Life Doesn’t Frighten Me

By: Maya Angelou

Shadows on the wall  
Noises down the hall  
Life doesn't frighten me at all  
   
Bad dogs barking loud  
Big ghosts in a cloud  
Life doesn't frighten me at all  
   
Mean old Mother Goose  
Lions on the loose  
They don't frighten me at all  
   
Dragons breathing flame  
On my counterpane  
That doesn't frighten me at all.  
   
I go boo  
Make them shoo  
I make fun  
Way they run  
I won't cry  
So they fly  
I just smile  
They go wild  
   
Life doesn't frighten me at all.  
   
Tough guys fight  
All alone at night  
Life doesn't frighten me at all.  
   
Panthers in the park  
Strangers in the dark  
No, they don't frighten me at all.  
   
That new classroom where  
Boys all pull my hair  
(Kissy little girls  
With their hair in curls)  
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes  
And listen for my scream,  
If I'm afraid at all  
It's only in my dreams.  
   
I've got a magic charm  
That I keep up my sleeve  
I can walk the ocean floor  
And never have to breathe.  
   
Life doesn't frighten me at all  
Not at all  
Not at all.  
   
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Life Doesn’t Frighten Me by Maya Angelou

Hummingbird Project

Operation of Robot

Our robots feature different functions of the Hummingbird Kits to perform different actions. To program our snake we first recorded the sound of a snake hissing using our Chromebooks and made the recording play until it stopped. This is the same way that we recorded and programmed the other sound too. Then we programmed a green light using a single colored led to act as the snake’s venom. Next, to program our dragon we used two more single leds, this time red, to add color to our fire after inserting the recording. To program our dog we put in the sound of a dog barking and programmed another red light for its mouth. Lastly, to program our girl we put in the sound of us banishing the evil beasts and programmed another servo to make her turn 180 degrees. Also, to make all of the noises and lights stop when the girl turned, we timed everything and programmed each different program to repeat for that amount of time. By using the different aspects of the Hummingbird kits we were able to bring parts of our project to life.

Poem Analysis

In Maya Angelou's poem Life Doesn't Frighten Me, she talks about the beasts that try to scare her and how she preserves past it. We believe that the girl in the poem is a fierce young lady showing how she fights past all of the negative feelings and actions she is faced with. Maya Angelou was constantly resistant towards all the negativity that came in her life, and she chooses to stand up against it instead of to back down. We think that this poem emboldened us to try to overcome some of our fears. One thing our group wondered was why Maya Angelou thought Mean Mother Goose is scary because many children in the world find this nursery rhyme soothing. We would also be interested to hear the backstory of this poem and her inspiration on writing it. Overall, this was an inspiring poem to analyze and to use to capture our thoughts into a physical representation.

Robot’s Relation to Poem

Our robot and our poem have many connections such as our noises and motions. The background and the props are beings that Maya Angelou described in her poem that we tried to recreate. For example, in the poem, she describes a dragon breathing flames, lions on the loose, big ghosts in a cloud, and a snake. This is why our project features those animals. To make the setting scarier we made our box all black with spikes and splatters of red paint acting as blood. Adding these effects also made our girl appear more resilient. The doll we choose is African American in honor of Maya Angelou and to make the scene look like it was truly being told from her point of view. We wanted  to every motion and detail to reflect the true emotion and ideas presented in Angelou’s poem which is why we based many aspects of our presentation off of her poem.

Conclusion

We hope you enjoyed our presentations.  Now you may come get a closer look at our bots.  We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about our poems or our projects!

Project Reflection

1. What was the most enjoyable part of this project?

We found that one of the most enjoyable aspects of this project was  trying to present our vision of the poem in a diorama. We were able to be as creative and outgoing as our minds pleased which allowed our group to create a creative and original envision when coming up with ideas to present our vision. Another part we enjoyed was connecting to our poem. This poem encouraged us overcome our fears and helped us to see that anything is possible. Additionally, some other aspects that were enjoyable was the collaboration that came with building a group diorama/robot and analyzing the poem. In conclusion, this project had many enjoyable and fun aspects.

      2. What did you learn while completing this project?

While working on this project, we learned many things. Initially, we learned more about poetry and the different forms of poetry. Following, we learned more about Maya Angelou and her fears. Then we learned collaboration by setting our differences and some opinions aside to create this beautiful masterpiece. We also learned more creative ways to express our ideas and visions through the Humminbird technology and constructing our presentation. In conclusion, we learned many new things about poetry, Maya Angelou, cooperation, and programming while working on this project.

3.  What was the most difficult part of this project?

While working on this project we faced many difficulties. One of our main problems would have to be programming. The programing would not always corporate and Sometimes would work and sometimes would not. Also, sometimes people from our group would be missing or we would not all be present so it would be hard to get more done with less people working. Another thing that was difficult was trying to turn all of our ideas into a project. At the beginning we had many different fears that we wanted to create and different details we wanted to add to the box. However, do to time we were not able to create all of the aspects we wanted to.