

ARE WE WORTH IT?



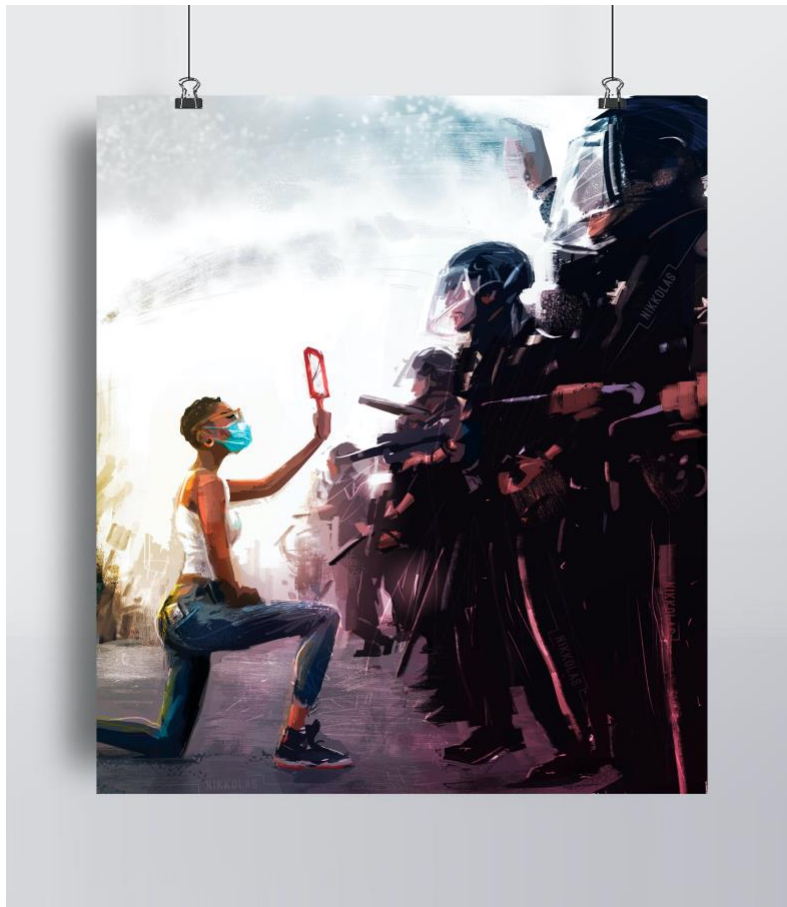
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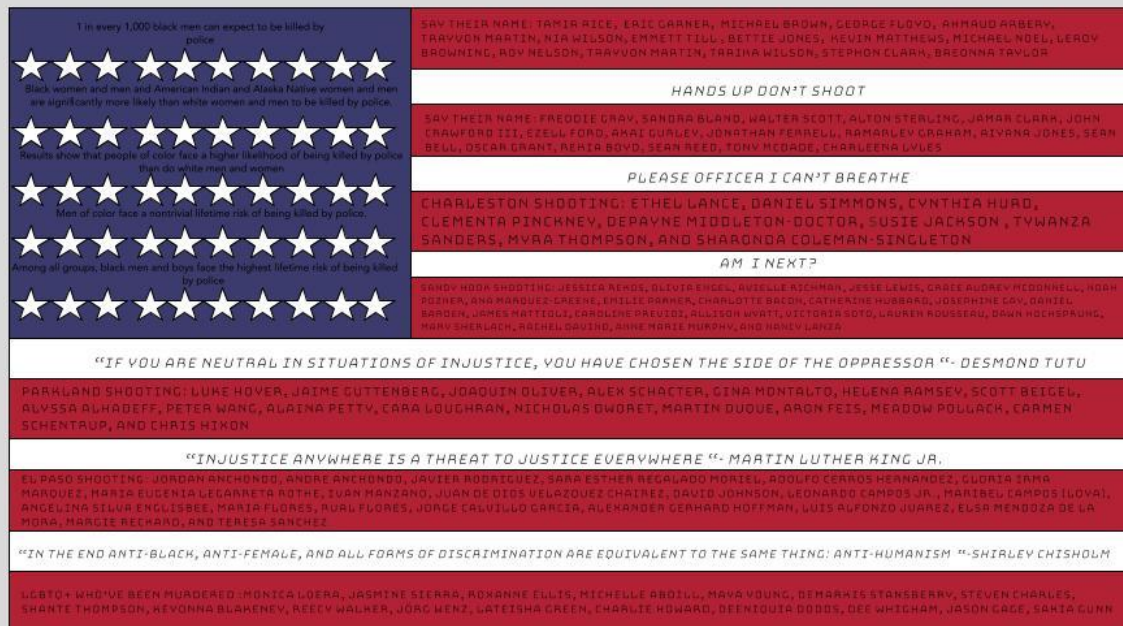
BEGINNINGS

