

US HUMANS

Written and Illustrated by Vivian Velez

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B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

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www.bnaibrith.org

You and I both live
on this giant grassy rock
that rotates in space





Together,

we are a part of

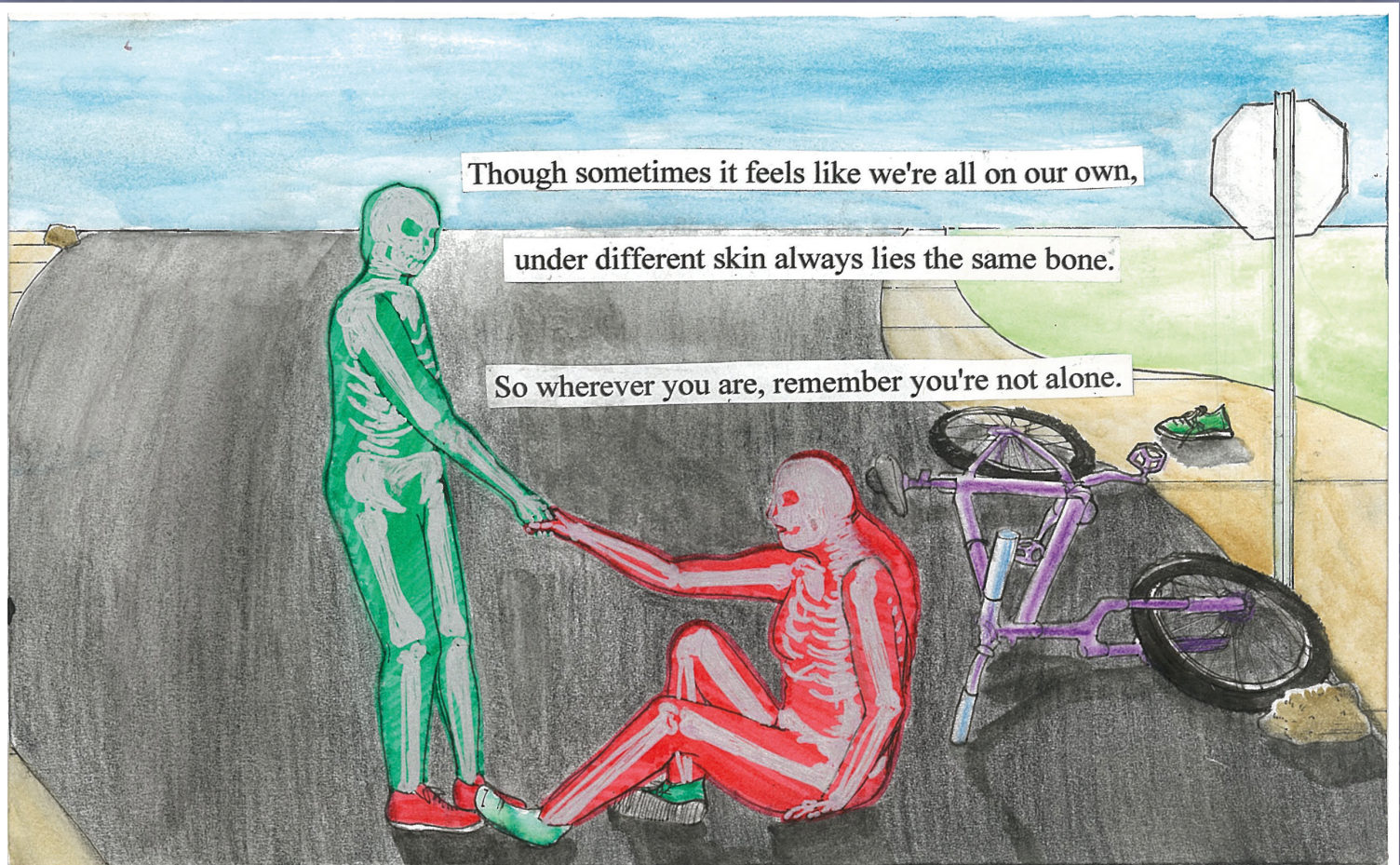
the massive human race



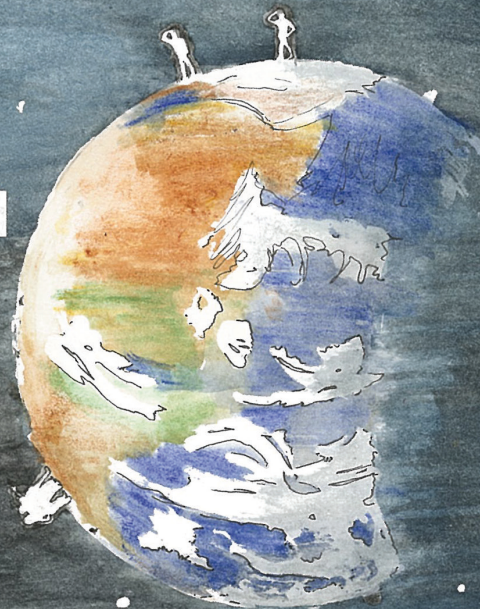
Though sometimes it feels like we're all on our own,

under different skin always lies the same bone.

