

We Belong



Digital
Zine

Foreword

Hello!

My name is Kirsty Reynolds and I am a visual artist and socially engaged practitioner. I am passionate about using art, play and drama to bring people and communities together. I believe in the potential of creativity to support positive mental health, and regularly make zines and illustrations about life and self-care to help smash stigma and raise awareness.

It has been a great experience to work on this collaborative zine through the We Belong programme. I enjoyed producing a variety of zines which consider who I am, my place in the world, and all the things that make me... me! I hope that the zines I created will help spread Good Vibes, and offer some tips on how to not only survive, but thrive during these testing times.

I hope that this collaborative project inspires other young people to create zines which reflect their unique reasons for 'being'. My intention for this resource is to enable others to share their own ideas of self-care and to allow us to make connections.

I loved looking over all the We Belong zine submissions, seeing how each maker has been inspired and really made the zine their own! I hope all of the We Belong participants enjoyed producing them and that they continue to create art and zines to express their thoughts and feelings – whether these are personal projects, or artworks to share and celebrate.

I am really looking forward to being further involved in the [We Belong programme](#), and hope to meet everyone involved in real life very soon!

Thank you to the We Belong participants for being so thoughtful in your zine responses, sharing your creativity, and most importantly giving it a go! You guys rock!

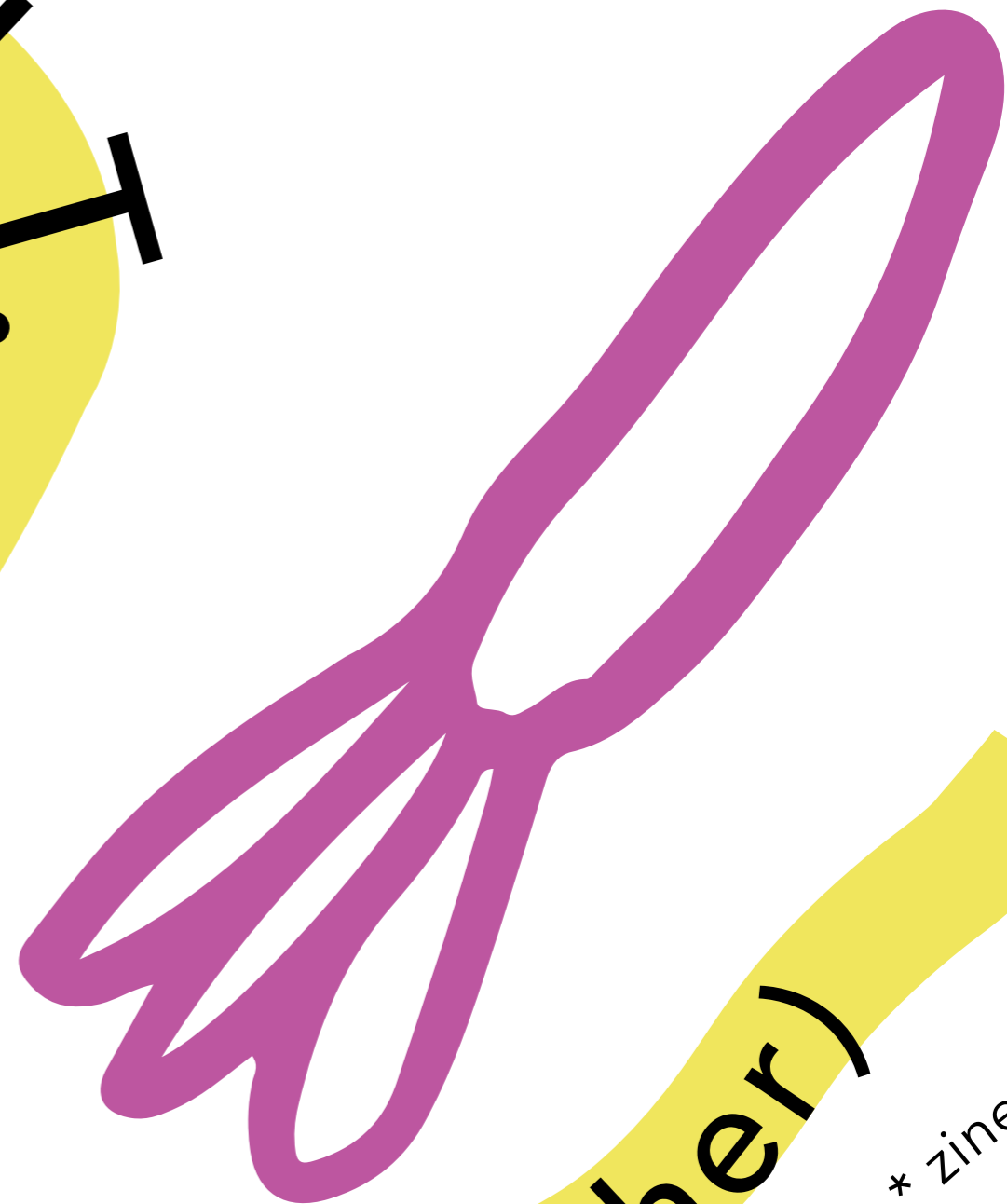
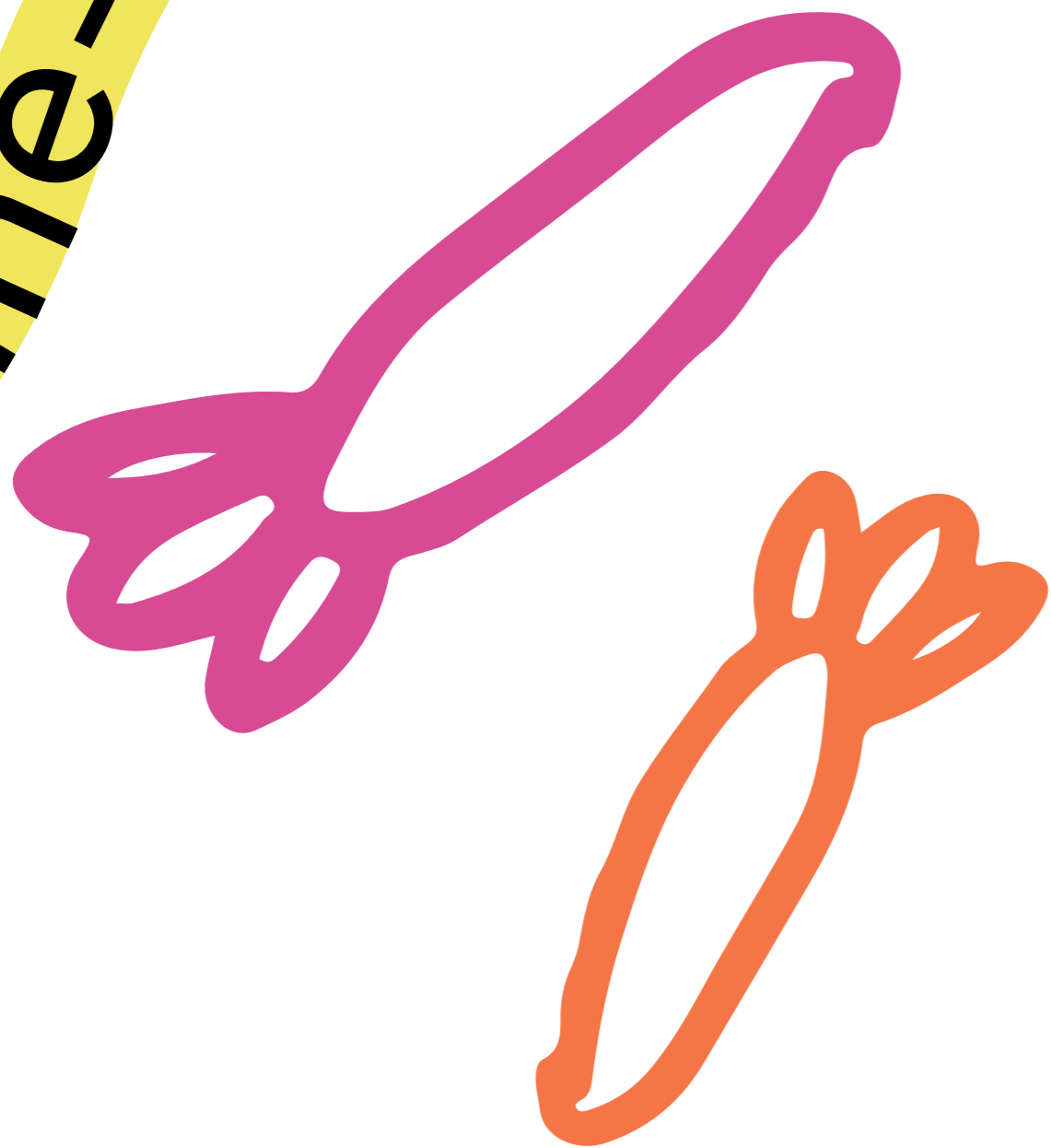


