WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON
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This year, students participated in a national awareness project called “The Butterfly Effect: Migration is Beautiful.” After creating paper butterflies, symbols of migration, students sought to understand their own identities and the myriad ways we all have arrived in Mission Bay. We tackled other social justice themes such as Black Lives Matter, environmental justice, and self-love.
ALL ABOUT ME

I am a girl. A very confident girl. I do not make fun of you. I am Black, and I don’t care if you make fun of me just because I am Black. I am part of a Black culture and I am strong, confident, and smart. I am not born to make fun of people and make them sad and not feel strong. I am not a bully. Remember to always stand up for your friends, family, and your nation.
HAISSEM JONES
Age 10 • Daniel Webster Elementary School

WHEN I BECOME PRESIDENT

Act 1: Help make the water drinkable again by creating a chemical that can spread and make it environmentally friendly. Make it so it kills salt and lead. The operation will be called Operation Filter.

Act 2: Make a day where you have to ride your bike or take the bus or walk.

Act 3: Make Australia safe again. Send over fire fighters to help Australia.

Act 4: Ban Coal: Imagine how much it would change the world if we banned coal. It would significantly change global warming and change the air quality.

Act 5: Make it so it is less expensive for college and school. Make it so people can learn about their history, embrace their culture, and embrace their heritage. Not go further from it—closer to it.
CATHY LI
Age 9 • E.R. Taylor Elementary School

SINGING FOR FREEDOM

Oh, caged bird,
Your singing has led me to freedom.
Oh, caged bird,
Would you carry on freedom?
Oh, caged bird,
Please sing for freedom once again.
GILAYLA CACERES

Age 7 • George R. Moscone Elementary School

GIGI’S QUESTION

If I saw Martin Luther King Jr. I would ask him, “How do we treat people fairly?” If we do not treat one another fairly, then people will fight. I do not like for people to fight, because it makes me sad. There is a way for people not to fight. I like to be happy instead. I want for the people to be happy and fun, just like me. I do not like fighting. That’s why I do not fight at my school, and I am happy that my school does not fight, too! So we can have a lot of fun, and I want my school to be happy, and have so much fun, and for people to have fun at the park. At the park we can play, play, play, play, play!
The Cycle of the World

What makes migration beautiful is how it works as a cycle. Inside of the beautiful migration, I see flowers moving from San Francisco to Tokyo. Guess what kind of flowers they are? They are cherry blossoms! My family did a migration, because my mom was from Osaka and my dad was from Chicago. So, they both migrated from different places. That’s why it’s beautiful and lovely.
WE SHOULD ALL JUST HOLD HANDS

Holding hands is a very good symbol to spread around the world, because a lot of people use guns and do bad things. Instead we should all just hold hands. All the time on the news, all I mostly see is this kid getting shot or this person getting shot. All the families are always crying and so sad that their kid has passed away. Sometimes I think that the next person will be me or one of my family members, or one of my close friends. Sometimes I am scared to walk in my neighborhood because of guns. I really hope they get rid of guns because a lot of people are dying out there. I pray for their families.
I DON’T KNOW

There’s a guy I don’t know. But he asked me a question I don’t know. Afterwards, he told me to go to this place I don’t know... When I went to a place I don’t know, I saw students I don’t know. A teacher told me to take a seat, but I don’t know where to sit. I felt weird and... I don’t know! I came outside and I saw I don’t know guy again. I tried to go home but I don’t know where my house was! I was lost! But I don’t know if I care when I’m lost.
FOR NO REASON

My dream is for people to stop killing animals for no reason. Throwing trash in the ocean pollutes the water. Animals help Earth a lot. And some animals help us, like dogs, cats, plants, trees, Earth, us, bees, worms, birds, and butterflies. I love animals because they help, and they are cute. Dogs help blind people. Plants and trees help by being food and cleaning.
MAMOUN ALDUAIS
Age 11 • Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

THE WORLD
I wish my teachers knew my parents well
I wish my teachers knew I feel angry
I wish my teachers knew how to help me be better at math
I wish my teacher knew that in my country people are trying to kill
us and our families
That it is dangerous
UNDERSTAND

Schools should teach about Black history because it is important to learn about other religions, languages, and races. These things should be taught everywhere in the world. It is very important to learn about Black History Month because everyone would be able to understand what they do in that religion or culture.
Dear Senator Harris,

If I could not see my family, I would feel sad. You are taking something away, something I love. I think that if I was you, I would let the children out of cages. Keeping them there for the rest of their lives might kill them. Because if they took someone you loved, I know you would be mad and sad. This is me. Please listen to me.

