

Номіч! мунораге - кроміе.



# Welcome to the RYP Zine!

This is an anthology of art, comics, and writing made by the high school Refugee Youth Project (RYP) summer art club.



I am Miss Anna, the Community Arts Collaborative (CAC) Americorps Artist In Residence for RYP and editor for this zine.

RYP is a nonprofit run by Baltimore City Community College. Our program helps refugee youth transition to their new lives in Baltimore City.



RYP offers meals, homework help, and enrichment programs such as dance, art, and STEM. In addition, they provide resources to assist students with navigating various issues in their personal lives.

Alanna, BCCC's Associate Director of English Language Services Workforce Development and Continuing Education departments juggling all of our programming

With the help of RYP and a grant from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), my students have the opportunity to see their works published and shared with the world.

**M|I|C|A**



Refugees are often discussed in public discourse, but rarely get the chance to express themselves directly. Even well-meaning organizations trying to help risk muffling their voices by speaking on their behalf -- reshaping the narrative and presenting them chiefly through the lens of their harrowing experiences.

TL;DR they are refugees. But each is an individual in their own right, and it is a disservice to define someone only by their trauma.

My students chose what they wanted to make for this anthology. Their passions and interests fueled this wonderful zine. They had the freedom to create art and write about any topic they wanted, in any language they wished--and they did.

With the exception of spelling, grammar, and slight digital editing, this zine is completely in their voices. This anthology is 100% theirs, and here they are:

# Enjoy our zine!



Yvonne



Tiem



Anne



Wladimir



Ben

Do you have  
pizza?



Leya



Omar



Nura



Salome  
L.O.V.E



Beatrice



Garare



Neyney



Aline



Ayesha



Here are some of our students's stories about coming to the USA as well of some of their thoughts on their names and birthdays:

## Introducing myself

My name is Nyanene Kuig. I am from South Sudan, I have four siblings and mom in the USA. I came to the United States in November 2021 with my mom and my siblings. My dad and the rest of my family are in Africa with my grandma. When I was in Africa, I had no idea that I would come to the United States. U.S.A was my dream country since I was young, I love my country but I was sure that all my dreams would come true if I live here in the United State, because I have so many opportunities here more than my own country. And I promise to achieve as much as I can to live a successful life with my father and my family. And I promise to never let my mom down and stay beside he always. When we first started our journey to the United States, my father once told me that "go my daughter and live carefully with your mom one day by God's willing you all will come back to me with success and fill my heart with joy and happiness. Go there and take good care of your mother, love her and never leave side." that I can never forget my dad didn't come with us not because he didn't love but because he wanted what's best for us. And we will never forget that he is our father.

Respectfully Yours,

Nyanene Kuig



Name: **TIEM KUIY**

- My real name is TIM but all my document my name is written TIEM. They add an "e" on it.
- My name has lots of meaning in our language. I think here if you search it on Google it means Timothy but in my language is different. It means when you miss someone and somebody meaning which I don't know how to translate.

Date of Birth: **MARCH, 16, 2006**

- I was born in Sudan in a place Bentiu which is now Southern Sudan. Am not use to celebrating birthdays. When I was in Africa having a birthday party is not that bigger deal but in United States it's a big deal.



**Aline Tuyisenge**

**Kinyarwanda**

Ino nzu imeze nkiyo munkambi nabagamo ya Nyabiheke.  
Niya Byumba nayo bimeze kimwe neza cyane.  
Ano masikariyo nayo kumanukiraho ugiye hanze kota akazuba.

**English**

This house is similar to the one in Nyabihekere camp where I used to live.  
The Byumba camp also looks very similar to this one.  
These stairs are used to go down outside to feel the sunlight.  
Rwanda is a small country but a good country.  
Rwanda is hilly and has a population above 13 million people.  
I miss everything in this country actually. I miss the food, my family,  
and my friends. I want to go visit my friends and family.

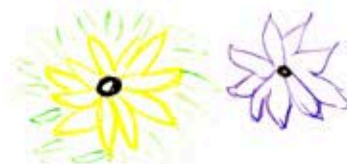
When I go there I want to visit Lake Kivu.



Congo flowers



Uganda flowers



Baltimore flowers

**Leya**

**Swahili**

Kwa majina naitwa Leya. Nilizaliwa mwezi wa kwanza tarehe moja,  
mwaka wa 2007.

Nilizaliwa katika inchi ya Jamuhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Congo,  
kisha nikakimbilia Uganda.

Niliishi Uganda myaka 7 baada nikuje America.

Niko hapa kwa sababu ya kusoma.

Uganda nilikuwa nasoma lakini siyo kama hapa America.

Hapa nasoma vizuri kwa sababu hatulipe karo ya shule.

Uganda hatukuwa na pesa piya maisha ilikuwa magumu.

Lakini tulivumilia ili tuweze kufika huku.

**English**

My name is Leya.

I was born on January first, 2007.

I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo,  
then I fled to Uganda.

I lived in Uganda for 7 years before I came to America.

I came to get an education.

I was studying in Uganda, but it is not like here in America.

Here I study well because we don't pay school fees.

We did not have money in Uganda and life was difficult.

But we persevered so that we would be able to arrive here.



# WLADIMIR ГРАВИА

THE NAME IS MINE. THE MEAN OF MY NAME IS: LORD OF THE WORLD

ON MY BIRTHDAY 4/28/2008 DID NOT DO ANYTHING.

ECUADOR

## Anne Pauline:

My first name "Anne" is a form of the Latin female given name "Anna". My parents chose it as a biblical reference to Saint Anne. My middle name "Pauline" is the originally French form of "Paulina". It comes from the Latin adjective "Paulus" and it means the little, hence the younger.

## February 20:

February 20 is my birthday, it is the 51st day of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and 314 days remain until the end of the year. Every year on February 20th, the World Day of Social Justice promotes the importance of fair and just relations between individual and society.

Bonus: The singer and business woman Rihanna Fenty was born on February 20th.

I was born and raised in Senegal. I came to the United States because my father had the means and he wanted to get closer to his siblings. In addition, he wanted my sisters and I to have a wide choice of careers in the future. So, my parents, my sisters and I came to the United States in October 2022.

## Notes:

① Often refugees do not have official documents verifying their ages and birthdays. When they are given USA papers their birthday is always January 1st + an approximation of age by the organization handling their refugee status.

② Many refugees have their names translated from a non-English script into the closest name possible in English. This is called "translation."

