

telling it



ARTS-BASED INTERVENTIONS
FOR CHANGE

PARKRIDGE



Stories, Poems, and Art
by the Children of Telling It.

SPRING 2020

WELCOME to the Spring 2020 Parkridge Community Center TELLING IT KIDS' Anthology! This collection of the children's creative writing and artwork should bring some light into what has been, for many of us, a challenging and uncertain time. The children that engaged in the program this past year were so wonderfully creative; they participated each week in activities that included music, role-play, the visual arts, creative writing and lots of games!

As you'll see as you read the poems and stories we've included here, the children have explored themes of the imagination and of friendship, robots and space exploration, understanding themselves and working out the world around them. One of the poems, The Jell-O Virus that was written earlier in the year, is amazingly accurate in its prediction of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to ensure the safety of our children, their families and staff, we made the difficult decision to suspend programming for the remainder of the semester. Sadly, we were unable to photograph the children for this anthology. However, they're vibrant artwork, along with the vivid illustrations by our graphic designer, provides a glimpse into the energy of our weekly Telling It sessions.

We are grateful for the support provided to Telling It by the Parkridge Community Center administration and staff. They work in partnership with the Telling It staff to provide a safe and creative space in which the children can build on their academic skills and be guided in their healthy emotional development.

The mission of Telling It is to support the healing needs of school-age youth using best practices from social work and education filtered through the expressive arts so that they can lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. The program is trauma-informed and strengths aware, following the lead of the youth so that they can reach their full potential.

Our partnership with Parkridge Community Center started in 2014, which is, and has always has been, a supportive and rewarding collaboration. We are thankful to the Center and to the Parkridge residents who have been so welcoming of the Telling It program. We have learned from you all and your amazing children. They have been an absolute joy to get to know and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

Take care and be well,

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel

Telling It Founding Director & Site Facilitator



This icon indicates the piece is to be performed as a rap.





D'ERRICK



I Am

I am a Cheetah
because I am fast.
I eat a lot.
I hate other cheetahs.

A Good Day

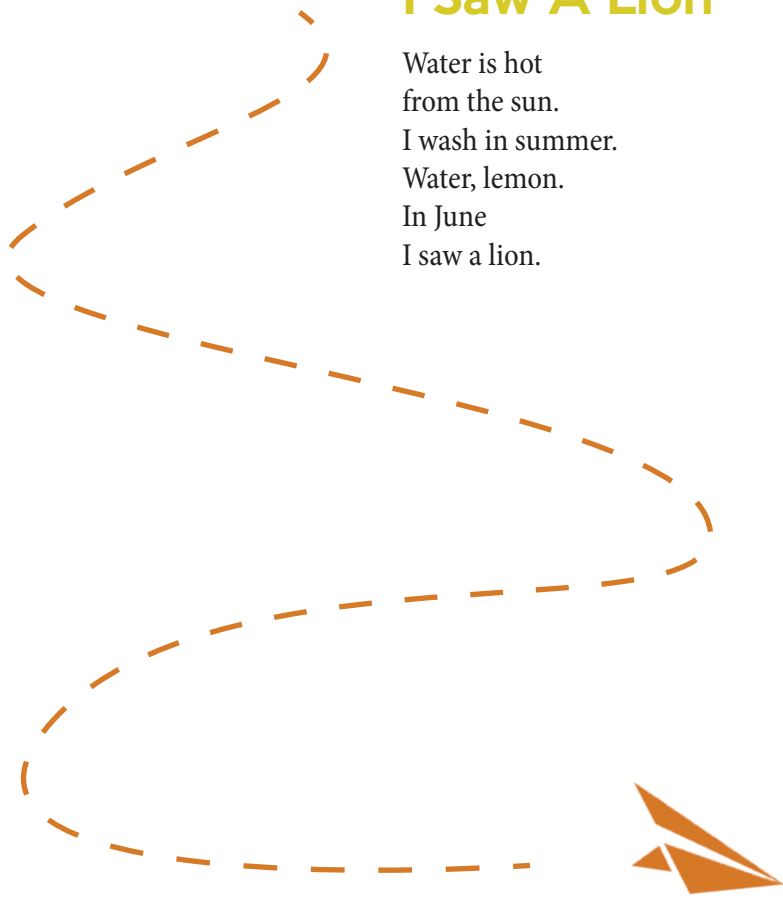
Being at school.
Being cool.
Feeling nice and happy.
Keep it awesome.

The Jell-O Virus

People keep eating too much Jell-O, so the virus spread in the air to every country in the world. The virus makes you cough REALLY loud, causing an echo. If someone hears the echo, they get the virus. They get sick. And if it's really bad, they die. There is medicine for it called The Silencer. We discovered it and sell it for \$20 at stores. If the sickness gets really bad, then the medicine might not work, unless you chug a lot of it really fast, then it will probably work.

I Saw A Lion

Water is hot
from the sun.
I wash in summer.
Water, lemon.
In June
I saw a lion.



Or A Lion



Nike is a name brand show and me
and Emani be dripped out slat, slat, slat wipe
his nose gang dripped out like water and
lemonade slime 4KT NBA Youngboy gang you
hear me nobody was born in June but ima bird
baby like a queen and I can turn into a tiger
or a lion.

SHAWN



ROCHELLE

Lion

Lion is in the water and the queen saves the Nike sign. Then the Lemon is hating June. Then slime saw NBA Young Boy then Slat Gang saw Bird and wiped his nose.

Is

Jayla is... I love the mall.
Mom is... I like to eat seafood.
Dad is... I like to play on my phone.
Amaya is... I love Tik-Tok.

Wild Style



Alright, ok let's do it.

All ya'll wack like an outfit. I've been making money since
Six ya'll work for me, ya'll work for nothing.

A.J.K. We all best friends.

