

*Celebrating out 30th Year*  
*of educating for justice*

2020



*Students Together Opposing Prejudice*

*"If the society today allows wrongs to go  
unchallenged, the impression is created that  
those wrongs have the approval of the  
majority."*

*Barbara Jordan*



S.T.O.P. (Students Together Opposing Prejudice) is a local education initiative begun in 1991 by three faith organizations in Sudbury: Sudbury United Methodist Church, Congregation Beth El and Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

S.T.O.P. is now a seven-week curriculum, offered to middle school students and facilitated by high school members.

**The goals** of the S.T.O.P. program are:

- To develop awareness by participants of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination and the many forms bias takes.
- To give participants strategies to address prejudice and discrimination as they encounter it.

The 1½-hour sessions take place in the participating houses of worship. Through short teachings on each faith students learn about the similarities and differences among the faith traditions so they can appreciate and respect the faith of others.

The participants learn that racial unity comes about through recognition of the value of **each** individual and the celebration of each person's uniqueness. They also learn to appreciate that every community is enriched by its diversity.

**This booklet** is a compilation of cartoons that the students made to convey some of the ideas that they learned, as well as the text of the leadership talks which a few high school students delivered this year during the S.T.O.P. sessions.



# Facilitators



# Participants



# Leadership Talks

Each year S.T.O.P. invites the high school facilitators to present a Leadership Talk to the S.T.O.P. participants. Most of the talks are centered around three topics:

- Why the S.T.O.P. Program?

- How I have experienced prejudice.

- A time when I confronted prejudice in my life.

These talks are no more than 5 minutes but include personal stories about how being in S.T.O.P. has impacted their lives and provide a powerful message for the younger teens.



## **Why the S.T.O.P. Program?**

**Jonah Krasnow**

Three years ago, I walked into this room feeling anxious. Freshman year wasn't going great so far. I was struggling academically, consumed with basketball, and altogether overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of my life. To put it kindly, I felt that I was going to be wasting my Wednesday nights at STOP.

When I joined STOP, it wasn't for some noble purpose. My parents forced me to. At first, I rolled my eyes. I was a bit skeptical of STOP. I have always had a solid sense of right and wrong, and my parents regularly taught me the value of being a good person, and how racism is bad. What was STOP going to teach me that I didn't already know? Shouldn't I be using this time to study for a math quiz or something?

Wow, was I wrong. Not only did STOP fail to be a burden, it actually helped me achieve more serenity in my life. I remember the first time I visited the mosque. Despite going in with many preconceived notions, I quickly realized that didn't know the first thing about Islam. That day, I began a journey of opening my mind that continued far beyond STOP.

That year, I learned a great deal about prejudice, its roots, and how to combat it. I realized that through TV and media, I was taught to distrust certain groups of people. In one example, my parents' fear of me getting a tattoo caused me to grow up suspicious of people with tattoos. Although this example may be small, it is representative of prejudice that is apparent in our society.

As I continued going to STOP, I felt a satisfaction in my learning. With the new tools I learned from STOP, I felt power to make a positive difference in the world around me. This newfound sense of satisfaction changed the way I will forever view the world. Instead of focusing on achieving quantitative grades, a certain appearance, or other external "check marks", STOP taught me that my sense of purpose could come from helping others.

In summation, STOP is a great program that guided me towards becoming a more inclusive, tolerant, and upstanding person. More importantly, it showed me the type of person I want to be moving forward. While I don't expect anyone to reach the same conclusion I did, I have confidence that STOP's impact will reach far beyond this synagogue, town, or community. If more people like you guys begin this journey, we are walking on the right path towards a safer, healthier world.



## **What I learned in the S.T.O.P. Program?**

**Afnaan Qureshi**

Hi everyone, my name is Afnaan Qureshi, I'm a senior at Weston High School. I have four younger siblings, a dog, 6 goats, 5 chickens, and I'm going to be studying mechanical engineering in college. I joined STOP in seventh grade.

STOP has been a crucial part of my development. It is important to learn about your own prejudices, and how to address those prejudices, but more than anything else STOP taught me how to be an upstander.

In today's world, it is more important than ever for your voice to be heard. STOP has given me those toolsets, and it has empowered me to represent my peers.

It is your responsibility to answer the questions, who are you? And what do you represent? Because the moment we allow someone else to decide who we are, and what we represent, we have lost.

Media has branded "Mexicans" as criminals and drug-dealers, "Muslims" defined as terrorists, conservative Christians are viewed as racists due to the group KKK and how Hitler was able to call Jews Germany's "problem". These groups had lost their ability or power to define themselves, and in turn, hateful people filled in that space to define these groups.

You have to define yourself and what you stand for, and STOP teaches us not only how to answer these questions for ourselves, but also for those who may not have a voice. You are all student leaders, and it is your responsibility to take on the problems of tomorrow.

The people let politicians define climate change. The people let news sources define groups of people. The people allow it. We are not the people, because of STOP we are student leaders and activists.

This is my message for those of you who have just joined STOP. Because of STOP I have learned that I have a voice, and I am taking my voice with me to college, and out into the world in a few years.

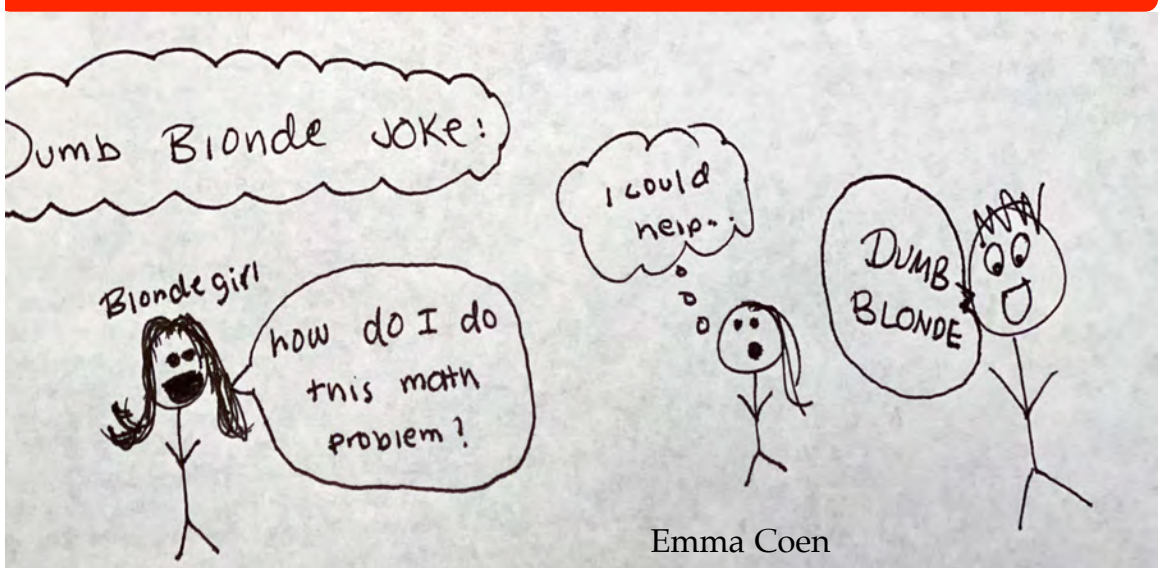
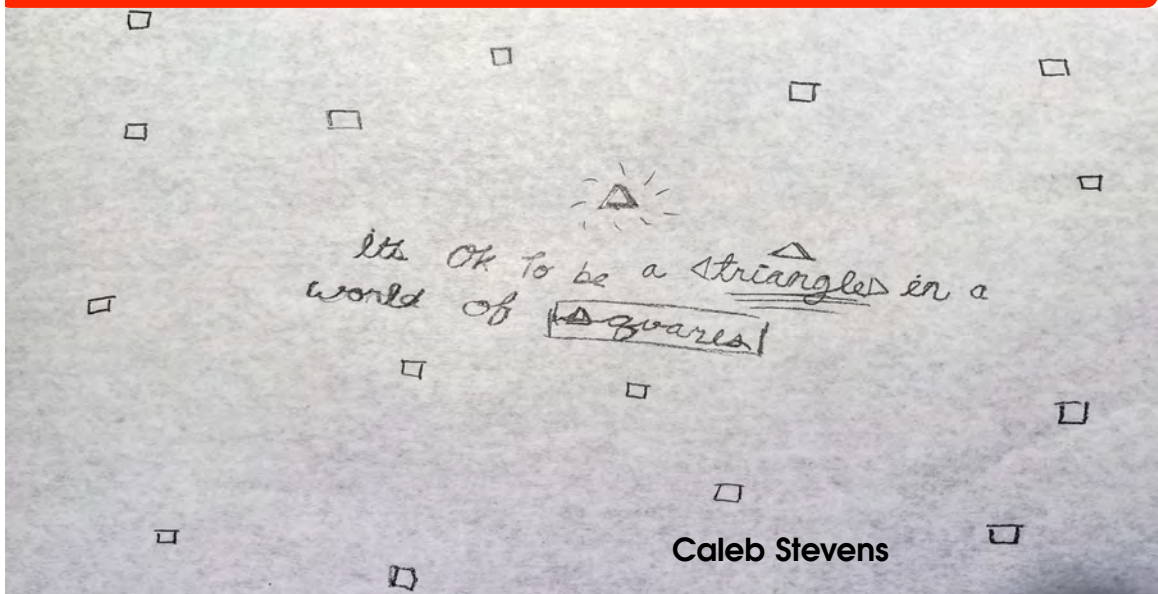
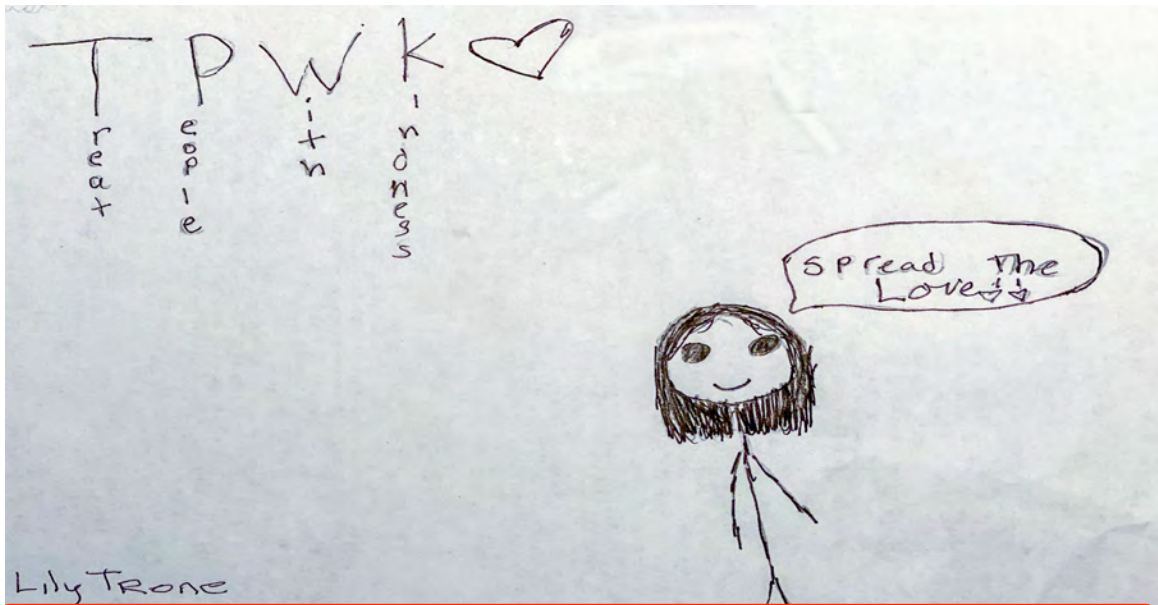
I can proudly say that I am an upstander, just as many of you are or will become.