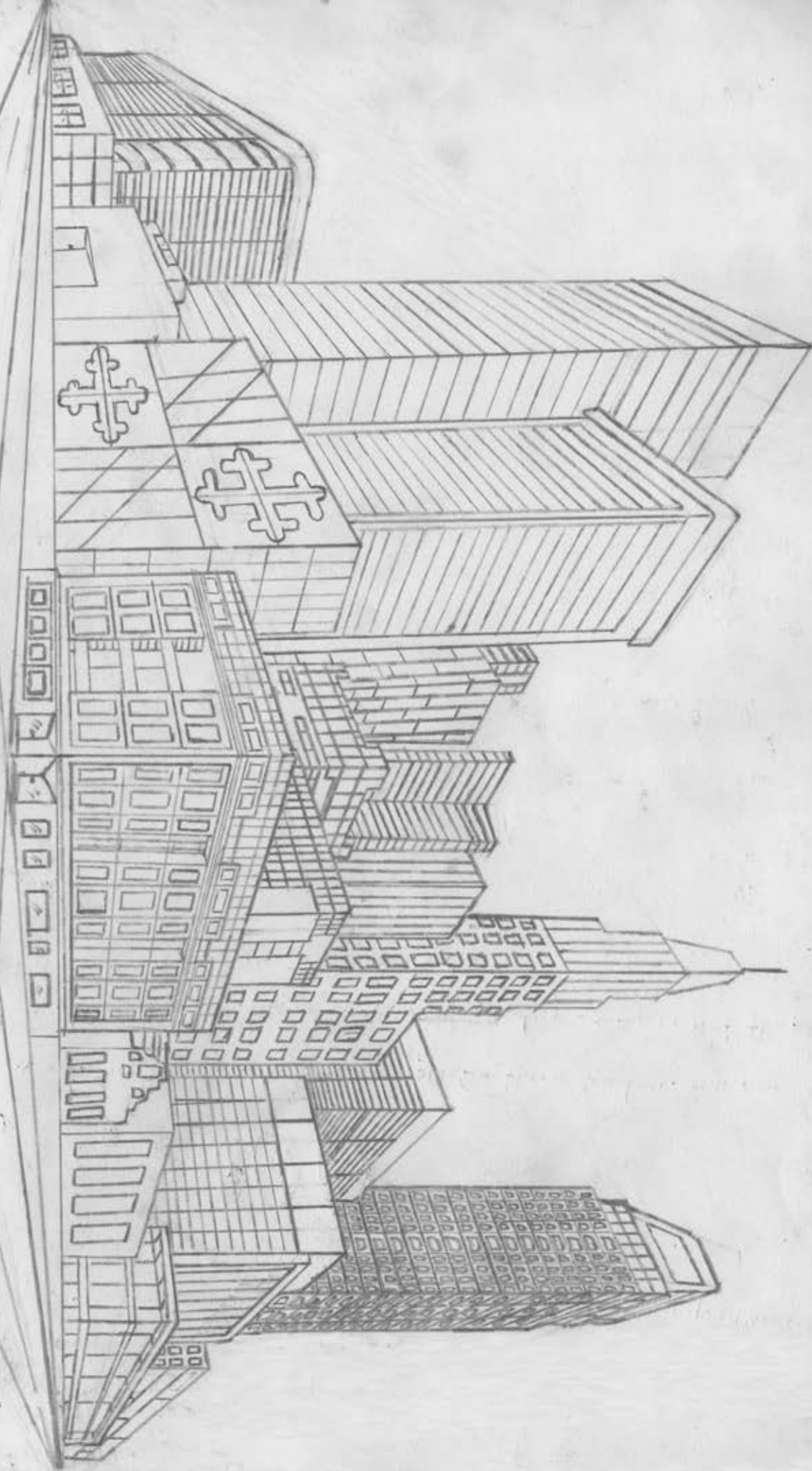






BALTIMORE

CITY





# How To Blend Color Pencils

Tips And Tricks With Aisha!

You will need:



A small cup of water



Crayola pencils



Step #1

Dip your pencil into the water

Step #2:

Tap pencil against rim of the cup to remove excess water from the pencil



Step #3  
Draw!

Repeat as necessary!

How did you figure this out?

## Warning!

✗ Do **NOT** put water directly on the paper

✗ Do **NOT** have too much water on your pencil

Let your drawing air dry a few minutes after you complete it!

that's what happened here:



So it was one day of my art class.

I was like, "wait a minute-" and I asked my art teacher if I could try it. I tried it, and it worked, so I can use it now too.







