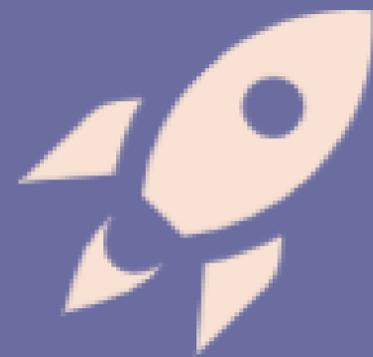


The Octavia Project: Positive Obsessions 2021



OCTAVIA PROJECT



Who are we?

The Octavia Project uses speculative fiction as a lens through which to envision new futures and greater possibilities for our world.

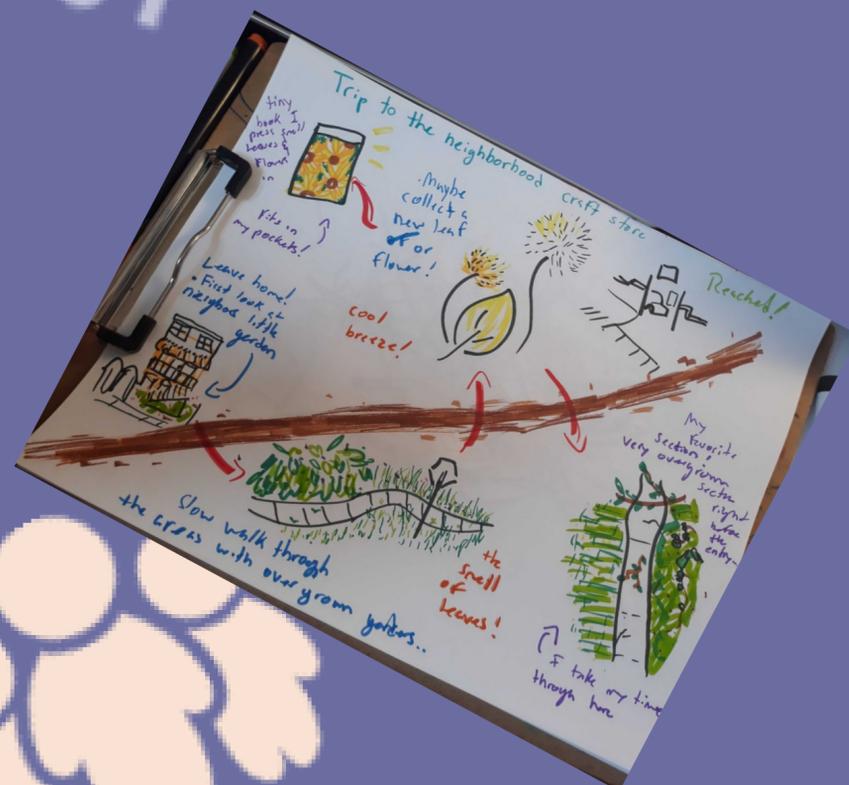
Our inspiration and namesake is Octavia E. Butler, who broke barriers in writing and science fiction to become an award-winning and internationally recognized author.

Our free Summer Institute brings together young women, trans and non-binary youth from all over NYC to build new worlds. We believe that their ideas and creations are vital to our future and we aim to provide them with the support and tools they need to build their dreams.

For more info, follow us!

Twitter/Instagram: @octaviaprojnyc

octaviaproject.org





Introducing the OP Zine!

We are truly delighted to debut this year's Octavia Project zine! Inspired by the work of Octavia Butler, "Positive Obsessions" is a collection of work from our Summer Institute participants. In this zine, you will find contributions of writing, visual art, and Twine games — online nonlinear storytelling games! We are extremely proud of this year's participants for the hard work they put into creating these fantastic projects. We hope you enjoy!



The Octavia Project

Hashi

Howdy hello! My name is Hashi and I go by he/they pronouns. I am an artist with great interest in botany, video games, cowboys, space, unsolved crimes and a lot more!

Koda and Hutch are the main characters in my (very) unfinished Twine game. Something I enjoy seeing from games, movies, and well, overall media that I enjoy is concept art and watching the creators' ideas slowly change and come to fruition. So I thought I'd do something similar with my characters! Koda is an older character of mine so he's gone through a few design and personality changes as well as story / universe placements. Koda and Hutch's story focuses on their growing relationship and so does the game, exploring certain pathways and choices, how quickly you'll be able to make it out all impacts what they reveal and how they feel about each other by the end.

