

## **THIS IS ME**

*by a young person at CSTC, age 12*

I am painting my self-portrait.  
For this work I have chosen the colors of black  
for the dark times and yellow for the good times.

The dark times  
are when I struggle.  
The 5 places I've been that haven't worked.

The good times are when I'm at home  
and when I'm happy.  
My mom, my brother,  
my pets, my family.  
They just make me feel  
more positive.

The background of my self-portrait will have fire:  
a big forest fire,  
because at the time,  
I was going through struggles  
and the times I've been having here are a struggle,  
and I'm still working on getting better.

In my self-portrait, I will be holding a picture of my baby brother  
for the reason that I never get to see him  
because he died.  
His picture will make me feel happy.  
He was one time here in this world,

and he was here for twelve hours and tried to survive,  
but he couldn't.

In my self-portrait, my eyes will look like a python's eyes:  
Cool and blue.

When people see my self-portrait, I think they will say,  
this is inspiring, because they may have gone through it.

I would like to give my self-portrait to my mom  
because I appreciate the way she helps me.

The title of my self-portrait will be, *This is Me*.

*Dedicated to my mom*

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