

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY

JANUARY 27, 2022



SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING *Harmony*
KIDS JANUARY EDITION VOLUME 29!



“Don’t forget the magnificent sweep
of the imagination and dreams of youth...
these dreams often become realities.”

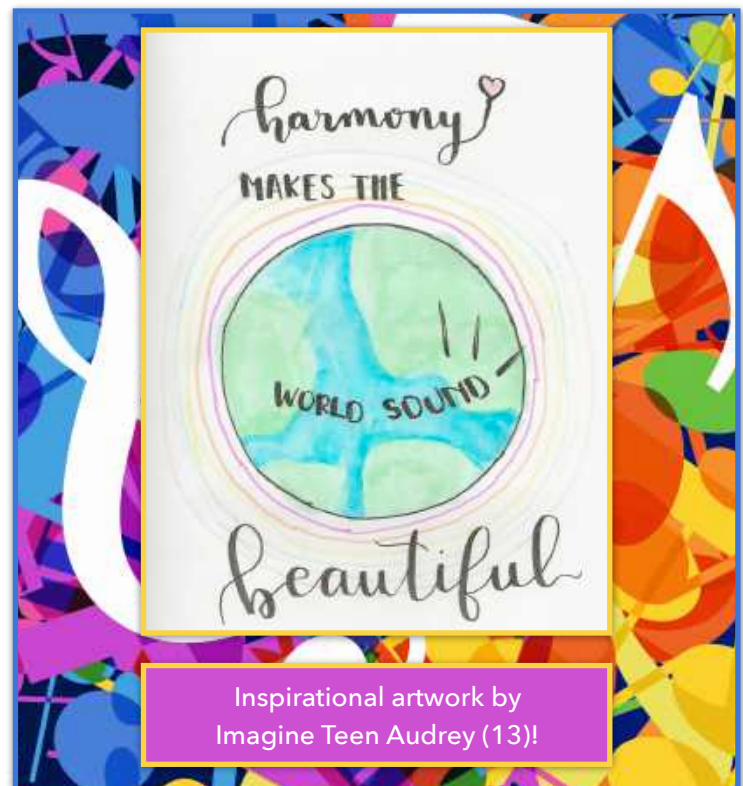
- Pura Belpré

H is for Harmony

by Louis A. Craco III

I am thinking of a movie called “Trolls World Tour” and it involves **Harmony**. I went on safari and looked up the scene of the ending of the movie. In the scene Queen Poppy destroyed the strings of music because it was under control of Queen Barb, the queen of Hard Rock who has been turning other music trolls into rock zombies. Unfortunately, without the music, there was nothing but Silence in the world. But one Pop troll discovered a heartbeat and raised the microphone to his heart. The rest of the trolls heard it and the Queen and the King of Funk now discovered that music was back, but now it comes from us. Queen Poppy started singing and the entire audience did the same thing. And that is, musically speaking, my way of **Harmony**.

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Back in August I wrote about basketball, how I had a chance to practice with Coach Ryan of the Brooklyn NETS. He warmed us up with a kind of tool called "drills" for basketball. Then we practiced shooting, taking turns and getting tips from Coach. That was on Zoom because of Covid. Then we had In-person clinic about "Defense." I am not on a team yet, but at Cooke School, we hope to have a team soon, in February! When I watch basketball on TV I see a lot of **Harmony**. Teams in the NBA, shooting and dunking. Coach gives the orders and the players work together, passing the ball, watching each other, looking for a chance to get the ball in the hoop. That's **Harmony**. Just like in music.



Louis at basketball practice with his friends!

If you want to know what **Harmony** is about, please read this: **Harmony** means to live and thrive together in the world. In our Imagine Newsletters we talk about different themes: *awareness, friendship, giving thanks, empathy*. There is **Harmony** in all these things. That is living in **Harmony**! Having awareness of the world and living and what people need around us can bring **Harmony**. Our friendships make us aware of other people's strengths and when we realize all they can do, we have the chance of **Harmony**. We can use empathy to make **Harmony**, when we really listen to each other, like listening for the heartbeat.

