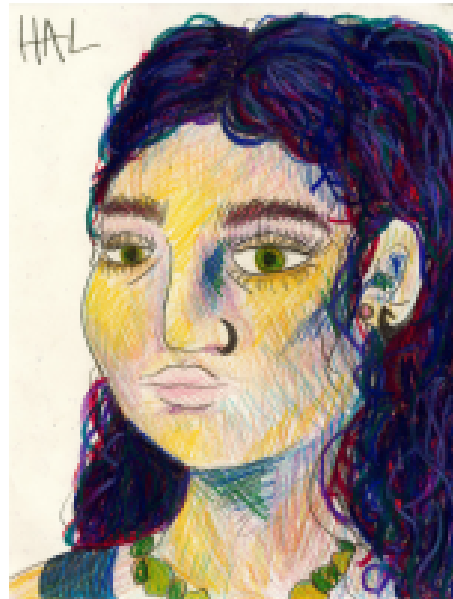




Seed PAGES

PAGE Summer  Literature 2023





HALLE

I had never seen the Blue Ridge mountains until I was 9 hours into my road trip. Going to school in eastern Kentucky was one haul, but driving from Chicago to Mars Hill was a new kind of trip. I grew up near the outskirts of Chicago, obsessing over Portillos and volunteering in a mentorship program. After graduating high school in the spring of 2020, I took my luck moving to Alaska. After my year exploring across the state, I was ready to hit the hills in Kentucky.

I've finished my second year at Berea College as a double major with my labor position supervising Middle and Elementary school programming. I was involved with more than I could chew at first, typical for a Capricorn, from being a radio DJ to volunteering with local community projects.

Although my school year was extra tiring, I was more than eager to finally step out of my car and meet the P.A.G.E.. interns, staff, and students. I learned about P.A.G.E.. from a past intern, Amy, who was ecstatic and bubbly whenever she spoke about the programs and students in the program. I was eager to explore North Carolina for the first time, since meeting Maia and Deborah in 2021. Although the cold weather's got a special place in my heart, the mountains in the distance made the heat feel like home.



DARIAN

Iced lavender latte in hand, I pace around a familiar coffee shop. I stare at the email on my phone, stating clearly that a person named Maia would be meeting me there at 1:15. I looked around again, but I didn't see any new faces. Resigning to the seat by the window, I check my emails.

Western North Carolina has been my home my entire life. I grew up in Canton, NC, and then moved to Mars Hill to go to college. I have loved meeting new people and getting to know the community of Mars Hill. So when I realized I had only met Maia a handful of times, I was shocked to not remember her face. Maia and I had met in passing a few times, but we had never talked about her life, or what she did outside of her work at the college.

As I respond to my last email, my phone buzzes. "I just found Camden's," the new message wrote, "I'm grabbing a table near the back." After grabbing another latte, I noticed that a blonde woman had set up a few brochures at a table near the *Galaga* machine. *The Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education*, brochure read, *these girls are the new voices of Appalachia*. The woman notices me and motions me over. "Are you Darian?" she asks.

I nod.

"I'm Maia, and I work for P.A.G.E... It's so nice to meet you! What draws you to this program?"



JEMMA

Hello, my name is Jemma Sturgill and I'm 11 and going into 6th grade. I was born in Tennessee but moved to Illinois, then to Wyoming, then back to Illinois, and then to North Carolina. I'm doing a P.A.G.E. camp where we learn how to do cyanotypes and how to use cameras. We do lots of activities and games. I made lots of friends and met lots of new people. The food is so good! On the first day of camp, we had Asian-style food. It was really good. My friends and I can take pictures and use our devices which is cool! I love the P.A.G.E. camp and I think you would too! Anyways, I hope you like my story! Bye!



