

We bring authors and illustrators into the classroom to make reading and writing an awesome experience!

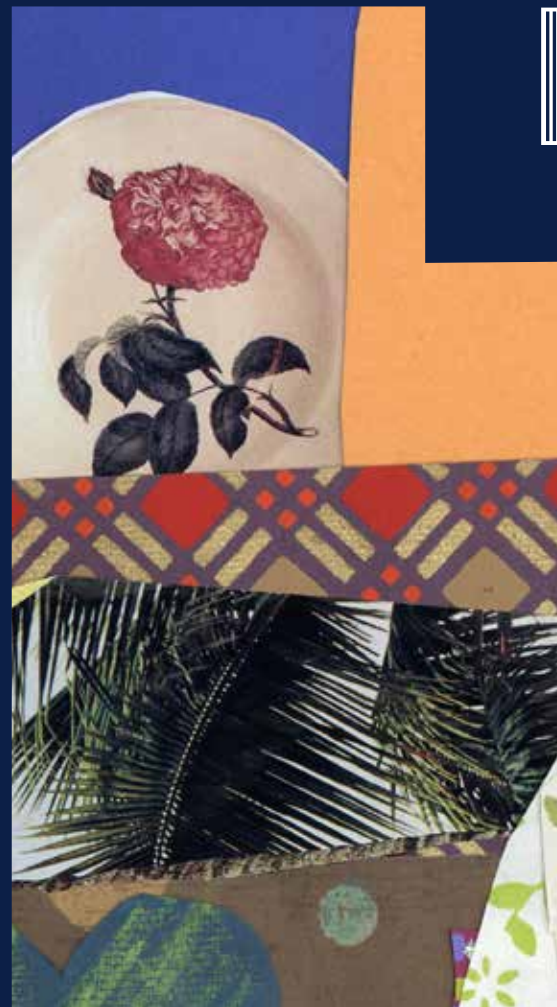
www.behindthebook.org



WE
ARE

HARLEM!

Class 3-206 at P.S. 125
The Ralph Bunche School





WE
ARE
HARLEM!

**Class 3-206 at P.S. 125
The Ralph Bunche School**

Behind the Book | New York

Our mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

Visit us at www.behindthebook.org

© 2020 Behind the Book

Behind the Book • 216 West 135th Street • New York, NY 10030



Visiting Author: Kam Mak

Teacher: Ms. Nieves and Mr. Aldo

Principal: Mr. Higgins

Program Liaison: Mr. Batista

Volunteers: Ed Burnett, Susan Coleridge, Eva Eng Gee, Jill Giovan, Karen Kawaguchi, Angelique Leacock, Bob Marks, Amy Muller, Andrea Phillips-Merriman, Brad Rodney, Anna Schoettle, Joel Silverman, Jo Umans, and Justin White

Program Coordinator: Joss Lake

Teaching Artist: Candice Humphries

Student Book Coordinator: Nina Dunhill

Book Designer: Iris Shih

Printing: BR Printers; coordinated by Kathleen McCourt and Lauren Parrott

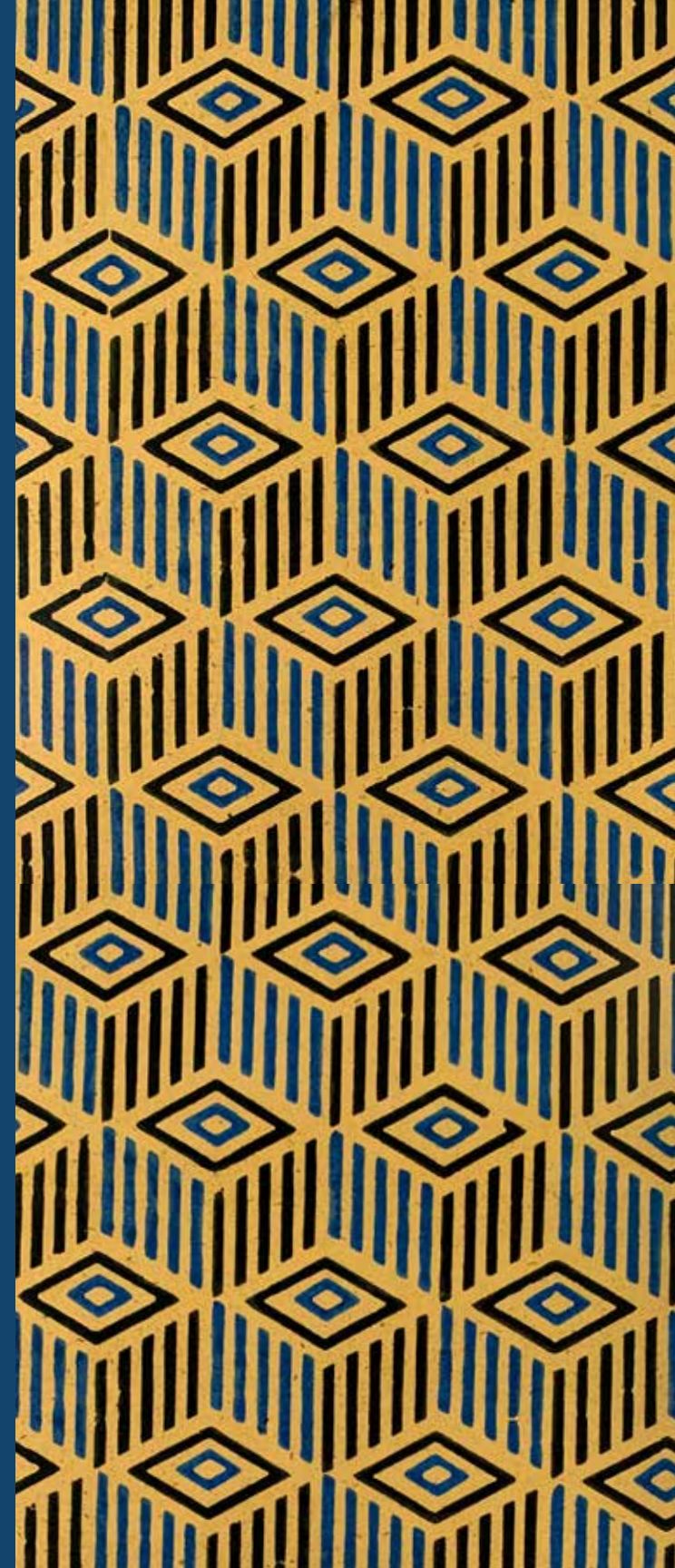
Special Thanks: To Jing Fong restaurant for our delicious dim sum experience and to Barb Korein for taking beautiful pictures of our trip to Chinatown.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

