

Ode to My Concealer

By: Noor Salib

My favorite concealer is drying out. I tried to get every last drop out because it covered my dark circles. Of course I'll never find anything like it - it was one of a kind.

Now, I have to get rid of it because it was no longer benefitting me. I kept it around for a little, hoping something would change and more product would magically appear. I thought this concealer would last forever but now I walk around with dark under eyes. I'm forced to show my full self to everyone. Every time I close my eyes, I picture the old days where my concealer would be full and perfectly hide all my imperfections.

My friends tell me to stop holding out hope and to find a new concealer but none of them will ever be as good as this one. They tell me to throw it out so it doesn't take up space in my makeup bag, in order to keep space for a new concealer to use. I tell them no, and that I will find a way to get it to start working again.

After thinking about it, I did try. I grabbed every drop and even put oil to get anything else out of it. Regardless, I can't force the circumstances of the concealer to change.

This isn't about concealer.

Title of Piece: What I Got for Dinner

By: Ethan Vasquez

A time my mind was changed was when I wanted to get Taco Bell but then my brother told me about a taco truck. Instead of Taco Bell, I went to the taco truck and it was really good. I ate like 6-7 tacos. The tortillas were nicely prepped and the sauces the truck included was out of this world.

Title of Piece: 10th Grade

By: Francelis Perez

Last year when I was in the 10th grade, I said that I wanted to change schools because I thought that next year's teachers were going to be bad with their students. Because their personality shows a different thing. But after meeting them and interacting closely with them, I changed my mind because they were actually good. They were nice. It's just their personality and character were different from mine.

Title of Piece: Ode to the Puffkin

By: Melanie McNeil

It wasn't anything special—just a normal session of web browsing and pinterest when I stumbled upon such a cutie. The most positive plush I've ever seen— a smiley Puffkin. I knew I had to get it, but where could I go? I could be scammed on secondhand sites! It was hard to come by :(

After months, a Depop listing came my way. With a card number and some buttons, I did it. I beat everyone else, and more importantly, I beat my negativity—with this happy, yellow furball!!

Freshman Year

By: Anonymous

Freshman year, new school, surrounded by new people. I met this boy, started liking him. His name was David. We “fell in love.” But we didn’t last. A few days after freshman year started he transferred but we still saw each other. Being with him was something I never experienced. He drained me mentally, physically. But I wanted the relationship so bad. My mind changed when I looked in the mirror and saw somebody I didn’t recognize anymore. I chose to move on and chose myself to be better and do better for myself. Although it took months, even a year, I look at myself now and I know I’ll never be in that position again. And it’s not worth draining myself to last. I believe if it’s meant to be, it’ll be. We were two paths that weren’t meant to cross.

Title of Piece: *Afternoon*

By: Names of student

A time my mind was changed about something was when I was learning how to ride a bike. It was me and my big sister. My sister was quick to start riding a bike, while I was struggling to even balance myself on it. We mostly rode our bikes in our neighborhood. And that's where we learned to ride our bikes. My struggle was mainly to keep balance on the bike that made me fall every time until one day. It was the afternoon and I was actually able to ride my bike keeping balance, pedaling without issues.

Title of Piece: Nights

By: Maya Barreto

My mind was changed about a song called Nights by Frank Ocean. When I first listened to the song, I didn't like it because it wasn't my type of song at the time I heard it. But then 2 years later, I listened to it and felt completely different about the song. I loved the song. The beat of it was upbeat and good but my favorite part of the song was the beat switch and the lyrics. When he says, "New beginnings" in the song, it's just real. This song was my favorite song. At one point I had grown to love it.

Title of Piece: Boundaries

By: Yvonne

When I was a kid I didn't really know consequences. I was more worried with trying to sleep and talk to friends. But when I was in 5th grade, I took a joke too far and my friend got mad. I mean, I pulled his hair. I didn't know what I was thinking. So obviously he pulled my hair back. But he was mad so it was like yanking. That's when I really started rethinking my actions and how they made others feel. We apologized to each other after but my friend ended up moving so we didn't really get to fix everything. After this I learned there are boundaries that you should set between yourself and others. Especially in the way that you treat them.

Ode to My Shoulders

By: Katya Barrett

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes:

They're not what help me think or walk or bend
to pick things up,

So maybe it's weird for them to be what I focus
on.

But without my shoulders,

I couldn't put one arm in front of the other in the
YMCA pool.

Cutting through the water in a way that makes
me feel weightless.

And without them,

I wouldn't have anything to sit my niece on when
we're at the park and she wants to see the flowers
on the high up tree branch.

Giving her height and views and power that
makes her cackle with glee.

Without them,

I wouldn't be able to hug my family.

Or carry my backpack to school loaded with

cookies for students.