Sincerely,
Blanca
Dear Senator Feinstein,

I think the right thing for you to do is not to listen to the people who tell you, “He shall go to a detention camp. Take away his parents!” I think you should let them live in the U.S., because America is a free country. Did you know twelve million people came through Ellis Island, and that’s only one immigration center? They all came because something was wrong with their country, so they came to ours. And the U. S. is an amazing country.

When I think of people’s parents taken away, I feel sad. Who will take you outside? Who will take you to school? Who will make you happy? Who will support you if you get sad? And who will take you on vacation? Your parents are the people who support you. It’s not fair to the kids who don’t have their parents.

Sincerely,

Moez
A RESPONSE TO “WILDFLOWERS” BY NIKKI GIOVANNI

The poem makes me feel very happy. I think that what she means when she says, “we are like a field of wildflowers” is that we are together as a community. We are like black bears in the woods. We are like hawks in the sky.
YOUR WINGS WILL WORK

Bird, you should fly again to get you more energy. Maybe you are tired of flying because you don’t have any more energy. It is hard for birds to fly. I can come hold you and untie you to let you fly. Your wings will work, or I can help get you to the doctor to fix your wings so you can fly. Your mom and dad died and you are so sad. You mom wanted you to be able to play.
I WOULD WANT TO BE A HEART DOCTOR

From baking cookies with grandmother to trips to the movies or lake, students’ families are a primary focus of the poems and stories written each week. While sometimes there can be adversity, it is always love that brings us together.
WORKING HARD FOR MY FAMILY

In ten years, I will be twenty-four years old. I would want to be a heart doctor. I would live in San Francisco. I would live with my family in a house. We would live in Bayview. I would want a big black and white dog. I would work very hard. I would want to learn basketball and buy an Xbox.
AWESOME ABDUL

When I grow up, I want to be a Blue Angel, because I want to take down Superman. My favorite memory is playing Fortnite. My favorite animal is T-rex. I love to learn math because I could be smart. My favorite thing to do after school is play games. I am curious. I wonder if I could play Fortnite.
SONG HUANG
Age 8 • George R. Moscone Elementary School

OH PIZZA

Oh pizza,
You are sunny like a bunny.
And a bit like a cat that is fat with the pizza.

Oh pizza,
You are yummy with crust like the earth’s crust.
Ha Ha Ha you are funny like a bunny.

Oh pizza,
You’re so tasty and not too nasty.
You’re tasty as you have everything.
You’re tasty with cheese!

Oh pizza,
YOU’RE SO YUMMY!
JUNK FOOD!!!

In the morning, it will rain eggs for three hours. Then it will pour milk for ten minutes, then sprinkle salt. In the afternoon, it will rain burgers and soda, so don’t forget your cups and plates. The next day, it will hail jellybeans and snow ice cream.
LORAM DUKE
Age 12 • Home Schooled

MEH

Meh, Cheesy Pizza,
You taste cheesy like a four-inch block of cheese.
Meh, Cheesy Pizza,
You smell like a cheesy piece of bread that makes me feel warm and
cheesy.
Meh, Cheesy Pizza,
You couldn’t be cheesier.
SPICY

Hi Pizza,
You are spicy and at a store called Costco
Hello Pizza,
You are as large as me and smaller than my dad
Oh Pizza,
You taste beautiful like fresh cheese and hot sauce
Dear Pizza,
You make me feel happy like soccer
A SUNDAY DAY

It is a sunny day.
It is beautiful outside.
How fun can it be out there?
Can we go to the park?
Yes! Yay! We can go!!
ELIJAH MOLINA
Age 10 • St. Paul’s Elementary School

WHEN IT’S RAINING MEATBALLS

When it’s raining meatballs, I will go outside and eat them. When it’s raining pizza, I will get a fork and stab the pizza. Salsa, I will collect so I can feed my family with spicy. Fries, I will kick so far into the ocean. Fries, I will just let them fall and then I will blow them up so far in the sky. Soda, I will drink it forever. Everybody will be watching.
OH, CHEESY PIZZA

Oh, Cheesy Pizza,
Oh, warm cheese and chicken,
How happy, satisfied, and calm you make me feel.
Oh, Cheesy Pizza,
Oh, how you remind me of Costco pizza and melted cheese.
I shall eat you with my family.
Oh, Cheesy Pizza,
Your crust sounds so crunchy,
You feel like greasy cheese,
Oh, you’re such a fresh cheesy pizza,
I like your cheesy taste.
SAVING ANIMALS

I am passionate about the houses of the animals in the forests. It matters because they want a safe place to live, and a safe place to find their food, without being scared of being killed by humans.

