







AUTONOMY









Autonomy

Journal 14 Curated by Greater Richmond & Tri City students in 2023



Warmest of welcomes beloved reader,

Podium family, friends, and students wait in anticipation each year for this special meeting of creative young minds. Welcome to Journal 14, featuring selected works of our most talented youth from the 2022-2023 school year and summer. The selection process for this journal was not an easy task in the slightest. You may say I am biased, but we have some of the brightest, bravest, and talented young minds in Virginia. In a world where barrier-facing communities often feel unprotected and disempowered, it takes courage to share your story. It takes fortitude and tenacity to pave your own way when society doesn't hand you the tools needed to amplify your voice.

Podium prepares students for their moment at the mic. In our programs, youth create new worlds worth dreaming about and build advocacy skills needed to turn the changes they seek into reality. We help youth healthily navigate and process their lived experiences by using the power of written expression and communication as tools for healing and self-development. More specifically, Podium is a local nonprofit serving middle and high schoolers throughout Greater Richmond and the Tri-Cities. We host weekly afterschool and summer workshops at community centers and public schools. In programs, students have a safe space to express themselves while gaining the critical skills and understanding needed to prepare them for their current and future academic, career, and social goals.

Podium's impact is evidenced by our 15-year tenure of service to the community and, most importantly, through the lasting connections built with our children during that time. Podium alumni are the next leaders, teachers, mentors, and advocates in our communities. The future is limitless for our youth, and it all begins with a classroom, a pen, and a consistent mentor who believes in their wildest dreams. So, without further ado, I welcome you to Journal 14. As you journey through reading, I hope you gain as much from our youth as I do every day.

With Joy,

Candace Weather, Podium RVA Programs Director

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Journal 14 edited by Podium volunteer and friend, Sola Fajana.



Partners and Special Thanks

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- Program Volunteers: Anna Jane Johnson, Barbara Kornhauser, Camden Thomason, Courtney Langford, Dylan Steinert, Eilidh Cruickshanks, Heidi Arroyo, Jack Shaw, Jennifer Bui, Jordan Oppermann, Kate Abbott, Molly Barry, Nicole Corley, Olivia Vandervelden, and Sadie Nolan.
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Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education Scholarships

Because of a dream started by Robert and Anne Waldruff with Podium co-founders David L. Robbins and Lindy Bumgarner, Podium has continued to support alumni in achieving their college-bound dreams. Podium celebrates the Waldruff family for their dedication and love of the Greater Richmond community and is honored to recognize the winners of the 2022 and 2023 Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education scholarships:

2023 Winners & Their Program Locations

- A'Landa Macklin, Southside Boys & Girls Club
- Tyler Jei Steele, Armstrong High School
- Adriana Keyes, Huguenot High School
- Debbie Gomez-Rivera, George Wythe High School
- Miyah Miller, George Wythe High School

2022 Winners & Their Program Locations

- Lael Washington, Southside Boys & Girls Club
- Kameron Belfield, Armstrong High School
- Shaniece Gentry, George Wythe High School

The 2022 - 2023 School Year









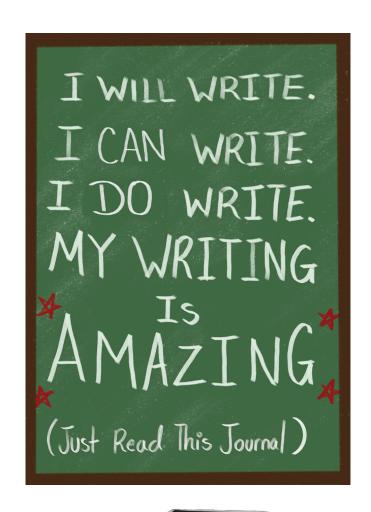




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The Ones That Govern Me Imani Jackson Henderson MS



The ones that govern us tell us what's "right." The ones that govern us tell us when to fight. The ones that govern me tell me I'm wrong. I'm "overreacting," like it's not that deep.

But it is that deep.
As deep as the blood of innocents
Soaked into American soil.
As deep as the culture they have stripped away from
Millions of people who look like me.
They called us outrageous names and said,
"You belong in a zoo."

Hunted down like animals by the ones
Who promise they're here to serve and protect us
With deep navy-blue shields and white lies
While innocent bodies lie

On the cracked pavement and families Are left in pain and agony, forced to sit

In silence while the cycle repeats,

But I'm tired of the cycle spinning Like a bike tire on an endless ride.

I'm forced to sit and watch
Waiting in fear
Wondering if I'm going to be next,
Lying in an open coffin.
The ones that govern me
Don't care for me,
And they don't care for you.

Generational Change Ta'Miyah Whitaker Armstrong HS

Our generation will change the world.
We are much more understanding of people and their feelings.
We treat people with more respect

We treat people with more respect than older generations.

We understand differences in thoughts and are more open to learning new things.

We will change the generation after us for the better.

We will treat our kids with more respect than our parents did.

Rebuilt Tionna Clanton Highland Springs HS

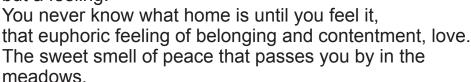
HORIZON

She inhaled an earthquake, but
When she tried to exhale,
She thought, maybe she is the earthquake?
Buildings come crashing down inside her,
Causing what she felt was now destroyed.
Then she realized, the buildings aren't
Shattered
But instead broken.
They can be rebuilt.
She has to learn to build.

She has to learn to build, She struggles building, but Frustration brought her back. The buildings kept breaking, But they still can be rebuilt.

Home Amari Mingron Henderson MS

Home. It's not a place, but a feeling.



The sound of silence.

The smell of your favorite old book, the feel of the soft, brown pages tickling your fingertips.

Fresh daisies in broken glass.

A plastic butterfly dancing along your arm.

Or maybe it's a nook in the corner of a library.

the wood of the shelves and the stories they hold.

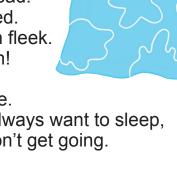
Home could be a taste on your tongue, a sound in your ears, a texture you've grown to love, or a scent that lingers.

Home, to me, is in the eyes of the people I love. The gazes they give me each night and each morning. They tell me, "Here is where you belong." "You are home." So, I listen.



My Bed De'nay Hill John Marshall HS

My bed is where I lay my head. Oh, how I love my sweet bed. I go to sleep with my pj's on fleek. I know. My bed is always on!



Oh no, I never want to leave.
That's how it is when you always want to sleep, I'm knowing but my legs won't get going.
I slowly want to get going, but at least I'll always know where to go when I want some sleep.

But, I never go deep because when I go deep, I never want to sleep. I feel safer at home because I'm never alone. My bed makes me feel better.

I can sleep through anything when I'm home, and even when I'm there alone.
Certain times when I'm not home, it doesn't feel right. I don't know why, but it's the truth.
I am safest at my home.

Darrell Darrell Bigelow Fairfield MS

When there is art,
There is love and peace, and
Darrell is the God of art, love, and

Darrell is the God of art, love, and monsters.

When he died in the forest, He was last seen in the stars.

He can now be seen in the dark whenever there is a rainbow.

He made peace with monsters, animals, mortals, and Gods, and

When he died, mortals honored him with a constellation.

A Love Note to MoMo Dacaijah Hayden John Marshall HS

Oh MoMo, My very special MoMo.

The way my fingers slide through your hair, Getting stuck like my feelings towards you When we go on our long walks.

It makes me feel touched.

Late at night when I'm feeling sad, Gizmo is always there for me. I love him so much, But he hates me with a passion.

The audacity you have, MoMo, To love my brother more than ME!

Even though I am betrayed,
I still love my dog to death.



Light Out Jenee Glover Armstrong HS

The day my light went out Was so dim and gloomy. The light in my life was gone. I see you lying there - It still makes me cry.

The day my light went out,
It was raining,
I look over.
The person I love the most is gone,
Your lifeless body lay there.
I look around I see people who don't care.
But they're here, and I wonder why.

My mom tells me it is okay, But when I look in the casket, All I see is a bright light Going out.

Love Milan McLauren Highland Springs HS

When I had nothing to say,
You never encouraged me to see the light.
This thing we call love
Causes nothing but hate.
I pushed you out of my way.
You're constantly throwing shade, so
End this sorrow,
End this pain.
No longer your friend.

Waiting Kendee Smith Henderson MS

Being at school is like a ticking time bomb.

It feels like I am always waiting for something to happen.

It feels like waiting for your food at a restaurant.

I feel like I am about to just pop.

Waiting for someone or something, for anything to appear. Waiting to go home.

Waiting for my friend to tell me about what her crush did that day.

Waiting until it makes me feel like I am about to burst,

like a balloon near fire,

like fireworks

exploding apart.

Then, finding the time to calm down like a nice spring day.
Pushing my troubles away like a swaying tree branch or a daisy in the wind.



Life gets faster every day,
No time to think
No time to play.
Hurry, chaos, lots of stress.
Tension leads to sleeplessness.



