

ART MATTERS!

Reflections from our young people



Art matters! When you make it, it's yours and it might change the world. Or just give it a nudge toward a world filled of love. -Annie in NATE THE GREAT

In this First Stage's world premiere musical, Nate's friend Annie painted a picture and she can't find it anywhere. Nate vows to find it because Annie loves that picture. In fact, Annie loves to paint: it brings her happiness and joy. She loves making something brand new out of her imagination.

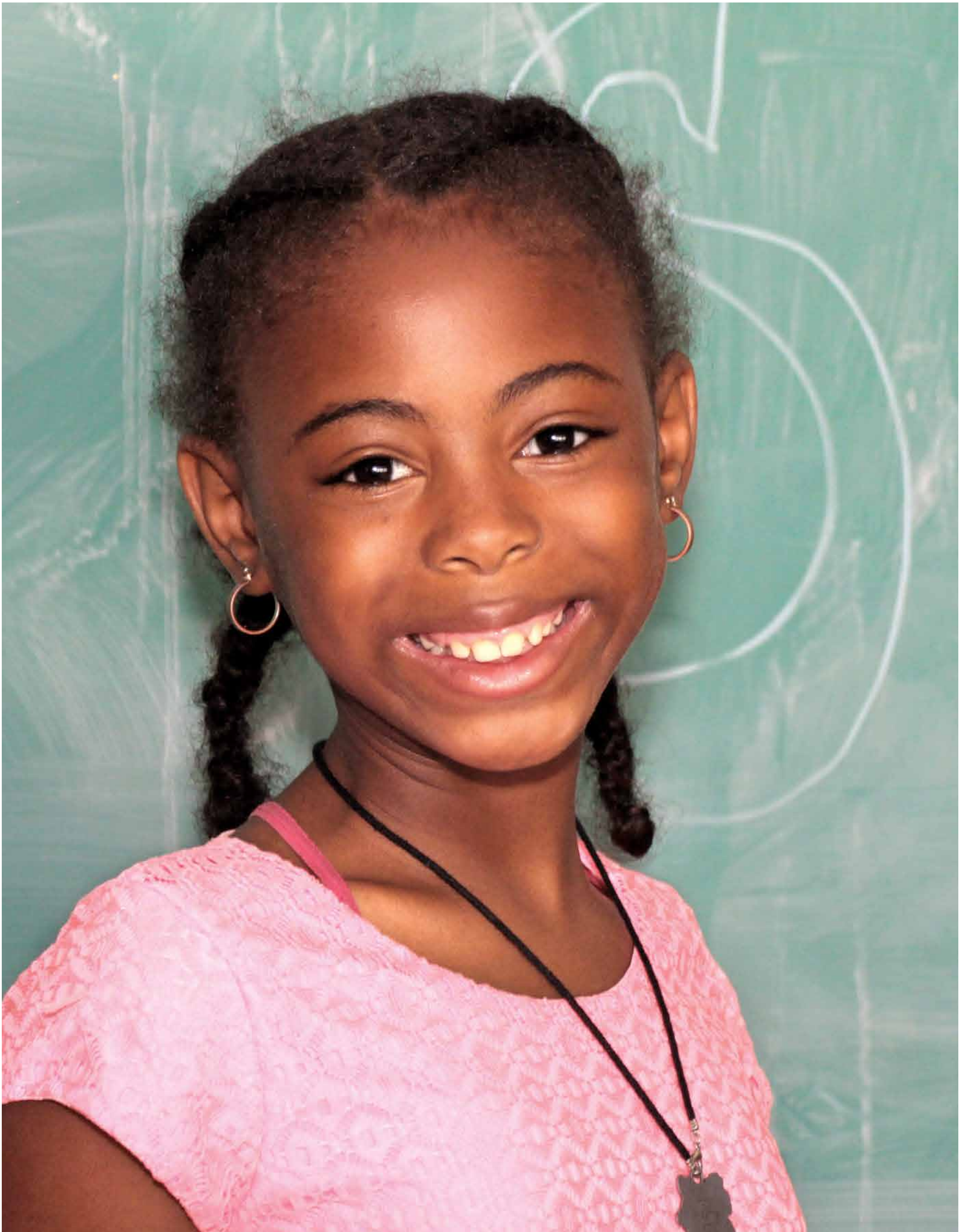
Art in its many forms is vital for young people, for a variety of reasons. First Stage was "on the case" in discovering why art is important to our young people. We interviewed thirty-one Milwaukee-area students – third through sixth-graders in our summer arts-based program at Kluge Elementary School, and high schoolers at our Theater Academy.

Armed with a camera and a recorder, we collected their answers to the question "Why does art matter to you?" The final result is this series of portraits.

With the help of a parent or guardian, [share with us why art matters to you!](#) Visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/firststage) or tag us on Instagram ([@first.stage](#)) using [#artmattersfirststage](#) and share a photo of yourself performing your art or of an art piece you have created.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR RESPONSES!





Art is creative! I love coloring, drawing,
singing and dancing. Art makes me feel great!