I became passionate about this since I knew that some people cut trees to make things and to make places for people to live. My friends are also passionate because we did work on this, and we found so many animals that don’t have a place to live or food to eat.

I hope people can stop cutting trees in the future. I can do it by telling people about it and they tell others so everyone will know, and they can stop it.
THINGS I AM GRATEFUL FOR

I am most passionate about art
My love for it began when I was two at home
I am grateful for Mom
She took care of me when I was in her stomach
Dad, Brother, Grandmother
My teacher, my house, my school, my class
826
LEGO FRIEND

I want to watch a movie, by myself, in my home, in the living room. It is Lego Friends. I can achieve this by doing my chores and homework and by going to 826 Valencia.

My biggest goal in life is to be a teacher, because you teach and help people that are kids. I can achieve this by studying, going to college, and learning in school.
READING
I was trying to catch up. My classmates know how to read. I was reading chapter books that are not too hard and not too easy. Every day, I felt better. I feel happy about myself.
A RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS

Ingredients:
10,000 cups of sprinkles
20,000 cups of whipped cream
30,000 gallons of ice cream
40,000 cups of me

Directions:
First, grill 10,000 cups of sprinkles.
Then, bake the 20,000 gallons of whipped cream.
Next, broil 30,000 gallons of ice cream.
Finally, cut 40,000 cups of Brittany.
In learning to get along, students worked to understand each other and work with each other. Anti-bullying curriculum, talks, and setting norms for respecting each other helped students to become better friends to each other.
I admire my sister. I admire my sister because she takes us to the park. I admire my sister because she is the best sister! She is also nice to me and my friends at school. My sister has the same iPhone and we look like each other! We sleep the same because when I sleep straight, she sleeps straight, and when she sleeps crooked, I sleep crooked. We have the same face.
LETTER TO MOM

Dear Mom/Li Chang Li,

Thank you for cooking for our family. I love how you make soy sauce with rice. You also help me with homework. I want to be great at cooking like you. I wish you would be rich, so we can buy a house with a garden because you like plants.

Love,
Vera
AYUNES ALDUAIS
Age 14 • Roosevelt Middle School

COOKIES WITH GRANDMOTHER

I like to help my grandmother. I help her do a lot of things. I like to help her make cookies. It is a neat thing to do with her. We mix milk, flour, and eggs together. We lay the cookies that need to be baked on a baking pan. We bake them and soon we have cookies to eat. Yum!
One thing that makes me feel strong inside is when I know that people love me. Because when someone loves you, you feel all good inside. Also, you can build up courage. The people that make me feel strong are my mom, dad, sisters, and the rest of my whole family. Even when I get in trouble, my family still loves me.
WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON

A person I admire is my mom. I admire my mom because she works hard for us minding my brothers, sister, and me. She is so kind and respects people, and she is loving, too. What we have in common is that she is kind and I am kind. She is loving, too, like me. I really like to be kind to people and to be loving. I love my Mom.
I LIKE JIM—ME

I like me because my hair is perfect, and because I have friends. I can stand ten feet from the basketball hoop, and I can make it in one shot. I got strength. Also, I’m good at soccer and I can kick the soccer ball from far away and make it in between the goalie’s legs. I can kick so high and so far. My family and friends think that I’m cool because I can win a soccer game and do a backflip on the monkey bars.
THE LAKE

One time I went to the lake, and I drove a boat for one hour. I was tired of driving the boat. So, my dad said, “If you’re tired, I could drive the boat.” We finished riding the boat, and me and my dad played football. I had fun at the lake. There is a workout gym at the lake, and I worked out.
ABDULLAH ALDUAISS
Age 10 • Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

ICE SKATING

My favorite memory was when I went ice skating with my mom, dad, and brother. I fell down one time, which was fun. It hurt a little. There were older kids yelling. When we were there, we ate goldfish. I got candy which tasted good. When I got home, I was tired, but we had fun.
First, I got scared because it was so hard to ride a bike. Then me and my mom and my little brother went to the beach to go around and around with our bikes. We saw a secret path and it had a secret door!

Then, the secret path took us to a secret door and the secret door took us back home. We watched videos about people riding their bikes and doing cool things. Then we went to brush our teeth.

