

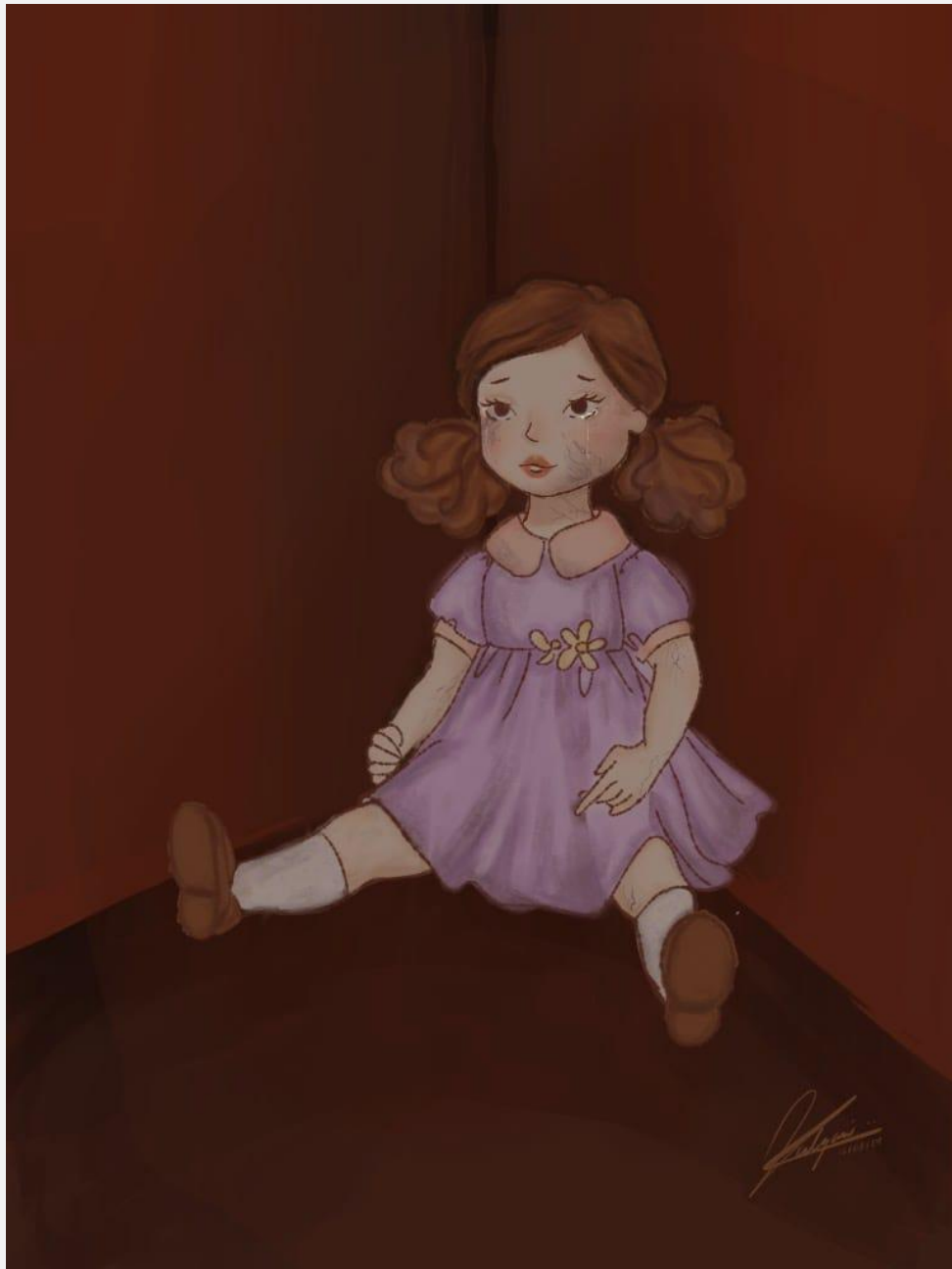
Porcelain Plastic

I remember when he first got me
Carefully peeled down the wrapper
Adorned me in the prettiest of words
Dressed me in the finest compliments
Placed me in the sweetest of promises.
But just like any porcelain doll,
Forgotten.
Abandoned in a corner of the house
“Put me back on my shelf” I cried
Dust in all my crevices
I was dropped
Must have been mistaken for plastic
I had to leave because I was left.
It was all so drastic.

Lorelaine Lugo Hernandez

About the Poet

Lorelaine Lugo Hernandez is a high school student attending A.F.S in 11th grade at 17 years old. She is a founding member of the Drama Club where she currently forms part of the directive as Secretary. Her passions and hobbies include reading, writing, and filmmaking as well as music and theater. She is currently working on her first book for publishing and has set her sights on getting a degree in Business Marketing at the University of Puerto Rico while continuing to pursue her writing career. Her inspiration to write the poem “Porcelain Plastic” comes directly from her personal experience and rooted in imagery from her childhood as a little girl seeing her grandmother’s small collection of porcelain dolls. A fun fact about Lorelaine is that she is completely obsessed with anything cherry-related.