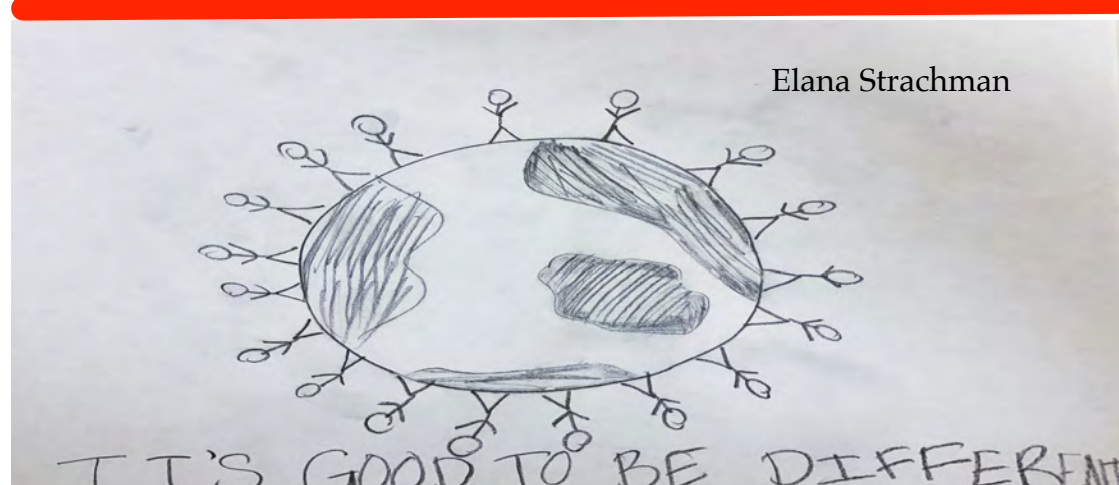
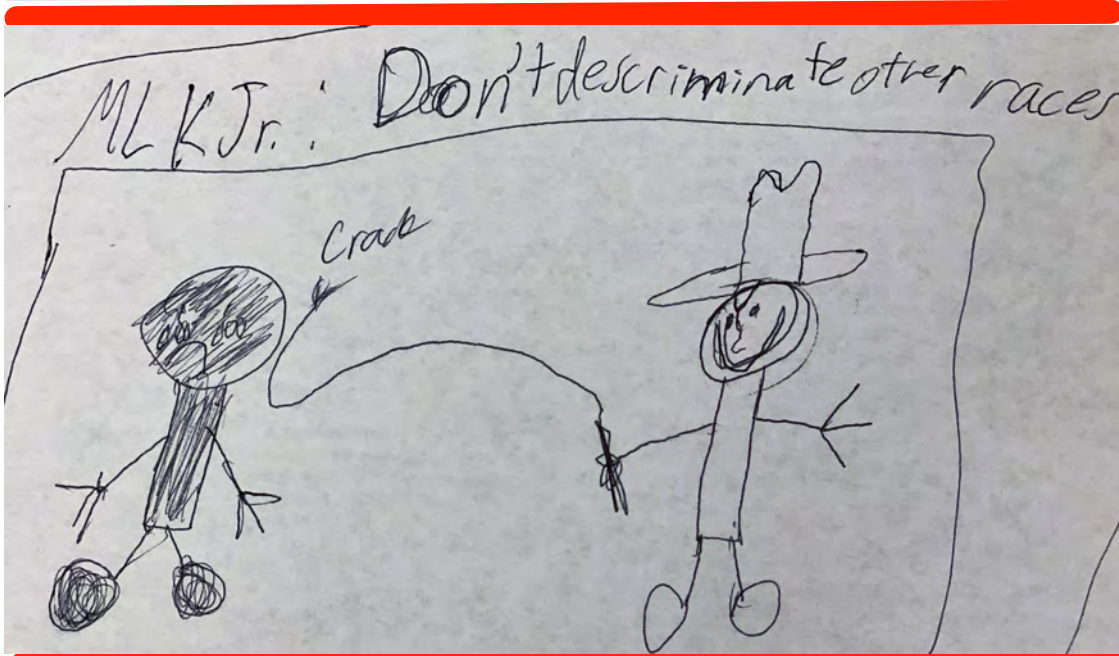
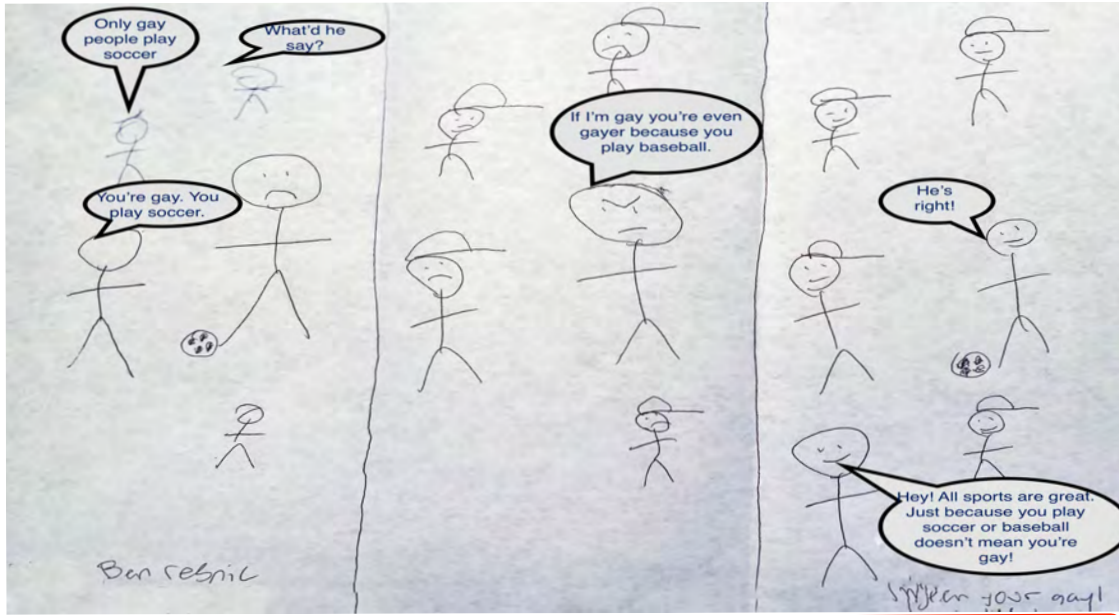
# Creating Cartoons to send a message

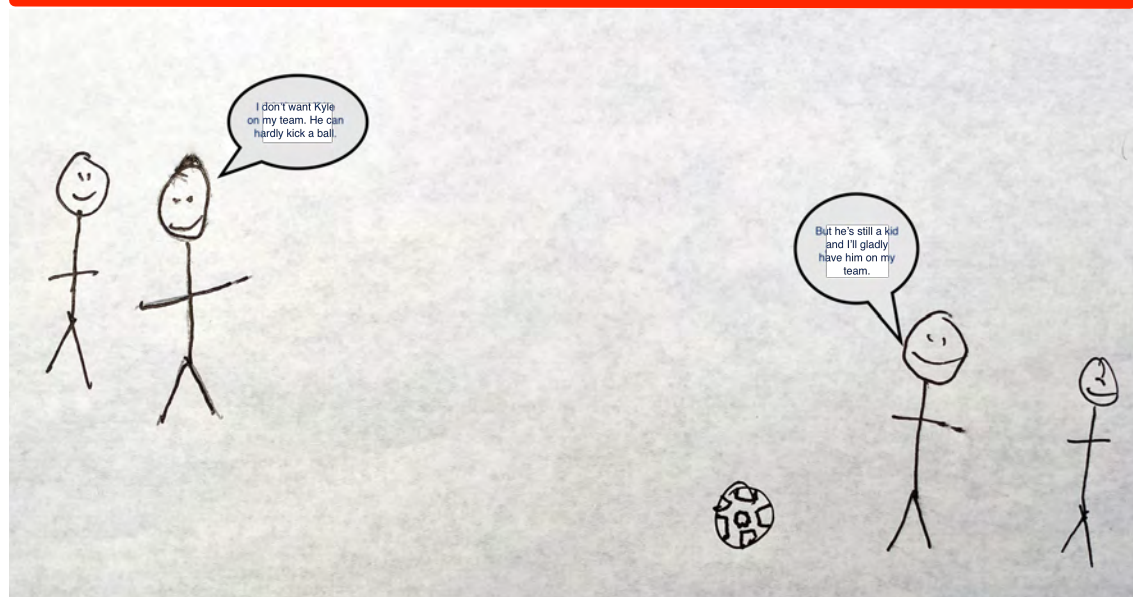
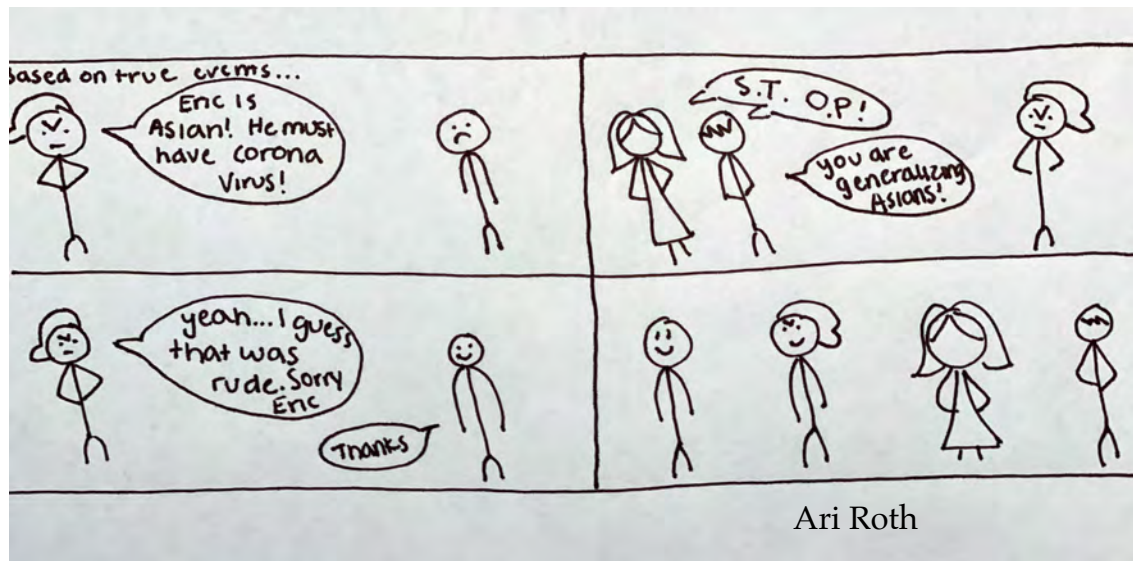
While participants are learning to recognize stereotyping and discrimination, they are also developing strategies to challenge prejudice when it is encountered. Responding to injustice can be a daunting task, so they are encouraged to find non-confrontational ways for expressing their values. One of those methods is through humor or cartoons. These cartoons are intended to be a lighthearted way to convey a serious idea.











