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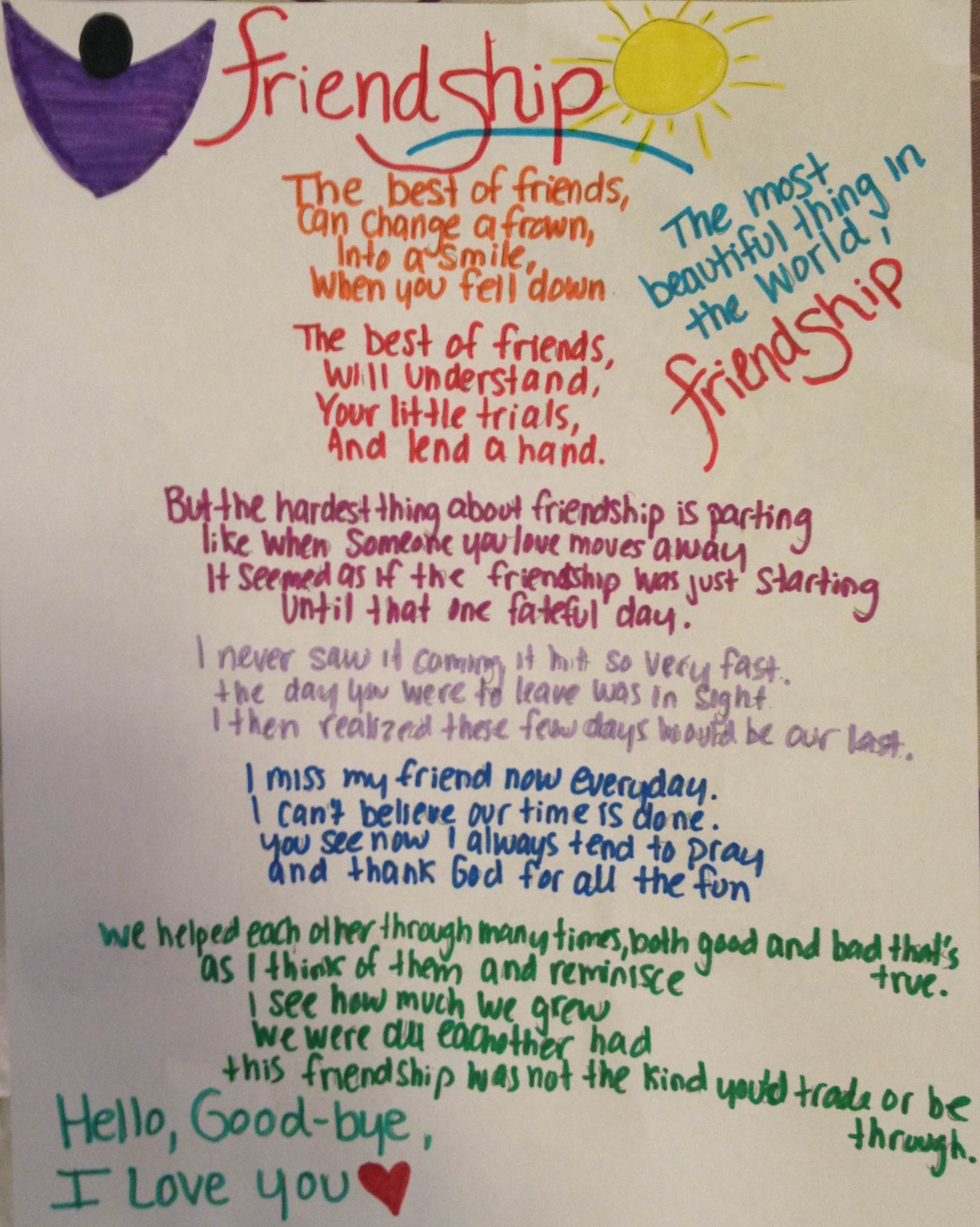
Lens 6 *The Orange Houses*

I wanted to write a poem for this Lens dealing with friendship and how losing a friend is always very hard but you need to remember the good times you had with that person. The poem is suppose to be how Tamika would see things, it is referring Tamika and Fatima’s friendship. There was something very different about their friendship; they were always there for each other. They became friends so quickly and wanted to help and be there for each other in any way that they could. Mik and her family wanted to give everything they had to help bring Fatima’s sister over but in the end it did not work when Jimmi accidently told that she was an illegal. In *The Orange House* by Paul Griffin, it says in page 141, “Mik, I figured it out. The project Jimmi said we were working on? The most beautiful thing in the world? He meant friendship.” Jimmi brought Mik and Fatima close, they shared a special connection throughout the whole book now matter what life brought them.

This book could be very relatable for students in a classroom; they might know someone in this same type of situation. It teaches students a very important lesson about friendship and how differently every lives. Mika and her family did not have much, her mother was working three jobs and Mika was doing Gale’s math homework to try to make more. When Joe Knows gave her the money for her surgery, they wanted to help Fatima bring her sister over with that money. It helps teach students that there are still good people out there and they will help you even if they do not have much themselves.

In *The Orange Houses* students will also see some poetry and rhyming. I would have students in the class write their own poem dealing with an issue that arose from this novel. Students in your classroom will come from so many different types of backgrounds. This novel addresses, low SES, bullying, hearing impairment, friendship, death, close to death, post traumatic stress disorder, drugs and gangs. There are so many different topics addressed in this book that students will be able to relate to something or also learn so much just from reading this book.

*The Orange Houses* was very engaging, I think young adults would enjoy learning about this, since it talked about such huge issue right now in the world that young adults are facing and this book would work very well to teach a lesson on it.



Friendship

The best of friends,  
Can change a frown,  
Into a smile,  
when you feel down.

The best of friends,  
Will understand,  
Your little trials,  
And lend a hand.

But the hardest thing about friendship is parting  
like when someone you love moves away  
it seemed as if our friendship was just starting  
until that one fateful day

I never saw it coming, it hit so very fast  
the day you were to leave was in sight  
I then realized these few days would be our last

I miss my friend now everyday  
I can't believe our time is done  
you see now I always tend to pray  
and thank God for all the fun

we helped each other through many times, both good and bad that's true  
as I think of them and reminisce  
I see how much we grew   
we were all each other had  
this friend was not the kind you'd trade or be through