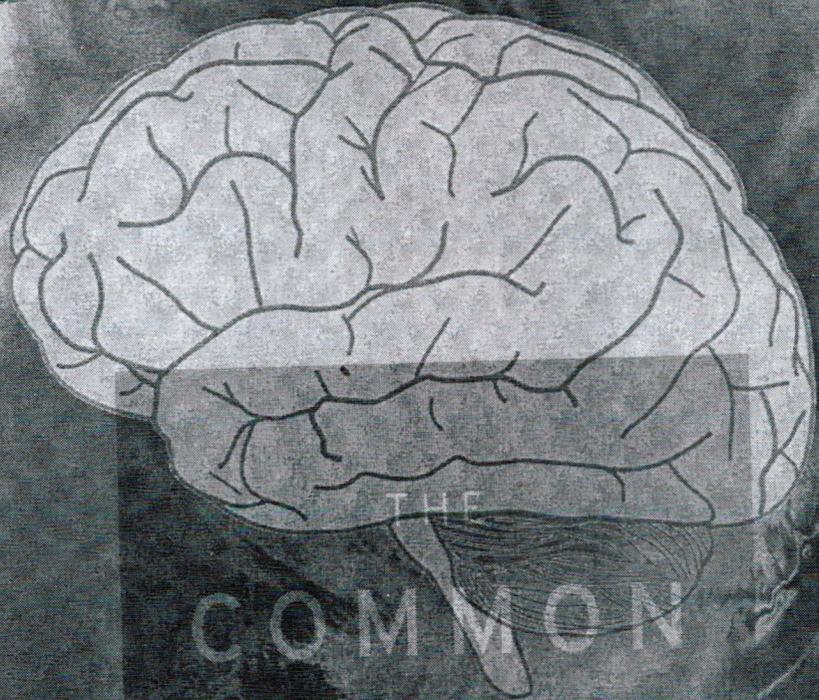


The Brain Named Itself



THE
COMMON

IN THE CLASSROOM

Take a moment and really think about the title, "The Brain Named Itself." A person came up with the name for a chair and book and the brain. The brain in the person came up with its own name. Is it hard to fully grasp the concept of the title? Maybe. Is it confusing? A little bit, but so are the lives of many young adults. The mission statement for my nonprofit literary magazine is exposing adults to the raw life of a young adult and the adventures they go through.

I will call my literary magazine "The Brain Named Itself." The cover will be a swirling mixture of all the colors, with a pink brain in the center. For my literary magazine, my team will consist of two main people. My good friend Kristen, who is studying journalism, will give suggestions to new authors trying to publish their work. My aunt, a notorious storyteller, will pick the good stories from the submissions we receive. My advisory board will also consist of two main people. My cousin Rachel, who is studying to be a business major, she always gives off a positive vibe. My best friend Amanda has a bubbly personality and gives off a positive energy. She will keep everyone on track but in an easy-going way. I am eager to see my team grow as my literary magazine progresses.

I will explore inner workings of the young adult mind. My magazine's purpose is to expose how different circumstances have different effects on young adults and how their childhood experiences make them who they will become. Young adults go through both hardships and happy times. I will examine how they work through their experiences in a variety of ways. I hope that when people read my literary magazine they will have a

deeper meaning of what goes on in a young adult's life, including the adventures they encounter or the events they imagine.

I want my new literary magazine to touch the lives of both young adults and adults. I want young adults to feel a connection and to feel as though my magazine understands them. I hope that my magazine shines light on the lives of young adults who are troubled and helps adults understand what young adults are experiencing. I want people to sit down, read, take a break from their nonstop life and indulge in my literary magazine. My magazine will have fiction, nonfiction, with genres ranging from adventure to romance, and even a little mystery too.