So wherever you are, remember you're not alone.

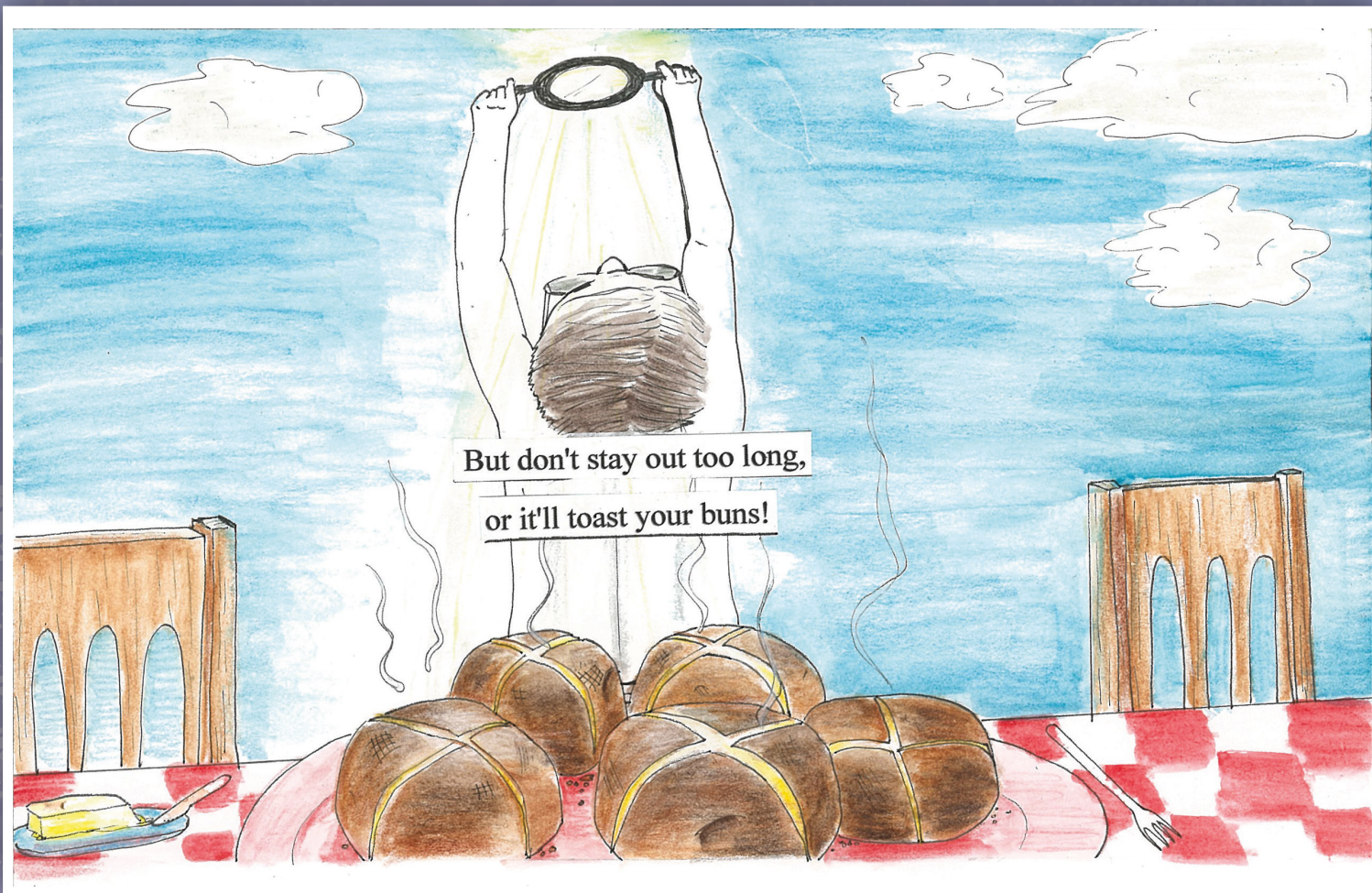


We all exist here under the same incredible sun.

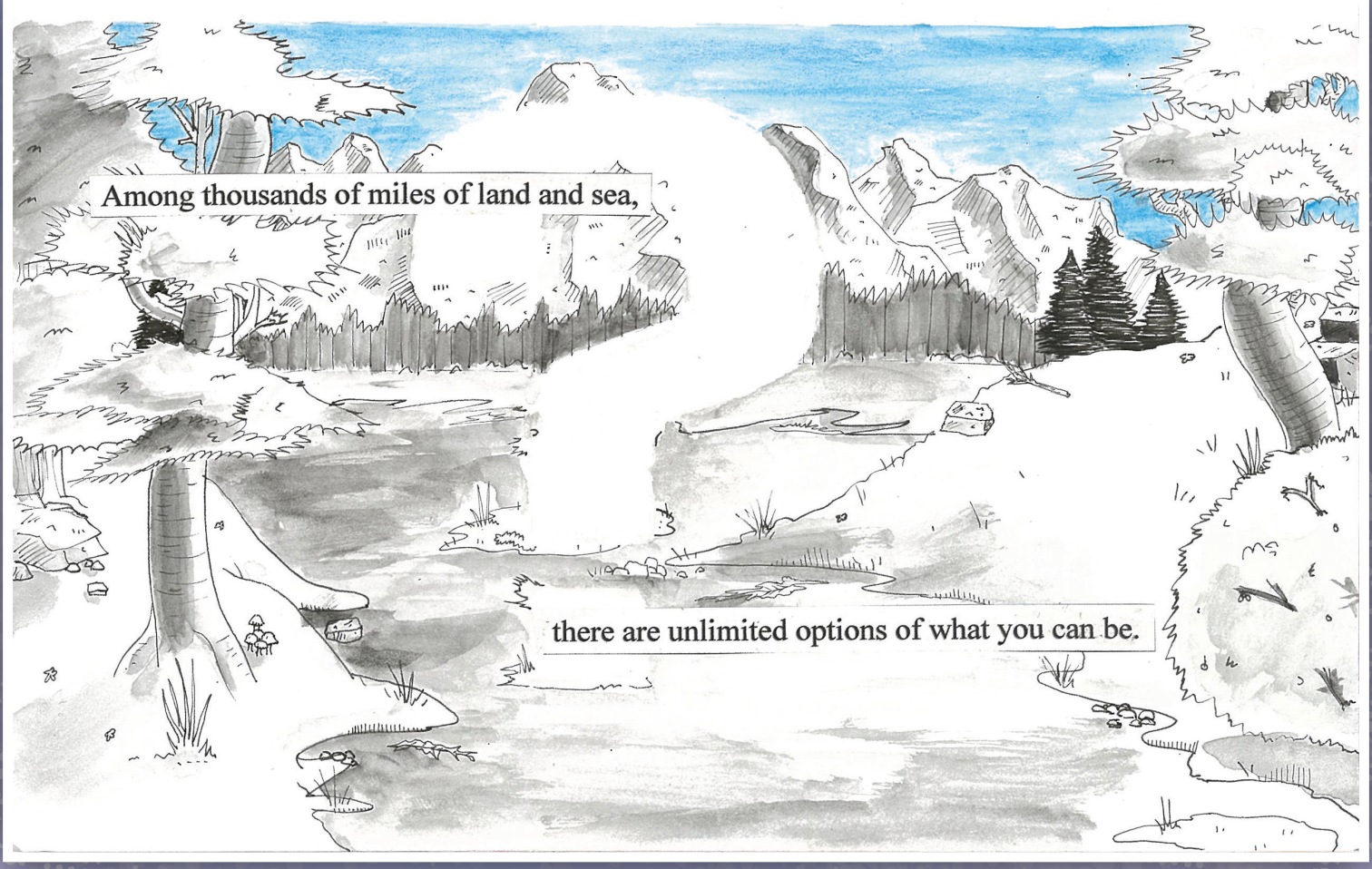


It dries our wet laundry and gives us the day to have fun.