When will all the madness cease?
Where is the free time?
Where is the peace?
I'm running, I'm doing
Until I drop!

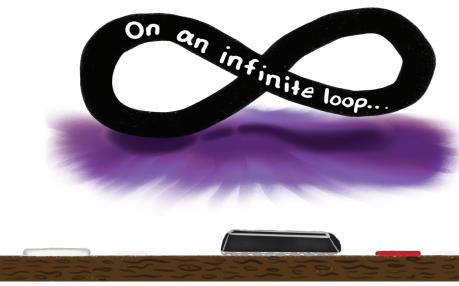
Give me a button – pause, mute, STOP!

Unmotivated Aisha Lewis John Marshall HS

Walking in relationships is like a treadmill, Working out but still getting no results. Stepping on Legos hurts Like relationships with no emotional support.

School is depressing, Mind scratching. People are everywhere I'm feeling anxiety like I've never felt.

Dream, sweat dream, gone by the alarm clock Eventually to be woken up With the infuriation of the need to clean, On an infinite loop. Every time you clean You have to clean again And again To where it all starts to become a dream.





Why? Antoine Thierny Highland Springs HS

Why?
I just feel it. I'm so angry.
Why?
I feel like exploding.
Why?
It is so controlling.
Why?
I cannot take it anymore.
Why?
This is what it takes to feel emotion.
Why?
I just let it go to feel something.
Why?

This must be my atonement.

Clearer Seas Angel Clark Highland Springs HS

I wish I hadn't stayed.
I watched as the people
I knew left for clearer seas,
better oxygen, and more green.
One by one, fewer and fewer,
people were gone.



As our consequences increase, people like me should be locked away for every piece of trash we've thrown on the ground or animal we made to suffer.



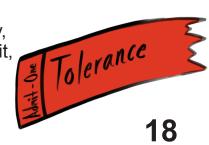
Better People Kennedy Greene Henderson MS

We are better people if we try to be. We are better people by listening to others. We are better people by helping others. We are better people even if we make mistakes. We are better people if we understand others. We are better people if we look on the bright side. We are better people by inspiring others in a good way. Even though we can't be perfect, we can always try.

We are better people if we always try.

Tolerance is not Enough Nyomi Watkins Varina HS

Tolerance is something we endure, something we can begrudgingly comply with. It's not something we accept openly, but rather, only for the moment, only because we know it's temporary, that it's only going to last for a little bit, and once it's over, we won't have to worry anymore.



Quiet

Caleigh James

Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am quiet,

I am not shy.

I am not lonely.

I am not depressed.

I am proud.

Just because I am Black,

I am not loud.

I am not ghetto.

I am not violent.

I am Me, Myself, and I.

Just because I am normal,

I am not weird.

I am not stupid.

I am not crazy.

I am special.

Black Male **Caleb Jones**

Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am a Black male,

I am not dumb.

I am not into just sports.

I am not a drug addict.

I am a human being.

Just because I am in high school,

I am not an adult.

I am not a bad influence.

I am not a follower.

I am enough.

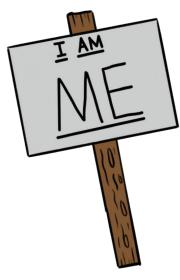
Just because I am myself,

I am nobody else.

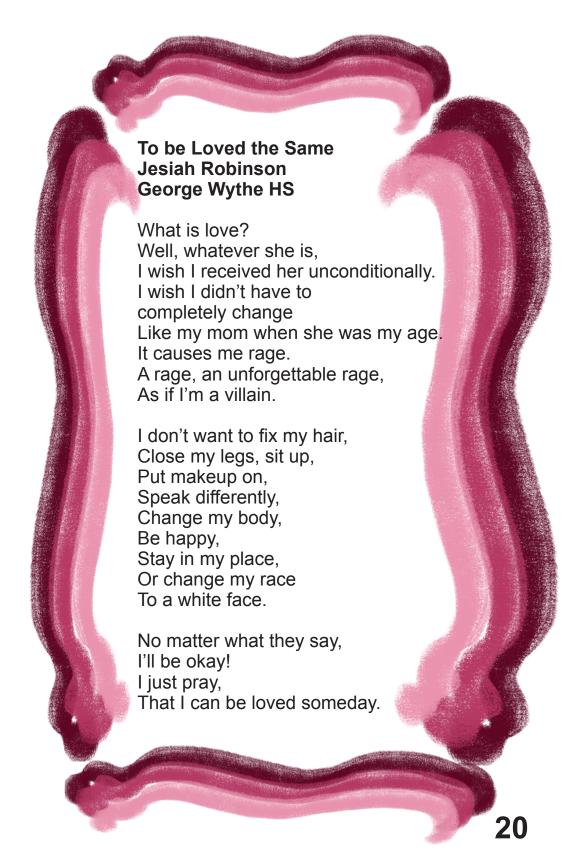
I am not going to be anybody else.

I am not going to change who I am for anyone else.

I am me.







Up Ayden Preston Wilder MS

They all go down, that's what I heard. Real estate agents worry too much about going D 0 W N. This job pays one, two, three, four houses sold. Wondering when it's my turn. When do I get sold, when do I go D 0 W N? But for now, I won't worry about going D O W N. I'll stay U Р Until it's my turn.



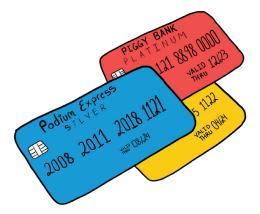
Money A'leyah Rivers Lucille Brown MS

One day, a boy named Jonny was poor.
He decided to go on an adventure, and
on that adventure, he saw a cup.
When he picked it up,
a genie came out.
The genie said, "You have 3 wishes."

Jonny wished for everything he wanted, but he didn't know the wish only lasted for one day.
Jonny was so happy for that day,
but after the 24 hours ended,
he went back to being poor.

At that exact moment, Jonny thought to himself that he should get a job, so he can have the stuff he wants forever.





Common Sense Cali Rivers Lucille Brown MS

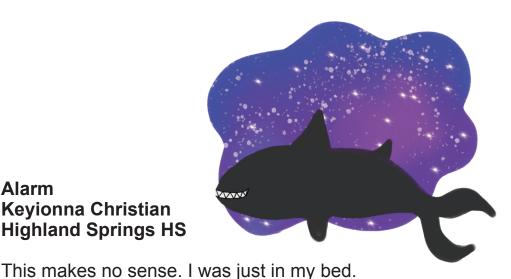
There was once a girl named Starkesha who was a spoiled rich girl.

She maxed out all her dad's credit cards, so her dad told her, "You're not using my money anymore.

GO GET A JOB!"

Starkesha begged and begged, but nothing worked. Starkesha had so many wants, but no job, so weeks later, she got a job at a clothing store. Her first paycheck was \$15.

The thing she wanted most was a Gucci purse, but the amount she was paid wasn't even half enough for it. Starkesha worked 9am to 5pm every day for a month and eventually had enough to pay for her want.



Alarm **Keyionna Christian Highland Springs HS**

My soft, warm bed. So, WHY am I in school, and what happened to my clothes? Everyone's eyes are on me. I look down at my feet, and they're wet. I look up again and see a shark! Bruh, what is happening? I look to the right, and I'm in outer space. I can't breathe. I close my eyes just to open them and find myself standing in front of a lion, tiger, and bear. I run, run as fast as I can. My legs hurt so bad, but they won't stop following me. I start to hear this ringing, but I keep running. I trip and fall over a cliff

I jolt out of my sleep and turn off my alarm. Time to get ready for school.

and just keep falling into the dark.

Non-Walkable Cities Tyler Jei Steele Armstrong HS

Having a non-walkable city as a community is a frustrating and unhealthy way to live. A walkable city is a city where you can walk the majority of the time instead of relying on a car to go places. Being able to walk to a bookstore, cafe, a park, a supermarket to get groceries, and more sounds more refreshing than driving there. The overwhelming dependency on cars and the abundance of roads in my community is unsafe and unhealthy for our health. Relying too much on cars for transportation is not only unhealthy due to pollution but also not an ideal way of living day to day. According to an article titled "Ten social benefits of walkable places" on cnu. org, those who mainly drive their cars to go places are more unhappy than those who regularly walk. Ways to improve non-walkable areas in my city are by having safer environments, understandable transportation options, and the addition of local recreation and stores for necessities.



A way of improving this issue is by focusing on having a safer environment in our community. The roads and sidewalks in the community are not great, and this causes accidents that hurt pedestrians. The lack of sidewalks in my community is why only small amounts of people are able to walk. It seems like there is more focus on roads for cars than on sidewalks for people. Many are forced to drive if they want to go anywhere, and if they need to walk, then they are in danger of causing an accident from the lack of sidewalks.

An additional way to improve the environment to be safer is to focus on high crime rates in the community. This country has a recurring problem of gun violence, especially over the last couple of years. The fear of guns in the community affects people's willingness to take the chance of losing their life or loved ones' lives over walking in their area. They don't want to get caught in a shootout. Not only that, but many women also fear sex trafficking or getting kidnapped. People do not want to walk in their community, fearing the unimaginable.