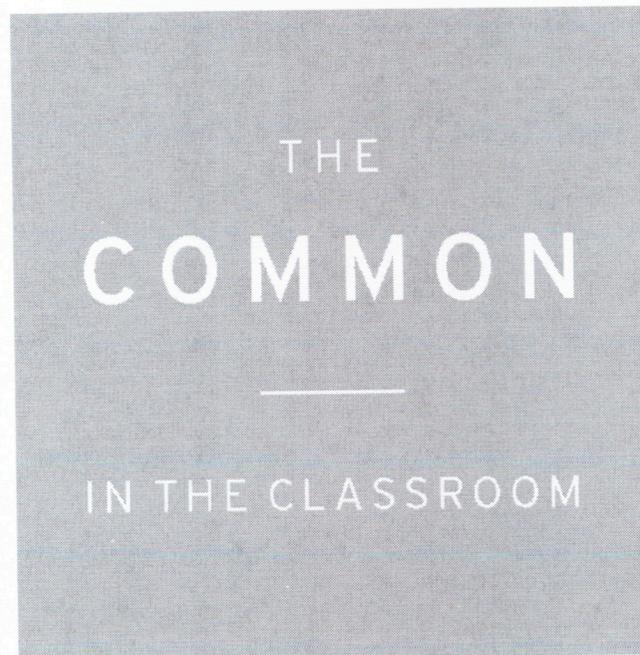
In my literary magazine I will have a few special categories. One category title will be displayed as mind matter. This will have works of literature that will discuss young adults over coming a difficult time in their life; specifically, a time in their life where they struggle to over come harsh words said by others. Another category will be "Some See a Weed..." The rest of this quote, "...Others see a wish", will be on the last page of this section. This category will have works of literature that talk about staying positive through difficult times. The last special category will be "Peter Pan's Mom". This category will have works of literature that will help adults to understand younger adults.

There are so many talented writers who have captured how the young adult's mind works. A few of these authors include S.E. Hinton, Jeanette Walls, and Junot Díaz. S.E. Hinton, who wrote *The Outsiders*, captured the lives and inner workings of the minds of many boys and men ranging from fourteen years old to twenty years old. Johnny is one of the characters in *The Outsiders*. As readers we see how Johnny's childhood has impacted his teenage life. His childhood was one filled with beatings and

that has made him a shy man. However, it all changes one night when he kills a man in cold blood. As the story progress readers are taken on Johnny's adventure running from the police. Jeannette Walls wrote *The Glass Castle* and lived the life of a troubled child who grew out of her hardships and turned her life around. She has described the transformation she went through, the people that betrayed her, and how it made her a stronger person. When Jeanette was a child she was molested more than once, but she did not let that stop her from growing to be a strong independent woman. Lastly, Junot Díaz wrote "Ysrael" and captured how each character felt and the impact that their childhood had on them. The two main characters grew up without a father fully present and that impacted their lives in a negative way. However, Ysrael grew up with a father that wasn't present but never neglected his responsibility as a father and that had a positive impact on his life.

I would be honored to have some of these author's works in my literary magazine. I would also like to give opportunities for new authors to get their work out in the world. I would do this by having functions at coffee houses where young adults can bring their work, share amongst others, and relax with a cup of coffee. The Cup is a coffee house in Wantagh that has entertainment on different nights throughout the week. There is a great vibe the coffeehouse gives off. I have been there a few times and have seen the entertainment. My plan would be to talk to the manager of The Cup and tell him about my literary magazine. I would read a few pieces from my literary magazine and allow others to read a few of their writings. I would be there along with my team to look over the works of some of the young adults. If their writing is well done, it will be

published in the next issue. This will provide publicity for my literary magazine as well as give a chance to new authors. Also, it will invite potential customers into The Cup.



