

# **IF I RULED THE WORLD**

**SARABANDE WRITING LABS, VOL. 6**

# SARABANDE WRITING LABS

An Arts Education Program from Sarabande Books

Sarabande Writing Labs is an arts education initiative created by Louisville-based nonprofit publisher Sarabande Books. We partner with social service organizations to promote writers in under-resourced communities through free workshops and literary events.

Visit our website for photos, updates, and upcoming events:  
[www.sarabandebooks.org/swl](http://www.sarabandebooks.org/swl)

## **ABOUT THIS VOLUME'S COMMUNITY PARTNER:**

Americana Community Center is an organization in Louisville's South End that provides a spectrum of services to the diverse individuals and families of the Metro Area, including refugees, immigrants, and those born in the United States.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

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# CONTENTS

|                                   |                     |    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----|
| IF I RULED THE WORLD              | <i>Bahablom W.</i>  | 1  |
| I AM RICHARD, I                   | <i>Richard N.</i>   | 2  |
| WHAT I AM MADE OF                 | <i>Amina M.</i>     | 3  |
| WHO I AM                          | <i>Claudette U.</i> | 4  |
| WHO I AM (AND WELCOME TO MY LIFE) | <i>Aung W.</i>      | 5  |
| DEAR YOUNG ME                     | <i>Simrat W.</i>    | 6  |
| WHAT IS DIFFERENT                 | <i>Julio M.</i>     | 7  |
| WHERE ARE YOU FROM?               | <i>Gabrielle J.</i> | 8  |
| MILK                              | <i>Pooneh T.</i>    | 10 |
| DEAR FUTURE ME                    | <i>Reshav P.</i>    | 11 |
| WHO I AM                          | <i>Gentile T.</i>   | 12 |
| WHERE I'M FROM                    | <i>Gerson C.</i>    | 13 |
| WHAT I AM MADE OF                 | <i>Michael T.</i>   | 14 |
| WHO I AM                          | <i>Abdimajid H.</i> | 15 |
| WHERE I'M FROM                    | <i>Bradley J.</i>   | 16 |
| RICE WITH MY SISTER               | <i>MoMo W.</i>      | 17 |
| WHO I AM                          | <i>Victor F.</i>    | 18 |
| WHAT I AM MADE OF                 | <i>D. J.</i>        | 19 |
| WHERE I'M FROM                    | <i>Véronique G.</i> | 20 |
| DEAR YOUNG PERSON                 | <i>Narjis A.</i>    | 21 |



**IF I RULED THE WORLD**



# IF I RULED THE WORLD

A boy who doesn't know what he is doing, a follower.

I'm from Eritrea. A country that feels like a party with beautiful song, but has a war in it. It is because of the people in that place, bad people who bring ugly things, like throwing a person in fire and ash while he cries with tears. Other people are running for safety, away from this country, looking for a better place where you can do things as you want to, a place where you don't get judged because of your body or color.

If I ruled the world, it would be like a rainbow in the sky, shining all the time, and peace. And everyone would want to go back in time and re-live their life, because all the great things they do won't be enough for them.

*Bahablom W.*

# I AM RICHARD, I

I am who I am.

Just a kid with sky high potential.

I, I am an athlete who is very humble.

I am a kid who feels free to express his feelings and  
opinions. What is fear?

What is quitting?

What is giving up?

I guess I'll never experience it.

I am Richard, I.

*Richard N.*



# WHAT I AM MADE OF

I am made of the light of the sun

I am made of the scent of my mom's cooking

I am made of the night in Kenya—it sounds like a wave

I am made of sugar water

I am made of clean rooms

the gold light of morning sun.

*Amina M.*

# WHO I AM

I am African

I am a girl

I am my own self

I am I

I am a teenager

I am a unique person

I am positive

I am a high school student

I am the oldest in my family

I like to cook, play music, laugh, chill with my friends

I love using Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik, Viber,

Whatsapp, and the other social medias

I am from Africa

I am a person

*Claudette U.*

# WHO AM I (AND WELCOME TO MY LIFE)

I'm a person who's from Thailand. Not China, and why call me Chinese when I'm not from China? I'm a person who wants to be a professional soccer player because my dreams keep telling me that.

I'm from a place where you feel like you're in jail. You can't get out of your country, where so many gates are waiting for your money or to throw you in jail.

How can I become a professional soccer player when my hometown is like a jail? How can I reach my future when my life is shorter than a baby's death because a gate takes away people's lives? Welcome to my life.

*Aung W.*

# DEAR YOUNG ME

Hey, do you realize now how painful it is to disrespect your family and friends. Go ahead and apologize to your family and people you have done wrong. Believe me it's not cool to do what you was doing because as you move on, you won't get that love you had back then. Don't lie so people can love you, just show them what you have and they will love you for who you are. If you don't do what am telling you now, you will regret a lot when you look back to it. I know you think it's cool, but as you grow up and realize what you had done it's so painful and you won't find a chance to fix it. So believe me and do what am telling you now, if you do you will be the greatest person in the world no matter what.

*Simrat W.*

# WHAT IS DIFFERENT

We live in such a cold world, where hate is promoted and handed out like candy, where we have dangerous people sitting at every corner, hoping to get others caught and consumed by hatred and coldness 10x stronger than 51 years ago, when Martin Luther King Jr. would fight these bad actions with words stronger than muscle, but now all of these good values passed down are being lost and forgot, and Hip Hop, which was made to unite, is now being used to divide the good, and promote the bad and evil things that 10 year olds are caught up in, but when our parents were 14 years old, they loved having piñatas, playing with toys, and watching cartoons.

*Julio M.*

# WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

*Where are you from?*

I hear that question all my life.

*Where are you from?*

I'm from America.

*No, where are you really from?*

*Where are you really from?*

I'm from 100 years back in Africa.

Came to Haiti by tears and hopeless dreams.

*Where are you really from?*

I'm from 50 years back in Haiti, where the rich is rich and the poor is still poor.

*Where are you from? Where are you from?*

I'm from 30 years back in America, where people judge you just to judge you. Where if you don't have blonde hair & blue eyes, you aren't pretty. I'm from the so-called "land of the free & home of the brave."

*Where are you from?*

I'm from 20 years back where my mom & pops married.

*Where are you from?*

I am from 17 years back when my mom & pops wanted to start a family.

*Where are you from?*

I'm from Louisville, KY, the city that you may know from the Derby and KFC. I'm from Louisville and I will say it loud and proud. No, I don't live in a trailer park and yes, I can afford shoes and no, I don't have no babies. I'm still a teen and, before you ask, I still go to school. In fact, I go to one of the top ten in my city. I push hard for my dreams and hope for the best and now, before you ask me, *Where are you from*, I'm gonna ask you:

*Where is you from?*

*Gabrielle J.*

# MILK

Milk tastes different

because mom is around

because mom is kind

*Pooneh T.*



# DEAR FUTURE ME

Sup Reshav, it's me or you. However you want to think about it. Are there any new *Dragon Ball* series still going? If there are tell me, ok? Also, is Team Four Star still making *Dragon Ball Abridged* episodes? Are you a computer engineer? If you are, how much money do you make? Do you also invent? Part time? If you don't, then start. You and I have a very creative and imaginative mind. You could make great things. Maybe a time machine. If you do, come back and visit me like in *Dragon Ball Super*. It might be very confusing, but just do it. If you do come back in time, remind me to start watching *One Piece* because every one says it's awesome. Nice talking to you man. Good luck in the future.

Sincerely,  
Reshav P.  
at 14 years old

# WHO I AM

I am a person

I am from Rwanda

I like to play games

I like to watch movies

I like to listen music

I am a girl

I like to do whatever I want

I like to dance

*Gentile T.*

# WHERE I'M FROM

I'm from El Salvador, where there are 14 or 12 volcanos and a hot desert. The climate is tropical, and El Salvador has a nice beach. The traditional food is pupusas. My country is different from the United States because when you have to do some homework in El Salvador, you use books, but in the United States you use Google.

*Gerson C.*

# WHAT I AM MADE OF

I am made of the basketball court

I am made of the scent of cooking catfish

I am made of the sounds of Eminem the rapper

I am made of warm afternoon chili tots from Sonic

I am made of the texture of a football

*Michael T.*

# WHO I AM

I'm gonna strive for greatness  
Play my hardest and become outrageous

*Abdimajid H.*

# WHERE I'M FROM

I'm from San Diego

It's got a nice ocean breeze

There's the nice beach

It smells like salty water blowing through the air

*Bradley J.*

# RICE WITH MY SISTER

Rice tastes different when my sister is around, because she makes me laugh and I hate to eat alone. Eating alone isn't as satisfying as eating with someone, when you are alone the food somehow doesn't taste as good.

*MoMo W.*

# WHO I AM

I am who I am because I have potential to be great and a legend at basketball. I am a athlete who wants to be the next big thing out of Louisville, Kentucky. What is losing, fear, giving up? Everyone will experience it.

*Victor F.*



# WHAT I AM MADE OF

I am made of a terrible storm

I am made of the smell of Gucci cologne

I am made of the sound of a scary ride

I am made of the taste of ocean waves splashing in your  
mouth

I am made of the touch of a hundred bandz

*D. J.*

# WHERE I'M FROM

I am from a place where everyone wants to be happy

I am from a place where people are trying to get an  
education

I am from a place where we don't have peace.

*Véronique G.*

# DEAR YOUNG PERSON

Start taking a good actions to make your life better, and have a good future.

Start learning about history, about life, and learn about other cultures.

Take future actions like start reading books, newspapers, or even watch the news, because all this stuff will help you in your life. Life is a chance and you should try to do your best to reach your goals. Growing up with an education is wonderful in life.

I wish you to understand  
what you should do  
when you are young

*Narjis A.*