This book was made possible by a generous grant from The Korein Foundation.

We dedicate this book to the

HARLEM
COMMUNITY





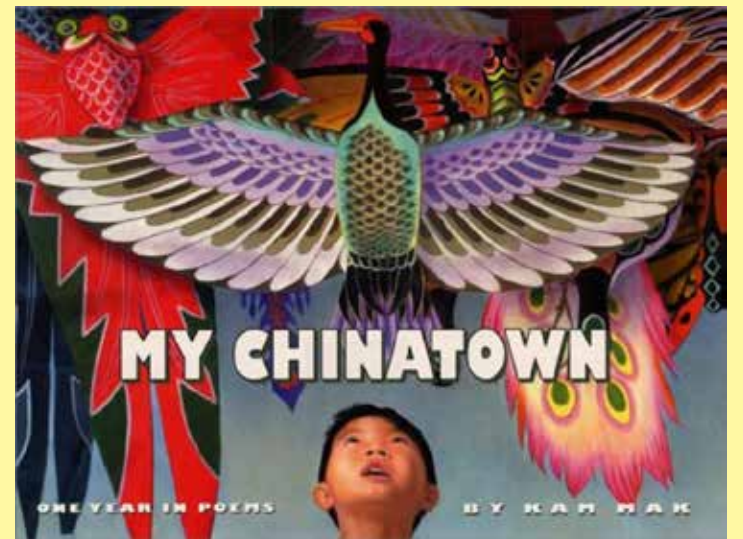
About the

PROGRAM

Class 3-206 explored communities far from Harlem to understand what makes neighborhoods successful and ways that they can work to improve their own. They traveled to Chinatown, guided by Kam Mak, author and illustrator of *My Chinatown*.

Born in Hong Kong, Kam described his own experiences immigrating to the United States and finding a sense of belonging in New York City's Chinatown. He led the class through the vibrant neighborhood where they sampled new foods and flavors, observing many of the places depicted in the book's beautiful illustrations. Kam pointed out how much Chinatown has changed over the years and how important neighborhoods are as safe spaces for different cultures.

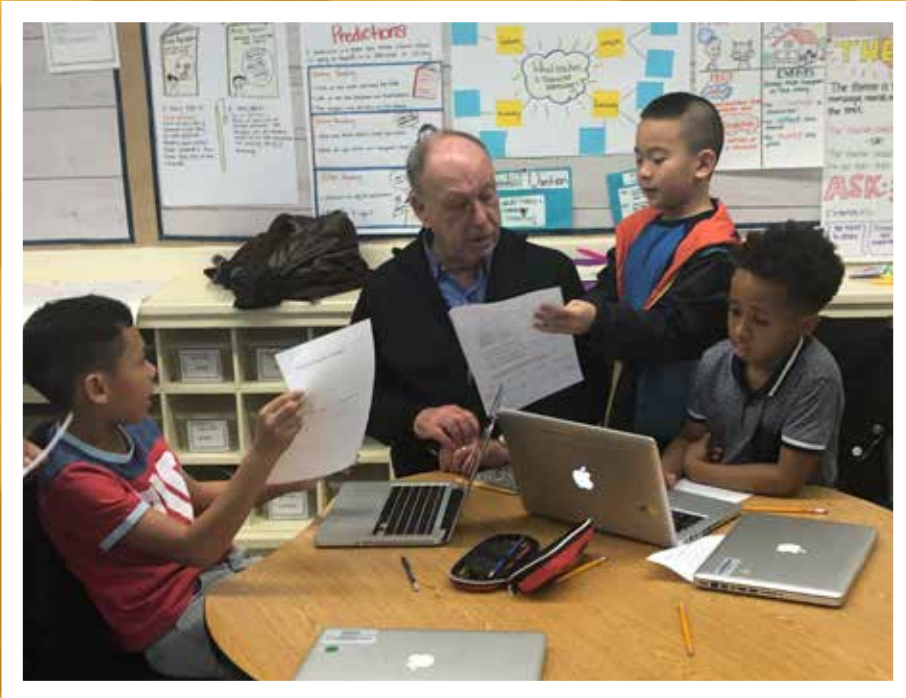
Inspired by Kam's visit and their trip, students voted on areas of concern in their own neighborhood of Harlem. Behind the Book research coaches helped students investigate local issues as well as possible solutions. They explored the cultural legacy of Harlem and the many innovators and leaders who have contributed to this historic neighborhood. Writing coaches helped students take these ideas and start shaping them into speeches. Students practiced deliver-



ing speeches and supporting one another. They brainstormed ways to handle "stage fright" and further polished their speeches. Behind the Book teaching artist Candice Humphries assisted the class in making collages about their ideal neighborhood experiences. Using shape, color, and a sense of perspective, students designed lively and thoughtful neighborhood scenes.

