

Serendipity Needs YOU!

Attention writers and artists! Those who want work submitted into this magazine can do so by giving it to Miss Ferraiuolo in Room 202 or by emailing it to mferraiuolo@ridgefieldschools.com

Anyone is still welcome to join!

**Please state if you want your work to be

* *Please state if you want your work to be submitted anonymously.

* * If submitting poetry, state if you allow the format to be manipulated.

THANK YOU to all the members of
Serendipity who submitted
fantastic poems, short stories, and
artwork and who attended
meetings and critiqued magazine
submissions. A special thanks to
those who worked tirelessly in
creating such a wonderful book for
everyone to enjoy.

Miss Ferraiuolo

The Quiet Lake of the Night Mario Giordano

He made a ripple,

In the quiet lake of the night.

Stars, meanwhile, inscribed a scalding fresco in the sky, Massacring the darkness.

He pondered many things during his swim,

And came to conjecture as he looked upward.

That he wanted to put his own blazing mark among the stars,

And that it would shine so bright,

And float far above,

Far above

The quiet lake of the night.



Ashley Sorto

Papi

Andrea Kitchener

It's numbing

Looking at the sun causes eye damage

Looking at him hurts so much more

Nothing sinks in until I feel my mom crying in my arms

It's the first time I've seen tears run down my grandma's cheeks

But he looks so peaceful

I know he didn't want his life in a hospital bed

I'm happy he's free now

I miss him

But I know it's going to be ok

He was loved and everyone has a story about him

He was the best dad and the perfect grandfather

He's gone but no one will forget him

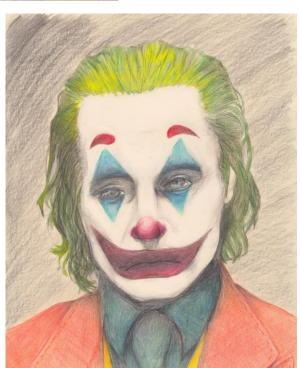
He touched too many hearts for that to happen



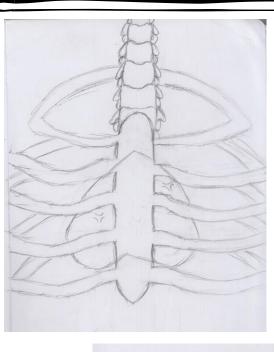
Madelyn Suarez



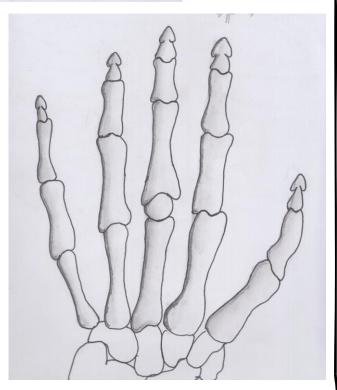
Alrica Angelique Avila



Ashley Sorto



Gabriel Genao





Manuel Jaramillo Ocampo



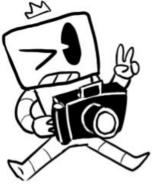
Madelyn Suarez







Stephen Park



Suleina Houston











Madelyn Suarez

No Fair Izzy Shehigian

His skin was plagued with the smell of death, dragging pestilence and sorrow alongside him. No man dared to look his way in fear that they, too, would fall prey to his seductive nature and join his army of the undead.

Every passing eye darted away from his silhouette as soon as they saw his dreaded shadow round the corner they stood upon; you could sense his presence the moment he neared you.

The air chilled and it seemed as if all life had been sucked away from the world before anyone could count to three on their fingers. Smiles withered away and bones went rigid. Hell had been unleashed and there was nothing anyone could do about it.

Dogs barked, both men and women alike cowered into the smallest corner, any brave soul that once was had left no trace of existence.

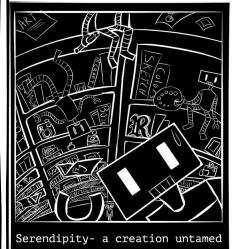
Unruly eyes stared back at him as he gazed into the mirror perched against the wall. Frail, translucent skin covered the hands grasping for a sign of a fool's paradise. One word echoed against his skull on a constant loop, etching itself into his train of perpetual thought. Why? Why do all good things have to end like this? If only things were different. If only I was different. Then things wouldn't have to end this way. It's no fair.

