



#### 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 digital zine that showcases the artwork students created during their Speak Up residencies With Northlight Theatre this year. This edition of the zine features student work from the 2022-2023 school year and was compiled and designed by Northlight Teaching Artist Stephanie Munoz With support from Northlight Administrative Assistant Eric Smith

#### 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

I an scared

By Keila Sanchez

IN THIS WORLD THERE ARE FEARS. FEARS OF OUR FUTURE.

THE TEARS I HAVE ARE NOT SUBTLE.

THEY HOLD POWER OVER ME AND MY MIND.

EVERY DAY THAT I LET MY TEARS ROAM TREE THE MORE THAT THEY MAKE ME WONDER AND PONDER WHAT IT?

WHAT IF I FAIL AND LET MY FEARS EAT ME WHOLE. WHAT WILL BE LETT OF ME TO BE CHERISHED AND TO

POSSIBLY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF MY PEERS AND



STOP GUN VIOLENCE BY

JUSTIN DAVID

I am angel

ANGEI SANCHEZ I wonder if i will be successful

I hear my work

I see my future

I want things to be okay

I am angel

I pretend to be in my happy space

I feel happy

I touch things When i'm nervous

I worry a lot

I cry When things go badly

I am angel

I understand when people are mad at me

I say things to cheer my friends up

I dream to be a soccer player

I try to be helpful

I hope to be friends with people who are mad at me

I am angel







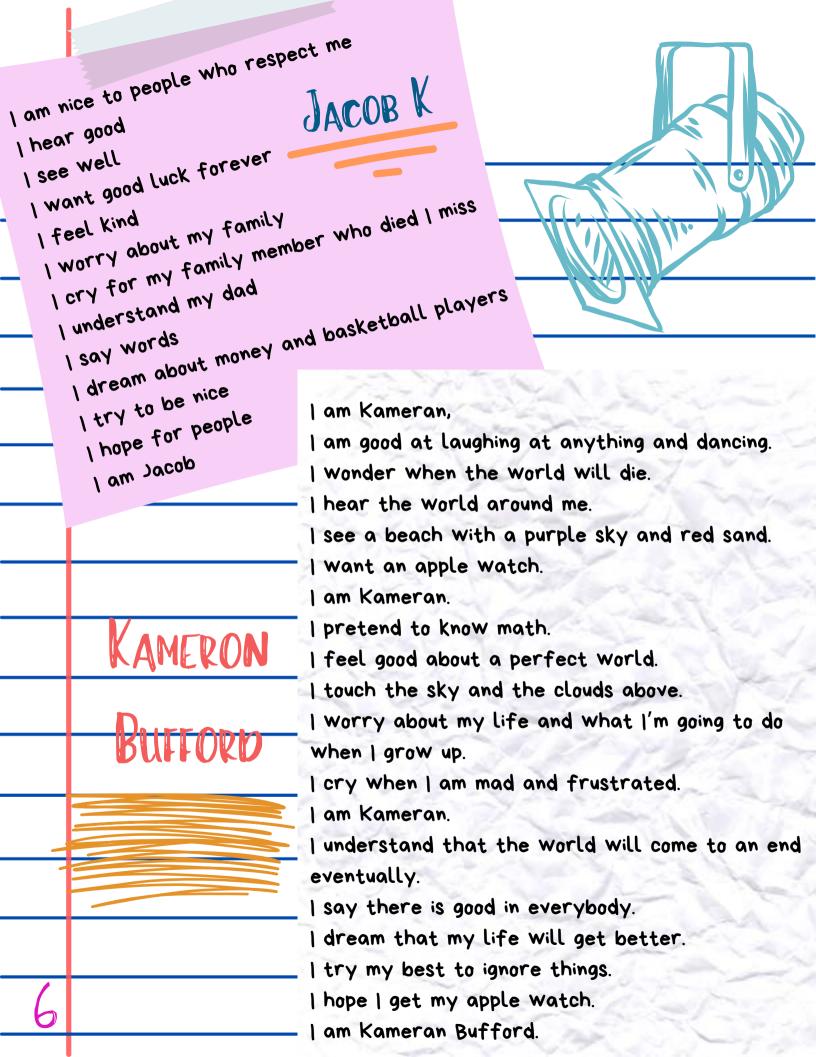
WHY CAN'T WE GO OUTSIDE, OR JUST TAKE A RIDE WHY WE CANT GO TO SLEEP, WITHOUT FEELING WEAK WHY CAN'T WE BE OUR BEST, WITHOUT FEELING LIKE A MESS WHY DO WE ALWAYS LOOK LIKE A FOOLFOR TRYING TO LOOK COOL WHY DO WE ALWAYS FEEL WRONG, BECAUSE WE ARE BEING STRONG AND WHY WE LIE, FOR THINGS WE ALWAYS DENY