Finally, by riding my bike, I felt joyful with my mom and little brother. Now I ride my bike in the morning on the weekend. We go outside and get our bikes from the secret room and take our bikes quietly, so we don’t disturb anyone. Then we ride our bikes, and it is so fun!
I AM

I am from video games.
I am from orange chicken.
I am from my sister.
I am from Starbucks, Safeway, and sadly, school.
I am from my room, my living room, and my kitchen.
I am from *hi* and *how are you?*
I am from Christmas, Easter, April Fools’ Day, and Mexican heritage.
MOVIES

One time, I went to Indio with my family. I was with my cousins and we played basketball. I had fun. We went to the movies and they were amazing. It was special because it was scary.
RECIPE FOR MY BROTHER

Ingredients:
15 gallons of glitter
4 cups of flowers
2,000 tablespoons of crumbs of crayons
20 teaspoons of pieces of hair

Directions:
First, layer 15 gallons of glitter.
Then, scramble 4 cups of flowers.
Next, blend 2,000 tablespoons of crumbs of crayons.
Finally, taste 20 teaspoons of pieces of hair.
LOVE
There’s one person in my heart
Only one person.
He woke me up from my dreams,
Woke me up from a kid to a teen,
Made me know what love means,
You can try to break one heart,
But only one person can fix it,
But if there’s two hearts combined
Together you can never break it ever.
GO TO SLEEP!

Do you ever wonder where we go when we sleep? Well if you don’t, that is okay. One day, there was a kid. She never liked sleeping. One day, somebody told her when you sleep, you go somewhere. So, she immediately went to bed, but the person was just kidding. She told her that so she could go to sleep. She was having a dream about going to Jelly Land. So, she actually believed that somebody and if you want to know who that somebody was, it was the friend. A girl named Emma.

Suddenly, the kid was always sleepy, so Emma actually thought she was going somewhere, but she was just having a dream. After that day, she would always go to sleep, and her friend and family were very happy that she was going to sleep.
THE SCHOOL

Once there was a person. He was young. One day, he went to high school. When the day was over, he went to his locker. When he closed his locker, he felt something touch his shoulder, but when he looked back nobody was there. When he tried to open the school front door, it didn't open. He was surprised. Suddenly, he heard music on the third floor.

When he went to the third floor, he heard it again. It came from the music room, and it was the sound of a piano. He went to the music room and saw a woman who was wearing a long white dress and had seventy-seven inches of long black hair. When the woman looked back, she had no eyes or nose. He freaked out and fainted. After ten minutes, he heard someone writing with chalk on the chalkboard in his classroom. He tiptoed to his classroom and peeked through the door. What he saw was chalk flying and writing “play with me…” When he saw that, he ran scared down to the first floor and pushed the front door hard, and the door finally opened!
CUT MY HAIR

Often, I am upset that I cannot fall in love, but I guess this avoids the stress of falling out of it. Are you tired of me yet? I’m a little sick right now, but I swear when I’m ready I will fly us out of here. I’ll cut my hair to make you stare...I’ll hide my chest and figure out a way to get us out of here. Turn off your porcelain face. I can’t think right now in this place. There’s too many colors, enough to drive all of us INSANE! Are you dead? Sometimes I think I am dead...’cause I can feel the ghost and ghosts wrapping my head. But I don’t wanna fall asleep just yet...my eyes went dark...I don’t know where...my pupils are. But I’m gonna figure a way to get us out of here...get a load of this monster, he doesn’t know how to communicate, his mind is in a different space, can everybody please give him a little bit of space? Get a load of this train wreck, his hair is a mess and he doesn’t know who he is yet! But he’s lucky to know the stars welcome him with open arms...oh time is slowly tracing his face, but strangely he feels at home in this place.
MINNIE’S SCAREDNESS

Once upon a time there was a girl named Minnie. She always played at night, and she never played in the morning. She was like all the girls, except one thing, she always covered her eye. One day, she went into a small cave. In the cave, there was a light shining in the back of a bear, and she saw the light. She took the light, then she put it in her pocket.

Minnie went to school and there was a girl named Lilac. She was Minnie’s friend. They were sharing scary stories. So at night, Minnie got so scared that she could not play. She went to bed. She felt something lumpy under her pillow. She checked, but there was nothing. Then she felt the lumpy thing again. She looked under her pillow, and she saw a little box. She opened it.

The box had a picture that scared her. It was herself with her pet, but she could not believe it. She did not have a pet. She said to herself, “It’s just me. It’s okay.” A tiny light came, and a strange voice came! She got scared, but she could not go out of her room because the ghost locked the door when she came closer. The ghost made her die!

In the morning, Minnie’s mom said, “Come out!” and opened the door, and there went Minnie. So, they died.

