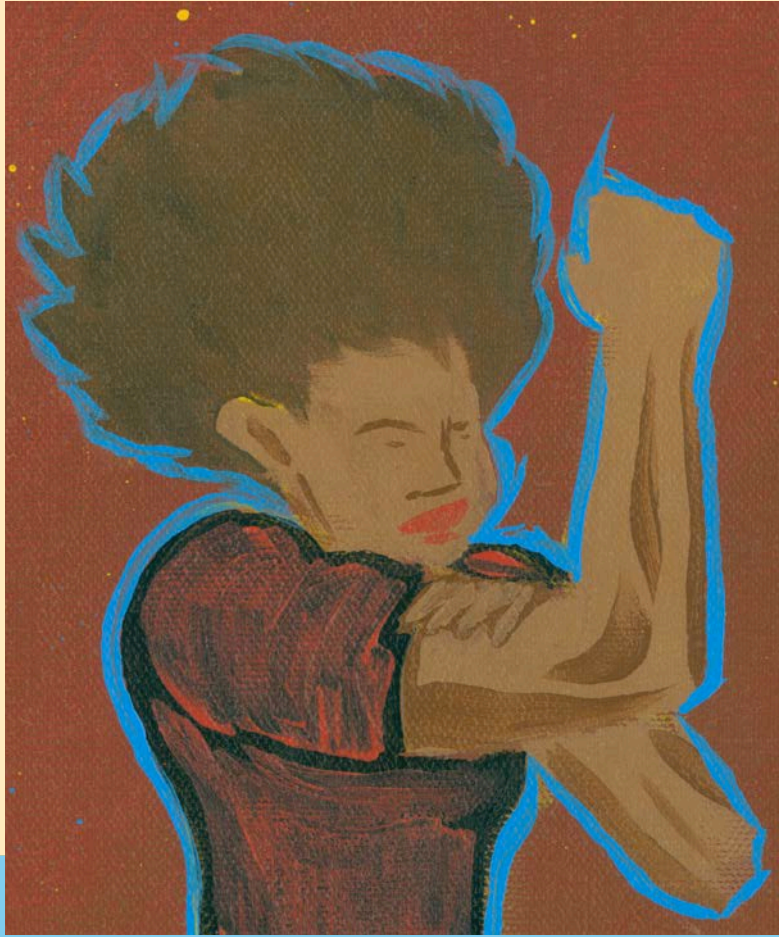


HONORING MEN OF COLOR



BY YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

Lucy Craft Laney Community School

JUST BE PROUD

(Honoring MASTER EDGAR YOUNG, JR.)

IT'S DIFFICULT TO GO FROM A BOY TO A MAN

(Honoring MR. DAVID BRANCH)

WE ARE A RICH PEOPLE

(Honoring REVEREND RICHARD COLEMAN)



YOUNG PUBLISHERS

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Words by YOUNG MEN from LUCY CRAFT LANEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 7th GRADE
with TOKI WRIGHT

Illustrated by YOUNG MEN from LUCY CRAFT LANEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 7th GRADE.
Painted by JEREMIAH BEY

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Words by YOUNG MEN from LUCY CRAFT LANEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 6th GRADE
with JULIA SEWELL

Illustrated by YOUNG MEN from LUCY CRAFT LANEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 6th GRADE.
Painted by JEREMIAH BEY

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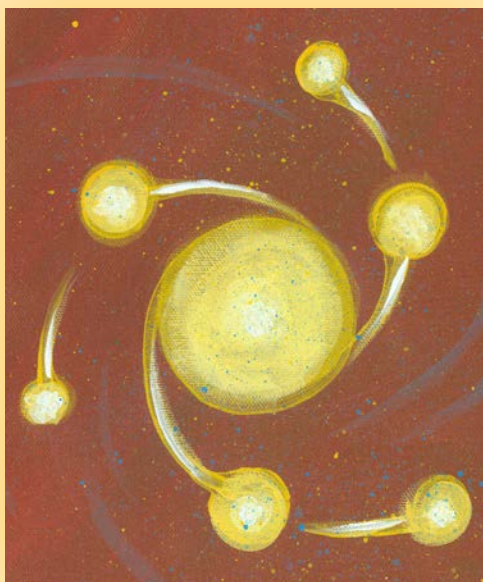


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“One thing we didn’t do in the south, we did not call each other the N-word. There’s nothing good about it. What are the attitudes? It’s respect & discipline. Just be proud. Go in. Hold your head up.”

- Master Edgar Young, Jr.



“I think that journey from boyhood to manhood is one that is difficult. There’s all sorts of pressures you face as you make that transition. Being the man, who I am, is a continuing process.”