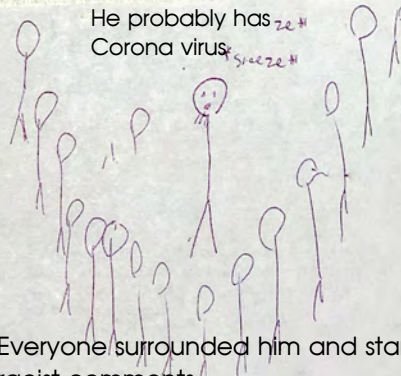


Leah Kotkin

# COEXIST



Kevin, the new Chinese student was coughing in the hallway.

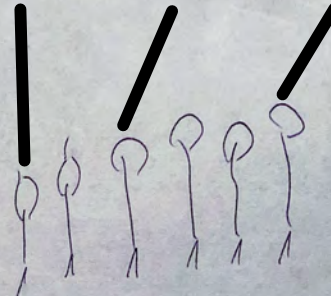


Everyone surrounded him and started making racist comments

Just then Super S.T.O.P. came in and saved the day. "It's just a cold," he said.



"Wow!" "He is so Cool!" "Just a cold."





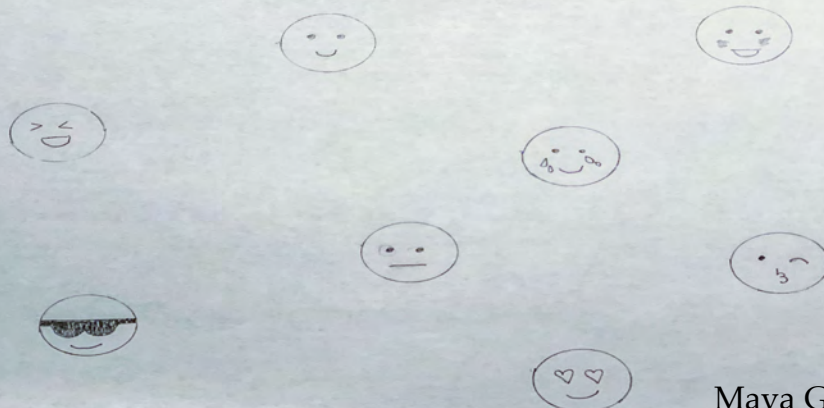
Olivia Shanter  
Olivia Shanter



Rainbows are beautiful because  
of all the colors in them.



Embrace our Differences



Maya G

Maya

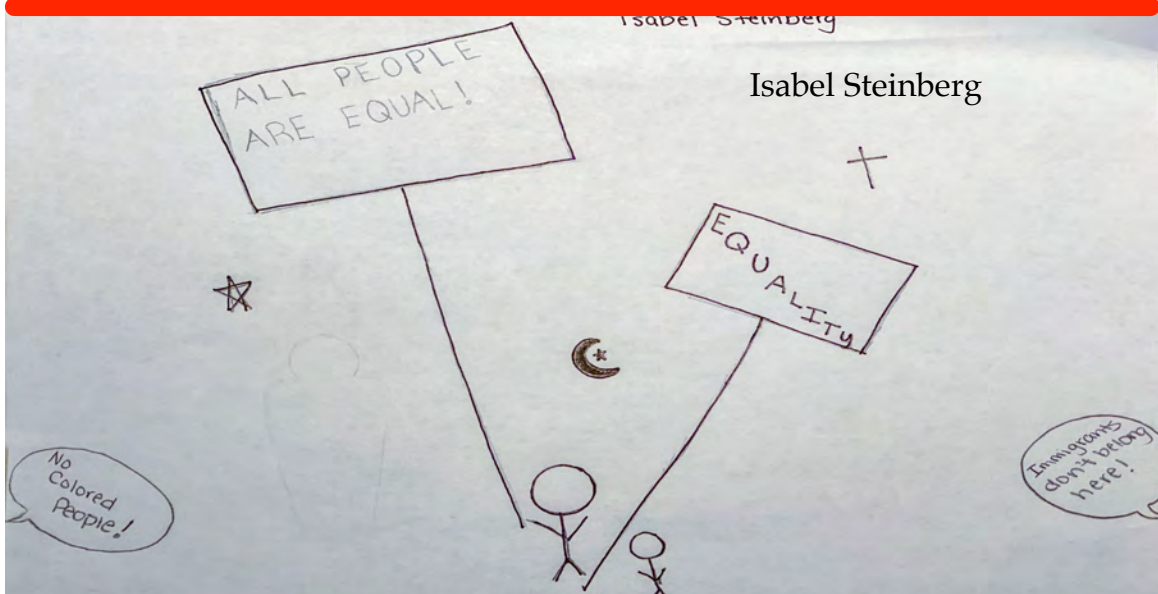
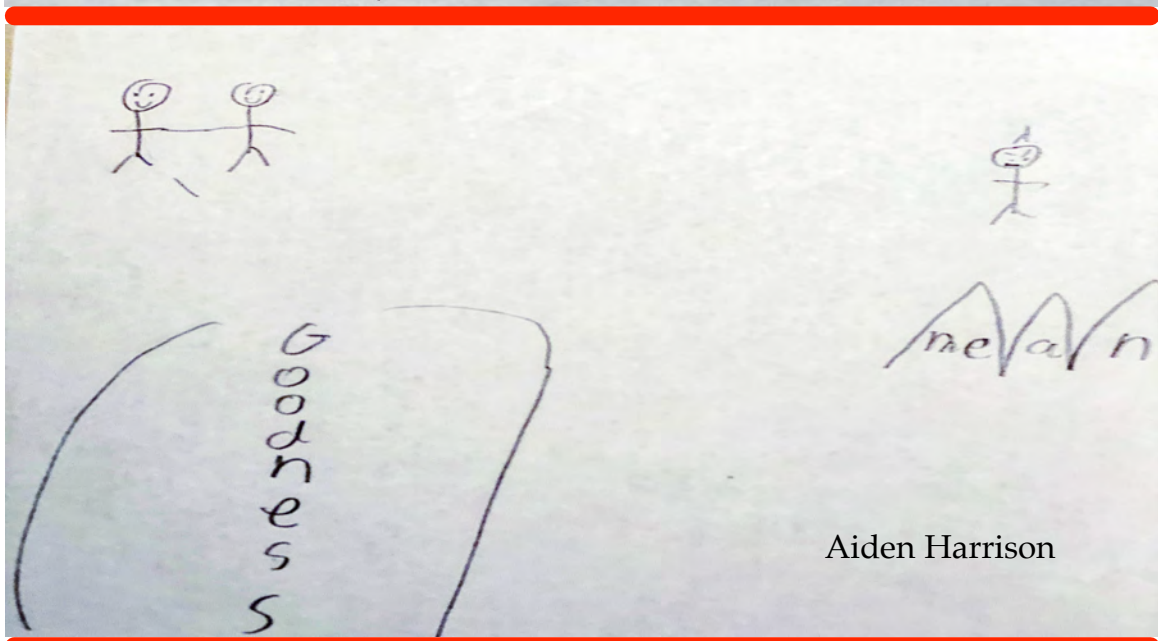
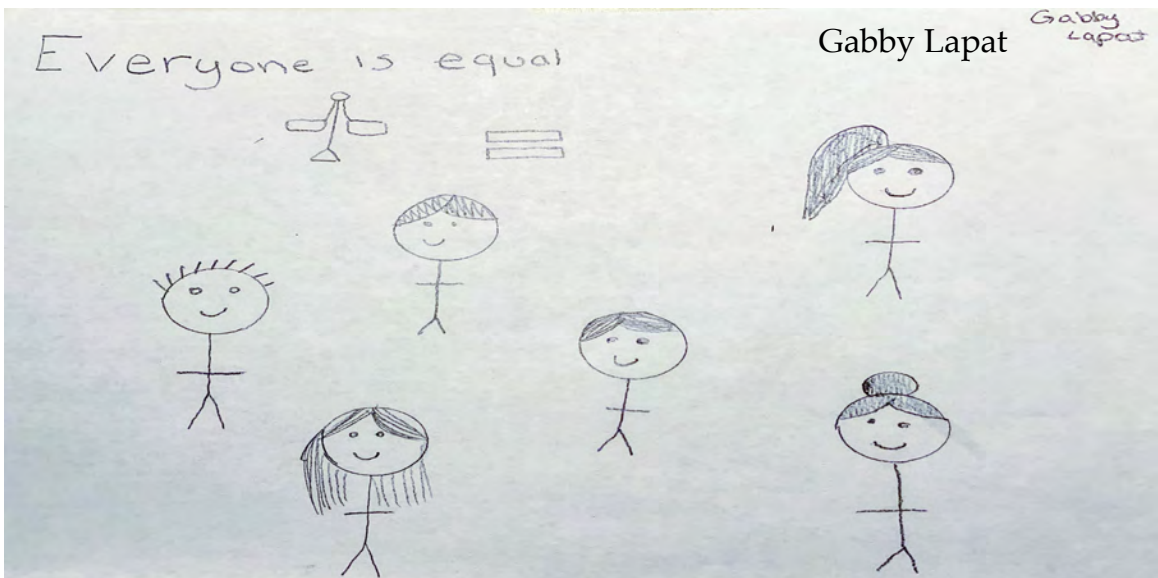