After all, the ghost went to another house. “It’s okay. It’s just me,” said Lilac, but there was a tiny light, a strange voice came and the ghost! Then she died!
THERE IS SOMEONE

There is someone,
There is someone here to save us,
Here to give us a hand,
Here to let us cry on your shoulder,
Someone to heal our sickness,
Someone to love us,
Someone to care for us,
Someone to release us from the dark,
Someone to take us home...
RAINFRO SHARK AND THE HOMELESS GOLDFISH

There was once a shark named Skittle Shark. He was not just any shark, but a colorful shark. He became colorful by licking a fairy, and he got wings, too. He was a rainbow shark. One day, a shelter kicked him out, and then he came to 826 where they sheltered him. Then Skittle Shark was happy. Skittle Shark made lots of friends and his favorite food was candy. One day, he saw a homeless goldfish, and instead of giving him money, he invited him to 826.
JAYLENE JONES  
Age 9 • Daniel Webster Elementary School

SMOKE AND CLOUDS

I am going to scare you. All around me I hear kids screaming because I’m talking to a house. The world smells like smoke and clouds. Around me I see a graveyard, pumpkins with legs chasing you. I feel goose bumps because we’re outside and my face is cold.
CLAYTON HILL
Age 11 • Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

SAUCY BOI
Oh! Cheesy, saucy, pepperoni boi
You taste so good
You sound like a crunchy chicken

Oh! Cheesy, saucy, pepperoni boi
You smell like you are fresh out of the box
I can still see the smoke coming out of you

Oh! Cheesy, saucy, pepperoni boi
You are hot and ready
You crust is dry like a desert

Oh! Cheesy, saucy, pepperoni boi
My tongue is wet when I see you
I am drooling with excitement.
SONIC

Sonic can run fast. He can turn into a ball and roll fast. Sonic has three friends. Also, his friends play with him during the day. Sonic and his friends play catch all day.

There was a boy. And that boy was mean to Sonic and his friends. The boy was trying positions on Sonic and his friends.
THE BUTTERFLY

A beautiful butterfly lived in an ocean. That butterfly wanted to live in a beautiful house, but the mom butterfly said “No!” every time the butterfly asked. The butterfly was sad, and one night the butterfly snuck out and flew to a beautiful house. The next morning the parents were so surprised because the butterfly was gone. They split into two groups with their friends to find their butterfly.

Finally they thought about yesterday. The butterfly said, “I want to live in a beautiful house.” They flew to the prettiest house in the world. They found her, but the butterfly got in trouble, so she was sad. She asked them one more time to live with her, and they said fine, but only for sixteen years.
THE SKY IN YEMEN

I will be a green leaf.
I will be an orange leaf.
I will be the change at night.
I will go to Yemen because it is hot,
And I will grow with the water.
ENCHANTED ADVENTURE

I was walking in the woods when I stumbled over something. It was a stick monster! I was so scared I ran up a tree. *GRRRRRRR.* I heard a growl. I looked up and saw a huge jaguar. It chased me down the tree and into something like a huge bed. I figured out it was a net. *Snip, snip, snip.* I saw a mouse chewing the net. Suddenly, I fell into a hole. I went down the hole, then up the hole. I landed in a soft, comfy bed. I realized I was at home sweet home.
First, Angel Heart Lion was relaxing at home. Suddenly a monster appeared. Angel Heart Lion used all her power to defeat it. She had a little bit of magic left, and she used that magic to put him somewhere else.
As a community writing center, 826 Valencia plays a key role in the lives of our students and families. This year we participated in many exciting events such as a visit from the Warriors, which included creating a video with 826 students and the players. Students became Writer of the Month and wrote Pizza Poetry. This last section is a collection of all the various facets of the many lives we touch here at 826 Valencia.
First when I got to 826, I felt sad because I missed my sister. When I missed my sister, I also missed my uncle. Then I felt nervous. And then I felt I had no friends. Finally, I felt happy. People were nice to me. And then I went home, I was happy again!
OLIVER RAMOS

Age 7 • Sanchez Elementary School

MOVING TO SAN FRANCISCO

I was five when I moved to San Francisco. First, my uncle moved with me from Guatemala. We started to know the city. My aunt found a home for all of us, and then my mom and I stayed with them. Then my mom found a new boyfriend and I got to know him. Everybody came to San Francisco because there is more space.
I AM FROM

I am from visiting my family in Mexico.
I am from crêpes and a lot more.
I am from my family.
I am from Starbucks, a park, and a gas station.
I am from my bed, food, and family.
I am from my sister saying, “Don’t touch my stuff.” I am from my
mom telling me to, “Stop bothering your sister.” I am from saying,
“Clean your room.”
I am from delicious food, happiness, presents, and celebrating God’s
birthday on Christmas.
I am from a family of loving each other and running late to pick me
up and taking me everywhere.
OUR FOOD

Our food comes from the factory. Our food drives to us. The food travels 1,000 miles. We buy our food from the store.
WE ARE HIKING AND I FIND SOME GOLDEN EGGS. THEN, ONE OF THEM HATCHES! IT’S A... WHA? A FLYING CAT? THE OTHER EGGS HATCH. THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT COLORS. THERE ARE SEVEN CATS. WE GIVE THEM TO A SCIENTIST.

