

Diego's Rebirth Collaborative Poem, Period 1

The scary truth of life
Living everyday a step closer to death
Voices in my head telling me to keep going
Trying my best to make the most of my days
Children inspiring me to do better
Wanting to make them proud

The truth about my feelings:

All night i would fight with myself
And the smell of death in the streets
Would remind me of the bear that gave me
Fear and anger.

My story doesn't start like a fairytale
And I long ago stopped playing hide and seek
With my friends
Now, I play hide and seek with myself
I when I find my full authentic and best version of
Diego
I know that I will make a difference
I know that I will change the world
One little life at a time as I turn fairytales into
A simple truth
They all have a special talent all their own

I didn't play with toy cars or play hide and seek anymore
You smell the death in the street
the smell of the bullets
That can touch you someday

Everyone has a double personality
For me it's Diego and The Bear
Diego is who I really am
I know the consequences to stealing and doing drugs

But my actions keep on winning me over
The Bear is just all of my actions that want to express themselves
I know the bear does bad things like robbing and beating up people
I try to stop the bear from leaving it's cage
But it manages to get the best of me

What I Want

I asked myself everyday; "is this who I want to be"
Fighting with myself because I didn't play with toy cars anymore
I thought; "having respect for someone doesn't mean I need to be violet"
So why does it feel that way?
I Diego know that I have the potential to help many people
And will no longer live up to other peoples standards

The Consequences

The bear always wanted to fight and destroy things,
To rob, To steal, To be on top of others,
To have the respect but through violence,
Diego was the opposite,
Because he knew this would have consequences
Diego would try to stop him,
But there but always a ring in my head
Trying to keep the bear from getting out
And start going down the wrong path
Leaving here feels like you have to be a part of a gang

I would fight with myself every night
Everyone has a double personality
for me it was Diego and the bear

Two sides

Life is hard sometimes
Living in an unsafe community
Surrounded with gangs and violence
We all have two personalities,

A bear who causes violence and harm to others,
Me, Diego who knows the consequences to my troubles
There's always something we can do to help others
Working with children and lead to them to do better
Not having the struggles i've had in my life
Because we all the potential to be better

"My story doesn't start like a movie or a fairy tale"
Me living here a day is a step closer to death.
Walking through the streets here I smell odor of death and drugs, and killer
Trying to fight those thoughts of drugs, death, killers with children's laughter
(Mario B.)

I'm living everyday a step closer to death
Voices in my head
Trying by best to make the most of my days
(Daliah C.)

Half of my personality wants to
Go rob, steal, do drugs, fight...
And the other half knows
That all the bad things I do have consequences
And wants to help people not be like me
So the streets can be more peaceful later on.
(Ana C.)

Not all stories start the same.
Knowing that you can be in danger.
Having to know you're not safe,
Learning how to survive,
Wanting to help kids have a better future.
(Jazmin G.)

Fighting Myself

I wake up every day to the horrifying smell of death in the streets.
Playing hide and seek for a living, literally.
It's hard playing hide and seek because it means I'm by myself.

I'm scared of myself and what the bear is capable of doing.
So I fight, fighting the fear and anger that is the bear.
(Maile)

Open your eyes and you will see

You just need to open your eyes and see the truth.
I have potential to do many good things and to help people.
To help young people, so they didn't turn out like me.
(Tatyana S.)

Diego's Rebirth Collaborative Poem, Period 2

Struggle

The struggle I've been through
Is more than most of yall been through
The battles i've had with the demons
Sometimes I would overcome them
Other times they would get the best of me

Hiding myself :

I try to hide the bad and negative side of myself from the world
Although it's constantly trying to escape from me ,
I just have to remember all the good stuff in my life
I learn to face reality.
I learned that the things I did were wrong
And that by being good, I can have a better future.

Who would win, the bear or me?

I am my own enemy
Fighting with my demons
I either fight to leave the streets of death
Or become the streets of death
Angry, scared, alone

When we change ourselves
We can change the world
When we change ourselves
The smell of bullets and death
May finally disappear and
All that is magical inside of you
Will reveal itself for
All you need is love

I do what I have to do
To survive but I try to
Teach the kids how to
change the tide
To have a better life than mine

The bear vs a man
One mean and aggressive,
The other weak, but honest.
Both tainted by black ink
One can choose to run and hide
The other changes that ink into a rainbow
Creating new colors on old paper

Hiding my bad side:
I hide my bad side and I don't wanna let it out, instead I try to think of the good things in my life
so I won't become the bear so I won't become my enemy.

I'm in a rumble with myself
No matter how hard i try to maintain the anger stored inside me
I sometimes fail.
The bear is slowly taking over diego
Diego, the person who wants to do better
Maybe i should open my eyes and look at the truth
This is our world now
But something inside me is telling me to keep going.

The streets of death
Must join gang to survive
The city abandoned
Fighting myself at night
There's another chance
Diego or bear?

Fighting with the demon within:
Consciously knowing what is right and wrong,
Knowing Consequences for every action I make,
Fighting at night with myself ,
Trying to stop him,
Unsure who will win,
While Having fear of the anger in the demon within.

The life isn't easy when you don't have it all
Living and growing up in a bad community was hard
But that's what I had to go through
to survive.
I couldn't live the life I wished.

The Man and the Bear
I know of a bear that strived for respect and power,
In which was fueled by fear and anger.
I am the man,
Who seeks change, peace and prosperity.
I remember the smell of gun fire,
I smell the scent of death that is always close by.
The work I carried out for others.
Now I work for others,
I teach change, peace and prosperity.
I am a man with an open heart.
I know the bear with a closed mind.
I am the Man and the Bear.

I have two personalities.
I am called Oso

The other one called Diego
When I'm Bear, I fight
When I'm Diego, I help kids.

I am who he is,
Remembering the spell of gun fire.
I am who he is
Having an open heart.
I search as things change.
I know the animals out there with a closed mind
I am the Man and the Animals.

Diego's Rebirth Collaborative Poem, Period 3

i. My story doesn't start like a movie or a fairytale
I think about what can happen if I close my eyes
Violence, home.
I have to learn to survive.
At such a young age you learn.
At night I would fight with myself.
Although, I have learned the consequences.
I hold myself back because that's all I have.
When we all change, we change the environment.
I help the ones the way I wish I was helped.
All we need is love.
(Blanca M.)

Dos Personalidades

Todos tienen dos personalidades
Uno es un diablo que siempre
Escoge violencia y Roba pero el
Otro sabe que todo tiene una
Consecuencia. Antes jugábamos con carros

Y las escondidas pero ahora pongo drogas
En bolsas porque es la única manera
Para sobrevivir. Pero así es la vida,
Las historias de las personas no empiezan
Como una película o historia de adas,
Y las personas con poder cierran sus ojos
Y nos dan su espalda a todos quien no
Tienen casi nada. Enseñó a los niños que tienen talento
Y no tienen que hacer lo que yo hice.

(Carmen M.)

Light and Dark Side

Light side

All we need is love

(Jayden V.)

All We Need Is Love

The smell of bullets is so strong
That I fear one day it'll be the end of me
I live in a poor, forgotten neighborhood in the mountains
Where the only way to survive is to join gangs
Bagging cocaine, heroine, and marijuana
My other personality, Bear, is just roaring to come out
To fight, steal and cause chaos
But Diego knows there's always consequences
Diego knows that giving into Bear won't help anything
So I locked him in a cage and threw the key away
I decided to help people
Help the kids so they don't lose their childhood like I did
I want to change the environment, make the city more peaceful
And that all starts with the kids

(Janey N.)

The Midnight to Sunrise

I. Savage

Living through the pain,
Feeling the pressure to survive,

Being a wild animal that
Destroys what's in its path
Through violence and anger

II. ...

(Aaron V.)

My story doesn't start like a movie
Or a fairytale.
In my home you learn how to survive.
At night I fight with myself
So the bear won't come out of me,
But in the day, I'm Diego.
I help little kids
So they won't turn out like me.
Because...

If we change, the environment changes

(Aaron C.)

Life

My story doesn't start like
A movie or a fairytale
You have to open your eye to see truth and
Meaning of things
With a double personality
Tattoos that represent gangsters
Other ones that say "All we need is love."

(Ariana M.)

Aunque mi historia no comienza como una película o un cuento de hadas
Tal vez si tendría una final feliz
Una final en que nuestros hijos y nietos vivan en un mundo de tranquilidad y el cambio y los
sueños se puedan hacer realidad
Porque
Nosotros vivimos en un sistema en que los ricos disfrutan la vida mientras los pobres solo
tratamos de sobrevivir
Muchos crean que en este mundo el rey es una persona que tal vez tenga mucho dinero
Mucho poder

O trae mucha violencia
Yo disimulo esa ideas porque se que no es verdad
El rey son los niños
Ellos son la esperanza
Ellos son el cambio
Ellos son nuestro futuro
(Belen M.)

When we change
We can change our environment
Turning broken bottles
And empty hearts
Into something that looks like
Healing and hope
A hello kitty tote bag
The sun kissing his cheek
As he slides towards open arms
Arms to lift and buoy
Arms to mend
And illuminate the the magic
That lives inside each of us
Letting the bear return to the forest
And leave my ribs to hold what they were always meant to
Your dreams and my tender heart
(Sanderson)

"You can smell it, the stench of death.
The plaguing of the soul, which once bright now is cold.
Even in life it slowly fell, deeper and deeper,
Until it couldn't be found.
Maybe hidden in the streets, maybe in a house...
Although the soul is gone, the memories can be found,
the further they leave, the more they hurt,
The memories fade but they'll always hurt."
(Aubrey C.)

Mi Cuento De Hada

Mi vida no es como un cuento de hadas
Me despierto por la mañana a la violencia

Necesitando abrir mis ojos solo para ver la verdad
La verdad de lo cruel que es la vida en la que estoy viviendo
Con dos personalidades
Un ángel que me está ayudando a aprender
Y un diablo que pelea conmigo y elige la violencia sobre todo
A una edad tan joven y necesitando que aprender
necesitando aprender a sobrevivir,
Necesitando aprender la forma correcta de vivir,
Porque si queremos cambiar la forma en que vivimos necesitamos cambiar a nosotros mismos
Y si se puede simplemente enseñando a los demás en una edad joven
Que lo único que se necesita es el amor.
(Neyda S.)

New beginnings

Long since forgotten by those in power,
A town buried within the mountain.
The smell of bullets is often overwhelming.
But underneath you'll find something much different.
In this same town, new hope is born.
I see what others don't, I see the truth.
I tell the children their worth.
Hoping it sparks something within them.
Hoping that I am able to give them something I never was able to have.
I can only pray it's enough.
When we all change, we can change the environment.
(Jazerei P.)

2 thoughts conflicting with each other.
2 different people with different ideals.
My mind is split into two and I don't know who's in control.
Violence plagues my home
I need to fight for my family
Feeling anger around me
I start to become violent
But I know that i'm doing wrong
I want to change myself for the better