



# Grace Ink.

*Stories and Poems from  
the Students of Grace Academy*



**Winter, 2016**



## About the Authors



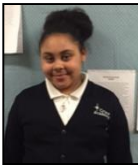
My name is Destiny Hughes. I am in 5th grade. I was born in New London, CT. My best talent is gymnastics - I took lessons for three years. I have ten siblings. I had two cats when I was in kindergarten, but I moved to Old Lyme and got a dog named Buddy. I have two very best friends, Faith and Amaya.



Hi, my name is Abigail Islam and I'm in the 6th grade. I was born on August 3, 2003. My favorite thing to do is write. I am 12 years old and my favorite color is blue (any kind of blue). I was born in Hartford, CT. The school I currently attend is Grace Academy. Another thing to know is that I love to both dance and sing.



My name is Ayanna Nicole Kiser, and I was born in Hartford, CT in 2005. I am in 5th grade. I am interested in music and I like to sing. I have four siblings named Jalen, Ashley, Jordan, and Darnell. I had a pet named Boggy, but he died, and so did another pet named Mooshoo.



My name is Amayah Lebron. I am 11 years old and in the 6th grade. I was born and raised in Hartford. I like to write, because I like to speak my mind and tell stories and experiences that I have had throughout my life. My favorite season is fall, because it's not too hot or too cold, even though my birthday is in June. I have one fish and one cat, which really isn't that bad, even though they hate each other.



Hello. My name is Sande Min. I'm in 6th grade, and I love to procrastinate. In my free time, I think of master plans if I was a villain, but I also like to draw if I'm inspired. I am from Thailand and I am obsessed with noodles! Some special talents I have: I can fit twenty marshmallows between my teeth (when I was younger, I had a gap between my two front teeth and would be able to fit candy between them), and I can speak five languages. I have two brothers and one younger sister. I also love food!



Hi! My name is Destiny Navarro. I am in the 6th grade. I'm from Peru, but was raised in Hartford. My favorite hobby is making desserts for birthdays. I am a shy and quiet person. My favorite sports are soccer, volleyball, and basketball. But as I said, I am a shy girl and very, very quiet.



Hey, my name is Amaya!! I was born in 2005. I live with my mom, brother, and two sisters, as well as my stepdad and dog. I am in 5th grade and my favorite subject is science, because we do lots of experiments and Mrs. Hubert is fun. My talent is that I am a dancer and I love to dance so much. One of my interests is to draw and be creative.



Hi, my name is Grace Alondra Valdez. I was born in 2003. I have one brother and one sister and I am the second oldest of my siblings. I also have two dogs. I am a caring and loving person and I thank God for giving me beautiful parents who love me and care about me. I like to write poems and scary or funny stories.

# Grace Ink.

Created by the Grace Academy Creative Writing Club

Destiny Hughes, Abigail Islam, Amayah Lebron,  
Ayanna Kiser, Sande Min, Destiny Navarro,  
Amaya Sappleton, Grace Valdes



And featuring a series of self-portraits from Grace Academy seventh graders

Ester, Brianna, Shui Se Phue, Eden, Neveah, Nary,  
Paw Say, Ivania, Kaitlee, Moo Ket, Maria, Taina, Graciela,  
and Michelle

Cover illustration by  
Sande Min

# Stars

By Sande Min



The stars have faces.  
They smile down at me.  
The smiling stars, they shine,  
cascading like sprinkles  
across the moonlight.  
And if you are very quiet,  
You can hear the twinkle.



# Ode to My Dance Shoes

By Amaya Sappleton



Helping me turn  
In every direction possible  
Protection from hard landings  
After big leaps

Too many memories  
The good and the bad  
You help me dance  
Even when I'm sad

Thank you dance shoes  
For all that you've done  
I can't wait  
For more experiences to come!





## Rise

By Abigail Islam

It doesn't matter your size, just rise.

Don't despise your crimes,

try to rise.

I can see your fears

through your tears.

Rise, rise, rise.



