Project 2020

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The World Outside

the American flag

used by people to

protest the necessary lockdown

because they have "lost their civil liberties"

the same flag waved to

prevent black men from walking

on the same sidewalk as white women

A History of 2020

Oh yeah--you remember that crazy year right--2020

The one where everyone had to stay inside for a while?

My grandpa told me that they couldn't even go to restaurants anymore.

My grandma said that the grocery stores were sold out of food!

That was the year Australia caught on fire, murder hornets came to America, WWIII almost broke out, the president was impeached, and Kobe Bryant died. Who's Kobe Bryant?

Look at this picture I found of my grandma wearing a mask in 2021. That seems a little extreme to be wearing a mask a year later. I bet it went away pretty quickly cause no one wears masks nowadays. Where would you even buy one of those?

I have no idea! They don't go well with outfits either

My mom is calling me home for dinner. I gotta go home cause we're having a big dinner party with my brother's baseball team. I think like 50 people are gonna be there.

Okay, bye! I had fun with you at the park today!

Here's to You Influenced by Amiri Baraka's "Short Speech to My Friends"

The strings of morality and practicality pull at you heavily while your children wonder why your face has circular round marks on it You are tasked not only with fighting the biological Loch Ness, but with conquering the tantrums of the delegates from the Civil Liberties Committee To the caretakers of the world right now, thank you.

When access to life-saving materials is confused with playing political games, when long days of intubating, turn into long days of letter-tracing with your young ones.

Here's to you.

Here's to the ones who wake up everyday knowing that they are doing everything they can and still, so many are dying.

The realization that even COVID-19 does not have the power to be the great equalizer. Skin color *does* matter, but not because the virus is racist, but because our country is.

Here's to you. Here's to you. Here's to you.

My World Inside



Where I'm From

I'm from chicken cutlets and jollof rice. Spicy for me mild for my dad. The sounds of the pressure cooker awakened me from my midday nap as a young girl.

I'm from multiple courses, sometimes salad is last.

From the dark-skinned, olive-skinned, and pasty-skinned.

I take my zest for the simple life from my left and my practicality from my right. I'm from the land of rovers, not the kind that NASA uses.

Where people think it is normal for 5th graders to wear \$500 shoes, and I fight the stereotype at both ends.

I'm from the fountain of loyalty, with its mirror-like water teaching that new friends are okay as long as old ones don't disappear for good reason. I'm from generosity over scarcity.

I'm from everywhere... or anywhere.

There Is Not A Guarantee Inspired by "Women Like Me" by Wendy Rose

that I will be able to cook as well or nurture as well as my progenitors. What if I'm the one to break the circle? The one who can't whip up shrimp scampi for dinner on a whim without a recipe without the perfect amount of each ingredient based on memory and taste. I am proud of the way I was raised,

but what if I can't replicate it. I want to teach understanding, not shame;

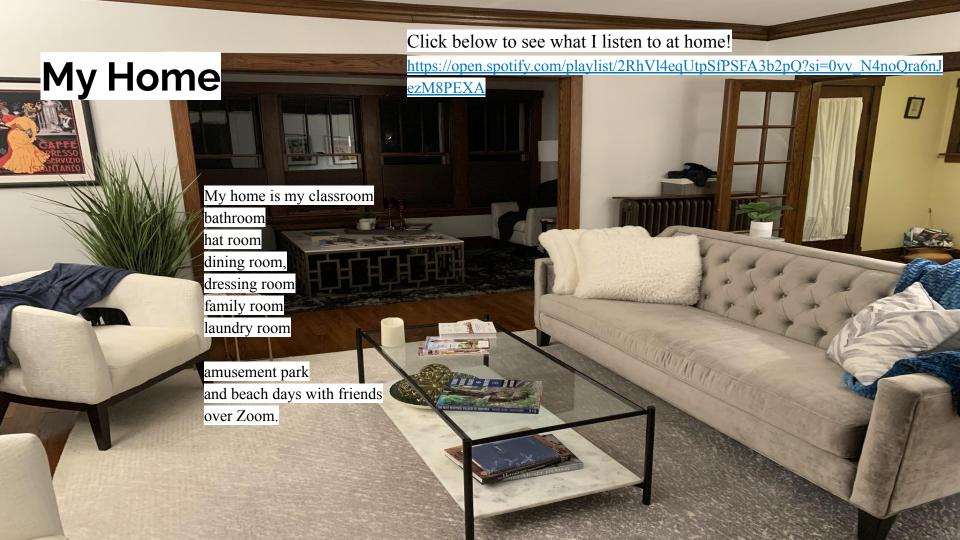
happiness over the importance of others'

generosity, not selfishness;

opinions.

When I wake up to another day of
Corona-life
with a craving for Swedish pancakes
and my mom
whips up a silky batter, will I be able to
recreate that?
What if I'm the one to break
generations of tradition
of successful women
extraordinary mothers
and admirable people?