The Octavia Project

Wilmary



My game is about the player being on a journey to escape this haunted house that you have awoken in, but this comes at a price. The journey is a difficult one and there are traps - can you escape without becoming prey? I was inspired to make this piece because of different mysteries and horrors I've read and seen. One thing I really enjoyed about making this piece was the story telling. Something I found challenging about making this piece was how I should break down the choices the player makes. For this piece, I'm most proud of the direction of the story.

Play my Twine game [here!](#)

The Octavia Project

Camila

My piece centers around the designs of my original characters, Ricky and Maddie, where the two try to date while also being amiss in a zombie apocalypse. The idea came to me while seeing some popular writing prompts, particularly relating to coffee shops and zombie apocalypse AUs. I thought it would be fun to mix the two together and see what could happen. I'd say the most challenging part of making this piece was the design. I wanted my character to stick out enough in a crowd but also keep in mind that not too much attention was drawn to them. Overall, I'm proud of how they turned out.

The Octavia Project

Camila



The Octavia Project

Echo

My game is about one person (technically) from two different universes ending up in the same one. I was inspired to make this piece because of one of the Tinker Bell movies and I think an idea from tiktok, combined. One thing I really enjoyed about making this piece was I was able to put my own spin on it and add multiple endings as well. Something I found challenging about making this piece was creating different paths for each choice. For this piece, I'm most proud of all the work I put in this Twine.

My Twine game coming soon!

The Octavia Project

Leah



Hi, my name is Leah Lederman. I go by she/her pronouns. My piece is inspired by a chaotic fantasy Dungeons and Dragons campaign. It's quite cheesy and at some points very chaotic, but I hope you enjoy.

Play my Twine game [here!](#)

The Octavia Project

Kyrah



My poem is about, honestly, I don't know. I was just writing, then suddenly it appeared on paper. I was inspired to make this piece because of the prompt we were given. One thing I really enjoyed about making this piece was the wording and how it flowed from one another. Something I found challenging about making this piece was figuring out a title. For this piece, I'm most proud of my wording and how it came to life.



If I had a magic wand I would die
So I could come back and fly
High in the sky
Watching the world go by
Calm and content the world would be
As I fly high the world would Sleep
As I shed tears for those who weep
I feel their pain and their destined desire
But as fate had Its way
I would have a magic wand
Where I would die so I could fly
High in the sky and watch as the world slowly dies
Into nothing, I would fly and watch as they die
But as fate would have it
I have a magic wand
So I rebirthed this same tainted
The world along with its darkness
There would be light as small as an ant
In this dark twisted world
Would they survive or would they die
Drownd and surrounded by its inky black darkness
Or would turn into the very thing itself
And Once again destroying all they worked so hard to protect
But as fate would have it
I have a magic wand so
I once again remade this world tainted and bare
With nothing but sun, it would have no creatures
Not one thing will exist as punishment for devouring those who only tried to live I no
longer wish to bear this responsibility of the wand
I will throw it out no longer wishing to bear its power



·
·
Hey Look I just found Wand

The Octavia Project

Nicole



I was inspired to make this piece because of my passion for Greek mythology. I chose my character and chose the challenges she goes through and how she faces them. One thing I really enjoyed about making this piece was that I was able to explore my creativeness in this piece. Something I found challenging about making this piece was being able to think of an intro and an ending. I find it mostly hard to start and how to end but I managed to overcome that challenge in a way that I was somewhat satisfied with. For this piece, I'm most proud of the story line because I like the build of character of Olivia.



Olivia

There was once a young woman living in the room of a royal house. The young woman was never seen by the public eye and anyone apart from the people in her household knew who she was. The young woman, Sapphire, was a child of the King who was conceived out of wedlock. She was never recognized to the public as the King's daughter. Her dad banned her from outside human interaction and controlled every aspect of her life. He would lock his daughter in the basement and not feed her till she was close to passing out. Little did the King know that the god Zeus would sometimes visit Sapphire. After many visits, Sapphire becomes pregnant and is expecting a daughter. Once Sapphire gives birth, the King forces someone to take away the baby from Sapphire's arms. He orders his servants to kill the baby so he could put his daughter into more misery. Sapphire is left with immense sorrow and despair, her daughter, whom she named Olivia was dead and she couldn't bear the pain of losing the only hope in her life.

Little did Sapphire know that her young daughter was saved by a maid, Talia, who worked under her father. The maid had seen where the servants had put the baby and had secretly taken the baby and gave the baby to a close relative. She had heard that Sapphire was calling the baby Olivia and chose to tell the baby's new parents what her name should be.



18 years later, the once baby was a young woman. She had grown up with her 2 parents and had younger siblings whom she loved a lot. Throughout her life, she has noticed that sometimes she could control objects with her mind. But because her parents and siblings weren't like her and partially believing it was normal, she decided to just ignore her special abilities.

One day, she heads home and finds her parents, siblings, and Talia, dead in the middle of her living room. On the walls, a message for her says "I will come and find you," feeling panic and terror she calls for help. She has lost the most important people she loved. She is left with the dying need of finding whoever killed her family. She wanted to hurt and kill the people who were involved in the death of her loved ones.

Zeus kept tabs on his daughter, Olivia, and knew that she would want revenge on her family's murderers. He appeared in front of her and revealed to her who she truly is and who killed her family. He reveals that the King had found her and that he ordered his people to inflict pain in Olivia's life. Upon knowing the information, Olivia is more revengeful than before. She feels betrayed by everyone in her life but also feels like she should seek justice for the lives of the family that took her in as a baby. She has her goal set and asks Zeus what she should do and where the King will be. Upon hearing this, Zeus reveals Olivia's true powers and true potential. Because he sometimes watches her, he knows exactly what her powers are and explains them to her. Once knowing this, Olivia is confident that her powers are enough to kill the King and his faithful servants. Zeus tells her that he would help her but she should find someone that is trapped in that palace and save them.



Thus, Olivia begins her quest. Zeus provided her with a map of the trail she should head through, where she won't encounter as many problems. What Zeus didn't tell her was that Hephaestus, the god of blacksmith, was going to help her. Once she encounters the god, he tells her that he would give her a dagger that has magical powers. The dagger can duplicate itself. She continued on her path and later encountered a giant cyclops. The cyclops had yet to notice her so she tried to remain as quiet as possible but failed. The cyclops immediately looked at her and started heading towards her. Remembering that she has a dagger and remembering her powers, she thinks fast and uses her telekinesis and her duplicated daggers to attack the cyclops and to cause enough pain for the cyclops to not be able to get up and attack her.

She gets closer and closer to the castle. She sees 6 guards and immediately kills them with her daggers. She walked right into the castle and killed whoever didn't tell her where the king and the prisoner were. Someone finally tells her where the king is and where the prisoner is. With revenge fresh in her mind, she heads to where the King is. The King plead and confessed to the murder of her family. He pleaded for mercy, apologized, and asked to be saved but Olivia did not want his fake apologies. He confessed to being the cause of the murders of 300 people. Upon hearing this, Olivia kills him.

Now she heads to the prisoner. Once she encounters the prisoner, she notices the uncanny resemblance with them. She quickly realizes that the prisoner was her unwell biological mother. Her mother was extremely malnourished and severely sought, she had bruises and cuts everywhere in her body. She managed to get her mom out of the castle and then took her to a safe shelter. After a few days, Zeus appears and congratulates her for completing her quest. She unites with her mom and makes it her own goal to keep her mom safe.

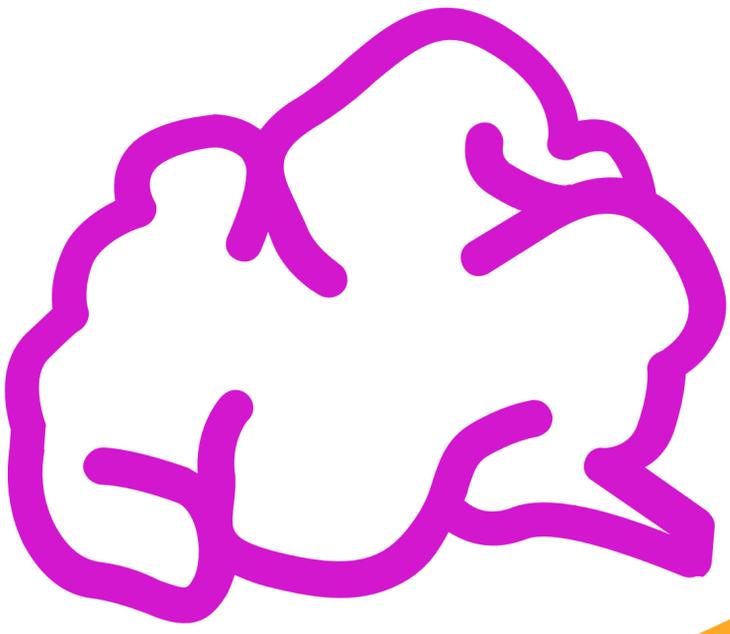
2 weeks later, she headed to the park and decided to learn how to play baseball. She swung her baseball bat too hard which ruptured her bladder and that led to her death.

