

The Voices of Children: A Violence Prevention Project

The Voices of Children: Messages of Hope and Optimism for a Kinder World, a book and traveling photo exhibit, uses original artwork and writings to convey children's thoughts, feelings, hopes, and fears about peace and violence. Sponsored by Deaconess-Nashoba Hospital in Ayer, Massachusetts, and its Trustee Community Relations Committee, this project is part of the hospital's continuing initiative against violence, which began with a forum on domestic violence in 1994.

The young artists and authors, fifth graders from eight towns in the semi-rural area served by the hospital, share how they cope with issues such as bullying, media violence, family discord, drugs, gangs, and war. The project's message is that "children deserve to be surrounded by caring adults who respect them, listen to them, and help them grow."

The Massachusetts Attorney General's Community Advisory Task Force selected the Voices of Children project as one of six examples of a best practice by a Massachusetts hospital or health maintenance organization.

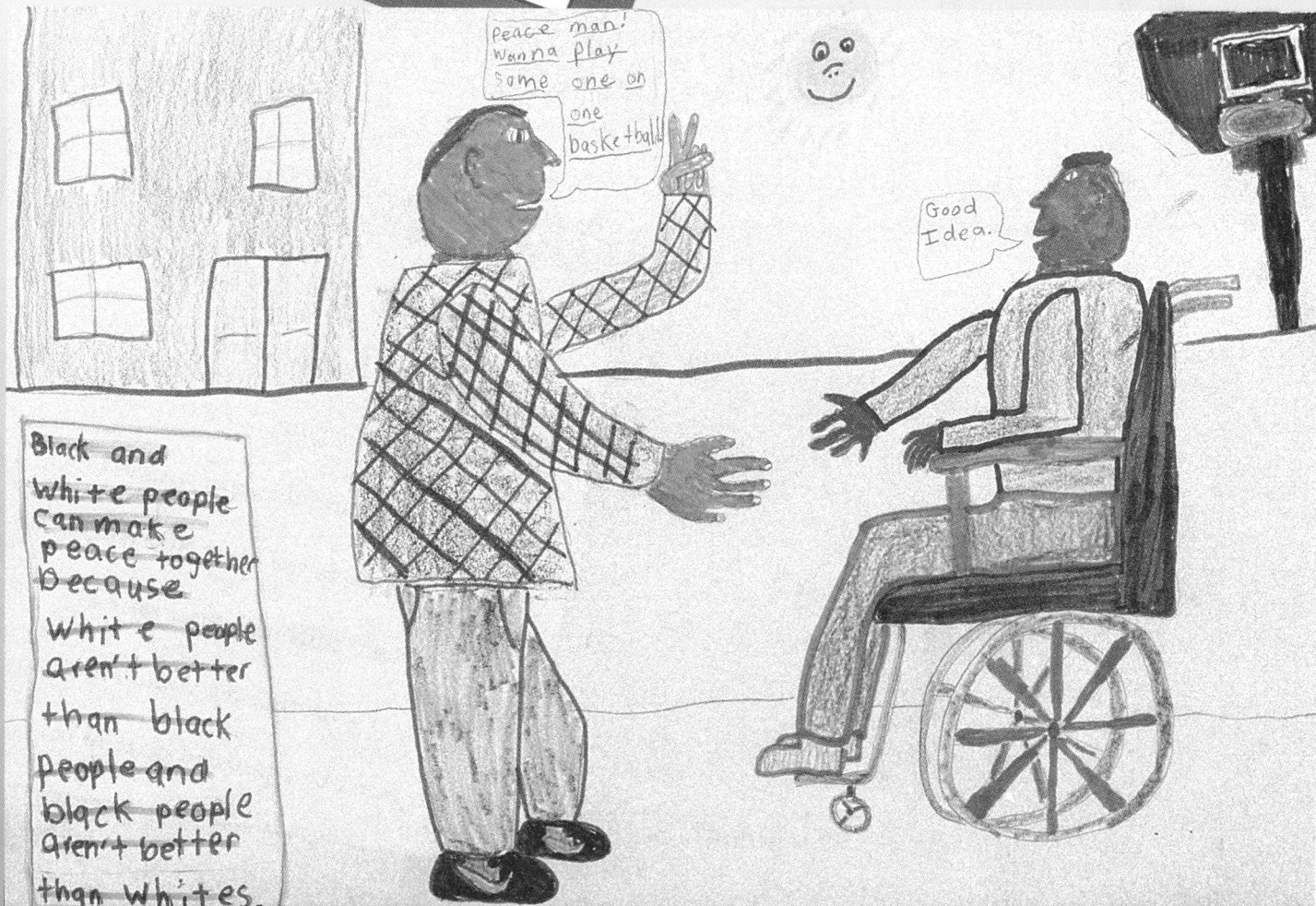
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When i am insecure i feel like the little i
usually because of someone else
when i remember this feeling
I try to help others
in hope that they will never know what
it's like to be the