We hang out almost every Monday.

Ay, also we made this rap together

So that is how you know we are best friends.

The Criminal

The humans had to leave the Earth because there was a very bad criminal on the loose. Nobody could stop the criminal. It all started when the criminal stole something from the store. Someone tried to stop him and snatch the item from him but the criminal punched him and started to fight. The criminal was responsible for many fights on earth. There was a lot of gun violence and buildings ruined from shootings in attempt to stop the criminal. The criminal was poor. This all started because he had no money to pay for the stolen item. He once had money but he had too many balls. He spent his last money paying his rent for his apartment. The criminal had no friends. He had family but they lived in a different state. His family never visited him because his apartment was old and small. His sheets were dirty and they didn't feel comfortable sleeping in bed there.

Amaya

I'm funny.

I'm crazy.

I'm weird.

I'm goofy.

I'm pretty.

I'm nice.

A Puppy

I am a puppy because

I'm nice and sweet

and I'm a ruler.



AMAYA



DRENAYA



NAVEAH

I Am

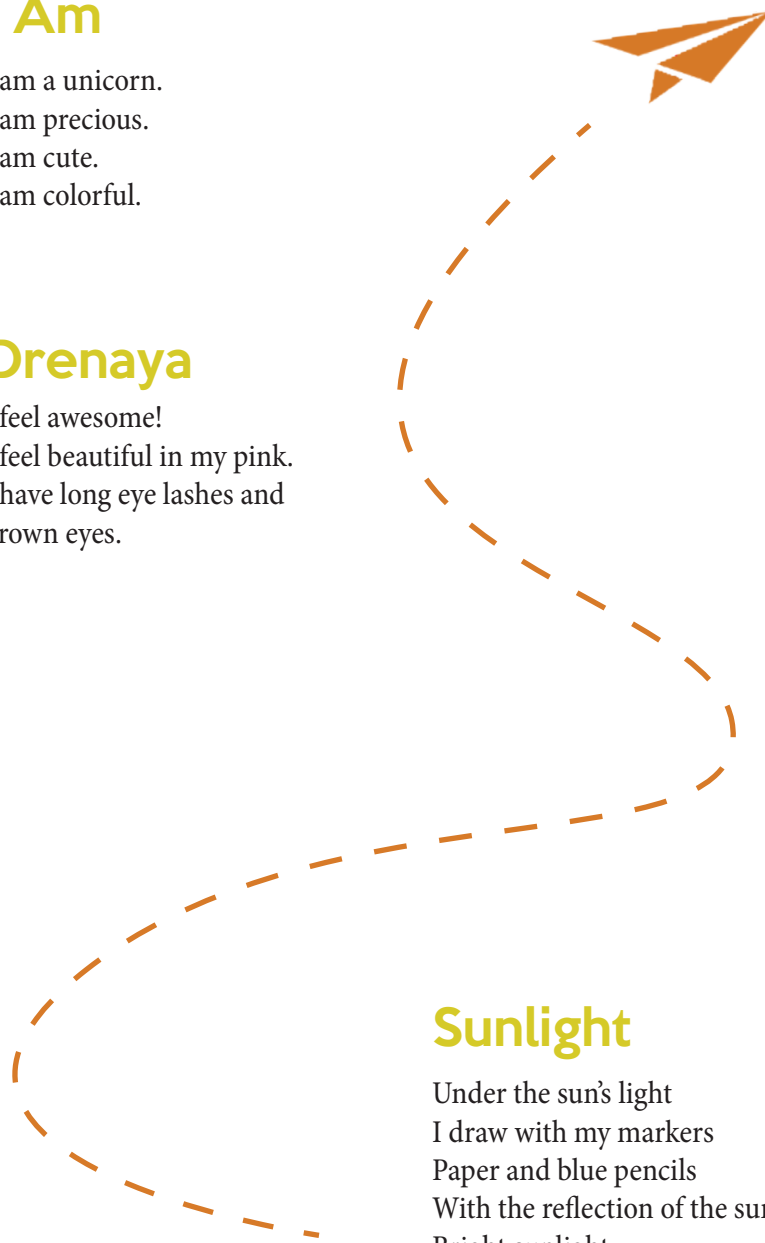
I am a unicorn.
I am precious.
I am cute.
I am colorful.

Drenaya

I feel awesome!
I feel beautiful in my pink.
I have long eye lashes and
brown eyes.

Sunlight

Under the sun's light
I draw with my markers
Paper and blue pencils
With the reflection of the sun's
Bright sunlight.



Dragon Ball Z

DEMONTE

when he was
he
the biggest
st that he can

regon

BR



The Lion

The lion likes
lemon, slime
and Nikes.

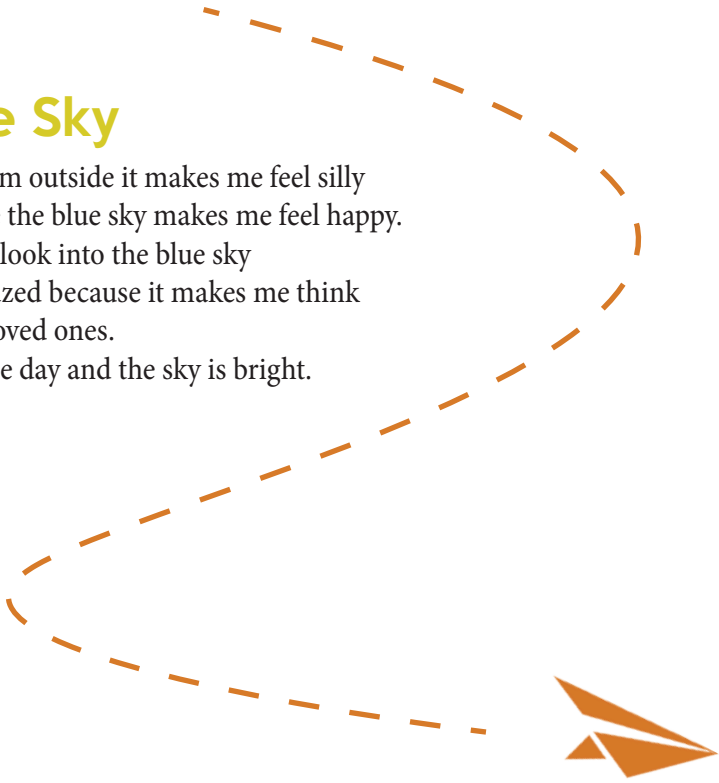
Is

Jordan is... a McDonalds.
Alya is... at Apple Bees.
Mom likes chocolate.
Claire likes ice cream.
Demonte is...