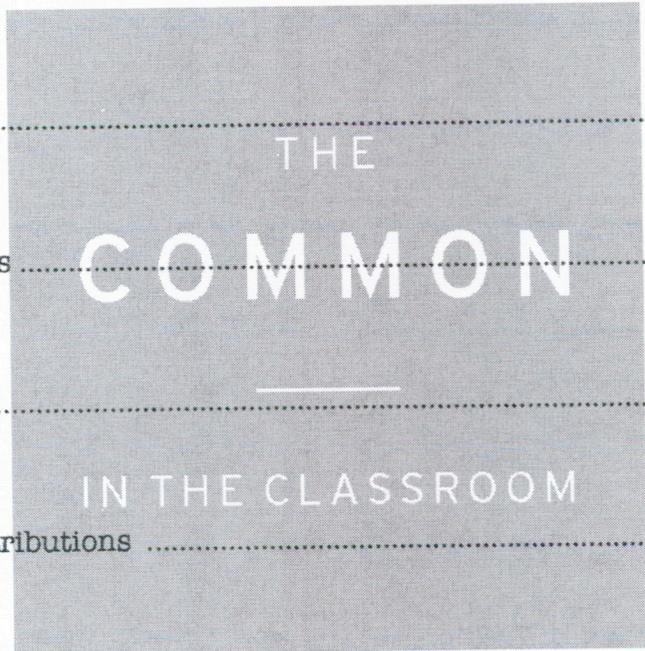
The Journey



by Melissa Emilcar

Road Map

A Window Into My World (editor's note)	pg. 1
Fiction	pg. 20
Essays	pg. 50
Poetry	pg. 100
Short Stories	pg. 120
Interviews	pg. 140
Reader Contributions	pg. 170
Money Matters	pg. 180
Voices Along The Journey	pg. 190
Acknowledgements	pg. 200



Melissa Emilcar

November 29th, 2015

Prof. Cooley

Final Proposal

Do you remember how you felt on your 18th birthday? Were you excited to finally be an "adult"? Were you nervous for what lies ahead in adulthood? If so, then you can relate to my literary magazine, *The Journey*. While beginning college may seem like a great opportunity to have a fresh start, it also comes with several obstacles that many teenagers and young adults have never encountered before. Many people are struggling to find themselves, become independent, and find a niche where they feel accepted. The mission of *The Journey* is to help people to transition from the comfort of childhood to the unknown world of adulthood. The cover art for my literary magazine – an open road – represents the endless possibilities that everyone's future holds. I want my magazine to focus on the different obstacles that college students face along their journey, such as adapting to a new life, being socially accepted, and learning how to become self-sufficient. *The Journey* will also explore how to overcome those obstacles, providing the reader with hope and inspiration. I want my readers to feel that someone understands what they are going through and that they can relate with the works of literature in my magazine.

Since I would like my literary magazine to appeal to young adults, I will hire young college students who are looking for part-time employment and have a passion for writing. I think that they will be able to select pieces of writing that my audience can relate to. Working for *The Journey* will provide them with work experience for their resumes and some income, which is helpful for college students. In regard to the type

of writing, I would want to include works of poetry, fiction, short stories, essays, and interviews based on a student's college experience. I am only interested in publishing literature in English because certain phrases, jokes, or terms may not be translated well enough to give their full effect to the reader. Moreover, I am including a section called "Voices Along The Journey", in which students provide tips on how to transition and get acclimated to new situations. I am also interested in hearing comments and feedback from my readers. As a result, I created a section called "Reader Contributions," in which they can send in letters on how my magazine has benefitted them, how they are feeling about their college experience, and what I can do to improve my magazine.

Likewise, I would also want my readers to hear from me. Each month, I will write an editor's note called "A Window Into My World", in which I will discuss my future endeavors, share my insights, and respond to a few letters from my readers.

I would like to include uplifting and inspiring poems that motivate people despite the hardships they may encounter. For example, "A Time To Believe" by B.J. Morbitzer would encourage readers to persevere and realize that they are capable of overcoming their obstacles. Here is an excerpt from the poem:

To believe is to find the strength
and courage that lies within us
When it's time to pick up
the pieces and begin again.