THE END



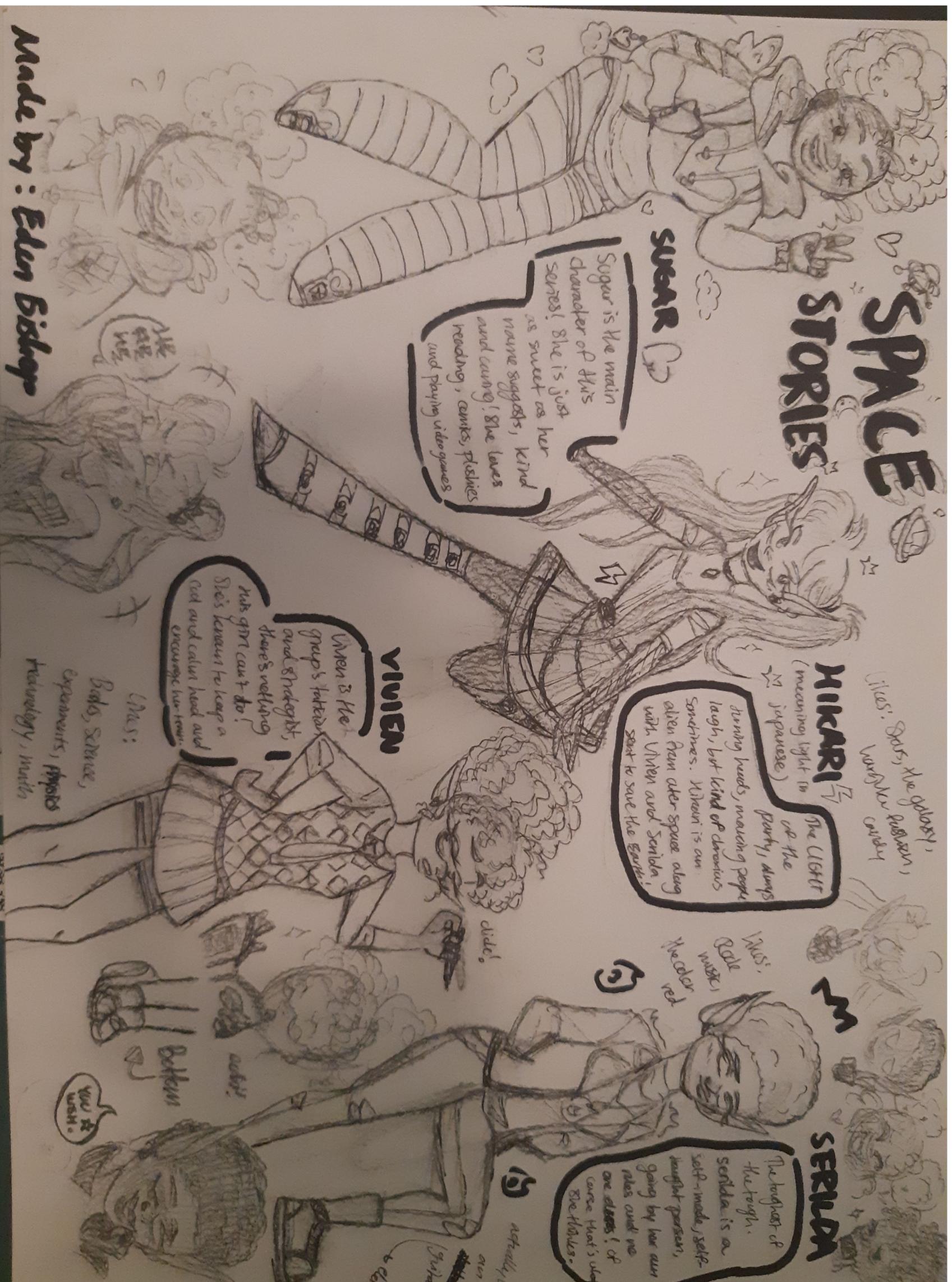
The Octavia Project

Eden



This concept that I've come up with is called Space Stories, revolving around a young woman around the age of 20 getting caught in the middle of intergalactic warfare! Two alien soldiers (Hikari and Vivien) are sent down to Earth on a mission to eradicate any alien species found present. Before you ask why they're targeting their own, it's to destroy evidence of them existing, and they also pose a threat to earthling's (meaning humans) way of life. Eventually Serilda makes her entrance too, adding even more spice to Sugar's life! Fun fact: I made all of these characters up by themselves, never planning to make them a part of the same story. But I am happy with the results!