This book demonstrates how Class 3-206 will continue using their voices, words, and art to appreciate Harlem and help make this neighborhood a better place for everyone!

CONTENTS



Chace	9
David	10
Keisha	13
Jeremiah	14
Mason	17
Liam	18
Milai	21
Lydia	23
Chance	26
Brielle	28
Leo	31

Aidan	33
Israel	34
Lauramia	36
Pedro	39
Cielo	40
Makayla	43
Kenneth	44
Noah	46
Ashley	49
Isaiah	50
Paris	53



CHACE

Ban Smoking

One thing that concerns me about my neighborhood is smoking.

Smoking is not good for you.

Smoking can cause lung cancer. It can also knock out your teeth. Did you know 16,000,000 people are living with diseases because of smoking? Each year more & more people die from smoking, you should not smoke.

Smoking should be banned in NY state.

About 2,000,000 adults smoke in NY.

Two ways to solve this problem is to follow a politician that has the same idea as you (to make it a bill). 2. You will have to go to the governor of NY in Albany NY to approve & sign the bill. Smoking should be banned in NY because

it can kill you. Another way to solve this problem is to have police arrest people who smoke if they don't follow this (Rule/Bill). It is important to follow this rule because people receive second hand smoke also causes harm. According to Center for Disease, 13,000 people are harmed by second hand smoke. This is why smoking should be banned.

Something concerns me about my neighborhood, will you help me ban smoking too?

DAVID

Ban Smoking

Did you know that people have been living in Harlem? Harlem is a neighborhood I call home and I have a concern. I worry that too many people are smoking in Harlem. Smoking can be really dangerous and it can hurt others, people too. This is called second hand smoke. This issue is important to me because smoking can hurt kids just like me. I feel furious when I think about this!

One way we can address this issue is to suggest a lawyer to ban smoking. I plan to do this by finding some people that agrees with me. I can also reach out to my family and friends to help me with this issue.

Another way to solve this issue is to put poster to make people stop smoking. I will work with people who agrees with making

posters to make people stop smoking. The posters will say smoking can hurt you! The posters will have facts and pictures of how harmful smoking is. For example, more than 16 million Americans live with health issues because of smoking, and 41,000 get second hand smoke each day. This makes me furious!

The third way to solve this issue is to ask stores to stop selling cigarettes. I will go from door to door and tell them how harmful it is. I will ask people to sign a petition to get stores to stop selling cigarettes won't you sign the petition to make Harlem better and feel free to do it on your own.

Smoking is a great concern for me in Harlem, and these are the ways I plan to solve the issue.

The End





KEISHA

Save Animals

harlem is a neighborhood I call home. I learned that harlem is my big home and we can make harlem even better by not hurting animals and not cutting animals homes. Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is the dogs, that are in the streets alone and need help. when I think about this issue, my head hangs low because dogs are trying to survive in the street with no food or homes. they need our help!

there are thousands of stray dogs in new York City who need our help. these dogs need our help to survive. Did you know stray dogs become strays because they get lost, had bad owners, or don't have a good place to live? stray dogs can be dangerous because they can hurt us. we can help them by calling animal care to come get the dogs and help them. people are not caring for dogs like they care for each other and that's not fair to them!

Another way we can solve this problem is to love and care for dogs. dogs get lost because people let them go and we need to love them like family.

when people buy or adopt dogs, protect them so they don't get lost. stores can have lessons for parents to help people care for their dog better. this will make harlem a better and safer place.

According to ASPCA.org 6.5 million animals enter shelters. sometimes there are too many animals and they can not be helped. we should treat dogs like family because they treat us like heroes we should be their heroes by making sure we save them.

If someone tells me they do not care about this problem I would try to convince them that dogs need help because dogs are sick and dying. If this issue were addressed in harlem, it would be a better place because we are saving them. I want everyone who lives in harlem to be happy that dogs are being cared for. harlem is my big home and we can make it better.

JEREMIAH

Ban Smoking

Harlem is the neighborhood I call home. I learned that people have been here since 1609. Smoking has been here since before the United States. Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is smoking.

Smoking causes a lot of health problems. Smoking can cause lung cancer and give you diabetes and knock your teeth out. According to the center for disease, 480,000 deaths occur each year from smoking. This is how smoking causes health problems.

One way we can address this issue is to tell the president to ban smoking. I will go to

the White House to tell the president to ban smoking.

I could get a lot of people to call the White House and ask to ban smoking.

Another way we can address this problem is to make posters that say STOP SMOKING. In art class we can make posters. I can put some posters outside in Harlem. I could ask strangers to help me put up the rest.

Smoking causes a lot of health problems. We can fix this problem in my community. We can ask the president to ban smoking and we can make posters that say BAN SMOKING IN HARLEM.





Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is animal preservation. Keeping animals safe. We should get all of the animals and put them in one place like the zoo. I can call 311 and tell them about it. The animals will be taken away, having park workers feed animals. See people to feed animals so they don't have to roam around and look for food. When animals look for food they make a mess! Animals sometimes steal food from humans! This will keep animals and humans safe. The animals will be taken away and taken care of. Also from those who want to harm them. If someone breaks in there will be guards. And they will get arrested. This will keep animals safe and preserved.