## Mistletoe

By Destiny Hughes

Kissing  
Under the Mistletoe  
Santa is Watching

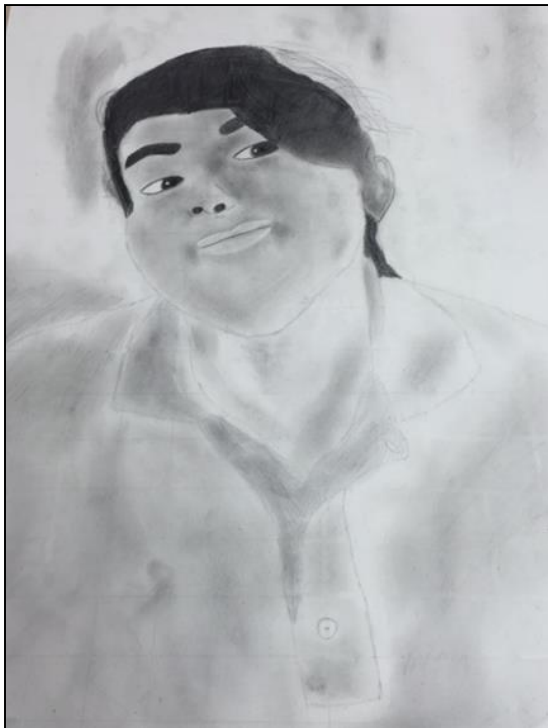




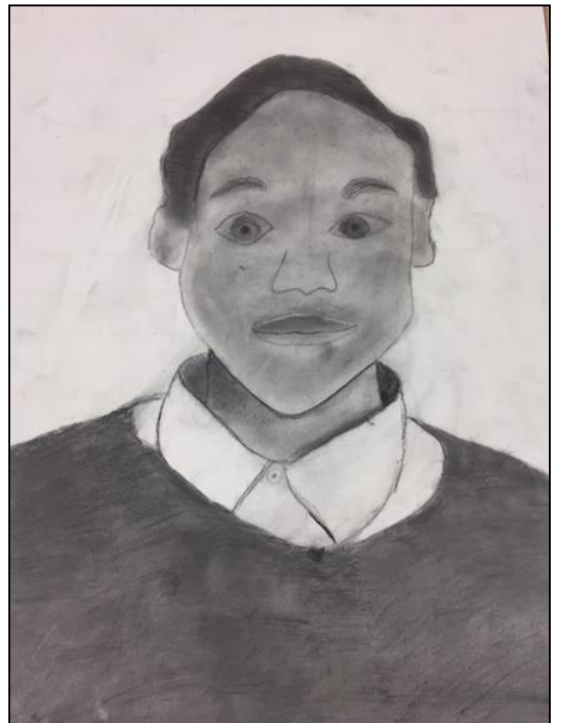
**Ester Paw**



**Shui Se Phoe**



**Brianna Collazo**



**Eden Bailey**





### **\*One Year Later\***

"I'm so glad to be back in my new body and going on a date with my beautiful boyfriend," said Mali, kissing Ashton. The two had gotten to know each other over that strange year in which they had traded places. Then suddenly, that morning, they had woken up in their own bodies.

Ashton blushed, and hugged Mali. While he got dressed, Mali found Calum. They talked about nonsense, and school, and Calum's tour, and Mali's modeling gig.

### **\*Date night, Another Year Later**

"Will you marry me, Mali Hood?" asked Ashton.

"Yes, I will, Ashton Fletcher Irwin."

### **\*The Wedding Day\***

"I do," said Mali and Ashton at the same time, and then they kissed.

"Well, since you're already doing it, you may continue kissing the bride, Sir Irwin," said the priest.

### **\*Several Years Later\***

"Mommy, help me, please!" screamed Amaya.

"Ok, Amaya, what is he doing?" she asked Amaya, smiling over at Ashton, who had their daughter on his lap.

"He is tickling me!" She shrieked and giggled, as Ashton continued to tickle her.

"Like this?" Mali asked, grabbing Amaya's sister, Sande, and doing the same to her. Soon all four of them were laughing uncontrollably.

### **\*Amaya, Age 18\***

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhh," said Amaya, looking in the mirror at a strange reflection.

"Here we go again," said Ashton.



## Ode to Blackie

By Destiny Navarro

My Blackie,  
You will always  
Be in my heart  
Everywhere  
I go.



## Ode to a Soccer Ball

By Grace Valdes



Whoa!  
There is a  
White ball  
with black pentagons  
All over it  
I can kick it  
Hard  
And the ball goes  
Straight  
To the goal



# Life

By Amayah Lebron

Why can't life  
Be simple?  
A lot of people  
Tryin' to ruin your game  
And pop you  
Like a pimple.