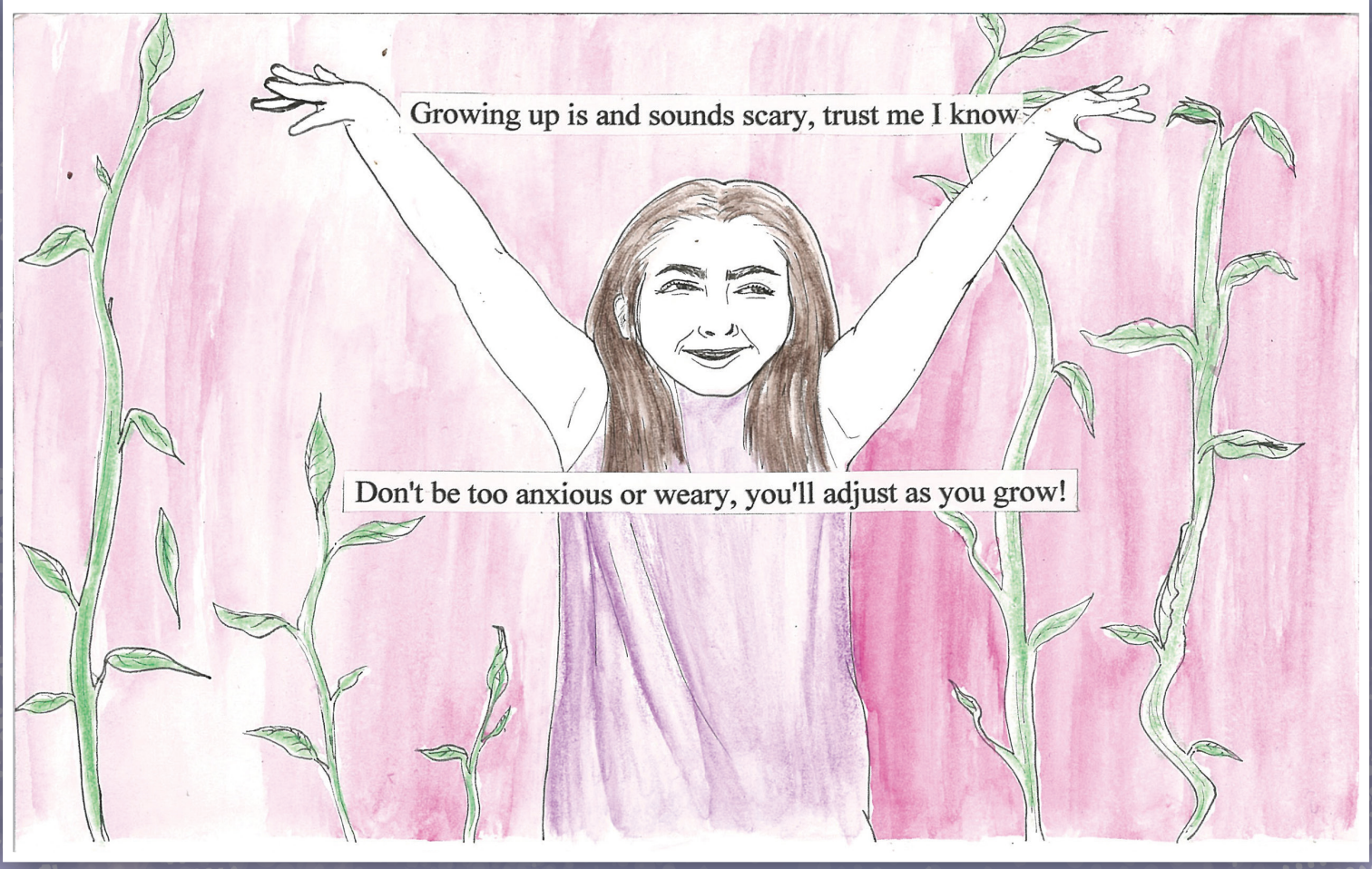


But don't stay out too long,
or it'll toast your buns!

A watercolor illustration of a vast, mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree stands on the left, with a small hut and a path leading towards it. A winding river flows through the center of the scene. In the background, majestic mountains rise against a blue sky, with a small hut visible on a distant peak. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a focus on natural elements.

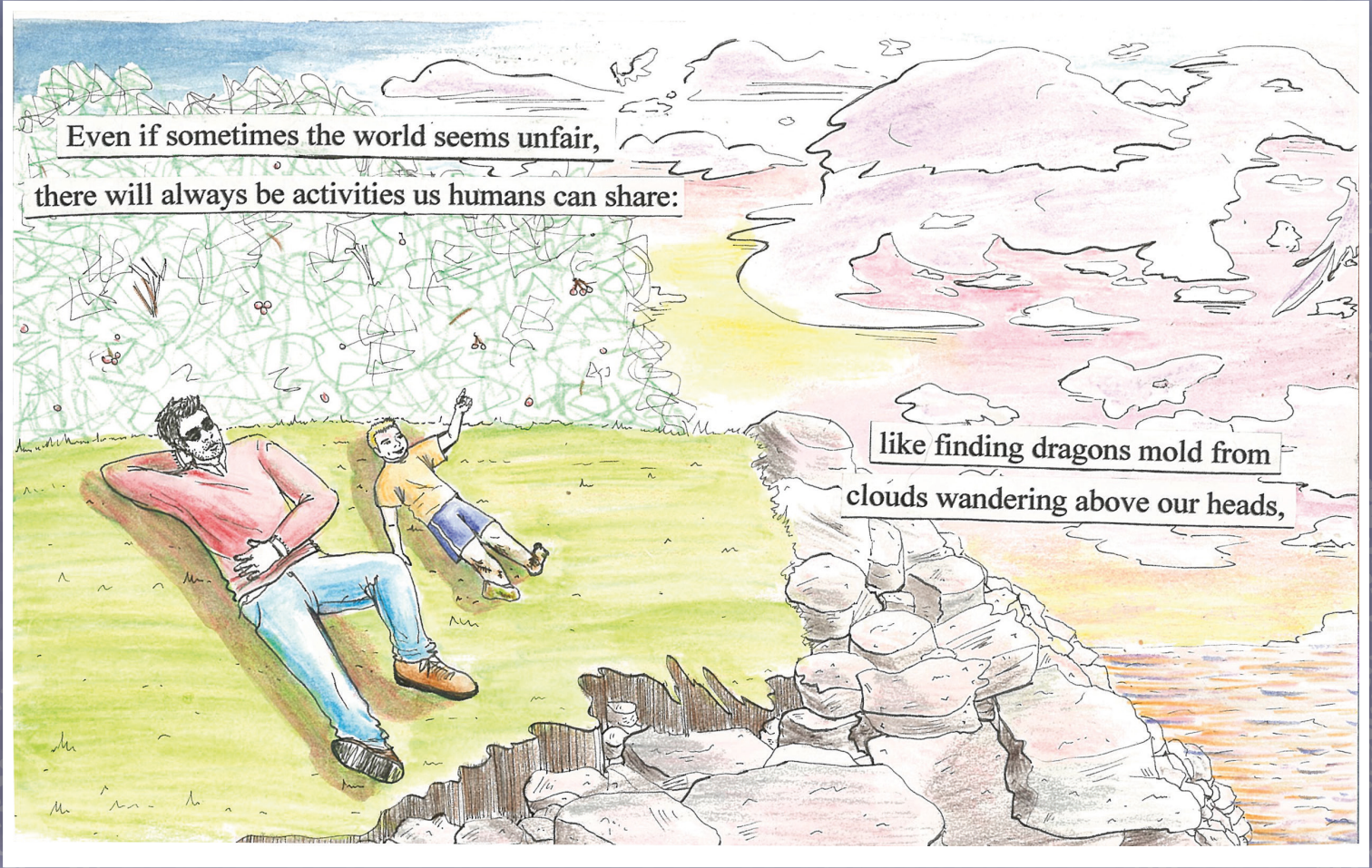
Among thousands of miles of land and sea,