Blue Sky

When I'm outside it makes me feel silly
Because the blue sky makes me feel happy.
When I look into the blue sky
I'm amazed because it makes me think
Of my loved ones.
It's a nice day and the sky is bright.



Green

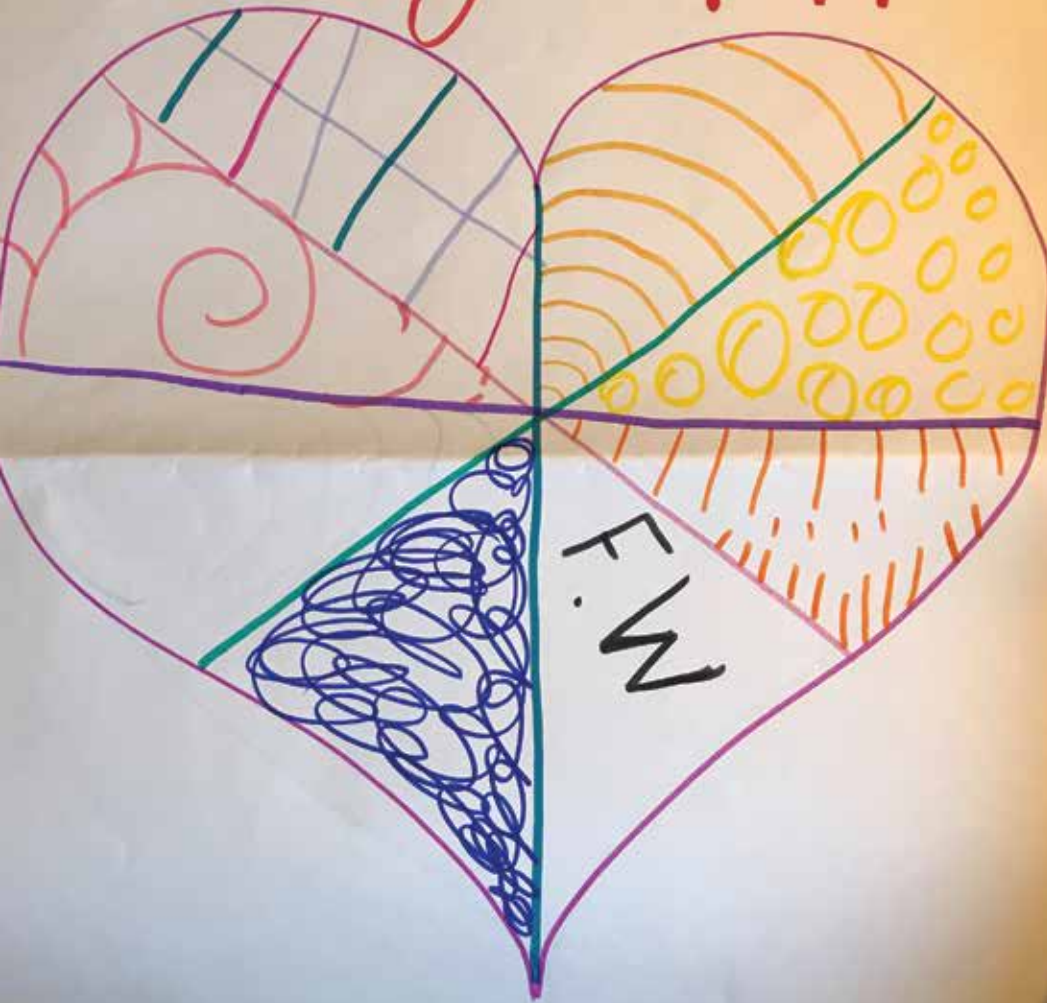
One day there was a boy who was looking at grass, trees, cars, plants, leaves, poison ivy and a lizard on some salad. The salad has spinach, green beans, avocados and kale. Suddenly, the salad turned into an alligator then the boy ran into a car but the car turned into a turtle. But the turtle turned into a bike because the boy used magic markers. The alligator was getting closer but the alligator was envious of the boy because he had magical items. The boy started pedaling on his bike and he said, "Go!" but the bike turned into a ranch bottle. And then the boy saw some glasses and he wrote on the lens so that he could see everything that was green, like X Boy cases in people's homes and moss on the trees high in the sky.