About the Artist

Kalyani Class was born June 9,2009. She is in the 10th grade at AFS. Her passion for the arts lead her into joining M.A.P.S. Her goals for the future regarding her art is to be able to share it with the world. Her biggest inspirations are artists like Van Gogh and Monet. A fun fact is that she has been part of MAPS since the sixth grade.

6 Miles on my Feet

They fired the gun,
the race has begun.
Releasing the nerves with my jog.
Together with my uncle hoping to finish in a good spot.

Jogging for 12 minutes,
finishing the first mile, surpassing my limits.
Now, losing my uncle, but keeping on track.
Running and walking without looking back.

I've lost my dad who was catching up with a bicycle.
I've nothing to drink now, he had my bottle of water.
Still, the people cheering me along the way,
made me forget the water fountain I have left behind halfway.

4 miles marked,
finally, I have found peace.
People give me a bottle of water, and further ahead,
my fountain struggling with broken wheels catches up to me.

Here I am where it all started,
Finally, completing it with my family watching all excited.
I am ready to destroy my regrets next year.
Getting prepared to win my award of the year.

Jaslene M. Colón Rivera

About the Poet

Jaslene Colón was born on January 29, 2008. She is an intelligent high school junior at AFS. She has a love for photography, cinematography, and music. With all her leadership and determination, she hopes to grow and dedicate herself to one of these passions and entertain others. Her inspiration for this poem was the need to express a new experience in her life and hopefully inspire others to achieve their goals and surpass them like she wants to do for herself.



About the Artist

Naishely Marie Gonzalez Sanchez is a 17-year-old senior at AFS. During her free time, she enjoys preparing for debates, practice foreign languages online and satisfy her curiosities regarding the medical field. One of her passions is learn about the human brain. Naishely was recently accepted at the University of Puerto Rico in Aguadilla, where she will be in the Biomedicine department. Her goals are to complete her B.S. and continue her doctoral studies in oncology at the prestigious University of Medical Sciences at the Puerto Rico Medical Center.

A Life with Dementia

It's a struggle to live a life with dementia.
We as their guides, need to always have patience.
We need to be strong.
We don't need to constantly tell them they are wrong.

They blame themselves for their flaws,
they search for escape,
they constantly get confused.
They slowly lose track of time.

Let's share every moment we can.
It will be too late when they start to ask, "What is your name?"
Let's remember the person that they were and the one they will always be,
Like they want to remember the beauty of everything.

All they know is that they need you, they love you,
We need to be with them, stand with them,
Understand them, don't blame them,
And above all, love them.

Jaslene M. Colón Rivera

About the Poet

Her inspiration for this poem is the current situation her family is currently experiencing with one of their loved ones. She wants to reach out to those who are facing this challenge. She wants them to understand they are not alone and to emphasize the importance of treasuring every moment they have with loved ones stricken with this illness. Cherish every second; no one knows how much time is left.



About the Artist

Naishely Marie Gonzalez Sanchez is a 17-year-old senior at AFS. During her free time, she enjoys preparing for debates, practice foreign languages online and satisfy her curiosities regarding the medical field. One of her passions is learn about the human brain. Naishely was recently accepted at the University of Puerto Rico in Aguadilla, where she will be in the Biomedicine department. Her goals are to complete her B.S. and continue her doctoral studies in oncology at the prestigious University of Medical Sciences at the Puerto Rico Medical Center.

A Place Called

The world runs on free will,
whether you choose to run or walk up a hill,
or even stand in front of it,
it is only your decision to make
But like oil spreading in a lake,
Every choice will have an effect to partake
Does that mean others must endure, while the impure are "secure"?
The doctors with no cure,
The men who refuse to mature
The children left unsure
The women who could've been pure-
They all dream of a place,
Untouched by free will's trace
A place for the ill,
A life far beyond the horizon thrill
Where hatred cannot reach
A place for the subjects of war,
where children can play by the shore.
A land of peace, far greater than the dreams of the Greeks.
What would a place like this be called?

Diego E. Perez Soto

About the Poet

Diego Ernesto Perez Soto is a 17-year-old senior at AFS. He is a member of the Drama club, Nasa Club, and Soccer team, and is also Mister Billings 2025. In addition, he is an MMA fighter, who is currently training for the MMA Pan-American championship try-outs. Although his schedule is very busy, he finds the time to read, write, carve wood, play video games and has an interest in investigating physics related problems. He was recently accepted to the University of Puerto Rico in the Theoretical Physics Department. Diego's inspiration for writing this poem came from his dream of wanting to move to Switzerland to achieve peace. A fun fact about Diego is that he knows the entire Norse Mythology story.



