

## Impact Statement

Marisol Torres, Grade 8.

***Equality***, 2020.

Mixed media on paper, 12 x 9 Inches.

Washburn Rural Middle School, Topeka, KS

Unsung Hero: Jane Elliott

I found the story of Jane Elliott, a racism activist and an educator, on a website full of other awesome people. I was instantly inspired by her story and what she did. She changed the minds of children and taught them how people should not be treated based on something. I also loved how she was teaching this group of kids how things used to be done and how it wasn't seen as unfair but in reality was unfair and cruel.

I spent a total of two days on the Lowell Milken Center and other reliable resources just researching about what she did. She taught third graders what it was like to be separated on stupid things like skin color and race. She lived in a prominent white town, so she wanted to teach them what it was like for other people in the past, to put them in other people's shoes. To further explain her lesson, she separated the kids basically by their eye color. In the class there were only two main colors, blue and brown. She basically separated by like who would be in front or back of line, the front or back of the classroom, who got things first and other things like that. She did this for a couple of weeks. Once she was done, she asked the kids what it was like and how it made them feel. They reflected on how others may have felt when it was happening or did happen.

My artistic interpretation was going to be something along the lines of showing equality at most. At the bottom of the page, I have multiple people showing colors of black, white, and gray. At the top of the page, I have various skin colors dripping down painted with watercolor. I then have the background color a dark blue and light blue that looks like it's blending to include blue to represent the blue eyes. I was going for the realization that underneath everyone's skin color or looks or personality we're all the same, a human being, and we should all be treated equally the same, and I really hope people saw what I was going for.

What I took from this lesson is that we are all equal. Someone shouldn't be left out or treated differently because of their race or skin color. I think that I can share this with my community by showing them the art I've created and what I planned to achieve while creating it. It shows that everyone is the same underneath what they look like. Underneath how you act and how you look we're all the same and should be treated the same.