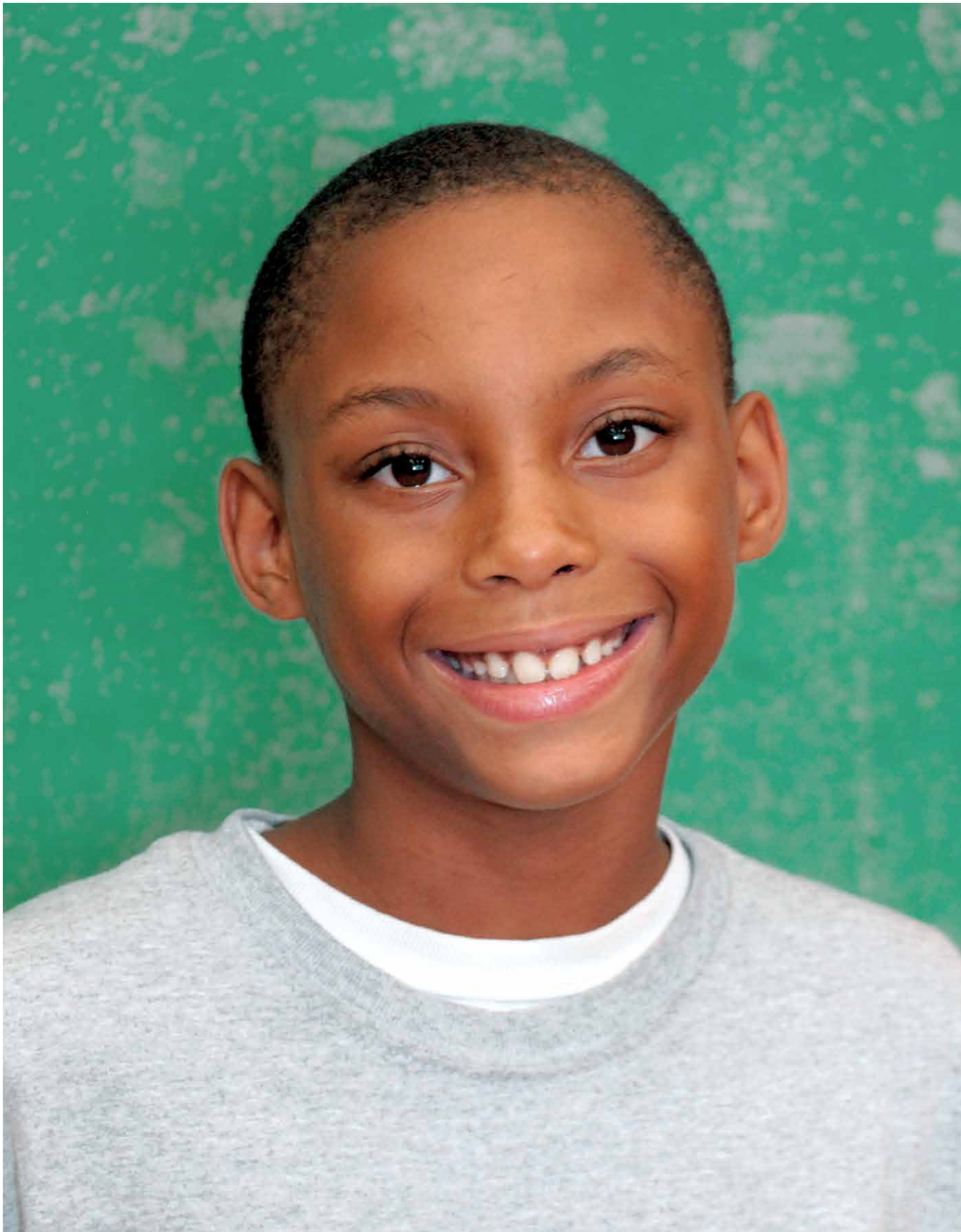
-Samariana P.

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I love cartooning. It helps me calm down when I'm mad.

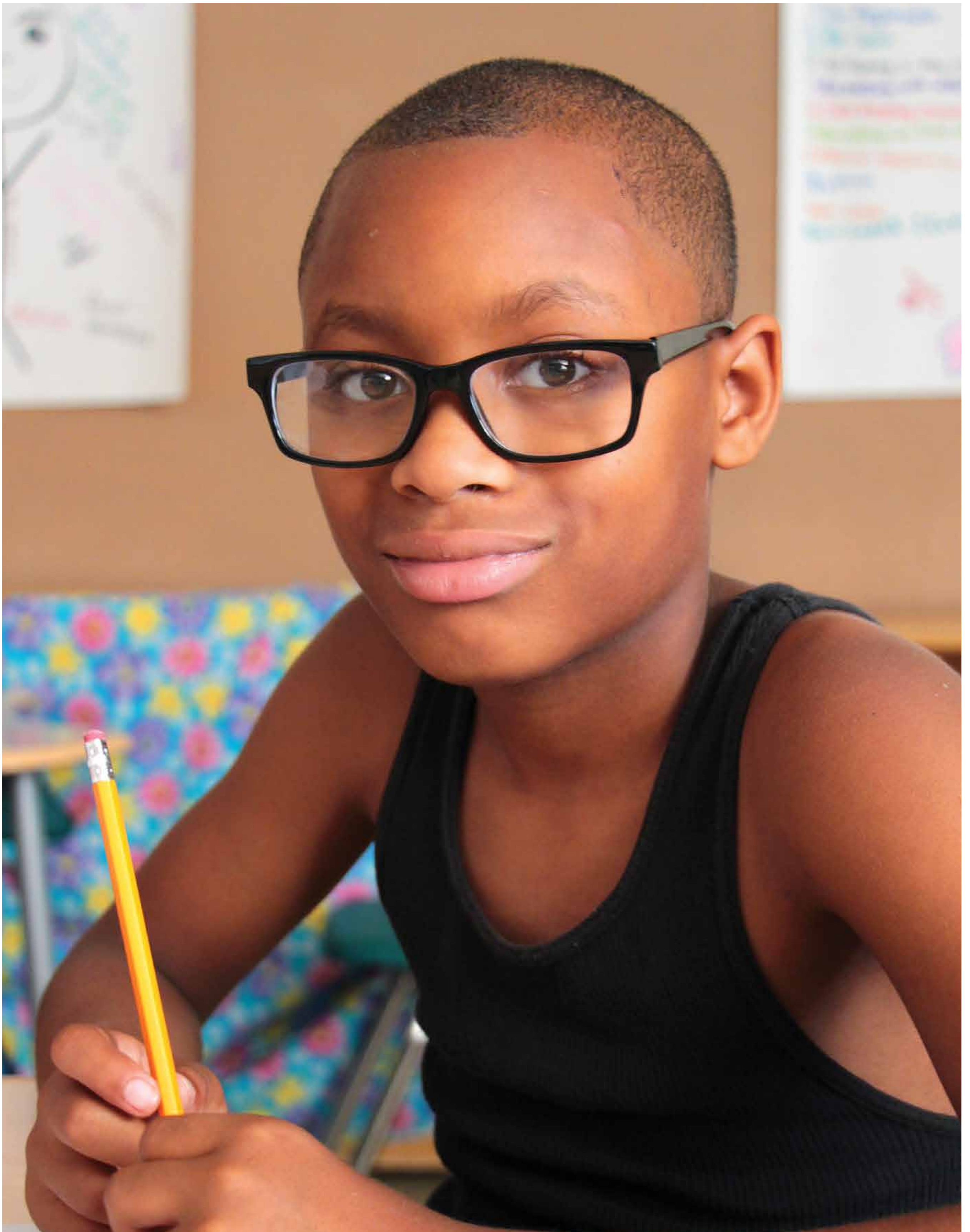
-Bryan B.