Kirsty created some **YouTube tutorials** to help the We Belong cohort create their zines

They also had some help from the Daikon Zine collective, who shared **tips and advice** for creating zine content and collaborating with others

Turn the page to see an excerpt from Daikon's D.I.T (do it together) **zine guide** 

zine-making as D.I.T.



(do-it-together)

by Bella, daikon* zine

Jade

Kay


Jess

Han

Bella



Making a zine together is a great way to connect with people and learn from each other. It can bring people together who share similar experiences or interests to make us feel like we're not alone. At least that's what zine-making has felt like for me.



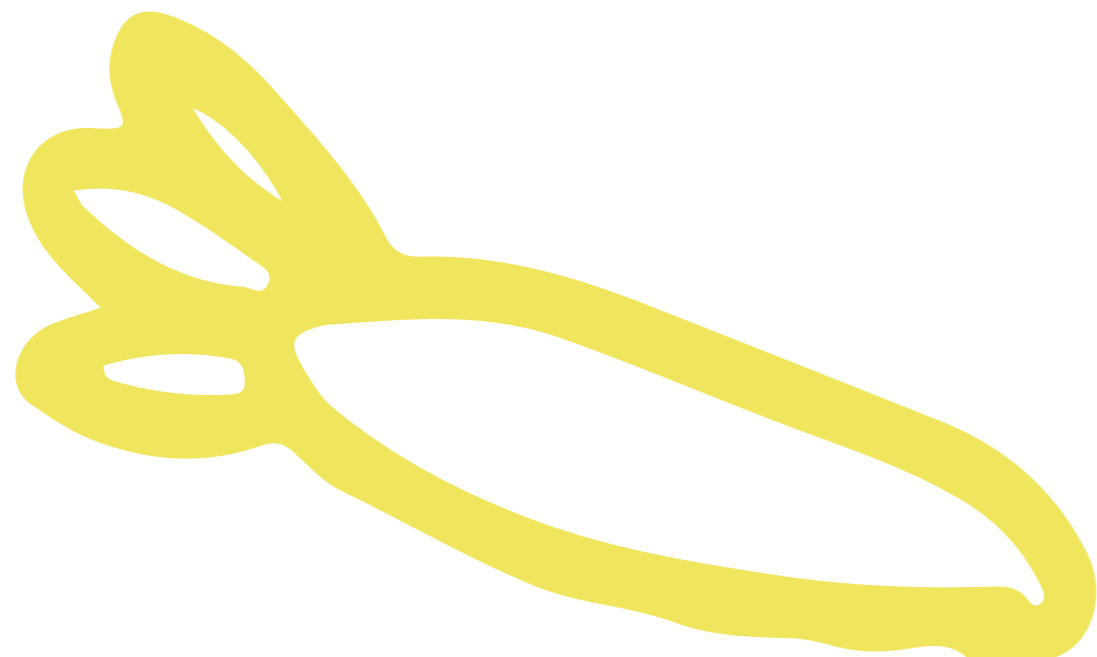
Since the pandemic we've all had to think of new ways to meet people, nurture our relationships and feel a sense of community. Here are some prompts to help you think about how zine-making could help us connect to each other:

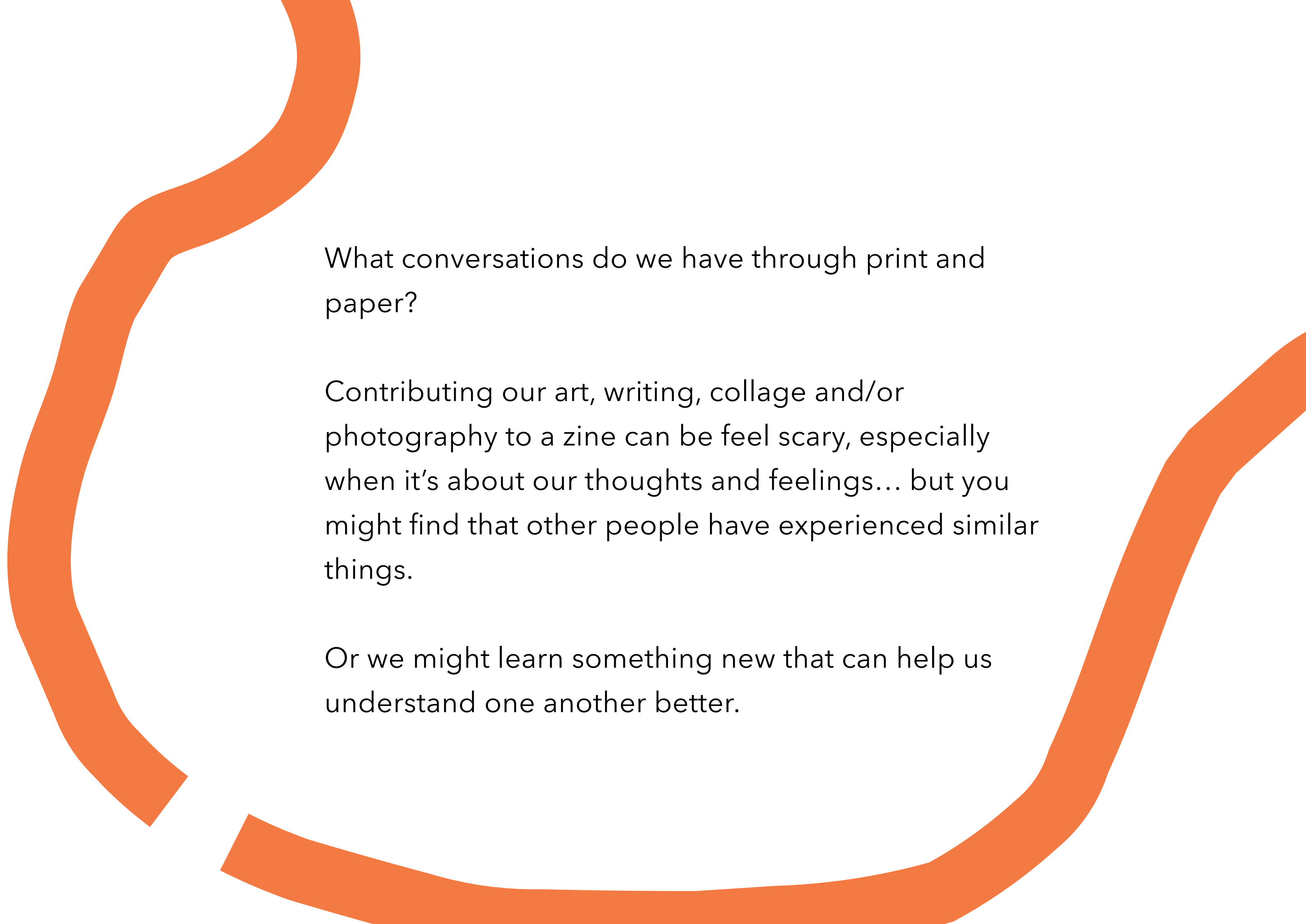


What creative skills do you have?

What new mediums would you like to try?

Think about how your creation might compliment someone else's, for example by taking inspiration from an artwork to write a poem or making a collage using a text someone else has written.