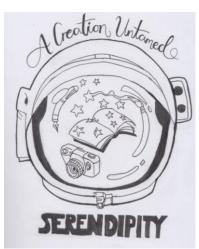


Seoyeon Wendy Kim



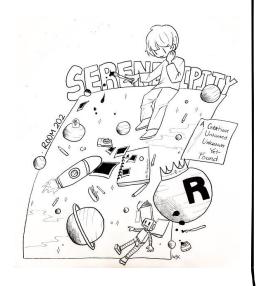
Emily Moreira





Ashley Sorto

Seoyeon Wendy Kim



Trapped Dreams Sebastian Zhao

You have many dreams to achieve
But you are limited
They tell you to do this
But you want to do that
They tell you the usual way in the forked road
But you want to go the wild way
You have many opportunities to rise
But they pull you down
They think it's right for you
You think it's right for them
They want you to live something they can't
You want to live something they won't



Madelyn Suarez



Lilly Watson



Emily Moreira

Open Arms Kayla Santiago

Unique means one of a kind

This world is filled with many individuals who are one of a kind

People of all shapes and sizes

Different traditions

Culture

Style

Beauty

And all types of shades

Yet along with this world full of untamed beauty

Is untamed hate

Hate is known as a passionate dislike

It is an emotion that clouds minds and promotes

War

Pain

Anger

Worst of all, it steps in the way of acceptance in uniqueness

Love is a fierce feeling of devotion

It promotes

Acceptance

Empathy

And freedom

Best of all it defeats the darkness of hate

It is optimism

It is happiness

Spread love and open your arms



Irene Shim





Andrea Suarez

Age Humza Majid

Before I was who I am
I was someone else carrying another
I was a part of them then, and I am a part of them now
Not just their bodies but part of their hearts!

Now there is adventure and many thrills to see
What is beyond the fence and what is on TV
There is danger and mystery every turn I take
There is excitement and journeys none of which seem fake
There is truly no limit to what my mind can make!

Now I can see clearly now the point to which things are sour
I have no liberty and absolutely no power
This malevolent uncaring figure looming over
Like a puppeteer trying to control me with his strings
Trying to create a crude reflection of his mistake
I am not your clay to mold for heaven's sake!

Now as I grow I can see where I have wronged
Trying to push away from those who really cared
Rebelling and rejecting their customs and traditions
Thinking that worrying them sick was a way to get attention
Assuming that they had no idea what I felt
Sure they had never been children before
How could I have been so blind?

Now I have a responsibility of my own
A chance to give them a better life
A chance to start again and a chance to atone
To lead them along a path without strife
I promise to understand and to respect
I promise to let you grow and prosper
I promise to remember what's best for you at all times
And you will always be a part of me, you will always be in my
heart



Yu-Na Yi

Seoyeon Wendy Kim









Yosep Yun



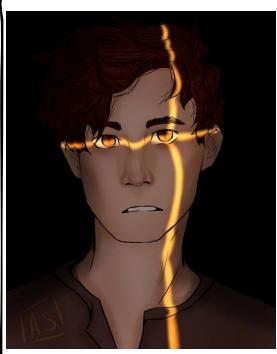
Lara Gandour



Madelyn Suarez



Yosep Yun



Ashley Sorto

Seoyeon Wendy Kim





Joseph Kim







Andrea Suarez

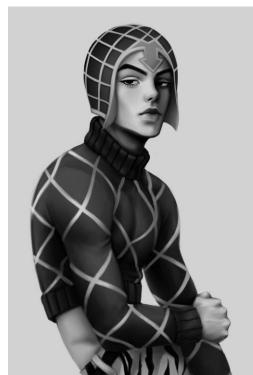


Michael Kirk

Madelyn Suarez



Gift-Danielle Esseya



Emily Moreira



Madelyn Suarez





Irene Shim



Suleina Houston



Kelly Wang

Lilly Watson





Juan Gomez





Limits Surpassed Sebastian Zhao

You are taking away my heart Gently I fall down

I slowly break apart
Fallen but do not frown
I know it isn't right to disobey the rules
But I want to pas my limits with glee
Crimson chains that lock me like a fool
One day I will break free