JAVARI

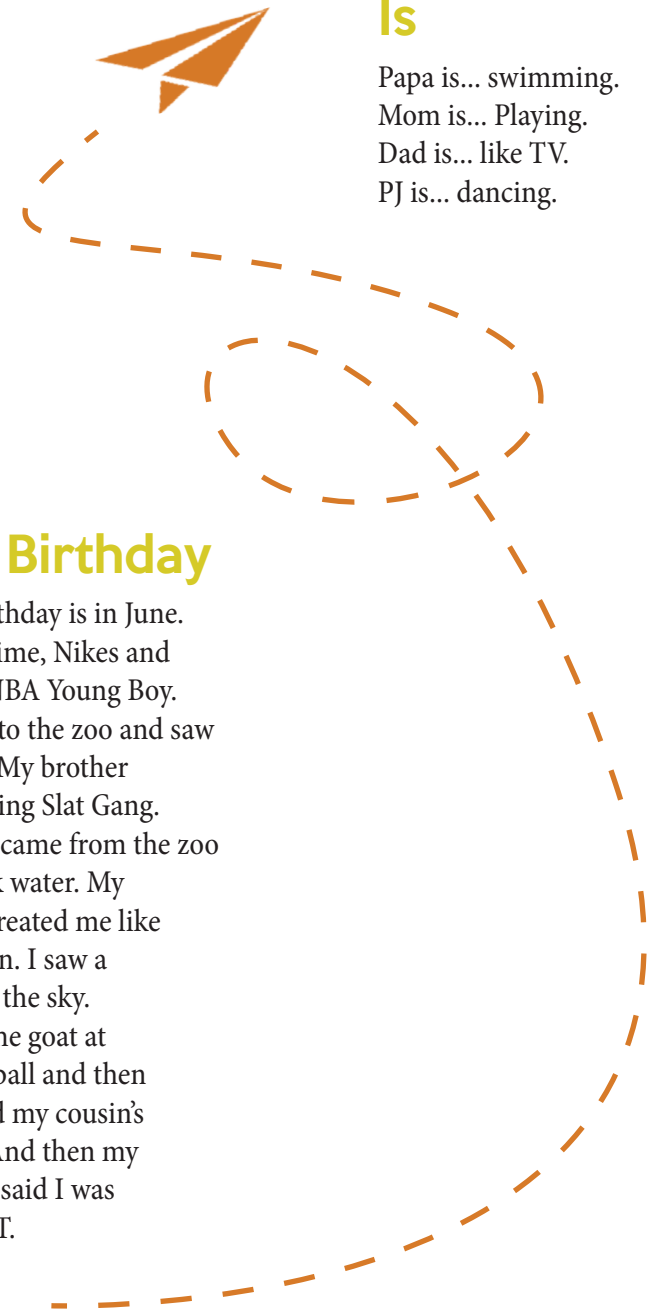
CHRIS



Fairyn . W



FAIRYN



Is

Papa is... swimming.
Mom is... Playing.
Dad is... like TV.
PJ is... dancing.

My Birthday

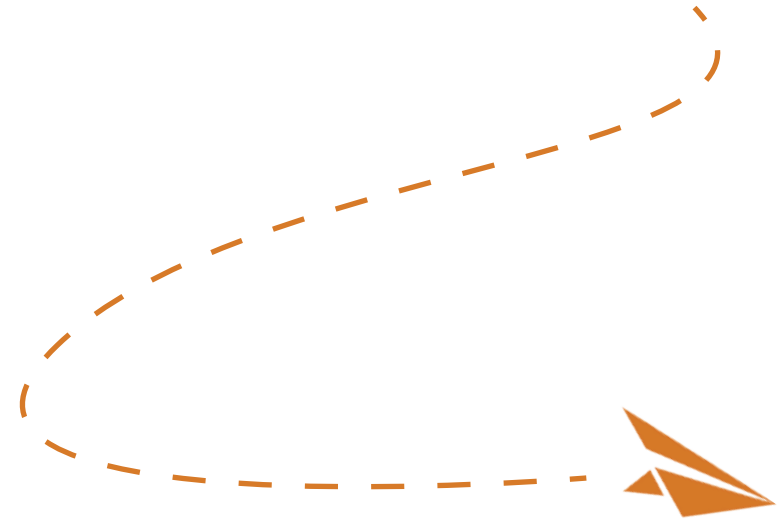
My birthday is in June.
I got slime, Nikes and
I saw NBA Young Boy.
I went to the zoo and saw
a lion. My brother
was doing Slat Gang.
After I came from the zoo
I drank water. My
mom treated me like
a Queen. I saw a
bird in the sky.
I was the goat at
basketball and then
I wiped my cousin's
nose. And then my
cousin said I was
the 4KT.



