



# unmute (the zine)

If you can  
hear my voice

2021/2022  
VOLUME 2



## What is a **zine**?

Zines provide a safe, independent platform of expression for underrepresented and marginalized voices: Black, Indigenous & People of Color, young people, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ(+) community, persecuted religious groups, and people with limited economic resources. .

## What is **unmute** (the zine)?

unmute is a zine that showcases the artwork students created during their **Speak Up** residencies with **Northlight Theatre** this year.

## What is **Speak Up**?

Speak Up is a performing arts residency that fosters social responsibility. Students will explore their identities, research events impacting their community, and collaborate on original works of art with their peers. By harnessing the power of performance, students will engage in dialogue about how to celebrate, promote, and maintain positive change in their community.





# STUDENT WORK

"Choking Pedals/My Mixtape"

I am constricted by a flower

I wonder if the petals are medicinal

I see the way you glower

I wish you loved unconditional

I feel as though you were mine;

However, for some reason I struggle to rhyme

I reach around my throat

Because I want to feel unbound

I am touched by a tickle that holds a thousand volts

I wonder if my tears are meant to be alight

I see the way the nears its last note

I wish that our love didn't feel so right.

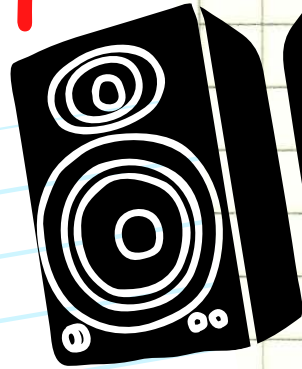
I feel the taste of a lime;

However, I still cannot rhyme

Now as I reach the end of my last note

I realize live can no longer be a flower

ANGEL



HOW CAN WE FIX THIS CURSED WORLD

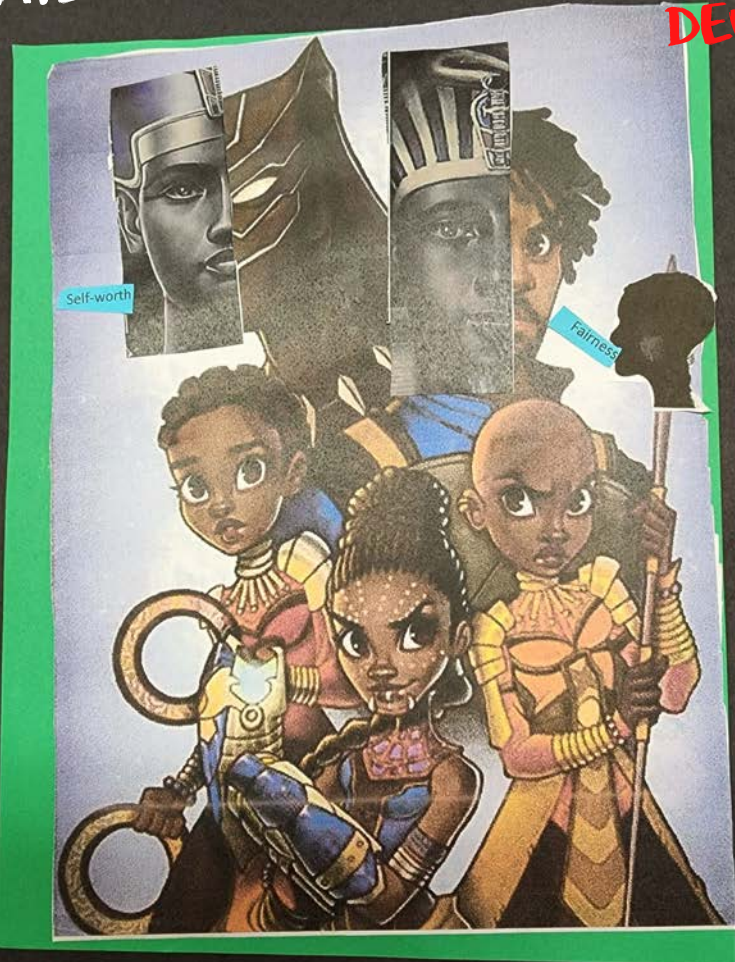
TYRONE

This world is cursed let me tell why there is litter in this world but who's gonna clean it? They say equal rights for all but when is it gonna happen? You see there will always be fixes but problems never go away all I'm saying is when will we come to our senses and try to fix this world.