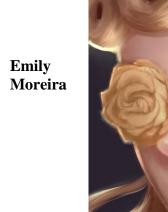
Madelyn Suarez



Tatiana Perez



Alrica Angelique Avila







Manuel Jaramillo Ocampo



Emily Moreira





Manuel Jaramillo Ocampo

Anthony Villanella





Andrea Suarez



Ashley Sorto

Manifest Destiny Mario Giordano

What happens,
When those green specks
Upon your coat of arms
Are no longer fleeting?
Do those new colors make your coat
Stand out among the rest?
Is it of an impregnable strength?
Does its mouth drool
At the touch of a most forbidden power?
For ears that tilt in only one direction,
Are bound to hear a

single verse.

But to turn one's head in a new direction, Risks the crumbling

of introspective

mountains.

Beautiful towers built on

confident foundations,

Eradicated in moments to mere dust.

A century of construction,

That ultimately,

Dug

a

pitiful

grave.

Death will be the inevitable fate If one mistakes tarnish For prosperity.

Madelyn Suarez





Liz Garcia





Stephen Park

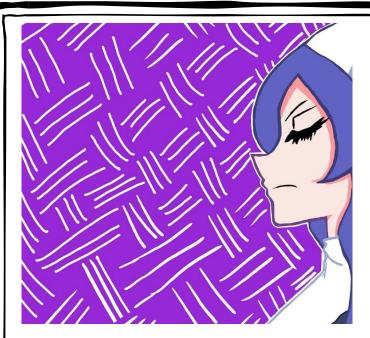




Sebastian Zhao

Madelyn Suarez





Hector Mota





Izzy Shehigian



Liz Garcia

Ode to Autumn Lilly Watson

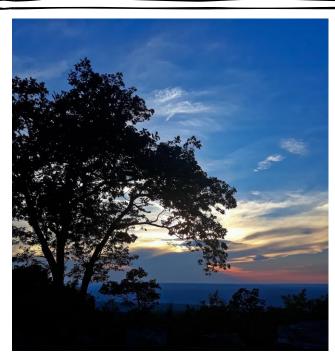
The chilling winds crawl up my spine
Hoodies wrap around me providing the warmth of
Autumn's colors
Falling leaves, favorite season of mine
No longer under greenish covers

Cloudy skies surround me
Pale moons light up the night
Flannels and cinnamon scents, feeling carefree
Flickering candles, giving me light

Cider sweeter than crisp Autumn air Family gathered around pumpkin pie Fuzzy socks by the pair That glowing look in your eye

Wilting flowers, end of summer Cozy jackets now in season This new season never a bummer To enjoy this time we need no reason

Passing the season as time flies Crunching on leaves where they lie Before we know there's snowfall to come Now we know Autumn has come to a sum.



Kelly Wang







Kelly Wang

Where Two Rivers Meet Mario Giordano

Where two rivers meet,

There is a congregation of illusion and reality.

Current against current, wave with wave,

A soothing cyclone of aqueous swirls.

The rivers' mouths just barely parted,

Displaying a mutual understanding of the approaching union.

One stream.

From a land of arid and blistering swelters,

Was timid and quiet,

Silently creeping through young, innocent paths.

And the other,

No doubt more unpredictable,

Contained brutal, raging currents that raized the surrounding wild forest.

However, despite that river's capacity to erode its own banks, It always seemed to resolve in a shattering serenity.

A council of nature,

Erected around the watery proceeding,

Ratified the chaotic nobility of the streams.

But this affirmation of importance

Had no effect on the will of the colliding entities,

And was merely for show.

Though some of the currents appeared to be counteractive,

They formed one diverse flow,

Which continued for seemingly infinite distance.

The new river solemnly smiled,

Its behavior echoing restrained freedom.