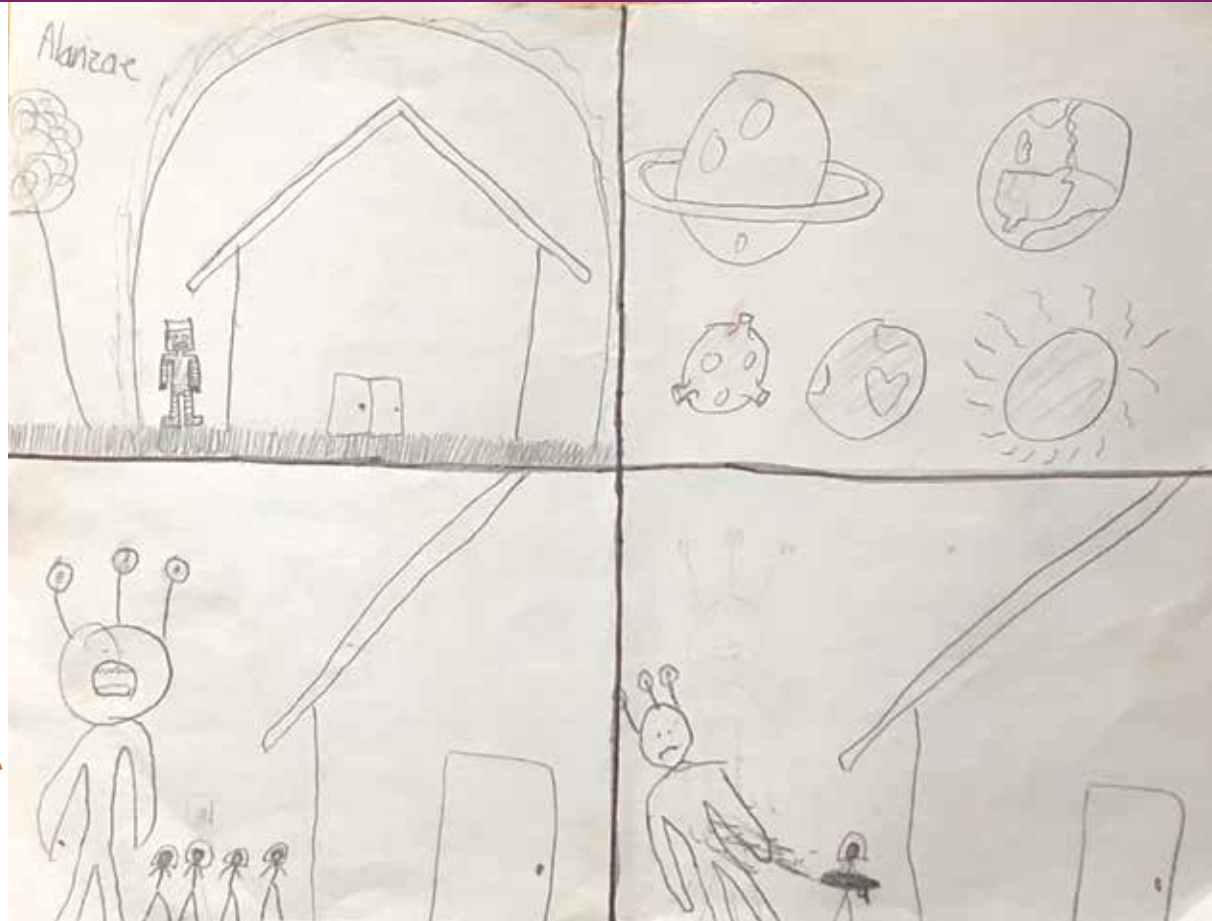
Conversation

Once there was a little kid that looked at the sun and his eyes changed color. He wanted a snack so he ate bananas and chips. He started feeling nauseous. He took off his shoes. He gave his little sister yellow nail polish. He put his coat on the hanger. He put his covers over him in bed. The next day he woke up and brushed his teeth, put on his glasses, socks, brushed his hair, put on his clothes, got his backpack that had markers and pencils inside. He left for school but forgot to bring his best friend's slime and got angry because he left the slime at home. When he got to school he gave her the slime. She poured out all the slime on the table and was happy. Then he went outside for recess and it was bright. He had fun with his best friend playing basketball. He was acting silly. When he got home, he texted her with emojis. When he dropped his stuff off and went to the store and bought his mom flowers. Then he played with his sister.

THE END



ANIYAH



Art by Alanzae

DEANGELO

Koog Voo

The planet was invaded by Deangelo and aliens. The beast, “deangelo” took his sword and fought the bad king alien and he slayed the king alien, Koog Voo.

BARRY

Zombie Apocalypse

We started to plan it on earth the Zombie Apocalypse and we had to leave town. We had to leave and we left the town. We left without our supplies so we had to go back with guns and we killed all the Zombies and we did so. Then we got supplies, we went back and the robot got us supper.

Art

I don't have a valentine.
Valentine's Day is not having a crush.
Dad is... I love to go home.
Samira is... I love to do art.

Lion



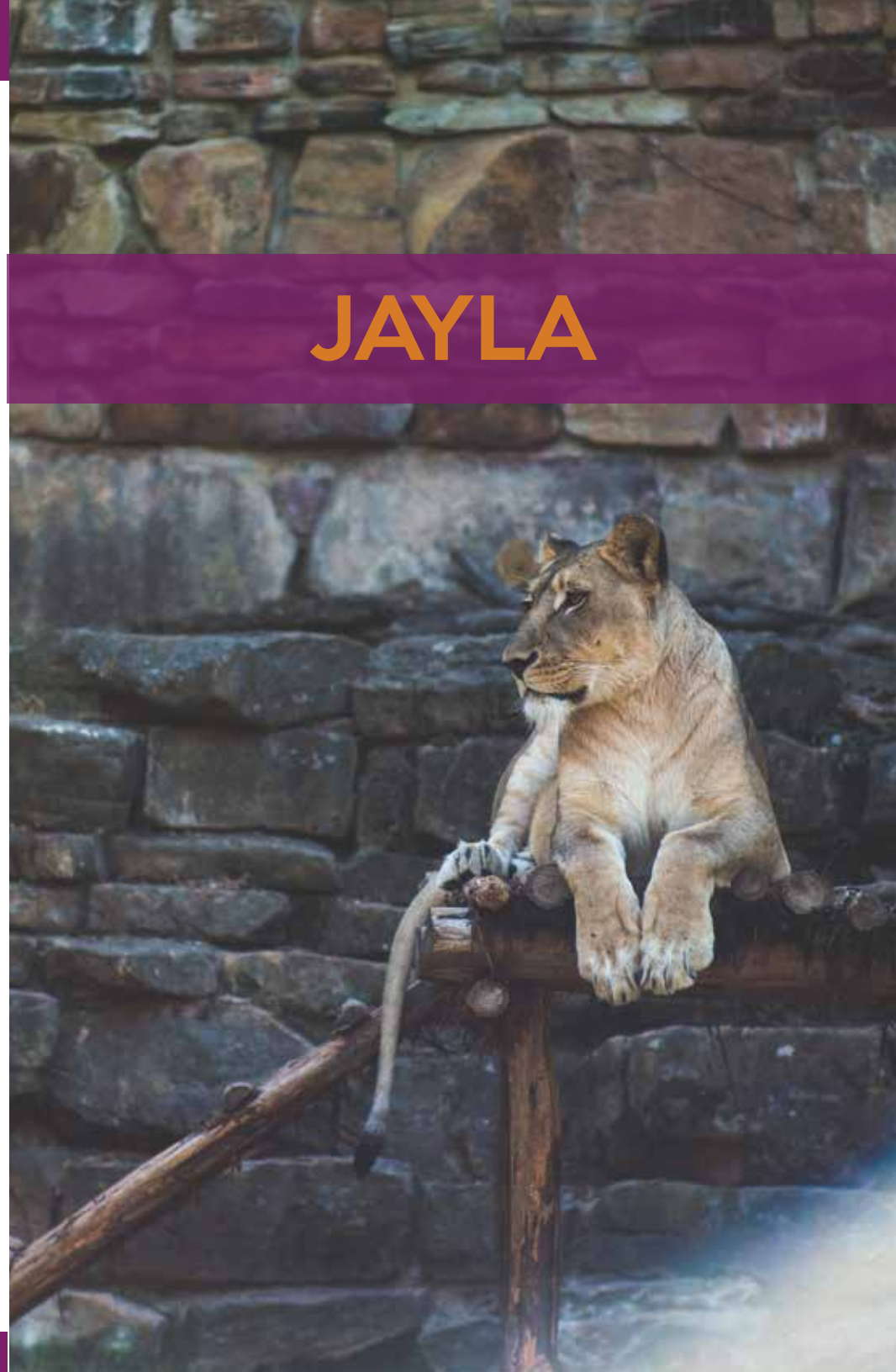
There was a lion in the water and then a queen
came and then NBA Young Boy came
and handed the queen lemonade
and brought slime and a goat and a
bird was on the goat and this
was all in June but Nike asked the
queen and the Goat said Nike is not
here but brought water and
the lion got out of the water.
The end.