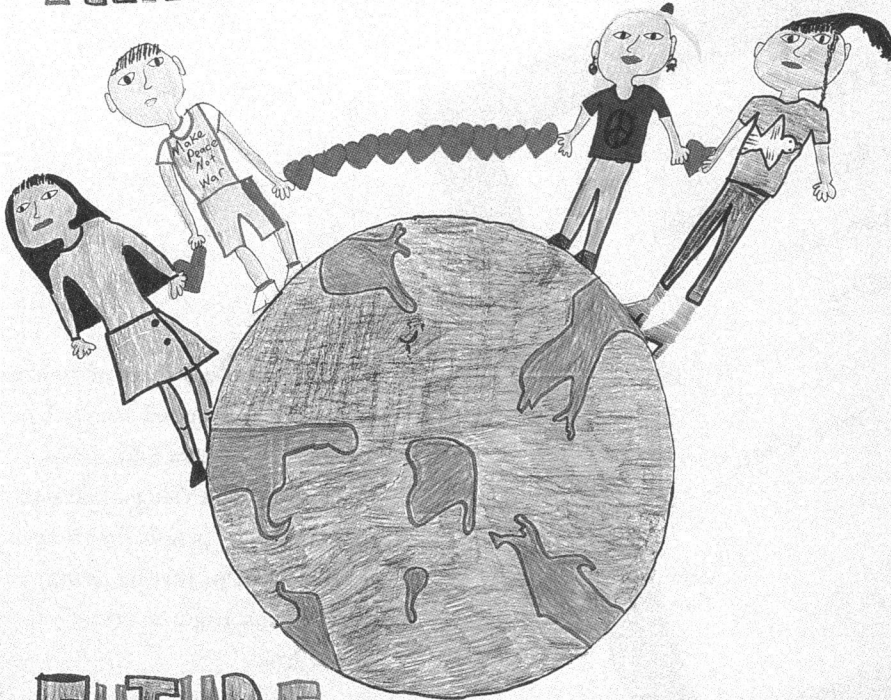
little

i.

★ "Prejudice is a form of violence that can't be stopped simply by words. We have to take action like saying kind things, and not making fun of people for things they can't help. Just by doing that, we can begin to create peace in our lives."



THINK OF THE



FUTURE GENERATION STOP VIOLENCE

A ROSE IN THE SNOW

Sometimes I wish, at school or home
No crimes, no guns, no wars, no poor.

Just a beautiful sun in summer or

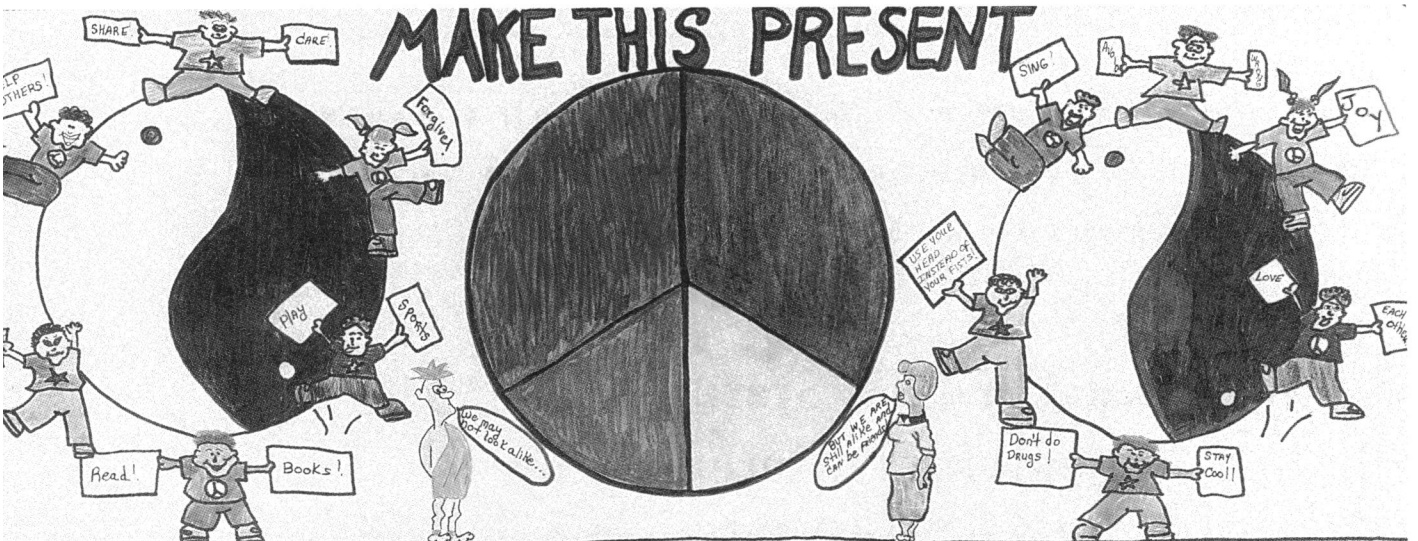
a rose in the snow that you

could sniff with your nose or

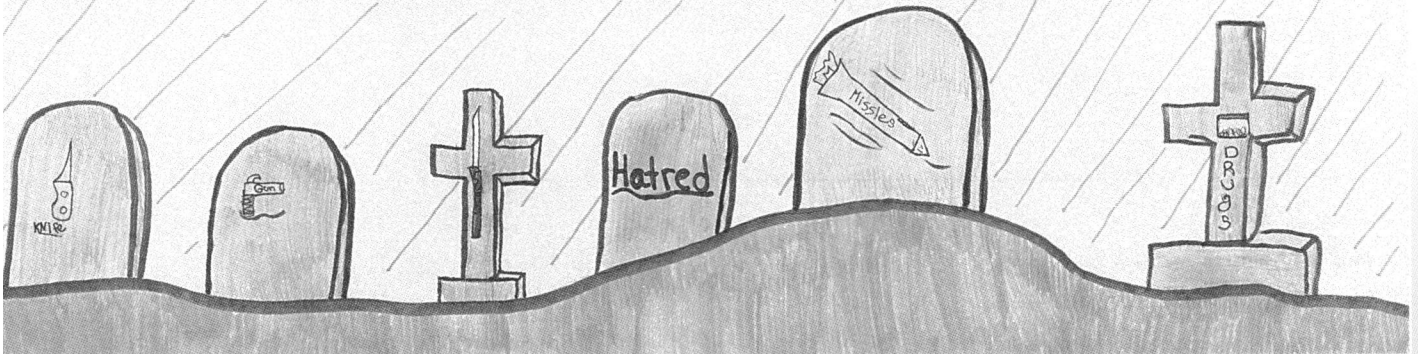
I wish that the world just

could be a peaceful place to be.





AND THIS PAST



BE A PEACEMAKER