## Facilitator Training



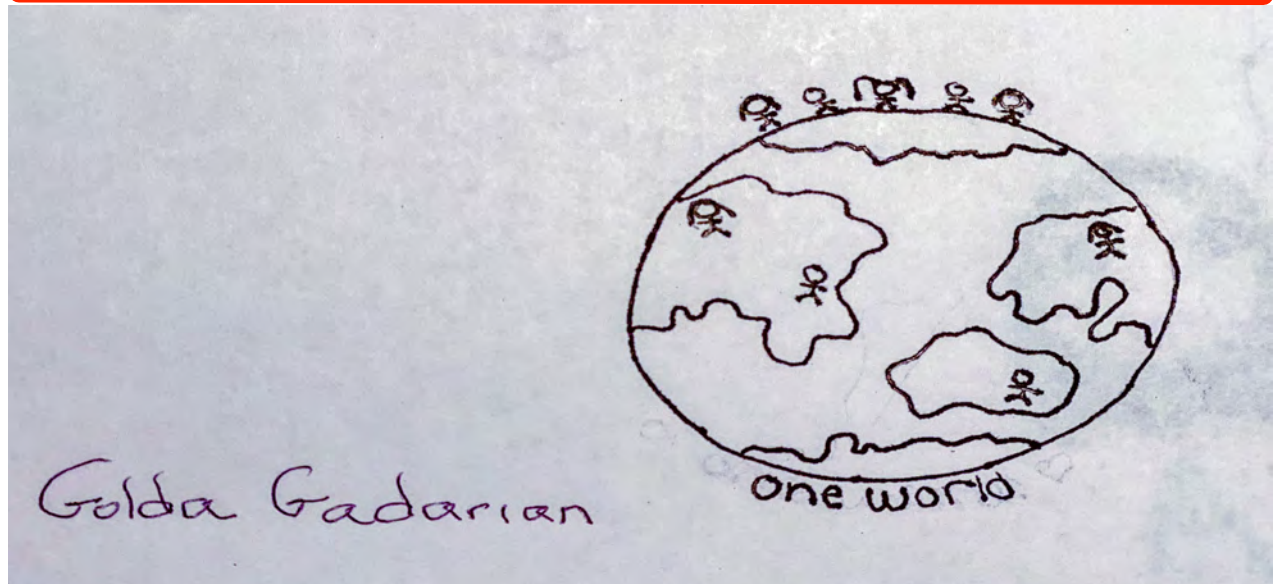


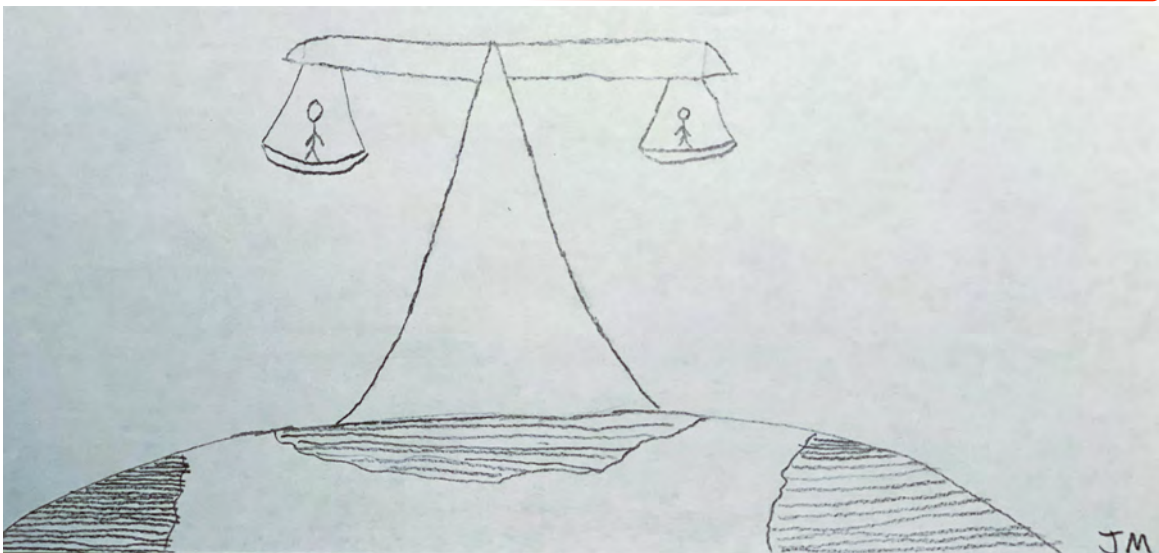
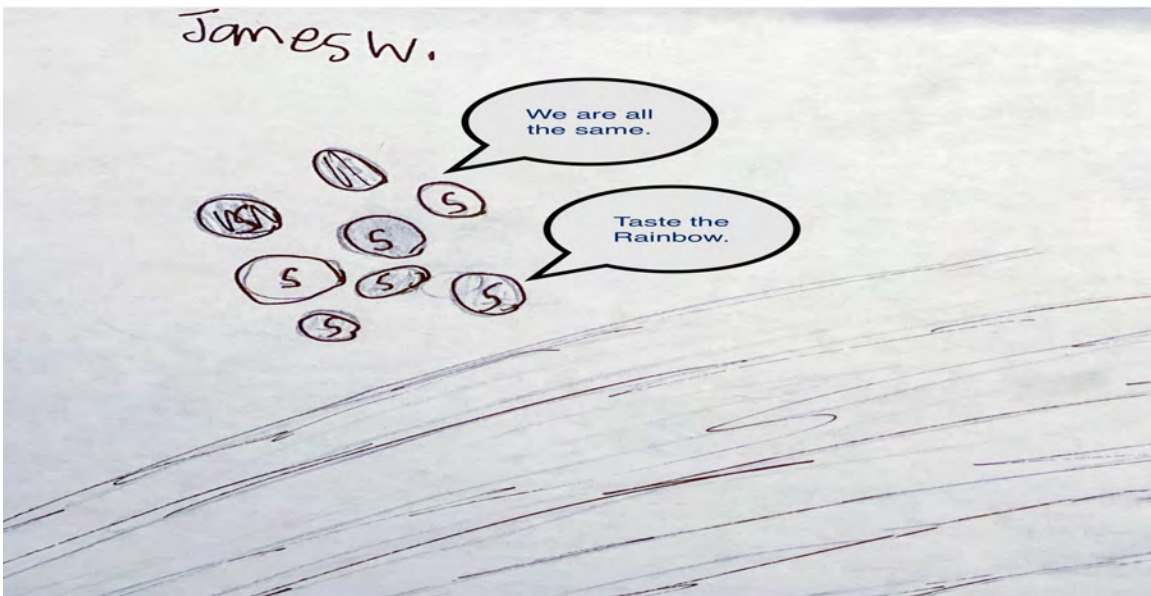
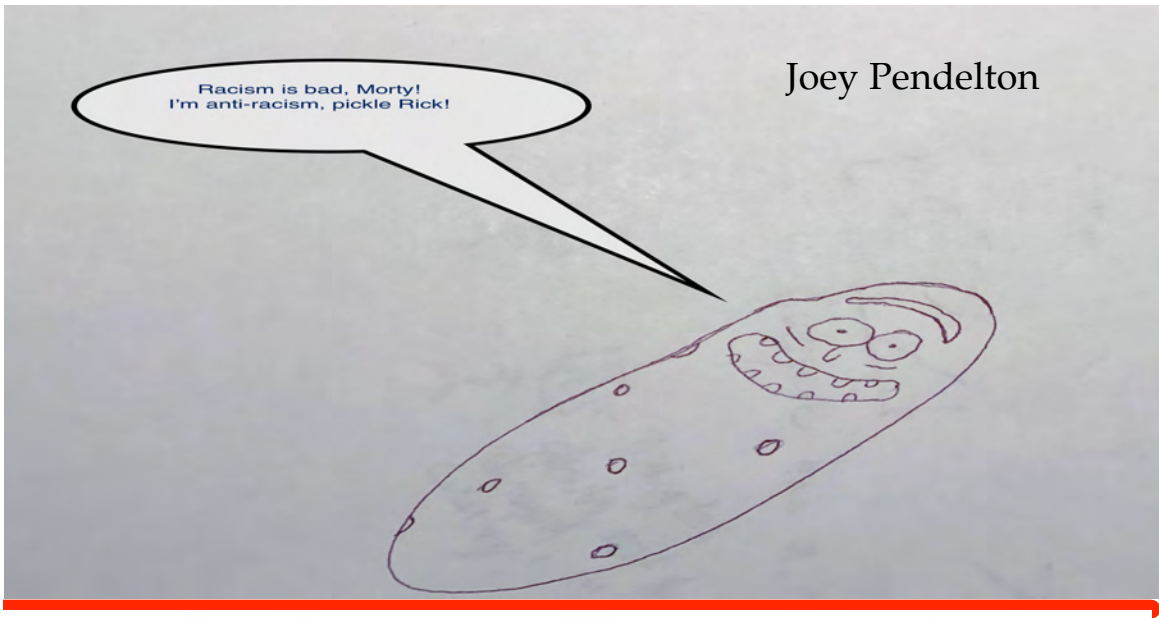






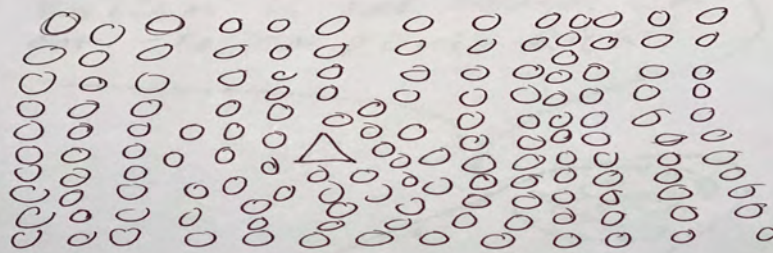
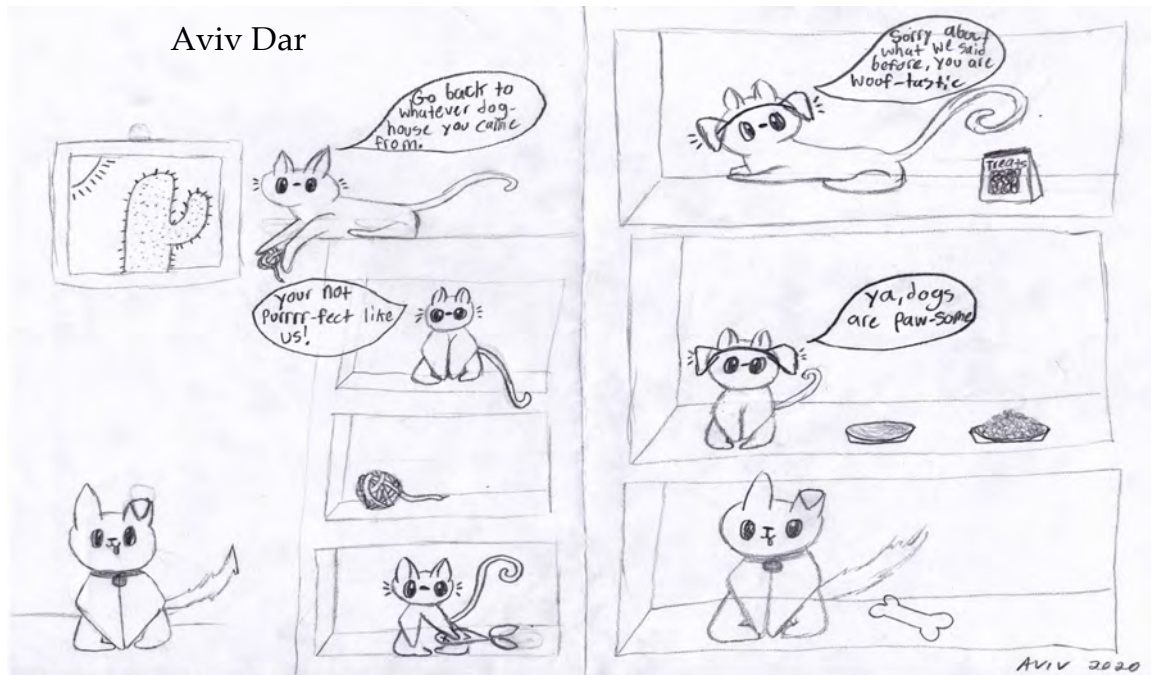
Gen Shanter





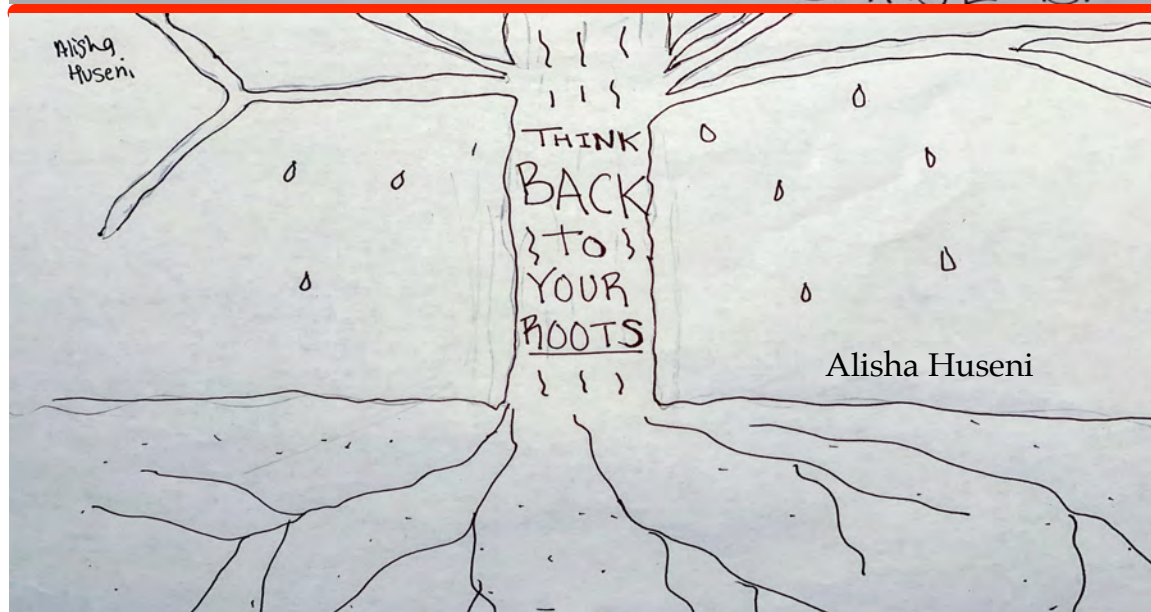


Aviv Dar



It's OK To Be  
Different.

GABE B.



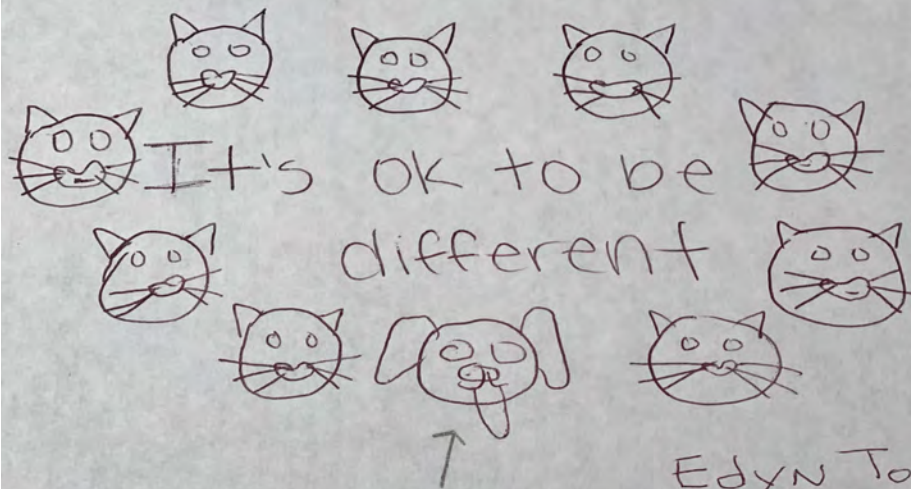




Sharing personal artifacts

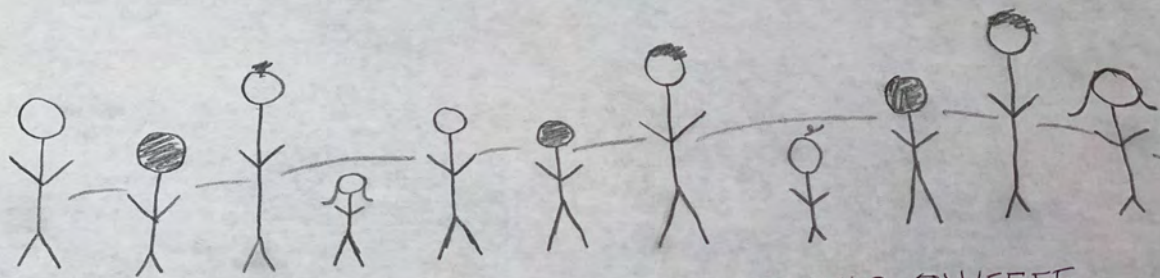




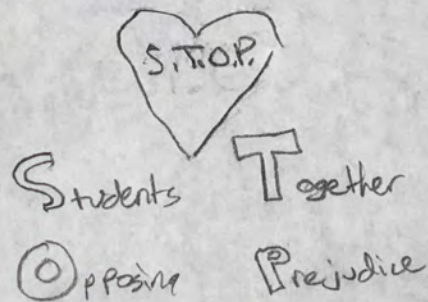
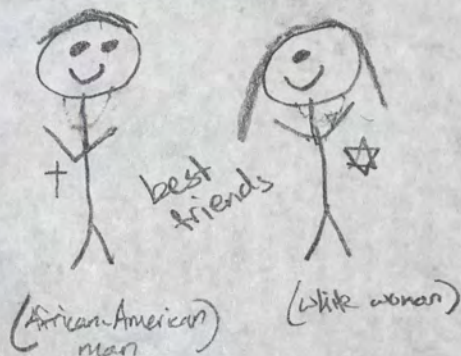
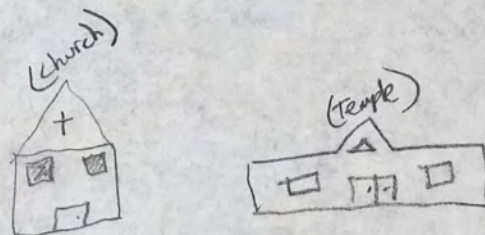