## DE'ONESTI BOSTON

I am De'Onesti I Wonder if my people would ever get along I hear violence every time I look at the news I see my city I want my city just to stop the violence I am De'Onesti I pretend that my city Will get along one day I feel that my city is going to have joy I touch my face When I get ready to cry I worry every time my mom leaves the house because my city can never be good I cry When I'm feeling down I am De'Onesti I understand when my mom tells me to watch who I call my friend I say I will become a nurse and move my mom out of the hood I dream that I become a nurse I try to do good in school so I can pass I hope I pass all of my test I AM DE'ONESTI



## I AM FROM CHICAGO

FROM MY MOTHERS WOMB, TO A CROWDED CITY.

I AM FROM A LOUD HOUSE AND A LOUD FAMILY.

I AM FROM THE BEAN WITH ITS BRIGHT REFLECTION THAT

SHINES BACK ON ME.

I AM FROM THE WINDY CITY,
FROM BLOCK PARTIES AND GANG ACTIVITIES
BEST KNOWN FOR ITS DEEPS DISH PIZZA AND HOT DOGS
I AM FROM CHICAGO

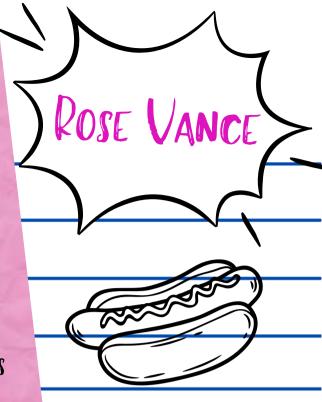
FROM URBAN MUSIC, FOOTWORKING, AND RAP STARS

I AM FROM FAMILY STICK TOGETHER TO FAMILY COMES FIRST

FROM CHICAGO BULLS, WHITE SOX, AND CUBS

I AM FROM CHICAGO WHERE I LIVE AND LOVE.





## STEVEN MOORE

I AN STEVEN
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON
I HEAR NOTHING BUT DRUMMING
I SEE LINES ON PAPER
I WANT TO GO HOME
I PRETEND I AM HOME
I WORRY ABOUT MY FAMILY
I CRY SOMETIMES
I UNDERSTAND WHAT I LOVE
I SAY WHAT I BELIEVE
I DREAM TO BE GREAT
I AM STEVEN

# I AM POEM By Za'Bria King

I AM: A GIRL

I WONDER: WHAT IM GOING TO DO IN THE FEATURE

I HEAR: MY FEATURE

I SEE: PEOPLE AROUND ME

I WANT: TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A DREAM JOB

I AM: ME

I PRETEND: TO BE HAPPY

I FEEL: ALONE

I TOUCH: MY FOREHEAD WHEN IM NERVOUS

I WORRY: IF IM NOT GOOD FOR PEOPLE

I CRY: WHEN PEOPLE TELL ME NO

I AM: ME

I UNDERSTAND: WHAT SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING

THROUGH

I SAY: WHAT I WILL DO

I DREAM: THAT I WILL MAKE IT OUT OF COLLEGE

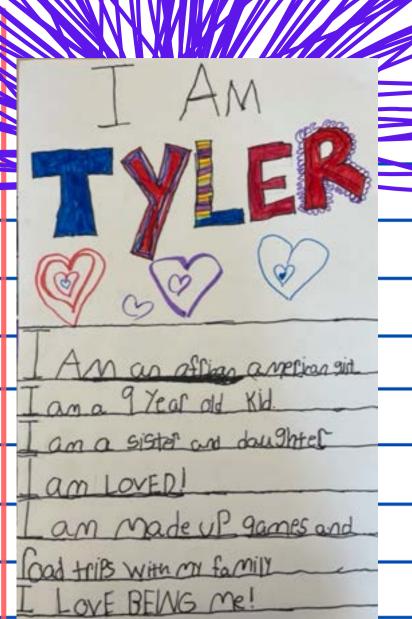
I TRY: TO DO MY BEST

I HOPE: FOR THE BEST FOR PEOPLE

I AM:ZA BRIA







I AM ME! BY TYLER



WHO AM I BY KYLEE



+ 500 +

My CULTURE IS

ME BY MALAUNI

## My MEIANIN BY JAGARI JENKINS-WILSON

1 My black is beautiful
The texture of glo', the kinkeynes of my 4a hair
My melanin is Wonderful

The culture of our head wraps, the liveliness of our rootful The style of our clothes are powerful My black is Wonderful