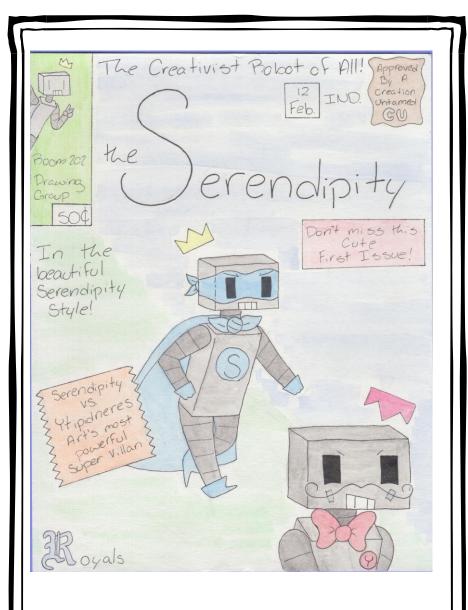
There was indeed chaos and order,

And equal levels of both waters created balance.

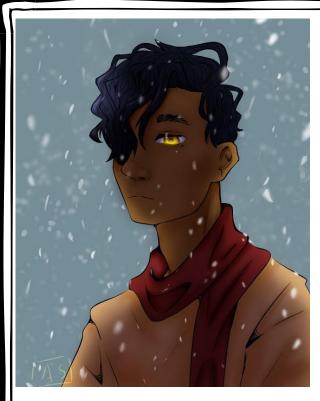
Thus a true, natural harmony was self-evident,

In that passionate convergence,

Where two rivers met.



Alaida Barreiro



Ashley Sorto

Suleina Houston





Juan Gomez

Suleina Houston





Yu-Na Yi



Irene Shim



Izzy Shehigian



Stephen Park



Emily Moreira

Reflective Kayla Santiago

Reflective nights Hopeful mornings Optimistic afternoons

Hopeless dreams

The start of it felt like an endless blackhole

Falling faster and faster

And being consumed by draining

Unforeseen thoughts

The present autumn leaves

Crushed beneath dragging tired feet

Are a reflection of this existence

Everyday these colorful bright leaves cling on to a tree of life

Then slowly fall to the ground as the inevitable day goes on Waiting to be ripped apart by careless

Inattentive people

The end seems farther away the closer it gets rushing what's supposed to be an unforgettable time of your life

Christine Shong



That Girl

Sofia Narvaez

"She isn't all there"

That's what they say,

How can she be "all there" if people just walk through her like she is the bustling wind,

The people she thought she knew suddenly don't even acknowledge her existence,

The people she does know aren't even that kind,

The resolution is to just sit and deal like it's nothing,

And that's how it starts,

The reason she's losing her marbles,

She can't keep up that act of pretending everything is okay when it's not,

"She's so emotional"

Be warned,

That girl has become a timer,

When it hits zero that's when the tears start,

Suddenly she floods the area

"She's sad, again"

Crying over people who don't even care about her so much,

Wishing she had even a little respect,

Hoping someone will help her figure it out,

To only realize this is to be done alone,

"She's not herself anymore"

Forget the girl who was bubbly and ambitious,

This is the new person among you,

Self-conscious and afraid,

This wasn't her fault,

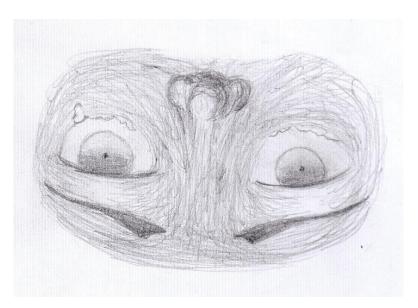
Because you made her like this,

"She isn't all there"

How can she be "all there" when this is a daily thing...



Izzy Shehigian



Madelyn Suarez

They Say Victor Suarez

They call you names but it's not your name They give you hope but it's not your hope. They tell you truths but they are not true What am I?

Hope is life that gives you Love So like pain, courage overcomes. As days grow dark, the light shall show That your life will start to glow.



