

THANK YOU <sup>FOR</sup>  
LETTING ME



WRITE  
THIS MESSAGE  
ON YOU



**THANK YOU FOR  
LETTING ME WRITE  
THIS MESSAGE ON YOU**

**SUNDAY DROP-IN TUTORING  
SPRING 2020**



**MISSION CENTER**

826 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

**TENDERLOIN CENTER**

180 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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San Francisco, CA 94158

**826VALENCIA.ORG**

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# **PICTURES FROM THE CLOUD**

# **CLOUDS**

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AZALEA VANDEN BERGHE

*Age 9 · St Peter's Parish School*

Pictures from the cloud.

White clouds.

Sometimes when the cloud  
moves, the picture changes.

And sometimes there is no  
picture after that dog.

# ALL ABOUT ME

CARNA ZHOU

*Age 11 • A. P. Giannini Middle School*

I am a Chinese female.

My family taught me to be proud of my language.

I love to write.

I hope to become a writer.

I am as loyal as a dog.

I am as sassy as a cat.

I am Chinese.

I am learning my language.

I like to draw.

I like to draw cartoons.

I am as sassy as a cat.

I am as loyal as a dog.

I am a female.

Most of my family are females.

I like to write.

I can write small stories.

I am as clever as a pig.

I am as sneaky as a fox.

My parents are from China.  
I am first generation.  
I like to play video games.  
I like to play Roblox.  
I am as kind as a bunny.  
I am as adventurous as a bird.

I am the second sibling.  
I am eleven years old.  
I like to dance.  
I like to dance to music.  
I am as energetic as a fish.  
I am as clumsy as butter.

I can speak Chinese.  
I can speak Cantonese and Mandarin.  
I like to read.  
I can read five hundred-page books.  
I am as generous as a tree.  
I am as slow as a slug.

I am able to speak Spanish.  
I can speak a little Spanish and I am still learning.  
I like to cook.  
I can cook rice and eggs.  
I am as caring as a mom.  
I am as silly as a comedian.

# ME

NERYSSA ZAPIEN ESPINOZA

*Age 10 · Starr King Elementary School*

Head.

My head is awesome.

I can do a lot of things.

My head helps me think.

Body.

My body can run.

My body can exercise.

I like to dance.

Heart.

My heart is awesome.

My heart bounces very fast,

twenty-four seven.

# **LIFE MEANS . . .**

---

SERENA VANDEN BERGHE

*Age 11 · St Peter's Parish School*

Life means sleeping. I dream!

Life means eating. Yummy!

Life means having fun. Yay!

Life means going shopping. Oh ya!

Life means going on road trips. So fun!

# OUT OF MY HEAD

---

ARTURO SANDOVAL SAITO

*Age 16 · John O'Connell Technical High School*

Dear Paper,

Thank you for letting me show my ideas by drawing, painting, cutting, and coloring you. Even when I'm bored, I'm glad that you are still around to draw on or to write things that come out of my head. Also, thank you for letting me write this message on you.

# **DEAR DESK**

AZALEA VANDEN BERGHE

*Age 9 · St Peter's Parish School*

Dear Desk,

Thank you for holding my backpack, my books, and me. Also, thank you for holding my crayons, my pencil sharpener, and my math cards. Thank you for letting me write on paper on the top of you. Also, thank you for letting me color on top of you. Thank you for letting my name tag be on top of you. Thank you for letting me put office supplies and mats on top of you and my water bottle over you.

Sincerely,

Azalea

# **DEAR LEGOS**

---

CARRICK ZHOU

*Age 9 · Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School*

Dear Legos,

Thank you for cheering me up when I'm bored. Also, thank you for making my creativity and imagination better. I can start a war, make robots and weapons. I enjoy building with you because I have control over you. I even built a robot out of you.

Sincerely,  
Carrick Zhou

# LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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NICOLE ORELLANA

*Age 12 · Saint Anthony Immaculate Conception School*

Dear Shoes,

Thank you shoes because you have always been with me my whole life even though I've had different kinds of shoes. You make my feet warm during the cold. You help me not touch the cold concrete floor, not touch the glass, and especially not touch spit, pee, and poop.

Sincerely,

Nicole Orellana

Dear Clothes,

Thank you, clothes, because I have worn you and I wore you even when I was born. You are part of the pajama family. Ever since, I grew up every day, I got taller and older. I know different kinds of people, kids, and babies wear you every day.

Sincerely,

Nicole Orellana

**MORE POWER THAN  
ANYTHING IN THE  
WHOLE UNIVERSE**

# DIFFERENT IN THE DIMENSION

---

ARTURO SANDOVAL SAITO

*Age 16 · John O'Connell Technical High School*

If I ever had an evil twin, he'd probably start spying on me and a few years later, he would end up working for someone in another dimension to "probably" capture or kill me. People would easily tell that this guy is not me because he would do the opposite things I do, such as not care for others or spend most of his time capturing people for the person he works with. He would wear black clothes and a red cape. And since he would be evil, he would have a hard time learning to be good for once in his lifetime. And although we would be both the same age, he'd be actually three minutes younger than me, since time is different in the dimension he would live in.

# BIG BREAD

---

MAYA SANDOVAL SAITO

*Age 12 · St Peter's Parish School*

There are a lot of dumb and amazing things I wish I could do, but if I had to pick the weirdest one, it would be to lie on a giant slice of fresh baked bread. I know it's weird, but it's a dream I've had for a while now.

To be honest, sometimes I just dream about it when I'm tired. The dream usually starts off with a random baker taking out of the oven a fresh, warm, loaf of bread. Then the baker (of course) slices the bread in separate pieces. After that, my mom buys the bread and lays a slice of it in the middle of the kitchen. She calls me over and for some reason I am the size the size of an ant. Instead of ripping off a piece of bread and eating it, I decide to lie down on it. The slice is soft, warm, and huge!

But after that, I would end up coming back to Earth and realizing I'm on my bed. Too bad dreams don't last forever.

And that is why lying on a giant slice of bread is the thing I wish I could do.

# IF I WON THE LOTTERY

---

NOE CAMPOS

*Age 15 · City Arts and Tech High School*

If I won the lottery, I would probably move far away so that no one would find out. For example, I would probably go somewhere really far so that no one would find out and also so that the press would not be bothering me and asking me questions all the time. This is important because if people know that you have a lot of money, they will most likely try to take half of it, by that I mean the government and their lawyers. That is why I would move as far as possible to not have to deal with that stress.

Besides moving far away, I would probably buy a big house for myself in a very quiet and lonely environment. I would probably also purchase a farm with farm animals so that I don't have to spend much money on food. If I were to spend money on things I want, I would probably buy a lot of hunting gear like pistols, knives, bow and arrows, and also rifles. This would be so that I could go hunting, but also protect myself.

I would probably give some money to my family too, but I would also sometimes go on vacations to take some time off. The last thing I would do if I won the lottery would probably be to buy a private jet.

# **PRESIDENT BLANCA**

---

BLANCA ESTRADA

*Age 9 · One Purpose School*

If I had to make this place better, I would kick Donald Trump out of the White House and I, Blanca, would be the president. As President Blanca, I would take the law out so everyone would be welcome in America and any place they want to live.

# SHOOTING LIGHTNING

---

MARVIN RODRIGUEZ

*Age 11 · George R. Moscone Elementary School*

If there was a cloud over my head, I would kind of feel scared because it could shoot lightning. It could destroy San Francisco. If it followed me, I would be even more scared because there would be a high chance for lightning to hit me and I would get shocked. I would hide in buildings and the cloud would follow me somewhere else and I would be happy, but one of them would be mad.

# LAS DONUTS / THE DOUGHNUTS

---

VANESSA RODRIGUEZ

*Age 7 · George R. Moscone Elementary School*

Me gusta las donuts porque tienen un sabor rico y dulce. A mi me gusta el dulce porque sabe como a chocolate. Me encanta la de chocolate con sprinkles. También tienen un forma de círculo.

*\*Ésto fue originalmente escrito en Español y fue traducido al Inglés.*

I like doughnuts because they have a sweet taste. I like sweet things because they taste like chocolate. I love the chocolate one with sprinkles. They also have a circle shape.

*\*This piece was originally written in Spanish and was translated to English.*



**A LITTLE  
AGGRESSIVE  
LIKE ME**

# **PIGS**

---

NERYSSA ZAPIEN ESPINOZA

*Age 10 · Starr King Elementary School*

My patronus is a pig because showers suck because if you get in the warm water then you don't want to get out. Pigs don't like to get wet. Pigs are afraid of heights like me too. Pigs are smarter than dogs. They're cute. They become a little aggressive like me when I'm mad! They like to skateboard.

# **SOCCER TEAM**

---

ARATH DANIEL MARTINEZ

*Age 8 · George R. Moscone Elementary School*

I am really good at soccer. I am good at passing the ball when I am playing a soccer game and when I have soccer practice. I feel happy when I am playing soccer. I like playing soccer because I like making a lot of goals. My favorite soccer teams are Mexico, America, Chivas, and Real Madrid. My favorite soccer players are Cristiano Ronaldo, Messi, and Chicharito. I want to pass to people and make a goal for my team, which is America.

# MAGICAL FAIRY

---

AZALEA VANDEN BERGHE

*Age 9 · St Peter's Parish School*

Once upon a time, there was a magic fairy who had the most power in her wand. She turned everyone into frogs except herself. She was so evil that she wanted everything the way she wanted. The fairy's name was Magical Fairy. She was so tiny no one could see her and that's why no one knew how they got turned into frogs. She had her house in a secret place where no one was around, and the fairy liked when there was no one around. It was so quiet and peaceful. She liked being alone where no one could see what she did.

She had these secret ingredients to her wand. She made the ingredients and dipped her wand in them each day. That's why she had the most power in her wand. It had more power than anything in the whole universe.

Magical Fairy realized how it would feel to be a frog and how people and animals would not like it. So, she got her wand and she quickly turned people and animals back to the way they were. When she got home, she was tired and quickly fell asleep.

# GOOD GOALIE

---

DANIEL GUZMAN

*Age 11 · St. James School*

This year, I want to get better at soccer to become a good soccer player. Because they run faster, they can take the ball so easily from someone and they can make a lot of goals. I want to be a good goalie because they can stop the ball. They can also kick the ball really high in the sky and they can block the goal from someone.

# FARTING TOGETHER

---

LUIS ESCALANTE

*Age 6 · Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8*

There was once a dinosaur named Squirtle who lived in a little hole that was very scary and dark. One day, Squirtle was busy playing outside, when they ran into a Pikachu named Triceratops. The two of them were shy with each other at first, but when they started to fart together, they found that they got along really well!

# MY MOM IS AMAZING

---

MARGARITA JIMENEZ

*Age 12 · Everett Middle School*

Someone I admire is my mom. The reason I admire her is because she is always there for me, like when I'm hungry she makes me food. She always makes sure I'm feeling good. I think my mom is amazing because she's always been there when I needed her and no matter what she is always helping me with something and making sure I'm safe.

# WOLVES

---

BLANCA ESTRADA

*Age 9 · One Purpose School*

My patronus is a wolf. I connect with wolves because when they start something, they get it done. For example, wolves get their prey and they get their job done. Like a wolf, I start my writing and I finish my writing. I am also smart like a wolf. For example, I am good at math.

# **COOL AND FUN**

---

CESAR JIMENEZ

*Age 11 · Cesar Chavez Elementary School*

My patronus animal is going to be a shark because I like to swim, and I also think they are cool and fun. They have teeth that grow fast. I also can do that, but my teeth take more time to grow.

# ALL ABOUT HYENAS

---

KAREN SANCHEZ

*Age 8 · Alvarado Elementary School*

My patronus is a hyena. They look like dogs; they have black spots and they stay in a group. They like chasing their food all day. And when the other groups smell what the other groups of hyenas are eating, all of the groups come to eat too. They all finish the food until nothing is left. They eat antelopes and zebras. They fight tigers. Half a group fights tigers and the other half hunts for food. After the day ends, they relax and take a nap. One baby hyena joins the group so there is a new hyena in the group. The hyena makes his own group. The hyenas find a brand new shelter. They find a house in a tree. I like hyenas because their fur is just like a dog's and they have powerful teeth and funny laughs.

# **PATRONUS**

---

TOBIAS ESCOLAR CORTEZ

*Age 11 · George R. Moscone Elementary School*

My patronus is a bat because I like being in the dark. The second reason why I have a connection with bats is I really like sleeping. The third reason is that I like fruits like some kinds of bats do. The fourth reason is sometimes I like being upside down, but then I don't like it because I get dizzy.



# **ABOUT 826 VALENCIA**

# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

---

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-age 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 chapbook you're holding, 826 Valencia publishes newspapers, magazines, books, 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](http://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:

826 National  
[826national.org](http://826national.org)

826michigan  
[826michigan.org](http://826michigan.org)

826 Boston  
[826boston.org](http://826boston.org)

8 826 MSP  
[826msp.org](http://826msp.org)

826CHI  
[826chi.org](http://826chi.org)

26 New Orleans  
[826neworleans.org](http://826neworleans.org)

826DC  
[826dc.org](http://826dc.org)

826NYC  
[826nyc.org](http://826nyc.org)

826LA  
[826la.org](http://826la.org)

826 Valencia  
[826valencia.org](http://826valencia.org)



# IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME TO GIVE

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## 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, and 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](http://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](http://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!



