all strong and independent people but we can not be strong and independent if we do not work or earn it. If we do not work for things, we do not get things. It is not like whatever we want we get in just a second. Some things might take a week, a year, a decade, maybe a century but only with the help of other people. Help is something that everyone at one time in our lives will need.

**BUT TO GET HELP YOU HAVE TO HELP OTHERS.**

WHO WE ARE IS NOT JUST ONE PERSON, IT IS ONE WHOLE COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO HELP ONE ANOTHER, RESPECT ONE ANOTHER, AND MOST OF ALL LOVE ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT MAKES WHO WE ARE. So, we have to care about others not only other human beings but also the whole environment, nature, the animals and of course be aware of climate change and do our best to keep our home, our Earth alive, full of respect and full of love.



## We Are

By Nah, Grade 6

Some people feel left out or excluded, but are a part of our community.



## The Snake in All of Us

By Mark, Grade 6

Everyone has a different personality but in each of us we have a snake. In my drawing the snake represents the fierce anger and rage, but also the sneakiness in some people.

## I Am Poem

By Jayden, Grade 4

I am an actor and nice  
 I wonder if I'm good enough  
 I hear people laughing  
 I see a lot of my friends  
 I want to go to Hollywood  
 I am an actor and nice  
 I pretend that I'm famous  
 I feel happy and excited  
 I touch my phone  
 I worry that I'm not good enough  
 I cry when I think about my grandma  
 I am an actor and nice  
 I understand acting  
 I say kind words about people  
 I dream to be as actor  
 I try to be noticed  
 I hope I be an actor  
 I am an actor and nice

## Who I Am

By Simon, Anne, and James

I'm fierce and I am strong.  
 I can make my dreams come true.  
 I am helpful.  
 Who am I?  
 I'm a child.  
 I'm a student.  
 I'm a person who has dreams.  
 Who am I?  
 I'm a reader.  
 I'm a writer.  
 I'm a dreamer.  
 But who am I?

## My Name

By Joaquin, grade 4

Just awesome  
 OMG  
 Amazing  
 Quite nice  
 Unique  
 Intelligent  
 Never mean

## My Skin Tone

By Bre, Grade 6

My skin is one to remember  
It's like the fur of cougars  
It's like coffee with cream  
It's the same as sand  
My skin is the color of a peanut  
I'm as light as a lion  
My skin is pretty like Sincere's  
My skin is the color of baby powder

My skin is not dark  
My skin is warm  
I smell like caramel



## People

By Willow, Grade 6

People are tall,  
People are small,  
People are daring,  
People are caring,  
People are different,  
People are magnificent,

People are people through and through  
no matter what you look like, act like or do.

## Who We Are Haiku

By Linnea, Grade 6

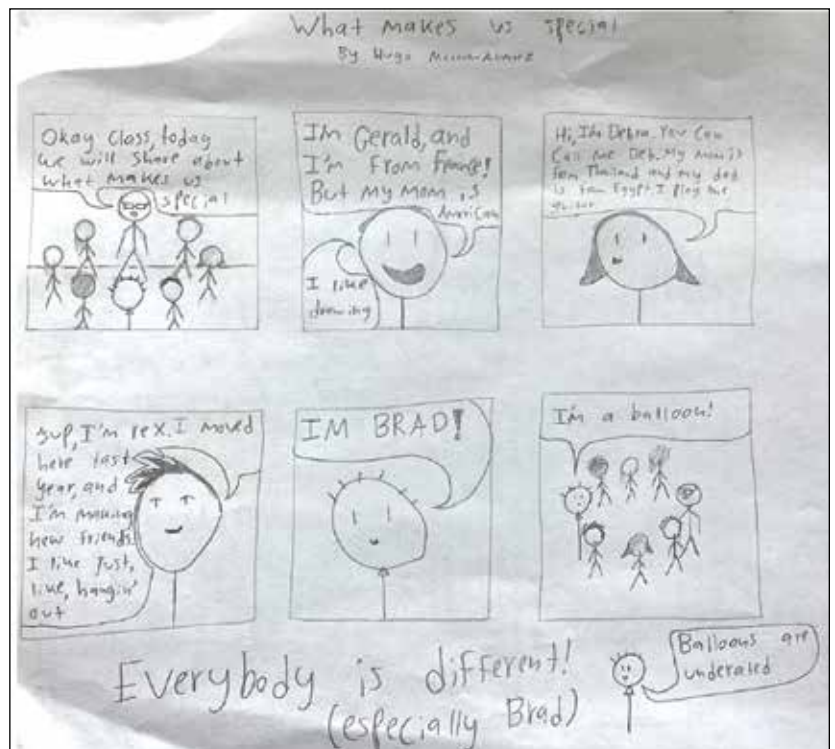
We are powerful  
We are the light in darkness  
This is who we are



## My Favorite Things

By Emilia, Kindergarten

These drawings and stickers represent my favorite things, including the Rainbow Girls who are my friends at school who help people feel better.