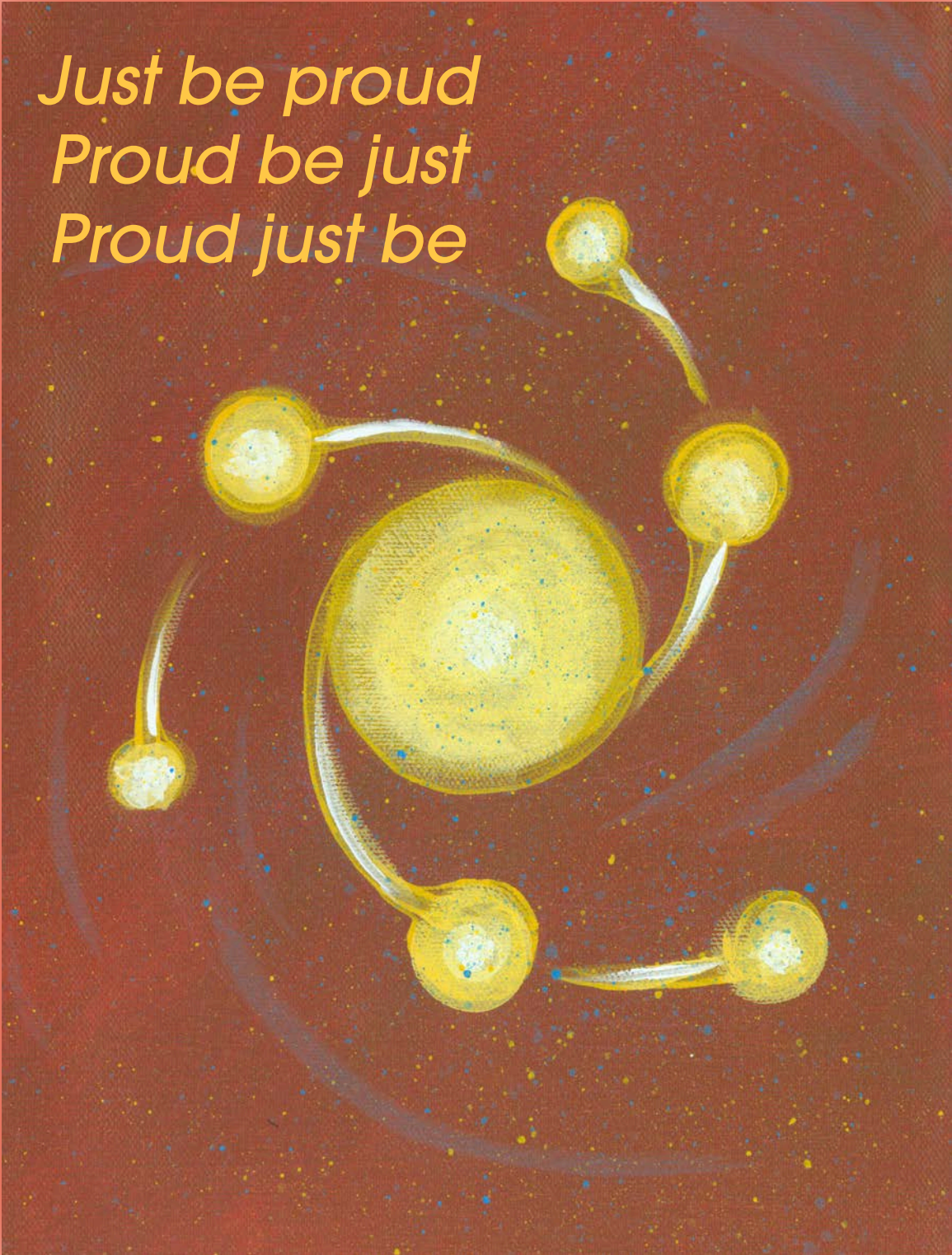
- Mr. David Branch



JUST BE PROUD

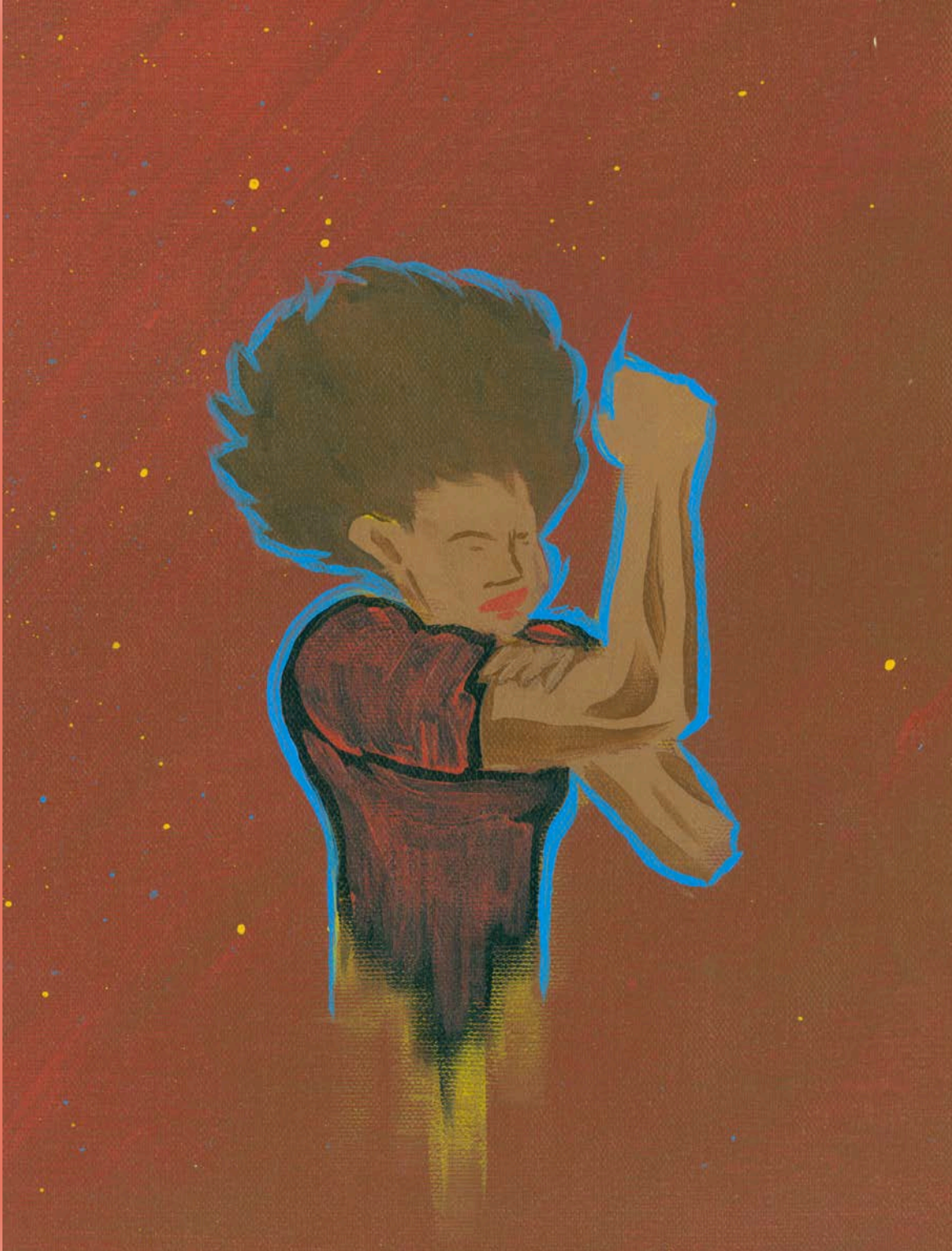