there are unlimited options of what you can be.



Growing up is and sounds scary, trust me I know

Don't be too anxious or weary, you'll adjust as you grow!



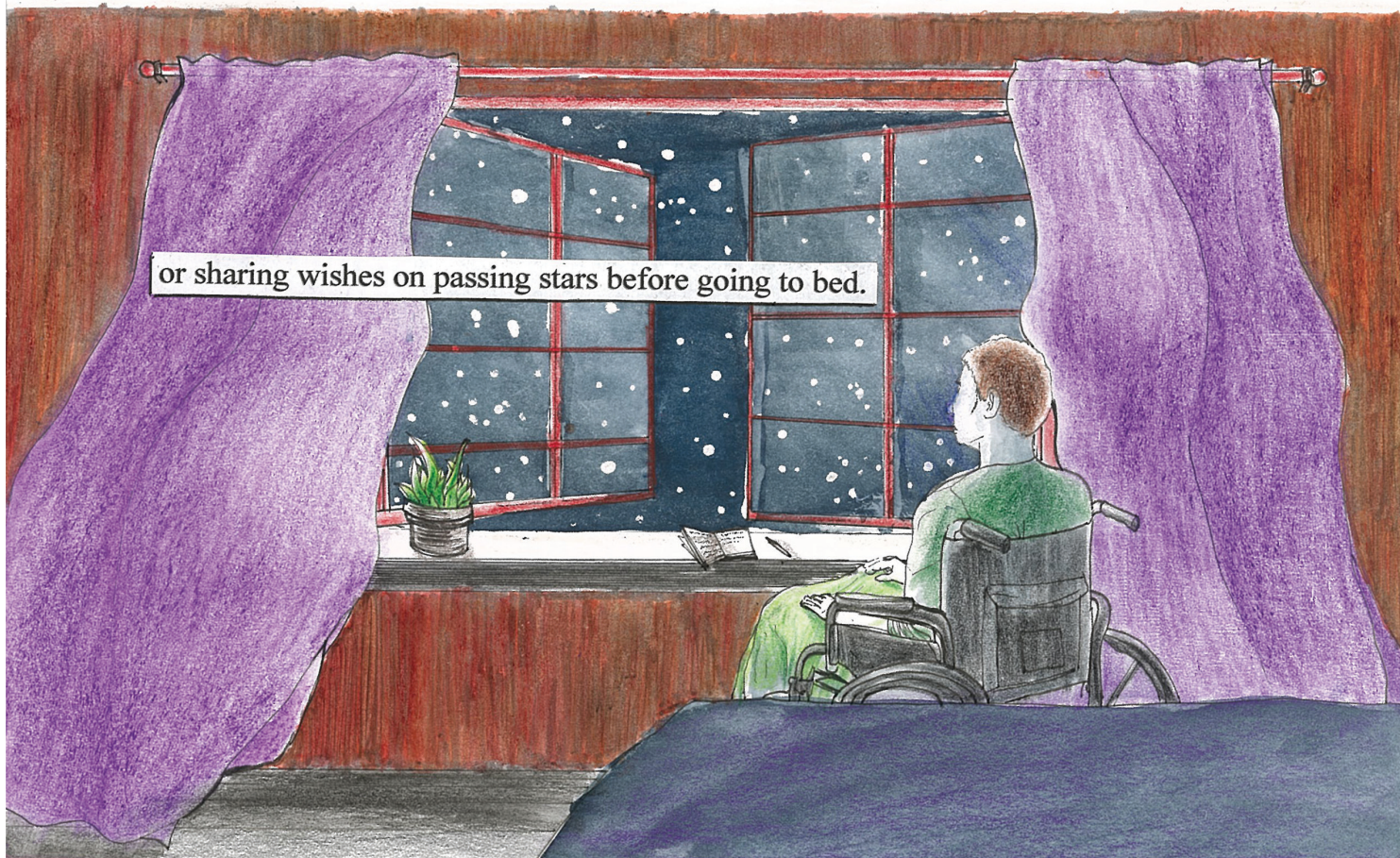
Even if sometimes the world seems unfair,
there will always be activities us humans can share:

like finding dragons mold from
clouds wandering above our heads,

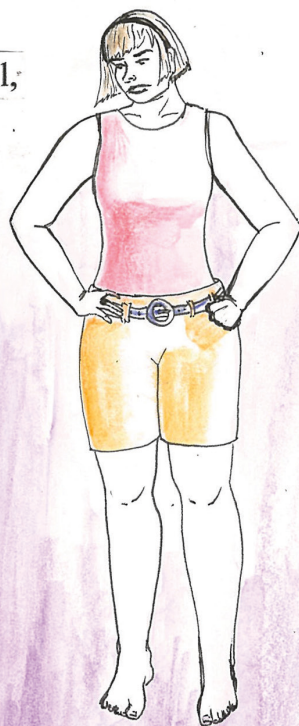
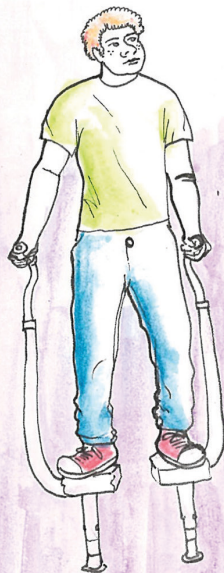
both watching the sunset turn the sky
bright purples and reds,



or sharing wishes on passing stars before going to bed.



Some of us are tall,



some are skinny.