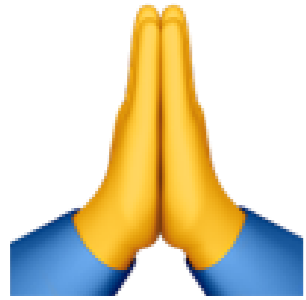





What conversations do we have through print and paper?

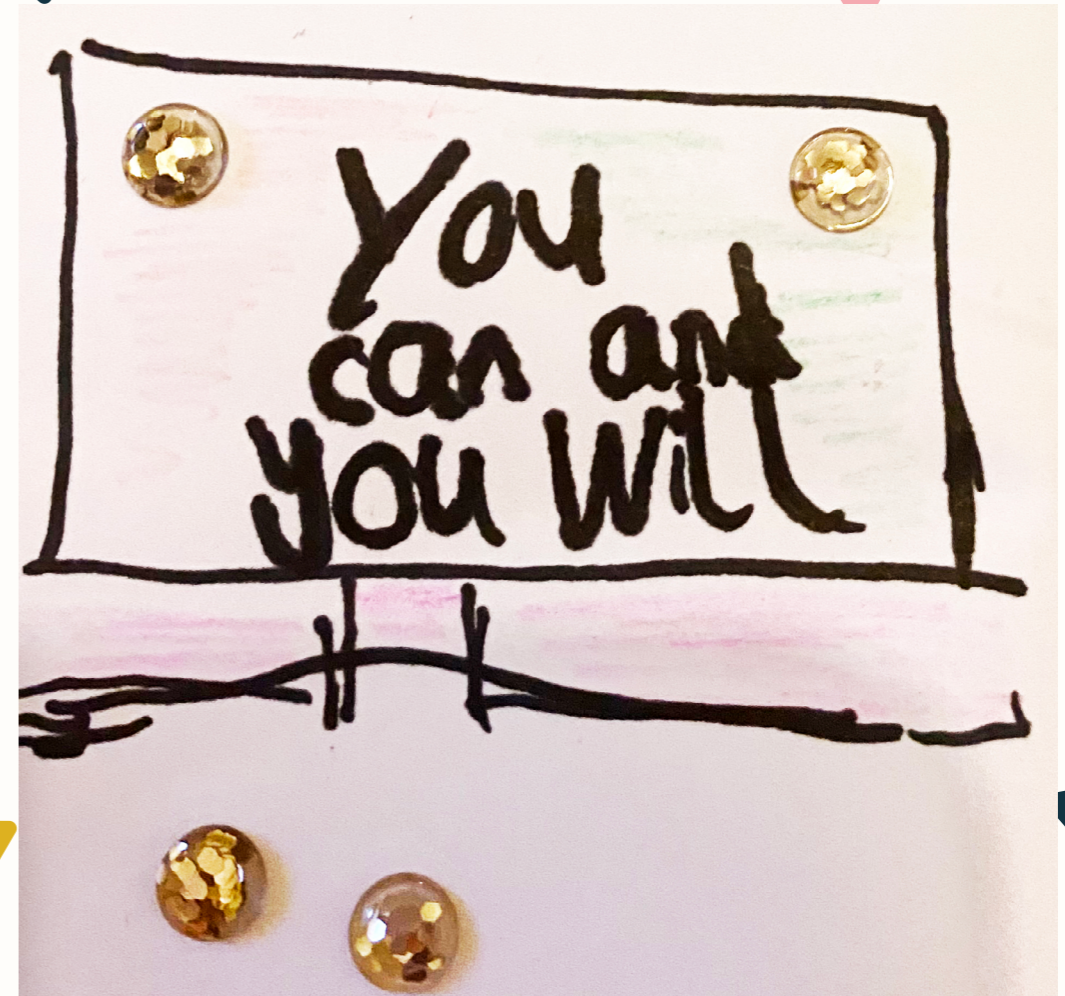
Contributing our art, writing, collage and/or photography to a zine can be feel scary, especially when it's about our thoughts and feelings... but you might find that other people have experienced similar things.

