

Impact Statement

Alexander Oleynik, Grade 7.

We Shall Overcome, 2020.

Mixed media on paper, 17 x 23 Inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Sheyann Webb

Sheyann Webb is one of the most inspirational Hero's, she is the smallest freedom fighter as said by Martin Luther King Jr. At a young age she desperately wanted her parents to vote, that's all she wanted on her birthday she didn't ask for anything else. She also wanted segregation to end between all colors. At the age of only eight years old she even attended civil rights movement protest marches; she even skipped her school to just attend the civil rights movement meetings when she could just leave it up to the grownups to overcome segregation. After all you would probably think that she thought that just one more person attending the march wouldn't change much. But no, she didn't think like that, she wanted to fight for the rights of all colored people. At first when picking Sheyann to do my art piece on, I thought that she was just a little girl that simply attended civil rights marches. Her parents did not want her to attend because she was just a little girl, and it would be dangerous for her but no she still did. Sheyann didn't think about the things that could happen to her; she thought about the things that she could do to reach her goal. After doing research on her and getting to know her more I found that, there was way more to her than just attending the civil marches, the fact that she actually was willing to fight to end segregation even if it meant to put herself in a risk of danger. She even attended the march which occurred on Bloody Sunday, fourteen people died and others were injured but she managed to run away to safety. Even after experiencing that terrifying event, it didn't stop her, it actually encouraged her to fight harder and continue to march. Sheyann Webb was a very brave and hard-working girl. She inspired me and I'm sure tons of other people. Her life shows not only me but everyone that you are never too young to make a difference and to reach and change whatever you want. Her constantly attending and fighting in marches is what led to her reaching her goal. Her parents and thousands of colored people got to vote when the Voting Rights Act was signed by the president. And part of that is a thanks to Sheyann for continuously fighting for colored people's equality and rights.

My vision behind my interpretation inspires me because I'm not an adult yet so I would think that I can't change much in our world. But then looking at Sheyann and seeing that she was part of the change in segregation at just 8 years old, just shows me that age doesn't matter when you're trying to make a difference in our world. As long as you are willing to do your best and whatever it takes to make that change then you will succeed.

I shared my project with my community by sharing my art piece with my friends and family and telling them about Sheyann Webb. I also posted it on my Instagram account to share with my community of people. Link to Instagram post:
https://www.instagram.com/p/B_bevVtnjkO/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet