



What Does School Mean to You?

Dedication Page

This book is dedicated to students and educators across the country. Special thanks to the students and teachers who pondered the question, "What is school?" and shared their thoughts to create this book.



*Schools are places for learning. Some are large, with hundreds of students. Some are small with only a few dozen students. Some schools are found in big cities, surrounded by buildings and cars and crowds of people. But there are also schools in the suburbs surrounded by houses and schools in the country surrounded by farms. But what is school really? And why is it important? The dictionary defines school as a place for teaching and learning. But what do kids and teachers say about school and why it is important? **Let's find out!***

What do you learn at school?

Nubian says,

*"The purpose of a school is to learn.
To learn how to read and write,
and learn how to do math."*

-Nubian, 3rd Grade, Detroit Michigan





Josslyn says:

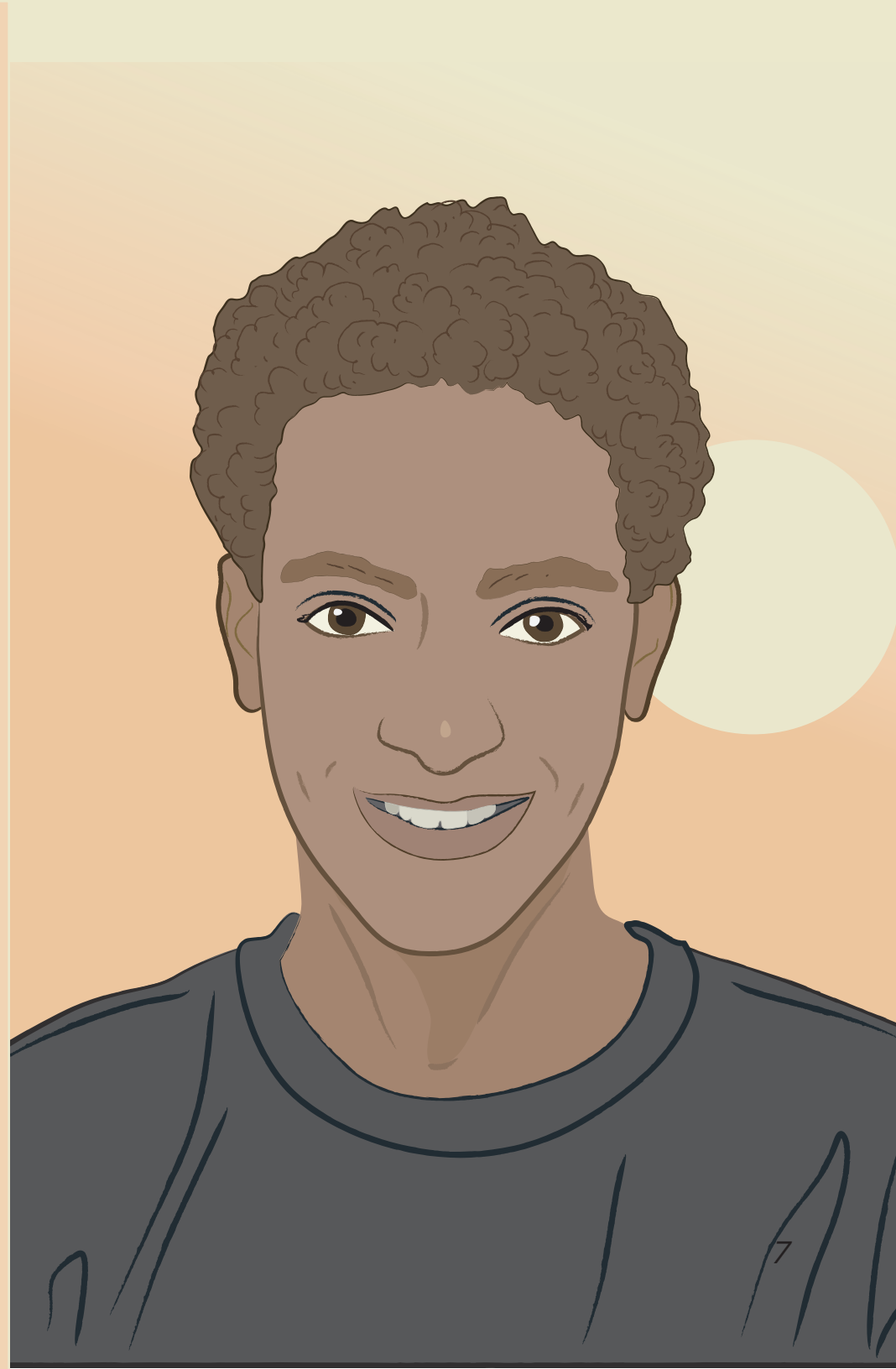
"When I was studying the solar system I wrote about how the moon causes the tides. People came up to me.. They didn't know, so I had to teach them."