Art is beautiful! I do art at school. I like painting and using colors. I feel nervous because I don't want to mess up.

~Kavion W.

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I can draw anything I want. It's my responsibility to take care of that picture. I feel very proud of it and hang it on the wall. Art makes me happy, very happy!

~Kamari W.



Art is creative and calm and helps people when they're mad.

~Azaria F.



Art is colorful and I like it because it's everything that comes out of your mind. I like creating cartoon characters.

-Demund O.



Art is fun! I love coloring and graphic design, and I like playing theater games with First Stage.

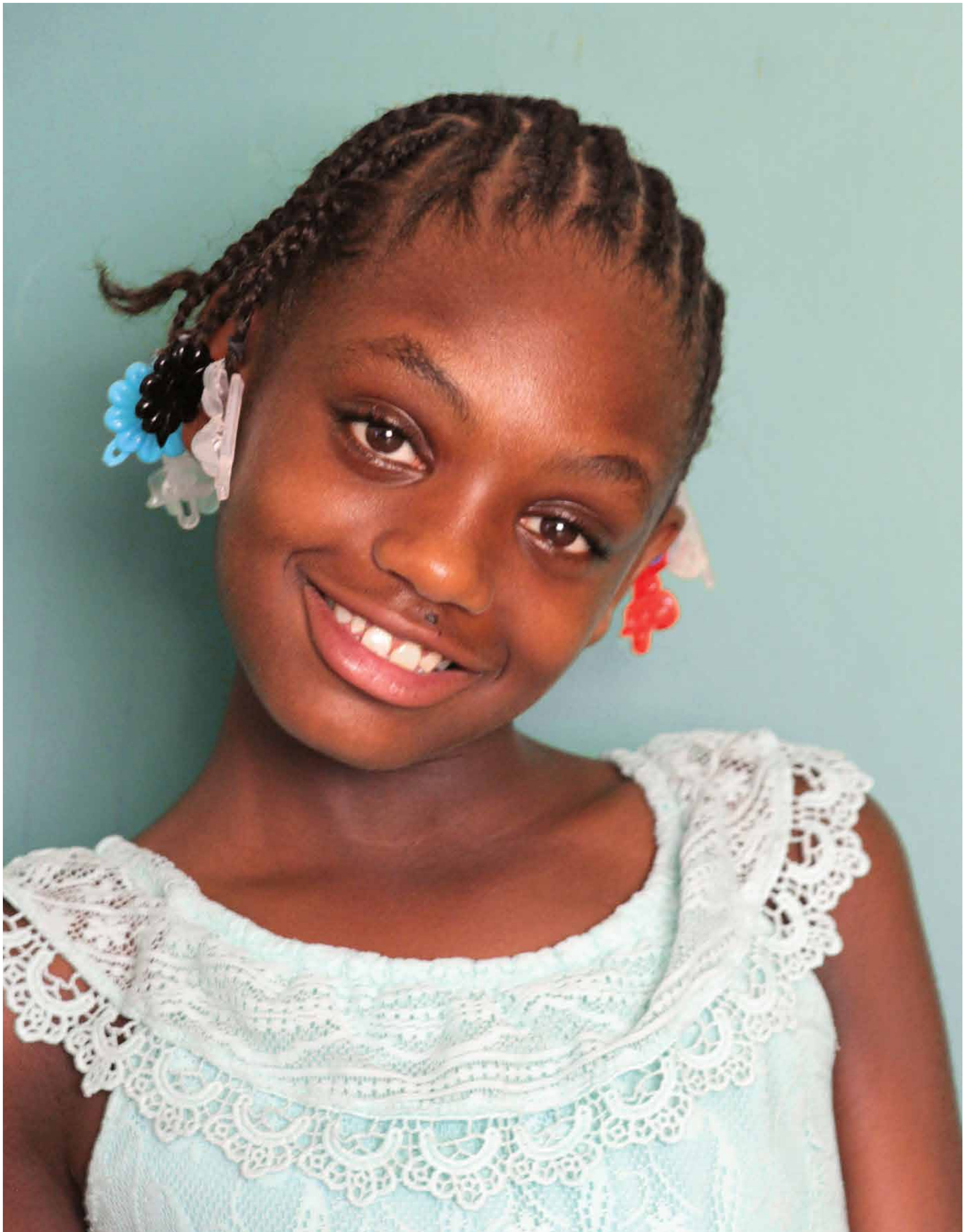
-Ezra Joy Nicole H.

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Art lets us express how we feel in pictures.
I love making pictures. I feel relaxed and calm.

~Melvin W.



Art is beautiful and joyful and it makes me feel good in my heart. I love visual arts and painting flowers. I love blue, red, orange and other colors. I also like dancing hip hop. I feel good!

-Laqueena T.

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Art helps me express my feelings.

~Nathan C.



If we didn't have art in this world at all, we wouldn't have fun and creative things to look at and be inspired by. I like painting. When I grow up I want to do abstract art.

-Kayleigh T.