The scars from the whips are painful
The soles of my feet
My melanin is Wonderful

My melanin is colorful The beauty of my skin My black is Wonderful



The culture I was blessed is powerful
The sun kissing my skin
My melanin is Wonderful

Our cultured food is Plentiful
The shape of my body, the thickness of my thighs
My black is beautiful
My melanin is Wonderful



## STUDENT WORK

#### I Am

#### By Marcos Lucero

I AM STRONG

I WONDER WHAT THE FUTURE

WOULD BE LIKE

I HEAR THE BIRDS

I SEE CARS

I WANT TO SLEEP

I AM STRONG

I PRETEND TO BE KIND

I FEEL WEAK

I TOUCH GRASS

I worry about my grades

I CRY NEVER

I AM STRONG

I understand a lot of things

I SAY WHAT I NEED TO SAY

I DREAM ABOUT FIXING CARS

I TRY GET TO SCHOOL EARLY

#### I AM LITTLE RED BY SHURELL



### ALL ABOUT ME BY MARIAH







## SOCCER IS LIFE BY CALEAL

I am Athan

I Wonder if I will be famous

I hear people talking

I see this paper

I want a computer for my room

I pretend that I'm the "main character" in the game in my

head

I feel a little sad

I touch this paper

I worry about my family

I cry because I feel that I am not special

| understand how | feel

I say "it's fine"

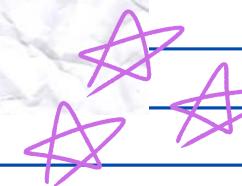
I dream about being the best person that ever lived

I try to do everything my best

I hope to do that

I am Athan





## ANIVIA A

- 1 am Black
- I Wonder Why I made like this
- I hear my thought I hear pray
- I see my life in every way
- I want to be happy
- I pretend |m not
- I feel alone With no one there
- I touch my heart in fear
- I worry for my life
- I cry every night
- I understand why Im here
- I say all my fears
- I dream of a better life
- I try to see it right
- I hope to see my new self
- I am What I am

## MARKEIH GRIFFIN

I am smart

I wonder how life is going to be

in the year 2030

I hear my sister yelling in my

I see how my city is getting bigger

I want to live in my city

I am my self

I pretend like I am home

I feel happy

I touch food

I worry about my family

I cry when i'm mad

I am a boy

I understand about my school

and how it works

I say when I want to go home

I dream that my school can have

more people

I try to get more work in

I hope to get good grades

I am a boy



## STUDENT WORK

I am respectfully I wonder why people give up I hear that I should keep moving on I see that people try hard to fit in I want people to leave me alone and give me space I pretend to be king but Im not I feel happy some times I touch my mom clothing a lot I worry that I would lose my best friend when I leave | understand that | don't need people to tell me |m pretty I say that Im sleeping but Im not I dream to have 24 dogs... I try to be kind but I just don't feel like it I hope I can have 24 dogs one day I am best at being me



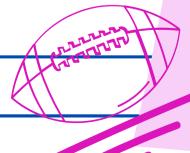






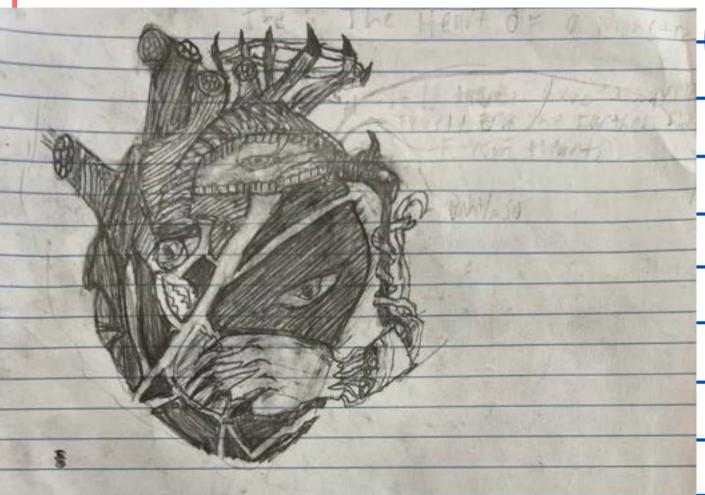






I am Tay I wonder sometimes I hear myself I see stuff I want a football I pretend to be someone else I feel worry I touch my football I worry from time to time I cry never I understand things I say stuff that need to be said I dream of being a football player I try my best I hope I make it I am Tay