Edyn Tottenham

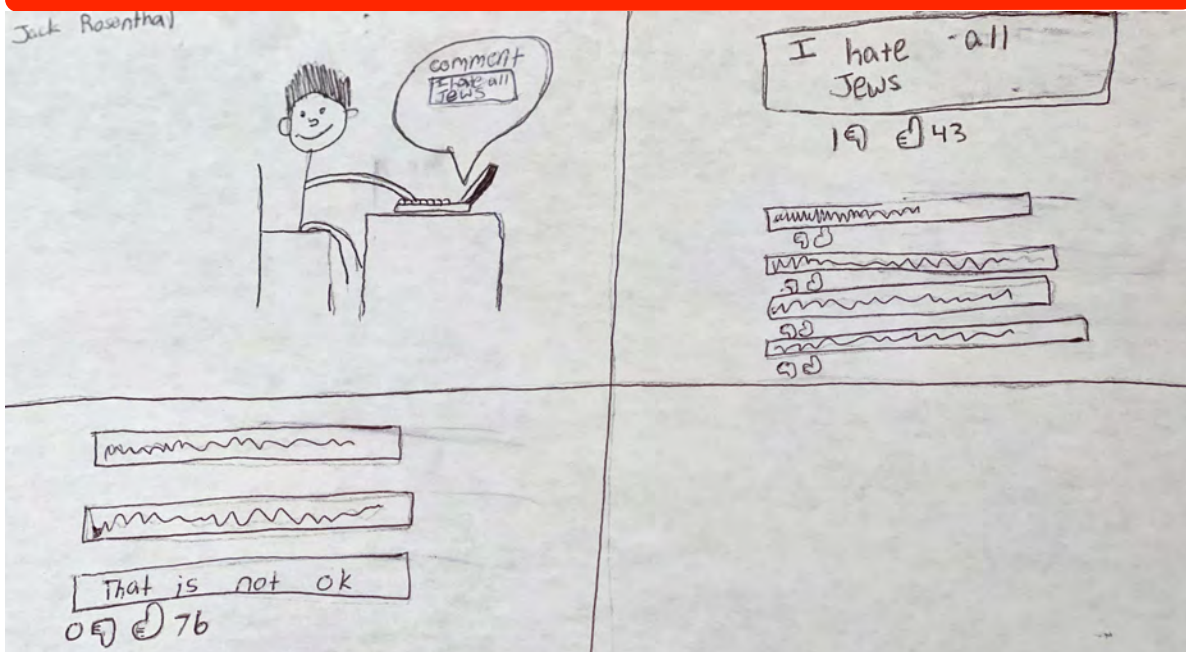
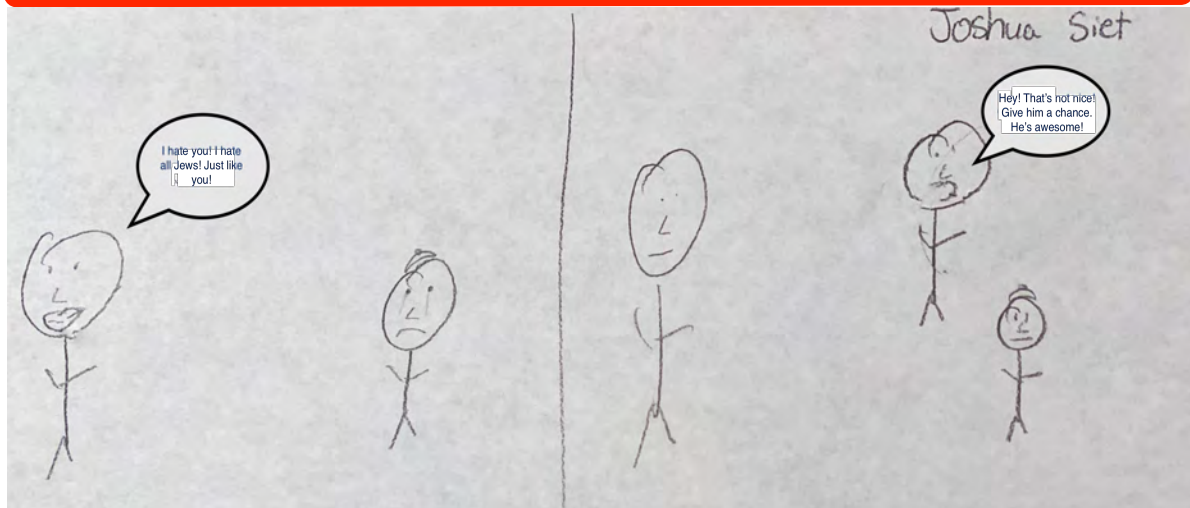
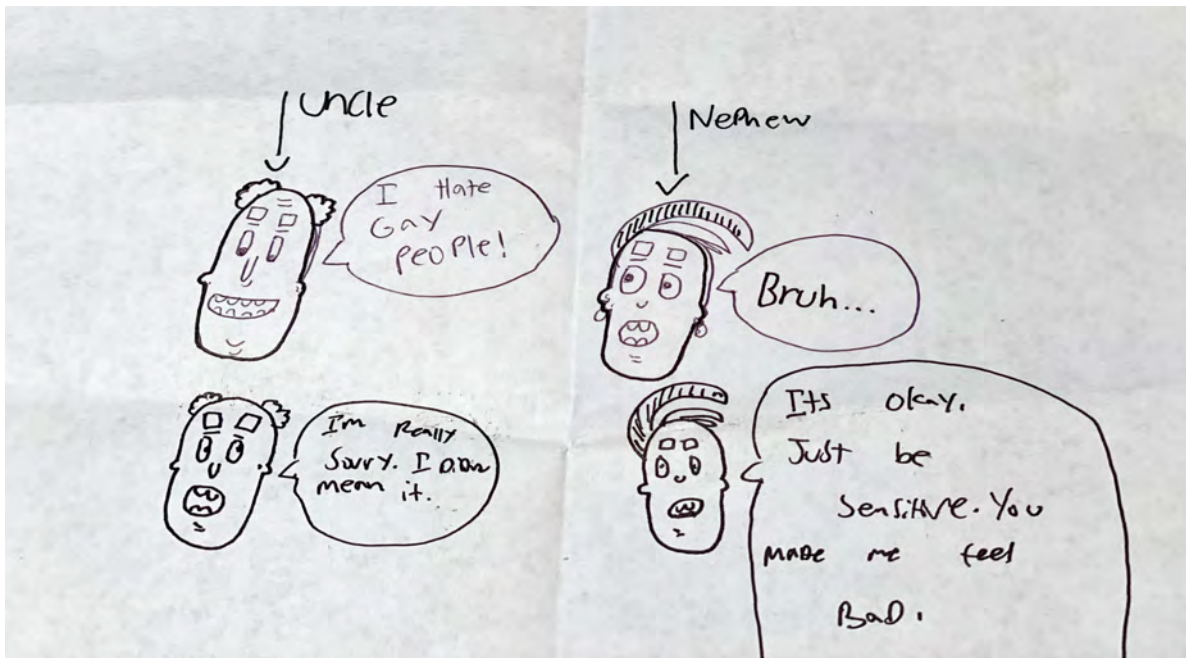
Everyone Matters!



OLIVIA O'KEEFE



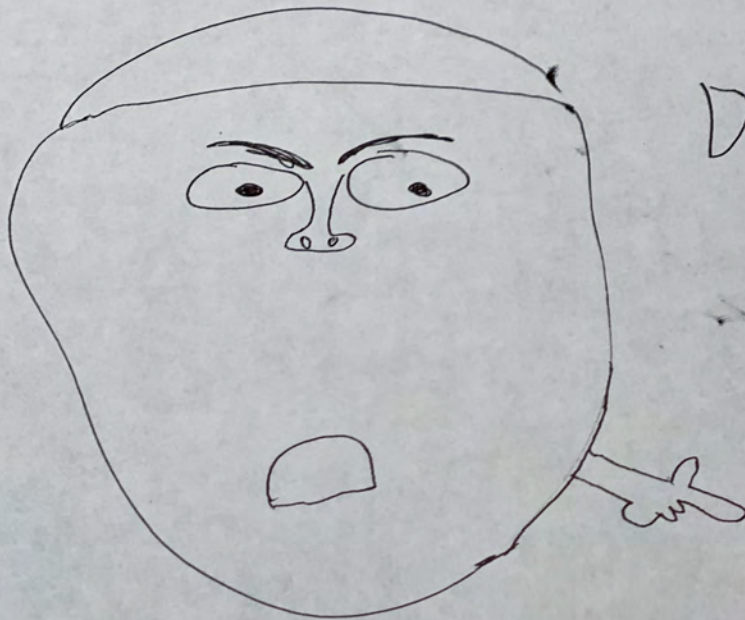
Jordyn G.





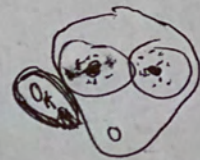
Jacob Woolf

YOU!

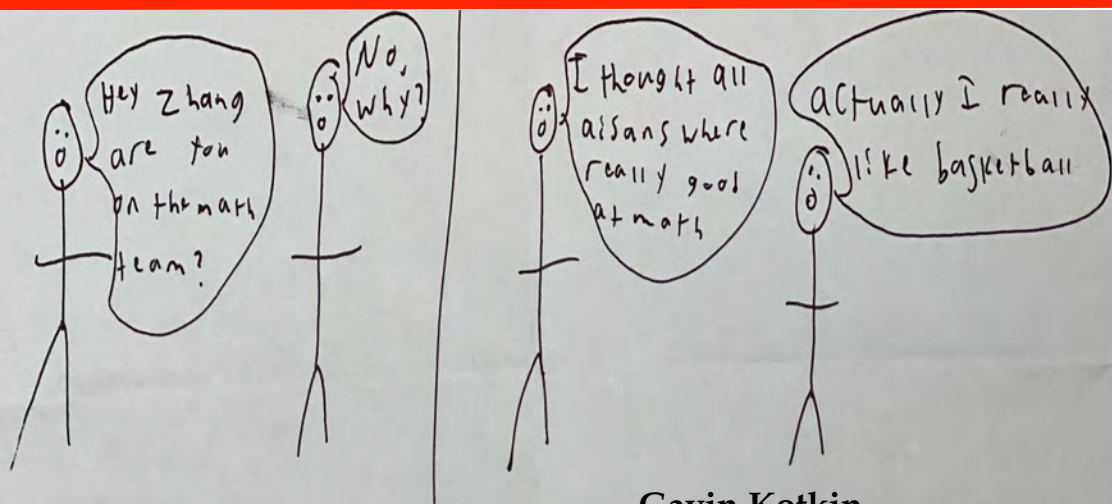


DON'T

BE



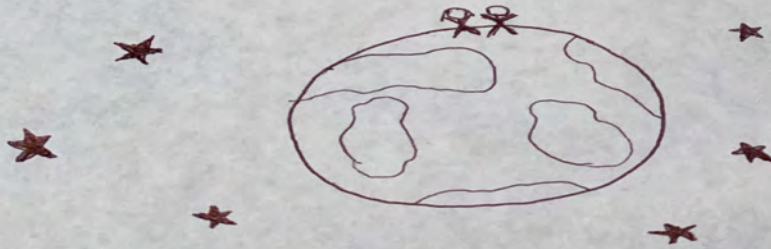
Prejudiced!



Gavin Kotkin

We are all in  
the SAME

Universe, so  
treat each other  
Equal!