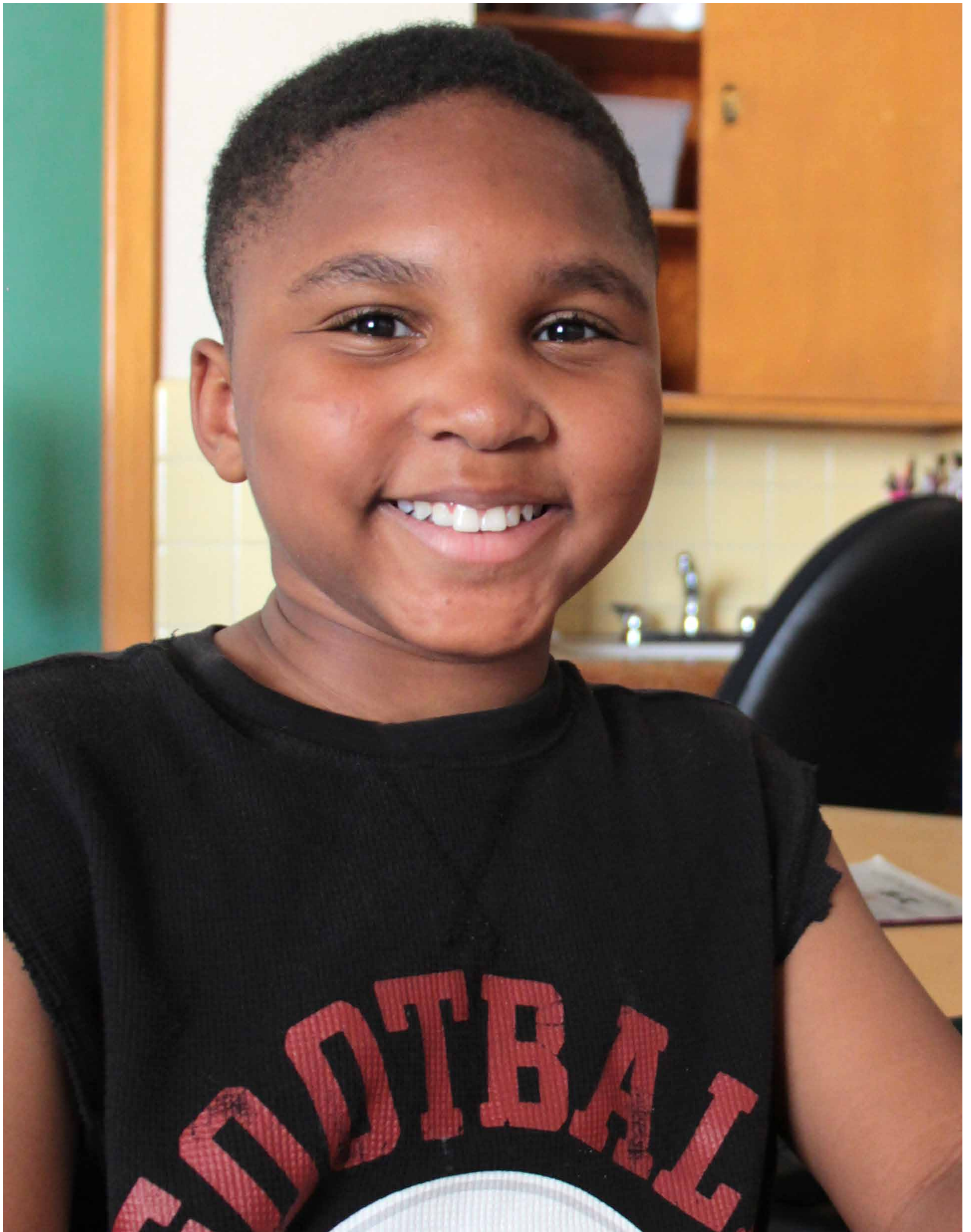
Art is really fun! There are different kinds of art. My favorite art is drawing. I can be creative and free when I draw!

-Giselle B.



Art is fun and very cool. I love all the artists.
I like dancing. It makes me feel happy!

~Jeffrey I.



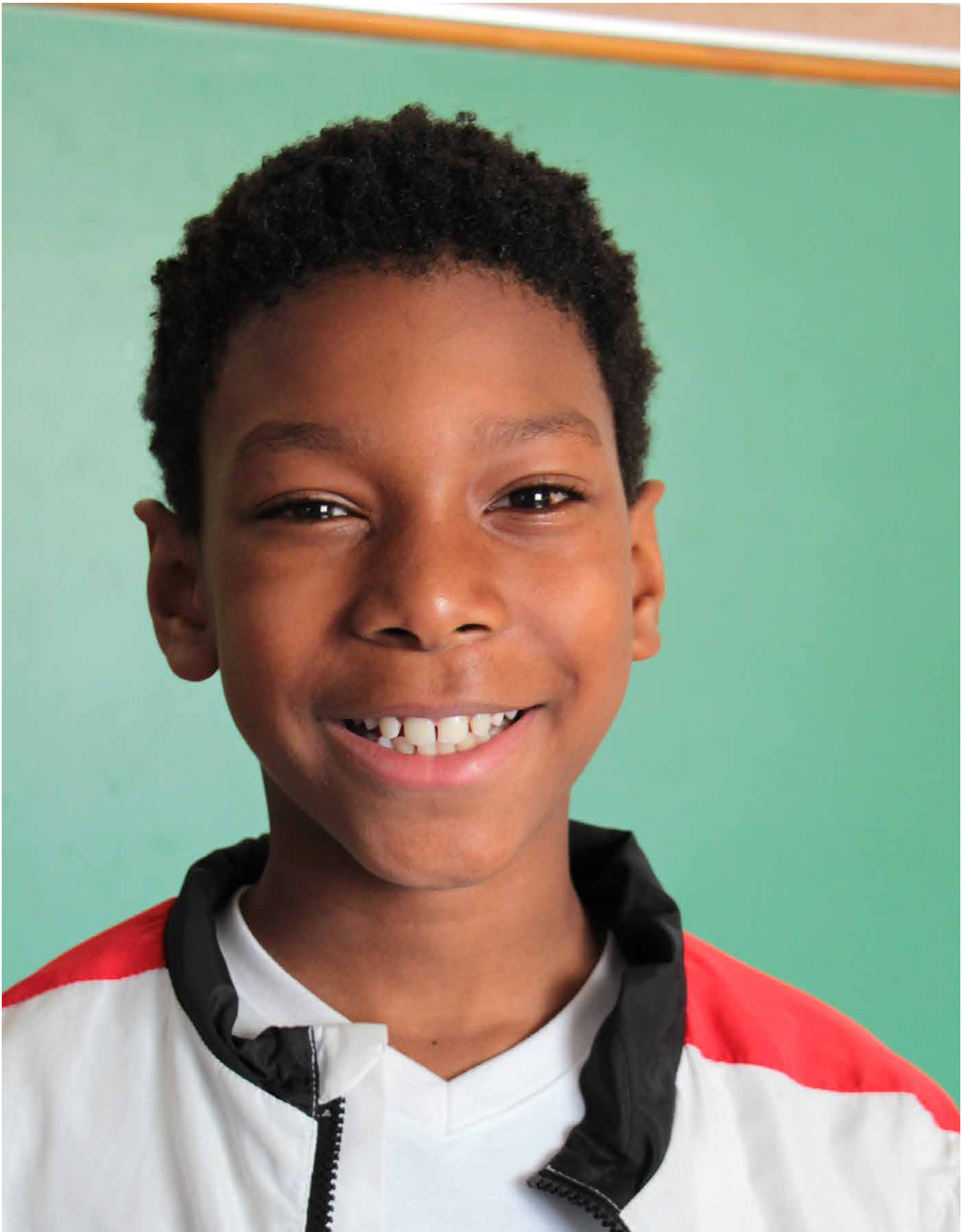
Art is peaceful and it helps me and everybody calm down. It makes everybody chill and be creative. I like painting and drawing.

