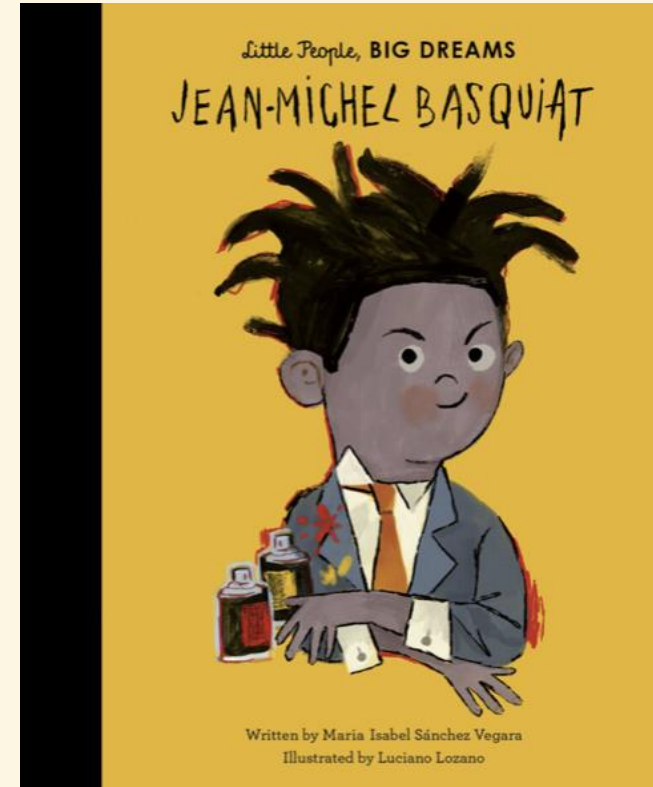


October is Black History Month. This is a time to celebrate outstanding contributions that Black and Mixed Heritage people have made to society across the globe...



His mother was **Puerto Rican** and **father** was **Haitian**.



Jean-Michel was a talented boy from Brooklyn whose mother was Puerto Rican and father was Haitian. He was only four when he started drawing, eager to show the world what a great artist he could be.

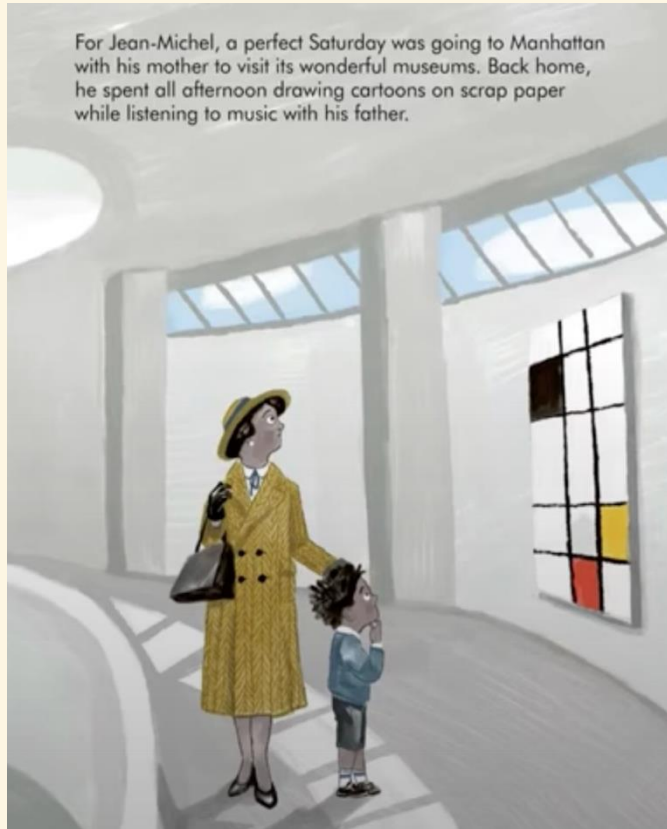


He was only **four** when he started **drawing**, **eager** to **show** the world what a **great artist** he could be.

