

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

Written and Illustrated by
Jean-Young Kim

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B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

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Brring! Brring! Sleepy Henry woke up Monday morning at 8 o'clock sharp to the sound of his annoying alarm clock. *Yaawn!* Today was going to be a good day.





Henry glanced at his calendar and noticed a big red circle.
Tomorrow was Henry's 10th birthday!

Should I have a party with my closest friends? Should I eat cake and ice cream? Henry wondered as he got ready for school. He began to worry about how he would celebrate his special day.



“Good morning, Henry!”

Maria greeted at the bus stop.

“Isn’t it your birthday soon?”

“It’s tomorrow,” Henry replied.

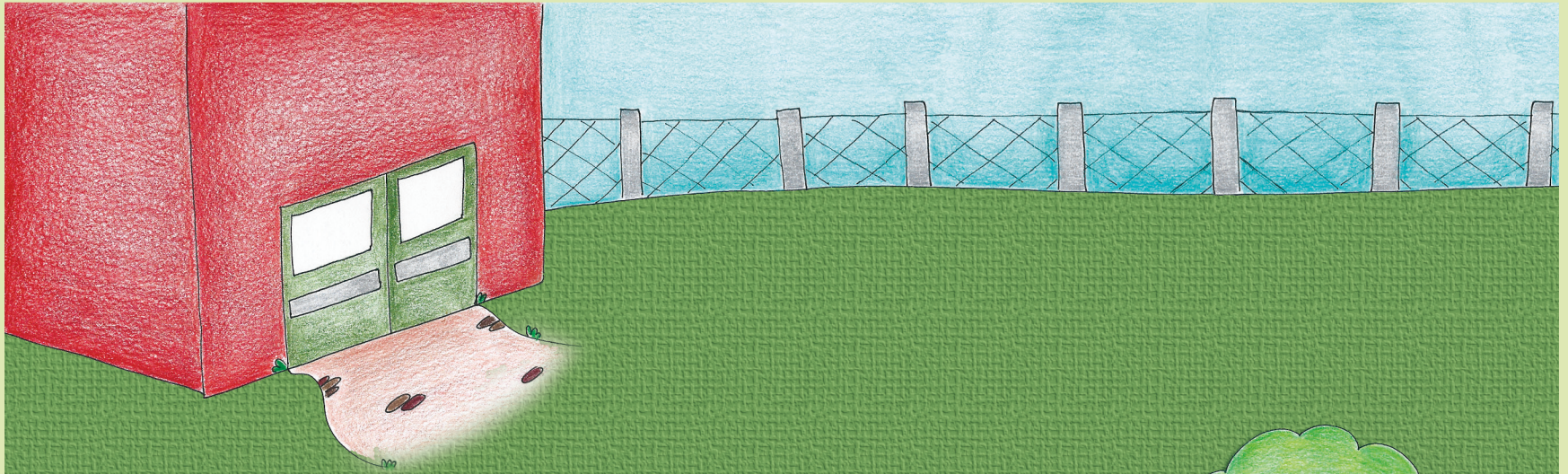
**“I’m going to have a party with
my close friends and eat cake
and ice cream!”**





“That’s lame.” Maria said. “In Mexico, we celebrate birthdays with colorful piñatas filled with lots and lots of candy!”

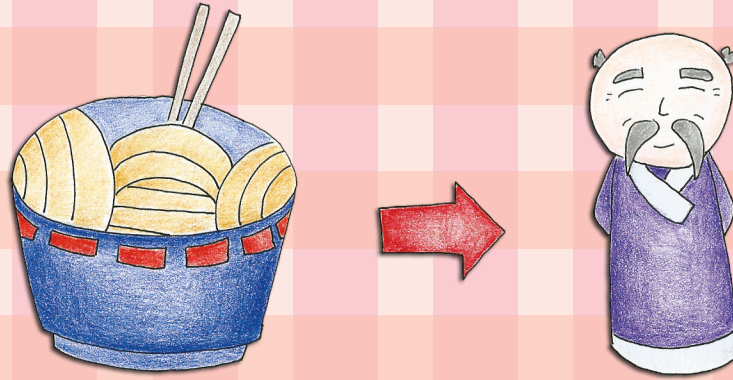
Wow! Henry thought. That’s what I want to do!



“Good morning, Henry!” Ming greeted at school. “Isn’t it your birthday soon?”

