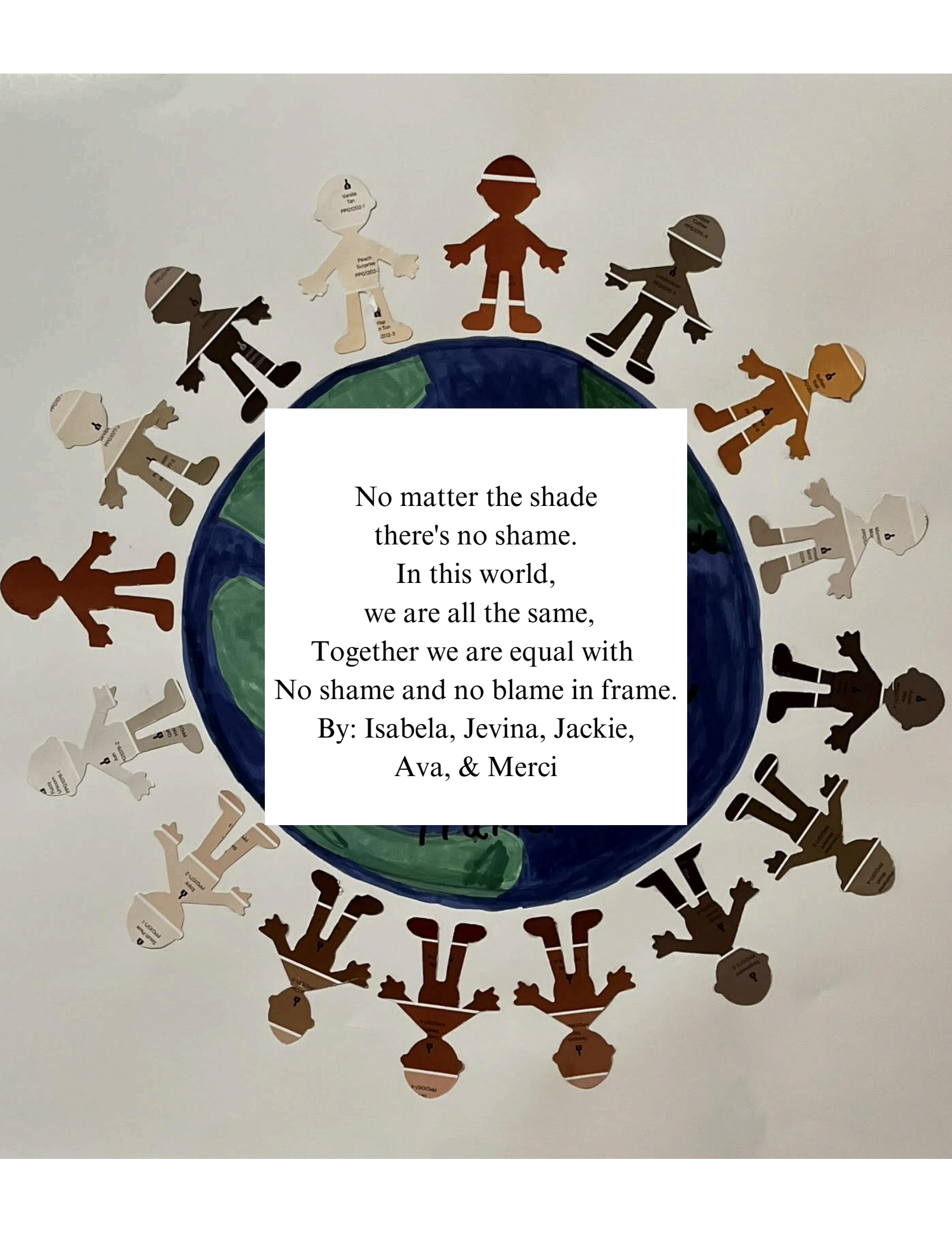




# Teen Journal

Volume One, April 2024





No matter the shade  
there's no shame.  
In this world,  
we are all the same,  
Together we are equal with  
No shame and no blame in frame.  
By: Isabela, Jevina, Jackie,  
Ava, & Merci

In February, we celebrate the month of black history  
To remember that we are all equal,  
We are all important,  
We all deserve to be heard, loved and supported  
No matter the month we should always remember  
Our differences make us unique and powerful  
Without our differences we would have a boring world  
We all matter and make this world a better place and unique happy place