## HEART OF A MONSTER BY DONTA SHANKLIN



H- it is true, I have truely 9 may been the one futherest from your heart.

e-But why why hourd you stray to this path full of accept full offer?

He Beacuse OF You my Dear Com rase, ive Been morphes and tethers By 1 your tensien taedthouses a and take but five seen the hy procity of established so I turn code at Knight II who but anch consulanch consulation y will be for all are vandes homens, in turn to the other to Beat a manster you mut become one

# JAYDEN WALKER

I Wonder: How the future is gonna be for me 1 Am: Jayden 1 Hear: 1 heard the success 1 See: 1 see how bright my future is gonna be I Want: To be successful 1 Am: Gonna be successful 1 Pretend: To play other sports I Feel: The success comeing I Touch: The ball of every sport 1 Worry: About if im gonna fail 1 Cry: When i fail but i can get back up I Am: Gonna be succesful in what everything i put my mind to 1 Understand: Life is had I Say: Sports is my favorite activity 1 Dream: About being a pro athlete 1 Try: To do the best I can in anything 1 Hope: I succeed I Am : Gonna succeed !

## I AM SCARED BY ANTANYA REESE

I AM SCARED OF LIVING BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO DIE

I AM SCARED TO MAKE FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY MIGHT NOT LIKE ME

I AM SCARED TO DIE BECAUSE WHAT PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DO WHEN

I'M GOING

#### KAMERON JACKSON

I AM KAMERON JACKSON



I WONDER ABOUT MY FUTURE

I HEAR MUSELF WINNING THE NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

I see The Jersey when I get Drafted

I WANT TO MAKE IT TO THE NBA

I AM KAMERON JACKSON

I PRETEND TO BE STEPH CURRY

I feel the trophy After Winning the Championship

I TOUCH MONEY

I WORRY ABOUT INJURIES

I CRY THAT KOBE BRYANT DIED

I AM KAMERON JACKSON

I understand the requirements to make the NBA

I say you can bo it

I bream of having a lovely family

I TRY TO BE NICE

I HOPE TO MAKE IT BIG

I AM KAMERON JACKSON

PEOPLE SHOULD DROP GUNS BECAUSE THAT CAN LEAD

TO YOUR FAMILY DYING OR SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOUR

PEOPLE SHOULD CARE ABOUT OTHERS

#### KAMIREYAH SNELL

I am Kamireyah I wonder where I will be in 5 years I hear that all good and positive things wil come my way

I see my wants and needs
I want to be successful in life
I am Kamireyah

I pretend that I am an orthodontist

I feel that I am a good person inside and out

I touch everybody with my love

I worry a lot I cry when I'm hurt I am Kamireyah

I understand that life isn't always

I said I am Kamireyah

I dream that I will accomplish all my goals

I try to be a good person in life/society

I hope that I will be an orthodontist

I am Kamireyah



SIUDENI WORK

CHARLOTTE

PETTIGREW

WHITE TREES

WHITE LEAVES

WHITE FLEES

BLACK BEAST.

LEAVES,

I look up

AND I SEE TREES WITH LEAVES.

I LOOK UP AND I SEE DREAMS

WITH A BLOCKING BEAST.

I see the leaves fall, leaving

THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS BORN.

 ${
m I}$  see the leave fall, lifeless to the floor.

AND I ASK WHY.

Is it fair for them to suffer?

Is it fair day to day life itself loses its beauty?

Is. It. Fair. We watch those who suffer and laugh?

Why do trees loses its beauty, and dies every winter season?

We let our people suffer and stand there as they lose their will to live.

SO I ASKED MOM, I SAY MOM WHERE'S THE BEAUTY IN LIFE?

I SLOWLY SEE IT LEAVING AND I'M SCARED.

In scared if my leaves, my flowers, my beauty will it ever come back?

THEY WATCH AND THEY CALL ME BEAUTIFUL, BUT IS IT OK TO NOT BELIEVE THEM?