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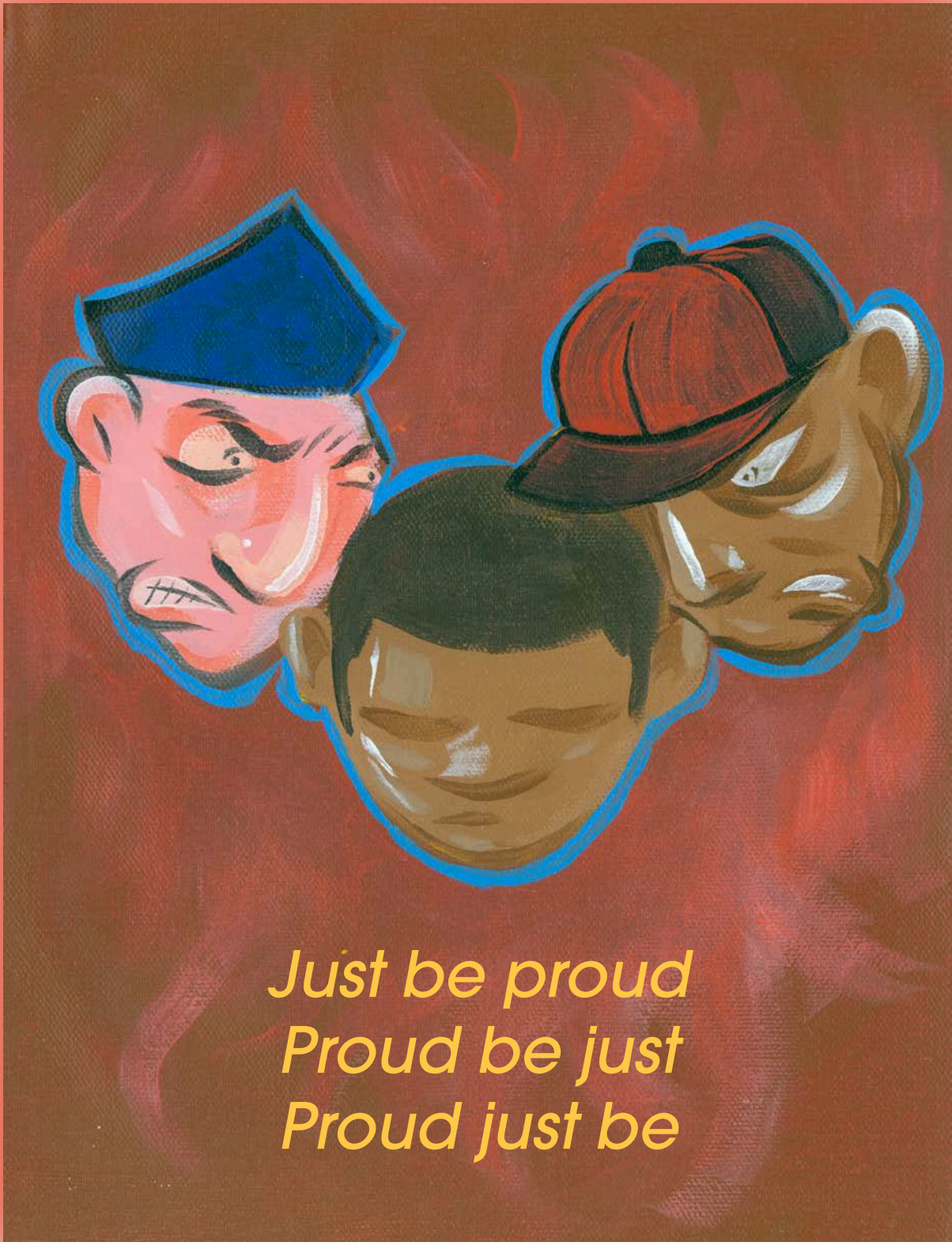
*Just be proud
Proud be just
Proud just be*