Andrea Suarez

Autumn

Sofia Martinez

The leaves fall so gracefully to the ground From bright green to yellow, orange and red Many listen to the warm and crisp sounds Awaiting the cold season that's ahead

The smell of pumpkin spice is in the air
As the brisk air turns into a cool breeze
There's plenty of apple cider to share
The chilly wind blows through the changing trees

The days are starting to darken quickly
The bright full moon pokes through the setting sky
And the sun now escapes the sky swiftly
The summer days and nights then say goodbye

The autumn season is a time for cheer Until these months, weeks, and days aren't here



Ashley Sorto

Fallen Heart Sebastian Zhao

The sun sears my eyes with murderous intent
The moon heals my heart with angelic grace
Night fell onto my soul like shooting stars
My heart slowly cracks open
Time trickles by little by little
Each tick that clock makes my heart's wounds grow deeper
When the moon falls and the sun rises
The heart clears itself
Impurities erased from its past

The new has come A brand new heart to live the future



Madelyn Suarez

What's Mine is Mine and What's Yours is Mine

Humza Majid

Tonight is today and today is tonight A series of cycles forever and on A feverish dream and a perilous plight Set to go toward the endless dawn

A wish to continue and a wish to dissuade Those who follow and those to come A wish for all to dream and cascade A hope for all and a hope for some

Some have it easy, all have it hard To try and try to wear through it all Knowing what to keep and discard Must be something that truly takes gall

All have triumphs and all have falls
But to rise again is truly to admire.
Not to go over one's bounds and one's walls
But to rise with others and to inspire
Shall be the greatest honor of all



Isabel Shehigian



Victor Suarez

Here and Now Sofia Narvaez

Would it be so bad? Staying here with you, My feelings linger

Can we just stick around a little longer? Just until I know you're mine, Because out there, they say bad words about our feelings, But in here, the only thing heard is the beating of our hearts together

In that moment only we matter, And so we are here, Here is right now



Ashley Sorto

Vincent

Yaeun Jung

Starry, starry night, the night that you shone brighter than the stars.

That 3 o'clock in the dawn gives me familiarity. The time you faltered.

The relentless regret gnawing at me alive.

I add the color of you on the empty canvas in the remembrance of you.

I got swept away by your storming color and sank into the abyss.

The more I hold you, the more your pupils rot into dust.

I know you won't come back.

This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you in the first place,

Vincent.



Emily Moreira



Ashley Sorto



Victor Suarez

What Does It Mean? Humza Majid

The Dark The Dark What does it do, what does it mean? What is it to those who have not seen? What is it to those who've only seen spark?

The Light is bright So subtle and yet so gaudy Sharp and without respite What does it stand for, what does it embody?

To those who must and to those who shan't
To those who crave and to those who lay scant
To show what you must and to speak without word
To express oneself while caged like a bird

None can do as such without contrast One surely can't be without another-One's future without one's past One as a child without one as a mother

But what does it mean? What is one without the other? Is one just the crude reflection of what is seen? Shall one never be their druther?

Nay, one shall make their own Never to be less than what they make Destiny is cloth that must be sewn One is himself, so make no mistake



Gift-Danielle Esseya



Seoyeon Wendy Kim

Different Lara Gandour

Rocks everywhere with old soil The soil begins to be uncovered with What was deeply covered

The old soil, never to be touched For millions of years Now has been dug up In order to start anew

Although the ground never remained the same As over half a century before hand The ground was dug up But not deeply enough to disturb the million year soil

The half century soil, while being new, Had less of a richness than the older one For it was far too different That you could have easily told the difference

Finally, now the soil at its weakest Is the more recent one Lacking any richness But it is still a good resource

All created in different times
But now being disrupted
Each soil has its own story
With too big of a time gap to comprehend

While being extremely different,
In the end they are all soil
And the most difficult part is uncovering themUncovering to see what their true meaning is

Dead Sea

Yaeun Jung

"I want the real ocean," she said. She turned away from Dylan, facing toward the curtained window. He sighed faintly as he dumped the water from the tank into the sink. The sand on the bottom flowed out with the water. The emptied water tank had fake starfish and seahorses half-buried in the damp sand. The smiley face painted on the starfish looked eccentric.

"You want some fish? I know you like it," Dylan asked, but he was answered with only silence. He called out once again, "You don't want any fish?"

Her eyes were fixed on the television; a documentary about dolphins was on the TV. The dolphins gracefully leaped from the water, swimming the blue freely. She looked as if she was about to drown. Black waves lapped in her eyes as her pupils dilated. She reminded me of the goldfish that died a few days ago. A wet, slippery heart, gills that were still warm, and the dull, darkened eyes filled with death.

"Dolphin, you haven't eaten anything for three days," Dylan said with concern clearly evident in his voice. "Or do you want something else?"