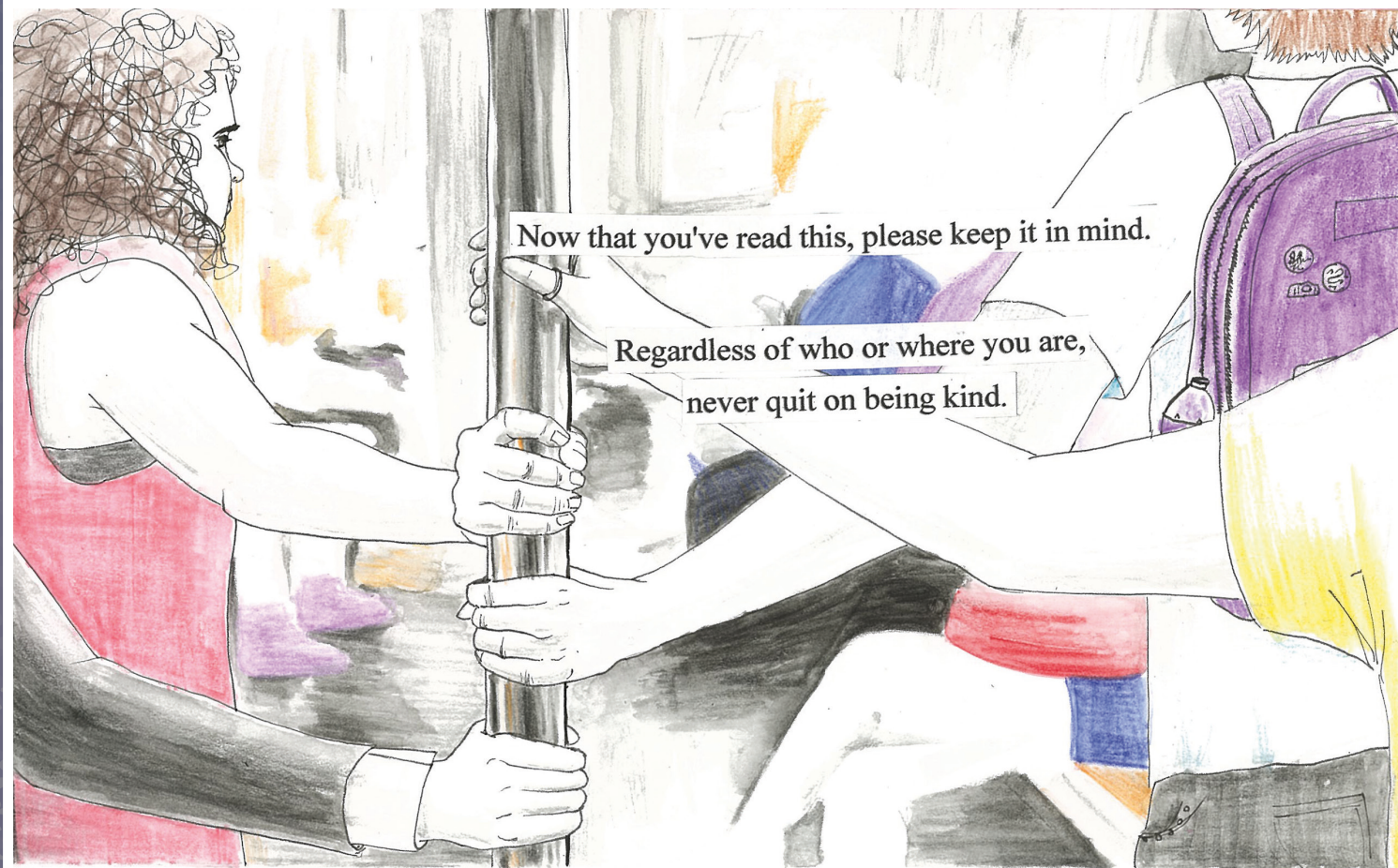


No matter what they are,
we've all got our strengths.

Us humans need to stick together,

no matter to what lengths.





Now that you've read this, please keep it in mind.

Regardless of who or where you are,
never quit on being kind.



**B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL**

175 CELEBRATING
years
FOUNDED IN 1843

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF...

*Fighting for Human Rights • Promoting Tolerance
Combating Anti-Semitism • Providing Disaster Relief
Building Better Communities • Supporting Seniors*

Since 1843, B'nai B'rith International has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for people around the globe. A constant source of innovation and charity for populations around the world, B'nai B'rith has founded hospitals, orphanages, and senior housing communities and launched disaster relief campaigns, child safety guides, tolerance education programs and countless other initiatives in the public interest. Over the course of three centuries, the B'nai B'rith network has evolved, grown and adapted with the changing times, but our core values and mission of improving the lives of those around the world remain the same.

Today, B'nai B'rith serves individuals and communities on six continents through programs and services that help communities in crisis, provide safe and affordable housing for older Americans of all faiths, promote tolerance, diversity and equity among all of our nation's citizens and fight for human rights around the world.

Through the combined efforts of dedicated volunteer leaders and professional staff, and in the spirit of Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World), B'nai B'rith continues to serve as a vital voice in communities near and far.

Gary P. Saltzman
International President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President & CEO

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DISTINGUISHED HISTORY



1843

B'nai B'rith is founded by 12 Jewish German immigrants at Sinsheimer's Café on New York City's Lower East Side.



1917

During World War I, B'nai B'rith raises \$1 million to aid American troops and purchases this ambulance for the Red Cross in France.



1947

B'nai B'rith meets with President Harry S. Truman to advocate for the creation of the State of Israel.



2005

B'nai B'rith provides more than \$1.1 million in aid to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

B'nai B'rith International
1120 20th Street NW, Suite 300 North, Washington, DC 20036 | 888-838-2499 | www.bnaibrith.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In 1865, B'nai B'rith funded its first international assistance project, helping victims of a cholera epidemic in what was then Palestine.

The roots of those first relief campaigns continue to grow today as B'nai B'rith urgently responds when natural and man-made disasters occur or when communities are in need in the United States or around the globe.

In addition to aiding communities in crisis, or places devastated by disaster, B'nai B'rith volunteers are active in their local communities with a wide variety of local projects. These range from distributing food to shelters and schools to feed the hungry, bringing joy and gifts to children in the hospital, educating communities on keeping their children safe and much more.



DISASTER RELIEF

Working independently or in partnership with other nonprofit organizations, B'nai B'rith is there in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and stays to help when most others have moved on. Pictured here is B'nai B'rith's immediate response to bring rebuild homes after the recent disastrous floods in Texas.

HUMANITARIAN AID

B'nai B'rith has brought tens of millions of dollars' worth of supplies, medicine and relief efforts to communities in need throughout Latin America, Cuba, and Africa. Pictured here is a recent delegation from the B'nai B'rith Center for Senior Services and the B'nai B'rith Young Leadership Network who travelled together to Cuba on humanitarian aid mission.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Everywhere) is one of B'nai B'rith's many community action projects where our volunteers collect and distribute food packages to the poor and elderly during holidays.