Ban Smoking

Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is smoking. One way we can address this problem is ban all smoking campaigns. We can do this by taking down smoking ads, people could have to pay if they were caught smoking, or make people pay if they worked at campaigns that make cigarettes. Another way we can address this problem is make smoking illegal by passing a law. We can do it by making people go to court if they were caught. Studies show that smoking is already a law people just don't follow it. People should have to go to jail if they were caught smoking. A third way to address this problem is put up no smoking signs. We can do this

by arresting people who make smoking signs and hire new people who don't like smoking. People could start ripping out smoking ads in magazines and throw them in the garbage can. No smoking signs should look like a cigarette with a red circle around it and a red cross inside. If you have trouble quitting smoking you can call 311 on your phone. These are some ways we can get rid of smoking. Smoking really concerns me about my neighborhood because it can make people sick as well as the people around them. We can solve this problem by banning smoking, making a sign and making it into a law. Wouldn't you want to help people stop smoking?





Milai continued...

almost 70 times more air pollution each year? This is why trees should not be cut down. They help our environment stay clean. wouldn't you want to keep Harlem clean and safe?

If people are cutting trees they are also harming animals habitats. It is not fair to the people and kids who want to keep the animals safe. Do you think trees are normal plants? No, they are habitats for animals, such as squirrels,

birds, and bugs. Loss of trees leads to loss of animals. Keep our trees and animals safe!

If people cut down all the trees in this planet there will be no more animals/bugs in the earth. There will be no

fun with the nature because we can't climb trees anymore. Also, we can't have great views on trees. Before all this happens, we must stop cutting trees.

In conclusion, trees are important to our community because it helps take away pollution and keeps animals safe. We can solve this problem by not cutting

trees. If someone were to tell me they don't care about this problem, I will try to convince them by telling them that something bad might happen in the future. If this problem is addressed Harlem will be a better place!!!!

LYDIA

Preserve Animals

Harlem is the neighborhood I call home. I learned that Harlem has big museums, like the Apollo. It has big train stations and has a lot of people!

Something that concerns me about Harlem is homeless animals. This issue is important to me because animals need homes just like any other person.

When I think about this problem I feel upset and emotional. There are many ways we can address this problem.

The first way to address this problem is to ask people to adopt cats and other animals.

In the beginning, you can ask your friends to adopt animals on the street.

To continue, if you adopt, you save a life! So please adopt.

In conclusion, you should treat animals the same way you want to be treated.

And that is the first reason you should save animals.

Lydia continued...

The second way we can address this problem is you can make little houses for animals like cats.

For a start, if you want to save animals but you don't know what to do, you can build a little house out of scraps for animals.

Second for animals, you can put food and water for animals to like you.

In conclusion, animals need shelter and food to live. That is the second reason you should save animals.

The last way we can address this problem is leaving food out for animals.

In the first place, if you leave food out for animals they won't starve.

Secondly, 10 million dogs and cats get lost each year so we should help them.

In conclusion, if an animal comes to your house every day, you should leave food out so it likes you. That is the third reason you should save animals.

And that is why you should help homeless animals. Won't you help me save an animal?



CHANCE

Stop Violence

Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is the violence. This is important to me because people fight too much and hurt each other. We have to solve this problem.

I want violence to go away. We can make this go away by calling the cops and sending them to jail. In jail they will learn the lesson of not fighting. Cops will teach them how not to fight so they don't do it again. I want violence to go away.

I want to tell people **stop** fighting. I will do this by making ^{it} bad. Fighting is bad because people get hurt and can be sent to jail. I will tell people to calm down before they choose

to fight. They can ignore people, walk away or tell them to "please leave me alone"! I will tell them to take a deep breath to calm down. Making violence go away is important to me.

Many people choose to fight because they are upset and say mean things to each other. We should help people have better conversations. When upset, we can say "let's talk about it!" They can sit down and listen to each other one at a time. Stopping violence is important to me.

Something that concerns me is violence and we need to stop it by teaching people how.



BRIELLE

Recycle

something that concerns me about my neighborhood is people throwing garbage on the floor. Every day people throw garbage on the floor and don't pick it up. This makes Harlem have lots of garbage! This makes Harlem have lots of garbage and makes it not clean. There are different ways to solve this problem. one way to solve this problem is to put up signs to place garbage in trash cans and to recycle. Having trash on the floor worries me because I like my neighborhood. wouldn't you like a clean neighborhood? The first way to solve this problem is to put up signs in the street to not litter. the signs will tell you it is not okay to litter. It will have a picture of a person throwing trash in the garbage. The signs

are a reminder to people to keep Harlem clean. This will make New York City clean. Did you know that plastic paper can last in the street for several months? This is very dangerous Harlem, people and animals. we can solve problems by help clean up trash in the street. people can pick trash up. we would need garbage bags, and gloves to pick up all the trash. This will help Harlem stay clean. Another way to solve this problem is to reuse glass and paper. people should put glass in the right land fill one not on the streets. Trees are made of paper so that's why people should reuse paper and not put on the floor. not throwing trash on the floor will keep Harlem clean, nice and safe. For all of us keep Harlem clean!





Protect Animals

Harlem is my home and I learned many things about Harlem. Did you know that Harlem's name is from the Netherlands? It is also a place where African American live! In Harlem, there are many wild animals like raccoons, squirrels and birds. I love my neighborhood but something that concerns me about my neighborhood is animal protection. This issue is important to me because I like animals and want to keep them safe.