“It’s tomorrow,” Henry replied. “I’m going to have a piñata filled with lots and lots of candy!”



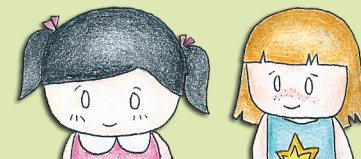
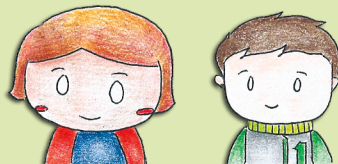
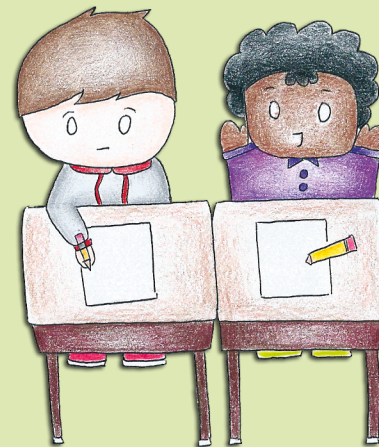


“That’s weird,” Ming giggled. “In China, we eat looong noodles on our birthdays. Long noodles will give you a long life!”

Wow! Henry thought. That’s what I want to do!

**“Hi, Henry!” Aaron greeted in
the classroom. “Isn’t it your
birthday soon?”**

**“It’s tomorrow,” Henry replied.
“I’m going to eat long noodles!”**





“That’s boring,” Aaron laughed. “In Jamaica, we throw flour at the birthday boy and have lots of fun!”

Wow! Henry thought. That’s what I want to do!

“Hi, Henry!” Tomas greeted in the lunchroom. “Isn’t it your birthday soon?”

“It’s tomorrow,” Henry replied.

“I’m going to have my family and friends throw flour at me!”





“That’s bizarre,” Tomas scoffed. “In Lithuania, we lift the birthday child up in a chair so that he or she will grow to be strong!”

Wow! Henry thought. That’s what I want to do!”



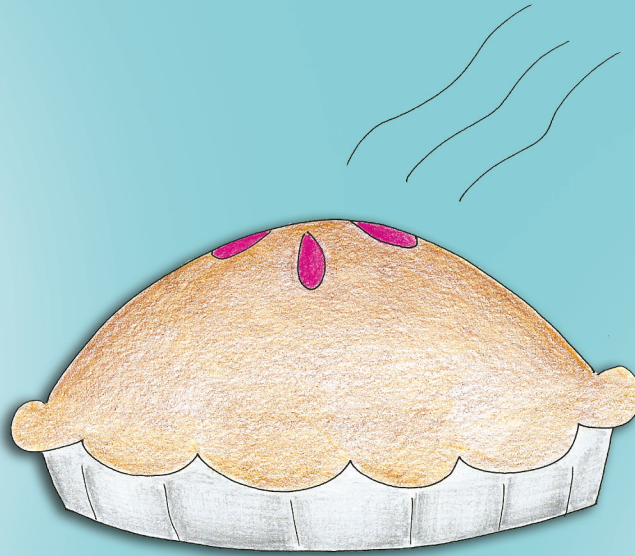
“Hi, Henry!” Igor greeted
on the playground.

“Isn’t it your birthday soon?”

“It’s tomorrow,” Henry replied.

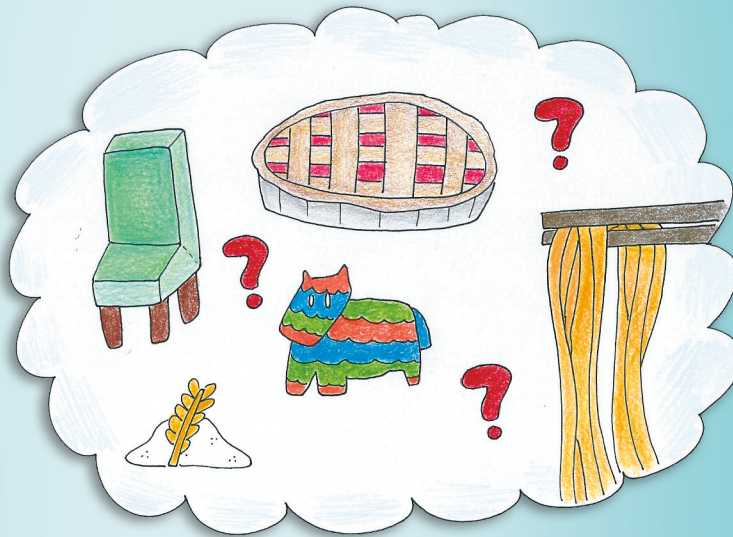
“I’m going to have my family and
friends lift me in a chair!”