In addition to B.J. Morbitzer's poetry, I would also want to include some work by James McBride. Although he was troubled as a teenager, he was able to persevere through his struggles and become a successful author, musician, and motivational speaker. Moreover, I would like to include some short stories by Mary Morris, similar to "The

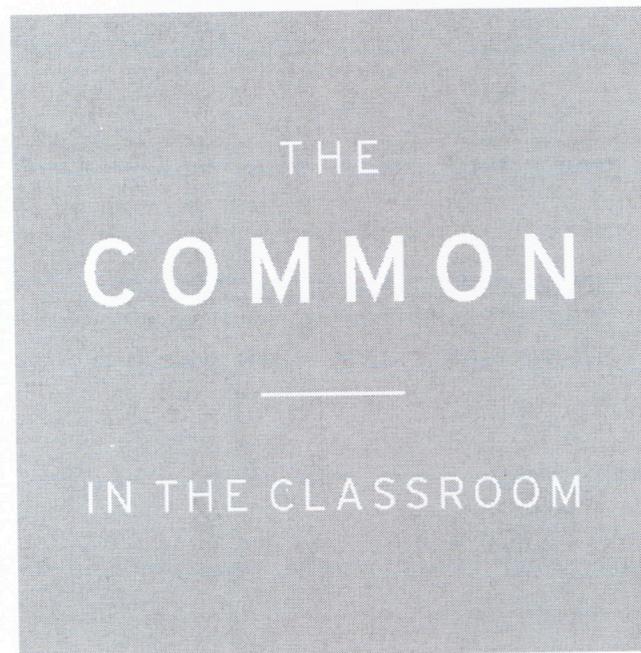
Lifeguard,” which is about coming of age. Since the target audience is young adults and college students, they should be able to enjoy and relate to her stories.

Since the majority of college students are inexperienced with managing their finances and creating a budget, I will create a section in *The Journey* titled “Money Matters”, which focuses on maintaining financial stability and avoiding debt. For this section, students and other young adults can submit their own works of writing, in which they share their tips on saving money, spending wisely, and setting financial goals. I think that the readers will value the advice of their peers and try to become more conscious of their spending habits.

To promote *The Journey*, I plan to create a social media page for the magazine on Facebook and Twitter, which are very popular sites for young adults. Facebook alone has more than 1 billion users. Nowadays, with all of the teenagers and young adults glued to their cell phones, advertising my magazine via social media will be a great way to get the attention of my target audience. In addition, I will have my close family members and friends serve on the Advisory Board for my magazine. We will have monthly meetings in which I receive their feedback on how to improve *The Journey*. They will also be in charge of managing the social media accounts for my magazine.

I would like to profit from my magazine. Along with donations from my readers, I plan on raising money for *The Journey* through subscriptions and various fundraising events. I will have monthly raffles in which the winner will receive a free t-shirt that has the cover art for *The Journey*. There will be other t-shirts that will be for sale. I will also

organize a bake sale, car wash, and talent show. Lastly, I can appeal to the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazine for grants in order to fund *The Journey*.



