Behind the Book’s mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

Visit us at www.behindthebook.org

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Behind the Book • 216 West 135th Street • New York, NY 10030

Visiting Author: Gaia Cornwall
Teachers: Leslie Estevéz-Deleon & Marie Angeline Mallonga
Principal: Adam Stevens
Program Liaison: Jondrea Williams
Curriculum Developer: Keturah Abdullah

Arts For All Program Facilitator and Teaching Artist: Marcela Artunduaga
Program Administrator: Kelly Choi
Student Book Art Director: Adriana Moreno
Book Designer: Julian Mahecha
Printing: BR Printers: Coordinated by Kathleen McCourt and Lauren Parrott

Special thanks to volunteer photographer Bryan McCay.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students’ work as received from the teacher.

We would like to thank our generous funders: The Korein Foundation, who supported the creation and publication of this class book and The Guru Krupa Foundation, whose contribution made this program possible.
DEDICATION

This student-created book is dedicated to our families, friends, and school administrators including Principal Stevens, Ms. Castro, and Ms. Williams. Thank you to our teachers, Ms. Mallonga and Ms. Estévez, as well as our assistant teachers, Ms. Peña and Ms. Nuñez, for supporting us throughout this project and for encouraging us to become the best individual we can be. Thank you to Behind the Book for providing us with this opportunity that showcases our knowledge as well as giving us the platform to learn and apply strategies that help us persevere through challenges.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

With persistence, self-affirmation, and community collaboration, Ms. Estévez and Ms. Mallonga’s second graders at PS 4 can tackle any challenge. The students read *Jabari Tries* by Gaia Cornwall, an amazing intersection of STEM and Social Emotional Learning. In the book, Jabari is inventing a machine that will fly across the yard. With each new invention that fails, Jabari experiences frustration and disappointment. However, he also develops grit, patience, and the ability to communicate challenging ideas when collaborating with others.

After a read aloud during her author visit, Gaia Cornwall shared her inspiration for the book and offered strategies for problem solving. These tips proved handy when students were asked to complete a STEM challenge during their next workshop. Students needed to stack 10 paper cups without using their hands, then, without touching the cups at all! As a team, they came up with a few inventive ways to overcome any obstacle we created.

Reflecting on everything that they’d learned, students wrote and illustrated affirmations to use in difficult situations. The affirmations were put to the test when the students created desktop launchers and basket targets with Behind the Book’s partner organization Dazzling Discoveries. By the time of the class’s final art project, crafting origami with Marcela, their Program Facilitator from Arts for All, the students could better persevere through new challenges. In collaborating on this program, Behind the Book and Arts for All were able to bring literacy and art together in a unique way.
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<td>OLIVIA</td>
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What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is _______ to make the toy fly.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is _______ that I can do it.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is

Math when i am adding and

- 200 + 300 = 500
- 5 + 9 = 24

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is try try again.

Try, try, try, try.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is understanding math strategies.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is I can do my best.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is Math. The strategies are addition: number line, partial sum, and compensation.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is You can do it! Take a deep breath.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is completing math word problems accurately the first time around.

500 + 500 = 1000

500 + 499 = 502

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is I have the power to make my life what I want it to be.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **getting through my two worst nightmares**.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **never give up**.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is writing my own stories and spelling words.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is I can do my best!
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is Math problems are hard.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is to breathe in and out and practice math.

20 + 30 = 50
40 + 10 = 50
10 + 19 = 29
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **math**.

\[
\begin{align*}
5 \times 5 &= 25 \\
1 \times 1 &= 1 \\
2 \times 2 &= 4 \\
3 \times 3 &= 9
\end{align*}
\]

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **I am strong**.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is ____________

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is ____________

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What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is understanding and using math strategies.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is I can do this! I am awesome.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is ________

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is ________
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **Facing my fears** and **Concentrating**.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **believe in myself**.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is music class when I have to talk.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is I am intelligent.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **swimming**.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **I can do it**.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **regrouping when I add and subtract**.

![Math Problems]

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **calm down**.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **riding a bike.**

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **take a deep breath.**
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is **reading and writing**.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is **keep trying**.
What is something that is hard for you to do?

Something that is hard for me to do is to read words and Math and count by 2s.

What affirmation can you say to yourself that will help during tough times?

My affirmation is I will get better.
ABOUT THE STUDENT AUTHORS

Class 204 is composed of students who lead their daily lives with PS 4’s school values of positivity, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence. Each student strives to be the best version of themselves every single day. Our class has so many talents! Some of which are singing, dancing, drawing, painting, and building!
ABOUT BEHIND THE BOOK

Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Next Generation Learning Standards. The staff who has been behind the books this school year include: Executive Director Andrew Frank, Director of Programs Anmarie Paul, Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator Alexandra Berndt, Program Administrator Kelly Choi, Curriculum Developers Keturah Abdullah and Roya Nabizadeh, Program Facilitators Tatiana Colgin, Amere Cortijo, Shirly Hernandez, and Elizabeth Valentin, Program Interns Avanti Tulpule, Kaylee Young-Eun Jeong, and Grace Riginos, Director of Development Amanda Carr, Development Manager Roshana Nabi, Operations Manager Christy Hood, Marketing and Communications Strategist Vivian Cruz-Rivera, and Student Book Art Director Adriana Moreno.
ABOUT OUR PARTNER: ARTS FOR ALL

Arts For All offers accessible artistic opportunities to children in the New York City area who face socio-economic, physical, or emotional barriers to exploring the arts. Through Arts For All, professional artists work with youth organizations to build self-confidence, self-expression, teamwork, resilience, and creativity in children.

NEXT GEN LEARNING STANDARDS ADDRESSED

WRITING

Texts and Purposes

2W1: Write an opinion about a topic or personal experience, using clear reasons and relevant evidence. Ss in 2nd grade should understand t

2W4: Create a response to a text, author, theme or personal experience (e.g., poem, play, story, artwork, or other).

READING

Key Ideas and Details

2R1: Develop and answer questions to demonstrate an understanding of key ideas and details in a text.

Craft and Structure

2R4: Explain how words and phrases in a text suggest feelings and appeal to the senses.

2R6: Identify examples of how illustrations, text features, and details support the point of view or purpose of the text.
Behind the Book
BtB empowers the next generation of readers and writers by nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in our students.

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