



Impact Statement

Kayla Jones, Grade 8

Selma's Smallest Fighter, 2026

Marker, acrylic, pen on paper, 17 x 15 inches

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Sheyann Webb

Sheyann Webb stands as a powerful symbol of courage, resilience, and youthful determination during one of the most turbulent times in American history. As a young girl deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she demonstrated a level of bravery that many adults struggled to find. Her commitment to justice, even in the face of fear and danger, reveals her strength of character and unwavering belief in equality. She was not just a participant in history but an active force within it, proving that age does not limit impact.

When creating this piece, my thought process centered on capturing both her strength and her humanity. I wanted to show not only the historical importance of her actions but also the emotions behind them—the fear, the determination, and the hope she carried. I focused on the idea that she was still a child while experiencing these intense moments, which made her courage even more meaningful. Through my work, I tried to reflect that balance between vulnerability and strength, making her feel real rather than just a figure in a textbook.

I chose Sheyann Webb because her story resonates deeply with me. She represents the idea that young people have voices that matter and can create change, even when the odds are against them. Her experiences remind me that standing up for what is right is not always easy, but it is always important. I also felt that her story deserved to be highlighted more, as many people may not fully understand the impact she had during the Civil Rights Movement.

In conclusion, Sheyann Webb is more than just a historical figure—she is an inspiration and a reminder of the power of courage at any age. This piece reflects my appreciation for her strength and my desire to honor her legacy. Through this work, I hope to show that her story still matters today and continues to inspire others to stand up, speak out, and make a difference.