# Calm

By Sande Min

I'm falling, falling through the sky  
Stretching my arms out I feel the clouds and wind  
Pushing past the sky  
The stars seem even farther away  
Than they're supposed to be  
While it looks like I have the moon in my hands  
Closing my eyes  
It feels like an endless touch of the world



# Someday

By Ayanna Kiser

Someday, I will become a huge success in the world

Someday, I will have a great education

Someday, I will have a good job

Someday, I will have a great relationship

Someday, I will have a great marriage

Someday, I will have good children

Someday, I will change the world

Someday, the world will change me



# Flying

By Destiny Hughes

Flying, flying  
So beautiful in the sky

Wonderful things  
In the high blue sky

When the wind blows  
It fills the air with love



# Pages

By Abigail Islam

Open, close.  
The words they see on each page  
tell my story.  
In the library,  
I shall stay,  
awaiting another  
to take me away.  
Flop!  
I fall to the ground  
With a great pound.  
But I rise,  
to see my prize,  
almost covered in lies.



# Ode to Love

By Amayah Lebron

His amazing eyes that captivate me  
His soft touch takes me to a heavenly place  
I get lost in his sea of secrets  
His halo of kindness stings me  
I tremble at the thought of losing him  
The tone of his voice melts me where I stand  
His perfect sense of humor kills me  
And carries my body along a river  
I sit here and wonder how this miracle came to me  
His answer takes care of everything  
“Roses are red, violets are blue,  
I will always be here for you.”  
And I know it is true  
But a day will come  
When it all ends  
And another person  
He will send

# The Day I Woke Up As Someone Else

By Amaya Sappleton



This is the story of the day that I woke up as a-- this might sound crazy but-- a...yeah that's right...a MERMAID!!!!

I was so scared, I almost called someone, but I remembered watching videos in which people told other people their secrets and they exposed them, so I knew that wasn't a good idea. I saw my towel and thought, "Let me use reverse psychology--if I feel slimy, I probably spit on myself or something to make me look like this. So I guess I should just try and dry off!"

I got ready without developing a tail, thank the lord, because my brother was following me around the entire time. The problem was that it had rained the day before, and it was still drizzling. I knew that I couldn't get wet if I wanted to remain tail-less, so I asked my mom if she could drive me to school, but she said no because she was busy. (People these days! Am I right?) Meanwhile my brother asked if I could play with him outside and of course I said "No."

I had to find a way to get to school. So I decided to call my friends and tell them what had happened. And the thing is, they said "Yes, us too! The same thing happened to us!" I was so happy they had become mermaids too -- so they knew how I felt for once! But the problem was that I had a boyfriend. How was I supposed to keep it from him? I loved him a lot, and yeah, I was actually the popular one in school, so I didn't want to become a freak now that I was a -- I don't even want to say it.

I finally got to school--one of my friend's moms drove us-- and we ran to class because the sprinklers were on (I mean, it was raining, did they really need more water?). We got to the science room and suddenly, we all had tails! I was surprised: They weren't just playing with me to make me feel better. We dried off, our tails disappeared, and we walked -- on our legs -- to English class. We had to get off early because of the harsh weather (the rain had started again), so my girls and I took the bus home.

It stopped raining, and we had boots on, so we got off the bus and walked the rest of the way home. When we got to my house, I told my mom that my friends were going to stay over. We went into my room, and after talking about our situation, I decided that I should tell Brandon that I was a mer-freak. I was so relieved.

We fell asleep dancing to “I want to dance with somebody who loves me.” When I woke up and went downstairs, the girls were on the couch waiting for me. We walked outside, the sunshine hit us, and I was so happy that I was going to tell Brandon about me. Maybe, after school, we would even go for a swim.

**The End**

## **Lament of An Abandoned Shoe**

**By Sande Min**



It's dark. When I say dark, I mean very dark. I'm surrounded by a bunch of clothing and old quiz papers from Sande's school. I've been here for a week now and my "foot stink" is gradually getting stronger. Almost every day, I hear Sande complaining about the fact that she can't find me, but it's not her fault. She is such a messy person. Honestly, it feels like betrayal, since she's now chosen a shoe to wear instead of me: her classic black and white Converse.

Hopefully, one day, she'll find me.