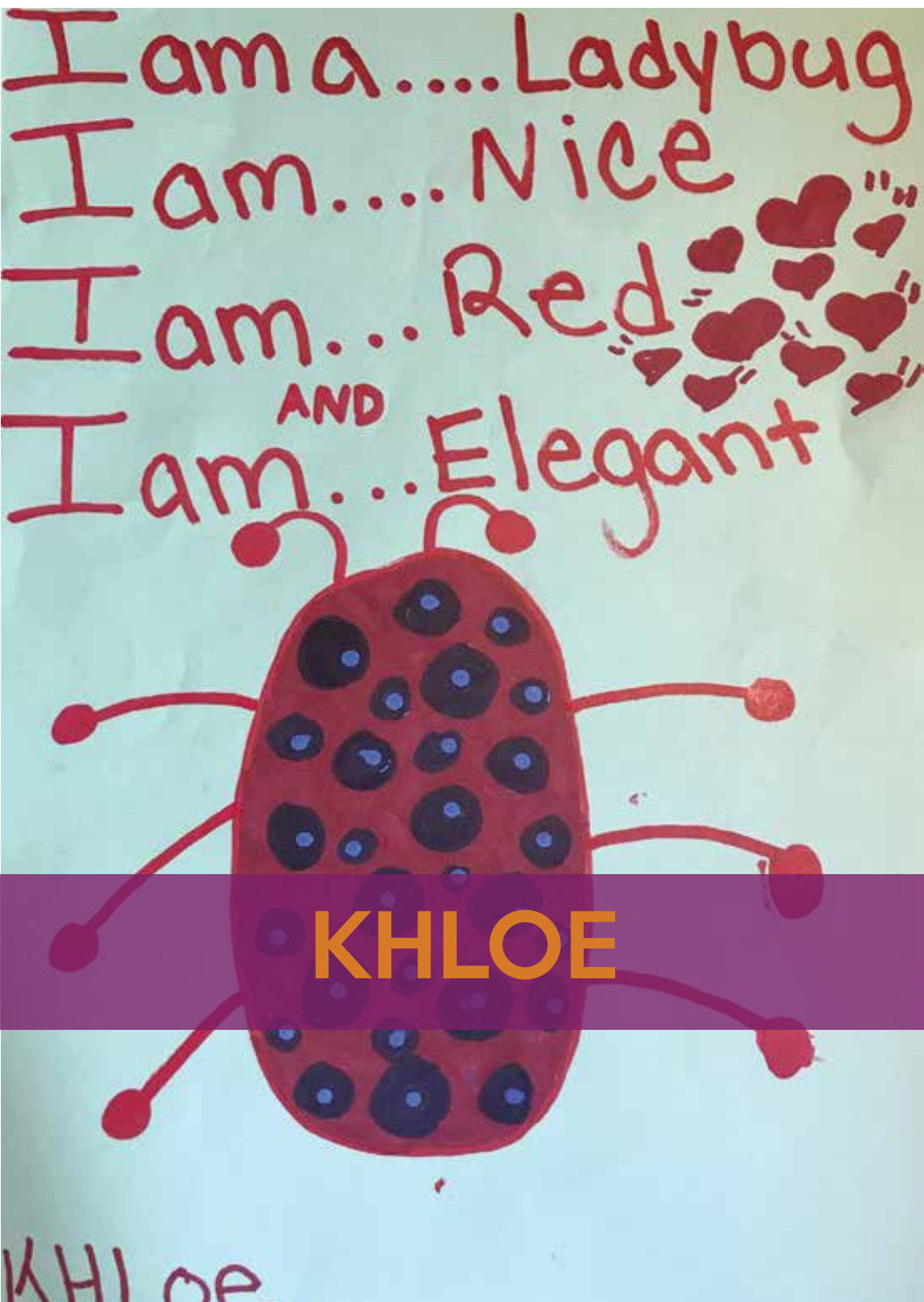
Diva

I am a lion because
I am a diva
and I like to
dance. And when
people say something
about me I handle it very chill.