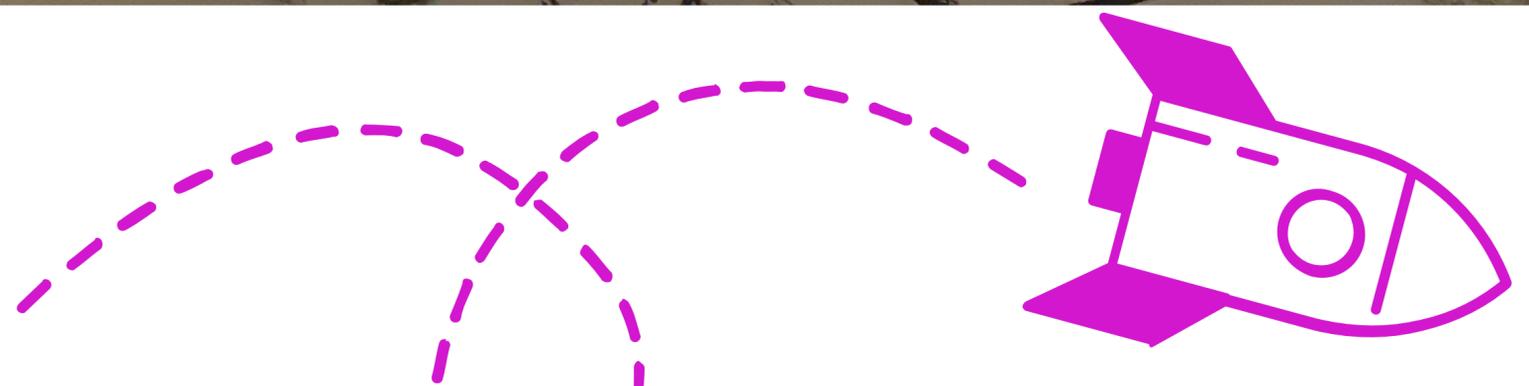


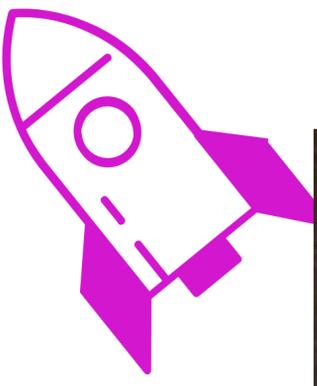


Made by: Eden Bishop

The Octavia Project

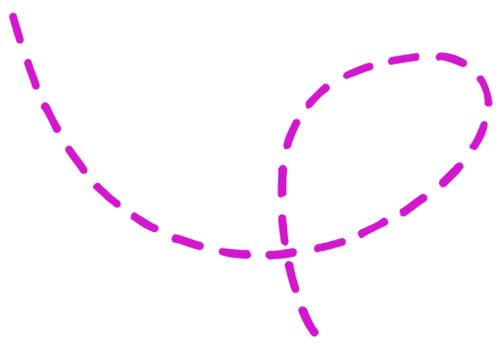
Eden





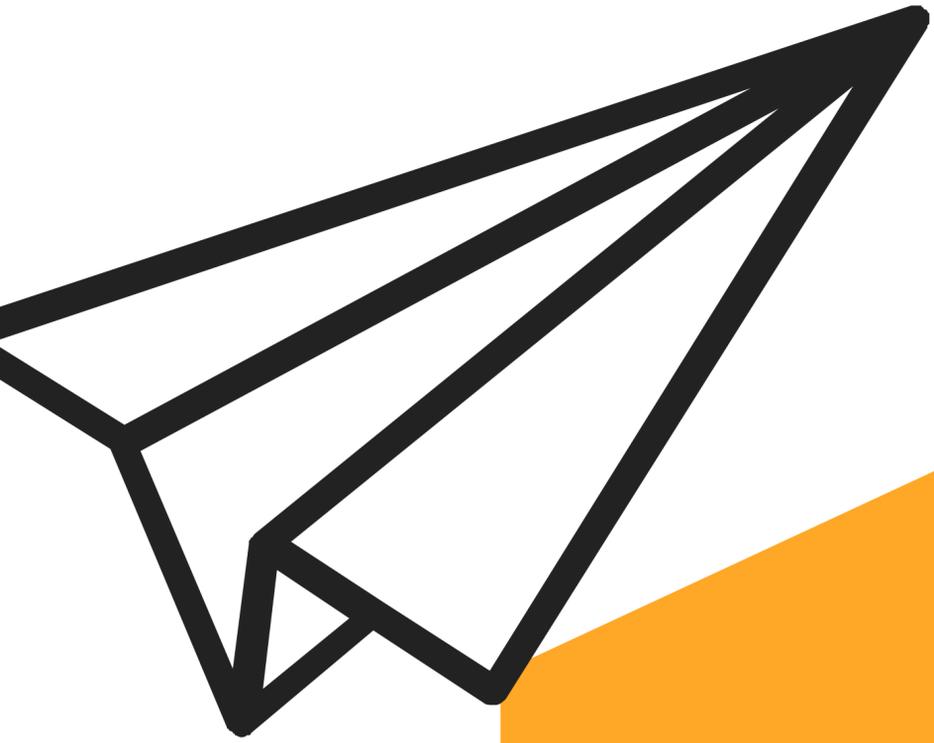
The Octavia Project

Eden

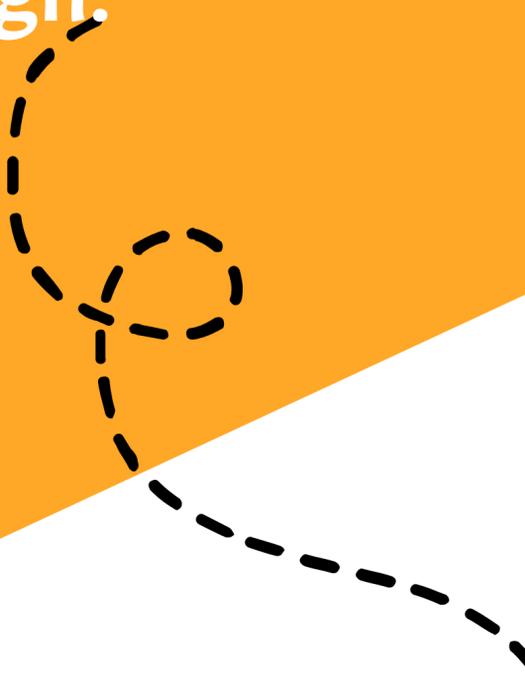


The Octavia Project

Musrat



My piece “Summer Rain” is about the love someone has for another individual and the warmth they bring them. I was inspired to make this piece because I am a hopeless romantic and I feel like love is something we all need in this world especially at this time. Whether it is a friend, significant other or family, I hope to spread love within myself and to others. To keep us hopeful in these times and to push through.



Summer Rain

You came to my heart just like how summer was shocked by rain. Unexpectedly and without invitation, stormed in like thunder crashes onto a desert hill. I looked up at the sky and smiled because I knew, although life seemed perfect, it craved you. Let me dance with you under the light of the moon - you reflect it's magic with each and every one of your moves.

And when you leave I'll sigh in relief. I'll look up to the sky with a grin, hold the places on my body where your hand had been. I won't rest until I see the rainbow that summer rain leaves behind and although I can't stretch my arms out to touch it, I will stare in awe and treasure each and every memory we made.