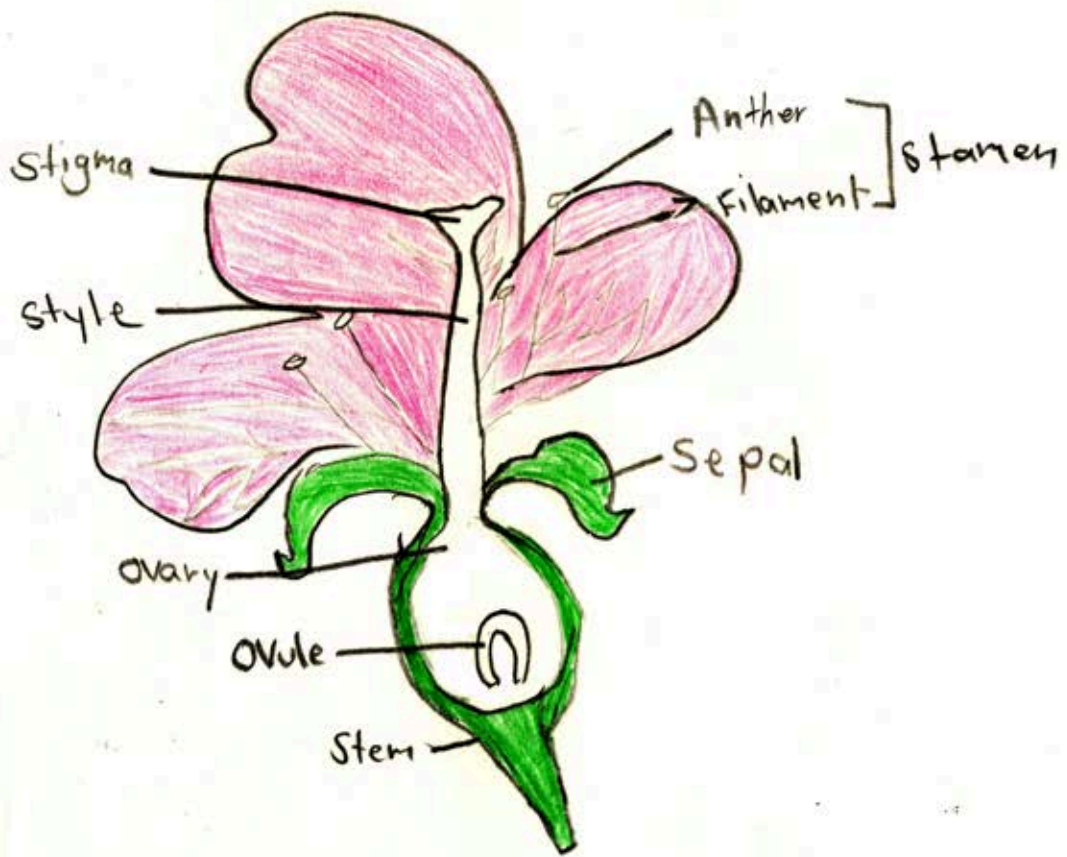












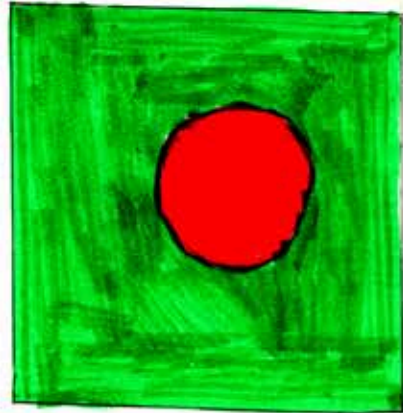




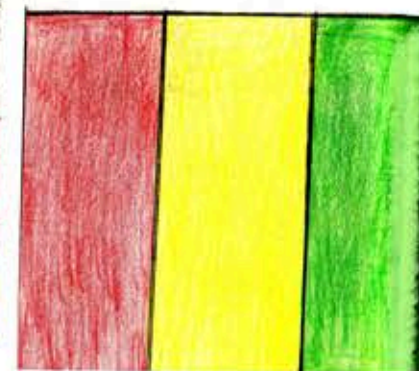
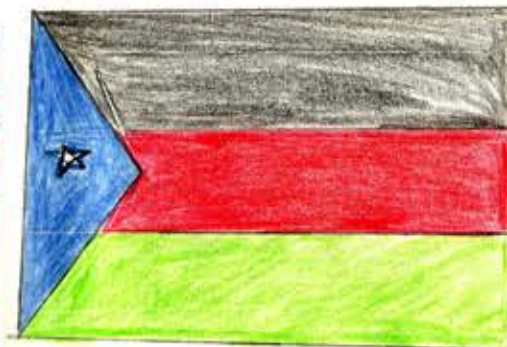
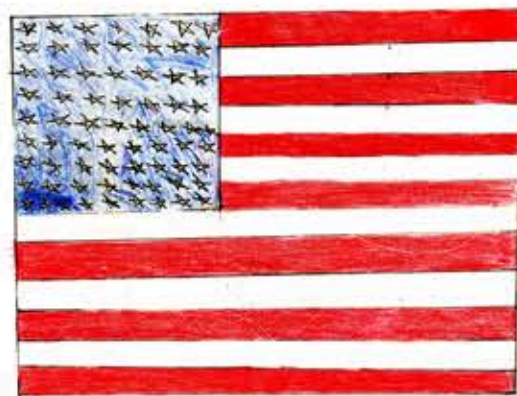
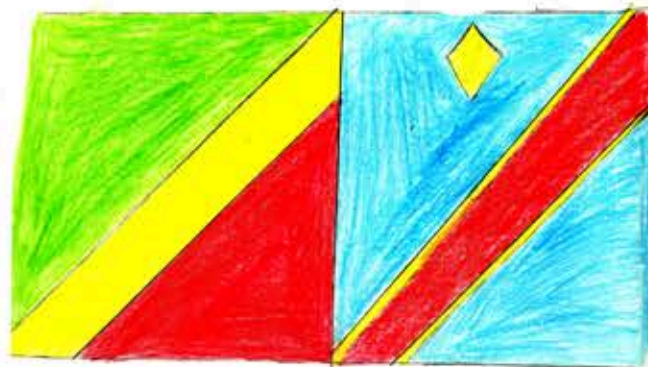
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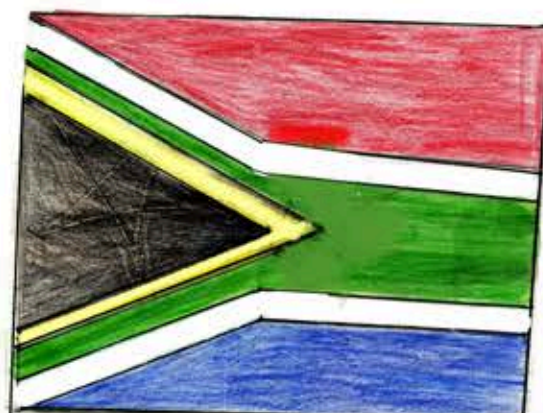
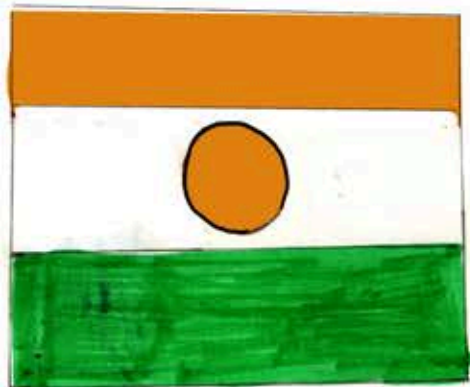
Tanzania