One way to help wild animals is to call animal organizations or 911 for help. If you see a sick or wild animal don't touch, you can get hurt! Instead, call an animal organization so that they can protect you and the animal. The animal organization will know how to care for the animal and keep it safe. They will rescue the animal. A wild animal could be a squirrel, bird or raccoon. If you see one of these animals hurt, it is best to leave them alone, but make sure to help them by calling an animal organization.

Leo continued...

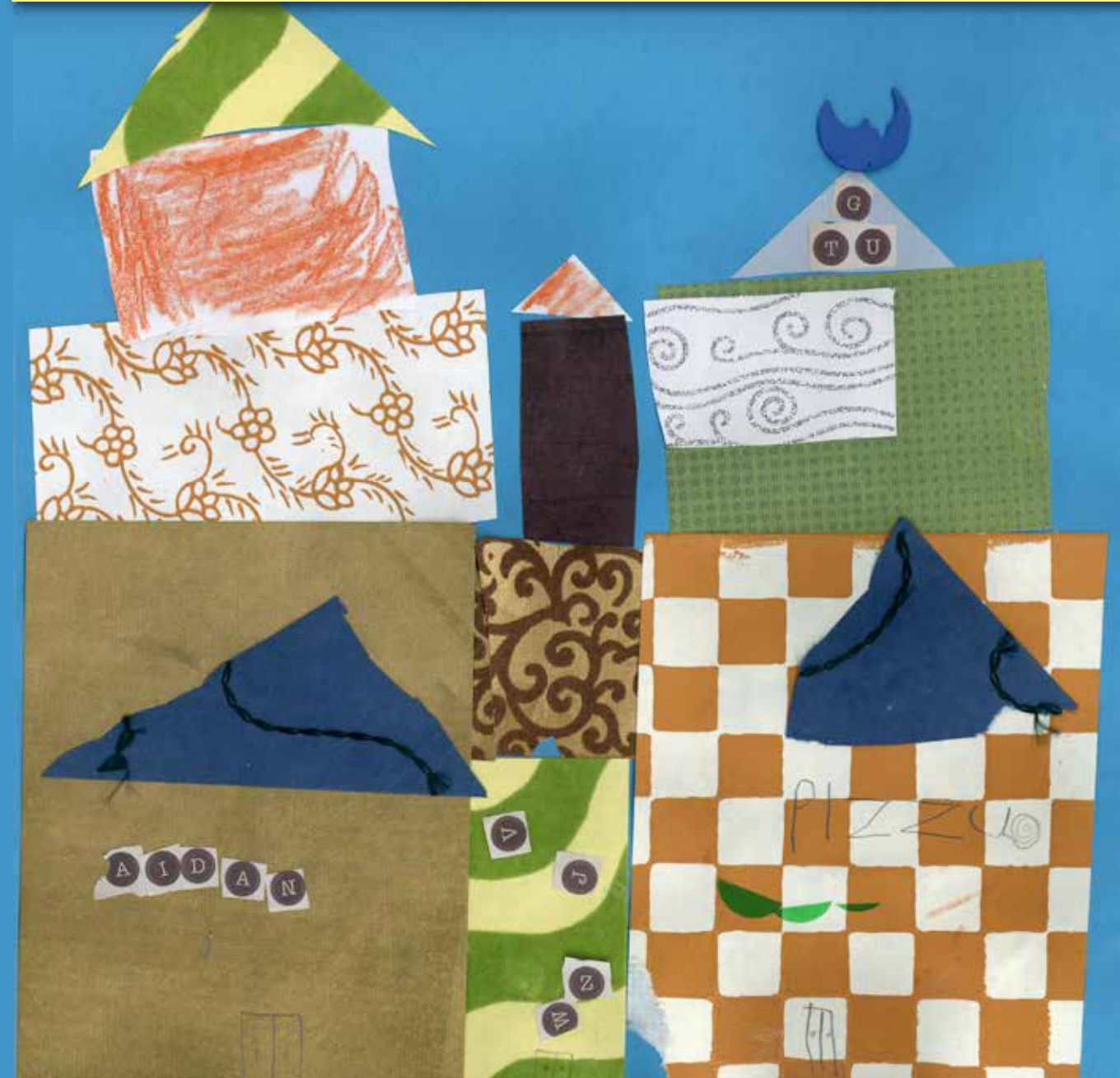
If you see a lost dog or cat it is best to take them to an animal shelter where they can get help. Help animals that are hurt. We should be caring for animals. Thousands of animals get lost each year and they have no homes or food. You can also call an animal organization for help if you see a lost dog or cat.

We should be helpful to pet owners from Harlem. Ask if they need anything so they can take better care of their pets. Some people are too busy. You can ask what food does the pet need? If a pet owner is sick, they need a back up. The pet owners need to tell us what they need for their pet. We can do this by creating a place to help people with their pet. We can take care

of them when they need help. Taking care of animals is very important to me.

Protecting animals is a concern for me because I like animals. We can call animal organizations or 911 to help with wild animals. If we see a lost dog or cat don't forget to take it to an animal shelter. We can also help people with pets by creating a place where dog and cats get help. We can give them food. If someone were to tell me they don't care about this problem, I would try to convince them that animals are a cute thing and we should help them. Animal protection is a great concern for me.