"I wanted the real ocean," she—Dolphin—answered blankly staring straight at the TV. The blue curtain around the room wavered in the wind, trapping her inside. "Not a dead sea."

A live dolphin show in an aquarium was now on the television instead of the open ocean documentary. Her eyes were now clouded with gray, letting the dead sea slip away. Surrounded by the blue she always sought, she just found emptiness.

Madelyn Suarez



Stephen Park



A Crimson Bird Mario Giordano

Perched upon a disfigured branch,

A crimson bird stared with beady eyes at its surroundings.

A quiet hatred oozed from its pupils,

A permanent glare.

The bird could no longer hunt,

For its talons had been wounded.

Three weeks earlier,

He had clawed too deeply into the ground,

And as he drew back his talons,

They became stuck and snapped clean off,

Never to be regrown.

The bird had been hypnotized by a singular worm,

As a foreign vengeance overcame his consciousness.

Following the accident,

His whole world had gone up in flames.

His ability to attract a mate was burnt to a crisp,

And his benevolent pride was beyond recognition.

For days the bird wallowed in despair,

Drifting into a dreadful pond of ashes.

His frustration with his own foolishness

Pooled like the blood from his stumpy limb.

It was in this rose-colored reflection,

That the bird began to see a new picture.

The dark red pool threw light into his eyes,

Illuminating a sixth sense within his spirit.

It was a tainted view, yes,

But one that would either break his perch,

Or allow him to fly elsewhere.

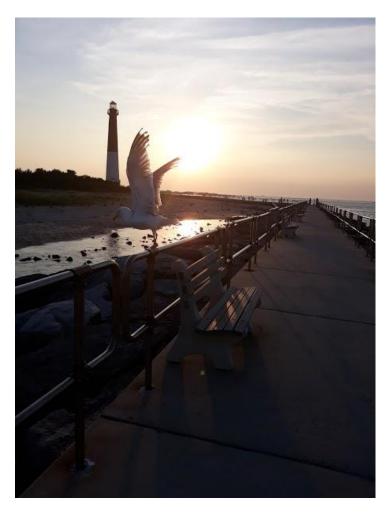
After losing the claws on his right leg,

He was used to gripping the branch even tighter,

And kept his beak clenched with stationary comfort.

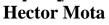
But this new vision had relaxed the bird's jaw,

While his leg loosened its hold on familiarity. A few tears gathered in his eyes,
And the bird exhaled a satisfied sigh.
Suddenly, he leapt off the perch,
Blissfully swimming through the warm air,
In search of new worms to eat.



Kelly Wang







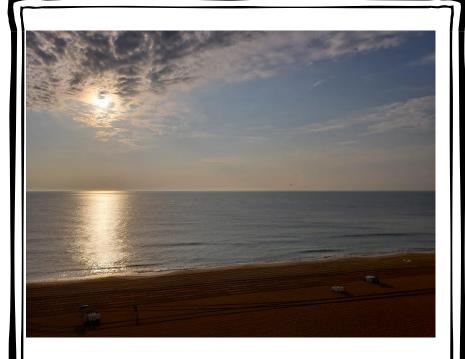
Ashley Sorto



Gabriel Genao



Joseph Kim



Yosep Yun

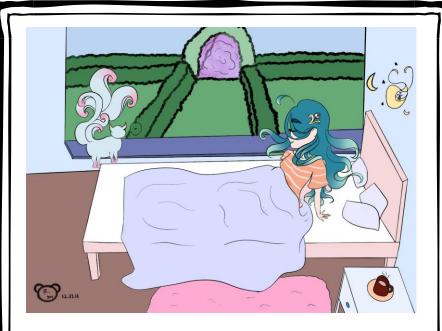




Lilly Watson

Ashley Sorto



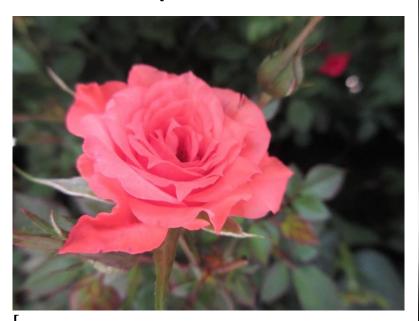


Irene Shim





Madelyn Suarez





Gift-Danielle Esseya



Ashley Sorto



Yosep Yun



Izzy Shehigian



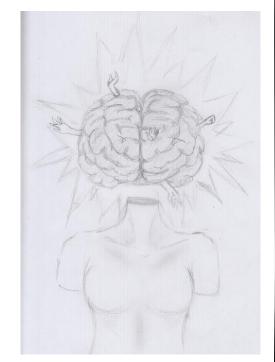
Lilly Watson

Yu-Na Yi





Anthony Villanella



Madelyn Suarez



Irene Shim



Hector Mota



Madelyn Suarez



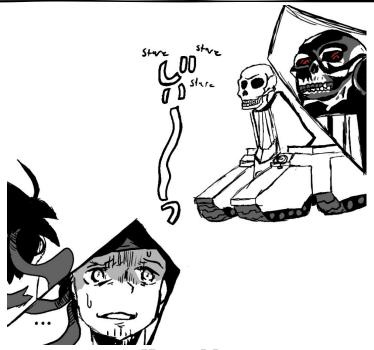
Liz Garcia



Joseph Kim



Liz Garcia

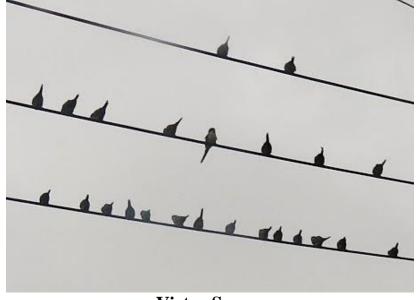


Hector Mota



Isaac Chung





Victor Suarez



Madelyn Suarez



Michael Kirk



Yu-Na Yi

Liz Garcia



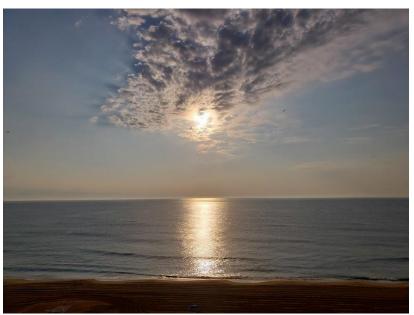
Irene Shim



Yu-Na Yi



Madelyn Suarez



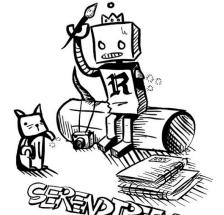
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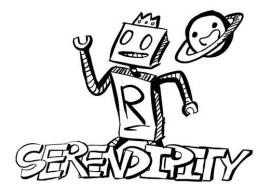
Madelyn Suarez

Hector Mota





Stephen Park



Running Sounds Sebastian Zhao

The shimmering lights of the cars in the distance
The rain splattering on the pavement
Turbulent noises of cars rumble through the street
Glistening droplets of rain fly past the eyes
Such wonderous sounds to the ears
Slowly you walk down the sidewalk
Little by little, you sink through the group
Unbeknownst to you, you disappear from life
Life can be short just like that walk



Lara Gandour



Eric Ahn





Madelyn Suarez



Victor Suarez



Madelyn Suarez



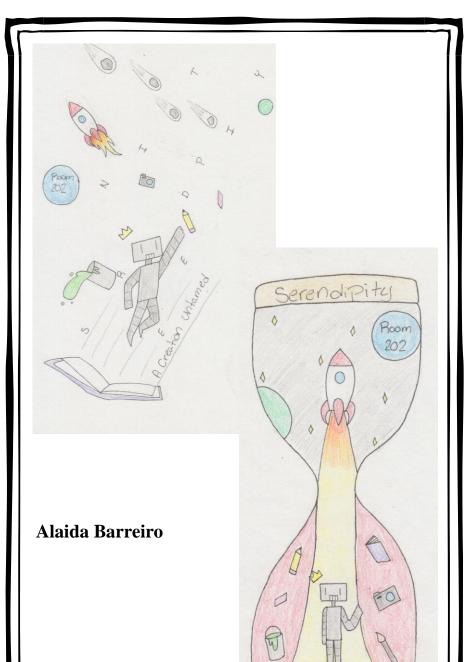
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