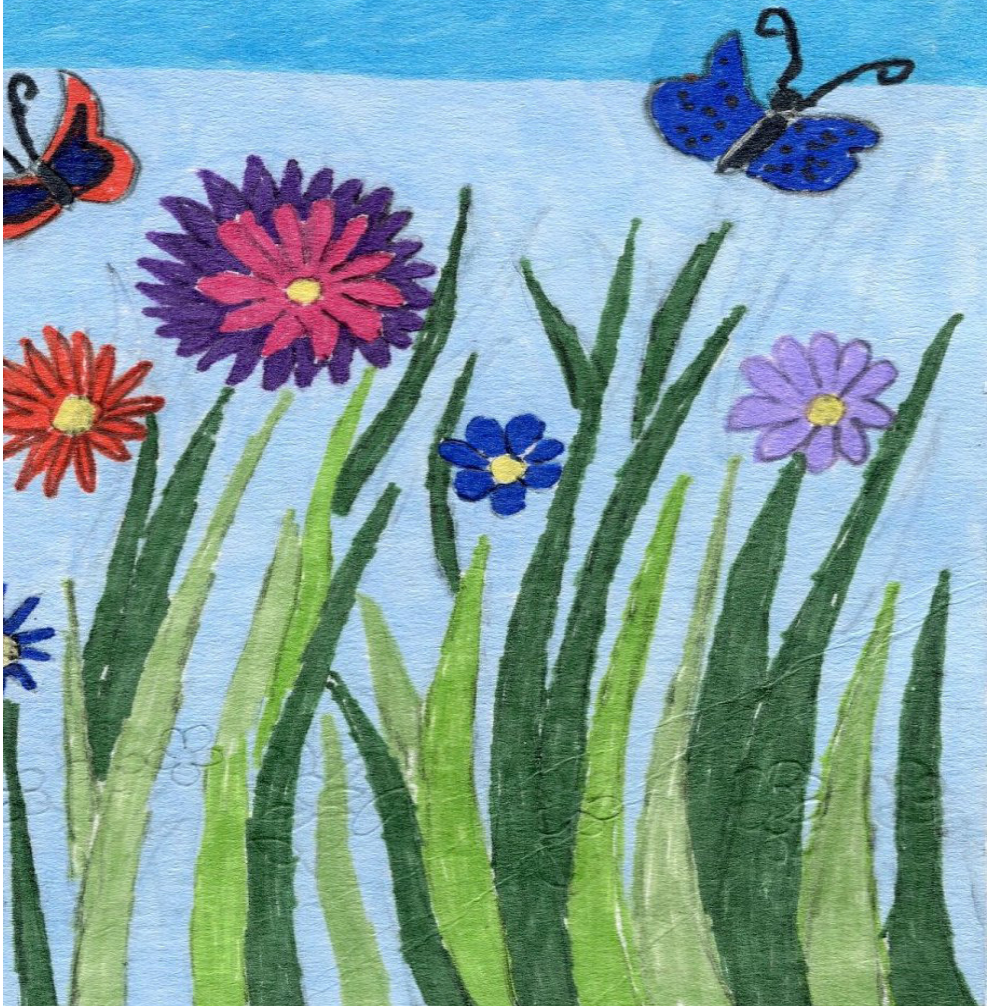


I Choose to be Courageous

by Rojina Rai





I'm Rojina Rai. I was born and raised in Nepal (a small Asian country located between India and China). Nepal is a beautiful country, and it is where I call home.



Mount Everest is found in Nepal, and Gautam Buddha was born there. No matter where I go or how similar things are, these destinations will always be home. It will never be able to compete with Nepal.



I grew up with my mom and friends. My mom has always been there for me, as I grew she was always there guiding me to the next step.



We do things in life that we barely care about, however we still manage to do them even if we don't actually enjoy them.

I used to be nervous and self-conscious. I used to believe in myself and chose to be courageous one day.



I started staying after school for cross country after a long time. It's known as one of the most challenging sports to master. My first cross country season was really difficult, but all of my hard work taught me to have faith in myself.

Cross country made me a better person, and as a result, I started to better manage my time, and from there, I learned I could do it all as long as I had confidence and felt I could, and as a result of cross country, I've also become involved in other things such as agriculture.



I had no idea we had Agriculture when I first entered school. When I found out, I was surprised, but delighted. Agriculture is something I enjoy doing, and growing

plants has always been a part of my life since I used to work on a farm in Nepal, where I constantly assisted my Auntie and Uncle in planting crops. So, in the meantime, agriculture was a part of my after-school activities.