AIDAN



ISRAEL

Ban New Houses

r:1 Do you know where Harlem is located in the North section of Manhattan. Harlem is my home it was founded by the Dutch many many years ago. There are many people from different places who live here. There are also many houses that were built long ago. something that concerns me about my neighborhood is the destruction of old houses. New houses are being built to replace old houses we need to solve this problem.

r:2 One way to solve this problem is to ask the President to stop the company by teaching out to the Executive government to stop the company from building new houses. we can try to protect the houses. we can call police or the President to make new houses illegal to save old houses.

r:3 we can never give up! we can stop old houses from becoming new houses by getting my community to help me. my community can help me by protesting.

r:4 we have to stop the old houses from becoming new houses. The new houses will cost the people more money. a lot of people might not be able to afford it. They can become homeless we need to protect the old houses in Harlem from becoming destroyed. My grand parents have lived in Harlem for many years. I would not want my grand parents have to leave their home because of a new building. we have to protect our community.

r:5 The destruction of old houses is a concern for me will you help me solve our community?



LAURAMIA Recycle

I strongly believe people should start recycling to help the earth. Not recycling causes air pollution another reason we should recycle is to protect animals also there are many positive outcomes to recycling. Not recycling is important to me because the trash goes into the ocean we need to save and protect our earth. Recycling helps lower pollution caused by waste. Recycling helps keep the air clean because used materials use less energy than making new ones. This is why it is important to separate garbage correctly. It can help if you have old material like an old box you can use it to make a castle or a house. You can use old medals to make a necklace or a bracelet. You can make something from recycling. To recycle you need the trash bin. one trash

bin can be used for different types of paper. The trash bin can be used for bags and other items. First you put the trash in the right bin too. It is important to recycle to help keep animals safe a lot of trash ends up in the ocean and can harm animals. animals can eat the trash and get sick this is why should recycle trash in the right bin. Also recycling food is called compost. Compost is food you can recycle it turns into fertilizer for the soil. This helps the plants grow. We can recycle all items to save the earth. I strongly believe everyone should recycle to help care for the earth. Let's respect the earth!

Recycling





PIEDRO

Stop Gun Violence

Harlem is the neighborhood I call home. Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is gun violence. The first way we can address this problem is by closing gun shops. If we close down gun shops the public will not have access to guns. People can have safety in their neighborhood and people won't be exposed to as much danger. If gun shops are closed less violence will happen. Another way we can address this problem is we can have more people sent to jail for killing. If people are sent to jail the public will be more safe from armed people. When those people get out of jail their weapons may be taken away. Some people may learn their lesson. The third way we can address this problem is to create stricter gun laws. They can create stricter gun laws by having neighborhoods decide on certain gun laws. They can also decide by using past experience. Stricter laws will mean more safety for neighborhoods. Gun violence greatly concerns me. We can address this problem by closing down gun shops, having people get sent to jail and create stricter gun laws. This is very important to me because every day people get hurt. Wouldn't you want to stop gun violence too?

CIELO

Preserve Animals

Harlem is the place I call home. Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is homeless animals. This issue is important to me because I love animals.

The first way we can address this problem is to put animal food everywhere. Homeless animals don't eat very much. You can ask stores if it's okay to put animal food in front of their area. We can ask the manager if they can buy the animal food for the homeless animals.

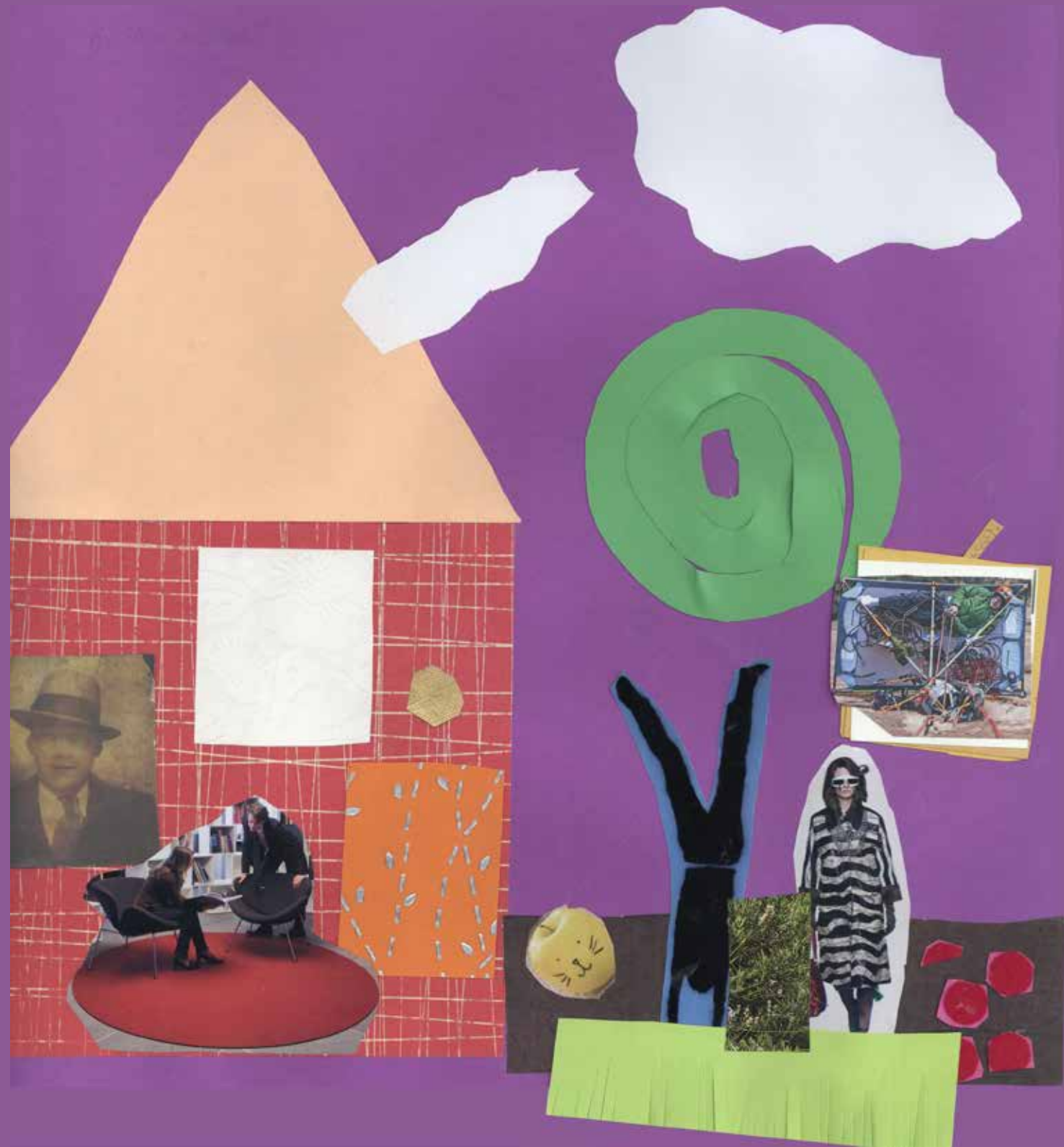
Another way to address this issue is to put dog houses in parks. The dog houses will help by being a shelter to who needs one. And a cushion and a blanket to keep the animal warm inside the dog house. Some classes at the Ralph Bunche School can try this, then the