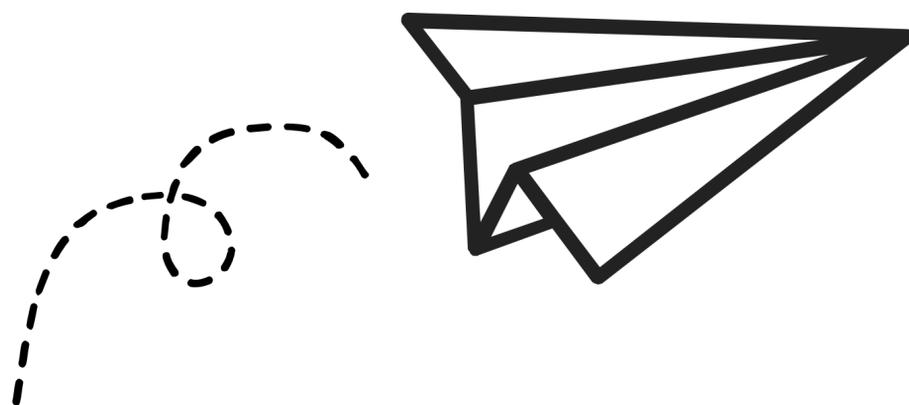
Remember each time you ruined my makeup with the soft kisses you gave.

How I grimaced and called you brave.

“You look beautiful either way” - what an awful save.

You came to my heart just like how summer was shocked by rain, stormed in like thunder crashes onto a desert hill. And when you leave, I'll look up to the sky with a grin, knowing that eventually you will come back unexpectedly and without invitation, stealing the sun's show on a beautiful summer day.

Oh, what a lovely mess we make.



The Octavia Project

Prince Noct

My piece shows a drawing of my OC, Haimon, as a kid. He's sitting on the grass and enjoying his surroundings! I was inspired to make this piece because this character is usually very sad and angry, and I've always thought he deserved better than what was given to him. I enjoyed shading with color pencils and painting the grass, but I really found it hard to paint with gouache for the first time. But either way I'm still really proud of the way it turned out.

The Octavia Project

Prince Noct



The Octavia Project

Liam



Hi! I'm Liam and my piece is called "Into The Forest." This is actually the background for a Twine game I'm working on that depicts the game's setting, a forest far away in the middle of the night. I was inspired to make this piece because of my love for galaxy art and natural story settings. One thing I really enjoyed about making this piece was making the silhouettes of the trees. Something I found challenging about making this piece was finding the right color blending. Being colorblind, this can sometimes be a challenge for me. For this piece, I'm most proud of how simple yet detailed the piece feels at the same time.

Credit to Picrew for the art of my icon!