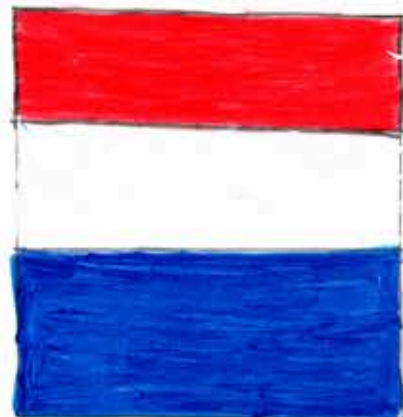
Congo



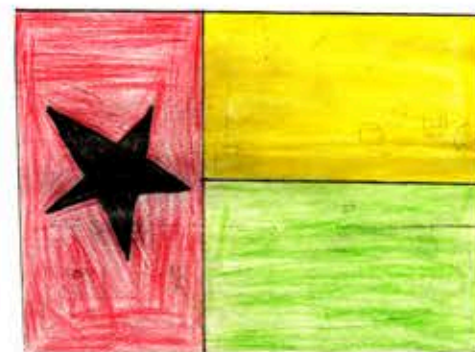
South Africa



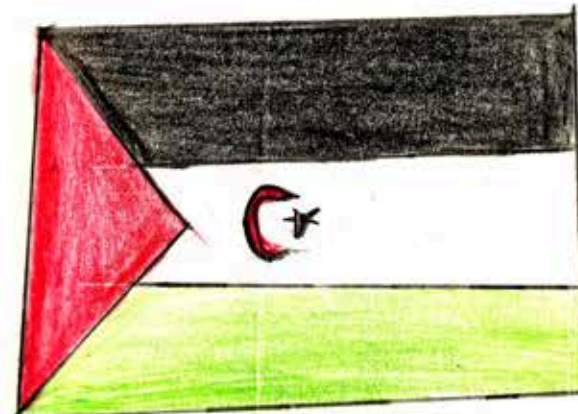
Netherlands



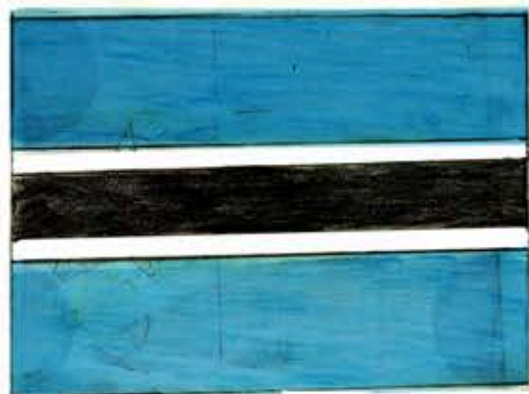
Guinea



Western Sahara



Botswana



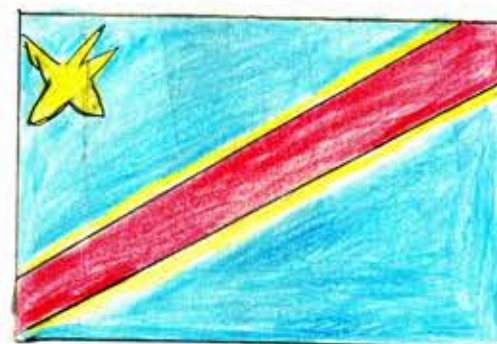
Colombia



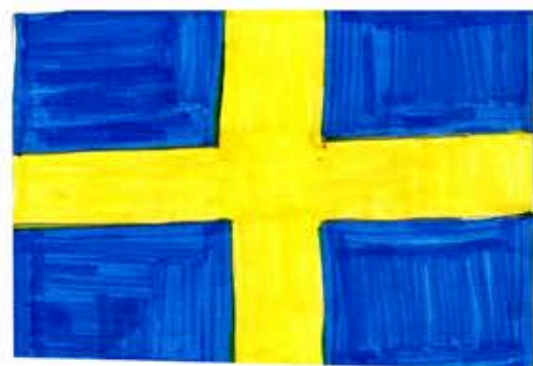
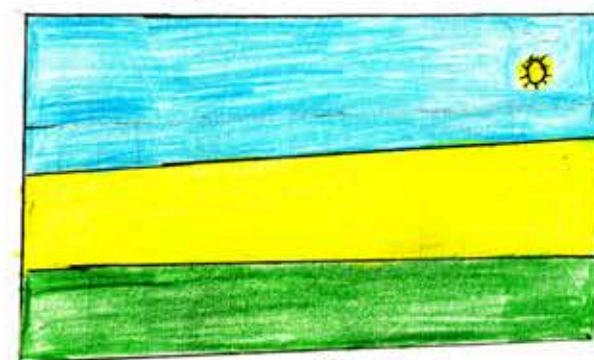
Togo