Fam' won't forget, if you're kind
If you make good choices, you will shine

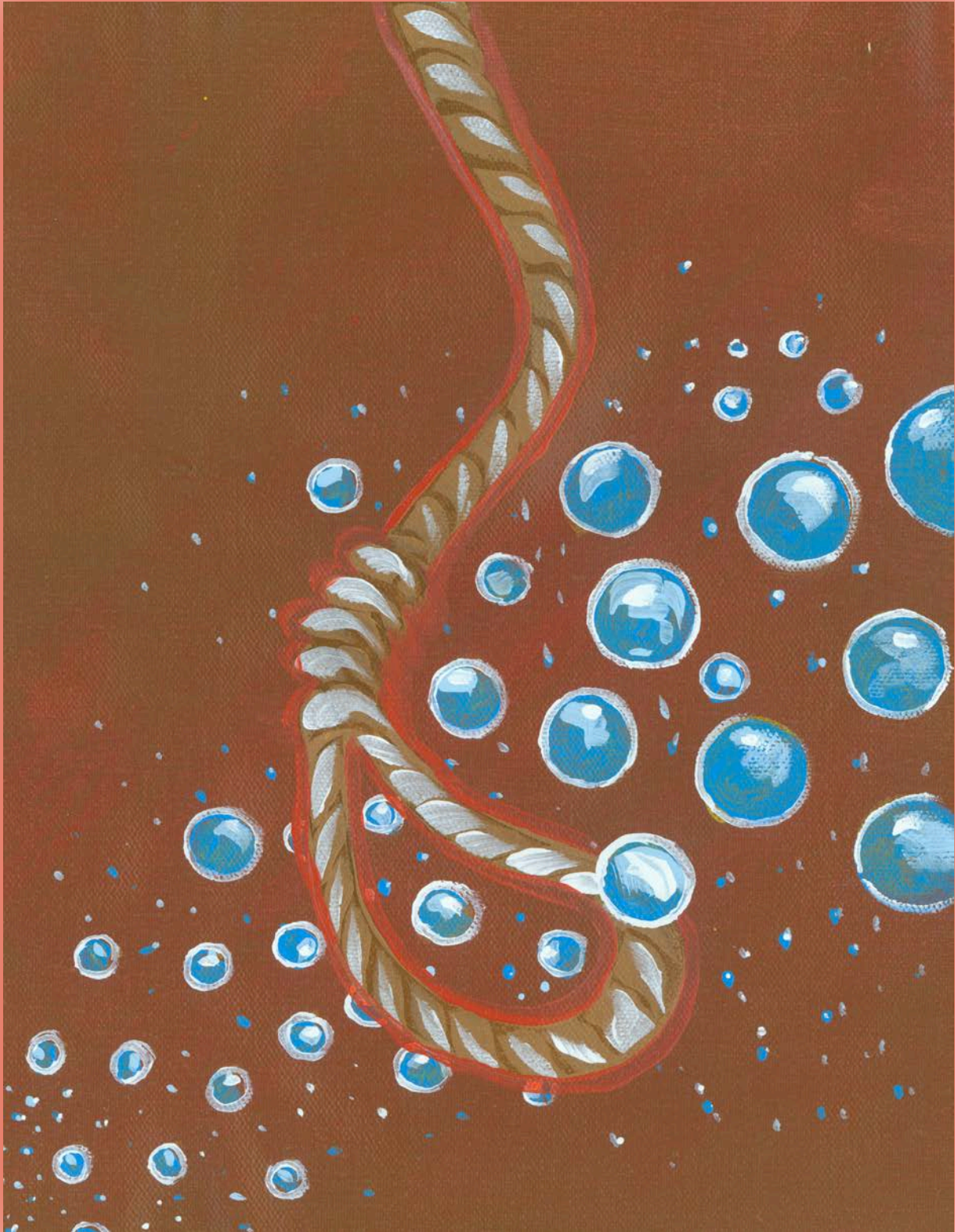
Even though my sister was smaller
She was tough. She was stronger
If you're brave your spirit will last longer





White folks use the 'N' word to put us down
Hold your head up and life will turn around
Don't disrespect yourself and use the 'N' word around town
And when we come together, man we always shut it down

Down in the South you might get hung
Get thrown in the bayou with water in your lung
Down South there's racism there
But there's racism here, everywhere!

