

BRING YOUR DREAMS.



Brookings Human Rights Commission

City of Brookings
520 3rd St., Suite 230
Brookings, SD 57006
phone (605) 692-6281
fax (605) 692-6907

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Casey Bell, Human Resources, 692-6281

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Poster & Essay Contest Winners

The Brookings Human Rights Commission has announced the winners of its 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster and Essay Contest. Dr. King was a supporter of human rights and freedoms for all citizens. The contest is designed for students to reflect on Dr. King's ideas and the effect on our community through their contest entry. This year's theme from one of Dr. King's quotes was *"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."*

The contest winners will receive their award recognition from Mayor Keith Corbett at the beginning of the City Council meeting on January 28 at 6 pm. The public is invited.

The poster contest was conducted for Camelot Intermediate School students. All of the poster entries are on display in the Brookings Public Library until February 3. All of the poster entries can also be viewed on the BHRC page on the City's website: (www.cityofbrookings.org), and the City's Government Channel (Mediacom and Swiftel Channel 9).

Grade 4 - Poster

Tyler Davis

1st Place \$25.00

Camelot Intermediate School – 4th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Stoltenburg

Parents – Shawn & Beth Hanson

Dante Martinson

2nd Place \$15.00

Camelot Intermediate School – 4th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Stoltenburg

Parents – Brent Martinson and Julie Risty

Shawna Nupen

3rd Place \$10.00

Camelot Intermediate School – 4th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Stoltenburg

Parents – Brad & Sonia Nupen

Allyson Couser

Honorable Mention

Camelot Intermediate School – 4th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Drawdy

Parents – Patrick & Lori Couser

Grade 5 - Poster

Tavyn Jae Everding

1st Place \$25.00

Camelot Intermediate School – 5th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Stahl

Parents – Joe & Jen Frederiksen and Duane Everding

Autumn Brink

2nd Place \$15.00

Camelot Intermediate School – 5th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Stein

Parents – Jared & Catherine Brink

Honor Naughton

3rd Place \$10.00

Camelot Intermediate School – 5th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Stein