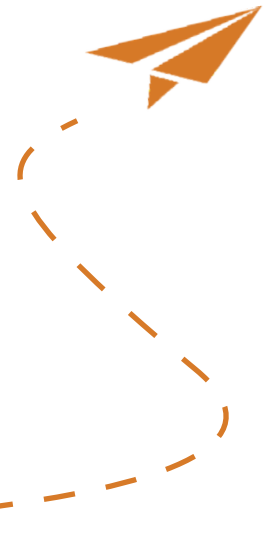
JAYLA





The Lion

The lion was in the water. The water's name was Slat Gang. And a shoe came and it was a Nike. The month in the story was June. The queen was there. And the queen ate a lemon. A bird came along. And the bird was singing NBA Young Boy. A goat liked the bird singing. And the people were playing with slime.



Khloe

I feel good in my shoes.
I really love slime.
I have beautiful brown eyes.
I have so many clothes.
I like to listen to music.

Is

Mom is... skating.
Nana is... going to the hotel.
Papa is... going to the mall.
Cuzen is... going swimming.

Best Friend

I lost my best friend.
Somebody who means a lot to me.
You were my everything and I can't believe you left me.
Now I am broken, I just really miss seeing you.
I feel so alone and don't know what to do.
I remember so many memories.
You did a lot of things for me.

I Love You Best Friend
You will forever be a part of me.

Best Friend

From the minute I met my friend.
She was last every day.
She call me, I'm on my way
And you know I'm not gonna play.
That's my best friend.

She's cute and kind always.
And I know that she don't play.
That's my best friend's, best friend.

Our Kind Rhyme

Good is God, God is good.
Roses are red, violets are blue
People are nice and so are you.
People are mean, we gotta be true.
We love u so do u love us too?
We can be nice so can u.
Our family is nice and we are too.
Our friends can be nice but sometimes
Rude.

My brother can be mad,
But sometimes sad.

This is made by Brianna and Bre'Ana. We hope you like our rhyme,
because we tryna be kind.



DRENAYA & KHLOE

BRE'ANA & BRIANNA

I Love

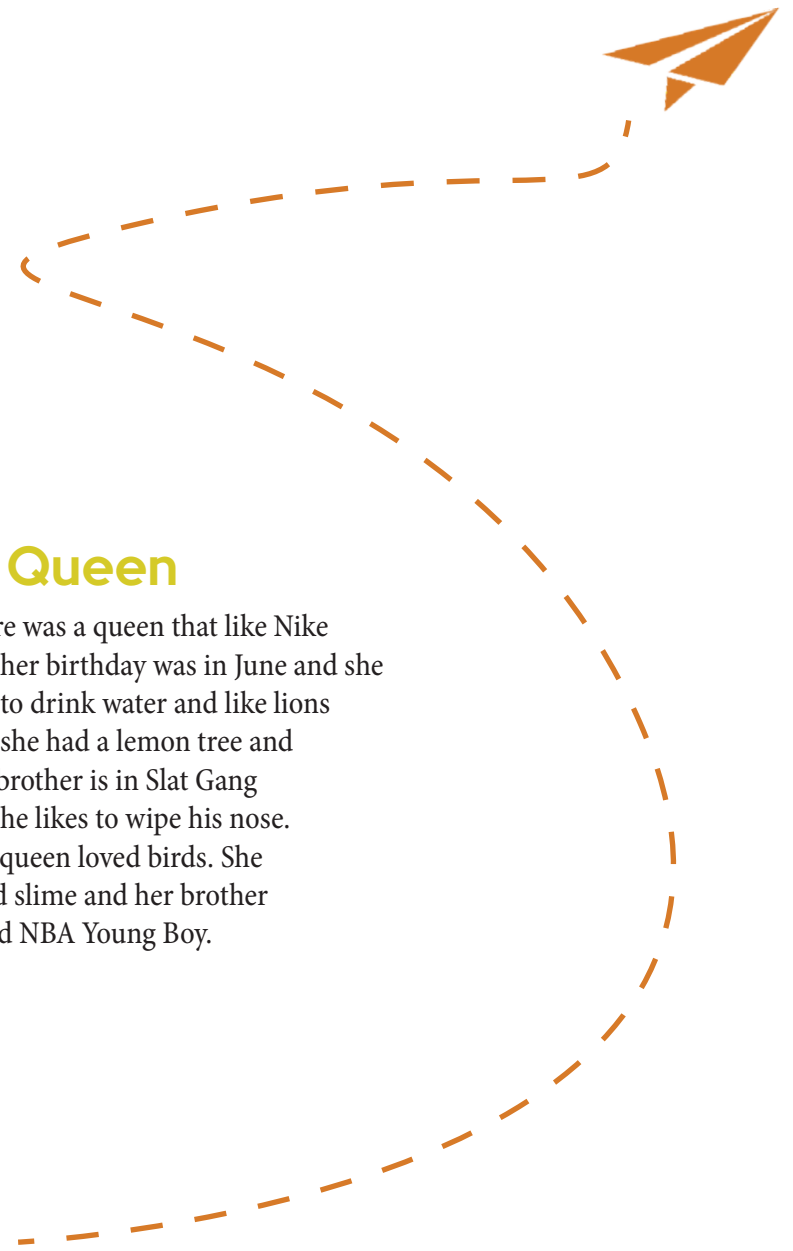
My Self

Sometime

BRIANNA

A Queen

There was a queen that like Nike
and her birthday was in June and she
had to drink water and like lions
and she had a lemon tree and
her brother is in Slat Gang
and he likes to wipe his nose.
The queen loved birds. She
liked slime and her brother
loved NBA Young Boy.