Germany



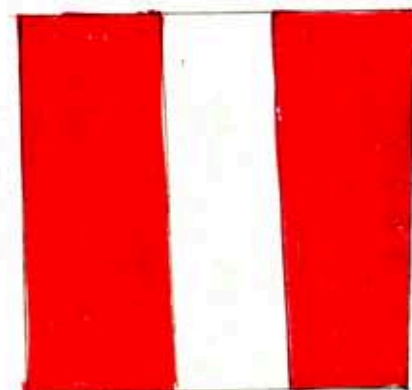
Rwanda



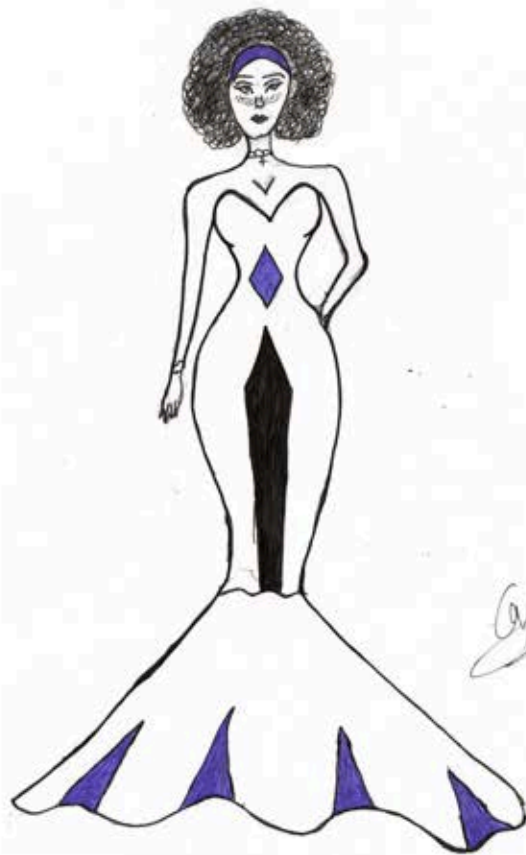
Ukraine



Peru



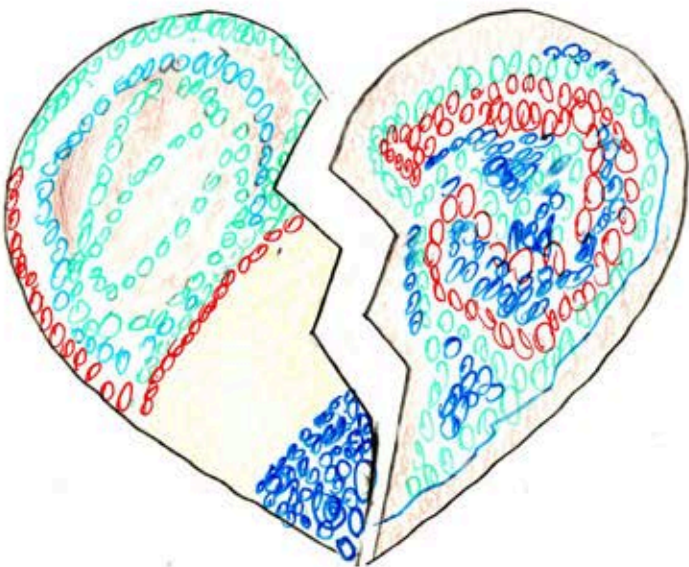






**OH LOVE, A BREAK UP SONG  
BY NURA**

**LOVE, OOOH, WHAT IS LOVE GIRL?  
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED SOMEONE TO LOVE  
SOMEONE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL  
I TRIED BUT YOU LIED  
OOOH, HELP ME UNDERSTAND WHERE I WENT WRONG  
I GAVE YOU ALL OF MY LOVE BUT MY LOVE YOU BETRAYED  
YOU DUMPED ME, TREATED ME POORLY  
I GUESS LOVING YOU WAS MY GREATEST SIN  
I GUESS BREAKING UP WITH YOU WAS THE BEST THING TO DO  
I STILL LOVE YOU AND STILL WISH YOU A GOOD LIFE**





# **God Is Good**


## **By Beatrice Joseph**

**He loves me so much his love is so strong  
that he created me as a beautiful woman**




**My Lord, since I was a little girl  
God, you've been so good to me and my family,  
You protect me and my friends and my family from the devil  
I have nothing to give you  
but thank you for your kindness Father  
I love you so much because only you matter  
And only you make sense  
It doesn't matter what the world says  
I will always love you and follow your precious words  
Because it is you I live for**

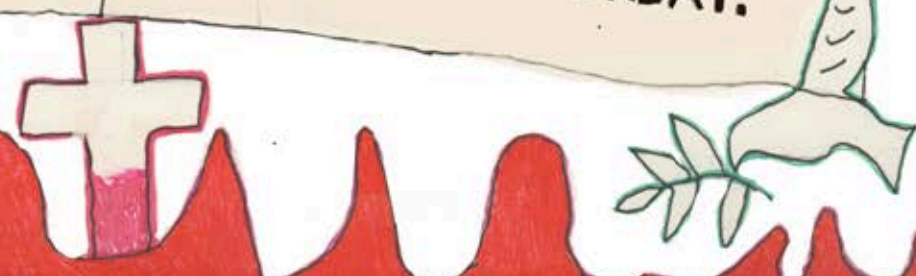





I'M FEELING SO  
FRESH, I'M FEELING  
SO FREE! I KICKED  
THE DEVIL OUT OF MY  
LIFE! YEAH YEAH! I'M  
FEELING SO FRESH  
I'M FEELING SO FREE,  
I FEEL LIKE I KICKED  
THE DEVIL OUT OF MY  
LIFE! YEAH YEAH! I  
GOT BIGGER. GOD, HE  
IS A GREAT GOD.



HE NEVER FAILS, HE NEVER  
LOSES, HE IS NEVER FAKE.  
SO WHEN I'M WALKING I  
FEEL SO FRESH AND FEEL  
SO FREE. I GET TO HAVE  
SOMEONE IN MY LIFE WHO  
IS ALWAYS REAL, WHO  
IS ALWAYS STRONG. SO,  
DEVIL, YOU TRYNA FIGHT,  
BUT YOU DON'T GOT A  
CHANCE! I KNOW YOU  
HATE, BECAUSE I'M GREAT.

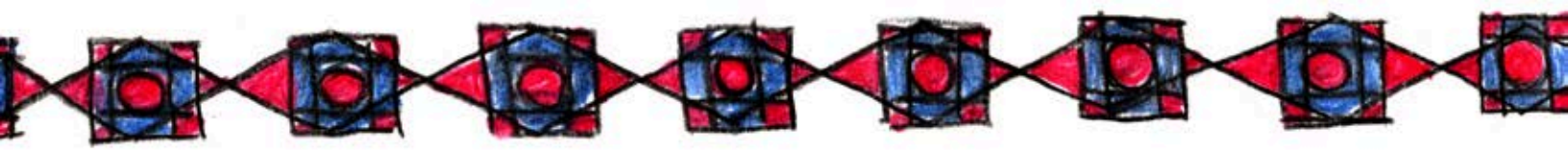


Written and performed by Salome L.O.V.E.

Lead vocals by Salome L.O.V.E. Backup vocals by Trice. Backup dancing by Aisha and Nura.







## Is It Time?

By Daryaz Omer

Our Master, the Prophet, said the following words about the conditions of Islam: The religion of Islam is built on 5 fundamental tenets.

Believing there is no God but Allah  
Believing this and performing prayers  
Paying zakat (tithe)  
Going on the pilgrimage to Mecca  
Fasting for Ramadan

Islam literally means, "Obedience, submission". Islam brings me comfort because it is a true religion and all facts and futures are written in the Quran. So nothing is fake and everything is real. It is also a logical religion if you research it well. Life is short. Ask yourself again,

"Is it time to surrender to God?"



## Thoughts On Faith

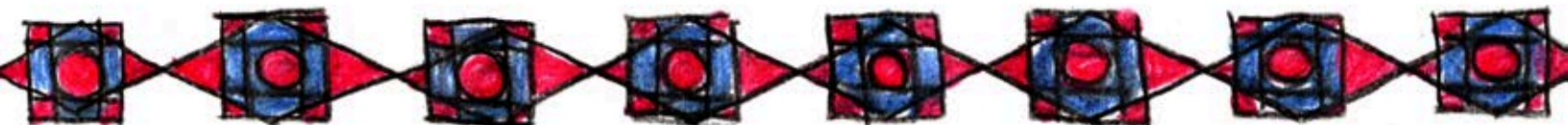
By Nura

My name is Nura and I am a Muslim. I don't know much about <Islamic doctrine> but I want to know more. I miss my country <Ethiopia> and I used to know about my country and religion.