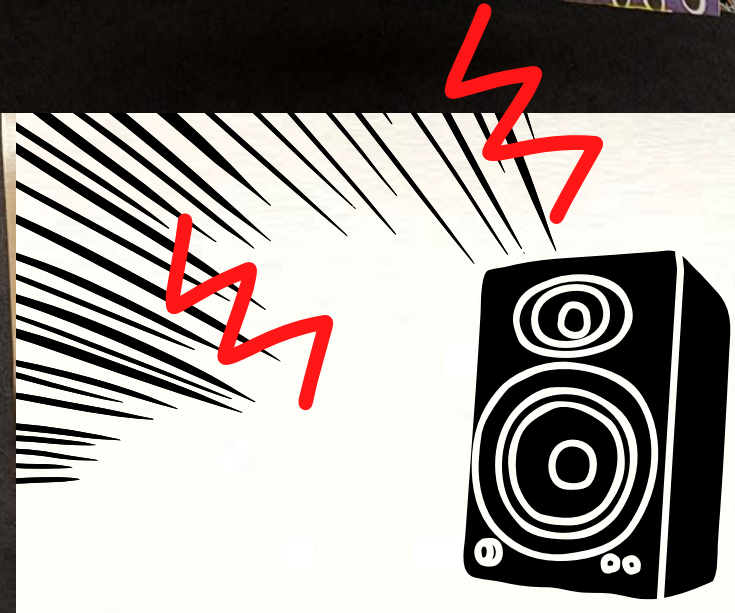
THE ONE WHO KILLED AN EVIL GOD  
DEVONN



CULTURE  
CHESS



A DEFINITE FUTURE  
CORDELL





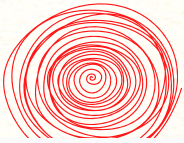
# IF YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE

**SYRE**

When I hear my voice, I hear the wind on a sunny day  
When you hear my voice, you hear a shy person, trying her best

If you can hear my voice know that I am from  
My voice is loud when I'm out with my father  
My voice is quiet when I'm myself

I use my voice when I need to say something  
So if you can hear my voice, know that I am  
I want my voice to proud and loud  
I hope my voice could  
So if you can hear my voice



STUDENT WORK

# BASKETBALL DISAGREEMENTS

**CAMIA**

Scene Description

Conflict: 2 basketball players having a disagreement on who the best player is.

Setting: Basketball court at playoff games

Characters: 2 basketball teams, 2 coaches, and 1 ref

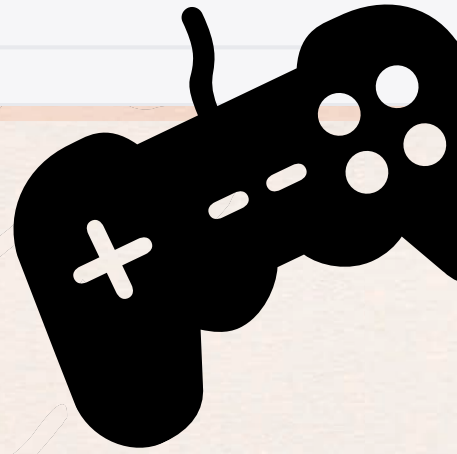
Story: There's two seconds left in the game and basketball player 1 (BP1) tries to shoot the winning shot but the ref said he didn't make the two second so basketball player 2 (BP2) team wins. When BP2 team won they started saying that BP1 team is trash, which made the two teams start to fight. The ref broke the fight up and said that BP2 was suspended from the championship game, and his team had to play without him.





# WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME

## SHAVONNA



What it's like to be me?

It's like playing video games

On a Friday night

It's like a long boring day at school

It's like finally being able to get on my phone

It's like playing bingo

BINGO!

I enjoy playing bingo because I get to compete

Against a room full of strangers



What it's like to be me?

It's like Friday night staying up past midnight

And sleeping 'til noon

It's like not worrying about school the next morning

What it's like to be me?

It's like my 6th period

I like doing math for an hour straight

It's like finding math easy once I get the work



What it's like to be me?

