

ALIDA Art Contest Entrants For  
Grades 8 to 12

**2015**

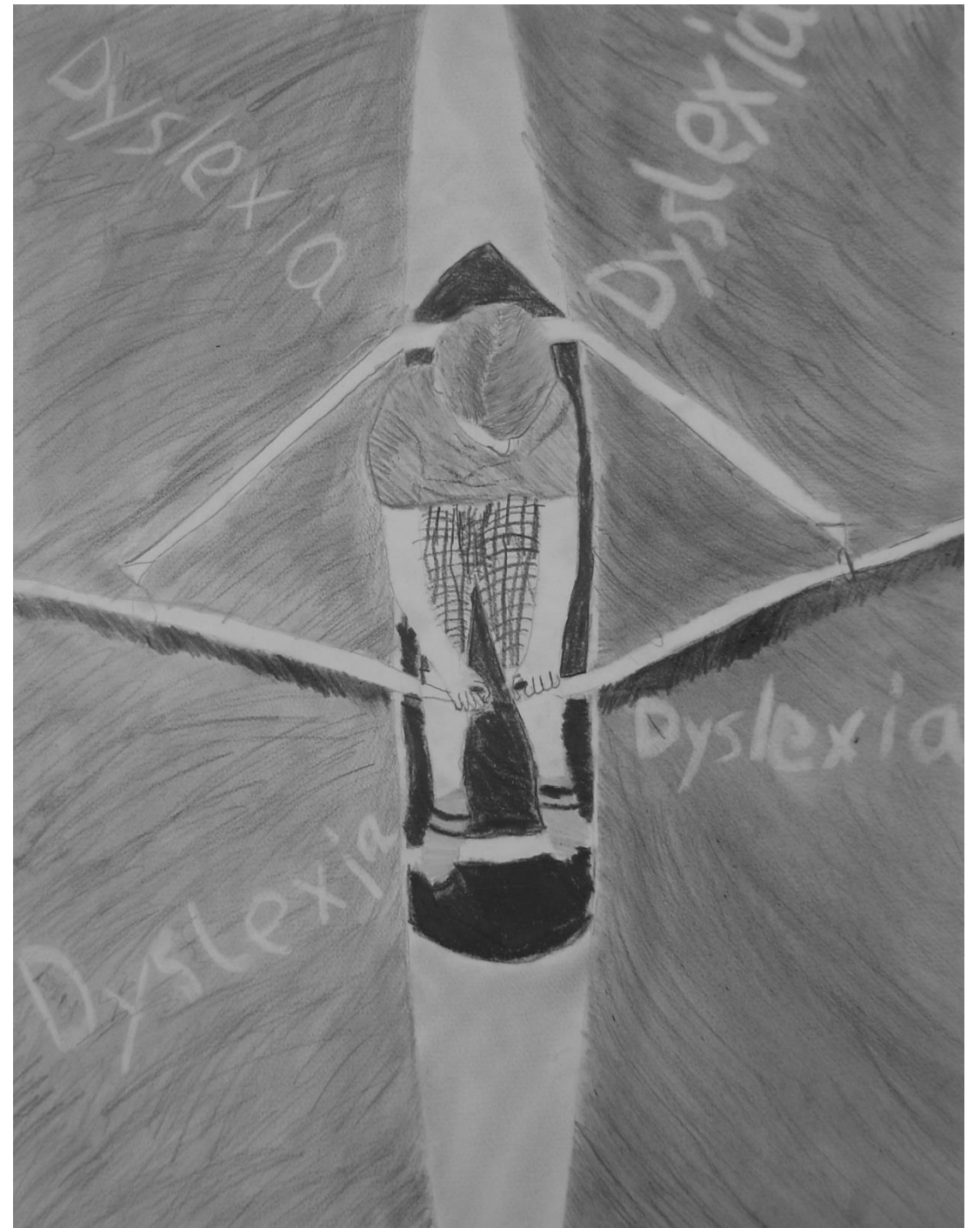




My name is Derek and I have profound dyslexia. I drew and painted this picture because having profound dyslexia is like never being able to grab the rope to climb the cliff in front of me everyday.

(The last name of the student artist has been removed.)

In my pencil drawing I am rowing against the current of the river. The strong current of the river symbolizes my dyslexia. Dyslexia and the river are both hard to navigate. In the river have to make myself parallel to the current. With my dyslexia I have to learn strategies to help me cope. Both of them challenge me but I can overcome them.



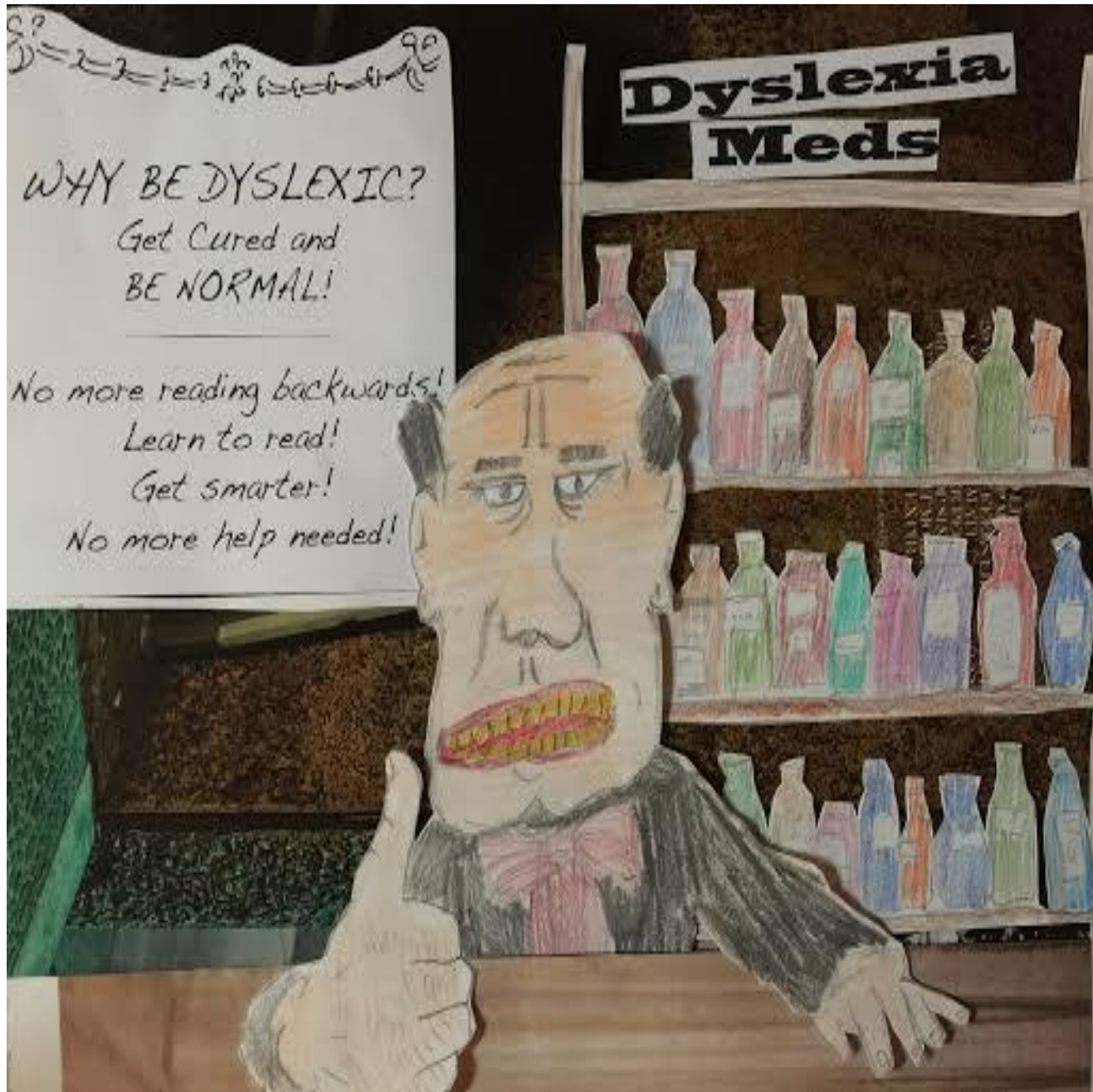




In the game Technic, the goal is to build a rocket to go to the moon or mars. Building a rocket can be like reading with dyslexia. When making a rocket you must know how to build it and must put a lot of time into creating it. This is how I feel when I read a book, because I must put a lot of time into it and must comprehend what I am reading. When you create a rocket and finish, you feel greatly accomplished. This is the same feeling I get when I finish a large book, because it is such a great feat for me with dyslexia.

My artwork shows me trying to catch a fish. Fish are slippery and hard to hold on to. The fish represents dyslexia because when I want to spell a word and I get close, the thought slips away. I'm angry and frustrated because I get so close and it slips away. This makes me disappointed because it's just a fish. I should be able to catch it.





I did a cartoon on how I felt everyone was trying to fix my dyslexia. At school they kept trying to change how I needed to learn. They wanted me to be like everyone else and not the way I was. I felt like I didn't belong. Now that I am older I can see how being dyslexic has benefited me in so many ways. I am proud of my dyslexia.