~Alexander W.



When I'm stressed out, I color and it helps me calm down. I think art is beautiful.

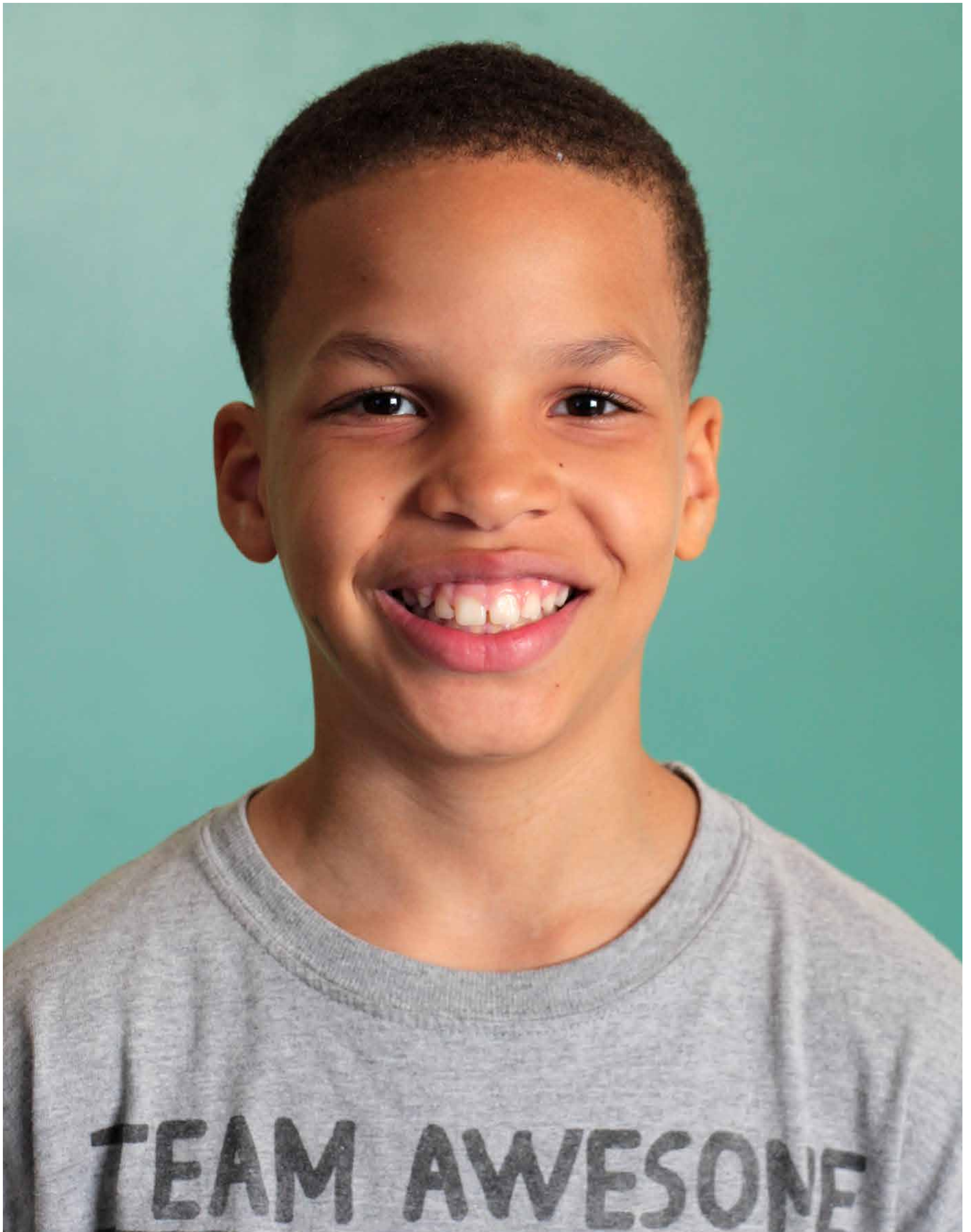
-Dejah W.



Art can change the world in a lot of different ways.
It can change what people think and how people think.