It's like watching crime documentaries every night

It's like watching forensic files on the big screen in my living room

It's like unsolved mysteries or 48 hours on the cbs channel



# WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME

## SHAVONNA



(CONTINUED)

What it's like to be me?

It's like being a homebody

It's like staying home

It's like being comfortable in your own space

It's like being in your own zone

What it's like to be me?

It's like losing track of time

It's like a long day at school

It's like doing homework

It's like being tired ready for bed

It's like taking a nap

It's like waking up and you've lost track of time

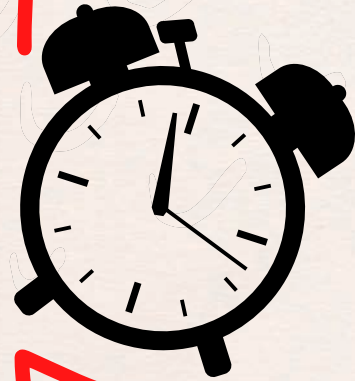
What it's like to be me?

It's like watching one piece for nearly a whole year straight

I enjoy one piece thank you

Eiichiro Oda for that

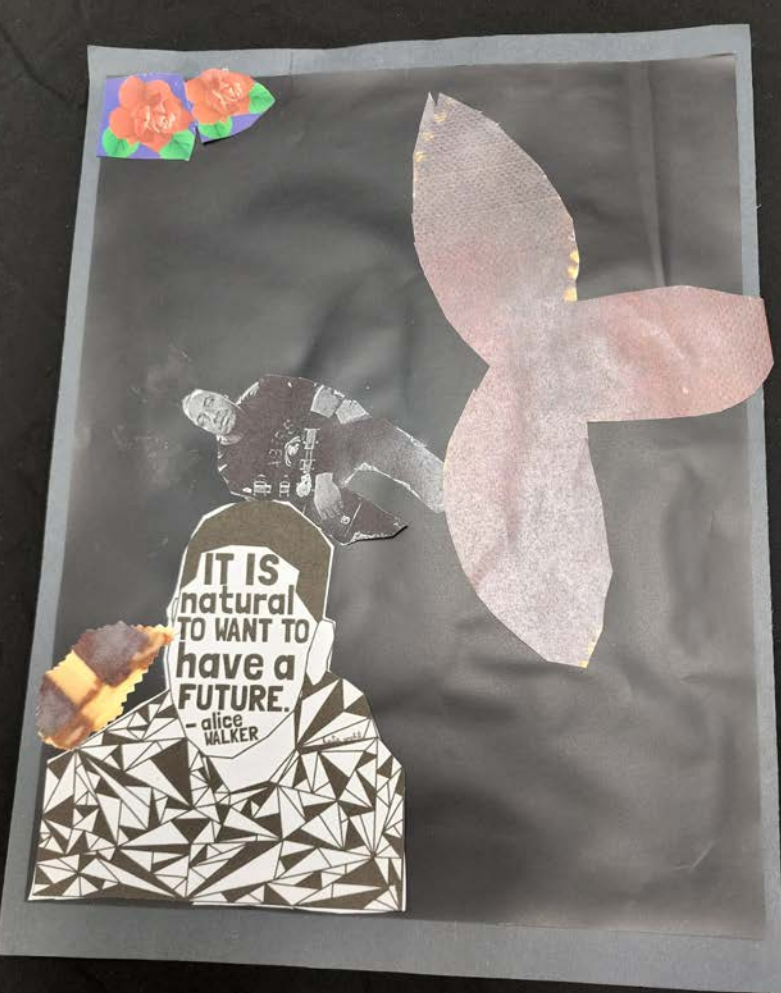
That's what it's like to be me



STUDENT WORK

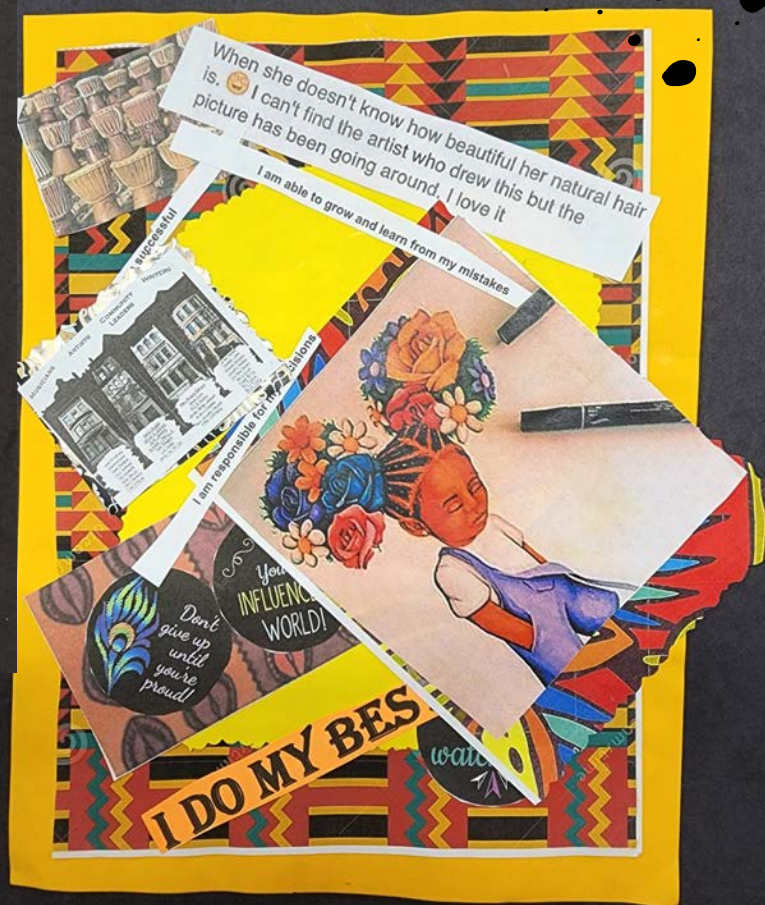






BLACK/WHITE

JOHNNY

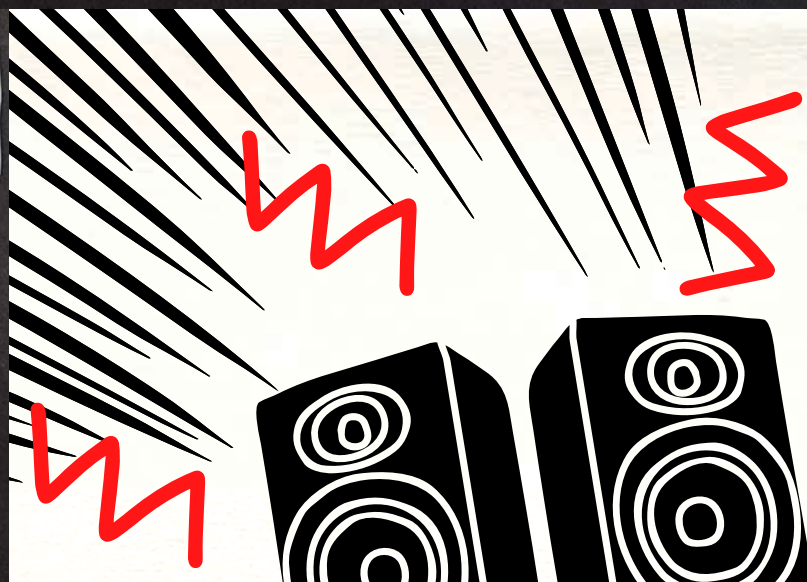


SELF CONFIDENCE



BLACK EXCELLENCE

KENYA





# STUDENT WORK

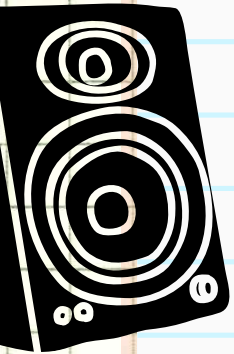
My name is Marshawn and it's hard going up in Chicago because people are killed everyday and kids can't even play outside anymore. I really think people should put the guns down so kids can get the proper education they want or need. I see myself graduating from college and going to the basketball league and being the best player I can be in 5 years.