whole school will try this, then the whole country will try this, then the whole world will try this.

The third way we can address this problem is to make an animal protection law. The law will say that whenever you see a homeless animal you have to help it however you can. You can call an animal shelter, or the pound. If you see a hopping fish on the ground call the aquarium. And if you see an injured animal you have to call the zoo or the vet.

The issue in my community that concerns me is homeless animals. When I think about this issue I feel upset, and sad. Food, putting out dog houses, and making an animal protection law this will make Harlem a better place.





MAKAYLA

Recycle

Harlem is the neighborhood I call home. I learned that Harlem was named after the Nether lands and is located between 103rd and 120th Street. Some thing that concerns me about my neighborhood is recycling. This issue is important to me because Harlem can be cleaner. When I think about this issue, I feel sad and helpless. We can solve the problem of recycling.

One way we can address this problem is to remember to recycle in New York City. We can reuse cans, plastic and paper to make others things. Recycling helps keep garbage organized. According to epa.gov, "Recycling Reduces The amount of waste sent to landfills" This helps keep our earth clean.

Another way to address this problem is to build a mural about recycling. The mural will be colorful and nice to look at. The mural will be one way to show how important recycling is. We should recycle to keep Harlem clean.

Harlem is the neighborhood I call home. I want to keep my home clean by recycling.

KENNETH

Stop Gun Violence

Something that concerns me about my neighborhood is gun violence. I can solve the problem by teaching people how gun can hurt you, we can also ask for stricter gun permits. Stopping gun violence is important to me because many people get hurt.

Do you know what gun violence is? Gun violence is when people use guns to harm people. Gun violence happens every day and lots of people are getting hurt. According to lawcenter.org, 100,000 Americans are injured each year. We need to stop this because some body you know might be part of the 100,000. Wouldn't you want to stop this?

How we can solve the problem is by closing down gun shops. We can

do this by making a strike. The protest will say "Close down gun shops?" We will protest until they close it. I will get different people to help me, like the families who people got hurt from gun violence. This will help stop gun violence. People should not get away with gun violence. People who get away with gun violence should go to jail. We can solve this by placing more cameras so cops can see who is buying guns and who is using them. Only police men should carry guns and gun permits should only be for cops. We need to stop gun violence. Gun violence concerns me very much and we need to stop it! Will you help me?





Save Old Supermarkets

Harlem is a place I call home. One thing that concerns me about my neighborhood is old supermarkets being replaced by new supermarkets. This issue is important to me because some people don't have money and the prices are higher in new supermarkets. When I think about this issue, I feel sad because I don't like old places being replaced by new places. I have great memories in the old places. Old supermarkets have lower prices for everyone. They often have many sales there affordable for people who don't have a lot of money. The new supermarkets are too expensive to afford. So people who don't have a lot of money can't buy their groceries. I don't want people to starve to death. This is an important issue. We should stop supermarkets

going into bankruptcy by doing a petition. I will go door to door to get their support in helping supermarkets. I will remind them of the affordable prices old supermarkets and we should come together to stop old supermarkets being replaced. When you enter old supermarkets you know everyone who works. They are people who live in the community you feel welcomed and special to everyone. In new supermarkets you will not know the people who work there. It will make me feel sad and scared. This is why old supermarkets should not be replaced. Harlem is a neighborhood I call home. Please help me keep old supermarkets from going bankrupt.