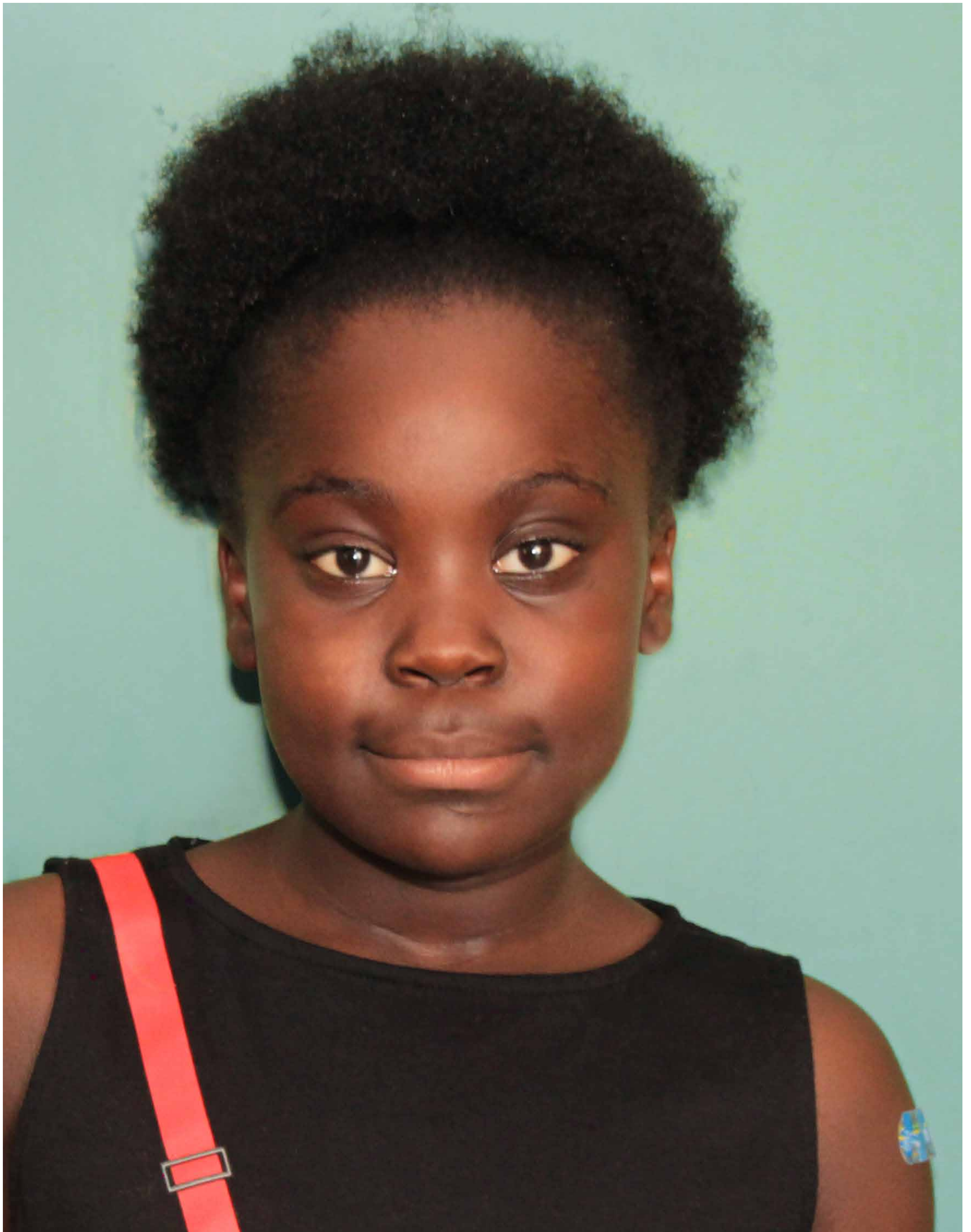
-Christopher M.

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Art can get you somewhere in life. You can make millions of dollars. I draw anime and I'm a good person and my mom told me I should be in an art class but I want to play basketball. If that doesn't work out, I'll create a cartoon show and that can be my entire career.

-Dashawn O.