MARSHAWN

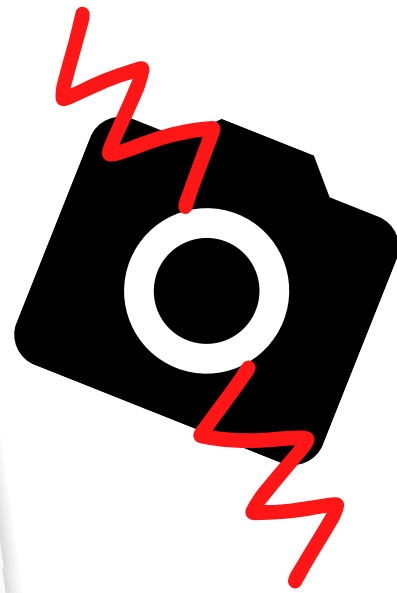


## STOP GUN VIOLENCE TORY

Gun violence is bad we need to stop it we got people killing people for no reason people murdering a lot of people for no reason. We need to stop guns ruining our neighborhood and our cities. Everyday I wake up to hear on the news that someone has got shot and died.



# IDENTITY COLLAGES



**JACKY**



# JEZABEL



# STUDENT **WORK**

## SHATTERED STARS

**NOEL**



## CLOUDS/SUN

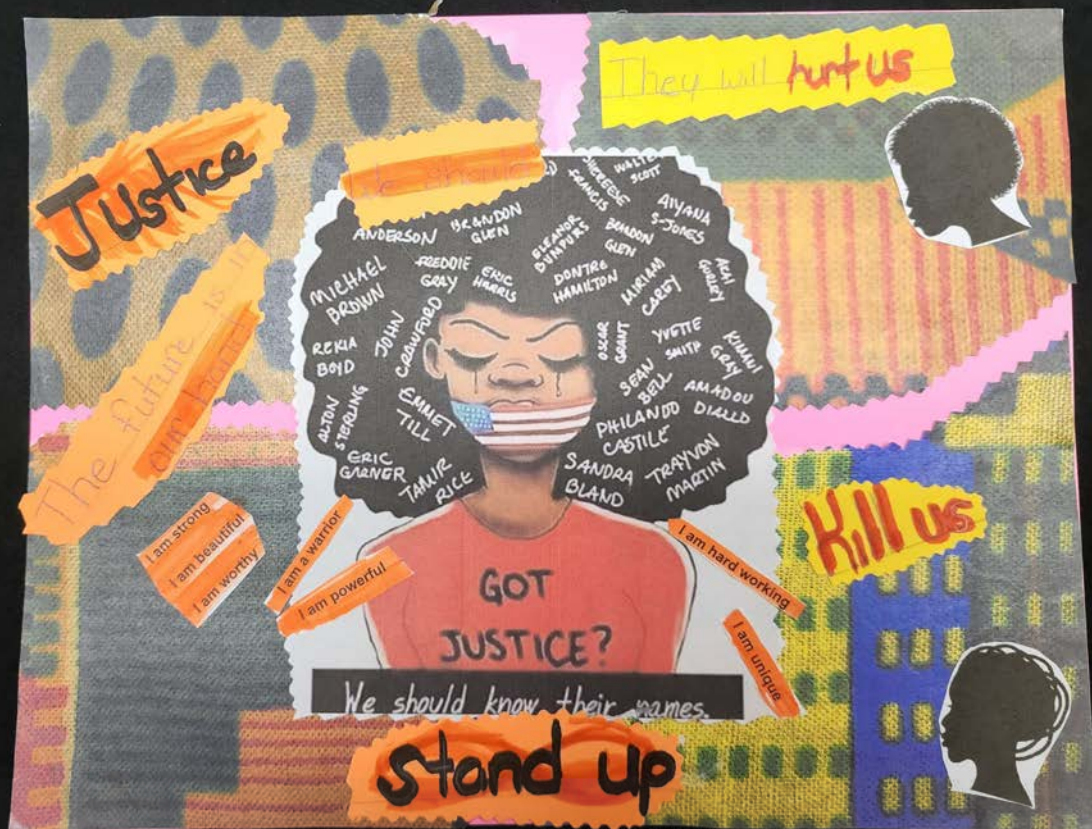
**NOEL**





# STAND UP

# ZARIAH



## YOUNG HAIRSTYLES ANIYAH

I am a young black hairstylist at the age of 12 turning 13. I'm in Chicago doing hair and making the most money that I can to get my things that I need. I go to the school Henderson where a lot of things happen every day but have good grades. I love thick black hair because it shows how much they have grown it out and can show that black people can also have long hair as well. I love doing hair cause it helps me with things.