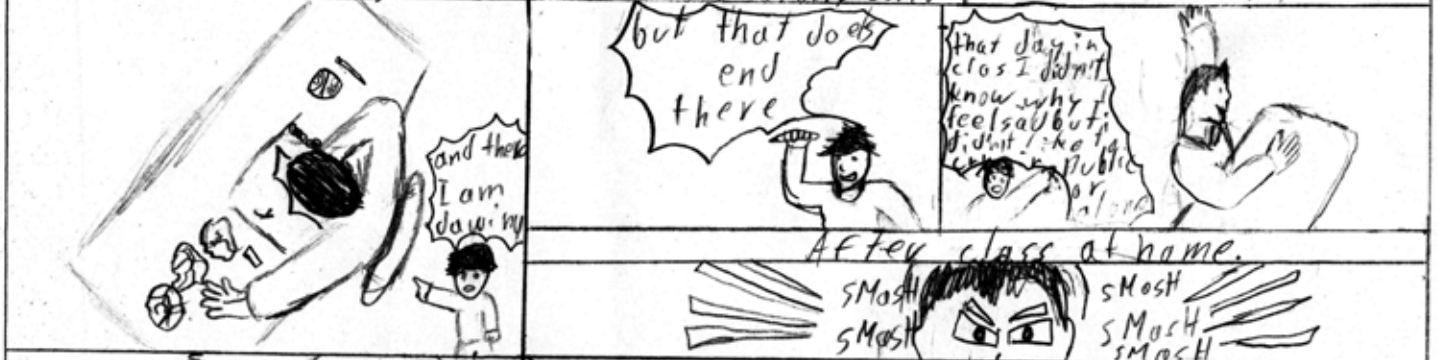
I miss my country because the mosque was close to where I used to live.

It was easy to go and pray with my Muslim friends.

I miss my Muslim friends.



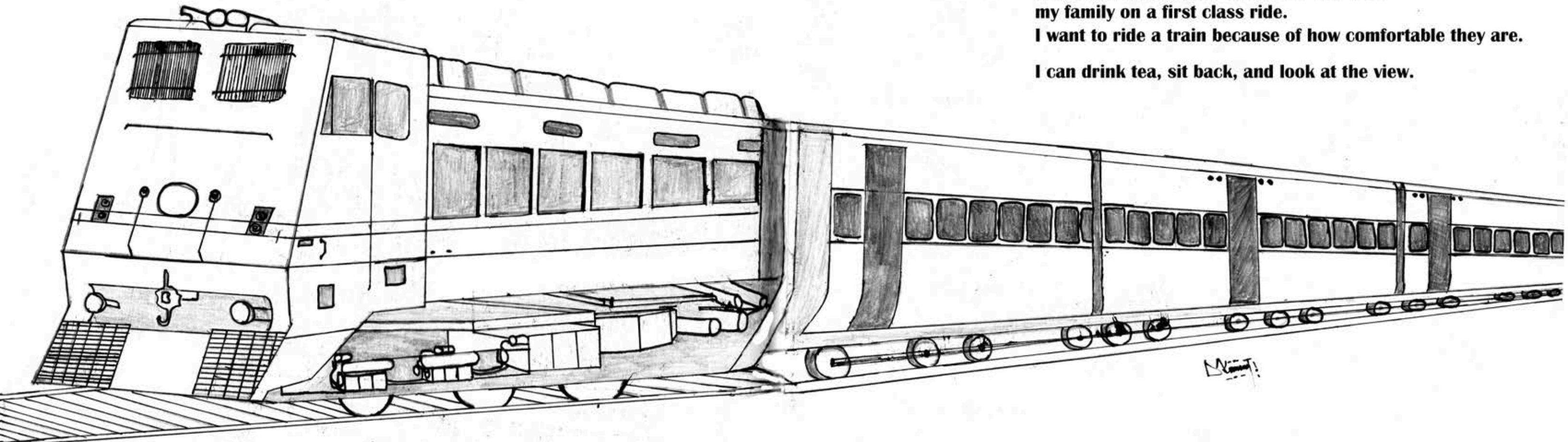
# My Passion for Art In A Comic.



It was oh that I liked the the drawing and little by improvend, This is The END

Bye





## **Trains**

**Thoughts by Nura**

**Illustration by Tiem**

**Trains are part of my life.  
I love the stories my grandfather  
would tell about riding trains in Africa.  
He said trains are silent and smooth  
while you are riding inside them.  
My heart is with the trains.  
I want to go on a train, ride one once in a while.  
Maybe after graduating high school.  
I like the smooth speed of trains.  
Maybe I will be a train conductor and take  
my family on a first class ride.  
I want to ride a train because of how comfortable they are.  
I can drink tea, sit back, and look at the view.**



Scan the QR code to listen to DJ Benny's playlist!

### **DJ Benny's Playlist:**

- 1) *Paro* by Nej
- 2) *Cheap Thrills* by Sia + Sean Paul
- 3) *Senorita* by Shawn Mendes + Camila Cabello
- 4) *People* by Libianca
- 5) *Copines* by Aya Nakamura
- 6) *Wiggle* by Jason Derulo + Snoop Dogg
- 7) *Levitating* by Dua Lipa
- 8) *One Dance* by Drake + Wizkid + Kyla
- 9) *Savage Love* by Jason Smith + Devon Derulo

### **Interview with DJ Benny**

**Interviewer (ie Miss Anna the art teacher):** Ben, you got the title of DJ Benny because you are in charge of music every third period. I originally gave you this role because you had a speaker, but it turns out I love your taste in music. I have added many of your top 10 songs to my personal playlists. Where do you find new songs?

