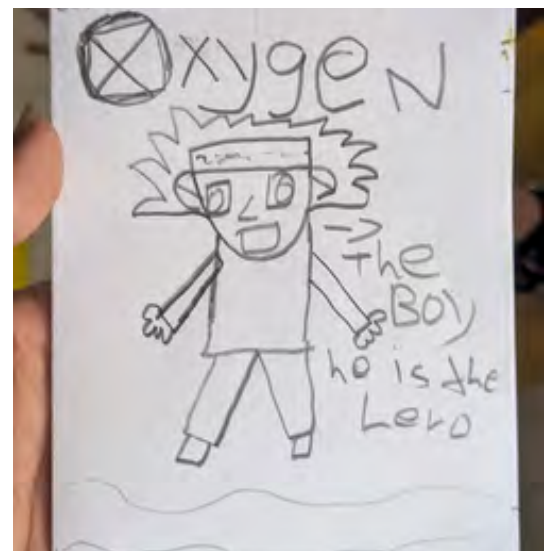


# LOOK AROUND AND ZINE

"Look Around and Zine!" was a workshop for 12-year-olds that I conducted at my former school, Navadisha Montessori School. In this 2-hour session, we began by exploring what zines are and how they can efficiently tell stories and share ideas with the world, as they are simple 1-page booklets created through specific folding techniques. We then discussed the importance of observing our surroundings, and I encouraged the children to choose





an element or creature in our environment that often goes unnoticed. After a brief warm-up game, we took a short walk outside to observe their chosen subjects. Once we returned, the children spent 15 minutes writing a small story or poem, answering the question: "If your chosen element could speak, what story or poem would it want to share with the world?"

Next, I demonstrated two zine-folding methods and introduced a few composition and illustration techniques, such as the rule of thirds, the golden spiral, collage, line drawings, and using different media. The children then spent the rest of the hour illustrating their stories, resulting in beautiful, thoughtful zines. Some of the topics they chose included leaves, trees, oxygen, flowers, butterflies, and fish. We ended with a discussion on the importance of seeing the

world through the eyes of the elements around us, and during our reflection, the children shared that they felt more compassion for the world we live in. I had a wonderful experience conducting this workshop. Interacting with the children, I could see their innocence and recognized that they were at a formative stage in understanding big concepts like conservation and its significance. Although I've conducted several workshops with children, this was the first one focused on our environment and nature. 'Art for Conservation' (A4C) workshop conducted by Zoo Outreach Organisation was elemental in exploring my artistic skills to communicate nature conservation. This experience has inspired me to explore new and innovative ways to share this perspective through art.



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