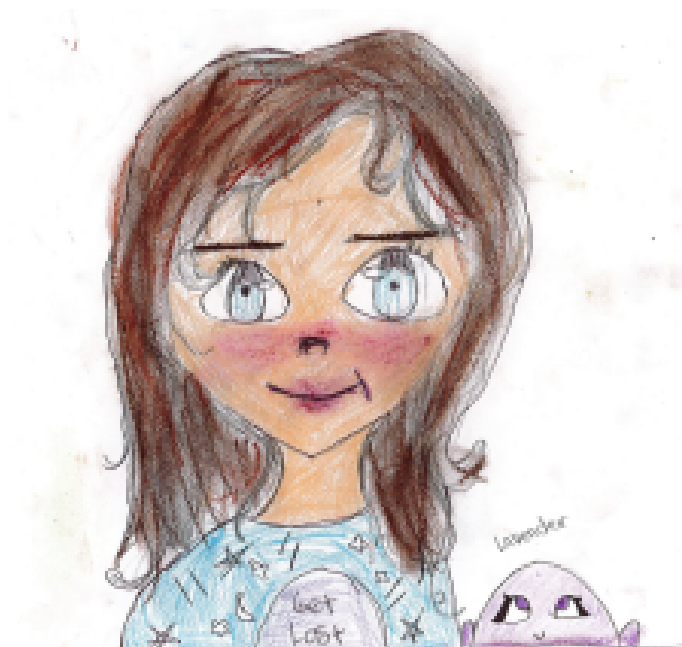
ALICIA

So I was at school and all the girls got sent to Mrs. Blankenship's room. We all thought we were in trouble, we weren't at all. It was two people that worked at P.A.G.E. Their names were Maia and Debbie. They explained what P.A.G.E. was and gave a paper out. I went home and gave the paper to my dad. And he talked to Debbie and I got in and it is really fun. I like everything here. I am excited about the sleepover.



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DELILAH

Hi, my name is Delilah Penley and I am 11 years old. I'm going to sixth grade. I am from Asheville and moved to Madison County when I was about 5. I got into P.A.G.E. because it sounded so fun. I learned a lot about how to use a camera and made lots of new friends. The food here is so delicious. My favorite teacher is HAL. They are so cool. One thing I'm looking forward to is the sleepover at the end of P.A.G.E. Alicia and I are going to do an all-nighter. I can't wait for more fun.



PARKER

I am twelve years old, and I've been a part of P.A.G.E... for two years. I like how happy P.A.G.E.. makes me feel. One of the things I am passionate about is ghost stories, like this:

In October we listen to local ghost stories.

One of the ghost stories is about a couple that finds a guy that has now had
And there is some of that my friend tell us some stories to how and my teacher
Pout.



DANIELA

I'm 12 and I'll be in the 6th grade. I joined P.A.G.E. because my 2 older sisters did it too when they were my age. I am just surprised that they were that young! Now they're in their 20s. I already knew one of the teachers, Ms. Debbie. She was the teacher's assistant when I was in kindergarten at Hots Springs Elementary. I was scared that I would have to go to Middle School, But since P.A.G.E.. was held at the Middle School, I'm not that scared anymore. When I got to P.A.G.E., I waited for my classmates.

All of them promised they would come, but they didn't show up. When everyone showed up, we all went to the Drama Lecture Hall to play a game. After that, I went to my class called Visual Diaries. We made Diaries and went to lunch. The theme was Asian/Indian. I had a ton of rice left! It was great, just like breakfast. They served that too.

The lunch ladies, or "Kitchen Angels", are Mrs. Priscella and Mrs. Teresa. They are teachers at Hot Springs. Soon I left P.A.G.E., and including me, there were two people on the bus. There was a girl named Laci and she wasn't so bad. My bus driver was Mr. Jimmy, who drove my elementary bus. He's a nice guy. At P.A.G.E., I learned how to weave and made some new friends. My classmates, Alexis and Turquoise, showed up.

Visual Dairies is nice and we sometimes get to take cameras home. In the Literature Group, we are reading a book called Seedfolks. I like P.A.G.E.. and I'm happy to join it. I enjoy everything about it. I can't wait to have the sleepover in the school.