# STUDENT WORK

## THE LIFE IN CHICAGO

My name is Angel. I am from Chicago and my family is from Mexico. In Chicago and in Mexico there is a lot of shooting. People die every day in these streets.

Sometimes people feel like just going some different way and I don't blame them. I feel like the shooting is everywhere. I understand that sometimes people use guns for self-protection. But then sometimes people use guns to kill. I don't like this.

## CHICAGO KILLING NEEDS TO STOP

Aye, I got a cousin named Devion that was shot 20 times to gun violence I'm just trying to make it out and I'm just saying this one time I wanna be a rapper and stop killers to stop killing kids The way the killing it makes me feel mad unhappy I'm gonna make my words heard.



# STUDENT WORK

FUTURE!  
CHANITYAH

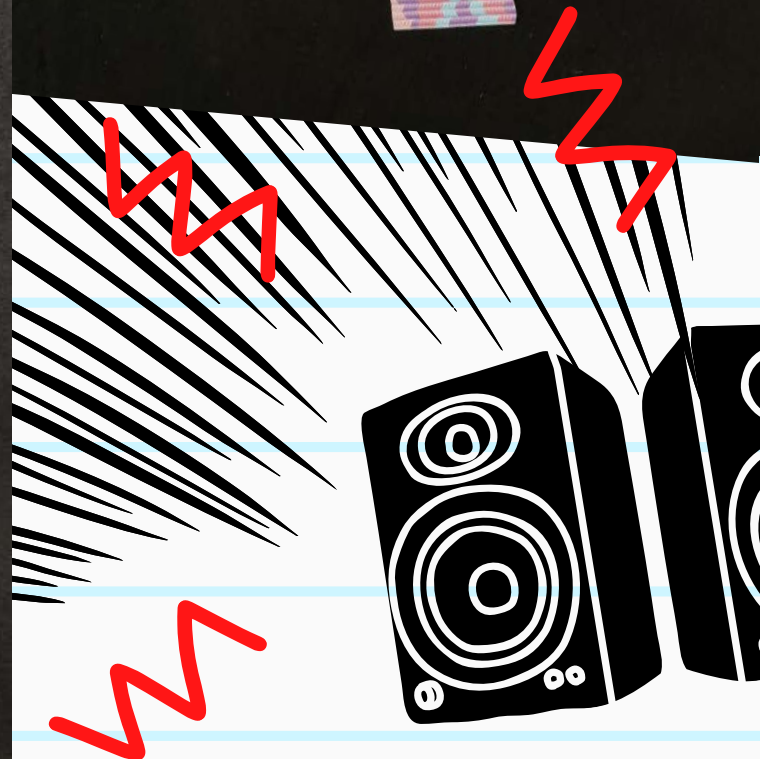


DREAMS  
SAHARA

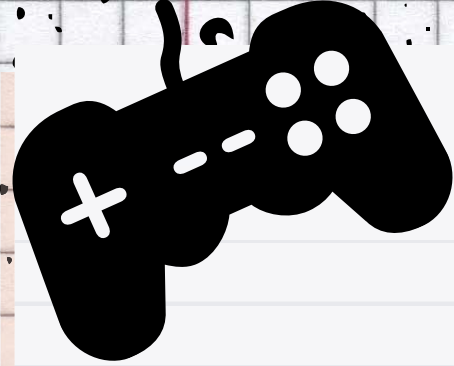


PEACE AND LEADERSHIP

XIAMIRA







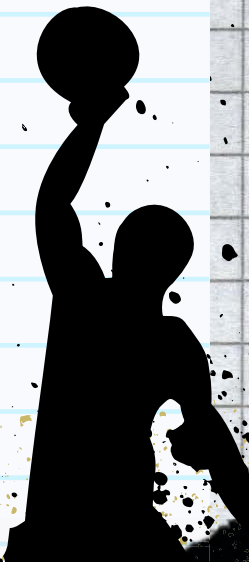
**KENSEAN**

My name is Kensean some games can be helpful in ways some games can help you learn math reading and other classes some games can help you earn money by making them and publishing them to steam or can make ads to let people know about your game or playing in pro league in some games and make millions of dollars like fortnite apex legends counter strike clash royale pubg arena of valor league of legends

