

But somewhere,
a green stem pushes through salt
and says:

We are not done yet.

So I will grow here—
in this desert,
in this story,
in this body made of migration and memory.

I will grow where they said I couldn't.

Because I come from people
who turn impossible places
into home.



Arielle Pineda is an incoming seventh-grade student at Blue Ridge Intermediate and Junior High School in Lakeside, Arizona. She wrote this poem after reading the Pulitzer Center-supported story "[As the Planet Warms, a Humble Sea Bean is Proving to Be a Promising Superfood.](#)" The story inspired her because it showed that hope and solutions can grow in places that many people overlook. As an adopted member of the Apache community, Arielle understands the importance of living in harmony with the land and finding strength in nature, even as climate change threatens the environment. The sea bean's resilience reminds her of the wisdom and perseverance of Indigenous communities, who have long relied on traditional knowledge to adapt and care for the Earth. Through her poem, Arielle connects this global story to the experiences of her own community, encouraging readers to recognize that protecting the planet also means protecting the people, cultures, and knowledge that have sustained it for generations.

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CONTACT

2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite #7000
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 332-0982
contact@pulitzercenter.org