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“Life Cycle of Language: From Child to Adult”

By Kelli Garguilo



Description of the Artwork:

Black, gray, and white: These colors represent the feeling of being shy and blending in with the background. Nikki, the woman from the story I read about, said she was hesitant to speak Spanish when she was younger. A butterfly cocoon represents timidness or being withdrawn, and human lips represent keeping quiet and not speaking. Lastly, the first part of my Haiku is: “Taking it all in.”

The background of the middle section is made up of magazine pictures of the ocean, mountains, and trees. Nikki would travel every year with her family to Costa Rica. I wanted to include elements in nature that one would find in Costa Rica. Also, Nikki talked about how she started to see the value in knowing a second language. Therefore, I incorporated a picture of a head in this section to represent the gears turning in Nikki's head and a caterpillar to represent Nikki starting to come out of her shell. The second part of my Haiku is: “It finally clicked with me.”

The bottom portion has vibrant colors to represent the freedom to be yourself. The butterfly I drew is an indigenous butterfly to Costa Rica and signifies Nikki opening up and finally finding happiness in her freedom to speak Spanish. The heart with an open mouth on it shows that Nikki now loves to speak Spanish. As Nikki grew older, she started taking Spanish in high school and loved it. She developed a passion for speaking Spanish and became a Spanish teacher. The third part of my Haiku poem is: “Now I love to speak!”

About Kelli Garguilo



Kelli Garguilo is from upstate New York. She graduated from The State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh with a B.F.A. in Childhood Education. She then graduated from SUNY at Albany with an M.S. in Literacy. She has been teaching 6th-grade mathematics in the Horry County School District, and she loves it. She is also continuing her education at Coastal Carolina University in their ESOL program.

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