On Monday, January 10th, I tested Positive for Covid! My first reaction was, "This is really interfering!" Fortunately, I only had a slight scratchy throat. But now I would have to be quarantined in my room on the third floor and stay away from everyone for 10 days. No zoom for school, no activities, no friends. Only FaceTime and SeeSaw (my school app). It's complicated, there are a lot of issues. My biggest entertainments are meals and reading *Harry Potter*. I used to make my own bagel for breakfast, but now Ria, the best cook in the world, makes them for me, and they taste even better! She brings breakfast, lunch and dinner to me on a tray. Everything is delicious. We wear masks and stay apart. Mom comes in the evening to read *Harry Potter* with me. She used to sit beside me on the bed, but now she sits across the room. But there is still **Harmony**, even with Covid! Covid is Harm. Harm is just the first half of the word **Harmony**. Harm is only in the beginning. **Harmony** never dies. When Covid is no longer here, **Harmony** will still be here in our life. The best part about it is, then we can have handshakes and hugs. No masks. No distance between us. But we will still wash hands. It will be like a miracle!



Absolutely brilliant essay Louis!

When it comes to the opposite side of **Harmony**, harm is what we call violence and doing things disgracefully. Here is an example of harm: All animals from across the world can live in **Harmony**, but sometimes they cause harm, like yellow jackets, scorpions, snakes and more. But humans have a choice to have **Harmony** or to do harm. They can think. They have the power to choose.

Louis A. Craco III (13) is in the 8th grade at Cooke School. Louis is also on the Youth Editorial Staff for The Imagine Newsletter!

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Pura Belpré: *Latino Hero* by Sofia Corsico-Sánchez

When I was younger, my parents would take me to the New York Public Library's Spanish story time. My mom, who's Dominican, made sure that I was fluent in Spanish. By reading Spanish books she took out from the library, my mom taught me not only how to speak but to read and write Spanish as well. Until now, I never realized the effort needed to implement these programs, like bilingual story hours or even having bilingual books to use. These efforts can mainly be attributed to one woman: **Pura Belpré** (January's Cover Quote).

Born in Puerto Rico, **Pura Belpré's** first job in New York City was, like many Hispanic women in the 1920's, in the garment industry. She was then recruited by a public library, where her job was to hire young women from ethnically diverse backgrounds. She quickly became an advocate for the Spanish-speaking community: she implemented bilingual story hours, bought books in Spanish, and created programs based on traditional holidays like Three Kings Day. Her work with the New York Public Library led to one of its branches becoming a Hispanic cultural center, which hosted a myriad of influential Hispanic figures such **Diego Rivera**, muralist and husband of renowned Mexican artist **Frida Kahlo**.

Belpré devoted her life to ensuring the Latino community thrived in New York City. Her efforts were not confined to just the Hispanic community however; she would translate Puerto Rican folktales into English in order to share her heritage with others. Her legacy was memorialized through the **Pura Belpré Award** which, established in 1996, is presented to Hispanic writers and illustrators whose work celebrates Latino cultural experiences in children's literature.

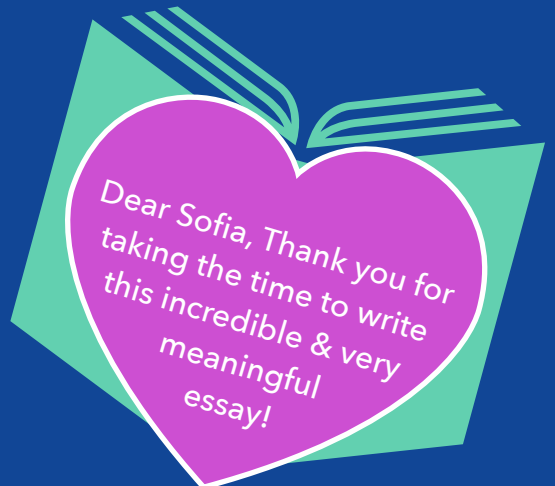
When I look back to my memories at the NYPL, I realize how natural everything felt. It was easy to take Spanish books out and to attend these story hours thanks to **Pura Belpré's** commitment to her community. Thanks to her efforts, she ensured that Hispanic heritage would be maintained, visible, and celebrated by all.



Pura in the 1930s leading a story hour on 115th Street!



The Pura Belpré Award & a selection of award winners!



Dear Sofia, Thank you for taking the time to write this incredible & very meaningful essay!

Sofia Corsico-Sánchez (17) is a Senior at Notre Dame High School.



Helping Others with Harmony

by Hannah and Shelby Fenton



The Bear Clan and our family have a background in Donation. We raised money for the *NICU Hospital*. We did this by hosting a movie and sold dog leashes.