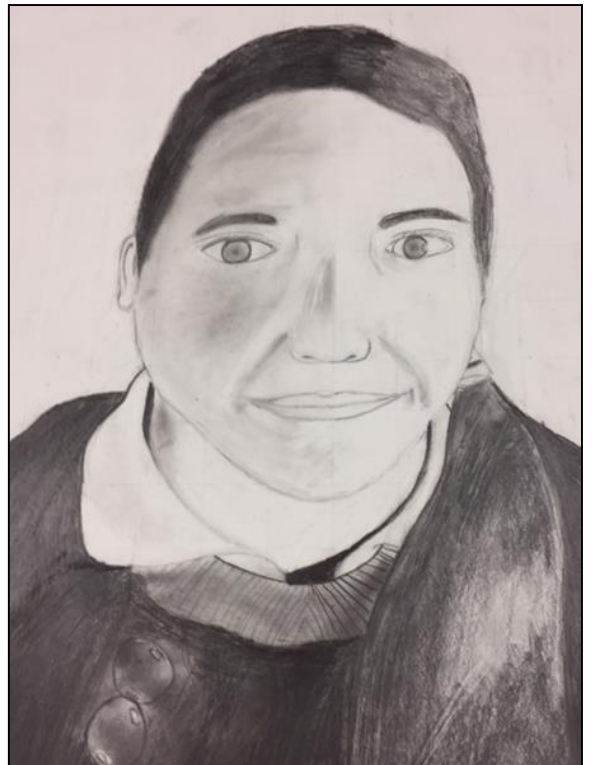
Nary Oo



Paw Say Wah

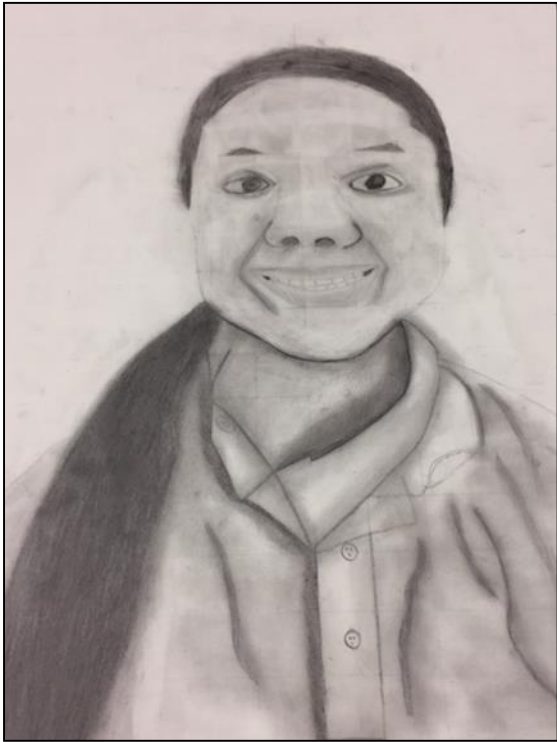


Ivanna Quintuna



Kaitlee Tellez





Moo Ket Po



Maria Janer



Taina Rodriguez



Neveah Bland

# Ode to the Earth

By Ayanna Kiser



The earth is round

The earth is beautiful

The earth is clean

The earth moves around the sun

The earth has many people on it

The earth is big

The earth is where I was born

The earth has me and my family on it

The earth is full of love.

The earth is full of violence

The earth has gotten dirty

The earth needs to be better

The earth needs to change back to the way it was

Protect the earth

Please



# My Future Reflection

By Amaya Sappleton

Every day I will wake up  
and what will I see?  
A beautiful woman,  
that's me.

As I walk to my car  
I will look into a puddle  
And what will I see?  
A beautiful woman  
Just staring at me.

My future husband,  
waiting for me to come home  
I open the door  
And what does he see?  
His three children  
and me  
because that's all that he needs.



# Chris Brown

By Amayah Lebron

He walks, feeling the cold, hard ground  
As he steps, it's almost like he's carrying a pound.  
All the judgments, and things they have to say,  
with each step become profound.

He sees the haters, with every tweet,  
It seems every time like they just have to peep.

No one understands what it's like  
'cause they can't say they have his rights.

Christopher Martin Brown  
shouldn't ever feel this down.

The things he does, and we comment on just 'cause,  
this fame has brought a brand new flame



# Different

By Destiny Navarro



I walk back and forth to see  
the true me.

I wonder what I am. Just  
by looking.

My dark black hair,  
dark brown eyes, lightly paled  
but bold skin.

I try to see what's different  
about me that others can't see.

I look once, then twice, than a third time.  
But I see nothing.

Remember now, the only reason  
I'm different is that everyone else  
is normal, but in their own special way.

And I'm weird because I'm:

Wonderful

Energetic

Intelligent

Random

Different





Graciela Santos



Michelle Garcia



## Ode To Sleep

By Sande Min

Oh, the comfort of the blanket hugging your body as you inhale and exhale  
Dreaming of being the most famous person on Earth, or of the most magnificent landscapes  
Even bringing your imagination to life, in the small amount of time before waking

The softness of the pillow radiating cold and warmth  
Opening the doors to a timed heaven, only to be awoken by reality itself

Startling your mind with thoughts that can be most best or most scariest  
Leaving reality to go into the utopia you dream of most  
Entering a land of colored sunsets, swirling clouds and imagination come true  
Escaping the world made for problems and dilemmas  
Pretending this dream will live on forever, you must wake up now to Earth.