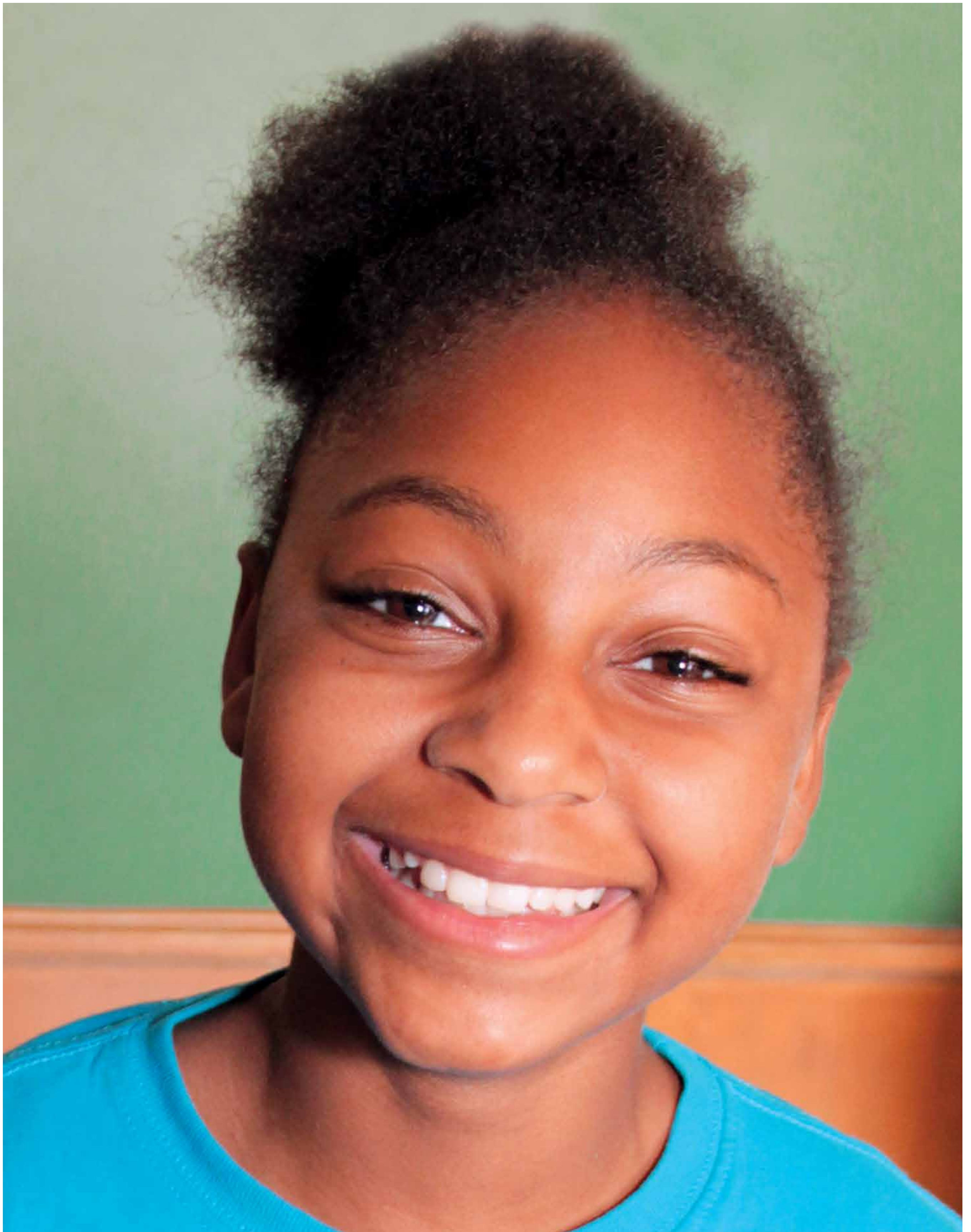
Art makes me feel calm and good inside.
I draw a lot and I also love abstract art.

~Caree M.



Art is the best way to help you grow your brain and help you with other things in the future. Then you can become an artist. All because art teachers help us. They teach us how to draw and color or how to act.

-Josué H.



Art is creative and relaxing. I love coloring
and drawing because I feel happy.

~Brazille I.

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Art gives the world a pop of color!

~Hannah P.



Art is different.

-Joselyn B.



Art is fun, it's awesome, it's great! I love music!!!
I feel very happy and excited when I play drums.

-David S.



Art makes me feel happy. I love coloring!

-C'Ani C.

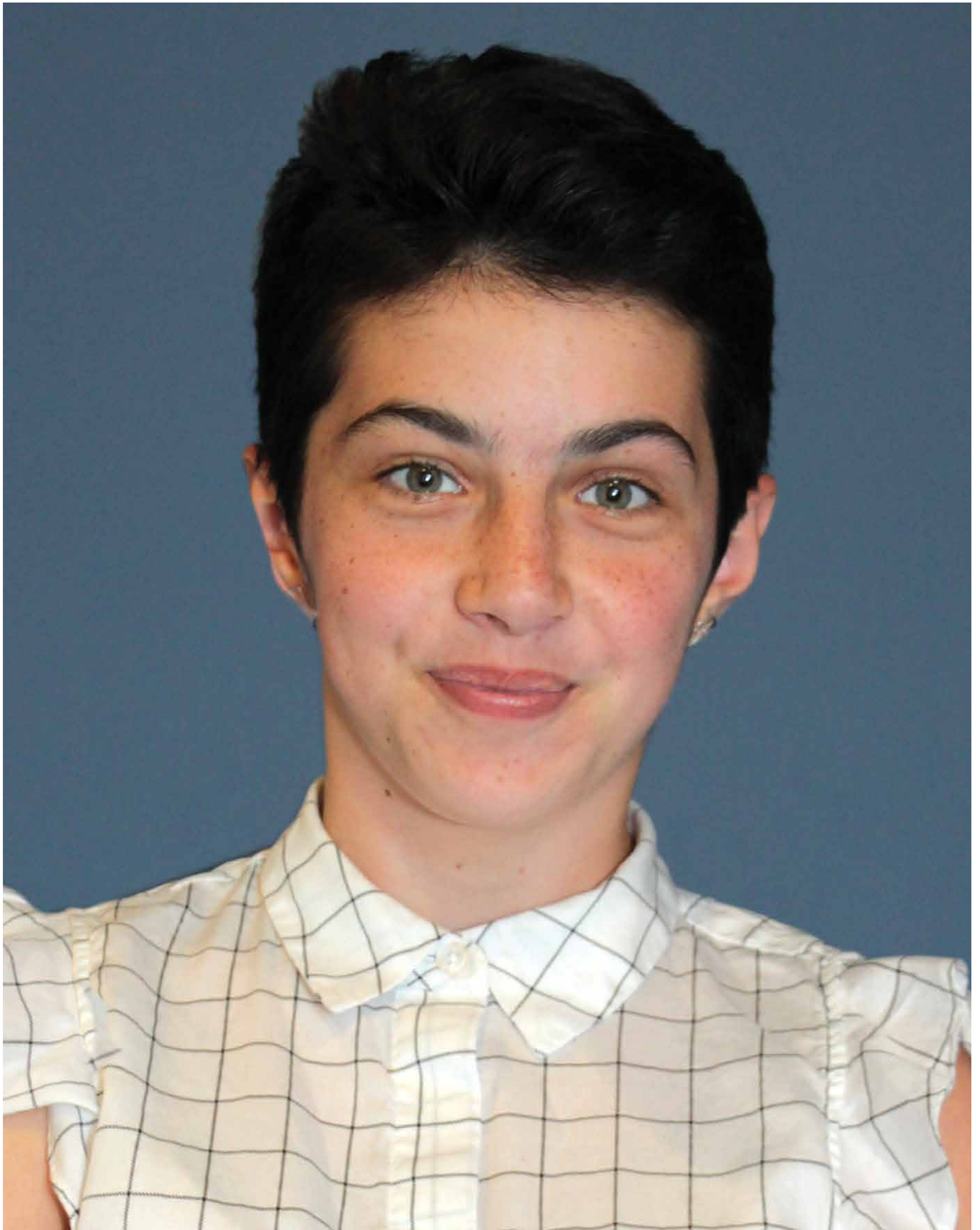


Art matters to me because it's a different way to express myself and how I feel. I love dancing!