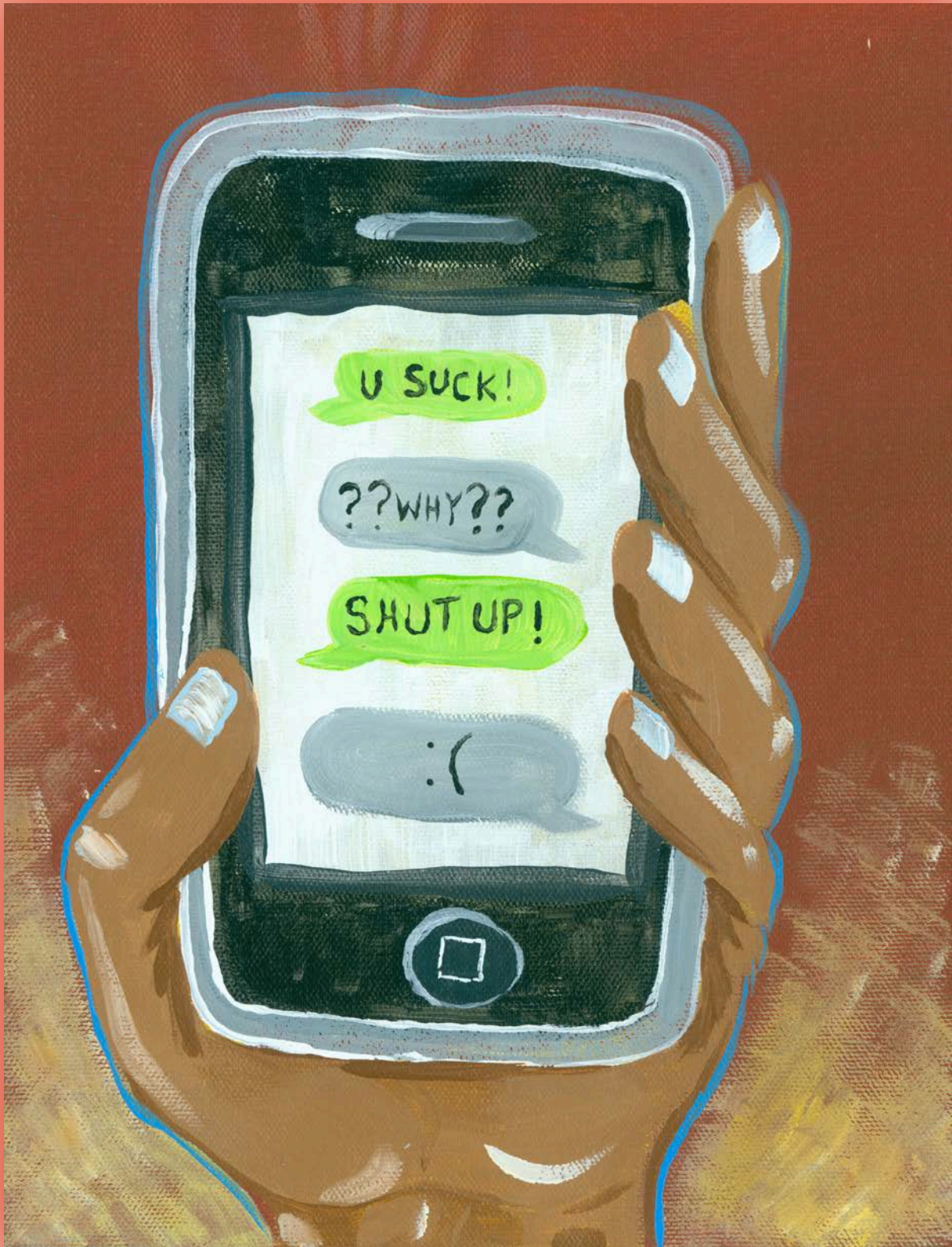


*Just be proud
Proud be just
Proud just be*



Walking through the 'hood they still call us names
Have to ride the bus to avoid the gangs
Black on black, when are we gonna see?
If we don't unite, we won't be free!

Biggest challenge is to not feel bad
When the words of others make you mad
Dig down deep in body, heart, and mind
What we learn today will last for all time



*Just be proud
Proud be just
Proud just be*



To get respect, you must give it back
Show freedom for others. That's where it's at
Respect and honor, this I say
Be disciplined in every way



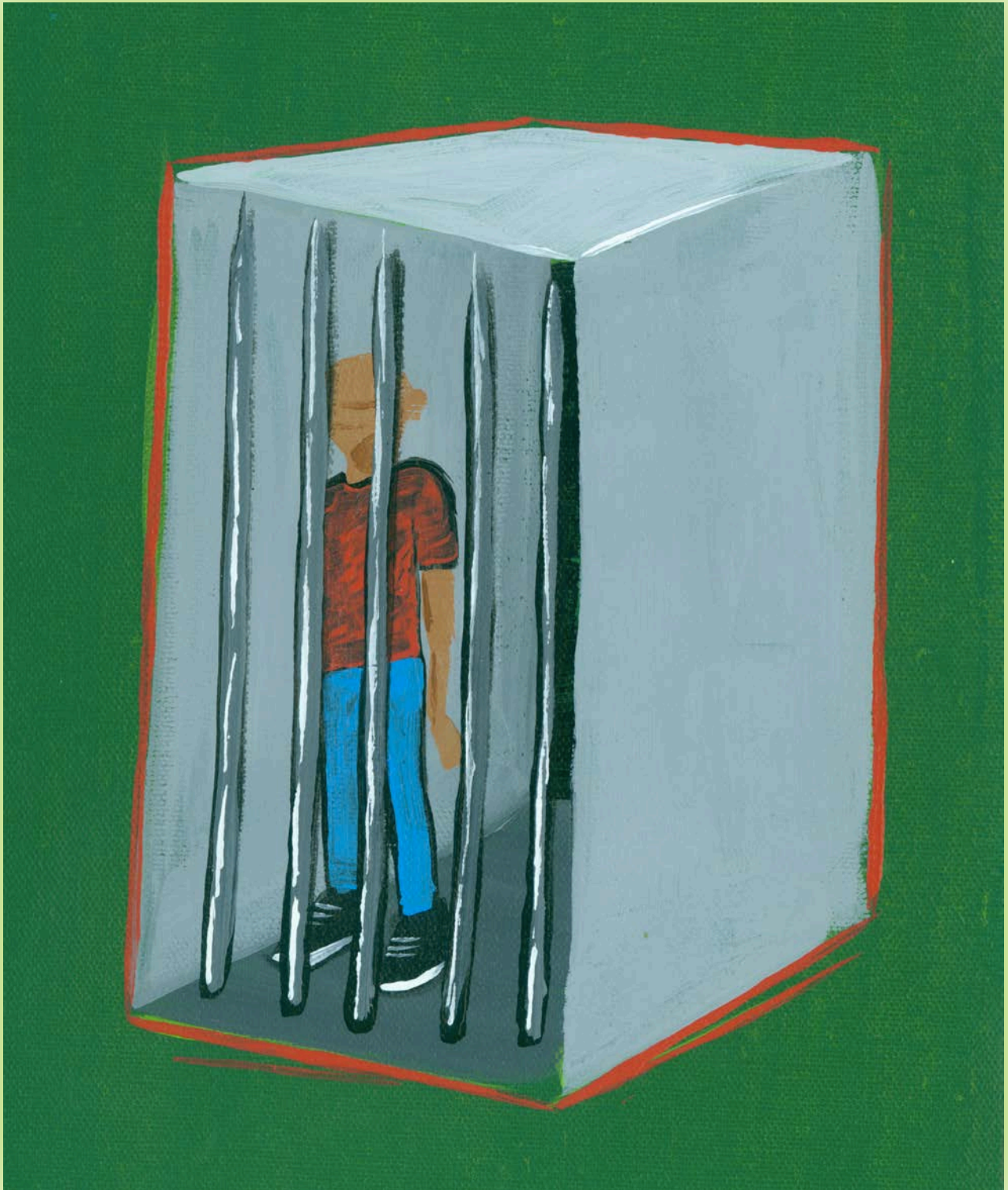
IT'S DIFFICULT TO GO FROM A BOY TO A MAN
Honoring MR. DAVID BRANCH



You have a lot of barriers in life
But you live through it everyday & night
All these monsters making life tight
So you have to pick up a sword and smite

There's more than one way to get through it
Because life is like Nike – just do it!
You could make a lot of money – you can lose it
But when it comes to life - don't abuse it





I'm a Black male, so in life I can't fail
Keep our people positive, not thinking about the jail
Some might treat you wrong when they meet you
They don't see that all people are equal

All they see is negative images
And they are looking at life as limited
From Ferguson to Baltimore, nothing but bad weather
Time to organize to make our life better