Parents – Matt & Lindsay Naughton

Alexis (Lexi) Erp

Honorable Mention

Camelot Intermediate School – 5th Grade

Teacher – Ms. Moran

Parents – Shawn Erp & Megan Leisinger

Essay – Middle School

Anika Hooda

1st Place \$100.00

Mickelson Middle School – 6th Grade

Teacher – Mr. Mitchell

Parents – Davender & Ritu Hooda

Shae Lefers

2nd Place \$75.00

Mickelson Middle School – 6th Grade

Teacher – Mr. Mitchell

Parents – Matthew & Olivia Lefers

Taya Haselhorst

3rd Place \$50.00

Mickelson Middle School – 6th Grade

Teacher – Mrs. Meyer

Parents – Chad & Ashlee Haselhorst

Essay – High School

Grace Enz

1st Place \$100.00

Brookings High School – 10th Grade

Parents – Greg & Molly Enz

Cherish Stern

2nd Place \$75.00

Brookings High School – 11th Grade

Parents – Mike & Laura Stern

Victoria Diersen

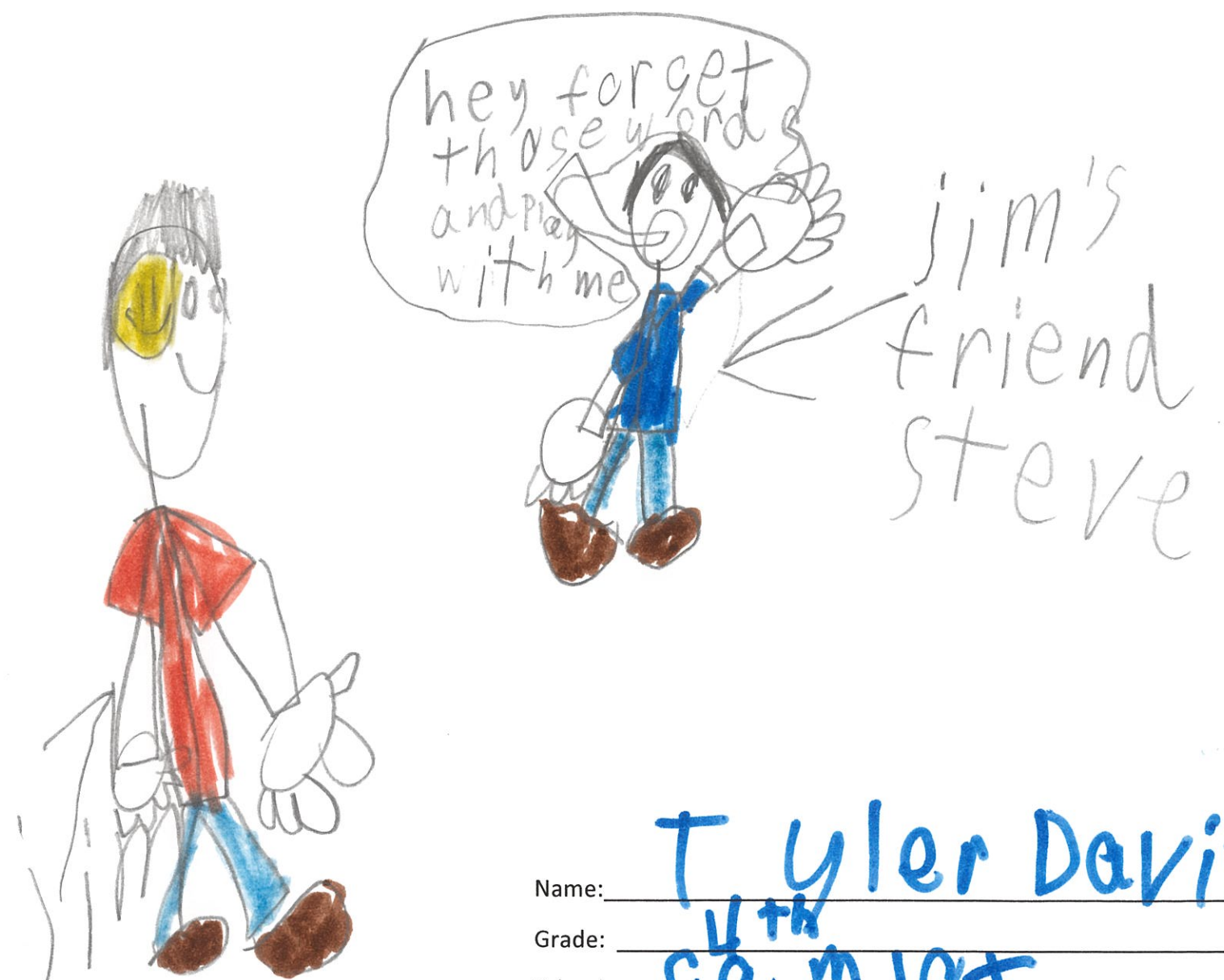
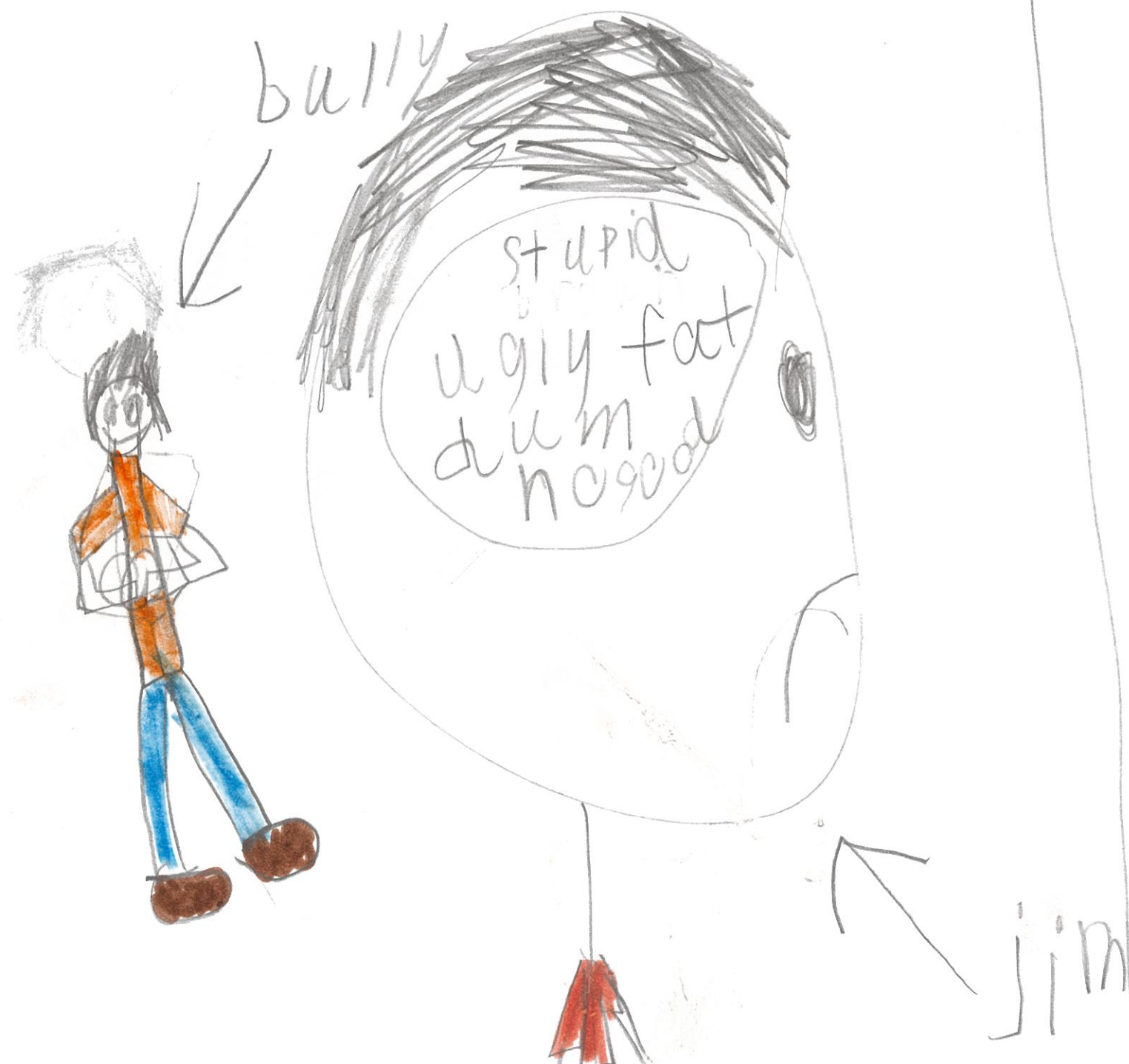
3rd Place \$50.00