Jo see S

Mason Klein

RACE

ISNT THE FATHER OF

RACISM

BUT THE SON OF HATE

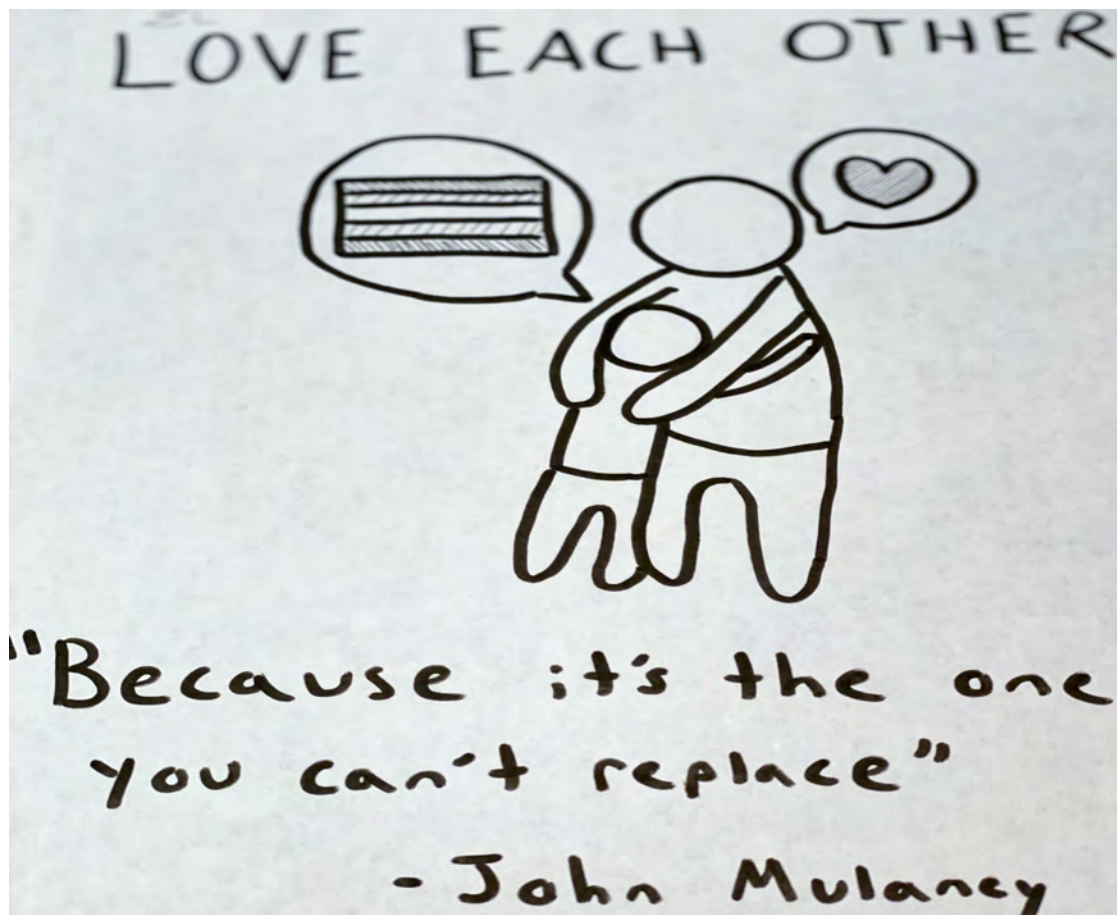
Everyone is Equal,



Danielle Cohn

Not The Same





## Alum Return

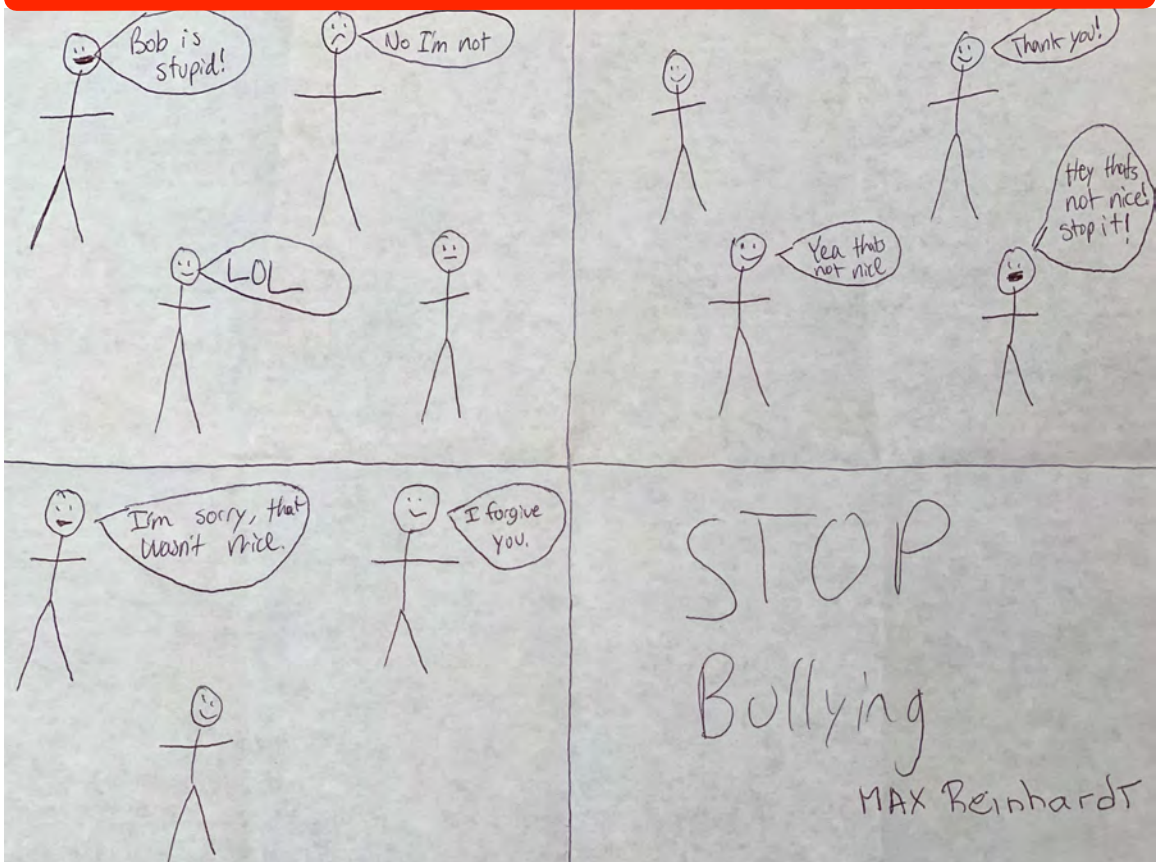


Everyone is Equal,

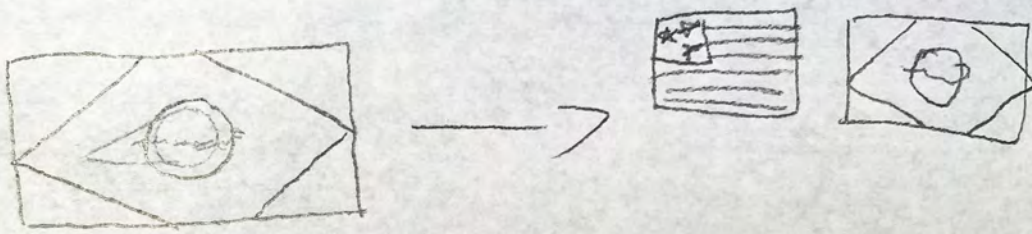


Danielle Cohn

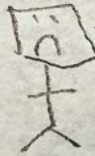
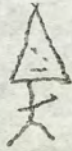
Not The Same







Everyone has a right to citizenship.

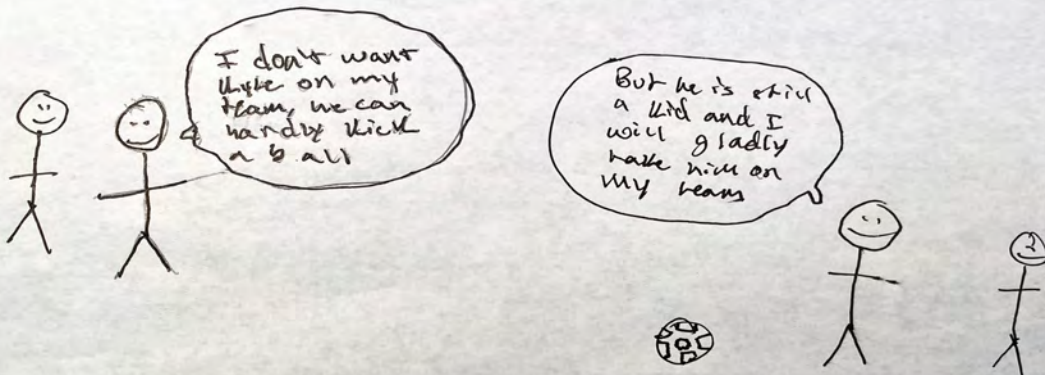


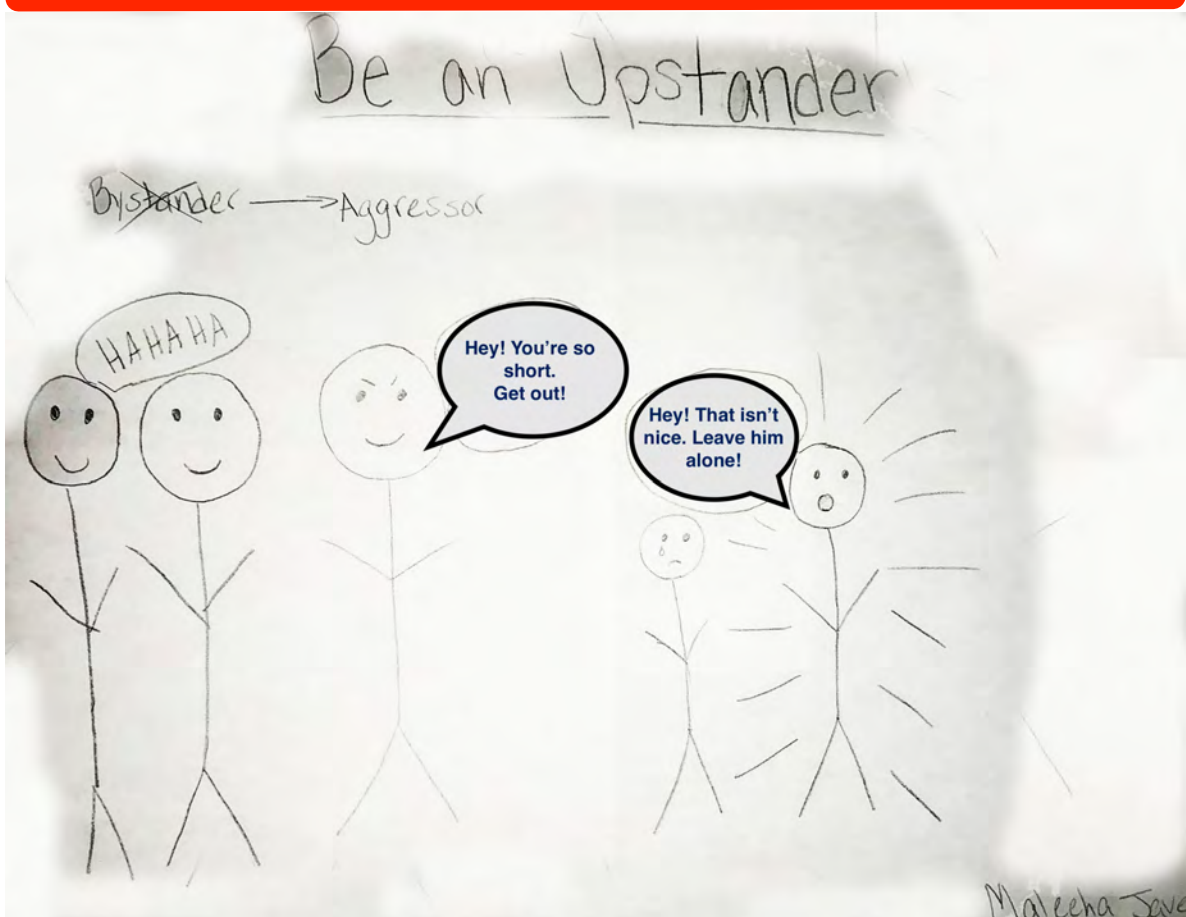
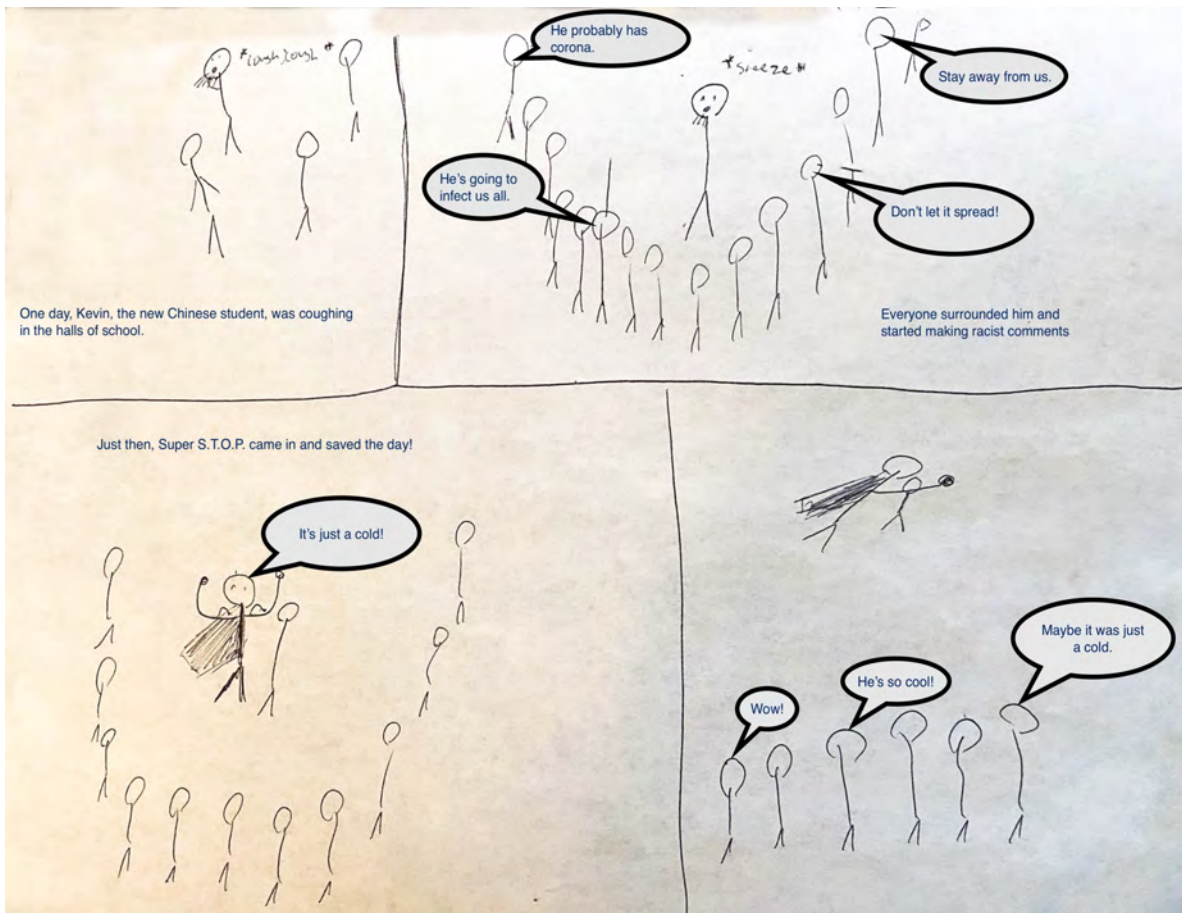
- Triangles  
should not be  
allowed in our  
country!