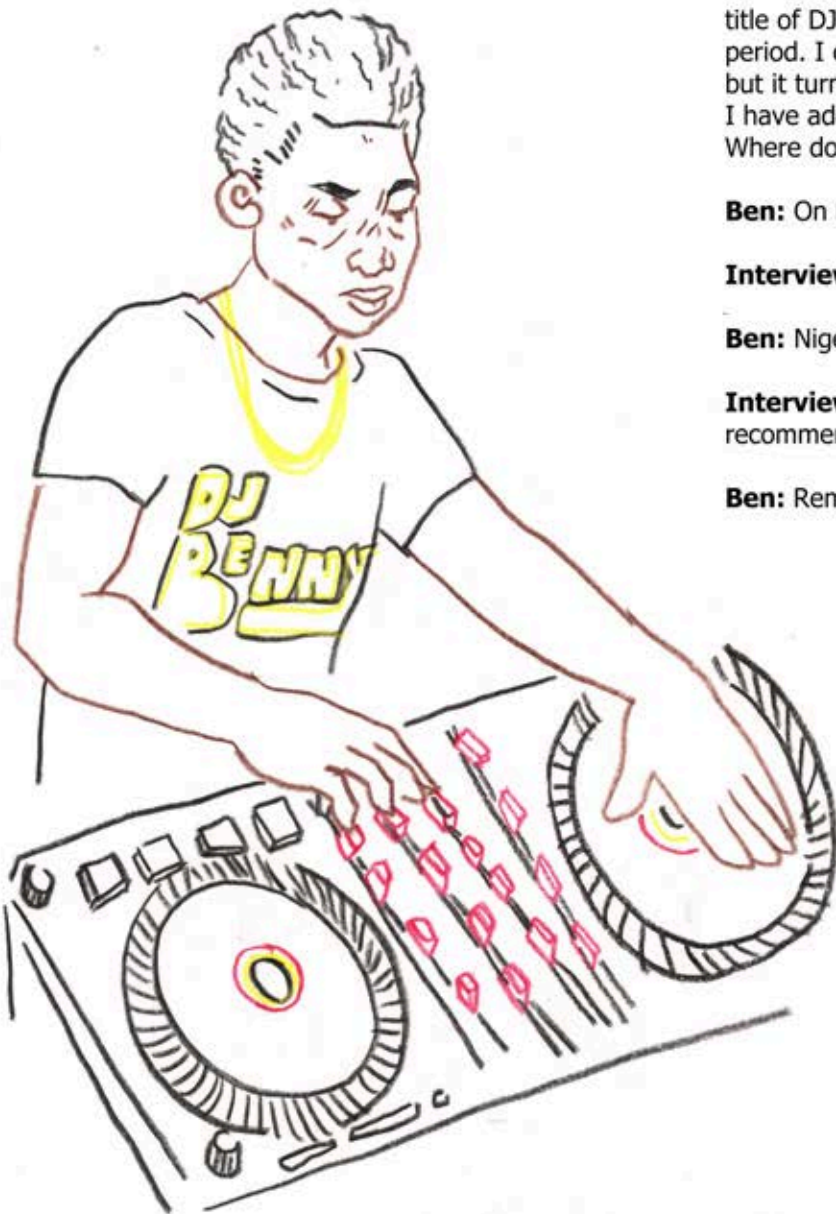
**Ben:** On Musi <an apple music streaming service>

**Interviewer:** What's your favorite genre of music?

**Ben:** Nigerian music sped up

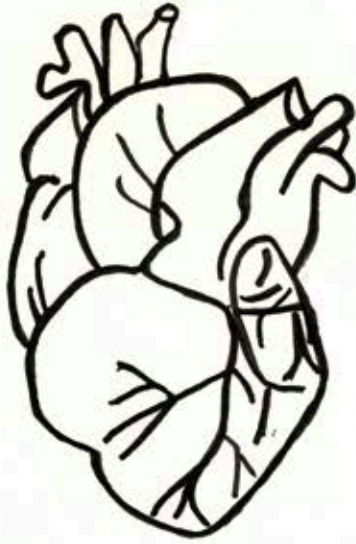
**Interviewer:** Which musician or band would you recommend right now?

**Ben:** Rema Soweto

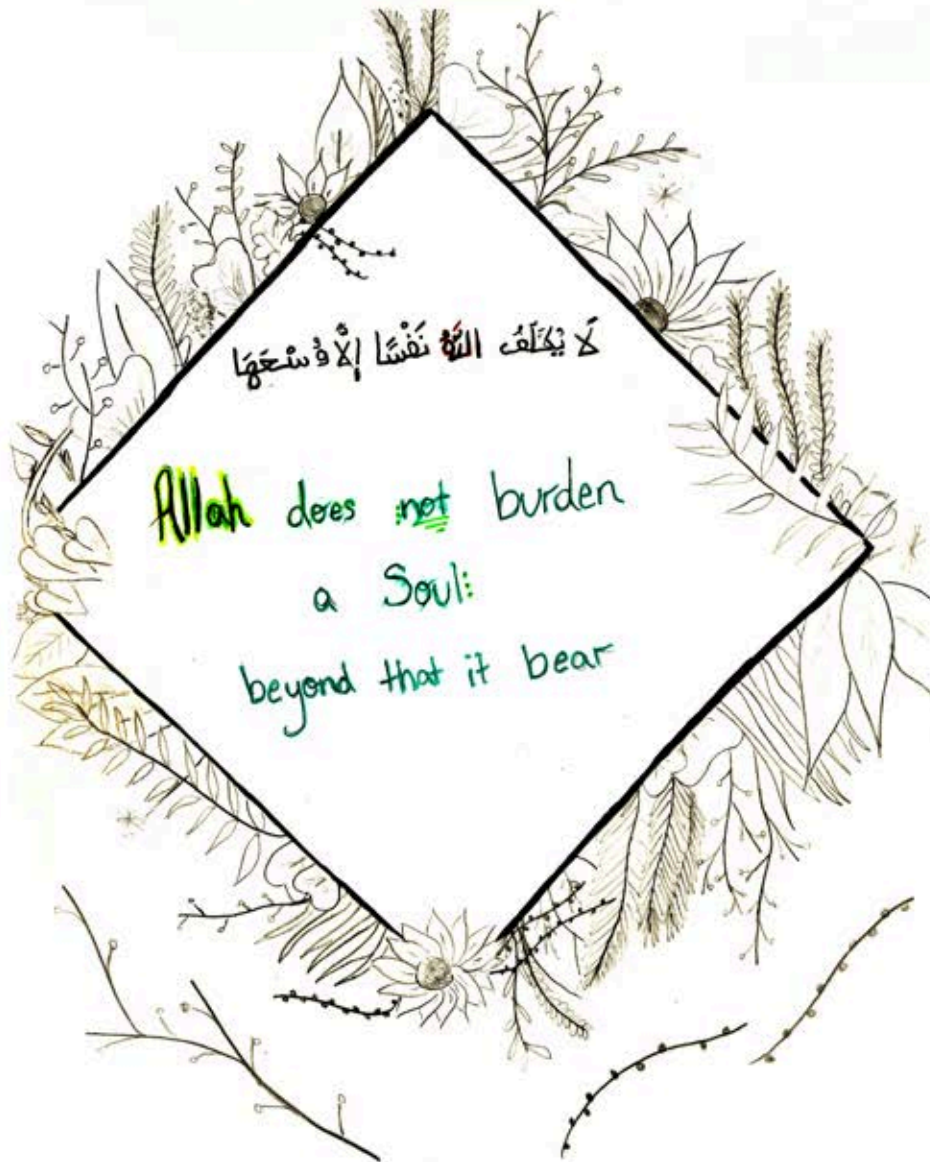




Examina oh Dios mi corazón



Salmos 139:23-24





# Contributors

**(The bios are written by the contributors, the notes are written by Ms. Anna)**

**Ben (pages 14-15, appears as Dj Benny on page 25):** Ben is from Tanzania. His parents are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ben arrived to the USA 5 years ago (2018). He speaks Swahili, Kibembe, English, and a bit of Spanish. He likes to play soccer and his favorite color is yellow.