By: Aleisha, Mel, & Joseph



Perseverance

Never giving up

Giving up is a success to failing

Having perseverance is a way to succeed in life

Pursue your dreams

Don't let somebody block you from doing something

You choose what you want to do

Always try one more time

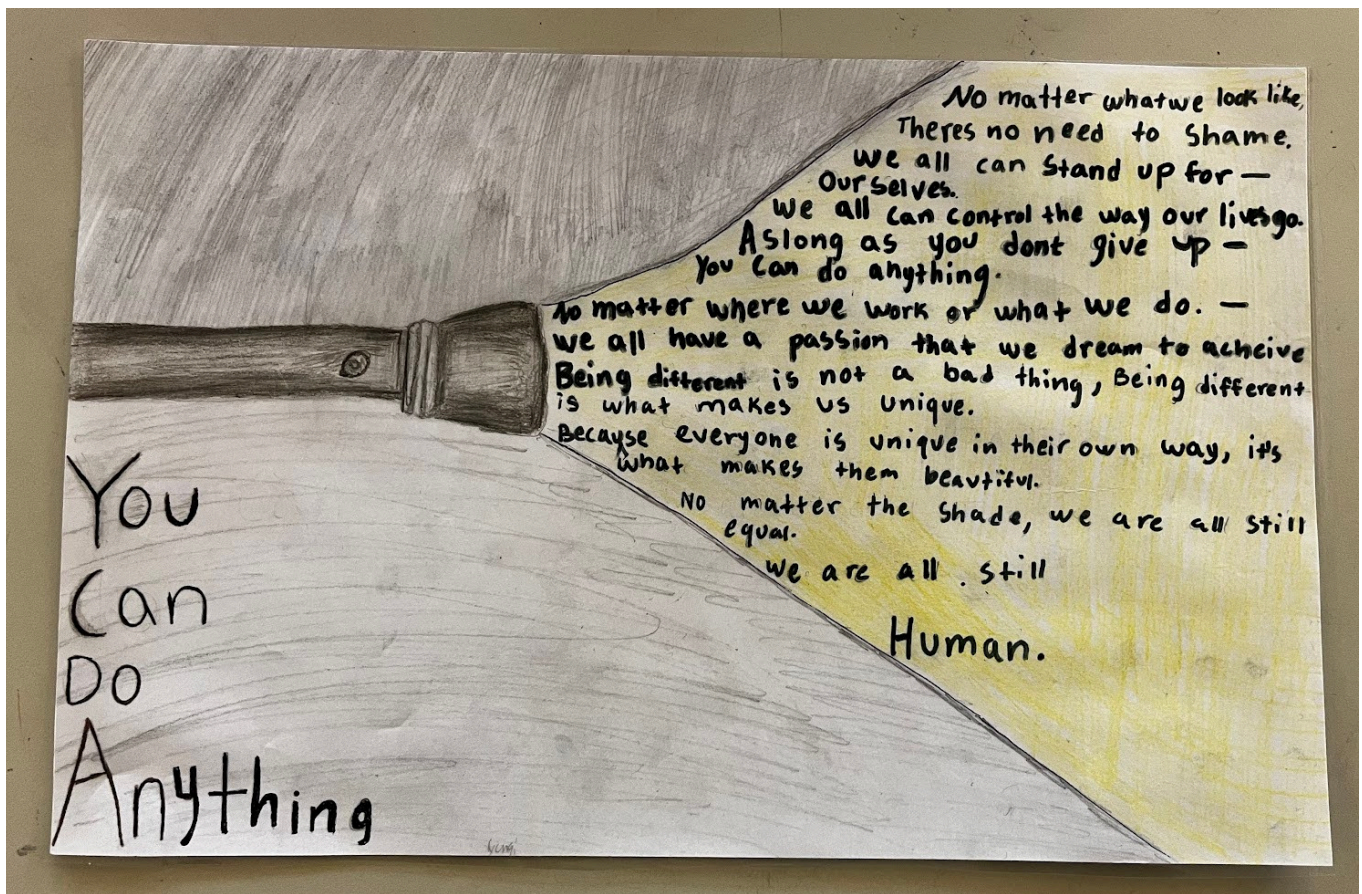
Every time you fail you learn something new

The way of life is to never give up on something you enjoy doing

By: Allen

No matter what we look like  
There's no need to shame  
We all can stand up for ourselves  
We all can control the way our lives go  
As Long as you don't give up  
You can do anything  
No matter where we work or what we do  
We all have a passion we want to achieve  
We are all equal  
Being different is not a bad thing  
Being different is what makes us unique  
Because everyone is unique in their own way, its what makes them beautiful  
We are all human