RECYCLING



ASHLEY

Recycle

something that concerns me about my neighborhood is trash. One way to solve this problem is to recycle and place trash in the correct bin. We can fix this. This issue is important to me because it makes the city dusty dirty and unsafe. When I think about this issue I feel hopeful because I know we can make a change. To solve this problem, we can pick up trash. We can do this by people getting together and cleaning up the community. We can wear gloves and get garbage bags and clean up the trash on the floor. This will help keep my neighborhood clean. Another way we can solve this problem is to teach people how to recycle. We can fix this problem by putting trash in the right bins. We can teach people to have three garbage bins. We can have a black Bin and Green Bin and a Blue Bin. When we throw out tissues or plastic bags we will throw them out in the blue Bin and when we need to throw out paper

We will throw them out in the green bin. We can teach people to do this to help recycle. We can reuse paper. We can reuse paper by putting paper in the shredding box, and using the paper for art. This will help there be less trash. If we recycle we can keep the earth safe and save trees. Paper come from trees and if we don't recycle paper, we will have to cut more trees down. People can help keep my neighborhood clean and it will be better. Trash really concerns me about our neighborhood. Let's keep it a safe clean place. If someone were to tell me they don't care about this problem, I will try to convince them that it is important so that it can make the earth more beautiful. If this issue were addressed, my neighborhood would be a better place.

ISAAH Recycle

One reason I strongly believe that we should recycle because when you litter it can kill animals. One example is the plastic rings from a six pack of soda can get caught on the head of a cat. The plastic would have to be carefully cut off the cat without harming the cat. You can help by cutting apart all sections of plastic six pack rings before throw it out in the right garbage. Another example for litter that can harm animals is chewing gum. Chewing gum should not be thrown outside on the ground because animals can step in the gum and it can get stuck to their fur or feathers. You can help by never spitting gum on the ground and wrapping it in paper and putting it into the right garbage.

A third reason why I strongly believe we should recycle because animals mistake trash or food. If the animals eat

the trash it can choke them and they can die. You can help by bringing your own reusable bags when shopping.

One way we can solve this problem is by making programs to teach children how to recycle. We can teach children to separate garbage into three bins a blue one a green one and a black one. In the green one their will be mixed paper like cardboard paper and news paper. The blue bin will be metal and glass then the black bin will be plastic bags and tissue. The program will teach children to recycle. This will help save animals. Another way to fix this problem is putting garbage cans every wear. People can hold garbage until they find the right garbage for their container. their holding in their hand.

If we recycle we'll have a clean planet and animals will be saved! Recycle everyone!!!



Parisi

PARIS

Stop Gun Violence

→ HARLEM is the neighborhood I call home. I learned that 1. gun violence is increasing every day (which is my topic) 2. there are many historical sites such as, the Apollo, Alexander Hamilton Memorial and Langston Hughes Home. The topic of gun violence is important to me because there is too much harm being done with guns. → When I think about this issue I feel powerless, I want to make a change. One way we can address this issue is to stop allowing gun permits. go to Albany, the capital of New York tell the Governor (or any Federal court of New York) the no shooting people with guns law should be enforced. Did you know that in 2017, America's gun violence reached its highest level with 39,773 harmed by guns we can't afford for it to happen again. Another way we can stop this problem is to work with the police department they can install security tech, such as cameras (which are hidden) or robots (bulletproof) to catch them or her in the act. 100,000 Americans are wounded by guns each year, that's an average 100 per day if we enforce this law more

maybe only 100 will be wounded every decade. The third way we can address this problem is to go to congress with a bill saying "no guns in the USA" (even though it's a bill it has to be enforced) we would have to get it signed by congress, president then the executive branch (government part) the judicial or legislative branch (other parts of the government) over the past ten years America's use of weaponry has risen from throwing stones and old cannonballs (sometimes) to guns and knives. we have to turn it way down low. I mean it, so many people get wounded every day, so that's why we should turn it way down low. if someone were to tell me they do not care I would try to convince them that too many people are being affected by gun violence each year. if this issue were addressed the USA (or what we're talking about, Harlem) would be a better place because there will be less violence from guns. will you help me accomplish these goals?

About the

VISITING AUTHOR



Kam Mak was born in Hong Kong. His family moved to the United States in 1971 and settled in New York City. His interest in painting was awakened through involvement with City Art Workshop, an organization that enables inner-city youths to explore the arts. Kam continued to pursue his interest in painting while attending the School of Visual Arts on a full scholarship, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1984. Mr. Mak's works have been exhibited at the Society of Illustrators Annual Exhibition, The Original Art show (dedicated to the best of children's picture books) and in a one-person show at the Brooklyn Public Library. He has illustrated over 200 paintings for book covers, magazine and editorial pieces for such clients as HarperCollins, St. Martin's Press, Random House, National Geographic, *Time* magazine, *Newsweek*, and *The New York Times*.

Kam's most recent art has graced the second series of the USPS Lunar New Year stamps and also a new postcard stamp for the USPS adorned with the koi fish was released in spring 2009.



About the

STUDENT AUTHORS

Harlem is the place we call home. It is filled with unique people, and we just happen to be some of them! Most of us were born and raised here. WE learned to ride our bikes, swim, and play sports all within our community. Harlem is a special place to us. We want to see Harlem thrive because we care about where we live. WE want to revamp our environment so everyone can see why we

love Harlem so much! Class 3-206 is a positive, hard-working class who enjoys reading, writing, math, music, gym, and art. We are mindful of our community and want happiness for all. We want to make Harlem a place people will never forget. We are fearless and we never give up because our voices matter. Class 3-206 are innovators, and we are proud to be from Harlem. Go Harlem!



About

BEHIND THE BOOK

Behind the Book creates intensive learning and empowering experiences for New York City public school students. Working with classes from Pre-K through the 12th grade, Behind the Book brings authors and their books into individual classrooms to build literacy skills and create a community of

lifelong readers and writers. Each of a series of workshops is designed to bring books to life to inspire and engage the students. Behind the Book programs are part of the class curricula and meet the Common Core Learning Standards.



Common Core Learning Standards Addressed

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.9

Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.