**Note:** Ben is a man of many names (he introduced himself this summer as Ben, Lubungwe, and Luke). He primarily goes by Ben though. His girlfriend, Leya, chose his DJ name.

**Anne Pauline (pages 5 and 10):** Anne Pauline is from Senegal and came to the USA a year ago (the summer of 2022). She is 15 years old. She speaks French, a little bit of Spanish, and English. She enjoys crocheting and swimming. She wants to be a powerful business woman when she grows up.

**Note:** Anne Pauline is incredibly impressive and there is no doubt that she will fulfill her dream of becoming a powerful business woman.

**Salome L.O.V.E (author and lead vocalist of the rap on page 19):**

Salome L.O.V.E. is from Tanzania and now lives in the USA. She wants to visit India, it is her "dream place." She speaks Swahili, English, French, and is learning Hindi. She came to the USA in 2019 when she was 10 years old. She is now 15 running on 16 (her birthday is September 9th, where is her present????) She is an up and coming actress, dancer, and rapper. Jesus comes first in her life.

**Note:** Salome is a very talented performer and rapper. She stole the show in her school's production of Snow White where she played Snow White's pet chicken.

**Nura (page 17, background dancer on page 19, author on pages 20 and 23):**

Nura is from Ethiopia. He speaks Afar and English. He arrived to the USA 7 years ago (2008). He is 15 years old. He loves dancing, high speed trains, and his favorite car is a Toyota Supra.

**Note:** Nura is a dancing fiend. He got rave reviews from the Dance teacher after every class.

**Leya (pages 4, 11, 12, and 14-15):** Leya is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She lived in Uganda for 7 years before moving to the USA a year ago (2022). She is 16 years old. She speaks Swahili, Kibembe, and English. In Uganda, at the age of 12, she realized she liked drawing flowers.

**Note:** Leya mostly drew flags and flowers this summer. Her drawings improved over the summer too.

**Beatrice aka Trice (page 14, 18, and background vocalist on page 19):**

Beatrice is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She arrived to the USA in 2019. She speaks 3 languages, including English. She is 15 years old and is her mother's oldest child.

**Note:** Something admirable about Beatrice is that she uses art as a therapeutic tool when she is feeling low. It's a very good coping skill that will serve her well in the future.

**Tiem (pages 3,7, and 22-23):** Tiem was born in Sudan. He speaks Nuer, English, Arabic, Iuba, and Luggbara. He arrived to the USA on November 24th, 2021. He is 17 years old. He plays soccer and wants to be a professional soccer player someday. He has 17 brothers and 10 sisters (including Nyagagre aka Garare and Nyanene aka Ney Ney). They all share the same father but different mothers. Only 5 of his siblings came with him to the USA.

**Note:** Tiem has only taken ONE art class in his entire life. Let that sink in. Then look at his drawing of Baltimore on page 7. Then look at his drawing of the train on pages 22-23. Now really let that sink in.



**Wladimir (pages 5 and 21):** Wladimir is a new arrival from Ecuador. He speaks Spanish. He wants to be an actor.

**Note:** Wladimir took it upon to use Google translate to write about his name and to write his comic in English. His passion and talent is visible in all of his work.

**Nyagarare aka Garare (page 16):** Garare speaks Nuer, Arabic, English, and is learning Spanish. She arrived to the USA in November of 2021. She is 14 years old (as of August 2023) and will be 15 in November. She is from South Sudan and lives with her parents. She wants to be a fashion designer or a professional soccer player.

**Note:** Garare has never taken an art class but wants to take one this upcoming school year. She is Tiem's and Nyanene's sister. It is also worth noting she dressed very fashionably throughout the summer program.

**Nyanene aka Ney Ney (pages 3, 6, 12, and 13):** Ney Ney is from South Sudan. She speaks Nuer and English. She arrived to the USA in November of 2021. She got lost on the bus a lot when she first came to Baltimore because she didn't know English. She wants you to know that every experience, regardless of if it is good or bad, teaches you something about life. Each day is another chance and every day brings new opportunities. She refuses to dwell on the negative since she got a second chance at life in the USA.

**Note:** Ney Ney is a powerhouse of strength and positivity. She can do anything she puts her mind to. She is the sister of Garare and Tiem.

**Omar (page 20):** Omar is from Iraq. He speaks Arabic, Turkish, Kurdish, and English. He arrived to the USA from Turkey one year ago (2022). He is 17 years old. He is a talented and good person.

**Note:** Omar is admirable for his strength and openness.

**Aline T (pages 4 and 12):** Aline speaks Kinyarwanda and English. She is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. She arrived to the USA on September 29th, 2020. She is 20 years old. In her freetime she likes to watch movies, play soccer,, and watch TikTok. She has been in the USA for 3 years (as of 2023) and she likes to dance even though she doesn't know how to.

**Note:** Aline will tell you exactly what she wants and will help anyone who needs it. She is definitely someone you want in your corner

**Aisha (pages 8 and 9; background dancer on page 19):** Aisha is from Eritrea. She speaks Afar, Amharic, Tigrayit, and English. She arrived to the USA in 2019. She is 16 years old. She loves playing soccer and wants to be a nurse.

**Note:** Aisha is pure enthusiasm and fun.

**Yvonne (interior front cover):** Yvonne is 18 years old. She speaks Kinyarwanda. She came to the USA on March 20th, 2023 (less than a year ago). She wants to be a teacher.

**Note:** Yvonne made this beautiful drawing in one day. I didn't even have to edit her drawing, the original is print quality.

Faculty Art:

Ms. Sary, STEM teacher: page 26

Ms. Abi, life skills teacher: page 26

Ms. Alanna (see her full title on page 1): created the art for the front and back covers

Ms. Anna, art and comics teacher: pages 1, 2, 8, 19, 25

**RYP Zine edited by Anna Sellheim.**

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**Created in Baltimore MD**

