



2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing, & Multimedia Contest



Taylor Smith 11th Grade Art Winner

Washington High School, Washington Court House

Kelly Howley, Teacher

Tracy Rose, Principal

When I was younger, I grew up with a very large diverse family. We did not self-identify based on skin color but rather loved and supported one another unconditionally. I was raised to look at the heart of the person rather than the external physical attributes. It was not until later, when I was in school, that I discovered that I did not 'match' my family. My skin is very fair and I have blonde hair. My brown eyes and curly hair are the only traits that could connect to my colored family. I would come to find out later that the color of my skin didn't always associate me to the extended family I belonged too. Unlike my cousins, I did not face the same limitations with who I spoke to or freedoms to express my opinions in the same way I see them limited. People tend to see what they want to see and judge based on appearances. The painting here portrays an image of my heritage, and my desire to continue to support all people. The woman is rooted, standing sturdy while she supports all races, indicated by the use of the varying and beautiful colors in the leaves. This image will continue to be a reminder of where I come from and the importance of looking at the heart of those around me. I will continue to be a supportive voice for my gender, culture, and family.

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