**“That’s silly,” Igor teased. “In Russia, we celebrate
by eating delicious birthday pies!”**

Wow! Henry thought. That’s what I want to do... I think.

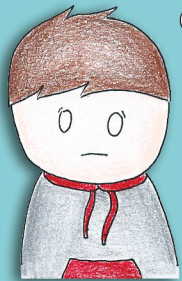


Birthday pie or birthday noodles?

Birthday noodles or birthday flour?

Birthday piñata or birthday chair?

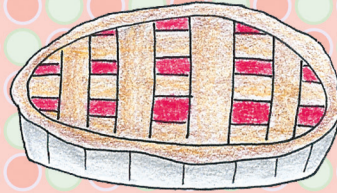
It seemed that no one could agree on one thing!



Sleepy Henry went to bed at 9 o'clock sharp to the sound of his busy thoughts. *Yaawn!* Today was not a good day... he still hadn't decided on what to do for his birthday! Would he even be able to celebrate at all?



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!



Henry was shocked at the delicious pies from Russia, extra long noodles from China, lots and lots of flour from Jamaica, a giant piñata from Mexico, and a chair from Lithuania.

This was the recipe for a perfect birthday!





But most importantly, Henry's amazing friends each brought their own celebration to make Henry's 10th birthday the best birthday ever.

B'nai B'rith International



Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge

Happy Birthday!, written and illustrated by Jean-Young Kim, was created as part of the B'nai B'rith International *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* in the Washington D.C. metro area.

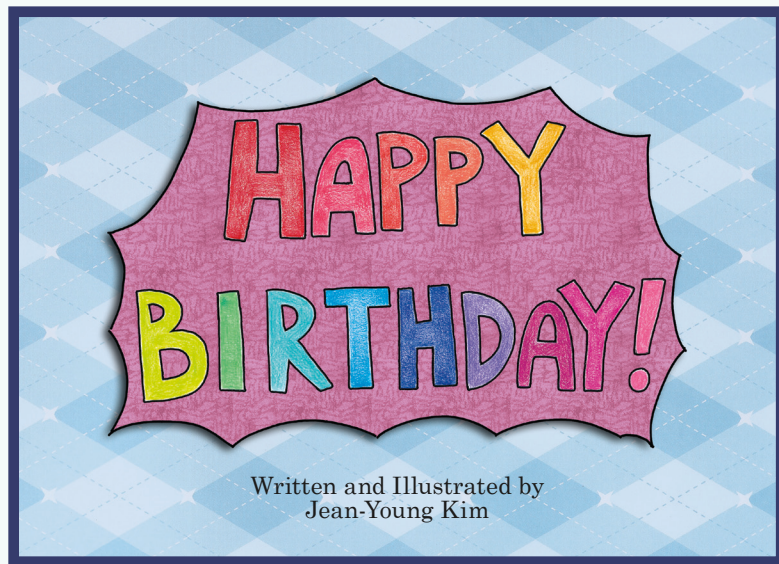
The *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* is an education and awareness initiative created by B'nai B'rith International as part of its series of programs developed to combat bigotry through the promotion of tolerance and equality. The contest aims to present positive views about diversity to a broad range of youth in order to achieve tolerance within our communities.

Executed through public and private high schools within the Washington D.C. metro area, the contest asks high school students to write and illustrate a children's book that tells a story of diversity and tolerance. Participants are required to think about how these principles can improve our world, and then create innovative ways to teach these ideas to children through the creation of a book.

Book submissions were reviewed by a local judging panel comprised of business leaders, educators, non-profit community leaders and local officials. Scholarship prizes in the amounts of \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 are awarded to the first, second and third place winners, and the first-place winning book is professionally published and donated to elementary schools, libraries and literacy organizations.

For more information about the program and next year's contest, please visit www.bnaibrith.org/diverseminds.