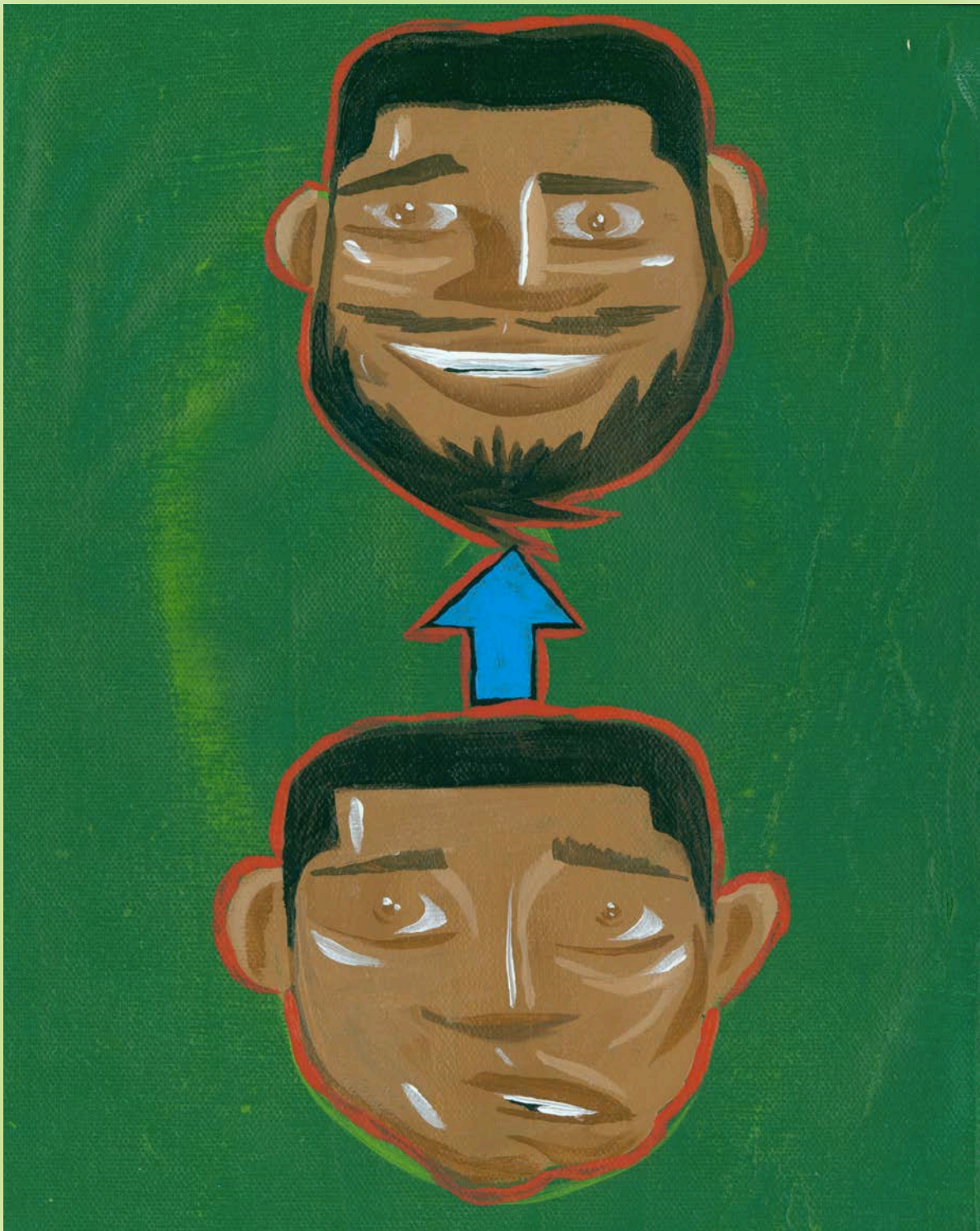
To learn all we can is a must
Working hard to earn more than just a buck
When it comes to hate, we've had enough!
To be persistent, don't ever give up

Some people judge without even knowing you
When they don't even know what you're going through
Lift your brother up, not down like all the rest
Lead your people on a journey down the road to success





You can't do half of the task
Help each other find the right path
There are challenges we all have to face
To be identified by more than your race



It's difficult to go from a boy to a man
But there's a lot of challenges you have to understand
The world is a jar that you hold in your hand
So don't be a follower and make your own plan



“Today, we have a ministry right here in north Minneapolis. We believe in prayer; we believe in hard work; we believe in our history and our background; we believe we are rich people. Although we might not have money, we have a lot to give.”

- Reverend Richard Coleman





WE ARE RICH PEOPLE

Honoring REVEREND RICHARD COLEMAN



Born into rough times amongst the dirt roads of Mississippi
Granddaddy held a strict household for the family and me
We didn't have much money, I knew things were tight
We were living off animals, eggs, home-made clothes...
this was our life

Granddaddy taught us that richness was more than skin deep
Made sure that we knew what it took to succeed
I moved up north learned how to write and how to read
Which opened the doors to a lifetime of possibilities





I played baseball and became very successful in the minor leagues
But God reached into my heart with a higher calling for me
Met my beautiful wife in college and together we
Have shared in this calling throughout this life journey

Together we've traveled beyond the Mason Dixon line
All the way to Mother Africa, to learn and to find
About who we are, then brought it back home
When you know where you've come, you know where to go





Now, as a minister, I strive to be all that I can
To be there for others. To be a good complete man
From humble beginnings to where I stand today
To each of you young scholars these words to you I say

We are rich people with a lot to give
The stories of my life create the journeys that I've lived
Didn't have no money, but we had a lot to give
Traveled 'round the world as a Mississippi kid



FEATURED YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

LUCY CRAFT LANEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

JUST BE PROUD

(HONORING MASTER EDGAR YOUNG, JR.)