“Are we worth it?” is the essential question of Markus Zusak’s *The Book Thief*, which the seventh grade read this year. The book, which takes place during World War II, examines the nature of war and humanity through the eyes of its main character, Liesel Meminger. The author doesn’t spare the reader the horrifying nature of war, and through the other characters, seen through the words of Liesel, the reader can, perhaps, come to terms with this question.

The events in the United States and the world over the months from March until now and beyond, reflect this critical question, which is at the forefront of so much we have seen. Maybe this question has an answer; maybe not. The seventh graders, after finishing the book, took the time to consider it in light of what they’d experience, seen, and agonized about. Their responses are on these pages.

Much of the artwork is from the talent of Nikkolos Smith.





CITATIONS:

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5. "VICTIMS OF THE PARKLAND SCHOOL SHOOTING." MNXV, WWW.ABC15.COM/NEWS/NEWS-PHOTO-CALL/ERVITHESE-ARE-THE-VICTIMS-KILLED-AT-THE-PARKLAND-SCHOOL-SHOOTING.
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Mia Rauceo

The explanation for my drawing:

My drawing was made digitally on Google Draws. I used the colors of the flag of the United States. I took the design and put facts and names of people who have been killed for either how they identify, they look, or just out of the hands of evil. I put quotes from inspirational people who've made a difference in society. I was not able to include all of the names of black people (which is extremely horrifying) who have been killed by either police, guns, or horrible people only because of the color of their skin.

The first shooting that I named is the Charleston shooting. It happened at a church in 2015, where 9 people were killed. Dylann Roof was the shooter and was sentenced to death.

The second shooting I named was the Sandy Hook shooting. It happened in 2012. The shooting happened in an elementary school, many of the kids who were shot were from the ages of 6-7. The shooter was Adam Laza; he was 18. He never went to jail, but instead killed himself when first responders showed up.

The third shooting I named was the Parkland shooting. It happened in 2018, 17 people were killed. The shooter Nikolas Cruz was sentenced to death.

The fourth shooting I named was the El Paso shooting. The shooting happened in 2019 in a Walmart. 23 people died that day.

I wasn't able to incorporate all the shootings that have happened in the U.S. There have been so many and it is very, very disappointing. It's also horrifying to know that this is happening so much.

The last stripe on the flag about LGBTQ+ killings. These people have been killed because of how they may identify or who they are sexually attracted to. Most of the names on the list are people who were killed for being trans, lesbian, and gay.

Are human's worth it?

Nolia Dorset

We always ask ourselves,
Is it worth it to stay?
Would anyone really notice if we went away?

The question most ask when they're down.
Is our life valued, or will it crumble to the ground?

The human race,
Despicable and amazing in so many different ways.

It's hard to say whether we are good or bad.
I can't speak for all,
Cause we're all different in the head, that's all.

But what I do know is we are worth it.
We all are.
Whether you're black, white or anything in between,
You deserve life,
Not less than or more.
To all be equal.
That's all.

Just because you did something bad,
Doesn't mean you deserve to be dead, not at all.

If you wrong me,
So I wrong you,
Isn't that the same, it's still an attack on you.

Now I'm not telling you to not fight back,
Not at all; I'm saying to fight with words, not with violence.
Because if you use your words to tell the story of how justice was served, it will last longer, than a punch to the nose.

Our worth is what makes us who we are today.
We all mean something to someone.
We all are worth something, even if it's just to one person.
That will never go away.

Even after you screw up and feel so alone,
You are always worth it,
No matter what you've done,
Or who you've wronged.
You're still a person,
You still belong.

Enzo, Are we worth it?

*Are humans worth it?
A question asked out of necessity
With murderers
With helpers
Who have no reason to kill
Or no reason to help
Are humans worth it?
There have been evils
The homicidal
The genocidal
Or just plain bad
The helpers
Of which there are not many
The kind
The sunlight
The evils of Hitler
Against the beauty
Of the few people good enough
Brave enough
To be good
And time has proven
Again and again
That when it is darkest
Lights shine the brightest
We stay inside
Saying that's enough
While nurses, doctors
Cashiers, UPS delivery people
Who are doing so much
And though there is so much good
There is still so much bad*

*But bad can come to good
And good can come to bad
But what matters
Humans can change
And do change
So, yes
I think we're worth*

Isaiah - Are We Worth It?