## What Makes Us Special

By Hugo, Grade 6

## Project Me

*By Alexander and Narwal, Grade 7*

“It’s time for a project!” said Mrs. Jefferson on the first day of school. “This is going to be the only project that is a large grade this year.” Everyone groans, the loudest being Simon. “The project is about yourself, to help me know about you.” Simon knew he would fail this project.

After school, he met with his friends at the park, and talked about what happened at school today and started to work on the project they got that day. They asked him how much he did, and he told them that there isn’t anything worth telling people.

The next day in class, they work on the project, and Simon gets nothing done. At the end of the period, Mrs. Jefferson asks him a question. “Why haven’t you done anything?”

“I don’t know.” Simon uttered.

“Do you need help?” Mrs. Jefferson asks.

“No.” While walking home, his friends walk by.

“Can you come to my house to help with the project?” Simon asks.

“Sure.”

When they get to his house, they work together to get the project done. The next day, Mrs. Jefferson asks if Simon has the assignment.

“I got some help from my friends last night.” Simon replies with a smile.

“I’m very excited to hear it!”

“The next poem is by a group.”

Simon and his friends stood up, and walked to the front of the room. The three of them stood strongly together, and recited the poem.

## Personality

*By Dash, Grade 4*

Who we are, our personality

Something not everyone can see

It’s yours to keep so if you wanna that’s okay

Some will release it and some will make it stay

You can show your personality show it aloud

I’ll bet some people will be very proud

But you can also keep your personality inside

It’s YOUR personality it’s yours to hide

Who we are, our personality

What makes you be you

What makes me be me.

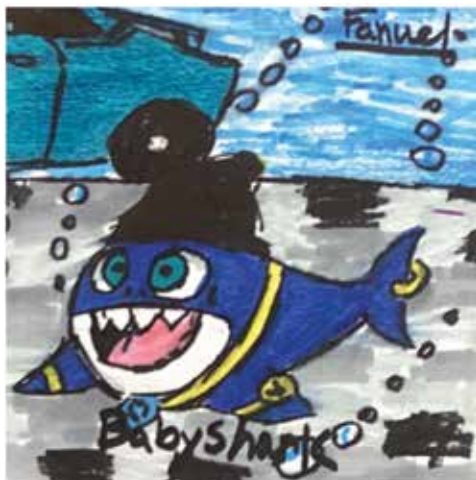
## You’re Never Alone

*By Francis, Grade 4*

Today I write this poem, for all who feel alone,  
to remember to keep your head high and not to cry and moan.  
Hope and happiness are on your side, don’t give up, don’t be done,  
keep on rising upward like the rising sun.  
You can’t and won’t stop trying, even when you’re feeling sad or mad,  
do whatever you can to make yourself feel glad.  
I’ll stop the way I started, I’ll say it once and for all,  
You matter, and you’ll never be alone.

# We Are the Music We Love

By Students, Grade 6



*Baby Shark, by Fanuel*



*Jazz in the City, by Phil*



*Tokyo Drift, by Cash*



*Wonderful Land, by Josue*



*Mr. Blue Sky, by Franklin*

## What Makes You, You

By Serena, Grade 1

Hello. I'm Serena and I want to show you what makes you unique through my words. Let's just take it slowly. First we need to learn the basics.

I will take you on a path of three things that make you unique.