6TH GRADE

DAYAAN BROWN
MICHAEL CAIN JR
*JOSHUA CAPLES
BRANDON CATES
DAVEON DAVIS
EDDIE DUNCAN
DELVIN EDWARDS
COUNCIL GLENN
ARRYON HARVEY
*ALON HAYES
ANTON HERRON
HASSAAN HOLLOMAN
TYRESE JOHNSON
LAVAR JONES JR
JAE LIN KELLUM
SHERROD MCMORRIS JR,
JESSE MICHAELS
*LAVONCE MOORE
DASHAWN NEWTON
*JULIAN NYENE
OSCAR RAMOS -MORALES
*JAVARVIS ROBINSON
DEVION STAFFORD
*AKWAME STEWART
CHRISTIAN UPSON
ARMARTE WHITE



IT'S DIFFICULT TO GO FROM A BOY TO A MAN

(HONORING MR. DAVID BRANCH)

7TH GRADE

TERRY AKINS
DARREN BARDNEY
DONTRELL BRADLEY
*JERMAINE CORNELL
LEE ANTHONY CRAIG
EMMANUEL DAVIS
JORDAN DUNKLEY
*TERRELL GAMBLIN
JAVONNI GRIMES
PIERRE HAMPTON
XAYVION HEARD
*JAN HERNANDEZ-SOTO
DEWON LENOW
*DEVANTAE MOORE
JAHKEL LEON O'NEAL
DARRYL ROLLINS
*MARQUELL ROSS
*TREVION SCOTT
JUDAS SINGLETON
DEMARCUS STAFFORD
ANTHONY STEWART
JZY-CAEYDONN TANNER
*KYRON THOMAS-WILBORN
XAVIUS YOUNG TRAN
JOEL VENCES-GARCIA

WE ARE RICH PEOPLE

(HONORING REVEREND RICHARD COLEMAN)

8TH GRADE

*JEREMIAH ANDERSON
ISAIAH BALLARD
*LATRELL BIBLE
KAVARI CAMPBELL
DAKOTA DALE
DEONTE DEXTRA
LOU'SHAUN FELTON
FIASAL HAMER
*DONTAE HOLLAND
KESHAWN HUDSON
*JERRY JILES
*JAIKEL KEYS-CASTILLEJA
*ERIC LOVE
*DAVANTE MCKAY
VACHON OGOTI
TAJION RANDOLPH
DAVION ROBINSON
ANTONIO RULE
DEVONE STINSON
EZEKIEL TERRY
DAVEION WADE
BRANDON WALL
TYRESE WILLIAMS
MOUAKONG XIONG
JUSTIN YOUNG

*FEATURED ARTISTS ON HONORING MEN OF COLOR CD

Master Edgar Young Jr.

My name is Edgar Young, Jr. I was born January 9, 1956 in Mississippi on the plantation. My parents were sharecroppers. Sharecropping is another way of keeping people in bondage. In Tallahatchie County there was a school for white kids and there was a school for black kids. When I was in about third grade—rather than forcing integration at that time—a parent had a choice to send their kids to the white school or the black school.

In 1970 there was forced integration. I was 14 then. The Federal government said, “You won’t integrate, we’ll integrate for you.” There were three black teachers in the school. They had it set up where they only taught black kids that first year. I ended up in one of the black-sections so my only classes of integration were gym class and shop class.

So my siblings asked my dad if we could come to Minnesota. I came in August. It was still hot and muggy just like in Mississippi. I ended up living with my sister who was actually only five years older than me. I tell ya, I don’t know how she put up with me until I was 18.

As soon as school started, my sister enrolled me. So my cousins they said, “Oh, man, you gonna go to that white school?” I said, “Yeah.” I’ll never forget this, but the first person that saw me— his name was Stanley, he said, “Can I help you?” He had the nerve to walk over to me and introduce himself and show me around. People never forget if you’re kind to them like that. I never forgot him.

People would say to me, “So you’re from Mississippi, huh? Oh, I heard they’re really racist down there!” But you know, the same thing was happening here. Segregation is everywhere. In high school I did really well. My counselor didn’t help me very much at all, though. He said, “Your grades are good enough to get into most any college around here.” Instead, this counselor steered me toward vocational school.

I started working for this company. I worked my way up to inventory analyst and production controller. I decided to go and complete my business degree. After that I completed my degree in counseling. From there I went on to get my Masters in Social Work. I came to the Minneapolis Public Schools as a social worker in 1998.

Words of Wisdom: Learn to draw from other people, not just your parents or your family. Think about your future. Have respect and discipline, respect for yourself and others, respect for the rights of others and freedom of others. When I think of discipline, I think more of self-discipline. Making yourself do something. Working hard. One thing we didn’t do in the south, we did not call each other the N-word. There’s nothing good about it. Just be proud. Go in. Hold your head up.

MR. DAVID BRANCH

My name is David Branch. I was born February 6th, 1966 in Chicago, Illinois. I am the youngest of six children.

I was in about 3rd grade and that was the first time I noticed. I was one of maybe four or five black students in my classroom. In our whole school, there maybe was only about thirty of us.

That becomes profound when you're that young, to look around and just start noticing those differences. And you can also start to notice that some teachers may call on you differently. If you are having a conversation or talking when you're not supposed to be talking, you may notice that you're called on more frequently to be quiet than maybe a white student doing something similar.

As I look on that experience as a black man, we do tend to—many of us—hold ourselves to a higher standard. We can make sure we are not projecting any negative images or negative stereotypes that people have of black men. So we hold ourselves to this level, to this standard, that is actually an unhealthy level and unhealthy standard.

I had a teacher; a white female teacher and she accused me of being high. I was always moody as a kid. I also had allergies at the time. My eyes were bloodshot, they were red and I was moody. So instead of trying to establish, make that connection with me, she prescribed some stereotypes she had of young, black men, which was that we liked the weed. It's like, No, no, no. You don't know me. So I walked out of that class. I went home angry.