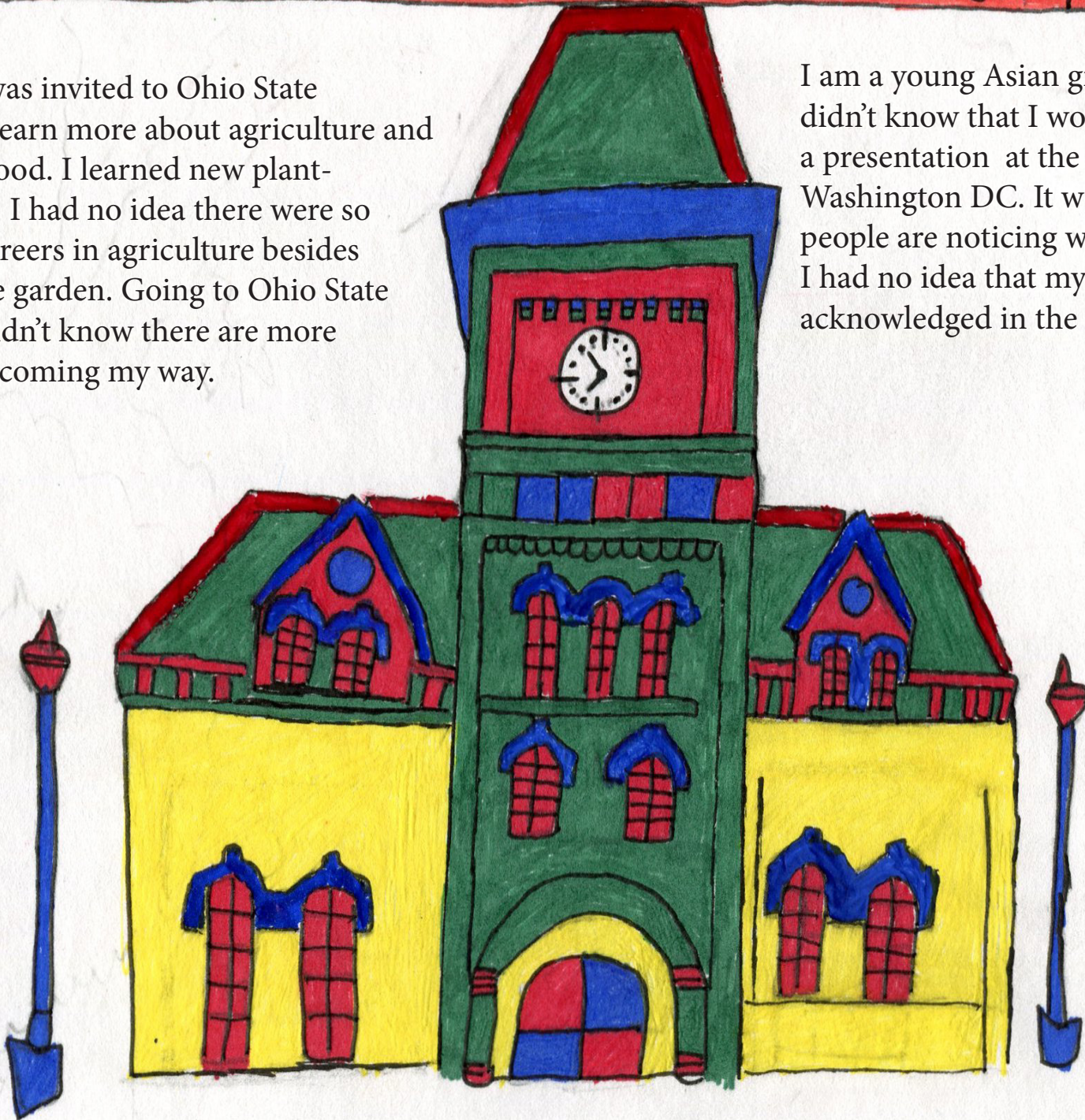


Our Aiken High School Agriculture has 35 beds of

tomato, chili, potato, watermelon, eggplant, and a variety of other vegetables.

The Ohio State University

As a result, I was invited to Ohio State University to learn more about agriculture and how to grow food. I learned new plant-growing skills. I had no idea there were so many other careers in agriculture besides working in the garden. Going to Ohio State University I didn't know there are more opportunities coming my way.



I am a young Asian girl who is living her normal life. I didn't know that I would end up being invited to make a presentation at the Agri-Science Youth Summit in Washington DC. It was very exciting to know that people are noticing what I do. And coming from Nepal, I had no idea that my passion for agriculture would be acknowledged in the United States.





After that, I began to participate in more activities, such as soccer. My favorite sport has always been soccer, but I had no idea how passionate I was about it. When I actually began playing soccer, I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

I'm now dreaming of becoming a professional soccer player. My first soccer practice went well since I knew my teammates, they were my friends, and I was able to communicate with them easily. Later on, our coach informed us that we would be playing our first game. 17

We all felt as if we were riding a rollercoaster that was going up and down. For example, we were both happy and sad. Several of my teammates were nervous because it was their first time playing soccer, some were unprepared, while others were excited. It was all a mix of emotions. Finally, we had a game against Gamble High School. It was a fantastic game, and we got the win.

Other members of our group, as well as students, came to show their support. Seeing them gave us more confidence in our ability to win. We were overjoyed to see them. When we were playing, they were screaming and cheering for us.

It was a fantastic feeling.



After all, what I wanna say to the students and people is that we should do something in this life, instead of saying I couldn't do it, the society isn't set up for me to succeed,

or my parents didn't let me do it. I think we should give it a try at least.

I am a unique breed.

I've gone through different types of challenges but I've overcome them instead of letting them stop me from shining.