**I LOVE BASKETBALL**

**KAYLA**

I am a girl that is 13 years old and loves to play basketball. It's very fun to do and when I don't have anything to do I think about playing basketball. When I was little I would always watch basketball with my mother and I knew that I would love to play basketball when I get older. I am on a basketball team and I like being with my teammates. basketball really helps me with my anger when I'm mad and it calms me down.



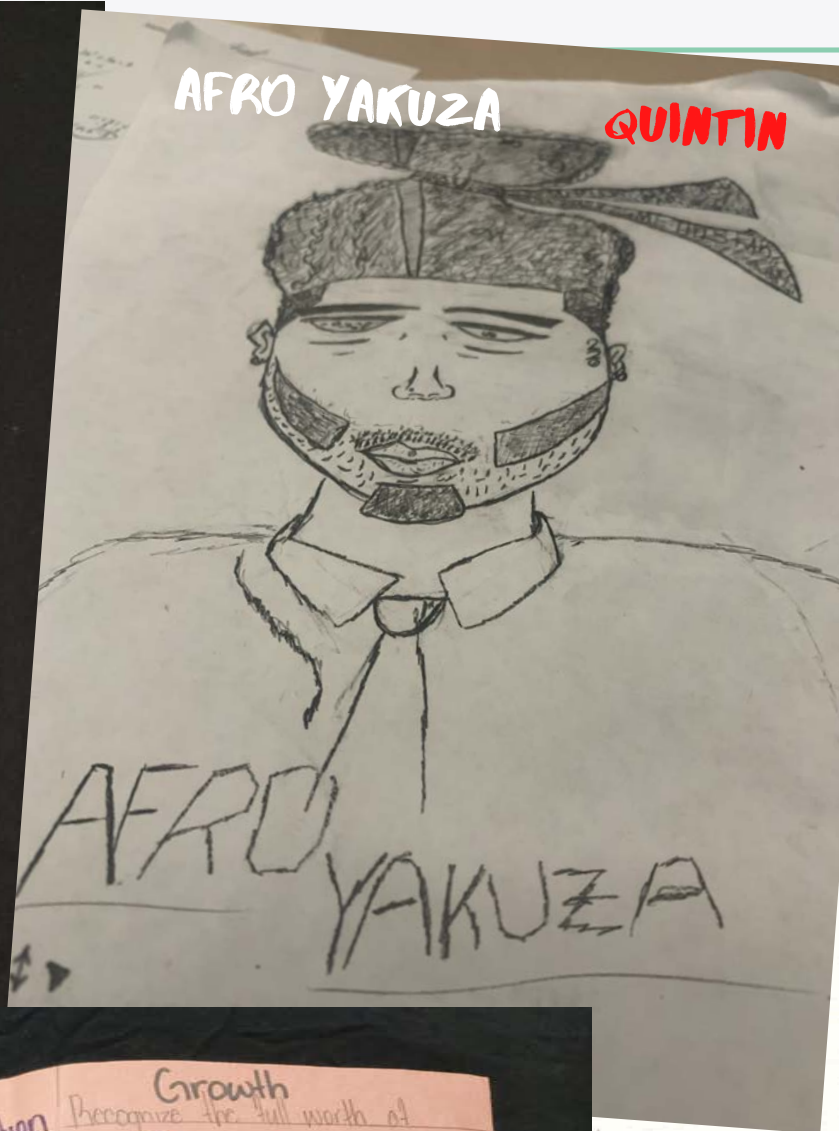
**STUDENT WORK**



# AFRO-FUTURE BRANDON



# AFRO YAKUZA QUINTIN



Peace Feeling or showing an appreciation	Grateful	Appreciation	Growth Recognize the full worth of
Hope A part or portion of a larger amount	Share	Love	Respect An intense feeling of deep affection
Joy The ability to understand	Empathy	Kindness	Giving The quality of being friendly
Be Happy The combination of all circumstances	Harmony	Connect	Be Patient Bring together or into contact
Share The process of receiving	Growth	Peace	Love Freedom from disturbance; tranquillity
Empathy A feeling of deep admiration	Joy	Giving	Kindness Providing love or other care
Harmony	Respect	Hope	Kindness A feeling of expectation and desire
DREAM Big	Be Happy	Be Patient	Do your best

# MOTIVATION MOVE DAMAREYA





# I AM ME **MAGLIO**



## A LAND FAR AWAY **LAILA**

They never listen to us in this world, All they see is people of color and they're dangerous. Where I come from violence is big.

Everybody dying left and right for no reason, Nobody cares about one another. I'm a young black girl in a dangerous world. Not knowing if tomorrow is promised but i have to be safe and secure to make sure it is. Chicago is very dangerous in its own way, From robbery and car jacking to shooting which is the biggest in the society. Everyday I hope peace and love comes and no more violence is needed. It's all just hatred towards one another.



# STUDENT WORK

## OUR LIVES

Hi I'm Emmanuel I'm from Chicago. When I walk by myself on the streets I look on my sides and my back because anything can happen when you don't look.

When I sleep I hear shootings almost every night. One time it happened next to my house and one bullet was shot at my house I was in my living room and we all got down.

I wonder, will it ever get better?

I see cops on the road just in case something happens.

I want a good life where I at least make it to 30.

EMMANUEL

I AM

ISAAC

I am brave I'm smart

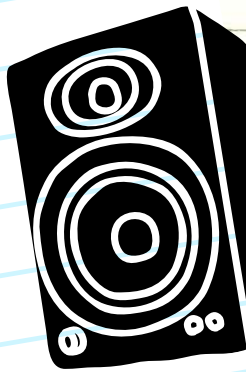
I wonder if aliens exist

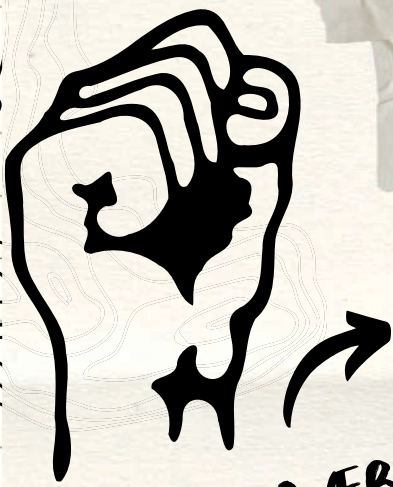
I hear my dog barking

I see abandoned houses dirty streets cops that don't make me safe

I want to see life

I am a student





PRIDE N POWER  
JULISSA



ARE FAVORITE COLOR  
ALEXANDER



STUDENT WORK



# MY LIFE

# JAMYRA

my life is good but sometimes it can get bad due to losing people in my life see I like to have fun! I like to go outside sometimes I got to stay in the house because I have school in the morning but when I don't have school i go with my friends see living in Chicago is hard everyday it's killing, kids choose thug life. Thug life is not go get nowhere but and jail or killed, but this is the life we live .



TRAVELING IN THE  
COMMUNITY PART 3:  
WALKING TO THE BUS  
**WATCH NOW!**

password:  
traveling

## THE FACE OF POWER JAMARI





INSPIRED BY THE ZINE?

USE THE SPACE BELOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN ARTWORK

YOUR **WORK**







INSPIRED BY THE ZINE?

USE THE SPACE BELOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN ARTWORK

your **work**







# THANK YOU!

THE ARTWORK IN THIS ZINE WAS PROVIDED BY ARTISTS AT THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL  
HENDERSON ELEMENTARY  
JOHNSON COLLEGE PREP  
MARCUS GARVEY ELEMENTARY  
MAYS ACADEMY  
RAUNER COLLEGE PREP  
SOUTHSIDE OCCUPATIONAL ACADEMY

NORTHLIGHT IS GRATEFUL TO THE RALLA KLEPAK FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT WHICH PROVIDES RESOURCES TO OUR COMMUNITY'S YOUTH TO ENGAGE WITH OUR THEATRE ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS.



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THEATRE