By: Yunqi



**Acceptance is key in life**

**Accepting who people are and what they believe in can hard at times**

**But if you can accept people without trying**

**Then you can stand up for things you believe in**

**It can help you persevere**

**Pushing through others who don't believe in your dreams**

**As long as you can make a slight impact even if its small**

**You are making this world a better place**

**Even by telling someone to have a good day**

**or giving them a compliment**

**Can change someone's day**

**So once in awhile tell someone to have a good day**

**And chances are you made there day better**

**Attempt to change someone's mood**

**If they are having a bad day**

**Or if they are sad**

**It may not look like is but**

**You made them happy**

**A superpower you will always have is the ability to change someone's day**

**But remember "with great power comes great responsibility"**

**Make sure everybody feels like they belong on this planet**

**Make sure you treat everybody with respect**

**Just because they look different**

**Or think different**

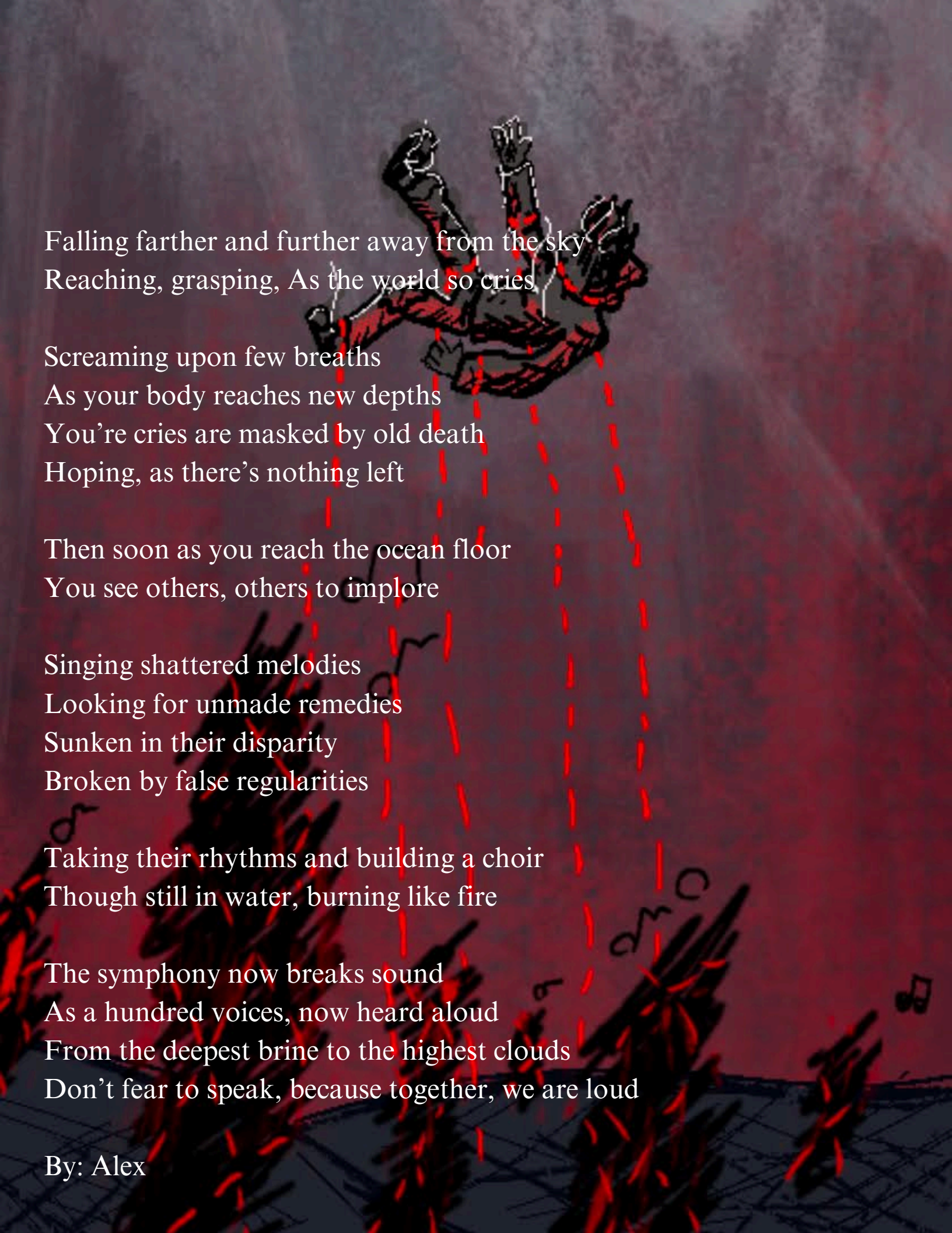
**Doesn't mean they are different**

**Yes we all are unique in our own way**

**But we should always treat each other the same**

**Just because someone had different skin or emotions  
Doesn't mean you should hate them  
You don't have to like them  
But you do have to respect them and be kind to them like how you would to others  
Remember words can hurt  
Some people are sensitive  
So always remember  
to think about how they would feel when joking about something  
Or saying something that could offend them  
Its fine to joke around  
Just be careful with that superpower that we all have  
Words can hurt just as much as other actions  
So always think about what they could be going through  
Before joking about it  
Remember be safe be kind  
And use your power wisely  
Always be sure to ask before saying something if they are sensitive  
And make sure they are now lion about it  
Thats it coming from Jah'love to the otis library and make sure to have a greeeaaat day!!!!**

**By: Jah'love**



Falling farther and further away from the sky  
Reaching, grasping, As the world so cries

Screaming upon few breaths  
As your body reaches new depths  
You're cries are masked by old death  
Hoping, as there's nothing left

Then soon as you reach the ocean floor  
You see others, others to implore

Singing shattered melodies  
Looking for unmade remedies  
Sunken in their disparity  
Broken by false regularities

Taking their rhythms and building a choir  
Though still in water, burning like fire

The symphony now breaks sound  
As a hundred voices, now heard aloud  
From the deepest brine to the highest clouds  
Don't fear to speak, because together, we are loud

By: Alex



Equality is the quality of humility  
This trait is oh so important  
We all crave one, one thing for all ,equality  
This trait is the most important  
Equality equality  
A trait for all  
All for one and one for all  
This trait has importance deeper than the mariana trench  