Mon says everything loses it beauty but something beautiful comes back every time.

LIKE HOW WHEN ONE DIES ANOTHER IS BORN.

WHEN A TREE LOSES IT BEAUTY,

SPRING WILL BLOOM AND BY SUMMER YOU SEE IT. YOU STAND THERE AND WATCH IT.

You watch the art, the leaves move slowly back and forth no flees to make you

suffer. No beast you suffocate. No chains to make you do anything.

But what if they aren't ready to lose their beauty their still a young Sappling tree.

But fate exist so maybe, maybe that tree was supposed to Die.

NO MATTER WHAT.

You are simply just a tree.

-TO ME AND MY MIND

## STOP SHOOTING US BY KAMAYHA COBBS

STOP SHOOTING US.

Some People are losing their Kids, Parents, Students, Teachers.

It's hurting us to see that our daily members are getting killed and getting hurt.

We need to take it really seriously because people are dying everyday and we are losing our youth way too fast.

When kids go outside to the playground with their friends, the parents have to worry

Of slow cars that evade them

Of ambulances to the hospital

WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE OUTSIDE.

It's not safe for kids.

It's NOT SAFE FOR ADULTS.

KIDS LOSE PARENTS.

GROCERY SHOPPING

GOING TO THEIR CARS.

Another car might pull up behind and to fire.

SOME KIDS LOSE TEACHERS

WHILE DOING GRADES AT SCHOOL

OR AT HOME DOING GRADES.

PEOPLE LOSING STUDENTS

GETTING OUT OF SCHOOL

WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL AND GETTING KILLED.

STOP SHOOTING US.

STOP SHOOTING US.

STOP SHOOTING US.



#### MARIYAH PATTERSON

- I am thankful
- I wonder how my life would be
- I hear positivity
- I see respect
- I want no bullying in school
- I pretend being in the sky
- I feel loved
- I touch my heart
- I worry about my family outside when its dark
- I cry about my people health
- I understand people
- I say the loved ones I keep safe
- I dream the world would be at peace
- I try a lot to help the streets
- I hope everyone I know have a great day
- I am Mariyah



## DIEGO SILVA

I am Diego
I wonder what I'm going
to be when Im older
I hear drums
I see a class with kids
I want to be successful
I pretend that Im a
football star

I touch my phone

| Worry sometimes

I cry a little

I feel happy

I understand life

I say stuff

dream of being

successful

I hope one day

1 am Diego



BY ALAYAH



## STUDENT WORK

#### IMOTHY I

I AM TIMOTHY
I WONDER WOULD I GET COLLEGE OFFERS
I HEAR PEOPLE TALKING
I SEE KIDS
I WANT SOME CHIPS
I PRETEND TO BE SLEEP
I FEEL GREAT
I TOUCH MY PHONE
I WORRY ABOUT MY LIFE
I CRY AT FUNERALS
I UNDERSTAND LIFE
I SAY HEY

I dream about being a NFL star
I try my best on anything I do
I hope I make it to the NFL
I am black

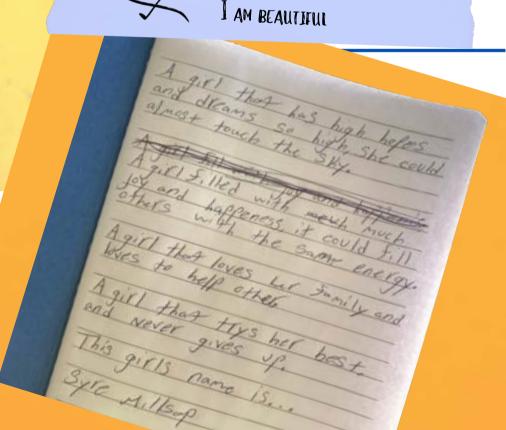
SURE MILLSAP

#### ZALIA POLK

I AM HARD WORKING
I WONDER IF I WILL BE A FAMOUS SINGER WHEN I
GROW UP

I HEAR PEOPLE TRYING TO BRING ME DOWN

I SEE MYSELF IN THE FUTURE
I WANT TO BE THE BEST I'LL EVER BE
I PRETEND TO NOT KNOW HOW TO SING
I FEEL VERY VERY PRETTY
I TOUCH PEOPLES HEARTS
I WORRY ABOUT MY MOM AND FAMILY
I CRY ABOUT MY DEAD ONES
I UNDERSTAND MY MOM WHEN SHE SAY SHE BROKEN
I SAY I'M FINE WHEN IM NOT
I DREAM OF BEING FAMOUS
I TRY TO LOVE PEOPLE
I HOPE PEOPLE LOVE ME



#### BLACK POWER BY GENAI CUNNINGHAM



WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET UP IN THE MORNING TO HAVE NO GUN VIOLENCE IN THE DAY OR NIGHT?