Brookings High School – 12th Grade

Parents – Matt & Cindy Diersen

The mission of the Brookings Human Rights Commission (BHRC) is to improve human relations in the Brookings area by fighting discrimination through education and a complaint resolution procedure. The Commission seeks to protect the rights of and prevent and eliminate bias and discrimination against individuals or groups because of their sex, race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, disability, familial status, national origin, age, marital status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or political affiliation, with respect to employment, labor union membership, housing accommodations, property rights, education, public accommodations or public services. The Commission promotes educational activities to make Brookings an inclusive and welcoming community.

At the end, we will remember
the words of our enemies,
the silence of our friends."



Name: Tyler Davis
Grade: 4th
School: Carmel
Teacher: Mrs. Stolteben

We used to be apart, but
We are now put together.



Name: Dante Martinson
Grade: 4th
School: Camelot
Teacher: Mrs. Stoltzberg

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies,
but the silence of our friends." - Martin Luther King Jr.



Name: Shawna N.
Grade: 4th Grade
School: Camelot
Teacher: Mrs. Stoltenburg

"In The End,
we will remember
not the words of
our enemies, but
the silence of our friends"

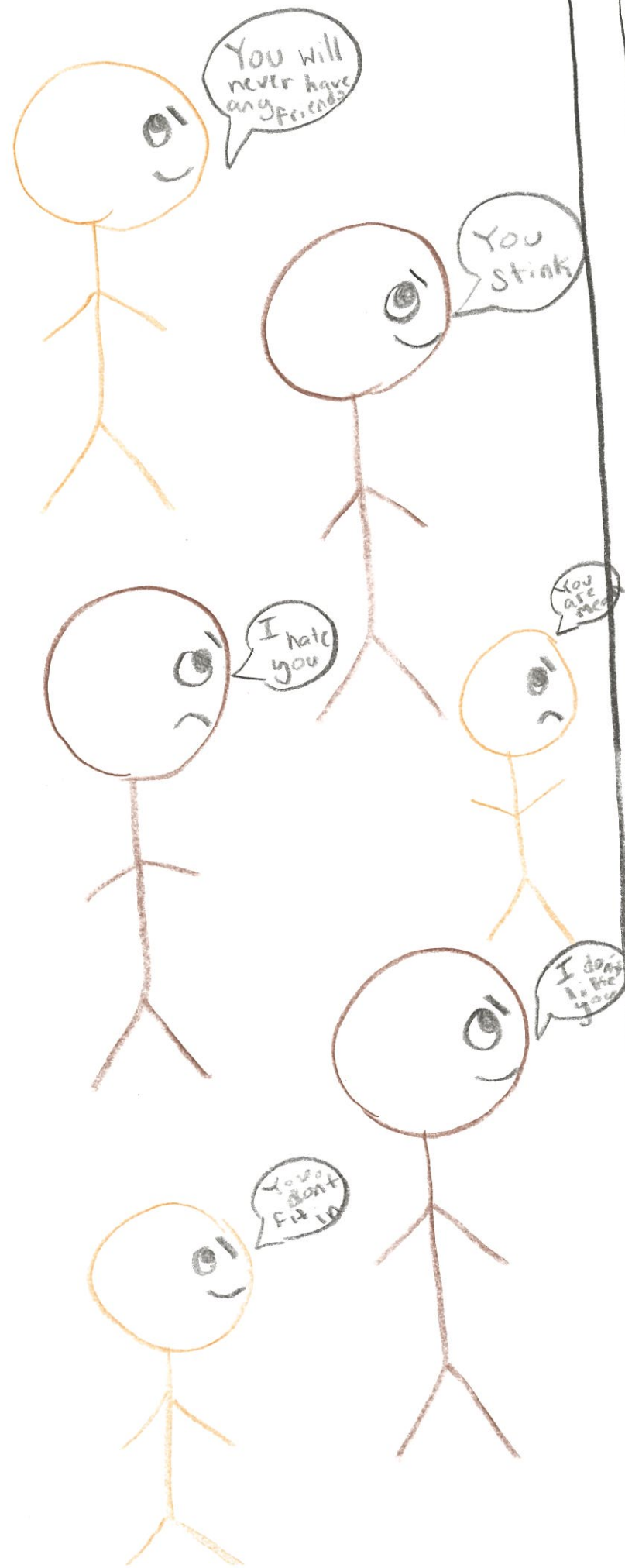


Name: Allyson Causar

Grade: 4th

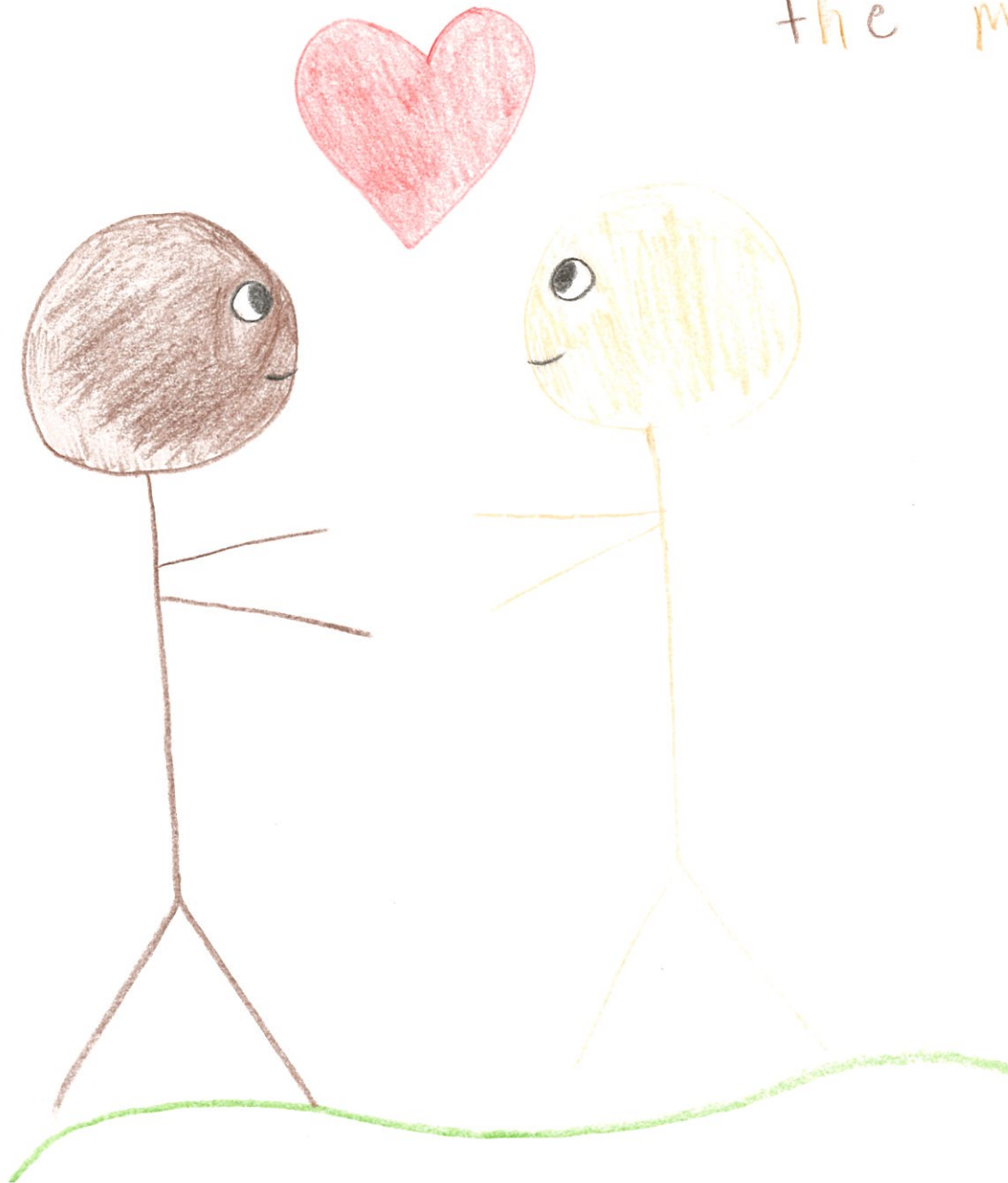
School: Camelot

Teacher: Mrs. Drandy



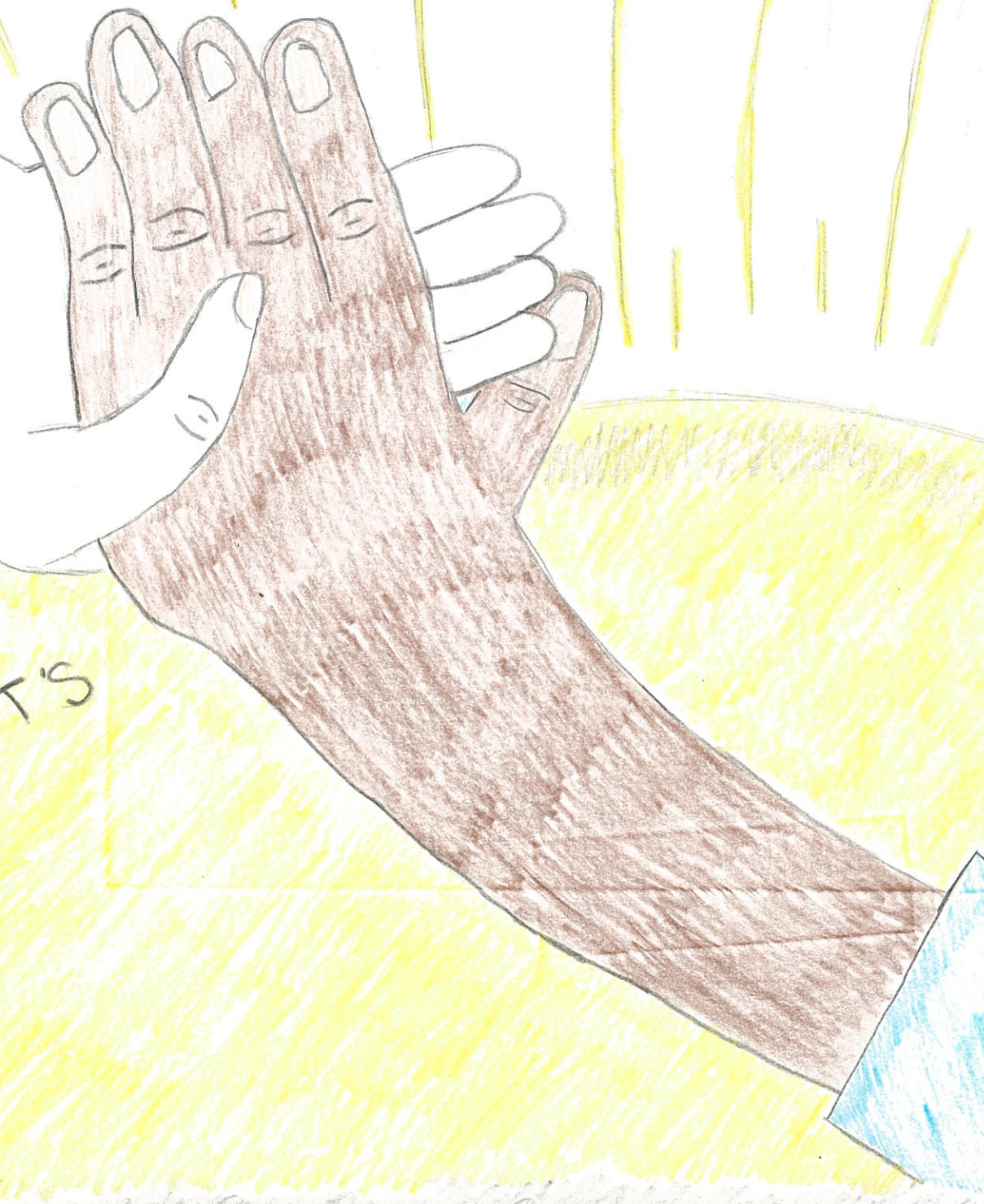
Always treat people equally
no matter what race!

Block out
the mean-ness



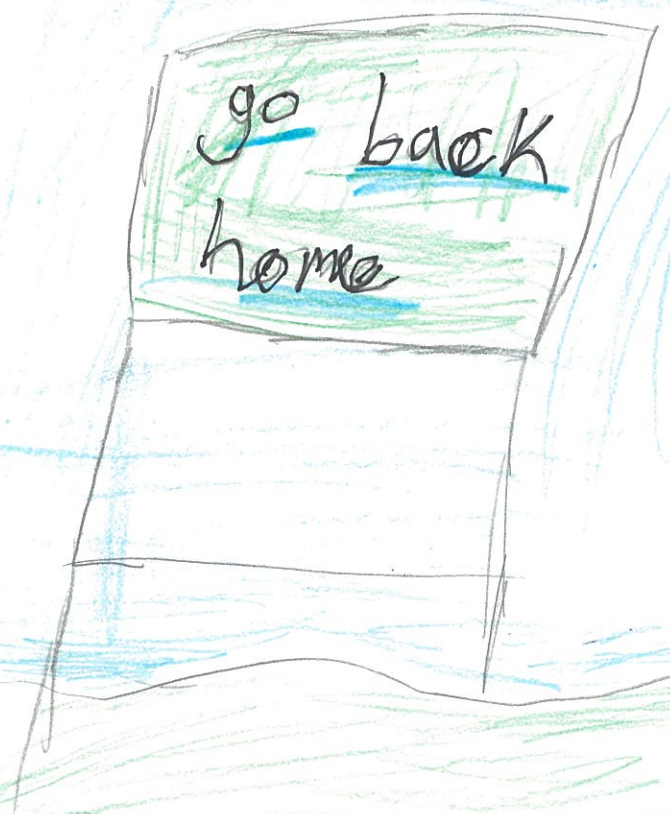
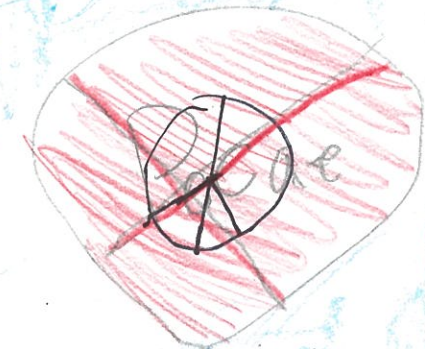
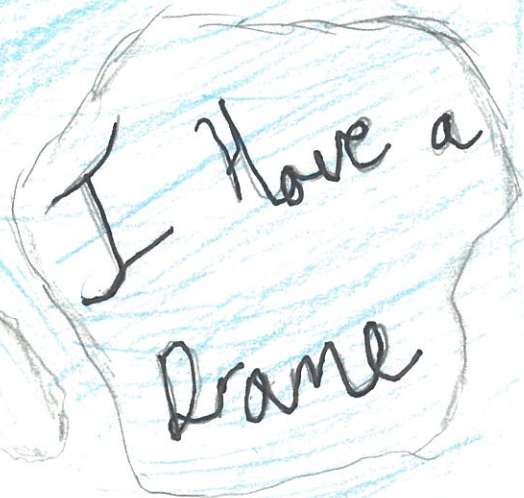
"In the end, we
will remember
not the words
of our enemies,
but the silence
of our
friends!"

LET'S NOT BE
ENEMIES, BUT LET'S
BE FRIENDS.





Love



"In the end, we will remember not
the words of our enemies, but the silence
of our
friends."

Block
out the
HATE! ☺



World



Peace

In this labyrinthine world of right and wrong, good and bad, rich and poor, males and females, and blacks and whites, it may be difficult to take the right turn. We all need someone to help guide us. In most cases, it is a friend who helps and motivates, but if that friend does not support us, then it can be painful to both the mind and heart.

All people naturally turn towards their friends when they are in need. Though at times, an enemy can be less harmful than a friend. An enemy's crude behavior can be what cushions you when you fall because you were expecting it. When an enemy walks by, nobody thinks something pleasant will happen or maybe just for one day, their enemy will be kind to them.

On the other hand, when those whom we expect to have our backs, stay silent, that silence stays embedded in our memories. Receiving silence and lack of support from a friend can cut us more deeply than receiving harsh words from an enemy. We trust that our friends will support and encourage us or give us a helping hand when we are in need and when that does not happen, it can sincerely hurt a person. Overall, if an enemy verbally attacks you, it will not hurt you as much because the enemy does it often and therefore, does not come as a surprise, however, a friend's mere silence can affect you immensely because it is not expected.

The world has changed drastically since the mid-1950s when Martin Luther King was at his height. The Baptist Minister and social activist could have been talking about himself when he addressed this quote. "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends". If Dr. King would not have decided to fight for civil rights, then we would all most likely be in an entirely different place right now. Martin Luther King Jr. chose to act instead of letting fear scare him into silence. That choice changed the world that we live in today. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white person. Thus, the Montgomery Bus Boycott began, about 40,000 people or 90% of the African American population took part in the boycott. On June 5, 1956, after 381 days of boycotting, the federal government ruled that any law requiring racially segregated seating on buses violated the 14th Amendment. If Rosa Parks had followed the law then the world would be an immensely different place today. If Rosa Parks had complied with the white person's wishes, we may have still been a highly segregated country and not changed at all. As you can see, the silence of one person could affect the world.

Because of that same silence, bullying and suicide rates have tremendously increased. If people were to break the silence, the bullying and suicide rates would decrease. Bullying is the third most common cause of death in young people and bullying victims are 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than people who have not witnessed bullying, and half of the suicides among people have something to do with bullying. One hundred sixty thousand kids stay home each day as an effect of bullying. Nearly 30% of students are either bullies or victims of bullying. If one person had avoided the silence, then countless deaths could have been prevented.

Dr. King was a powerful and influential figure who spoke out about social injustice, racial discrimination, and civil rights instead of staying silent in a time of need. If it were not for Dr. King speaking out, then all people would not be able to bask in the warm, rays of unity and equality for people of all races, religions, and ethnic compositions. All people, good and bad, rich and poor, males and females, and blacks and whites can be betrayed. As our last dying breath is passing, we will not remember the negative but expected comments given to us by our enemies, but the heart-breaking betrayal given by our friends.

**“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies,
but the silence of our friends.”**

You thought they were close,
But then they betray,
With nothing but silence gets in their way.
Bullies will use words their words to scar,
But those who you thought were your friends run so far,
And yes it hurts,
That they don't use their words,
You wish they could help but yet they don't.
You want them to stand up, but for some reason they won't.
Maybe they are scared but that doesn't matter.
You need them here as your heart starts to shatter,
Who you thought were your friends end up being,
Quiet but somehow unbeing,
They are rude and hurtful,
Without even knowing,
That they are doing something wrong,
Without even showing,
Instead they should speak,
With something known as a voice,
For you who has no other choice,
They can tell the enemy NO,
And truly show,
That they have your back,
And want you to know,
But if they don't speak,
They don't know what they are doing,
But in all they are ruining,
The one thing they thought they had,
Yes they HAD,
A choice,
To keep a friendship with only one little voice!