The trench of 6 miles

equality: the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities

Perseverance the trait of the determined  
The determined who don't follow  
The People who lead  
The people who make their dreams come true  
The people who prove naysayers wrong  
Perseverance the trait of the future

Perseverance : doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.





Standing up for what you believe

A thing that all should do

A thing that helps those who cant help themselves

No matter what they can or can't do

Standing up for what you believe

A trait all should do all for one and one for all

Standing up for what you believe: Standing up for your beliefs, expressing your opinions and demonstrating your core values can be a positive psychological experience and make you feel confident about yourself

By: Lucian

The Power Of Speech  
A given gift, a way to reach out  
It all holds a way of meaning  
Small or loud, big or quiet  
It has made change,  
Yet with this power, we must be wise,  
For the spoken word can mesmerize,  
There for every voice holds  
So raise your voice, let it be heard,  
For in the power of being heard  
And in the power of speech, it can find peace

By: Roselyn



**Being equal means to  
Be treated with kindness  
Show others respect  
No bullying others  
Treat other the way you want to be treated**

**By: Jordan**

**Norwich, Connecticut has some deep history.  
We have the Harris sisters to thank.  
They taught our community perseverance  
and how we should not fear what others think.**

**They showed their grace and their kindness,  
And persevered to an all white school.  
Where they were looked at and judged,  
But they proved to our community that they matter  
and they are equal.**

**The Harris sisters presence,  
a sanctuary for those in need  
Their kindness showed strength,  
That lasts a lifetime. Not caring about anybody else's thoughts on how they  
looked or acted,  
People look at them with a face of disgust don't hate them,  
The way they look does not matter everybody is created equal**

**By: Brayden**

**We are all people,  
We deserve to be treated the same,  
We all should be treated as equal,  
And make equality our aim.**

**We can't go back to our old ways,  
And we must continue to move forward,  
Day by day,  
Continuing onward.**

**At the end of the day,  
All I have to say,  
Is to treat everyone with respect and kindness,  
And find the compassion we have deep inside us.**

**By: Audrey**

**Together they persevered**  
**Together they altered and abolished the law**  
**Together they gave freedom to future generation**  
**Together they held their heads high**  
**Together they changed the world forever**  
**By: Jackie**

The first volume of the Otis Library Teen Journal (OLTJ) is dedicated to Sarah Harris, Mary Harris, and Prudence Crandall. We celebrate the bravery and determination it took to overcome the hurdles thrown their way. The following poetry is heavily inspired by their courage and perseverance. Please enjoy the first volume of the OLTJ and celebrate the Harris Sisters with us!