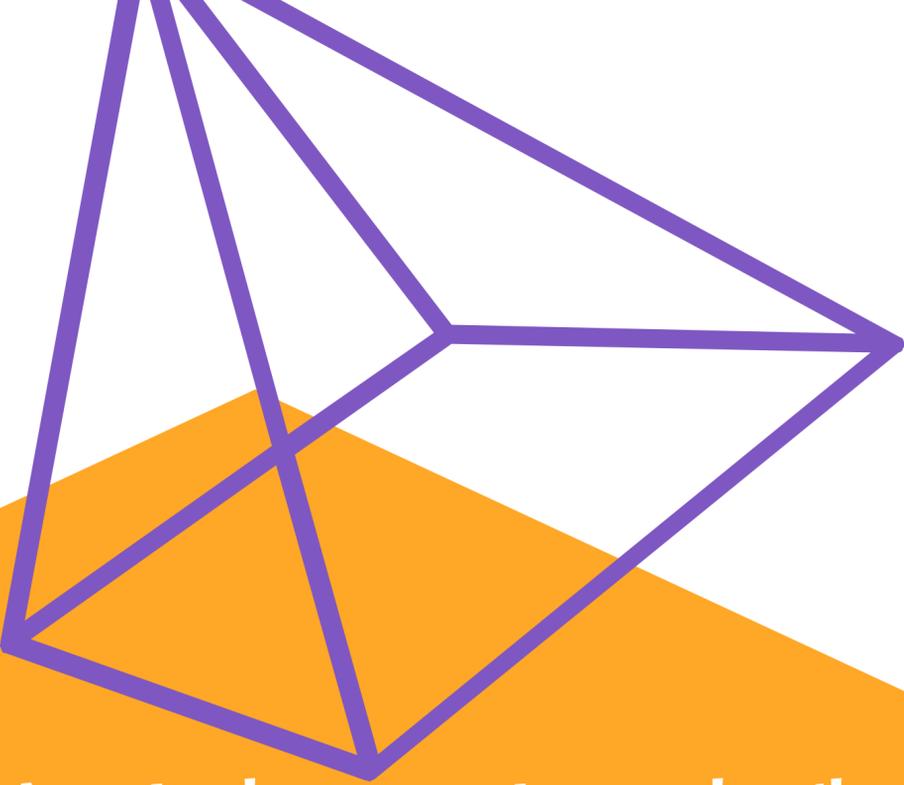
The Octavia Project

Liam



The Octavia Project

Ava



My name is Ava Lederman. I use she/her pronouns. I'm submitting to the zine a map of my fantasy world, otherwise known as the great dragon. It's filled with notes and references and inside jokes. It is color-coded by climate and region. There are many Islands to surround the dragon. Those are homes to the ancestral people of this land, Fay and fish folk. Most of the people on the main island are not the native people by the cast of humans and celestial's war over the land. I took inspiration from real life geological features to make it as realistic as possible. In the future I hope that it will be the setting for many stories to come. Thank you.

The Octavia Project

Ava



The Octavia Project

Amalineda (Teaching Fellow)

Read below the full poem "Deeper than All" by former participant and this year's Teaching Fellow, Amalineda Jean Francois!

Deeper than All

How deep is the ocean?

Isn't it deeper than the sea

How did I get all this emotion?

I've never went this deep

Everytime I hear a song

I remember the first time we talked

I imagine how we used to walk

I remember how my heart jumped from the tower

Somehow, falling is something so bad

But falling in love with you is nothing such

I'm swimming down in your ocean

I don't think I will ever reach the end



Do you think my love for you will end ?

I don't do drugs but I'm always high

I don't have wings but my dreams always touch the clouds

My love for you is just like the stars

Daytime,

It can seem invisible

But It always shines bright in the sky

Even when you can't see it

That's why I keep my eyes on the sky

So our love will always be bright.

I always feel like if I try

Maybe, Maybe I can fly

Who knew

That one day I would fall in love with you

Don't tell me nothing but the truth

Cuz that's the one thing I can approve

I will try

Cuz I know I will fly.



Wilder, Still - A Story by OP Summer

2021 Participants

There once was a hummingbird who fled from their nest
They decided they needed to go on a quest to bring something
good back to their nest
They flew by trees, flowers and honeybees
They stopped at some dandelions and some lilies, they named
themselves little b
They spent the night with the fireflies, and with their lights the
world came to life
Little b was as happy as can be
A new day would arise as little b scouted for treasure, until a
particular shiny object caught their eye
They spoke to mushrooms, bees and goblins in trees trying to
decipher what this shiny thing could be
The hummingbird twirled like a ballerina around the cave to see
what the shiny thing may be
As the hummingbird approached the cave, they saw a light
shining as bright as gold
As they go closer, it was a row of shiny dragon scales
As they follow the dragon scale, they discover a city full of
snow
Suddenly the cave was surrounded in iridescent snow covered
scales as little b swirled deeper into the city of fluttering snow
As Little b flew deeper into the snow, they noticed a brighter
light begin to glow. As they reached the end of the cave...

Wilder Still - A Story OP Summer 2021 Participants

**A friend of theirs began to wave, the snow dragon came
to light the way**

**Little b decided to be brave and flew towards the snow
dragon, excited by the day**

**The snow dragon was happy to see little B, guiding the
way as the snow began to sway**

**The snow swayed and swayed, the storm weakening as
time went by. Suddenly, the snow cleared, and a
beautiful field of snow and trees greeted the two friends.
The snow dragon turned to Little B and said “sweet little
hum hum, let me tell you a story that’s as strange as it is
old. Before I was made of snow, I was made of gold.”**

**We don’t match in color anymore, but we must still
remain friends**

Because our hearts still match as they are as pure as gold.

With Acknowledgement to...

Summer 2021 Participants

Ava

Camila

Echo

Hashi

Kelis

Kris

Kyrah

Leah

Liam C.

Nancevia

Nicole

Nusrat

Opal

Prince Noct

Wilmary

Afra (Fellow)

Autumn (Fellow)

Eden (Fellow)

Jenny (Fellow)

Kailee (Fellow)



With Acknowledgement to...

Staff

Amalineda Jean Francois - Teaching Fellow

Natyna Bean Osborne - Lead Teacher

Maria Monica Andia - Lead Teacher

Bria Strothers - Program Manager

Meghan McNamara - Executive Director

We would like to thank Afra Mahmud for creating the beautiful cover art for this year's zine!

Special thanks to the Octavia Project Advisory Board, our BFF donors, and all of our supporters who helped make this year's Summer Institute possible!