Although walking is a healthier way of going from one place to another, you may still need transportation. One way to get to your destination without a car is by using public transportation, including buses, taxis, bikes, etc. These options may not always be reliable, so I can improve this in my community too. The bus routes and their map are often looked at as confusing or complicated to understand. You often have to get off one bus and get on another at a different stop just to get to your location. If you were unfamiliar with the area around you, you could potentially become lost.

Non-Walkable Cities contd.

Another transportation option would be a taxi or rideshare, like Uber or Lyft. These options are reliable; however, it can get really pricey depending on where you are and where you are trying to go. If you were trying to get to the Chesterfield Towne Center mall from Richmond, for example, the price round trip would cost about fifty dollars. Having other modes of transportation gives many people in the community options and helps them traverse in our community even if they do not have their own transportation.

Implementing local supermarkets and public recreations in my community would reduce the need to use transportation and encourage citizens to walk. A supermarket that you could walk to is more affordable to the average person. Having your necessities only a couple of minutes from where you live is more convenient than having to take long drives. Another way to promote and encourage walkable cities is to have local recreation.

Being able to walk to a park and hang out with your friends, or just to breathe fresh air and relax, is a great way to enhance community togetherness and satisfaction. Adding parks also increases the aesthetics of the community. Having a beautiful park across the street that you can walk to is more positive than viewing a gas station or parking lot. Walking to get groceries or see nature can uplift the citizens in the area, and reducing the use of transportation increases the mentality of the people.

Non-walkable cities are a significant issue in my community, from not having safe environments, to bringing easier and more affordable modes of transportation, and to increasing local stores and recreation. Many of these issues can be solved to improve the community and better the population. This takes both time and money to do, so unfortunately, it may be a while for it to happen. The people within a community have to be willing to change for us to move forward and improve the living conditions of our city. Whether it's stopping the overkill on the focus of roads, rather than space for people to walk, or the localization of supermarkets for necessities, it takes the effort of all people within the community to progress positively.



2 Sentence Horror Stories Rihanna Phipps Varina HS

- I found a dead body in my trunk. This is strange because I remember putting three in there yesterday.
- 2) The grinning face stared at me from my bedroom window. I live on the 14th floor.
- 3) I kept hearing giggling from the TV, no matter what channel I was on. I never thought to look behind it.

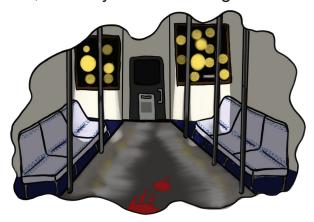
The Train Ride Taleah Childress George Wythe HS

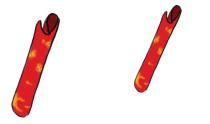
As I stepped into the station, I felt an uneasy feeling in my gut, but I just ignored it. As I waited for my train, three loud teenage schoolboys came into the station. Most people looked towards the noise, but I just scoffed it off. Soon after their arrival, my train came. I hopped on, and so did they.

Gratefully, I found a seat before the train filled up. Soon after we started moving, the teenagers were back to their loud behavior, and people continued getting on and off. I just sat there waiting for my stop. The boys were still on and still being loud. I could hear them through my headphones.

While I was waiting, I watched the city lights outside. It was nighttime, and they were so beautiful. I looked at my phone to check the time and my messages. As I was finishing texting a friend back, I noticed some blood on the floor. I looked up, shaken and confused, but what I saw didn't make me feel any better.

The three boys from earlier were standing there with blood dripping down their bodies onto the floor. I guess I was too involved in my own world to notice or hear what was happening. As soon as it all registered with me, I started to panic. I got up, screaming and banging on the train's doors, but they wouldn't budge.





The Flavor of Intensity Christopher Smith George Wythe HS

When it hits, things happen that I can't explain.
It's not only like a bomb going off over and over,
But like riding the most intense roller coaster in the world.
As soon as you hit that first bank turn,
That's when the magic happens.

It's war, but not a meaningless war.
The war of two sides fighting for what they believe in,
Fighting with honor, power, and especially respect.
That is what happens when that bomb goes off.

It happens so commonly, I don't know how many people share this, But I know there are a lot. I understand why!

This feeling is outstanding. I love it too. The fact of the matter is They're only \$2.30 at the dollar store! Wow. Takis.

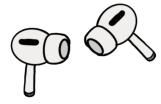












The Fight for AirPods on the Moon Jay'Asia Edwards Fairfield MS

Once upon a time, there were two people who wanted AirPods, so they went to the moon. But there was one problem. They had to fight aliens.

Okay, so there were two problems. There are actually eight moons, and if they did something wrong, like kill the wrong person, they would go to one of the other moons.

They wanted their AirPods.
They really, really wanted those AirPods.
When fighting the aliens, to their surprise,
another group of people came out of nowhere
and helped them fight.

The new group of people did not know if you messed up, you would go to another moon. They messed up one time and disappeared. The two people continued to fight the aliens and won. They got their AirPods but did not know they were fake.





The Sun **Allanah Hicks-Thompson** John Marshall HS When I first started outdoor track. it was a nice feeling to be outside, being active in the sun. My first day was exciting, the warm sun and fresh air blowing on me as I ran felt very calming. The element that impacted me most was the sun. It gave only warmth and a feeling of relief shining on me as I ran down the track. I don't know if someone running alongside me would have had the same experience. Many different things can impact people differently, even if they are experiencing the exact same event.

Youth of the Year Speech A'Landa Macklin Southside Boys & Girls Club

A huge community issue that matters the most to me is bullying. I was bullied as a child in elementary and middle school. It made me question my self-confidence. I have worn glasses since the age of 5. Growing up wearing glasses was hard because people would say I looked like a nerd. I can't forget that they would call me "4-eyed." Calling me "four-eyed" all because I couldn't see never sat right with me; I couldn't help that I needed glasses to see.

Not only was I bullied because I wore glasses, but also because I talked a lot. Talking came naturally to me and came easy. Due to me being very talkative, it was really difficult to get others to listen to what I was saying. Every time it was my turn to talk, people would always tune out or start saying things like, "Oh lord, here she goes." I never understood why others hated listening to what I had to say. This led me to start second-guessing myself. I always thought I sounded stupid.

My life did a full 360 once I got to 8th grade. I was still bullied a tad bit, but it was rare. I did the morning announcements every day and began being the MC at school events. I started to notice how my voice was gradually becoming heard. At the Boys & Girls Club, I started to be more engaged and felt welcomed. I never had to second guess myself or felt like I was not listened to. My peers would tell me that I was heard and what I had to say mattered.

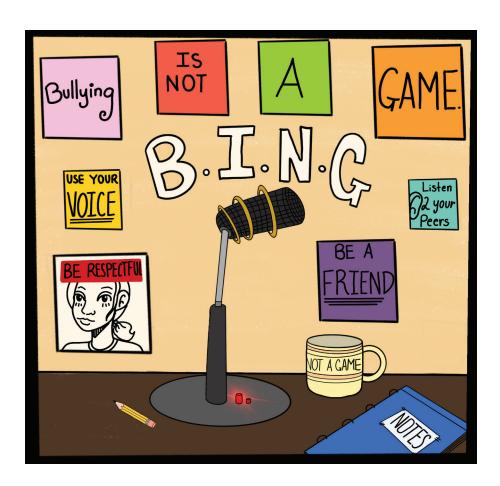
The support of my friends assured me that what I am saying matters and to think, "Who cares what others think?" Hearing those words was like a light switch going off in my head. It was a confidence boost that I did not know I needed. In my 11th-grade year of high school, I decided it was time to make a change in my community.

Mr. Green, a staff leader at the Boys & Girls Club, brought to my attention an advocacy group he was putting together. I joined the advocacy group, and at first, my peers and I couldn't decide on a topic. It took a while to figure out what we wanted to do. We all thought it would be better to talk about bullying because it is something everyone could relate to. We then agreed that we should advocate against bullying and that our platform should be through podcasting.

I loved the idea. Having the ability to create a podcast and speak on struggles that many people face meant a lot to me. In December 2022, our group finally came up with a group name: B.I.N.G (Bullying Is Not a Game). Due to being a youth advocate, I have actually diffused a bullying situation that happened on social media. Not only did I reach out to the person that was being bullied, but I also reached out to the bully to let them know that what they were doing was not right. I got the bully to apologize to the other person and did check ins with the person being bullied. This is important work.

Youth of the Year Speech contd.

People need to understand that it doesn't matter what anyone thinks of you and that you do matter. Don't let anyone else's opinions of you change who you are as a person. I am grateful to have learned the importance of my voice. Helping others is something I have always wanted to do, and I can now do that with the help of the Boys & Girls Club. I now know the importance of my voice, and nothing can interfere with that.



Sanddee Lorrie Winchester Armstrong HS

At first, Sanddee didn't have a plan. She didn't know what to do, but then one day, she realized that in order to get what you want in life, you have to work for it. Ever since, she started saving up enough money to put herself through college and law school. Once she fulfills this goal, she will take on her brother's case and investigate it thoroughly. As she gathers reliable and accurate evidence, her journey to, not only freedom and justice, but closure, will begin.

During her free time, Sanddee likes to go on social media and post videos of any unresolved cases and brutality she comes across. She also posts pictures of justice being served or of people protesting together in support of justice. To help others who are struggling like herself, she posts her daily routine and her morning inspirational quote. Her favorite personal quote is, "Birds sing after a storm." Sanddee also holds a ceremony to remember her brother every year. Her brother died in a hit and run, so now she aspires to practice criminal law. Her goal is to bring about justice for him and other people who may relate or need help.

#criminalsneedtobeputaway #justice #freedom #yourenotalone #speakup



El Virus Misterioso Tatiana Hernandez Huguenot HS

Había una familia que vivía en una hermosa ciudad con pocos habitantes. El padre de la familia, Martin, fue un científico muy interesado en la ciencia basada en animales carnívoros. En la familia, también había una hija que llamaba Katy, pero los dos no se llevaban muy bien.

En una ocasión, Martin intentó hacer que una rata fuera agresiva y alteró su organismo. Dado a que el virus era muy fuerte, el intento fallo. Él nunca se dio por vencido, hasta que un día hizo un virus realmente peligroso. Como Katy era muy curiosa, ella fue a ver que estaba haciendo su padre. Lo miraba muy misterioso en ese entonces, pero Katy no vio nada.

Más tarde ese día, Katy invitó a sus amigos a una fiesta que ella había programado para su cumpleaños. Uno de sus amigos, Pedro, fue a donde estaba el baño. Al llegar, Pedro miró algo muy extraordinario. Vio una rata, la que estaba en el laboratorio de Martin, que estaba fuera de su cárcel. Los ojos de la rata eran muy rojos y extraños. Él se fue a ver que le había sucedido a la rata. En eso, la rata saltó sobre su pie. Se dio cuenta del salto demasiado tarde. La rata ya le había mordido a su pie.

El virus que el padre de Katy había hecho era algo raro y misterioso. Con el virus, si el animal te mordía, te convertirías en alguien que tenía mucha hambre. Lo más curioso era que el hambre no era de comida si no de morder y morder hasta satisfacer.

Cuando la rata mordió al Pedro, el virus se transmitió sobre sus venas y penetró duramente. Él se convirtió en un monstruo muy horrible. Fue donde sus amigos estaban, y ellos notaron que el ya no era el mismo que antes. El actuaba raro y contra normal.

Nadie estaba a salvo.

The Mysterious Virus (English Translation)

A family once lived in a beautiful city with very few residents. The father of the family, Martin, was a scientist who was extremely interested in the science of carnivorous animals. In the family, there was a daughter named Katy, but the two did not get along well.

Polonium / Xe

On one occasion, Martin tried to make a rat overly aggressive by changing the organism. Because the virus was so strong, the attempt failed. He never gave up until one day, the virus became truly dangerous. Since Katy was curious, she went to see what her father was doing. She felt he was very mysterious at that moment, but Katy didn't see anything.

Later that day, Katy invited her friends to a party that she had planned for her birthday. One of her friends, Pedro, headed to the bathroom. When he got there, he saw something extraordinary. He saw a rat, the one that was in the lab with Katy's father, outside of its cage. The rat's eyes were red and strange, so he went to see what was happening to the rat. With that, the rat jumped on his foot. He realized this too late. The rat had already bitten his foot.

The virus that Katy's father created was something rare and mysterious. If an animal with the virus bit you, you would change into something with insatiable hunger. The most curious thing about it was that the hunger wasn't for food; instead, you would bite and bite everything until you were satisfied.

When the rat bit Pedro, the virus transmitted into his veins and hit him hard. He turned into a horrible monster. He went back to where his friends were, and they noticed that he was not the same as before. He was acting strange and abnormally.

No one was safe.

Amor y Zombis Mario Josue Rivera Contreras, Andrew Muniz, and Hetzon Lajuj Huguenot HS

Hace una vez, en el año 2000, ocurrió un apocalipsis en la cual se encontraba tres niños Juampito, Pepito, y Pablito. Por acaso, los tres estaban enamorados de la misma persona. Eso se hizo que tuvieran una pelea, en la cual todos se murieron tratando de salvar a Juanita. El amor para Juanita era tan grande que después de haber muerto, los jóvenes la siguieron amando. Los tres se convirtieron en zombis, y en eso, sabían que un viaje California fue su único opportunidad.

En California, los amigos iban a buscar un centro médico para verificar si habrá una cura. En el transcurso del viaje, tuvieron que pasar por Richmond, Virginia. Richmond era un lugar infestado con zombis y sucumbido de caos. Estuvieron allí por tres días escapando el muerte y caos. Los tres jóvenes, convertidos en zombis, defendieron a capa y espada a Juanita. Al final, salieron

muy bien de esa situación y siguieron en el viaje a California.

Los jóvenes llegaron a California y se encontraron un convoy militar, la cual les ayudó encontrar una curar. Aunque fueron zombis peligrosos, los militares acompañaron y protegieron los jóvenes durante todo el viaje. Después de todo, descubrieron que el amor



era la cura y los militares solo facilitaron a curarlos. Al final, después de volver a ser humanos, los tres vivieron felices con Juanita por siempre.

Love and Zombies (English Translation)

In the year 2000, three friends, Juampito, Pepito, and Pablito, found themselves in an apocalypse. By chance, the three happened to be in love with the same person. This led to a huge fight, which ended in all of them dying while trying to save Juanita. The love for Juanita was so strong that even after they had all died, the friends continued to love her. The three became zombies, and in that state, they knew a trip to California was their only chance!

In California, the three friends were going to look for a medical center to verify if there was a cure for their condition. During the trip, they had to pass through Richmond, Virginia. Richmond was a place now infested with zombies that had succumbed to chaos. They were there for three days, escaping death and chaos. The three boys, all zombies, defended Juanita tooth and nail. In the end, they got out of the situation safely and continued on their journey to California.



The boys arrived in California and found a military convoy that helped them find a cure. Although they were dangerous zombies, the military accompanied them and protected the boys during their journey. After everything, they discovered the cure was love, and the military was only needed to facilitate the cure. In the end. the three returned to human form and lived happily with Juanita forever.

My Future Debbie Gomez – Rivera George Wythe HS

I am an immigrant born in El Salvador, an underdeveloped and dangerous country with limited opportunities, education, and jobs. I immigrated to the United States in 2014 when I was just the ripe age of nine. My mother and I fled our country due to dangerous threats made towards us. When my mom realized the threats were becoming more serious, she contacted my grandma, who lives in New York, to help us go to the USA. When my mom broke the news to me that we were going to America, I was at first frustrated with her because immigrating meant moving, and moving meant saying goodbye to friends, family, neighbors, and life in El Salvador in general. I was scared because it was a new country, a new culture, and a new language.

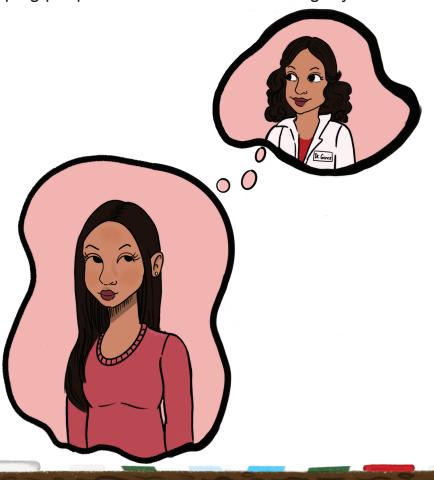
We arrived in New York City in April of 2014, and everything was a culture shock to me, especially the different kinds of people I saw. It took time to adjust to my new environment, especially when I had to start school. All of my classes were in English and everyone spoke to me in English. Everything was new, and I was scared and sad because I felt out of place. I could not communicate with anyone and struggled learning English. That stopped me from making friends and getting involved in school activities. I struggled in all of my classes and was almost failing some of them. I felt useless and frustrated at myself. I love school, I've always loved going to school and learning new things. My mom realized my feelings were getting worse when I didn't want to go to school. Even back in El Salvador, I would never miss a day of school voluntarily.

It took me time to adjust, but with my mom's support, I eventually improved my mental health. I started learning more English and quickly got better at speaking it. I became fully fluent in one year. I was happy that I could finally understand my friends and teachers. I wasn't left out anymore, and I could understand the lessons more clearly. Over the years, I got to understand myself and my aspirations. I discovered that my favorite subject is science, biology to be more specific, and found joy in helping others feel better. I also had a very big interest in the brain and how it functions. From these three interests, I knew I wanted to become a doctor specializing in the brain. I narrowed it down and finally decided I wanted to become a neurosurgeon.

When I thought about it carefully, I concluded that I wanted to become a neurosurgeon because of my background and the situations I witnessed back in El Salvador. I saw members of my Latino community die from curable diseases that could've been prevented if they had access to the right resources and money for expensive medications or surgeries. But it was El Salvador, where job opportunities were scarce and salaries were not enough. Gang members had control of El Salvador when I lived there, and I attended the funerals of many victims of the monstrous violence that took over our country. Although I was 9-years-old and younger while attending all those funerals. I knew that the person in the casket was someone's brother, sister, father, mother, son, daughter, uncle, aunt, cousin, grandmother, grandfather, or dear friend, and that they were gone forever.

My Future contd.

Being raised in a country where living to see another day is a rarity made me not want to take any opportunities or resources for granted. This is what has fueled my passion for becoming a neurosurgeon. Being unable to help my friends and family during those tough times in El Salvador has motivated me to want to learn how to be a doctor and help people with their physical injuries. I have learned to embrace my hardships and struggles, and along the way, found my passion for helping people in those dark times during my childhood.



Heading Towards the Sun Ahmad Cotton Southside Boys & Girls Club

Looking out the window, it was pitch black.

I started to sweat.

I was heading right towards the sun.

I felt sick.

There was no gravity,

and that really flipped my stomach.

I was scared.

What if I burned up?

What if I got too hot,

and I had a heat stroke?

I'll never know until I make it to the sun.

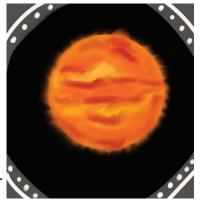
I hope my family is okay.

I did everything they asked.

Now we will see if I am the first person

to die by the sun,

or if I am the first to live on it.



Don't Judge Me Sheyna Esson Highland Springs HS



"Hispanics are crazy,"
"Africans are poor," and
"White boys shoot schools."

All of these assumptions, But where is the truth? Where is the evidence? Where is your proof?

Don't judge me Before I'm seen. You might be shocked Because I'm not made of What you thought.

My Obstacles and How I Overcame Them Miyah Miller George Wythe HS

I strive to be the best version of myself. I love challenges, and I work hard on everything that I do. Even though I don't always like to do things, especially if they're very stressful, I still do them because that's just who I am. Even when major changes happen, I find ways to stay calm, focused, and believe that my stress management skills will help me in the next chapter of my life.

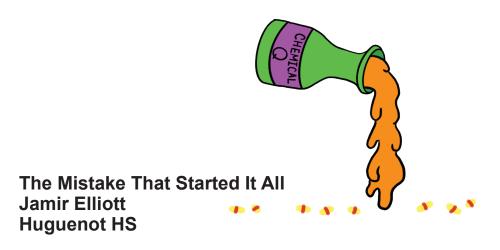
There are many things in my life that are constantly changing, like my hobbies, friendships, and desires, but one thing that has remained constant is my love for poetry. I consider poetry an important part of my life because of what it has provided me. Throughout my life, and especially before junior year, I thought poetry was stupid and overrated. I thought people who wrote poetry were weird for writing about themselves and their feelings, that is, until September 2021. I went through a hard time in my life where I didn't want to talk to anyone. All I wanted to do was sit in my room and be by myself until one of my teachers told me to write about it, so I did just that.

Ever since then, poetry has provided me with stability and peace of mind. I'm constantly on the go and on the move. Sometimes, I'm very stressed out. I don't always like talking about my feelings, and poetry helps me to express my feelings and ground my emotions. Poetry is very important to me and something I'm very passionate about. I could go on and on about poetry and how it has helped me through so many different things. Before I started writing, I had so much bottled up inside of me, but since I started writing, I've been so much more calm, peaceful, and light because I don't keep all my thoughts inside of me anymore.

Now, I have been participating in Forensics for four years. Forensics is a speech and debate competitive team. During my first year of Forensics, I performed an original poem. I thought I did well, but I didn't even place in the top five. It made me feel upset, like I would never place in the top five. My coach gave me a pep talk and told me to try again, so I practiced and practiced. I watched videos on how to improve myself and went back harder and better. This time, I won second place in the original poetry competition. I felt so good about myself because I didn't give up. I just kept trying.

I live a very interesting and back-breaking life. I keep myself busy by doing a lot both inside and outside of school. I've participated in many competitions, like the 2022 Delta Sigma Theta Oratorical contest where I placed in first and second place and in the Clash of the Titans original poetry competition. I've won awards including the Richmond Continentals Youth Volunteer of the Year winner, Poetry Out Loud, and more. I also play volleyball. I remained consistently on the team for all four years of high school and was even a captain for two of those years. I have found ways to deal with challenging situations, plan to use them to help other people, and will continue to use my skills in the future. I will use my poetry to tell and show other people that there are many ways to express yourself, especially if you're having a hard time sharing your thoughts and feelings.





It was noon when it occurred. He thought he had it all figured out, but in the end, he couldn't have been more wrong. After years of failed attempts, Dr. Phillips had finally snapped. He was so obsessed with creating the cure for all sickness that it drove him mad. He was not going to be seen as the crazy scientist with false dreams anymore. He was going to prove everyone wrong with one risky experiment. Little did he know, this experiment would cause the destruction of humanity and the end of all things peaceful.

Two years later, David was now very cautious with his family. He loved them, of course, but ever since the breakout, he had to distance himself from them. David's wife and his teenage son could never find out the true reason why they had to hide in fear. They must never know that he was responsible for the zombie apocalypse.

It all started very simply. David needed the money, and Dr. Phillips needed a test subject. Each day, David would come into Dr. Phillips' office to test out different medicines. Until one day, Dr. Phillips went too far...





Magallón Cesar Molina Huguenot HS

Esta historia es de un maya, Magallón, que vivía en una aldea. A él, su familia le importaba tanto! Magallón tenía hijo y una esposa embarazada. Una mañana, otra tribu vino y atacó a todos los hombres de la aldea y se llevaron las mujeres. Al momento

de la violencia, Magallón ocultó su esposa y su hijo en un agujero para no ser encontrado. Lamentablemente, le vieron y Magallón tuvo que soltarlos antes de que llegaron los atacantes.

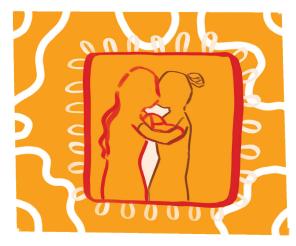
Se oculto otra vez, antes de que los vieron. Los atacantes llegar al lugar donde se ocultó Magallón. En ese momento, Magallón salió corriendo hacia el bosque encontrando el hijo del jefe en camino. Magallón no tenía opción y por su seguridad y venganza, lastimó al hijo del jefe.

Se enojo el jefe por el incidente con su hijo, y el mismo persiguió a Magallón por su propia venganza. El jefe de la tribu por fin alcanzo Magallón y le dio un golpe en la cabeza noqueándolo para poder secuestrarle. El jefe le llevo con los ciudadanos que fueron secuestrados por la tribu, y todos se fueron.

Llegando a la otra aldea de esta tribu, le pusieron a trabajar bien duro como castigo. Triste y solo, Magallón no pudo ver su familia. Sabiendo que Magallón les salvo de la violencia fue todo lo que necesitaba para poder seguir esperando el día que los iba ver de nuevo.

Magallon (English Translation)

This is the story of a Mayan man named Magallon who lived in a small village. To him, his family was everything. Magallon had a son and a wife who was pregnant at the time. One morning, a nearby tribe



came to the village, attacked all the men, and captured the women. During the violence, Magallon tried to hide his wife and son in a hole where no one would find them. Sadly, a tribesman saw him, so Magallon had to leave his wife and son before the attackers came to find them.

Magallon hid again before he could be seen. The attackers arrived where Magallon was hiding. In that moment, out of his fear of being caught, Magallon came out of hiding and ran into the forest. There, he found the son of the tribe's leader. Magallon had no option but to hurt the leader's son for his own safety and revenge.

Enraged by the incident with his son, the leader set out to find Magallon for his own revenge. The tribe leader finally caught up with Magallon and struck him on the head, knocking him unconscious to capture him. The chief took him back to the village where the rest of the captured people were being held, and they all left.

When they arrived at the village where the tribe lived, the tribesmen put all their captured people to work. Sad and alone, Magallon couldn't see his family. Knowing that Magallon saved them from violence was all he needed to continue waiting for the day he would see them again.

They Never Found the Killer Zierre L. Gill Southside Boys & Girls Club

The son's point of view:

I was upstairs lying on my bed waiting for my mom to get off work. I heard the door open, so I called my mom on the phone. She told me that she was not done with work. I heard more noise; I think the person downstairs started cooking. They called my name, and it sounded just like my mom. This time, I facetimed her. She was still at work.

The person started walking upstairs, so I ran under the bed. They called my name with a slow tone. Right then, my phone started ringing. The person's footsteps stopped. I ran from under the bed and jumped out the window. I woke up in the hospital in the middle of the night with my mom. She was asleep, and I had to use the bathroom. Walking up to it, I saw something run towards me! I leapt away, but I felt it catch up.

The mom's point of view:

I woke up to my son dead. I called the police, and they questioned me about what happened. I said I was asleep, but they think I killed him. They could not prove it. At the end of the day, I went to sleep. I woke up later that night with my son beside me. He said, "Mama, why did you kill me?" I tried to run out of my room, but the door was locked. My son's body changed into a weird looking thing.

The police officer's point of view:

The mom and her son were murdered in the exact same way: Eyes gashed out and blood spewed everywhere.

The Secret Discoverer Group Piece Downtown YMCA

CAST OF CHARACTERS



- ZOE: Abandoned in the woods as a baby to be raised by robot hunters, Zoe is smart, sassy, and brave. She does not know her real parents, and her best friend is Craig.
- CRAIG: Craig is one of the many robot hunters who have lived in these woods for generations.
- JASON: Once a human, his brain was implanted into a robot-fox's body. He knows secrets about Zoe, like how she was experimented on by her mother. Jason is over-protective of her.
- WILLA: Obsessed with science, Willa experiments in her secret laboratory hidden in the basement of a cabin deep in the woods. She is Zoe's biological mother.
- BEN: Father of Zoe and Sydney; married to Catherine.
- CATHERINE: Mother of Sydney and married to Ben.
- SYDNEY: Daughter of Catherine and Ben.

SCENE ONE

NARRATOR: This is a story about finding out who you are. Zoe and Craig are out robot-hunting. They are walking in the woods and talking about their friendship.

CRAIG: You know I have always loved you, Zoe.

ZOE: I love you, too, Craig. You are like a brother to me.

[Zoe turns around, looking into the woods so she doesn't have to look at Craig.]

ZOE: We should split up to cover more ground. You go that way, and I will go this way.

NARRATOR: Zoe and Craig go their separate ways, so they can hunt robot-animals. Shortly after, a robot-fox named Jason runs up to Zoe. JASON: Are you Zoe? Is it really you?

ZOE: Yeah, who's asking?

JASON: You are a cyborg. I know your mother and father.

ZOE: What? How? And your proof is...?

NARRATOR: Craig begins to run up to Zoe, having followed her because she forgot her hunting gear, and he wanted to return it. He stops just behind a bush, surprised to see Zoe talking with a robot-fox. Craig witnesses as Jason pours a little bit of water into a bucket and splashes Zoe with it. She glitches a little.

[Craig jumps out from behind the bush, shocked.]

CRAIG: You're a robot, and you've been lying to me for years!

ZOE: What are you talking about?

[Zoe looks at herself starting to glitch and spark. Craig aims his ray gun at Zoe.]

CRAIG: I don't believe you! You're a robot! How could you not tell me? Why must I hunt robot animals and all things robots?

JASON: No!

[Jason leaps forward and bites Craig's arm. Craig drops his ray gun, and it accidentally shoots him in the heart.

Craig dies.]

ZOE: OH MY GOD! You killed him!

[Zoe runs away.]

SCENE TWO

NARRATOR: Sad and confused, Zoe wanders through the forest until she comes across a cabin. No one answers her knocking. The door is open, but just as she is about to go inside, Jason catches up to her.

JASON: Stop!

ZOE: I don't want to talk to you.

JASON: This place is dangerous. ZOE: Not as dangerous as hanging out with you. You killed Craig!

JASON: I'm sorry. It truly was an accident. I just couldn't let him hurt you.

ZOE: Why do you even care?

JASON: I have to get something, Zoe. Lock the door behind me.

[Zoe sits down on a brand-new couch.]

ZOE: Okay.

[Someone bangs on the door. Zoe opens it slowly.]

ZOE: Hello?

[Willa pushes past Zoe into the cabin. Willa is wearing a white lab coat and goggles.]

WILLA: Whoa! Who are you?

[Jason enters the cabin behind Willa.]

JASON: Oh Zoe, about her...

ZOE: What about her? Say it!

WILLA: [Crosses arms.] Yeah, Jason, say it.

JASON: Well, this story starts 17 years ago with two pregnant women who each had a daughter. One daughter grew up with her parents, and the other was abandoned in the woods...

SCENE THREE

NARRATOR: Seventeen years ago, Ben and Catherine were a happy married couple. Or were they?

[Catherine and Ben are sitting on opposite sides of the room, talking with one another.] CATHERINE: Ben, come here. I have a surprise.

BEN: Yes?

CATHERINE: I'm pregnant. Are you happy?



BEN: Of course. Just a little surprised, that's all.

[Ben stands up and starts to panic.]

BEN: Um, I have to go get milk and will be back later.

[Ben leaves and heads over to Willa's cabin. He knocks on the door, and Willa lets him inside.]

BEN: What am I going to do, Willa? Catherine will never forgive me if she finds out!

WILLA: It's not my problem. You're the father. You take care of your kid!

BEN: I can't because of Catherine. It's different now. I can send you money, but I can't take our baby home.

WILLA: Fine. Since you're useless, I'll deal with it my own way.

NARRATOR: When her baby was born, Willa turned her into a cyborg. Jason, who was her assistant, tried to stop her. He knew what she was doing was evil and wrong. Willa knocked him out and transferred his brain into a robot-fox body as punishment, and then abandoned him and Zoe in the woods. Jason took care of Zoe as best he could, but he knew he couldn't keep her alive on his own. He took her to a robot-hunters' village and left her where humans would find and take care of her, even if they were now his enemy.

SCENE FOUR

[Zoe is standing inside the cabin with Jason and Willa. Ben and Catherine knock on the door. They enter with their daughter Syndey behind them.]

NARRATOR: Back in the present, Zoe is shocked by Jason's news of her origin. Suddenly, they hear a knock at the door. It's Ben and Catherine with their daughter, Sydney. Before Zoe can ask any questions, Jason interrupts.

JASON: This is Ben and Catherine. Zoe, Ben is your father.

WILLA: Ben! Are you here to finally take care of your daughter?

CATHERINE: Willa! I thought we were supposed to be friends.

BEN: I didn't know you both were friends.

WILLA: Not since the babies. Because of you, I just couldn't be Catherine's friend anymore.

SYDNEY: [Steps forward to talk to Zoe.] Why are you with this lady? She's crazy!

WILLA: [To Sydney.] Worry about you and stay in a child's place.

ZOE: [Goes from shocked to angry.] You mean I could have had a sister and a family all this time?

WILLA: I didn't want to have kids anyway. That's why I turned you into a robot. Now everyone, get out!

[End of Scene.]



Lost in the Pandemic Adriana Keyes Huguenot HS

When Covid became worldwide, quarantine caused me to focus less on school, be more withdrawn, to stress eat, and I became



depressed. My life during quarantine has been the most difficult challenge I have faced so far. I became irresponsible and developed severe anxiety and untwined family issues.

In the middle of my 9th-grade year, I started virtual school at Virtual Virginia. At first, virtual classes were great, and I had good grades. As 10th grade began, I was burning out fast. I started to slack on schoolwork, became unmotivated, and I wasn't focusing on Zoom calls. Helping my siblings with their virtual classes only made it harder to focus. Checking in on them was hard to do, especially while I had to deal with everyone else's attitudes and feelings.

Being locked up in the house with four other people seemed suffocating. I was sinking like someone stuck in quicksand, being pulled down every day stuck in cold and bitter darkness. There was no air, room, or personal space, and I heard constant yelling and screaming until bedtime. The first year of quarantine was extremely hard because my brother was diagnosed with Autism and ADHD. Getting my brother the help he needed took a while. The challenge of helping a child with mental health issues and independent needs while working was difficult.

During 11th-grade, I attended my second year of virtual school. I mainly took AP courses. It was challenging to stay on top of my assignments and projects. I struggled to balance my personal life and became depressed again. During guarantine, teachers stopped expecting too much of students. I looked forward to taking AP classes and meeting my teachers; however, as time passed, I slacked on my work more and more. I also became complacent and inefficiently managed my time. I'd go to bed late and wake up tired from completing assignments I was behind on. I failed two AP classes, but it wasn't because I didn't like them. I lost my motivation. My schoolwork wasn't my focus. Television, food, sleep, and TikTok were the center of my attention. Although I knew about burnout, I couldn't grasp its meaning until after I realized I was experiencing it.

I acknowledged I felt some form of depression and burnout throughout quarantine; however, I didn't start getting myself together until I saw my grades during the final semester of 11th grade. I pushed through with the help of my mother and her advocating on my behalf to my teachers. I slowly got into a routine. I found it difficult to rest or enjoy freedom away from virtual learning, and as a result, I was unable to socialize with friends.

This contributed to my social anxiety. Meeting a friend in person and the thought of coming back to school my senior year was terrifying! Not only did I have social anxiety, but I was also stressed and began binge eating. Even though I hated being in the house, I didn't want to go out and be around anyone. Getting my confidence back and seeing friends at school helped a lot. I'm excited to go to school again.

Lost in the Pandemic contd.

I'm now attending in-person school, and it has been a well-fought journey to recovery. This experience has taught me to be aware of my emotions, to have a routine, manage my time better, challenge myself to an extent, to be humble, and open to communicating with family and friends about my struggles. Taking virtual school during the pandemic resulted in me failing a few classes, but seasons are only temporary. It's what we do next that makes a difference!



Couldn't ruin my day, I was ready,
Then I got a call, the rain was too heavy,
So I ended up with some personal time,
Took off my coat and made it mine.
After, I decided to take a break,
Got out ingredients and made a cake,
Rinsed off some fruit and blended a shake.
Right then, I got a call for a retake—

They said, "We'll try another day."



Becoming a Dermatologist Laura Castano Partnership for the Future

"Mira, ven lavémonos la cara," was a sentence I would tell my grandma every night before going to bed. That sentence translates to, "Grandma, come wash your face with me." I would prepare different types of skin products, like cleansers and facial masks, that I would secretly take from my parents' room. I would hear her footsteps and start to get a feeling of happiness. I didn't feel happy because I was doing skincare; I was happy because I knew my grandma was going to walk into the room with a lovely smile on her face. I wanted my grandma to do her skincare with me, not because I wanted her to have clearer skin. I found out she was sick.

I was too young to know what it was. I just knew it affected her skin. I thought if she cleansed her skin constantly, it would go away. I didn't know she was actually suffering from skin cancer. My grandma eventually passed away, and that made me feel lonely and devastated. I am grateful to my grandma for many things, like being an amazing person and showing me how much I love helping people. This is the reason why I aspire to become a dermatologist.



Padium Program Members Fall 2022 - Summer 2023



Downtown YMCA

 Alex Dean, Amiya Brooks, Ariana Bagley, Ashlynn Williams, Asiah Mosby, Cauarasia Crawley- Johnson, Gabrielle Roberson, Genita Terrell, Jamia Underwood, Jason Higgs, Jayden Reid, Jamya Warrick, Jaziya Warrick, Ke'Asyia Clarke, Kendall Parker, Klowii Thomas, Leah Alert-Scott, Maddie Jenkins, Malachi Miller, Melvin Jones, Mialon Pitchford, Nylah Jenkins, Pharrah Mosby, Samara Thomas, Schaia Parker, Tacori Lorant-Wright, Tae'Mirah Cheatham, Taneah Alert-Scott, Tatyana Johnson, Tavion Bush, Teniya Kelly, Tonya, Ty'Najah Sutton, and Zaria Delaney- Gates

Metro Richmond Boys & Girls Clubs

- East End Teen Center: A'Landa Macklin, Jaeda Perry, Jayden Crosby, Kaiya Jenkins, Kenneth Boyd, and Tuchili Pierce
- Petersburg: Drae Watson, Nevaeh Grandison, Omoye' Banks, Chris Tobin, Malachi Bryant, Amaya Briggs, Emmanuela Gibson, Lailani Graves, Jaheim Parham, Jaylnn Bostic, Michelle Ruiz, Serenity Bates, and Zachariah Eagle
- Southside: Aianna Jones, Amyra Hawkins, Andrea Brown, Izell Clair, Jordan Coward, Judah Seals, Kaylee Boserman, Ki-govni Lewis, Sasha Beasley, Shyloh Parker, Ahmad Cotton, Camrin Williams, David Bowman, Faheem Jordan, Jaheem Draughn, Maliyah Anderson, Shanell Draughn, Tianna Jones, Zavier James, and Zierre L. Gill

Partnership for the Future

Tobenna Akunwafor, Atiful Alam, Sara Aljassar, Bara Alkhafaji, Micah Anderson, Torrence Artis, Jordan Athy, Naziya Bradley, Myasia Bridy, Herbert Bullock, Martir Bustillo, Eva Carson, Laura Castano, Nazifa Chowdhury, Maya Christian, Justin Cotman, MaLeah Cowan, Nylah Doswell, Christian Duval, Taylor Ellis, Keyri Estrada Alvarado, Mina Fahim, Aries Franklin, Tyler Furbert, Orren Gordon, Chariah Harrison, Mikhail Haywood, Jaqueline Hercules Rodriguez, Imani Hill, Bria Hinojosa-Hernandez, Symone Hutchinson, Johnathan Ingram, Senya Jackson, Yazmine Jackson, Ivan Jara, Kevin Jasper, Ana Jones, Arianna Jordan, Jackson Jordan, Ibram Karam, Joseph Labriny, Synay Lambert, Christian Lightfoot, Nathan Lim, Hamid Majidi, Danielle McDonald, Keziah McKenna, Amr Mohamed, Khristian Moses, Mercedes Norwood,

Partnership for the Future contd.

 Mya Quivers, Kifah Riddick, Fatma Sidi-Elemine, Dramyah Singleton, Olando Smith, Randy Smith, Aniya Stevens, Jaiydia Thigpen, Yulissa Tinoco-Cruz, Adrian Tovar, Nevaeh Turner, Tahairah Turner, Estefany Villalta-Bonilla, Janisha Wilkins, and Maliah Wyatt

Peter Paul Development Center

 Aasia Robinson, Andrea Waters, Aubrey Roane, Brooklyn Minter, Caleb James, Caleigh James, Dior Redd, Jakayla Petters, Jibril McClendon, Joel Gilmore, Jonte' Hembrick Jr, Kendrick Williams, LaKayla Pettus, Larry Waters, Leilani Lucas, Mariyah Cole, Myceian Patterson, Sincere Johnson, and Tyler Mallory

Petersburg National Park

Rory Dickinson, Kaitlyn Holmes, Erin Lorato, and Syan Moore

The Well

 Aiden Rhodes, Anderson Lopez Cahver, Angelica Morals Betancourt, Anthonia Taylor, Ashauni Black, Daveon Pope Jr., Elisan Fretwell, Gavin Blana, Germaye Lewis, Glanelle McCory, Ja'Niya Anderson, Jahir Jackson, Jai'Mani Banks, Jorden Feury, Keron Jackson, Khaniya White, Lizeht Fierrus Chaver, Makayla Johnson, Na'Ziyah Street, Ni'aysia Russell, Ny'zaeah Taylor, Olivia Evelyn, Rose Johnson, Taquan Ellis, Tre'Quan Coleman, Ty'Nala Write, and U'maya Moss

Fairfield Middle School

 Alora Dismuke, Amir Maupin, Ariya Towles, Caleb Atkins, Carlos Juarez, Christian Burden, Darrell Antwain Bigelow Jr, Genesis Grent, JaBri Brown, Jacobi Butler, Jamoriah Baskerville, Javell Maupin, Jay'Asia Edwards, Jeremiah Robinson, Joshua Turner, Kae'onna Phillip, Kayden Shirt, Kerron Hugh, Kriseon Mccoy, Kyle Thompson, Kyree Maruble, La'Bria Toler, Ladarian Toler, Marvel Nwajiaku, Missouri Lackley, Montrell Gates, Niya Smith, Norrel White, Nyasia Smith, Saniya Shepperson, Savell Murpin, Summer Welcome, Toniah Minor, and Ty'tiuanna Link

Henderson Middle School

 Amari Mingron, Imani Jackson, Kendee Smith, and Kennedy Greene

Lucille Brown Middle School

 A'leyah Rivers, Anyely Navarro Sanchez, Ariana Cooper, Avah Jackson, Ayana Haskins, Cali Rivers, Daija Spence, Dakota Langley, Elija Jackson, Haven-Marie Twitty, Hope Evans, Jaylen Sanchez, Journey Woodward, Kiera Collins, Kor'lasia Hicks, Lee'Asia Brown, Lydia Purvis, Miko Thomas, Ne'ven Jones, Nyasia Johnson, Robert Johnson, Serenity Venable, Teyanna Ruiz, Tyana Gibson, and Zaniyya Jenkins

Wilder Middle School

 Aaron Wiliams, Akira Smith-Johnson, Akire Mosley, Alizar Alaghba-nr, Ariana Pratt, Arilon Preston, Aubrey Williams, Ayden Preston, Brandon Callends, Denair Dungee, Deon Montgomery, Eva Paterson, Jacob Wallace Jr., Jahki Blount White, James Niyo, Jazzmin Reed, Mandeleni Washishi, Paris Dungee, Remas Alaghbari, Shelby Smith, Sienna Earles, Stephan Antonio Cobb, Sydney Smith, Syncere Smith, Taylor Griffin, Tommy Beauchamp, Victor Beauchamp, William Ogburn, and Zyferah Smith

Armstrong High School

Aasia Robinson, Alana Hamilton, Albiegelle Simms, Almira Moore, Amaria Martin, Ameer Jones, Aniyah Rawl, Antonio Fleneary, Ariyana Coleman, Caleb Smith, Cassidy Rozario-Rock, Ce'von Green, Ceguan Atkinson, Chania Belfield, Charish Conquer, Cheniyah Arrington, Curron Wynn, Dakirah Adams, Daguan Crewe, Darnesha Shackleford, Darren Walker, Dasia Maneil, Dephina Chiles, Devin Elis, Devon Baker, Dre'shawn Smith-Johnson, E'maya Hayes, Gabriel Richardson, Genesis Hunter, Jackson Jordan, Jacob Steward, Jadda Davis, Jadon Morris, Jahkirah Thomas, Jahtwon Pleasant, Jai'vron Thorpe. Jailene Camacho, Jakirah Thomas, Jamari Johnson, James Frazier, Jamian Harper, Jamir Wilson, Janiya Taylor, Jaquan Johnson, Jarmar Roane, Javon Baker, Jayla Cribb, Jayla Massenburg, Jenee Glover, Joel Gillmore, Johnathan Smith, Jomauri Davis-Hicks, Jovan Baker, Kahrell Hightower, Kaniya Hayes, Karma Hardy, Karma Roberts, Kemyra Taylor, KeNyah Smith, Key'John White, Kharizma Owens, Kydree Holloway, Lanivah Fields, Laron Turner, Lea Mendez,

Armstrong High School contd.

Lorrie Winchester, Mahogany Loftin, Mali'yana Hamlin, Mariam Jackson, Mariyah Johnson, Mekhi Taitt, MiJonia Bell, Miyana Williams, N'Shai Gale, Najah Waters, Naomi Loftin, Natoryae Carter, Nehiamiah Chisholm, Nia Rice, Nishae Branner Bailey, Norman Farrington, Nyasia Crews, Quinton Baylor, Rishawn Pressley, Roy Dreamingbear, Samaya Goffney, Saniyah Walker, Sarah Carlton, Sharod Edmonds, Ta'Miyah Whitaker, Tahrique Iverson, Tamira James, Tiana Foster, Tiaudra Christian, Tiffany Harrison, Toniece Harris, Tyajah Trice, Tyleia Carter, Tyler Jei Steele, Vincent Mahorn, Xavier Rawl, Xzavian Clarke, Zahriona Bennett, and Zion Lundy

George Wythe High School

Adam Zach, Amahri Harper-Carter, Amauri Dixon, Aniyah Harper-Carter, Arivana Thompson, Ashaney Smith, Autumn Johnson, Ayron Daniels, Brianna Napier, Catherine Cobbs, Christopher Erby II, Christopher Smith, Chrystal Reyes, Daquan Packer, Daveon Canada, Debbie Gomez-Rivera, Devlyn Carmichael, Diane Sanchez, Dominique Smith, E'macio Jefferson, Jachaun Taylor, Jaliyah Daniels-Smith, Jamal Shakespeare-Jones, Jamesha Hicks, Janiya Turner, Jaria Brown, Javliah Daniels-Smith, Jesiah Robinson, Johnnai Brunner, Jovante Johnson, Ka'Lysa Hickman, Ke'velle King, Kely Alvarado, Kender Quininez, Kevaughn Brooks, Lamar Erby, Lanasia McDowell, Laylianah McBrayer, Madison Martinez, Makayla Forbes, Maria Coy Choc, Mariah Dorsey, Mekhi Richards, Miyah Miller, Morgan Ajealip, Moses Cramp III, Olivia Crews, Quaylah Santiago, Quentoria Chandler, Richard Johnson, Riley Conyers, Samantha Kirby, Shevontae Johnson, Shyla Scott, Tae'Quawn Mangrum, Taleah Childress, and Tayneise Jones

Highland Springs High School

 Aaliyah Ingram, Adrien Baker, Amari Williams, Anderson Alexander, Andrew Ingram, Andrew Thweatt, Angel Clark, Antoine Thierny, Briana Johnson, Camryn E. Carroll, Carmen Ingram, Christian Brown, Christian Cummings, Christian Walker, Damonne Woolridge, DeAndra Lewis, Dereon Goodwyn, Deshawn Fitz, Diamond Richardson, Dylen Chappell, Eian Siebert, Emari Carter, Gabrielle Ingram, Gabby Williams, Hydia Jones, Imani Davis, Jakobe Allen, Jaliyah Douglas, Jasper Matthews, Jesse Hill, Joaquim Howell, Joi Callahan,

Highland Springs High School contd.

 Jordan Champion, Julaysia Cherry, Kadyn Garcia, Kamal White, Kavyahnna Blakey, Kemari Marrow, Kemonte Gates, Keyionna Christian, Kiara Blair, Kingston Williams, Kyle Byrdsong, Lavar Fisher, Marcel Smith, Maya Jones, Myasia White, Naailah Veasy, Nilaisa Singleton, Qiana Johnson, Rakeem Parham, Randy Holmes, Reliance Nwajiaku, Salima Mujingce, Saniya Anderson, Savanna Wooldridge, Seanzhara Joseph, Shamira Ghee, Shania Abermatly, Sheyna Esson, Sierra Morrow, Tahye Burgess, Tarah Arnold, Terrell Moore, Tionna Clanton, Travis Faison, Tyvaughn Cheatham, Xylah Walker, Zubria Taylor, and Zy'hara C.

John Marshall High School

 A'riyona Dunson, Aidan Mayas, Aisha Lewis, Akeilah Owens, Allanah Hicks-Thompson, Alphonso Collier Jr., Bre Wright-Anthony, Cameron Roberts, Ceiera Sherrod, Cemia Sherrod, Christopher Stallings, Christy Anderson-Johnson, Ciana Turner, Dacaijah Hayden, Davida Carryl, Dayvon Bryant, De'nay Hill, Deasia Hill, Jadon Brown, Jazmyne Rattliff, Jeremiah Stallings, Jermaine Jones, Jordan Magwood, Kenneth Boyd, Leslie Green, Rayven Williams, Shamel Murchison, Shamya Williams, Torreyanna Lindsey, Tredell Ross, Triniti Jackson, and Xavier Stallings

Varina High School

 Aadyn Kersey, Aaliya Moore, Abigail Schwenk, Adrian Kersey, Aminah Cowick, David Jones, Dymeir Cooper, Gregory Minor, Howard Johnson, J Anthony Teasley, Jade Dawkins, Kamille Dunmore, Kori Chambers, Laila Robinson, Lyfe Brown, Lyric Brown, Mylexus Mayo, Nyomi Watkins, Rihanna Phipps, Sakara Bey, Stevi Hawkes, TaQuan Love, and Trevon Harris

Huguenot High School

Abdiel Santiago, Adrianna Green, Alexis Enamorado, Alvaro Ruiz, Amaya Bell, Andrew Muniz, Ardony Aguilar, Ariana Vitervo-Olivera, Arlin Hernandez, Brayan Flores, Brileydi Villatoro, Ca'Miyah King, Carlos Garcia, Carlos Marcano, Cesar Augusto Molina, Chayse Darden, Christine Hernandez, Destiny McKiever, Dilan Centeno Brenes, Dilcia Carolina, Elier Lopez, Elijah Watson, Elmer Vasquez, Erik Alvarez, Estefani Ramirez, Ever Jorge, Exon Mejia, Flor Aviles, Fredy Pinzon, Fredy Valdez, Genesis Perdomo Meroiz, Hasheim Cephus, Hetzon Lajuj, Hiber Hernandez, Isis Samuels, Jabari Ohree, Jacobo Salinas Perez, Jade Ranae Mckenzie, Jakaila Teeters, Jamarcus Fletcher, Jamell Mitchell, Jamir Elliott, Jasmynn Harris, Jayonna Henley, Jayson Bartolon, Jeferson Alvarez, Jefferson Rodriguez Castillo, Jefrey Mondragon, Jeniffer Castro, Jennifer Perez, Jose Ocampo, Jose Soto, Joshua Simmons, Josteen Rivera Perez, Jostin Cisneros, Josue, Ismael Ayala Calderon, Josue Laguna Gomez, Josue Sierra, Kathleen Hernandez, Katia Flores, Kerem Cantoral, Kevin Corado, Lanayisa Boone, Lindsay Castro, Luz Rivera Apolinaris, Malia Harris, Mani Gonzales, Marco Sagastizado, Marcos Alvarez, Marcos Flores, Mariah Henley, Mario Josue Rivera Contreras, Marisol Marquez, Markel Dewitt, Meily Munoz, Miguel Zuniga-Arellano, Mirakhal Dandridge, Miriam Usalde, Mirza Camaja, Nancy Alverto, Oscar Vanegas, Reggie Chance, Ric'Kara Cooper, Rihanna Ferrell, Rosi Dominguez, Samira Lucas, Sara Lopez, Sayra Rodriguez, Shaniece Clay-Cooke, Sherry Rosales Martinez, Sommer Dunkley, Steven Castro, Synhai Parker, Tatiana Hernandez, Tianna Casins, Trevia Slayton, Trinity Martin, Ty Pinkston, Yasmin Reves Paz, Yeferson Pablo Lopez, and Zhenly Murillo



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