No, I haven't always liked how they look in a tank top.

But as I get older, I'm trying to care more about what matters and less about what doesn't.

And it feels crazy to think that the line of my back in a racer back

Matters more than the power to move and lift and stand up straight

For the people I love,

Which I should always remember

Also include myself.

A blank sheet of lined paper with a dotted border. The page contains 20 horizontal lines for writing. At the bottom center, there are two curly braces: { }



826NYC and the Brooklyn Superhero Supply Co.
372 Fifth Ave Brooklyn, NY 11215
718.499.9884 | programs@826nyc.org
www.826nyc.org

826NYC Programs

Write After School: Reading and writing go together like peanut butter and jelly. Write After School students work alongside 826NYC staff and volunteers to build their reading, writing, and social-emotional skills and unleash their imagination as they play and learn about the power of language. Twice a year, students revise their creative writing for publications that are printed in English and Spanish and shared with families, volunteers, and community members at celebratory readings.

Young Writers Publish: Turn your classroom into a creative writing lab. During Young Writers Publish residencies, 826NYC teaching artists collaborate with educators on creative, impactful, curriculum-aligned projects that transform students into published authors. Residencies run from six weeks to a full year, depending on the project. Each Young Writers Publish culminates in a book, newspaper, zine, or performance featuring your students.

Extended Day: Students become authors with 826NYC's imaginative and engaging extended day programming. In workshops held in on-site after school programs at schools and other youth-serving institutions, students explore new worlds in storytelling while building critical creative skills and developing confidence, commitment, and a sense of connection. With games, creative activities, and diverse media baked into every workshop, 826NYC's extended day program is the perfect fit for after school programs that emphasize fun and participation alongside learning.

Write Away Workshops: Young writers come together in Write Away Workshops to explore a multitude of genres and subjects and to develop their voices. Groups write freely and participate in imaginative writing activities and lessons. Whether it's a song, a piece of climate justice sci-fi, or a nature guide, young writers leave the workshop with a piece to be proud of, as well as a newfound understanding of the topic, and new friends. Weekend classes are available.

Write Together: 826NYC hosts classes across New York City for Write Together: an interactive writing experience that encourages creative expression, explores the elements of storytelling, and strengthens writing skills. Elementary-aged classes collaborate on illustrated children's books, middle schoolers choose their own adventure, and high schoolers learn the art of memoirwriting during a fast-paced and whimsical 90 minute narrative program.

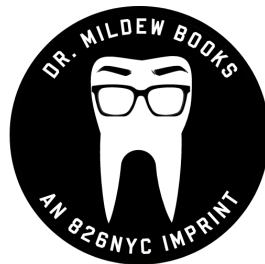
Dungeons & Dragons & Writers: Play Dungeons & Dragons, the epic fantasy role-playing game where players craft characters to take on magical quests that can change with the roll of the dice, and write your story as you play! Adventurous authors in grades 5-12 play out an entirely original tale week by week, and chronicle their fantastical deeds in character point-of-view journals, histories, and scene writing.

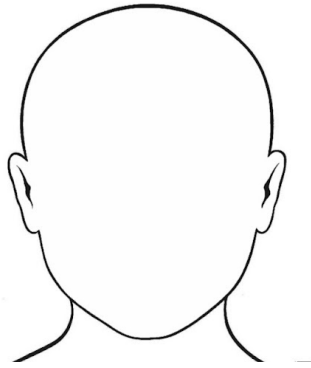
Teen Writers' Collective: Young writers together from around the city come together to explore the art of writing and literary citizenship. Together, they form a community of passionate and creative peers and serve as youth leaders. Students create original writing projects in a variety of genres throughout the year, and publish their work in a professionally designed book. Paid summer internships are available for students aged 14+.

Student Publications: Through our programs, our volunteers work with students to help them create stories, poems, and 'zines. Because we believe that the quality of students' work is greatly enhanced when they are given the chance to share it with an authentic audience, we are committed to publishing student works. By encouraging their work and by guiding them through the process of publication, we make abundantly clear that their ideas are valued.

Facing Memoirs

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Advanced Writing Class





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Four horizontal lines within a rounded rectangular border, intended for the author's name and contact information.

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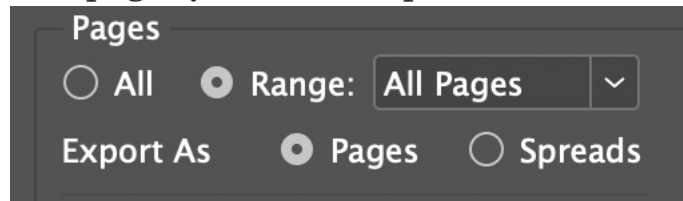


372 Fifth Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215

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