What is war
Its a trade of lives for lands
Death so a group can get bigger
We drop bombs and destroy the land
So we can expand

We drag the innocent
Into the slaughterhouse of war
The randomizer of who shall die
The battleground of dead bodies standing

Is it worth it?
To hand our lives so we can get a little bit more area
What is the reason for killing other humans
Some get angry when we kill animals
But killing humans is worse

You wouldn't want all dogs to kill each other
Or your cats to go fight in a war
You would never send your animal friend to do that
But guess what
That's just like sending humans to war

You only get one life
Use it how you want

Lydia

This is a question I've debated a lot. Emotionally, I would say that yes, human beings are worth existing. We've come very far from where we were a hundred years ago, and have made a lot of

progress in life. Unfortunately, the more I thought about this the more I realized that I was incorrect. At least logically, humans are not worth existing.

As I said before, humans have done a lot of good. We're beginning to erase racism, sexism and bigotry, but not all of it. We've invented many amazing things that help humans *now*. But looking back at all the triumphs, you begin to see a pattern. We have never done anything to help the planet or its inhabitants besides ourselves. We trample forests to make room for our cities and poison the oceans with oil.

Us humans are practically a negative in the grand scheme of things. We've only helped ourselves and haven't helped the planet with its greenhouse gases and rising sea level.

If we went back in time and stopped existing on Earth, maybe the planet wouldn't be collapsing. Earth might be better off without us.

Along with the good things, we've done plenty of terrible things as well. Homicide, genocide, wars, and have spread despair to our home, which we share with nature.

I think if we really want to turn around the way we live on Earth and make humanity 'worth it,' we need to do something for the planet. At this point, I'm not entirely sure what we *can* do, but I'm confident in thinking that if we really try to reset this whole disaster.

Plenty of people are coming up with ideas now- but not for ourselves. They are trying to undo our grandparents and great-grandparents' mistakes in hope that we can continue to live here. I'm proud of the things that people are starting to do, and will support them.

Isabel Gil

Are We Worth It?

Are we worth it is a very complicated question. When I hear this question I automatically think of all the bad things I have done and the bad things people in our world have done. There are so many bad things happening right now including racism, homophobia, sexism, war, and so many more that I can't even list. And the people who

are doing this stuff are probably the most ignorant and narcissistic people. They are the ones causing the problems but a lot of us aren't doing anything to help it.

We see bad things every day. Whether it's on the news, social media, or even with our own eyes. And there is no way to escape them. But you rarely see all the good things happening. We don't see all the people trying to solve the problem. Because the bad things are what get more attention from the media. With all the riots and the looting that is going on right now we're only seeing people breaking into stores and small businesses. And we see the police being brutal and attacking the protesters. But what about the police officers who are helping and being peaceful. What about the protesters who want the violence to stop and are trying so hard. The white allies that are protecting black protesters by standing in front of them. This is what makes me think we are worth it. Even if it's just a little bit.

Ever since the beginning of time we have been cheating and stealing to get what we want. People stealing land and going to war. The people who have the most money just paying off all their problems instead of using it for good. We still have time to change our habits. There are so many ways to fix everything we have wrong and with the right leaders we can actually do it. There are so many people who are actually trying to fix the world and if we won't do it too for ourselves then I think we should do it for them. We are worth it for the people who actually care.

Are We Worth It?

By Hudson Lundy

Are we worth it? I could write pages upon pages and never settle on an answer. Whatever the answer might be we cannot live life believing we are not worth it. We did not control being put onto this Earth, but we can control our decisions. Our main drive in life is doing things for a purpose. You study for a test, get all the answers correct, and you'll get an A. If we believe that we aren't worth it, then where is the drive to exceed?

Some might argue that there's 7 billion of us, how are we individually worth it? No one has ever made the exact choices you make. No has the exact same morals or values. We are to believe we are worth it because no one will ever be exactly like you. We are all different. Sometimes it's hard to remember we are worth it. Sometimes it's easier just to give up, but that fire inside of us that wants us to keep going, that makes us worth it.

If I had to choose a side, I would say we are fully worth it. Not only that we should believe it, but we all wake up every day with our own problems and dilemmas; yet we keep going. Not all people are good, in fact a lot of people aren't, but that doesn't mean they aren't worth it. We are worth it.