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“Missing Pieces”

By Michael Gray



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Behind the Cover Art

Visually, this piece took inspiration from the minimalist vector art that I grew up surrounded by, which has the potential to allow the viewer to envision more detail in a simplistic but artistic display. The concept was brought about by what I see as a critical need for intercultural communication in our era of global interconnectivity. Despite the potential of social media to foster insular communities, I envision this piece as an advocate for broader dialogues. It portrays a crowd of silhouetted figures at the bottom, each person rendered as a jigsaw puzzle with a missing piece. They collectively contribute to a dialogue balloon shaped like a globe, also missing pieces, reflecting our incomplete understanding of the world. I see the Journal of Language and Literacy Education (JoLLE), as a tool to help to bridge these gaps, encouraging communication that helps complete our personal puzzles and deepens our collective understanding.