SUDDENLY, ONE TALKS.

"WHAT IS THIS PLACE?"

I SAY, "EARTH. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?"

"WE ARE FROM 2D LAND," SAID THE CATS.

MEANWHILE, THE SCIENTIST STARTED WRITING DOWN WHAT THEY SAID. THE SCIENTIST ASKS THEM HOW THEY GOT THERE. THEY FELT LIKE THEY WERE GOING THROUGH A PORTAL. WE GO BACK TO THE SPOT WE FOUND THEM AT. THEY FOUND A PORTAL, WENT THROUGH THE PORTAL, AND WENT 2D. THEY TOOK NOTES OF WHAT THEY SAW AND THEIR TECH WAS WORSE THAN OURS. WE ALSO FIGURED OUT THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS A COMPUTER.

THEY FOUND A 5D UNIVERSE. THE FOURTH DIMENSION IS TIME. EVERYTHING REACTS TO TIME LIKE AN ICE CUBE. THE FIFTH DIMENSION IS HEAT. EVERYTHING REACTS TO HEAT LIKE ICE.
THE MYSTERIOUS SLIME

While Ava was slowly walking back home from the market at night, she stopped to a growling voice. She didn’t care and kept walking. After she walked two steps, she heard a loud roar. She suddenly saw a black slimy hand crawling out of the ground. She screamed. The black hand had black slime dripping out of it. Ava couldn’t move, she was too scared. Then, the slimy black hand grabbed Ava on the leg. She could feel the black slime was very cold. It was also smelly. Next, Ava fainted when she saw a black body crawling out the ground. When she woke up, she saw a cold black substance swallowing her up. It was up to her shoulder. Last, she cried for help, but it was too late. It went up to her head. She went missing for 200 years. She died. No one found her. Then the town she was in, became a ghost town. NO ONE EVER GO THERE ANYMORE.
IF ANIMALS COULD TALK

If animals could talk, I would freak out. It would scare me. I would ask them, “Who are you?” I would ask them this because when they start talking, I could run away. I would go to my home. I would go under my covers. I would worry if I locked the door. If the animals came inside, I would jump out the window.
BE PREPARED!

Hello! Have you ever lived in a town raining meatballs? I have. The weather is all crazy and meatballs are everywhere. I would always bring out a bowl to catch the meatballs. The first week was confusing. I spent the whole week in my house. I read books about the strange town. If you go to a restaurant, all you need to bring is a bowl. When you go in the restaurant, they will open the roof for you and meatballs and spaghetti will be your meal. BE PREPARED IF YOU COME TO THIS TOWN!
HAISSEM JONES
Age 10 • Bryant Elementary School

ALL ABOUT HAISSEM

I am from Sacramento.
I am from a brother of Tin, Tling, and Sara.
I am from a loving, caring, and supportive home.
Because of this, I am polite, hardworking, and sleepy.
MY LIFE

I am from playing Uno.
I am from California rolls.
I am from my family and friends.
I am from crunchy leaves, big garages, and security cameras.
I am from grey couches, many certificates, and fourteen colorful pencil boxes.
I am from:
“Vera, you’re so naughty,” and
“Clean up before you go somewhere!”
I am from waking up before my parents to open presents, going shopping, watching TV, and decorating our tree on Christmas Eve.
I am from a family of my dad watching TV, doing homework after dinner, and my mom cooking all the time.
I am from helping others, building things, and fishing.
I am from Disneyland when I was six (maybe seven).
I am from 梓欣.
I am from kindness, silliness, and helpful.
Because of this, I am energetic, helpful, and nice.
IF TIGERS HAD NO PLACE TO LIVE

If tigers had no place to live, they would try to live in apartments, but that means they would need to have jobs. Every day tigers would be driving, biking, walking, and taking the bus to work! The tigers would have to wear human clothes to be hired for the jobs!
JIMMY ZHU
Age 7 • Gordon J. Lau Elementary School

I LIKE DORITOS

My wish is... that I would want to grow a Dorito tree. It would have bags of Doritos so other people could come and pick them. People want to have a lot of kinds of Doritos.
SONG HUANG
Age 8 • George R. Moscone Elementary School

SONG’S STORY
I am from Roblox.
I am from gum.
I am from nothing.
I am from plants, a door, and a wall.
I am from paper, table, and stuff.
I am from hurry up and let’s go!

I am from Halloween, Christmas, Chinese New Year, and Chinese Moon Festival.
I am from a family who loves sleeping and who plays, sleeps, and goes shopping.
I am from driving shuttles and selling glasses.
I am from Reno.
NEYA MULDER
Age 7 • Starr King Elementary School

4D UNIVERSE

Flash! Flash! There’s a flashing light! It’s only 3:27 a.m.! I send my tiny robot over. My robot is a camera on wheels. I look on my computer and I see a… portal dog?! I went to the dog, went through the portal with my robot, and got to dog earth? Dogs were everywhere! I took some photos with my robot. I also took some dogs! I sold them to the pet store for $100. I took even more dogs from dog earth and kept my portal dog. I got $1,000 for all the dogs. I bought some rocket parts to launch dogs to Mars. (I was working for NASA at that time). I got more money, made more rockets, and got to more planets. Then, in 3021 I found a 4D universe. The fourth dimension was time. Things are different, like ice. It all started with a flash.
I AM AKIRA

I am from cooking.
I am from burgers.
I am from my life.
I am from five rooms, three bathrooms, and one living room.
I am from one kitchen, one dining room, and one garage.
I am from my mom saying, “Go do your work, also I love you.”
I am from dressing up, trick or treating, and candy.
I am from camping every summer.
I am from a family of smart people and singing, dancing, and eating.
I am from driving the bus and babysitting.
I am from Africa, but I’ve never been.
I am from Mimi, Moma, and TTkia.
I am from independent, strong, and smart.
Because of this I am independent, strong, and smart.
WHAT HOME MEANS

What home means to me is love because my family is there.
BETHANY JIMENEZ
Age 9 • Saint James Elementary School

WINTER
Windy
Interesting
Name
Time for Christmas
Evergreen
Run
ANFAL CHENBOD
Age 13 • Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

AUTUMN POEM

The taste of autumn is good
Because it’s pomegranate season.
I love pomegranates.
The touch of autumn is crunchy like leaves.
The smell of autumn is the smell of maple syrup
And pancakes.
The sound of autumn is the wind
Howling in your ears.
The sights of autumn are leaves of green,
Red and orange all over the floor.
**THE HOLE**

You are hiking through the forest when you come upon a tree with a huge hole on its side. It is the entrance to an underground passage. You go inside...when you get inside, you find a cave, and in the cave, there is a chest. You open a chest and you find a big tiger. You befriend the tiger. The end.
EVOLET QUINTAL
Age 10 • Bessie Carmichael Elementary School

EVOLET IS ME
I am from a unicorn.
I am from ten.
I am from a butterfly.
I am from unicorns, sharks, and a puppy.
I am from Ocean Beach, ice cream, and a cupcake.
I am from Wala, Tatiana, and Maram.
I am from football, a ball, you can create it, and a yay.
I am from a family of cool and we walk to the mall and buy stuff.
WHAT IS NATURE?!!

Nature is something
You take care of
Nature gives you food like
Apples and fruit, it grows and
Apples are tasty and yummy
When you taste it
It feels like you
Have sweet stuff
In your mouth the
Color is red and
It’s juicy
Nature has lavender
And it is very
Peaceful because
It’s like nature
Says “hey” to you
And it gives you
Air to breathe
And it gets you calm
It’s how it moves
That’s how the flowers
Are saying hey
KENYA CAPETILLO COVARRUBIAS
Age 8 • Garfield Elementary School

IF I WAS A GHOST

If I was a ghost, I would fly in the sky like I just don’t care. I would make my house magical.
Hello people!

I just invented a miracle elixir! It can stop pollution! Cool right? You just need to pour it on earth and poof! No more pollution!

You will need to learn how to make it! Here, let me teach you! First, you need to collect fish bones so it can make the soil rich, apples for some reason. Also, you will need frozen glue so it can make all the stuff stick together! Last, you need to get unicorn poop!

First, you will need to dice the apple and pour them in a boiling pot! Next, pour the glue cubes into the bowl and add fish bones in it. Mash them all up till they turn yellow. Then, pour them in the pot. Cook it till it turns dark green. When it’s done, pour in a cup. Last, put unicorn poop in it. Mix it till it turns pink. Pour it on the earth and watch the magic happen!

From,
Lisa
ALEJANDRO CAPETILLO COVARRUBIAS
Age 13 • Francisco Middle School

A PLACE FULL OF WRITING MAGIC

826 is a place to make friends and yet to be serious. And to learn about our language. The funnest part of 826 Valencia is writing whatever you want because you get to make up whatever you want. My favorite project is when we did the butterflies and we did the origami and I have to admit that mine was the best and it was beautiful. I like the cave because it’s nice and silent and it helps me focus.

Writing is important because it is the bottom part of the tower. Without writing there’s no math, reading, construction, language, or imagination. I like writing fiction because you can get creative.

826 is a place full of writing magic.
826 Valencia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting under-resourced students ages six to eighteen with their creative and expository writing skills and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around the understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.
826 Valencia comprises three writing centers—located in San Francisco’s Mission District, Tenderloin neighborhood, and Mission Bay—and three satellite classrooms at nearby schools. All of our centers are fronted by kid-friendly, weird, and whimsical stores, which serve as portals to learning and gateways for the community. All of our programs are offered free of charge. Since we first opened our doors in 2002, thousands of volunteers have dedicated their time to working with tens of thousands of students.

PROGRAMS

FIELD TRIPS
Classes from public schools around San Francisco visit our writing centers for a morning of high-energy learning about the craft of storytelling. Four days a week, our Field Trips produce bound, illustrated books and professional-quality podcasts, infusing creativity, collaboration, and the arts into students’ regular school day.

IN-SCHOOLS PROGRAMS
We bring teams of volunteers into high-need schools around the city to support teachers and provide one-on-one assistance to students as they tackle various writing projects, including newspapers, research papers, oral histories, and more. We have a special presence at Buena Vista Horace Mann K–8, Everett Middle School, and Mission High School, where we staff dedicated Writers’ Rooms throughout the school year.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING
During the school year, 826 Valencia’s centers are packed five days a week with neighborhood students who come in after school and in the evenings for tutoring in all subject areas, with a special emphasis on creative writing and publishing. During the summer these students participate in our Exploring Words Summer Camp, where we explore science and writing through projects, outings, and activities in a super fun, educational environment.
WORKSHOPS
826 Valencia offers workshops designed to foster creativity and strengthen writing skills in a wide variety of areas, from playwriting to personal essays to starting a zine. All workshops, from the playful to the practical, are project-based and are taught by experienced, accomplished professionals. Over the summer, our Young Authors’ Workshop provides an intensive writing experience for high-school-aged students.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
We offer a roster of programs designed to help students get into college and be successful there. Every year, we grant several $20,000 scholarships to college-bound seniors, provide one-on-one support to two hundred students via the Great San Francisco Personal Statement Weekend, and partner with ScholarMatch to offer college access workshops to the middle- and high-school students in our tutoring programs. We also offer internships, peer tutoring stipends, and career workshops to our youth leaders.

PUBLISHING
Students in all of 826 Valencia’s programs have the ability to explore, experience, and celebrate themselves as writers in part because of our professional-quality publishing. In addition to the book you’re holding, 826 Valencia publishes newspapers, magazines, chapbooks, podcasts, and blogs—all written by students.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH
From the beginning, 826 Valencia’s goal has been to support teachers. We aim to both provide the classroom support that helps our hardworking teachers meet the needs of all our students and to celebrate their important work. Every month, we receive letters from students, parents, and educators nominating outstanding teachers for our Teacher of the Month award, which comes with a $1,500 honorarium. Know an SFUSD teacher you want to nominate? Guidelines can be found at 826valencia.org.
826 NATIONAL

826 Valencia’s success has spread across the country. Under the umbrella of 826 National, writing and tutoring centers have opened up in eight more cities. If you would like to learn more about other 826 programs, please visit the following websites.

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IT’S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME TO GIVE
WE NEED YOUR HELP

We could not do this work without the thousands of volunteers who make our programs possible. We are always seeking more volunteer tutors and volunteers with design, illustration, photography, or audio editing skills. It’s easy to become a volunteer and a bunch of fun to actually do it.

Please fill out our online application to let us know how you’d like to lend your time: 826valencia.org/volunteer

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE
Whether it’s loose change or heaps of cash, a donation of any size will help 826 Valencia continue to offer a variety of free writing and publishing programs to Bay Area youth.

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION AT:
826valencia.org/donate

YOU CAN ALSO MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:
826 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

Your donation is tax-deductible. What a plus! Thank you!
When an enchanted forest sprouts in Mission Bay, magical things happen. This first publication from our newest After-School Tutoring program represents student voices from over twenty schools in San Francisco. 826 Valencia collaborated with many community partners including Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, in whose building we are now located, the San Francisco Public Library, Mission Bay, Mercy Housing, and Crescent Cove. These students’ whimsical thoughts are simultaneously innocent and sophisticated, and use the imagery of forests and magical creatures to touch on themes of power, equity, community, family, and love.