Jennifer Pineiro
Cooley

Lit. Mag. Proposal
FYS

Nowhere to Go But Inside Proposal

The overall mission of the magazine is to challenge the contributors to create something that will stick in people's minds with simple, everyday items, but also make the reader second guess the things he or she thinks is normal. My literary magazine would be about the unusual and creepy, and I would call it *Nowhere to Go But Inside*. I want the readers to feel frightened for a while after they read it, I want the emotions and the stories to stick. I have always liked scary stories; I think deep down, everyone does. It piques your interest and shows you just how much you can handle before you have to stop. I want this to be my focus because it would be nice to have a place where people who enjoy these things can appreciate art from the past and present. I would have a different theme for each issue, taking the things that aren't typically associated with creepy like cups, for example, and ask the contributors to think outside of the box to scare the reader and change his or her way of looking at that object. How can a cup be scary? I don't know, that's up to the job of the writers and artists I have enlisted to decide. I would also want the contributors to incorporate the stereotypically scary things like witches or even the broad feeling of being watched. Of course, a cup is just an example, but I believe that many people from my high school would be able to pull off the kind of suspense and fear I am looking for. I was very close with the arts department and the English department so I could talk my past teachers into making an assignment of it, which would encourage the new generation of writers and artists. I would like the editor of either *The Common* or *A Public Space* and the teachers for these departments would be a part of my advisory board and could possibly recommend former students to be a part of my staff. I would also ask some of the artists and writers from my graduating class as well to participate. The more popular artists I would venture to ask would be those who do not typically work with suspense or horror. I would ask Eugenie Seifer Olson, author of *The Pajama Game*; I would ask her because of the way she wrote her main character whom connected with me even though we had nothing in common; I would like my readers to have that same kind of connection that Seifer Olson executes in her writing. Another author I would ask would be Gary Paulsen, after reading his novel *Hatchet* and the suspense I remember feeling during it, I think that his ability to create that kind of fear would be a great addition. Can Xue is another author I'd like to have write something for the magazine. The short story "The Child Who Raised Poisonous Snakes" is exactly what I am looking for. The strangeness of the child and the unanswered questions are something that would be perfect for the magazine. I would ask sculptor Richard Serra, his piece *Inside Out* reminded me of a maze, so I would ask him to do something like that and maybe have a writer create something that would go along with his piece. I'd also ask Steve McCurry, photographer of the famous *Afghan Girl* that was featured on the cover of National Geographic. The emotion of war, pain and suffering he captured in the eyes of the girl in that one picture makes me believe that he could capture the fear and paranoia in the eyes of the reader and reflect it back to them. I'd like to have a section called "Dark Corners of the World," dedicated to scary tales or art from around the world, something like the Grimm Brothers tales or maybe some legends from different places.

I would include all types of media: written, photographic, musical, video, and anything else that can be imagined. I would have a website filled with extras such as interviews with the contributors about how they started to work on their piece or new artists/writers I would want to highlight; this is also where I would add the videos or music that would be submitted. I would also like the website to have a place for discussion so readers can talk to each other about what they saw or read and be able to have a sounding board to bounce thoughts off of. I would accept fiction and nonfiction, poems, stories and essays. I would have an editor's note in each issue talking about the work that was about to be observed and the theme for that issue. The cover art of the first issue would be a dimly illuminated, open door leading to black nothingness, the rest of the issues would have something from the contributors; a short poem, the middle paragraph of an essay, a photo or a painting that the reader could get a better look at in the issue; the font would be BONDONI 72 SMALLCAPS, the title would be **STENCIL** because of the abruptness of the bold and the special segment would be in *Lucida Blackletter*, but only for the table of contents to accentuate the age of those legends. I'd also like a place in the contents to list all of the contributors, whether they made something for the literary magazine or they helped revise it. The literary magazine would be nonprofit because there wouldn't be so much pressure to get subscriptions and it could focus more on the work; however, subscriptions would still be available. I would apply for grants from the NEA and NYFA and use some of that money to put advertisements on social media websites like Tumblr, which attracts teens and young adults that feel like outsiders. I would appeal to teens and young adults as the strange appeals to them mostly at this age. I would try to get blogs about the unnatural on Tumblr to support me by having them enter contests for giveaways. There are also designers on Tumblr I would work with to make a clothing line and that can be advertised as on their blogs as well. There are also some shows I'd like to have the magazine in as product placement, which has a huge fan base on and off of Tumblr called "Supernatural."

NOWHERE TO GO BUT INSIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS (SAMPLE):

EDITOR'S NOTE/THEME

POETRY:

NAME OF POEM, AUTHOR: PG #

SHORT STORIES:

NAME OF STORY, AUTHOR: PG #

Dark Corners of the World:

Name of legend/tale, where it's from and time period: pg #

CONTRIBUTORS: