

“Fire” and “Purple”

Arli

Abstract

These poems were submitted through connections with Eli Dinh (they/them), founder of [Galaxy Kids](#), a group for young people (4–12) about gender, gender identity, and the various ways humans can connect and be in relationship and/or community. Eli approaches their work through their own lived experience as a trans and nonbinary person working in early childhood education. Galaxy Kids invites children to be their authentic selves, offering a place where there’s a shared understanding of the nuances of gender. Sessions are facilitated using a child-centered approach that’s necessarily play-based, engaging, and incorporates the arts. Galaxy Community Circle is an organization that prioritizes the perspectives of children, and Arli’s (pronouns: ze/zir, age 12) is one such perspective.

Keywords: lgbt, gender, children, transgender, poetry

Fire

I wish I could go back and comfort my younger self.

To be with them when they were hurting, when they were happy, when they were young.

To be with the fire and tell them things, things I did not yet realize.

It is in my dreams, and I know it might not happen, but what I wanna do is to make sure that any other little kids like me will not have to live in the shadows and they can go be bright like the rainbows that they are.

Purple

purple - in between pink and blue

kind of like me

purple - the color of the sunset

purple - the color of laughter

purple is both and neither at the same time

purple is its own color

you can make purple with different colors

it’s just like us: there’s infinite possibilities