-Josslyn, 2nd Grade, Rochester New York

Solomon says,

"My school challenges me to learn by teaching me a topic and pushing me to [use it in] the real world. We are taking charge of our learning."

-Solomon, 8th Grade, Chicago Illinois





Bryce says,

"I go to school to be safe and learn all the stuff that I need to learn. I learn how to listen and follow directions the first time, so you can be safe."

-Bryce, Kindergarten, Detroit Michigan

Miles says,

"I learn to play with my friends. We make plans. We solve problems when we don't agree."

-Miles, Preschool, Richmond Virginia



What makes your
school a community?

Michelle says,

"I think the foundation of [our school] community is caring and fondness for our school. Students and parents are proud to be a part of our school."

-Michelle, Teacher, Denver Colorado





Jonathan says,

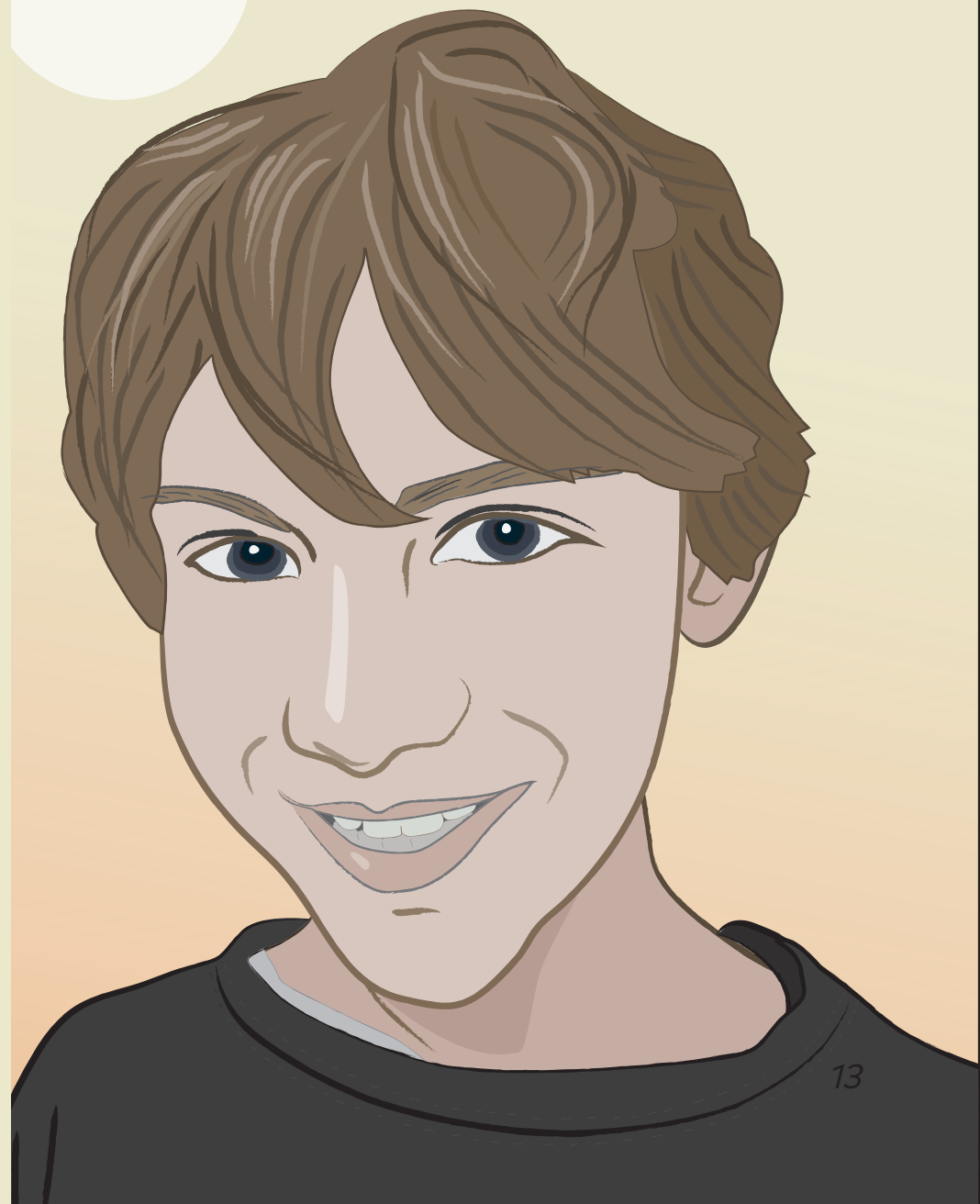
"At school we work together every single day. We learn together, we play together and we have fun together."

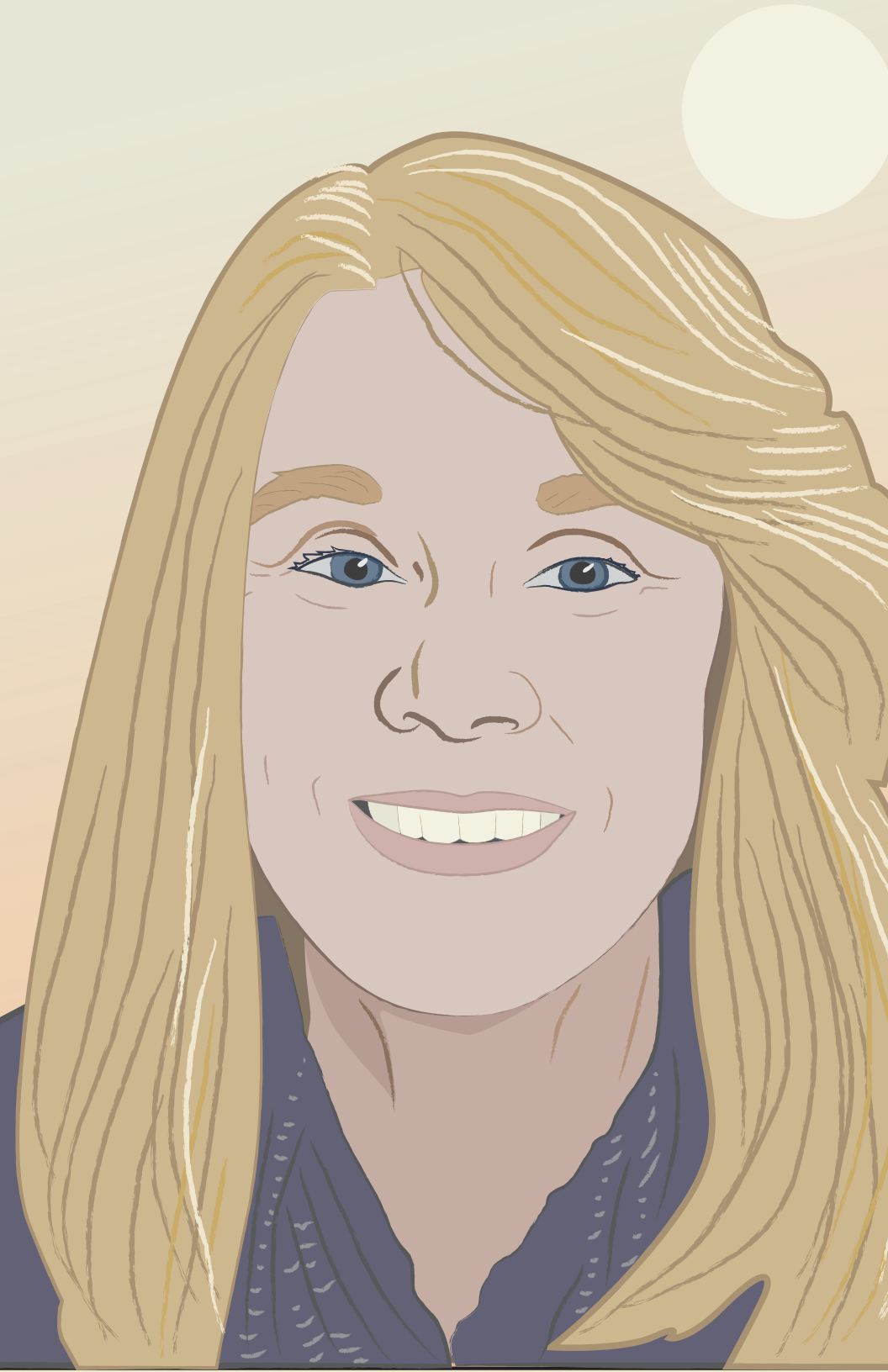
-Jonathan, 1st Grade, Detroit Michigan

Christopher says,

"We support each other... Once we go on [to the outside world], we'll have habits like this. We will do this and our world will be a better place. For example, if we see someone out there we can look at them and say hello. Not just walk right by... If you keep on spreading the word to be nice, honestly the word will get around."

-Christopher, 3rd Grade, Rochester New York





Lisa says,

"Learning about the community often leads to a service that can be provided to that community. For example, a third Grade class learned about world habitats. Then they created scavenger hunt booklets that gave clues about animals that live in the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester. They donated these booklets to the zoo for visitors and classes to learn and have fun."

- Lisa O' Malley, Curriculum Coordinator,
Rochester New York

Jack says,

"At the beginning of this year, we planted bulbs in the front of our school. We did that to make our school more "green". By planting these flowers we are cleaning the air. The flowers take carbon dioxide from the air. This will have an impact on the quality of the air in our environment."