WE ALL KNOW THAT IT'S NOT RIGHT

We have to have a day when we see another black man gets shot.

We have to have a day when we have to deal with these gangs in our streets.

Why do people think gun violence is normal for them? It shouldn't be normal for anyone.

When they say "Black Power" they don't mean Black on Black Violence, They mean Black Excellence.

Why can't we have a day when another black man isn't killed by the police?

Why can't we have a day when there's no more racism toward black people?

Why can't we have a day when a peaceful protest can't turn into a horror show?

When they say "Black Power" they don't mean Black on Black Violence, They mean Black Excellence.

THEY ALWAYS SAY "GET THESE GUNS OFF THESE STREETS" YET THERE ARE STILL ON OUR STREETS FOR BLACK PEOPLE TO STILL BE KILLED.

Sometimes, I think people don't care about black people when it comes to gun violence, When will it come a time when people will care about black people and gun violence?

I always wonder when the time comes for black people to be safe in their neighborhoods.

When will the time come when black people can walk down the street or when there's a block party with a whole family without any gun violence or any violence at all?

When they say "Black Power" they don't mean Black on Black Violence, They mean Black

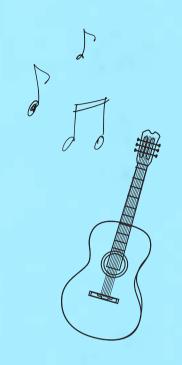
How about these gangs on our streets not letting people see us black people as bad people and assume all black people are bad, which is not true?

Let's let the world know that not all black people aren't bad at all and remember Black Power means Black Excellence, not Black Violence.

EXCELLENCE.

#### ANTHONY HERNANDEZ

I AM ANTHONY.



I wonder why there are so many languages.

I hear and learn daily things in other languages.

I see how you learn English or several languages.

I want to be able to achieve my goals in the future.

I am Anthony.

I pretend to be in the military in the future.

I feel that I am a good person.

I touch guitar.

I worry about my family.

I CRY WHEN I'M SAD.

I AM ANTHONY.

I Am-

I WONDER-WHAT WOULD THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

I HEAR-I HEAR TEACHERS YELLING AT EVERYONE FOR NO REASON

I SEE-TEACHES WORRIED ABOUT THE IAR.

I WANT-SCHOOL TO END.

I AM-

I PRETEND-TO BE SMART

I FEEL-I FEEL NERVOUS WHEN TEACHERS CALL ME UP TO ANSWER A QUESTION.

I Touch-Grass

I WORRY-ABOUT SCHOOL

I CRY-BECAUSE MY GOLD FISH DIED

I AM-KINDA SMART

I Understand-Why people get mad at the students

I SAY-TO MY MOM WHY DO I NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL

I Drean-I would be done with school

I TRY-TO HELP PEOPLE

THE THING ABOUT SCHOOL BY
EIMER VELASQUEZ

#### SHAKAREJA REED-LEVY

I AM:SHAKAREIA

I WONDER: WHO WILL I BECOME WHEN I GET OLDER

I HEAR: MONEY AND WIND

I SEE: BLUR

I WANT: TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

I PRETEND: TO BE HAPPY AT TIMES

I feel: HAPPY WHEN I'M AROUND MY FRIENDS

I TOUCH: MY FACE WHEN I'M NERVOUS

I worry: about everybody else but myself

I CRY: WHEN EVERYTHING I PLANNED DOESN'T GO THE WAY I WANTED IT TO GO

I AM: SHAKAREIA

I understand: That people need space when they are angry
I say: I want to be a pediatric surgeon but I really do not know what I
wanna do in life

I bream: that everybody in my life is successful including myself

I TRY: TO BE SO HAPPY BUT I'M REALLY FALLING APART

I HOPE: TO BE THERE FOR EVERYBODY THAT'S THERE FOR ME

I AM: SHAKAREIA



## INSPIRED BY THE ZINE?

Use the space below to create your own artwork