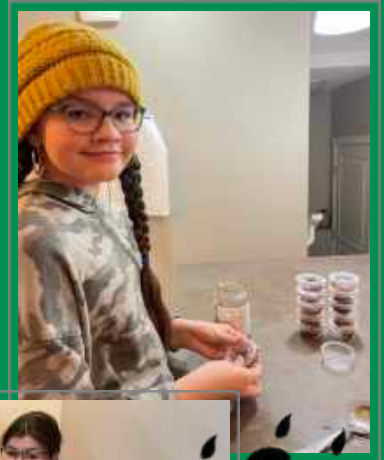
In January in Alberta, Canada the temperatures dropped to around -30°C each night for two weeks. A few times each week **The Bear Clan** goes out to deliver food and other resources to people in need and didn't stop when the province became cold. **The Bear Clan** needed volunteers to deliver and donate food to help others.

Our family took initiative and decided to help by working together as a team to be productive. We made little jam jars, care packs, and bannock.

My brother Darroch was in the **NICU Hospital** because he has cerebral palsy. We also raised money for an organization called **The Imagine Society**. The money was raised through my mom's indigenous small business, **Fenton Gals Beading**.

When we found out about **The Bear Clan** we decided to donate to them. **The Bear Clan** is an organization who gives food and warm clothes for the winter to families who are food and home insecure. **The Bear Clan** is also a First Nations community. My mom decided to make a type of bread called *Bannock*. We had a lot of flour just sitting there, because when my kookom visits she makes bannock. My mom decided she would try making some for **The Bear Clan**. She baked a lot of bannock and even bought jam to go with it! My sister and I helped, I got the jam into containers and put the containers into bags. **The Bear Clan** actually made soup to go with the bannock, we worked in **harmony**. Soup goes really well with bannock, the bannock is like a biscuit. My mom delivered the food to **The Bear Clan** and I was so happy knowing I helped and I maybe made someone happier.

Hannah Fenton (13) is in grade 8 and Shelby Fenton (14) is a Sophomore at St. Timothy's in Alberta, Canada.



Sisters Hannah and Shelby work in harmony to put this amazing service together!



Well done Hannah on your first Imagine essay! You and your sister Shelby are superstars!

Imagine Teen Timmy Fitzpatrick Speaks Out About Volunteering at The Ascension Pantry for #FOODFORFAMILIES



Timmy has been volunteering at the food pantry since early 2020 and has recently been leading home deliveries for homebound families. Here Timmy tells us about his experience being a part of this incredible youth-led pantry and service!

“I have been doing deliveries since the pandemic broke out.”

“I wanted to do something for people who were unable to actually come out and get their groceries.”

“I like going there it’s fun to meet up with people I know from early food pantries.”

“Then I enjoy heading out and seeing the people I have already delivered to and meeting new ones.”

Timmy Fitzpatrick (14) is in the 8th grade at the Saint Ignatius Loyola School.

More photos from the last #FOODFORFAMILIES pantry service on January 15th!



If you and your family would like to volunteer with or donate to #FOODFORFAMILIES please email us at outreach@theimagesociety.org for ways to get involved!

African Town

by Charles Waters and Irene Latham

A Book Chat in Written Form (Book Review)

By Katie Gaffigan



Today I am delighted to review **African Town** by **Charles Waters** and **Irene Latham**. **African Town** is the 1860 story of a group of one hundred and ten Africans who were kidnapped in their homeland of Nigeria and Benin and brought to Mobile, Alabama in America to be sold as chattel after it was illegal to traffic and enslave people in the United States. The story starts in Africa and follows the harrowing journey of this group chained on a ship called the **Clotilda** through the brutal and horrific Middle Passage, onto the Alabama river where they were hidden in the swamps and then in secret they were divided up and sold to different plantations. The story follows how the characters hung on to their culture and traditions from Africa as they learned to fit into their upturned lives in their new homes that they never chose for themselves.

The novel is written in poetic verse and is a beautiful and terrible vision into the hearts of the Africans who were kidnapped, as well as the ship owners and slavers who stole them from their lives. The chapters of **African Town** are written in unique voices that reflect the distinct perspective of the character at a specific point in the story. The way each character speaks helps the reader to know them dearly. Much is revealed about their past, their fears, their hopes, and their dreams. This incredible and unique way of storytelling helps the reader to journey with them through these traumatic experiences and hope with them for a better life in the future.

This book is based on a true story with an unexpected ending. After the Civil War when the survivors of the **Clotilda** ship were no longer enslaved, the survivors of this last slave ship and their descendants built an original town in Mobile, Alabama which they named, "Africatown" where they could buy their own land, live freely, revive their customs and language, and celebrate their nearly lost culture. While many enslaved people who had been living in America for generations had been stripped of their memories of Africa and their African identities, the group that was kidnapped on the **Clotilda** remembered their African names and language as well as their beautiful heritage. Through their strength, courage and persevering spirit, they were able to create a new home of freedom in a small area in Alabama to celebrate their shared culture and their lives.

I recommend this book to everyone, but I especially think it should be read in all schools. I really think it should be made into a staged play. I especially adored the love story between Kossola and Abile, a dramatic retelling of the tender bond between a couple that really existed and survived despite scary circumstances and impossible odds. Historical fiction is an important way to make empathy happen with people from the past. This novel is a work of art that can teach us a deeper meaning of history. It is difficult to read about how horrible humans can treat each other, but it is hopeful to witness the power, courage, and hope of the human spirit. I am grateful to **Charles Waters** and **Irene Latham** for their spectacular collaboration in bringing life and poetry into this important Historical event.



Thank you Katie!
We can't wait to read it!

Katie Gaffigan (13) is in the 7th grade at Marymount School of New York

Imagine Artist Corner



Olympia Hall (9) is in the 3rd grade at Convent of the Sacred Heart.

*"To me, **harmony** is about working together and that's important because if people don't live in **harmony** there would be no happiness."*

- Olympia Hall

Thank
you Olympia!
Beautiful
work!



1-13

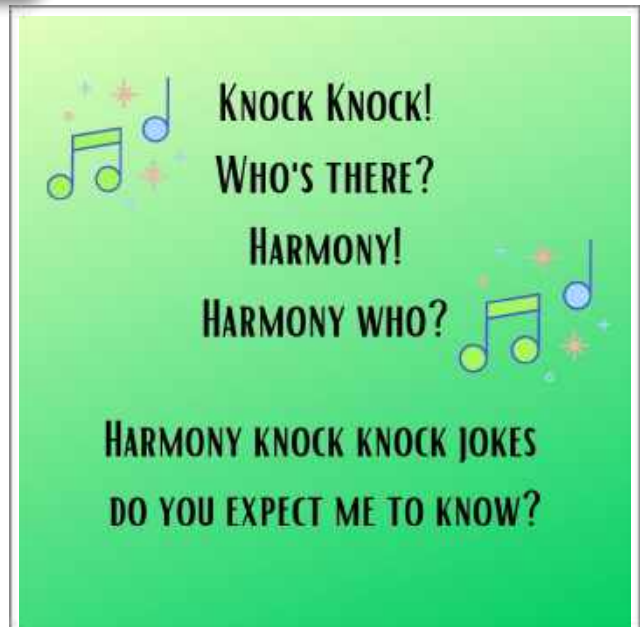
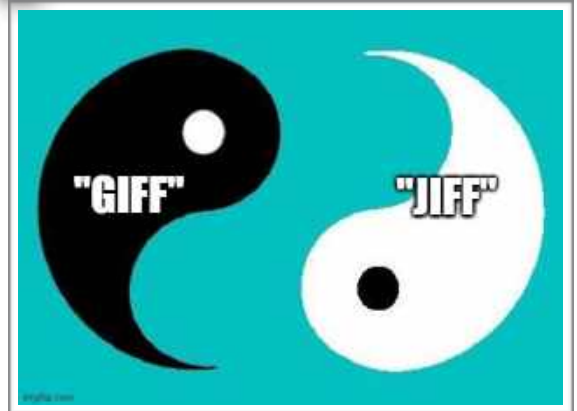
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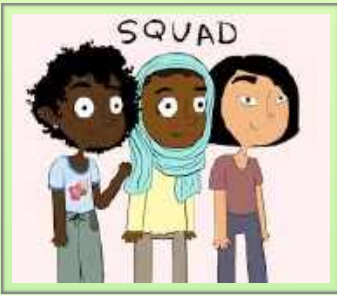
"Harmony is when you find two notes that love one another."

FUN PAGES



Edited by
Junior Member
Katie Gaffigan
(12)





WORD PLAY



Edited
by Junior
Member Katie
Gaffigan
(12)



Harmony Word Scramble



baclnae

cnrchoee

tnteacorrish

ponroitrpo

yemmyrst

ynsyhpom

nytiu





ANSWER KEY

Harmony Word Scramble

_____ unity
_____ symphony
_____ symmetry
_____ proportion
_____ orchestration
_____ coherence
_____ balance

nytiu
ynsyhpon
yemmyrst
ponroitrpo
tnteaocorrish
cnerchoee
baclnae