FIRST PLACE WINNER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Written and Illustrated by
Jean-Young Kim

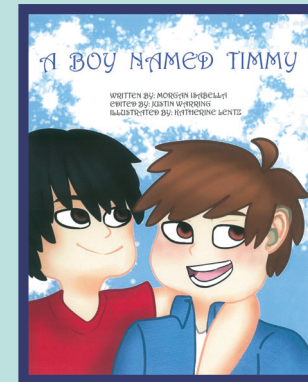
Poolesville High School
Poolesville, Maryland

Teacher: Carol Liu

Jean-Young Kim, a junior in the Science, Math, and Computer Science Program at Poolesville High School, was selected as the first place winner of the 2015 *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* for the Washington, D.C Metro Area.

Happy Birthday! is a story very close to the author's heart. As a child, Jean-Young felt anxious about being different from her friends so, like the story's protagonist, Henry, she tried to blend in with those around her. Eventually she learned to appreciate the beauty of her own culture and those of her friends. She hopes that this book will help children to embrace their own unique identities, rather than be embarrassed by them.

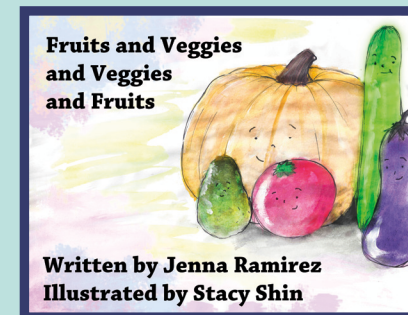
SECOND PLACE WINNER



A BOY NAMED TIMMY

Written, Edited and Illustrated by
Morgan Isabella, Justin Warring and Katherine Lentz
Sandy Spring Friends & James Hubert Blake High Schools
Silver Spring & Sandy Spring, Maryland

THIRD PLACE WINNER



FRUITS AND VEGGIES AND VEGGIES AND FRUITS

Written by Jenna Ramirez
Illustrated by Stacy Shin

James Hubert Blake High School
Silver Spring, Maryland

Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C. METRO AREA

JUDGING PANEL

B'nai B'rith International would like to thank the following judging panel members for donating their time and talents to reviewing the finalists' submissions and selecting the winners for the 2015 *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge*.

Marc Battle

Region Vice President
Pepco

Alexander D. Baumgarten

Director of Public Engagement and Communication
The Episcopal Church

Larry A. Bowers

Interim Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools

Ari Z. Brooks

Executive Director
Friends of the Library, Montgomery County

Donna Cooper

Region President
Pepco

Vince Fiduccia

State Director
Best Buddies Maryland

Dr. Sybille A. Jagusch

Chief, Children's Literature Center
Library of Congress

Debbi Jarvis

Vice President of Corporate Citizenship
& Social Responsibility
Pepco Holdings, Inc.

Jacqueline Jules

Children's Author and Poet

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B'nai B'rith International

Anita Merina

National Coordinator, Read Across America
National Education Association

David Ng

2014 Winner
Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge

Kenneth J. Parker

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Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge

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and Miami Challenge
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David Velazquez

Executive Vice President - Power Delivery
Pepco Holdings, Inc.

PROGRAM SUPPORTER



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**B'nai B'rith International would like to thank PEPCO for their support of the
Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area.**

Pepco has been providing reliable electric service for more than one hundred years. To our valued customers, we work around the clock to deliver electricity to more than 800,000 customers in Maryland and the District of Columbia. While we are proud of the accolades we've earned for service, reliability and customer satisfaction, we realize our work continues.

We also place a high value on being a good corporate citizen. We conduct our business responsibly and in a manner designed to protect the health and safety of our employees, our customers, the general public and the environment. We encourage and support our employees who give their time and energy creating a brighter future for others, and we are fortunate to serve an area so rich in diversity.

That's why Pepco attaches great importance to learning from and working with the diverse cultures that make up our community in the District of Columbia and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

"Diversity is one of the five core values that helps to shape our company. We are pleased to be celebrating diversity in such a profound way through the artistic and intellectual expression of our youth as part of the Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge. Diversity of thought is critical to helping us strategically plan and shape Pepco's future, and who better to stimulate that examination of diversity of thought than our youth."

"Pepco is pleased that through corporate philanthropy, we are able to make immeasurable investments in such worthwhile initiatives that will benefit our valued customers and the communities we both serve and are a part of."

Donna Cooper
Region President
Pepco

B'nai B'rith International



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