4



Jean-Michel liked to go to Manhattan with his mom to visit its wonderful museums.

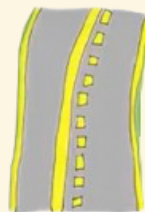


Back home, he spent all afternoon **drawing** cartoons on scrap paper while **listening** to music with his **father**.



One day, when he was **seven**, Jean-Michel was **hit** by a car while **playing** in the **street**.

7



One day, when he was seven, Jean-Michel was hit by a car while playing in the street. He had to rest in bed for weeks. To help pass the time, his mother gave him the most useful present he could have received: an anatomy book.



To help pass the **time**, his **mother** gave him an **anatomy** book.



Skulls, teeth, guts, skins, skeletons...

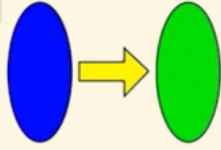


Skulls, teeth, guts, skins, skeletons...the book was simply fascinating! Going through its pages, Jean-Michel realized how powerful and fragile the human body is. He decided to use all he had learned in his paintings.

Going through its pages, **Jean-Michel** realized how **powerful** and **fragile** the human body is.



Things **turned** upside down when his **mother** got ill.

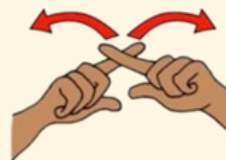


Jean-Michel **dropped** out of **school** and **ran** away from home.

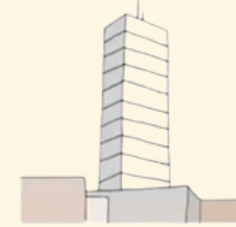


Things turned upside down when his mother got ill. Jean-Michel dropped out of school and ran away from home. Luckily, he found his place in City-As-School, an unconventional setting where he met other artists like him.

Luckily, he **found** his place in **City-As-School**, a **different** type of **school** where he **met** other **artists** like him.



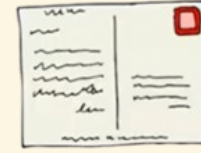
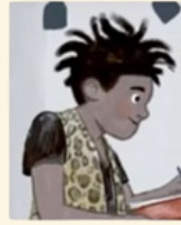
Not long afterward, the city of **New York** **woke** up with **messages** spray-painted on **buildings** all over Manhattan.



Not long afterward, the city of New York woke up with messages spray-painted on buildings all over Manhattan. They were signed with a name that Jean-Michel and his friend Ad Diaz had made up: SAMO.



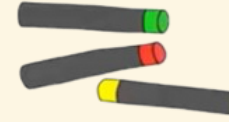
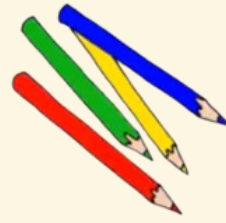
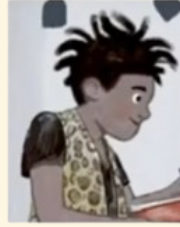
In the blink of an eye, he went from selling t-shirts and homemade postcards



It was the beginning of the graffiti era, and Jean-Michel was at the center of it. In the blink of an eye, he went from selling T-shirts and homemade postcards, to becoming the new star of the art scene.



In his studio, Jean-Michel spent hours on the floor, mixing **pencil**, **oil sticks**, and **crayons**



Locked up in his studio, Jean-Michel spent hours on the floor, mixing pencil, oil sticks, and crayons with cut-up quotes he found in comics and history books. The result was a beautiful mess of paintings that people fell in love with.

with cut-up **quotes** he found in **comics** and **history** books.

The result was a beautiful mess of **paintings** that **people** fell in love with.



Jean-Michel **believed** that **everyone** deserves a place in art.

