

Quinn Aaronson

English IV

Greco

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Zenith Project

When first thinking about what I want to make my Zenith project based on, I thought about animations I've always wanted to make. I remembered this one small comic I saw about 2 little monkeys during the summer. I sent it to Guillermo, my friend, with the message "this is literally us". I knew when I saw that I wanted to make something like that, and I remembered hearing this one specific bird during my childhood. After much searching I found the bird, the "Mourning Dove" and decided to make my Zenith about nostalgia.

My main artistic influence was Anna-Laura who was the one that created the two monkeys video. Her artstyle is extremely cozy, it's an art style that makes me feel so homey and all of her art makes me feel nostalgic which inspired this whole project.

The most collaborative part of my project was asking Guillermo and Jen what their childhood was like, and what memories they remember from when they were younger.

I feel that over my time at freestyle the main thing I improved on was High productivity, however for this one project I definitely improved on my Visual Literacy

skills. I know that in the future I will definitely use the main skills I've learned from animating here, such as blurred frames, order of drawing, etc.

I definitely feel that I have elevated my skills and experience here, I know I would have never willingly drawn an underwater scene but doing so has opened my eyes to so many different animation techniques and opportunities of creativity, I have so many ideas that have to do with water now and I'm extremely excited to try it out on my own time over the summer.

If I could redo the project I would definitely choose a more simple artstyle, especially for the backgrounds, I feel if I did do that it would have been easier to animate, and I could have made the animation longer than it ended up being. Additionally you can tell when watching the animation which parts I got lazy on, as the quality dramatically decreased suddenly.

The final thought I want people to be left with when watching my animation is just, "I miss being a kid", when I was younger it was always "I can't wait to grow up" and "I can't wait to graduate middle school" followed by "I can't wait to get out of high school" but now that I am reaching the end of my high school career, I wish I just acted my age, I wish I appreciated the privileges I had as a child, and I hope when people see my animation they feel the same way.