Again, Black men are raised to think you have to be better and that's the only way you can be successful in this society. When I say "society," I mean white society. I still feel that every day.

Being the man who I am is a continuing process. I think that journey from boyhood to manhood is one that is difficult. What it means to me to be a man is to be able to take care of my family at a level that everybody can be successful.

I'm a proud, proud grandparent. I would say having a healthy family, raising my children, and giving them the opportunity to be successful is my greatest accomplishment. Second to that is graduating from college, getting my Masters degree, and my Administrative and Superintendent license.

Words of Wisdom: You are going to have all sorts of barriers that are put up. Some that are real, some that are in your mind. But you can never ever, absolutely, never ever give up. There's going to be distractions. You may fail a class or two. Go back. Prove to yourself and people that you can do that work. Get that high school diploma. Get your college diploma. Be persistent. Never give up.

REVEREND RICHARD COLEMAN

My name is Richard Howard Coleman. I was born in Mississippi on January 5th, 1953. I am an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), which is the oldest black denomination in the Christian church.

The AME Church sprang from the St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1787. On a given Sunday, the people of color prayed a little too long and outside the comfort zone of the church administration. The ushers asked them to go back to the gallery to sit. They decided, "Well, we won't go back to the balcony. We will go and worship on our own." They borrowed a blacksmith shop. They used the anvil as a pulpit. So the symbol of the AME church is the anvil.

When I was three years old, I remember being in the cotton field with my mother. When she worked longer than I could work, she put me on her back as she also carried a large bag that she had to stuff cotton in. My grandfather was a sharecropper. He believed, "If you're old enough to walk, you're old enough to work."

When I was six-years-old my mother brought me by train to Chicago. I'd never gone to school before. I had a real serious speech impediment. But we had a really good teacher. She was Asian. I remember her working with me, helping me. I began to learn how to speak more clearly and read. If you can read, you can learn anything. And I started learning.

I went onto college and met a young lady who changed my life. She became my wife. I got re-involved in my church. The preacher was preaching and I responded. I turned my life over to God. We've been married 43 years. One of the things I'm most proud of is that I've been faithful to my wife all these years. Praise God we have three daughters and ten grandkids.

In 1989, we were transferred to the Twin Cities to pastor. In 1996 I took my first trip to Africa. I met a young lady who was nine years old—who's raised a family of five kids. Her parents were killed in the Rwanda genocide. There were almost a million people killed in about a ninety-day period of time. We take so much for granted, but look at the faith this young lady has to take care of her siblings. Could you imagine being a nine-year-old having to feed, protect, house, take care of your younger siblings? I'm now able to take people from here to Africa and expose them to people who really believe and who really live by their faith.

Today, we have a ministry right here in north Minneapolis. We believe in prayer; we believe in hard work; we believe in our history and our background; we believe we are rich people. Although we might not have money, we have a lot to give.

Words of Wisdom: Always associate with people who work harder than you do, who are more disciplined than you are, who have clearer goals than you have and who are more caring than you are. Find people in your life who can lift you up. Be humble and realize that they have something you don't have and you can learn from them. If each and every one of you finds people like that in your life, you'll find yourself succeeding and you'll find that other people will want to associate with you for the very same reason.

ABOUT 'HONORING MEN OF COLOR' ARTISTS:

ADDAM:



ADDAM is a Creative Safarist who lives at the intersection of technology, music, media, and fashion. Passionate about youth, service, and the arts, he has consulted & curated on behalf of The National Youth Leadership Council, Will I AM, Neff Headwear, Target Corp and Youthprise. ADDAM is currently Partner and Creative Director at PLOT, a multi-purpose gallery space located in Minneapolis.

Website: www.plotting.co

Larry Long:

Larry Long has made his life work the celebration of everyday heroes. Author, historian, actor, and broadcaster Studs Terkel called Larry "a true American Troubadour." Now a Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, Long has sung at major concerts and festivals throughout the United States and world, including Awesome Africa Festival (South Africa), Winnipeg Folk Festival (Canada), Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden and for Mrs. Rosa Parks at the 45th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Long's work in schools and communities sparked the creation of a non-profit organization, Community Celebration of Place.

Website: www.larrylong.org

Toki Wright:

Toki Wright has gained notoriety internationally with multiple MTV videos, top 100 charting on iTunes, over 1 million YouTube views, acting in feature film, an Arts Ambassadorship in Africa, and more. His previous projects have been released collaboratively between Hip-Hop label Rhymesayers Entertainment and his own Soul Tools Entertainment imprint.

Website: www.soultools.com

Jeremiah Bey:



Jeremiah Bey works as an artist and storyteller. He was raised in North Minneapolis and is the second oldest of four. He's a Juxtaposition Arts alum, and a lifelong comic book reader. You can see his mural work in various neighborhoods around Minneapolis, including Central, Cedar-Riverside, and the Northside.

Facebook: facebook.com/jeremiahbeyellison



Julia Sewell:

Julia Sewell is an international motivational speaker and youth development expert. Sewell began her work at 12 years old and since then has traveled the globe delivering empowering messages of inspiration through her written and spoken words. In 2013, Sewell created her own youth development curriculum entitled: SWAG (Scholars Working to Ascend a Generation). SWAG uses the engaging arts of spoken word, hip-hop, acting and leadership arts to teach empowerment and 21st century skills to scholars.

Website: www.sewellspeaks.com
and www.swagspeaks.com



Joe Davis:

Joe Davis has an English B.A. and over five years of tutoring student writers. Joe Davis bridges academia with personal experience as a touring performer, sharing his successes and "marvelous misadventures" to encourage audiences to move closer to their goals. Whether it be simply writing a haiku or climbing Mount Everest, he aims to ignite and inspire a pursuit of purpose.

Website: www.joedavispoetry.com

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