-Jack, 6th Grade, Rochester New York

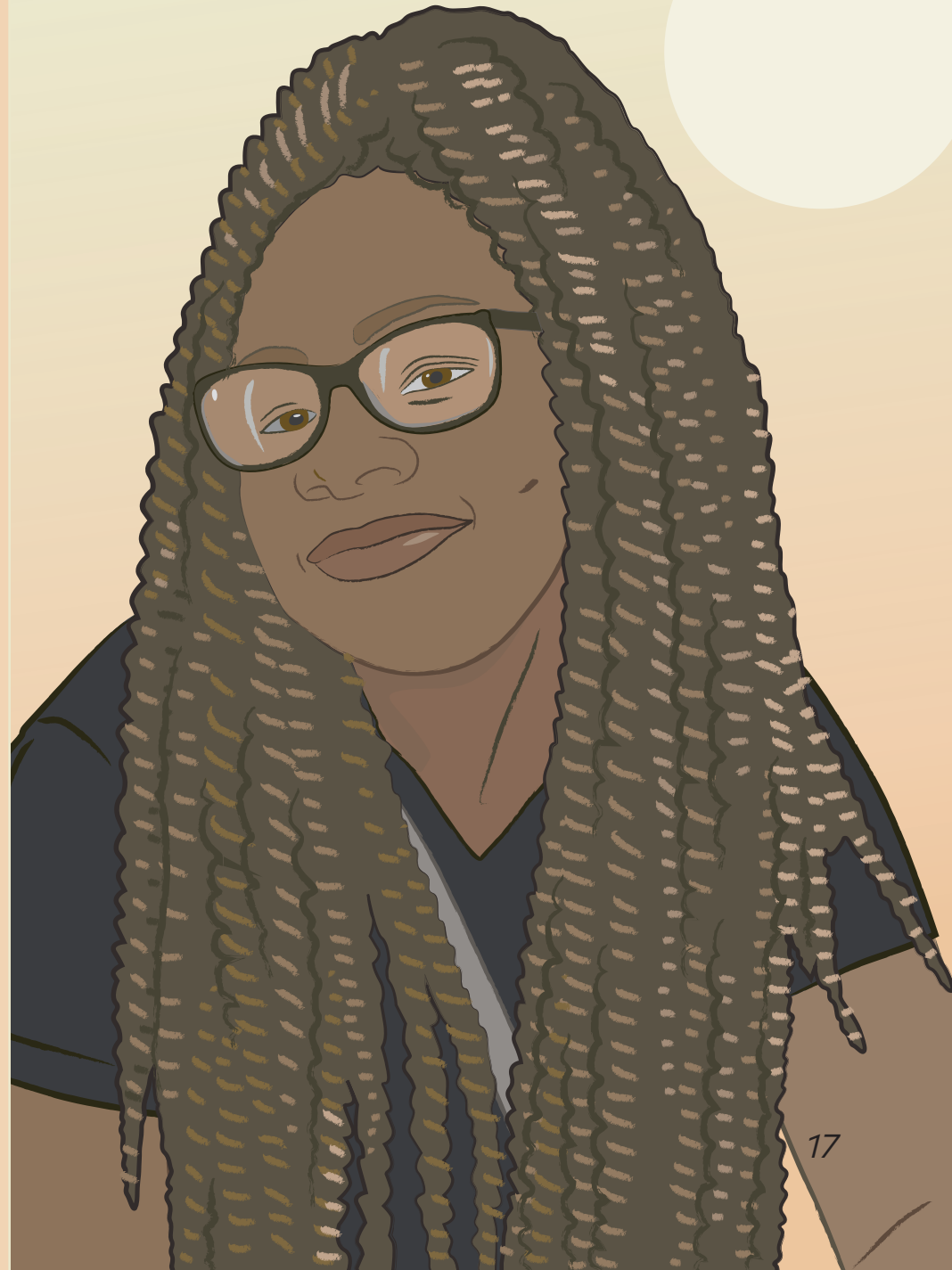


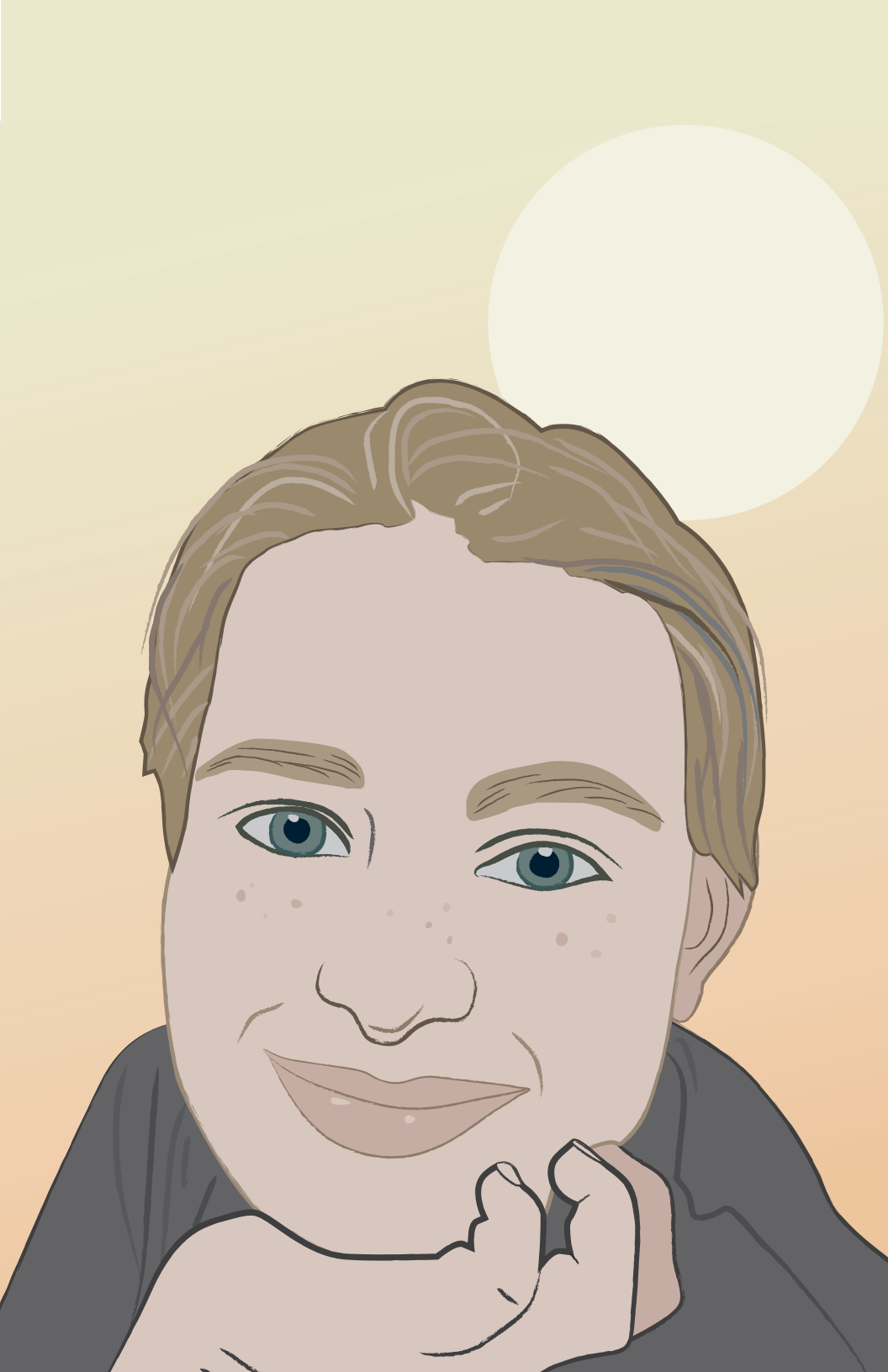
Why does your learning
at school matter?

Trinity says,

"I think the purpose of a school is to help children educate their minds, get them ready for life, to expand their knowledge of the world. I think the purpose of a school is also to help people become better people. I want kids to know that although school may seem hard or sometimes overwhelming, it is worth it. It can help you grow you into a beautiful young man or woman that will one day create something great."

-Trinity, High School Graduate, Chicago Illinois





Jack says,

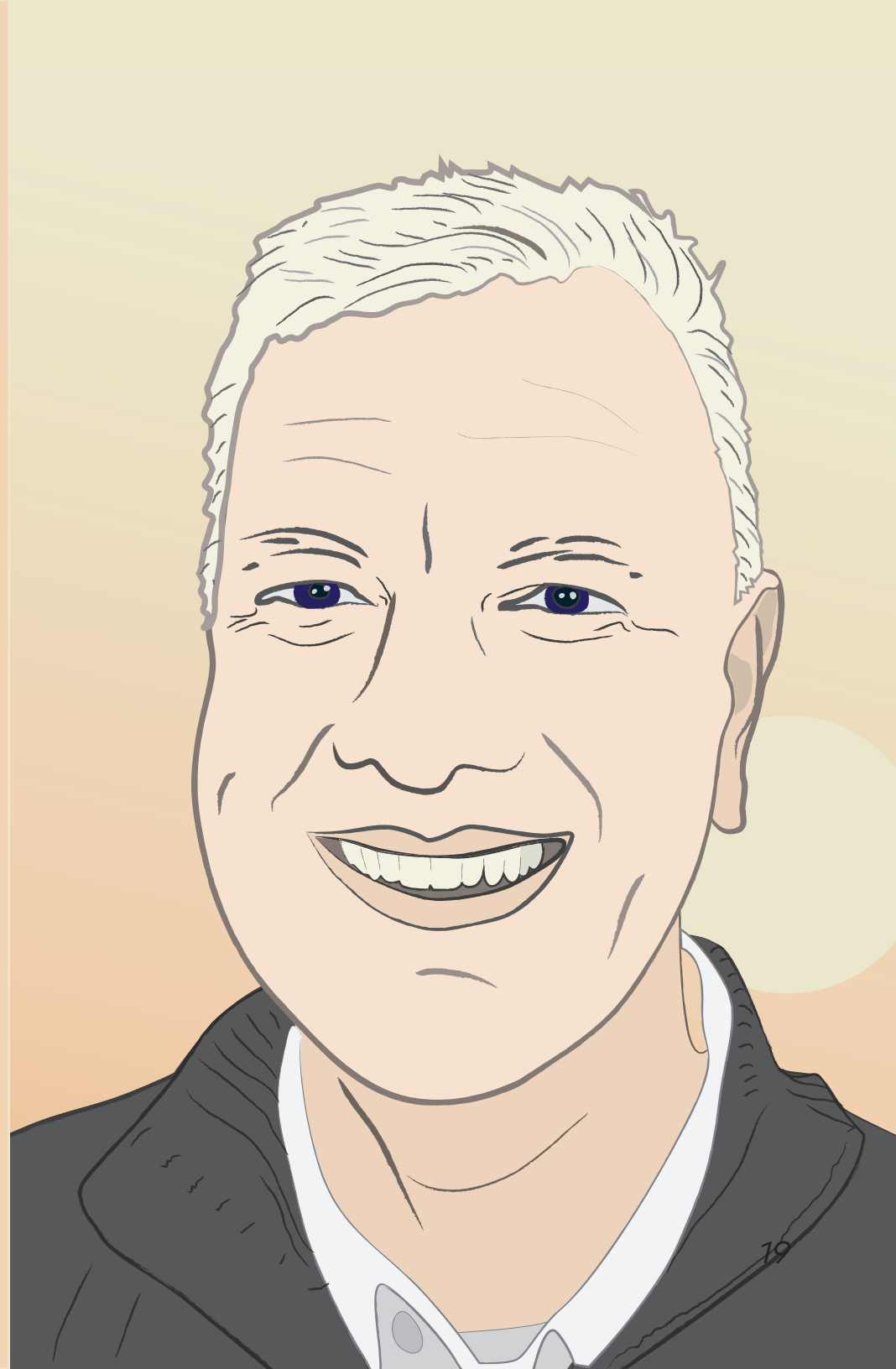
"At school you learn to do high quality work. High quality work means you are doing above and beyond what you're expected to. I think creating high quality work is important because you'll need [that ability] in life."

-Jack, 6th Grade, Rochester New York

Chris says,

"When students create high quality work, it shows them that they are capable of more than they think. [It] helps students see themselves as experts with voice and the power to make a difference."

-Chris, Teacher, Rochester New York



So what do *you* think?

What does school mean to you?

Why do you think school is
important?