About the Artist:

Ryan Alexander Rivera Caraballo is a 17-year-old senior at AFS. He keeps himself busy with school and extracurricular activities. He is part of the AFS Drama Club and loves to do “improv”. He is also part of the NASA Club, this year they are focusing on harvesting vegetables on soil similar to the one found on Mars. Ryan is also a very talented artist, his vision and skills are extraordinary. Ryan was recently accepted at the University of Puerto Rico in the Biology department. We wish him the best of luck!

Guilt

My heart breaks down, tears are shed.
There wasn't enough time to apologize.
All those words stuck in my throat, unsaid
You slipping away from me, I never knew.
As your body lays to rest,
I wish, I could go back in time.
All the anger, I shouldn't have expressed,
Now regret will follow me a lifetime.
Wishing, I could show you my love once more.
Come back, tell me what to do with my grief.
I am sorry, Forgive me.

Maria Guadalupe Baiges Albert

About the Poet

María Guadalupe Baigés Albert is a 17-year-old senior at AFS who was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. She enjoys reading and listening to pop music. She is a member of the AFS Medicine Club and the NASA club where this year's objective is to cultivate vegetables in soil like that found on planet Mars. Maria was inspired to write this poem by the loss of a loved-one, who she never got the chance to say goodbye. Even though her circumstances didn't allow her presence, this poem is a means to forgive herself.



About the Artist:

Kaitlyn Roman Padua is a 17-year-old junior at AFS. She is a resilient and strong young woman. Kaitlyn's determination and leadership will take her far.

I Love You

I've been lied to
Everything feels so blue

You have changed
Things between us are strange

Did I do something wrong?
Tell me, Am I strong?

Why is everything so weird?
It feels like our friendship
disappeared.

Are we still best friends?
I don't want this to end.

I could never hate you.
I could never choose someone
new.

You mean everything to me.
You can't disagree.

I don't want to write this about
you
But, it's true.

This is how I've been feeling
lately
Please don't hate me.

It hurts.
Please don't make it worse.

I hope we can make things right
So, I can feel alright.

I know you didn't mean to hurt
me
Just know that I still love you.

I really do.