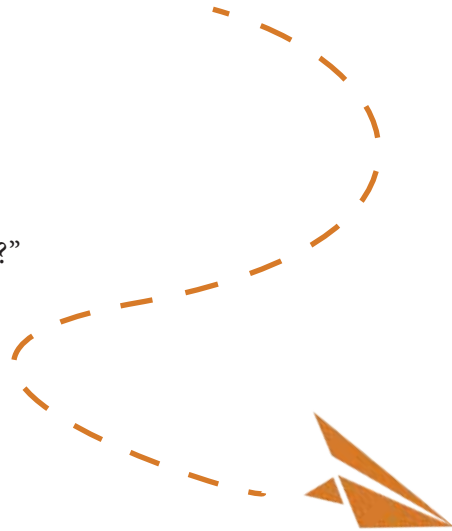


Happy, Feeling Sad, or Caring Song

Oh, I don't feel great.
Oh, I'm really sad.
When people call me names
I feel really bad.

Oh, I feel so great.
Oh, I'm really glad.
When people say, "How's your day?"
I feel really happy.

I know.
I know my family loves me
And they love me back
And I love them.



Devil Mom

One day a good guy came and tried to kill the mom devil. She put a spell on him and he was stone for the rest of his life. A lady was walking by and tried to say hi to the devil's kids and give them a hug and give them candy. The girl didn't see the Devil Mom and the Devil Mom put a spell on her and said you have to be in my basement for the rest of your life. So the Devil Mom made beautiful paintings but the paintings had bad stories behind them like how she killed her husband!

This character is the Mean Devil. She wears a cape because she hides her identity. She wears the hat with a veil to cover her face up. She lives in an abandoned castle. She killed her husband because he saw her secret stuff and he was being nice to people. Her identity is a secret. The secret is safe for now. She has kids and they're the Little Devils. He had a sleepover. When the Little Devils were asleep, the friends went through their castle and found out their mom's identity and so they couldn't be friends anymore because the mother didn't want to kill them because they were only little.



FAIRYN & DEZAIRAY



ANONYMOUS SECRETS

My secret is he likes his powers in the box. His power is if he opens the box he is a nice person. If somebody else opens the box, the whole world would turn evil.

Princess Cierra

Her secret is that when her parents are asleep, she goes out to party with friends. When she comes home, she is confronted by her parents and they put a camera in her room.

I have a secret place in my bedroom. We have secret cameras here in the house. I have a secret camera in my mom's vase. One day I was at private school. I killed my friend in my closet.

I want to be a good guy but I don't know yet.
I used to be married to a super hero.
I killed my mother because she didn't like that I was a bad guy and she was a good guy.
I'm the only one alive in my family.

Person Who Turns Into A Wolf

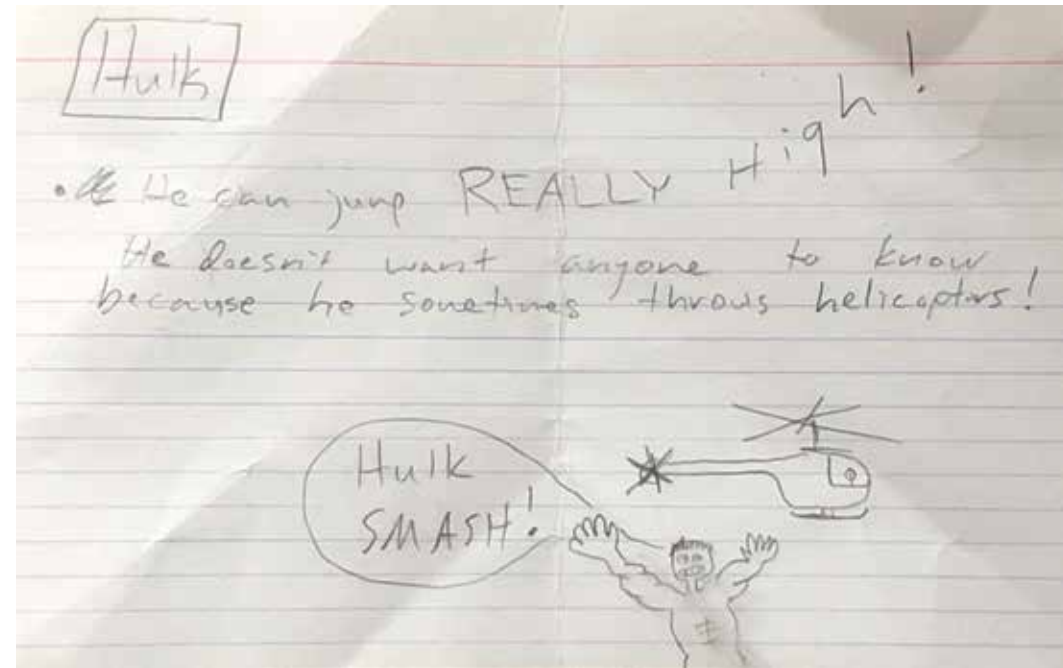
No one knows he is the wolf because everyone would be scared and he would have no friends.

I drank expired milk.



Hulk

He can jump REALLY HIGH! He doesn't want anyone to know because he sometimes throws helicopters



I used to be a frog and now I am a person and now I can fly and I can die and come back to life and I can run fast.

APPRECIATION AND APPLAUSE

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel Founding Director & Site Leader

Kasha Williams Social Worker

Jewel Johnson Resident Artist

Kyle Hunt Visiting Artist

Emily Moore-Marshall Program Coordinator

Woori Song Graphic Designer

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT INTERNS

Emily Baron

Josie Croce

Nando Felton

Annika Severson

Claire Sweeney

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT INTERN Fall 2019

Sierra Detwiler

PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF

FUNDING & SUPPORT

This program is made possible by gifts and donations made to Telling It.

Additional support provided by the Washtenaw County

Sheriff's Office – Jerry L. Clayton, Sheriff

University of Michigan LSA Residential College

Parkridge Community Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.lsa.umich.edu/tellingit

Microphone icon made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