How it impacts our community:

Kids at every school in Brookings,
Get bullied when nobody is looking,
It hurts their feelings,
As a bully intends,
The victim will lose all their friends,
That happens due to silence,
It is like they broke your alliance,

When a friend is too afraid to stand up to the tyrant,
You only remember their pure, perfect silence,
It shouldn't be happening,
Yet it is,
That your closest friends won't stand up because of this:
Silence,
Dead silence!

The Man Who Heard the Silence

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I think this quote means that what people say does not matter. What truly matters is how words make people feel. It is important to always stand up for yourself and the people you care about. No one will remember you for what you said but rather, how you made them feel.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the most well-known African-Americans in history. He fought for civil rights and freedom for all people in the United States. Martin believed that no matter what race, gender, disability, or religion somebody is, they should still have equal rights. In his speech, “I Have a Dream”, Dr. King talked about how he wishes that in the future, kids will not have to face discrimination. This man dedicated his life to fighting for our rights.

Today would not be the same if Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had not stood up for what he believed in. He left a huge impact on the United States, and he has changed people’s perspectives. Thanks to this determined man, Brookings and many other cities are united and are not separated by segregation. Because we are now united, our government is stronger and stable. Without Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. nothing would be the same.

Dr. King not only left an impact on the United States, but his ideas have also left an impact on me. In his speech, “I Have a Dream,” Martin also explained how he thinks people should be judged. Martin said that people should not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character, and I agree with this. I understand what it is like to be judged by something you cannot change because I am partially deaf. Sure, being deaf is part of who I am, but it should not define who I am. What defines who I am is how I treat others, not what people see when they look at me.

Martin Luther King, Jr. has inspired many people. He stood up for what he believed in and gave people rights. “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” This man heard the silence of the people and stood up for them.

Strength in Numbers: Speaking Up to Fight Injustice and Unite Communities

Martin Luther King, Jr. was not afraid to speak out against injustice, even when others remained silent. Through his example, we learn how one courageous voice can lead to a movement capable of transforming societies. In his Steeler Lecture, Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed, “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” If we remain silent in the face of oppression, even when we are not victims ourselves, positive structural change cannot be fulfilled. Like Martin Luther King, Jr. who led the Civil Rights Movement, other influential leaders such as Tarana Burke and Emma González raised their voices to unite communities and spark lasting change through the #MeToo and #NeverAgain movements.

The American Civil Rights Movement fought against issues of racial discrimination and segregation throughout the United States, which eventually led to enduring societal change. The most famous leader of the movement was Martin Luther King Jr., an African American minister and activist who brought thousands of people together to peacefully protest during the March on Washington in 1963. He is best known for his “I Have a Dream” speech, during which he stood up for voiceless victims of oppression and expressed the importance of unity in the fight for justice. “We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.). Like in the earlier introductory quote, King, Jr. emphasizes that we must refuse to be silent even in the face of adversity and work together toward this goal. Unity is the greatest factor that leads to a significant transformation of our society, as it has the power to transform a dream into a movement.

Similarly, the #MeToo movement has called for national change within the United States. Tarana Burke founded the movement in 2006, despite the fact that the hashtag became popular in 2017, to support survivors of sexual assault and harassment. Burke describes a heartbreaking moment that occurred when she was a youth camp director which inspired the #MeToo movement. A young girl at the camp shared that she had been sexually assaulted by her mother’s boyfriend. Burke was so distraught by the girl’s story that she cut her off and found another female counselor to help her. She stated, “I couldn’t help her release her shame, or impress upon her that nothing that happened to her was her fault. I could not find the strength to say out loud the words that were ringing in my head over and over again as she tried to tell me what she had endured...I watched her put her mask back on and go back into the world like she was all alone and I couldn’t even bring myself to whisper...me too” (Santiago). In this moment, Burke saw the pain on the girl’s face and the devastating impact of her own silence. It was then that Burke vowed “to help young women of color who had survived sexual abuse, assault, and exploitation” and to show them that they are not alone (Santiago). Through their shared experiences, a bond between survivors was created that has given them the courage to speak up.

The #MeToo movement has raised awareness about sexual assault, harassment and abuse, provided survivors a space to open up about their experiences, and promoted conversations between men and women alike about these issues. According to Burke, the essential goal of the movement is, “Survivors supporting survivors. And it’s really about community healing and community action” (Tarana Burke). The #MeToo movement wouldn’t have been as influential in our country or internationally if survivors had not gained courage from one another. Tarana Burke has devoted her life to helping survivors without asking to be famous or expecting to receive recognition. By using her voice and refusing to remain silent about a difficult topic, she has given countless survivors the means to heal from trauma.