Actually Muslims don't  
pose any threat to the  
US.

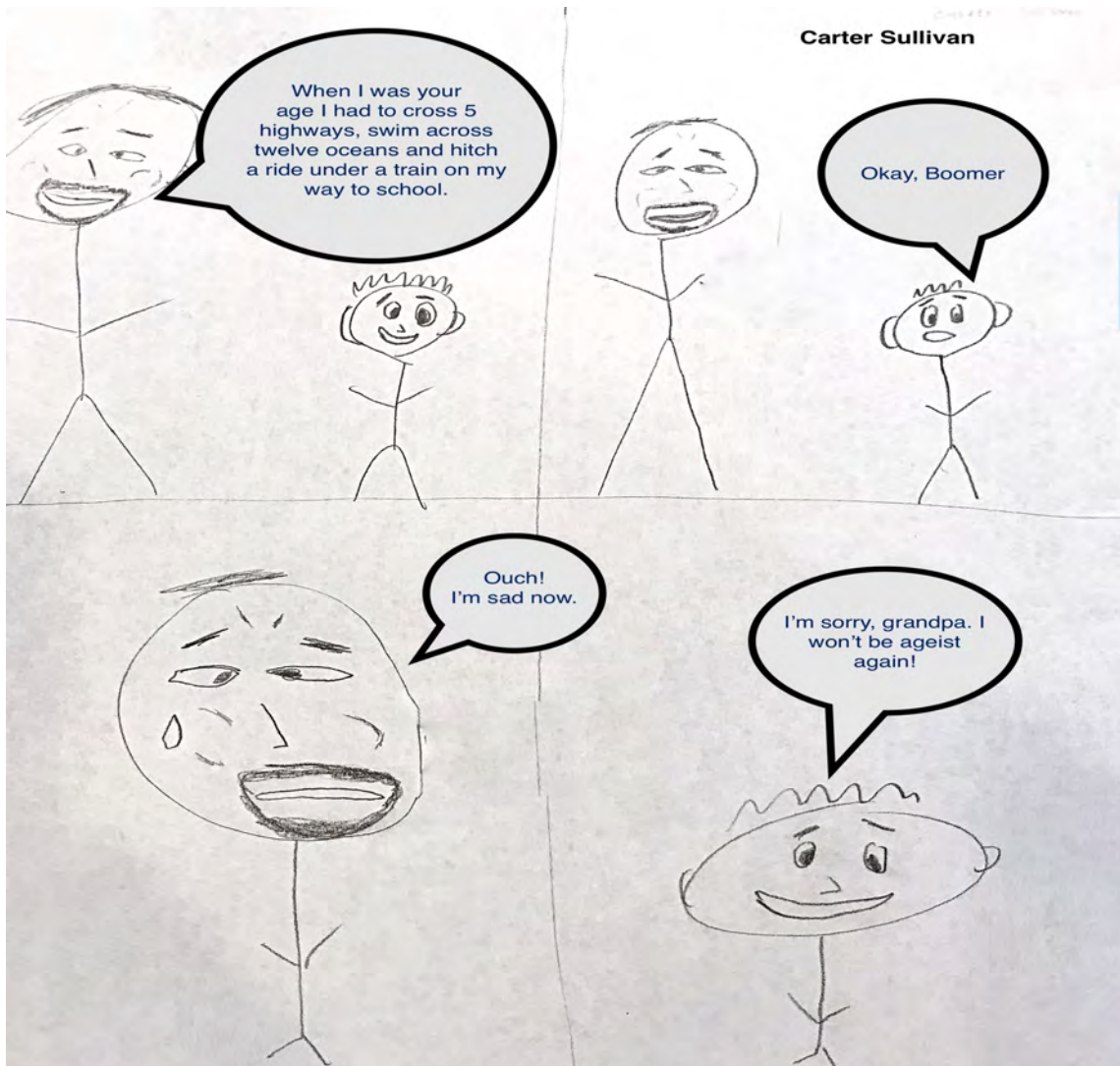


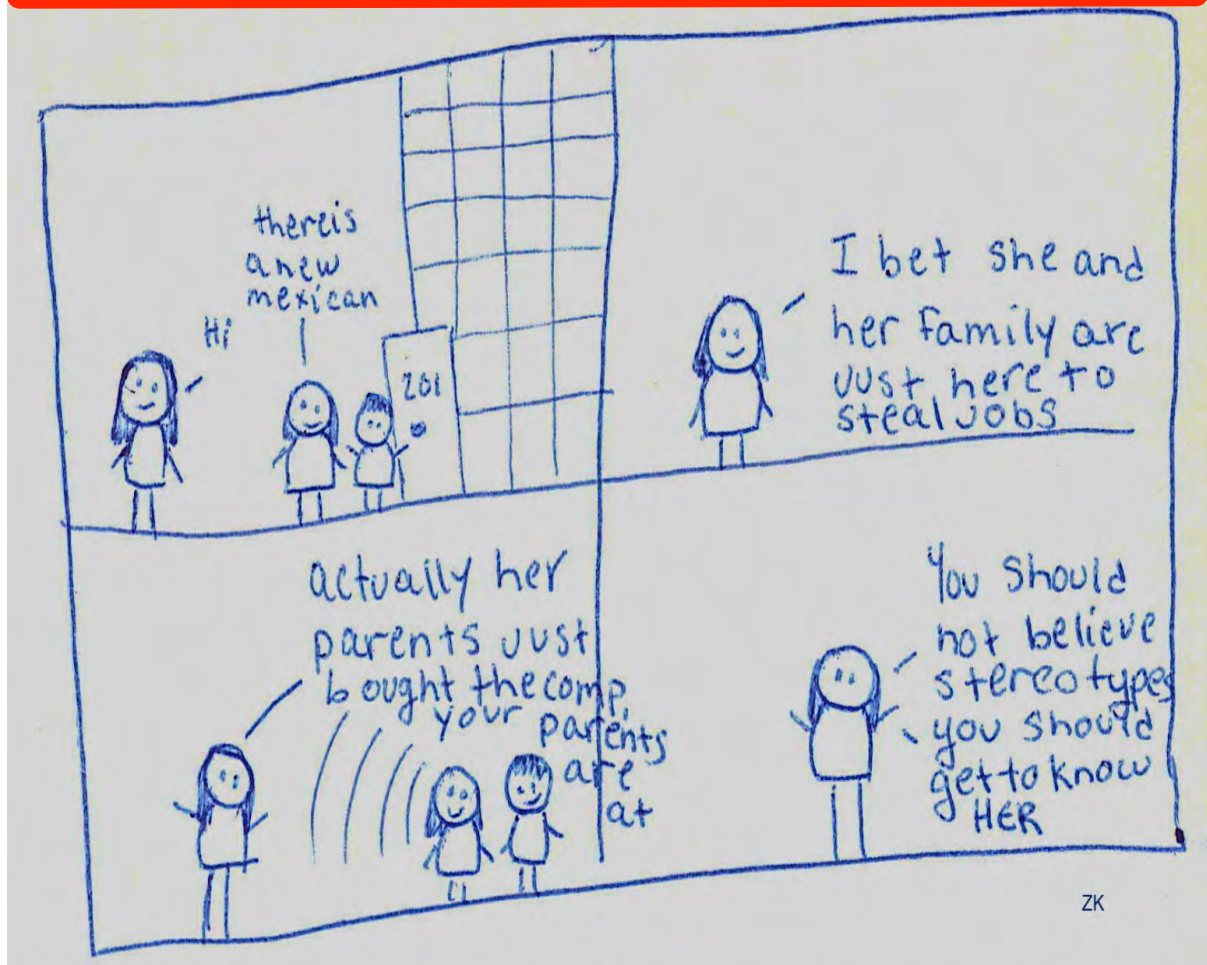
Sam Varner













LOVE HAS NO



COLOR ♥

Natanya Daniels

# Farewell to our amazing seniors!



Seated:

Justin Lewitus, Jonah Krasnow, Maya  
Girzon and Eliana Cohen

Standing:

Carter Sullivan, Afnaan Qureshi, Max  
Woolf, Joey Pendelton, Ari Roth





## **Participating Congregations**

Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley  
Saint Anselm Roman Catholic Church  
Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland  
Saint Elizabeth's Episcopalian Church  
Congregation B'nai Torah  
Congregation Or Atid  
Temple Beth Shalom  
Our Lady of Fatima Parish  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist

*Check out our website:*  
**[www.stoptheprejudice.net](http://www.stoptheprejudice.net)**

*Like us on Facebook:*  
**STOP: Students Together Opposing Prejudice**

*Contact us at:*  
**[stopsudbury@gmail.com](mailto:stopsudbury@gmail.com)**