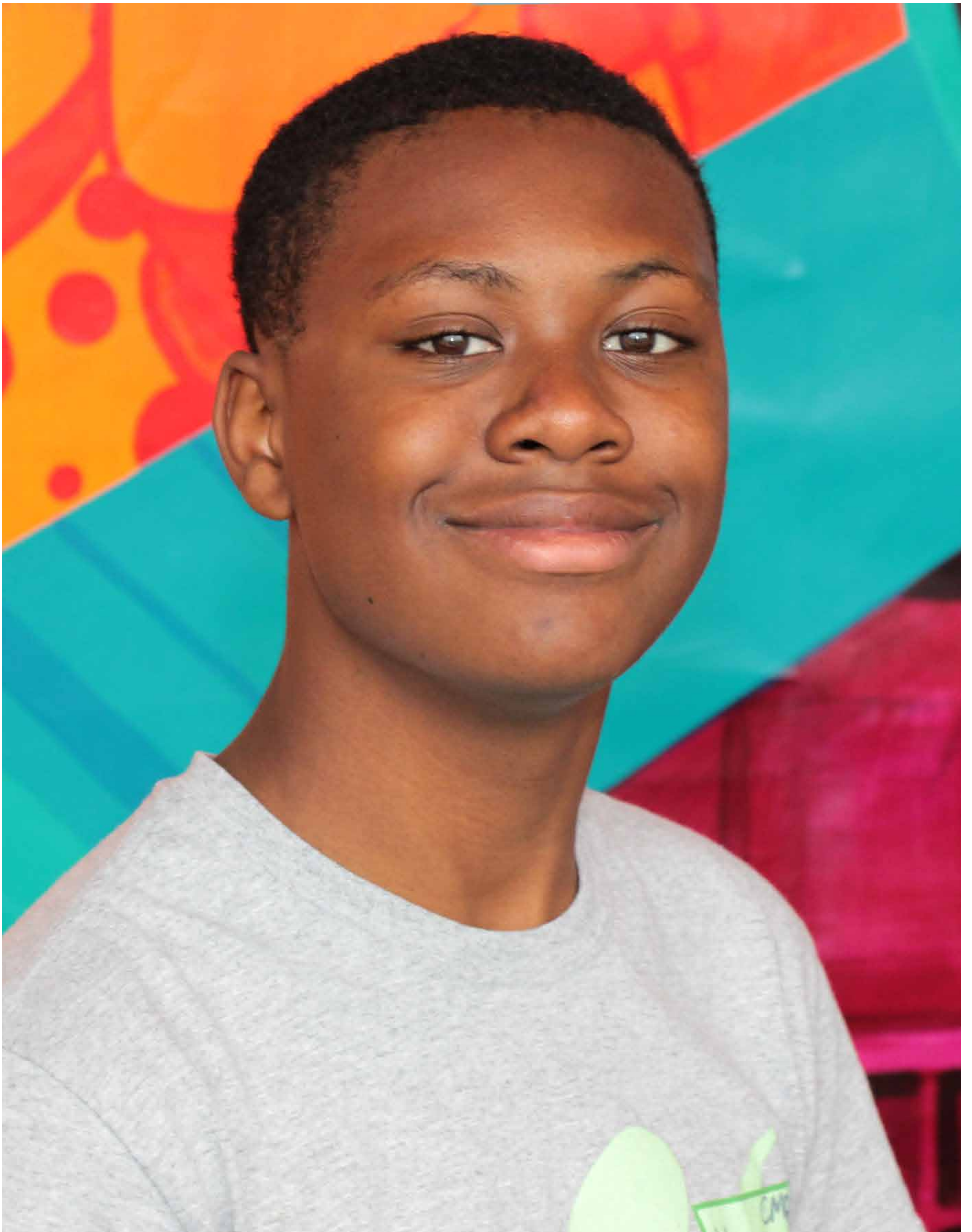
~Zaire K.



Art means being yourself. You can freely do whatever you want. You can be yourself in front of anybody and no one will judge you. It's also a fun thing to do. My art is acting, singing, and dancing, I can express myself however I want in a free environment. ~Hannah L.



Art is expression. You can listen, feel, even taste art. There is no wrong way to do art. There are different styles and techniques but art is a reflection of the artist and is as unique as each artist. I do some visual art, I create jewelry and accessories. But I do mostly performing arts – they are very relatable. It's real life. You see it and feel it right in front of you. It's amazing! They bring out a lot of emotions in me. When I perform I hope I'm touching someone in the audience in some way and that I'm connecting with them without talking to them personally. ~Selma R.



Art gets different people together who wouldn't otherwise come together. Art instills a sense of community and community is love.

~Kamani G.



You may think you're a good artist or not but the fact that there are no real boundaries to art and everyone can do it, that's very special. Anyone can make art and it's perceived as beautiful to at least some people. There are so many art forms, like drawing and painting or performing. I think that's really cool. I participate in art class at school. I'm not that great at drawing or painting but it's a lot of fun. I love the performing arts – it's where I find my happy place: dancing, singing and theater. When I'm sad and sing it always makes me happy. -Isabella H.



Art is sharing a piece of yourself with the world. It's taking what you find beautiful, special, thought-provoking, and sharing it with everyone else to create something new, to tell a story and to bring hope and light. My art is performing: sharing a story through words, movement, song and dance.

-Mary J.



Art helps build empathy and foster connection. In today's world and the current environment, art is very important and we need more of that around...so let's do more art!

~Marie C.

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