Another powerful individual who stood up for justice in the face of tragedy is Emma González, a former student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, the site of a school shooting that led to the deaths of seventeen victims in 2018. In a time when hearing about mass shootings has become normalized, Emma González and her classmates David Hogg, Cameron Kasky, Alex Wind, and Jaclyn Corin, decided to protest for stricter gun control through the #NeverAgain movement. The importance of refusing to remain silent is expressed in an essay González wrote for the magazine *Harper’s Bazaar*, “We are tired of being ignored. So we are speaking up for those who don’t have anyone listening to them, for those who can’t talk about it just yet, and for those who will never speak again. We are grieving, we are furious, and we are using our words fiercely and desperately because that’s the only thing standing between us and this happening again” (González). Despite attacks on her character on sexual orientation, Emma González gained twice as many followers on Twitter as the National Rifle Association in just two weeks on the social media site and is steadfast in her commitment to gun control (Bowerman). González and the other young activists from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School illustrate that regardless of your age, you can still make a difference by raising your voice to seek justice.

A Bystander, a Friend
By: Cherish Stern

Ever since we were little, we were taught not to be a bystander. If someone was being bullied, you should stand up and do something. Through instances like this, some of the best friends are made and some of the worst situations created. The ideas of the quote: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." by Martin Luther King, Jr. can be found and proven using many current events and ongoing concerns. From public schools to the working class of Americans to finally political struggles, there are never ending examples of the effect of a bystander.

In the American public school system today, we are heavily struggling with safety threats. This could be bombing, knifing, or shootings. Since the 1980s, the amount of school shootings have increased dramatically. Many times, the attacker will leave behind a video or letter stating their reasons behind what they did. Often, they mention being bullied or the idea of being alone in a big world. But to them the biggest part is not that there were a few bullies, but that there were people watching it take place and doing nothing to stop it. They could not find refuge in the places they looked creating the magnified feeling of loneliness and helplessness. The only way to fix this, they might believe, is by wreaking havoc on the people that they believe hurt them most: the bystanders.

Likewise, another situation presented it the working poor of America. Everyone knows the struggle of being stuck inside the circle of poverty. The incoming wages can never be enough to balance the cost of living. In this case the large incorporations, banks, and insurance companies are the enemy. They are what undercut the worker's pay for the cost of cheap products and manufacturing. For loans and mortgages, the bank must always have their money even if that means bullying their way through a loan. The unaffordability but the requirement of insurance is what sometimes kills a person the most with piled up bills from any small accident. The people walking by a broken worker or supporting the ideas of large industry are those who hurt the poor the most by not helping. Every bit of charity and acts of kindness contributes to the cause, but if not, it's a slap on the face. The growing top one percent and wealthy class starts to separate, and a divided America is made. That is not the goal of this country.

The political situation of Benghazi attack of 2012 represents a political level of the quote by Dr. King. On September 12, members of the military terrorist group, al-Qaeda, attacked the US Diplomatic Compound in Benghazi, Libya. During this aggression, four Americans died, including the US Ambassador for Libya, John Christopher Stevens. Evidence was shown that the four made calls and pleas for help during the assault, but the US government did not initially send military aid. The silence of those in power caused the deaths of four innocent Americans. Forever will it be those who did not respond that are remembered compared to the actual attackers.

The ideas brought up by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are ones that will never be abandoned. The proposition of the enemy being forgotten in the crimes of the friend who does not speak up in itself shows more pain. This is the definition of the common bystander, who is not willing to defend an innocent. By looking at modern examples, we can see how often and large scale they occur. Using Dr. King's quote, let's avoid being the silent friend, the bystander and instead speak up against the wrongdoings of the world.

Silence is Betrayal

When retelling history, the most evil of people are ultimately not the people who the battle was fought against. The worst people are those who betrayed their own friends. Benedict Arnold, during the Revolutionary War, had risen to the rank of general in the American Continental Army. He committed treason against the Army by giving American intelligence to the British. Another infamous betrayer was Judas Iscariot, who gave up his friend with a kiss. Judas was one of Jesus of Nazareth's 12 disciples, and in the end gave him up for 30 silver coins. Betrayers are remembered over millennia, they end up as the villains in Shakespearean plays. The ultimate example is General Marcus Brutus. *Julius Caesar* depicted the friendship ending in betrayal of Brutus and Caesar. As Brutus stands silently by during his friend's assassination, Caesar turns to him and says "Et tu, Brute?" These marring words reveal the isolation Caesar felt at the end, as caused by someone whom he had once considered a friend. This quote exemplifies how the silence of a friend, as well as the accompanying cowardice, is more painful than anything our enemies could possibly do hurt us.

The phrase "Et tu, Brute" and its implications stem typically from preventable circumstances. Racism and sexism were, and still are prevalent social concerns people deal with on a daily basis. Ultimately, they are forms of bullying—no different than physically fighting with a classmate or harassing someone online—because it is repetitive in nature. Early education now stresses to students the importance of not being a bystander in a bad situation. Kids are taught to stand up against the bully or to go find someone to diffuse the situation. In their time of need, people find strength in numbers. Speaking up for a friend when they are being bullied will bring new confidence to both individuals. Staying silent could lead to the friend getting hurt, or a friendship being lost. Silence is betrayal. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Those who stay silent betray their friends. Traitorous acts are remembered to the end.