HUMAN RIGHTS & PUBLIC POLICY

B'nai B'rith was present at the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945, and has taken an active role as an NGO (non-governmental organization) at U.N. venues around the globe ever since. In addition, B'nai B'rith continues to be a vocal advocate for human rights at many other international organizations, with a wide range of foreign governments and through a diverse spectrum of faith-based and ethnic groups.



INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

B'nai B'rith International has had NGO status at the United Nations since the world body's founding conference. Today, B'nai B'rith continues to represent humanitarian issues at UN offices around the globe, including those in New York, Geneva, and Paris. Pictured here is a recent B'nai B'rith Young Leadership trip to Japan, developed in partnership with the Japanese consulate.

INTERCOMMUNAL AFFAIRS

This spring, in partnership with The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, B'nai B'rith sponsored three missions to Israel for members of the European Parliament and United Nations Diplomats. The goal of these missions are to introduce emerging world leaders to Israel. Itineraries included meetings with business and political leaders, trips to a wide variety of religious holy sites and forums on Middle East foreign affairs.

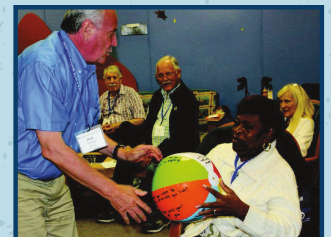


SENIOR HOUSING & ADVOCACY

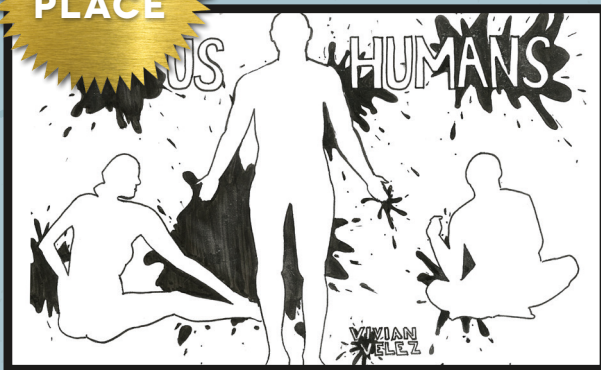
B'nai B'rith International is the largest national Jewish sponsor of federally subsidized housing for the elderly in the United States, with 42 buildings in 26 communities. For more than 40 years, B'nai B'rith has worked in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make rental apartments available for senior citizens with limited incomes.

SENIOR ADVOCACY

Lifelong access to quality, affordable housing and healthcare is crucial to ensure a healthy older population. Through our long-standing partnership with HUD, B'nai B'rith works with federal agencies to strengthen housing programs for low-income seniors as well as to advocate for improved access to better healthcare.



**1ST
PLACE**



US HUMANS

Written and Illustrated by
Vivian Velez

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
Queens, NY

Teacher: Dr. Jane Kahn

Vivian Velez, a student at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts was selected as the first-place winner of the 2018 *Diverse Minds Writing Challenge* for the New York City Region.

Art enthusiast Vivian Velez will be pursuing an illustration major in college. She values a positive attitude and aspires to have her work reflect her personal values. Vivian is a firm believer that “empathy is the key to almost everything in life,” and hopes that people will treat one another with more respect. Her goal is to connect with readers and “inspire someone to do good out there in this wild world.”

SECOND PLACE WINNER

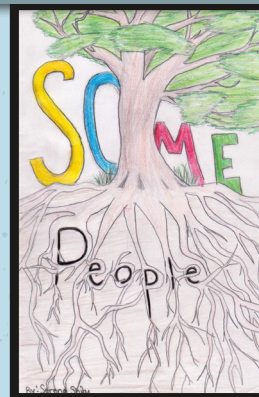


I WISH...

Written by Liz Lee
Illustrated by Sally Chen

Stuyvesant High School
Manhattan, NY

THIRD PLACE WINNER



SOME PEOPLE

Written and Illustrated by
Serena Shibu

Townsend Harris High School
Flushing, NY



Us Humans, Written and Illustrated by Vivian Velez, was created as part of the B'nai B'rith International *Diverse Minds Writing Challenge* for the New York City Region.

The *Diverse Minds Writing Challenge* is B'nai B'rith's signature tolerance education program that asks high school students to write and illustrate a children's book that recognizes diversity or tells a story of tolerance. Students are required to think about how inclusion can improve our world, and then create innovative ways to teach these ideas to elementary-aged children through a book. Executed through public and private high schools, the initiative aims to promote a greater understanding of different cultures, lifestyles and attitudes among students of all ages.



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.



original children's books, in two different languages (English and Spanish), awarded more than \$340,000 in college scholarships and grants and donated more than 45,000 books to public schools, libraries and community organizations across the country.

This year the *Diverse Minds Writing Challenge* is celebrating its 12th Anniversary. Since its inception in 2006, B'nai B'rith has published 42



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

PROGRAM SUPPORTER

**B'nai B'rith International would like to thank this year's
program supporter for their generous support of the
Diverse Minds Writing Challenge in New York City.**

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