ACE

I was introduced to P.A.G.E. at Brush Creek Elementary School. Two kind women told us about it. I can't remember what they said word for word, but I do remember a couple of things they mentioned, such as photography, art, food, etcetera. Of course, they said more but I only remember those few things because they were the things that caught my attention. I often hang out with two people; Kate and Ella. I have more friends, just not here. I've known Ella since elementary school, since 4th grade. We began hanging out in 5th grade along with our other friend Roi. I met Kate at P.A.G.E., and although we've only just met, I do consider her my friend. They're both very nice people and I'm glad we're friends. I've met new people and even though I usually get all nervous and act like an imbecile, it's been easier for me to communicate with others. I've also found that the ones around me are more similar to me than I thought. They make me feel supported. I used to feel like an idiot because I like anime, but these people make me feel supported.



ELLA

Ahead of me is my new middle school, and my new summer school. Anxious thoughts come and go like ocean waves. I've hopped around from school to school before, but I always act like a clutz. Maybe I won't be here. Unlikely, but not completely impossible. I see a few familiar faces from my old school, no one I ever befriended, and some I possibly will befriend. A short eternity flies by and the bus unloads. Finally, someone I'm friends with walks into the room to help my day. But before I realize it, I'm shoulder touching close in a circle. I am about to state facts about me but then that annoying quiet high pitched baby voice takes over and I sound like a complete wimp. I'll survive until lunch, nothing embarrassing has happened yet. Perhaps it isn't so bad here.



KATE

I am 11 years old, I love art! And anime! 😊 Hi, I am Kate! I came to P.A.G.E. because I knew my friend Alicia was going, and these kind ladies came and told us about P.A.G.E. Right now I'm going into 6th grade! I made friends with Ace and Ella. P.A.G.E. is fun because of the group projects, and the activities are fun too! I am very excited about the sleepover! I want to get used to middle school so that next year I will have a better view of the school and never get lost. I hope to make new friends in P.A.G.E. and 6th grade! I hope to make those friends and never lose them! All the teachers are very nice to all of us. I love them so much! I have straight, curly, and even messy hair. My eyes are blue, with a hint of green in my eyes. I weigh only 65 pounds and I'm also very skinny. I'm very short and have a twin brother named Jack. He is also very short and skinny. We are the same with different personalities. I love Abigail, she is my other best friend. She is kind and respectful, but she eats very sloppily. I love my step-sister, Izzy. They are nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns. They have short fluffy hair, their 13 years old, and a meanie. 👍



MALENA

My name is Malena. I'm 11 and I love art. The reason I got into P.A.G.E. is because I wanted to try something different but now that I am into P.A.G.E. I like it. Everyone is so nice as I move up in grades. I hope to stay in P.A.G.E.. I have learned photography and about reading some books. I made some friends and met lots of people. I am looking forward to the sleepover. My favorite lesson in photography is the different types of ways to take a photo and my favorite in the literature group is the book Seedfolks and when we make our own book with chapters. I hope you like mine. 😊



CAT

When I first heard about P.A.G.E., I was hesitant, but now I love it! I have four best friends and many close friends. I love it here. My friends and I have so much fun! At home, I have an Xbox in my room but I don't use it as much as I used to, thanks to P.A.G.E. I have three siblings: 2 older and one younger. Sometimes I imagine I'm in a different world with magic and we live in huge mushrooms.



Seedfolks by Paul Fleishman

is a book taking perspective from the Beautiful City Movement, that focuses on a communal garden in Cleveland, Ohio.

It is told from many points of view, all of the stories relating to this one community garden in some way. This book was able to show that people of different beliefs and cultures can connect through nature, allowing them to think about their own lives and how it affects those around them.

After reading this book, the people in our literature group were asked to think about how they came to love the P.A.G.E. program, and these are the stories they told.

Love, Darian and Halle
Interns of 2023