Alanis M. Velez

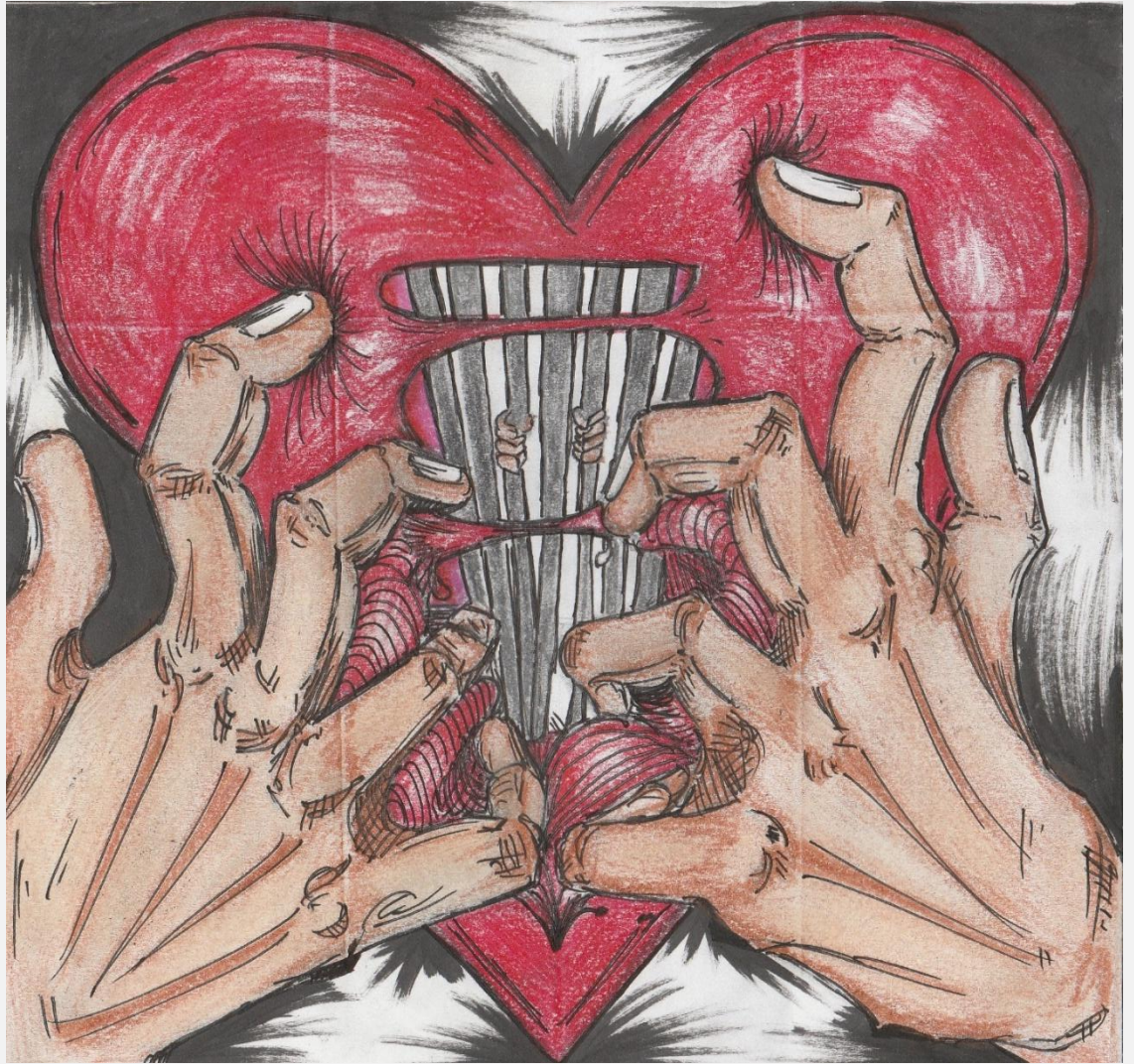
About the Poet

Alanis Velez Alicea is a 14-year-old ninth-grade student at A.F.S. She enjoys playing guitar, writing poetry, and being a member of the M.A.P.S. project. She believes that the inspiration of writing poetry is based on every moment, every feeling, every thought and every unspoken word the poet experiences. Writing poetry gives her an outlet to turn her thoughts into something meaningful, and she loves how it is an access to endless creativity.



About the Artist

Tanai Sofia Ramos Fernandez is a 14-year-old eighth grade student at AFS. Her hobbies are playing the guitar and drums. This talented young lady is part of the AFS art club.



About the Artist:

Ryan Alexander Rivera Caraballo is a 17-year-old senior at AFS. He keeps himself busy with school and extracurricular activities. He is part of the AFS Drama Club and loves to do “improv”. He is also part of the NASA Club, this year they are focusing on harvesting vegetables on soil similar to the one found on Mars. Ryan is also a very talented artist, he vision and skills are extraordinary. Ryan was recently accepted at the University of Puerto Rico in the Biology department. We wish him the best of luck!

My Old/New J

Sometimes, when I look at the alphabet,
the first letter that comes to my mind is that one, J.
You both have something important for me.

My Old J, you were the reason why I have nightmares every night.
My Old J, the day our friendship broke up, I cried a river.
My Old J, you know the reason why things happened,
and now I only wish you nothing but peace.

My new J, you are something out of this world.
My new J, you are so beautiful, and I always think about you.
My new J, there is not much I can say about you, but you are fantastic and
amazing.

Old J, you are now my past, and I forgive you for everything, but this new J is
my present, and I want something positive just for me.

Yadrihana K. Matias Santiago

About the Poet

Yadrihana K. Matias goes to A.F.S and is enrolled in the 11th grade. She is a very artistic person, who flourishes in her creativity. Yadrihana also has another side, she faces endless challenges that anxiety delivers. She also believes in staying away from those who may bring conflict to her. She wants to study music production and have her own music agency in the future. Fun facts about her: She loves Korean pop and American Pop, some of her favorite artists are BTS and Twice.



About the Artist

Staicyanne Carril Lopez was born in Puerto Rico, on July 31, 2008. She is a 15-year-old junior at AFS. She enjoys drawing, listening to music, and mostly watching 80s movies. Her inspiration for this drawing was her friend's poem. Mostly because her friend told her the real story behind it.

Silence

A quiet day
You yearn for sound
Hope for company
In your peak of solitude

You pray for them to stay
But all you do is frown.

Aynara I. Crespo Paredes

About the Poet

Aynara I. Crespo Paredes is a 17-year-old junior at AFS. She lives in the historical sugarcane plantation Hacienda Igualdad, a place where those before us cultivated the sugar cane. Aynara was inspired by a difficult moment she experienced during this school year to write her poem and create her artwork. This talented young lady is currently Miss Top Model Bilingüe 2025-2026. During her free time, she loves to draw, listen to music and attend ballet classes. She is also an expert crocheter.



About the Artist:

Kaitlyn Roman Padua is a 17-year-old junior at AFS. She is a resilient and strong young woman. Kaitlyn's determination and leadership will take her far. The loneliness and isolation she experienced during 9th grade was the inspiration for the drawing of the poem "Silence".