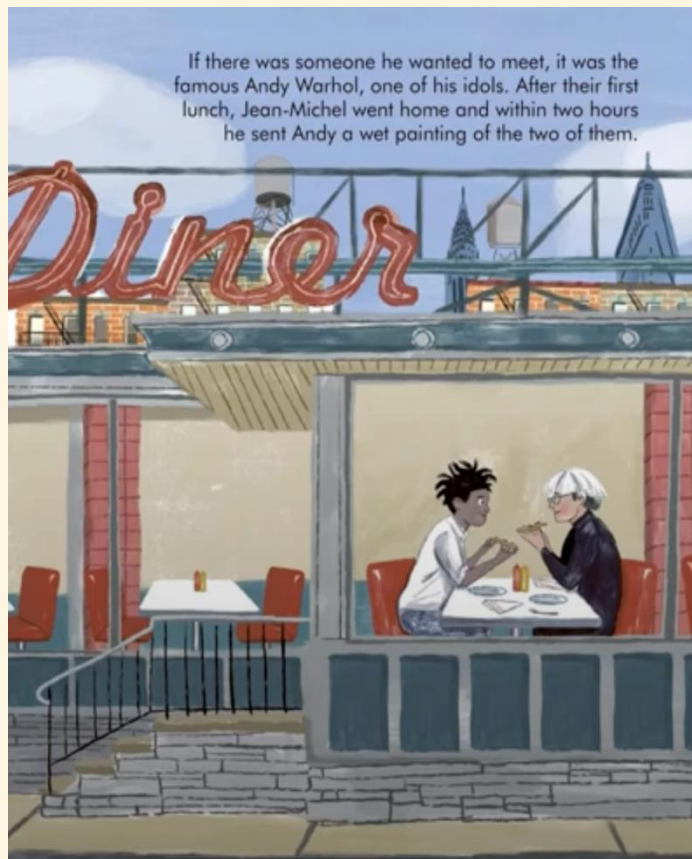
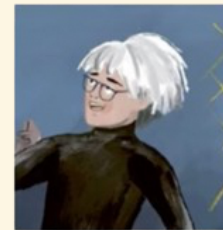


Jean-Michel believed that everyone deserves a place in art. Instead of painting kings and queens, like many other artists, he turned his paintbrush to waiters, cooks, prisoners...and himself.

he painted **waiters, cooks, prisoners, and himself.**



If there was **someone** he **wanted to meet**, it was famous **Andy Warhol**, one of his idols.



After their first lunch, **Jean-Michel went** home and within two hours he **sent** Andy a wet **painting** of the two of them.



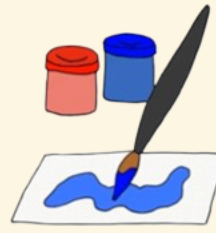
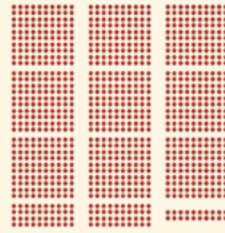
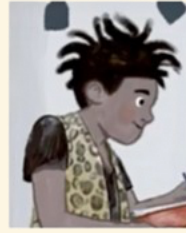
Jean-Michel and **Andy** spent lots of time together: **working, painting,** and **going to parties.**



It was the beginning of a great friendship! Jean-Michel and Andy spent lots of time together: working, painting and going to parties. They were the brand-new painter and pop art legend—the craziest pair on the scene!



In less than ten years, Jean-Michel made thousands of paintings and drawings.



In less than ten years, Jean-Michel made thousands of paintings and drawings. But he was also a poet, a musician, and a graffiti prodigy who influenced the work of many artists that came after him.



But he was also a **poet**, a **musician**, and a **graffiti** prodigy who influenced the work of many artists that came after him.



And by **painting** life in his own **unique** way, **Jean-Michel** became one of the most important **artists** of the 20th century.




And by painting life in his own unique way, Jean-Michel became one of the most important artists of the 20th century. The talented child who once told his father: "Papa, I'm going to be famous."




The talented **child** who once **told** his **father**: "Papa, I'm going to be **famous**."





When life got tricky for
Jean-Michel, did he give
up on what made him
happy?

What did he choose
to paint?
Why?





School Reflection

This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,

Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,
Love of one another,

Love of mankind,
Love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands build a house,

So many hearts make a school

Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected, and all are deeply valued.