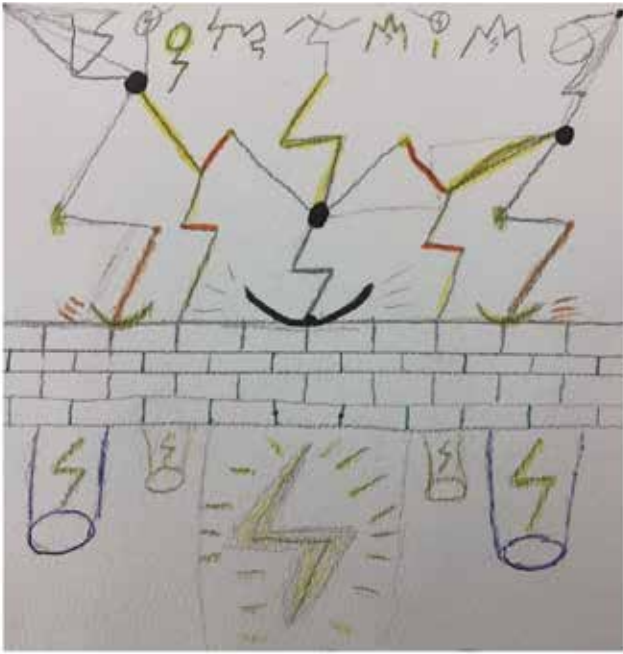
First, let's talk about courage. Courage is that little voice inside you that says, 'you can do this!'. Courage can be big or small, and either one is ok. Courage can come in all shapes and sizes.

Next let's think about skin. Our skin is not our choice. It's our body's skin. It's like a little surprise from your body. Skin is your amazing gift.

Finally, let's talk about language. Language is the way that you talk. It's like a code, but some people don't know it. It's also a type of communication.

Uniqueness is what makes you you, and you should be proud of that!





## I Am Powerful Like Lightning

By Savien, Grade 6



## Strange

By Sam, Grade 6

## I Am Poem

By Sophia, Grade 4

I am a dancer and a friend.  
 I wonder if I will become a really good dancer?  
 I hear people say nice things and kids talking to each other.  
 I see dancers dance at a dance studio.  
 I want to make new friends at school and dance.  
 I am a dancer and a friend.  
 I pretend to be a superhero.  
 I feel frustrated when I can't do a flip at dance.  
 I touch a dance bar to kick my legs up at dance class.  
 I worry if my family or friends suffer.  
 I cry when I win a dance competition.  
 I am a dancer and a friend.

I understand if I don't win a dance competition.  
 I say I got this to myself for dance class.  
 I dream that I will be able to do a flip in dance class.  
 I try my best to be a good friend and try my best at dancing.  
 I hope we win 1st place in 2023.  
 I am a dancer and a friend.



## I Am An Artist

By Reina, Grade 2

I am an artist.  
 I love art so much  
 Drawing is very fun  
 It will be hung up

## You're Never Alone

By Francis, Grade 4

Today I write this poem, for all who feel alone,  
 to remember to keep your head high and not to cry and moan.  
 Hope and happiness are on your side, don't give up, don't be done,  
 keep on rising upward like the rising sun.  
 You can't and won't stop trying, even when you're feeling sad or mad,  
 do whatever you can to make yourself feel glad.  
 I'll stop the way I started, I'll say it once and for all,  
 You matter, and you'll never be alone.



## This is Me

By Ella, Grade 7

## We Are

By Maci and Anna, Grade 6

We are  
The color of our hair.  
We are our own flare.  
We each have a smile.  
We all have our own style.  
We each have a unique personality.  
We show our nationality.  
We belong to a religion.  
We all have a vision.  
We are our race.  
Don't judge us by our face.  
We are proud of our agriculture.  
We make decisions based on our culture.  
We are our food.  
We work on our attitude.  
We are proud of the color of our skin.  
We all love to win.  
We love our pets.  
We don't let sex  
Define.  
We make our community.  
Standing tall in unity.



Artwork by Moxy, Grade 6

## Humans Are Perfect Just As We Are

By Inman,, Grade 1

We are who we want to be (gender/identity).  
We are beautiful no matter what we look like or what we act like.  
We are different in every way and that makes us special.  
We are kind, smart and strong together.  
We are people that make other people smile.  
We are the people that help others.  
We are moms, dads, sisters, brothers, cousins and friends.  
We are the people that make our world a better place.  
We help every living thing live better.  
We are humans and humans are beautiful.

## I Am Poem

By Carl, Grade 6

I am CJ  
I have the same face as my mama.  
I am white  
I am funny  
I am hat  
I am nf  
I am Chris Tomlin  
I am Galy  
I am spaghetti  
I am pizza  
I'm Salisbury steak  
I am hamburger  
I am home  
I am school  
I am CJ is nice I am CJ and carl o  
We are all different in our own way  
We all have fun at different times of the day