All that I am or, hope to be, I owe to my angel Mothe -Abraham Lincoln



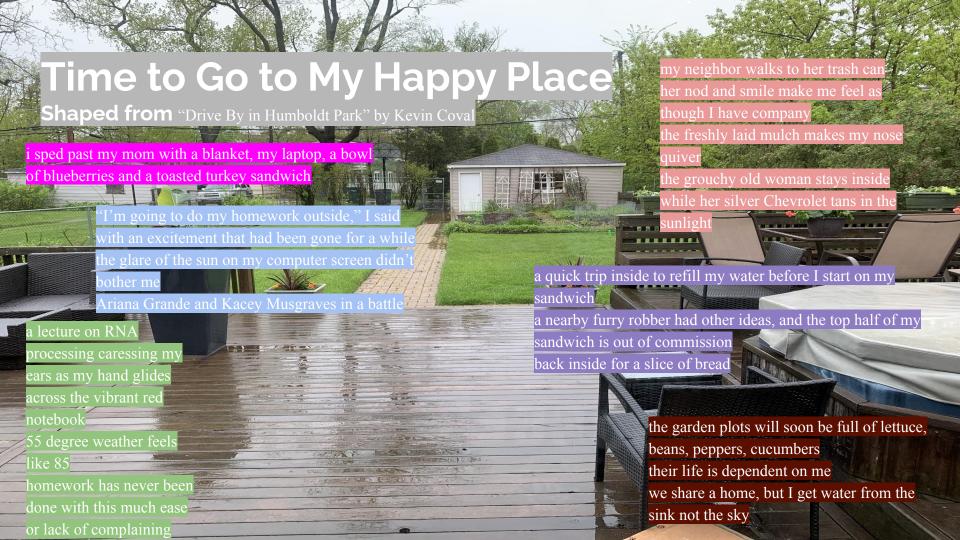
A Long, Long Day Influence by Robert Burns' "A Red. Red Rose"

Oh this is a long, long day Where hours feel like years; Oh this is a long, long day Spent turning my gears.

I can't wait to connect with old friends
Days spent alternating between tv and dishes;
Hopefully I can get out of home soon
Dreaming of a thousand wishes.

Dreaming of a thousand wishes, am I
And the boredom disappears for a flash;
Counting the minutes until restaurants are okay
They will be hit by a mad dash.

Keep up hope during these days
Oh yes, don't let hope die;
Stay strong and do not waiver
Otherwise, our futures may go awry.



The Combination

Dinner Inspired by "Television" by Roald Dahl

Hey Mom, What's cooking?

What is for dinner today? Those are typically the first 5 words that come to my mind after my intermittent sleep. My usual dreams: buffalo chicken and roasted potatoes potato pancakes and applesauce kale caesar with a side of homemade fries I'm looking forward to dinner.

Food is the guiding principle of my social distancing days
The tempting lure of cheddar and sour cream Baked Lays has been suppressed by
my strength to overcome my fear of fruit salad. The idea of fruit flavors mixing used to
haunt my dreams, but now I eat a bowl of chopped strawberries
blueberries and
blackberries
before my dreams of steak and baked potatoes kick in.

I'm looking forward to tomorrow's dinner.

Dinner is the marker of a day done the bell that sounds at the end of last period the ending of a world filled with baking chocolate cupcakes that may be

a world filled with the whines of Dwight tattling on Jim tomorrow. My grandparents' seemingly silly debates over what would be for dinner that night now make the utmost sense. Dinner is what gets you from Day A to Day B.

Without it, you are in an endless cycle of "Mom, I'm bored. What should I do today?"

This is how I've concluded that it is not breakfast that is the most important meal of the day, but dinner

I look forward to dinner.

Click here to listen to "The Rose That Grew From Concrete"

Airest 1122



When I think about flowers

I think about The Rose That Grew From Concrete

I think about how Every Rose Has Its Thorn

I think about a Kiss from a Rose

I Dream about a bed of roses

I am thinking of flowers.

Barbie DollTM A continuation of Marge Piercy's "Barbie Doll"

So fragile that a gust of wind could knock her over but strong enough to get up without any help after generations of patriarchy have struck her down.

Strong enough to have a baby but not capable enough to decide what to do with that baby. 16 cases, just beyond the feet of the supreme judges of the land with the power to take away the *barbie doll's* right to control her mini doll.

This barbie doll is not about to lose her power.

Four Portraits of 2020

Inspired by "Four Portraits of Fire" by Lorna Dee Cervantes I wonder what the older All of this extra Xbox This is it! Junior year boys on soccer think about I've always dreaded this year, time will be nice the freshman? the nasty rumors, dreadful horror The school year is basically over Do I even want to play stories, and photo evidence of late nights spent doing homework Now I can watch tv in soccer next year? "Rachel, let's go! I don't between classes!! have haunted my daydreams since want to be late!" I miss my friends a lot, the first day of ninth grade "No, sorry Mom. I can't though watch another episode with Is summer gonna be

I used to look at juniors with pity The dark shapes under their faraway eyes, the school weeks canceled too? Lazy days turn into lazy full of sweatpants (leggings nights turn into lazy required too much energy) And now, as I stand looking back weekends I cooked homemade mac at the long year cut short, I say It was A LOT of work and cheese and baked m & m cookies and but I made it through, and that is

something I was not quite sure

would be the result.

you because

chocolate cupcakes

yesterday and cleaned the whole bathroom

I have my SLP paper to write" New building, new teacher, new faces, and places "CWP isn't in a designated

classroom?"

making new friends and having fun with all of the new people you meet

life

end

back on? College is supposed to be about

What if I can't meet anyone?

I CANNOT do e-learning in the fall

What memories will I have to look I wasn't ready for high school to

March 12 was my last time seeing some of those people for my whole

entire life

is ruined! I've been waiting for that for my

No graduation! No prom! My year

That Was 2020

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