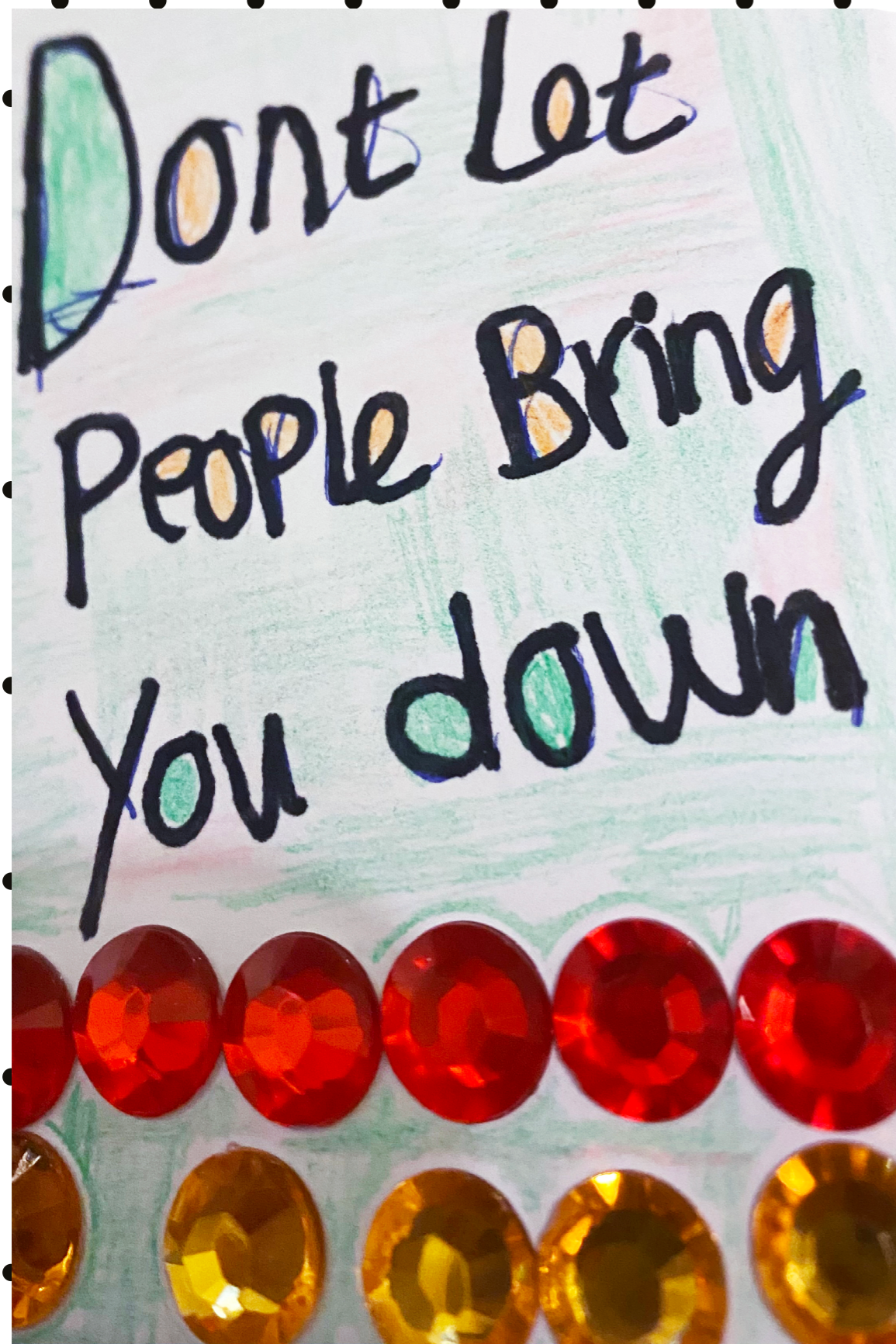
Or we might learn something new that can help us understand one another better.



**A huge thank you to
all of the We Belong
participants who sent us
pictures and excerpts from
their zines**

**Check them
out!** 







About me!!!



Just remember
bullies bully because
they are often
Jealous of you.



You're the
most valued friend
I could ever have -
Rachel 2020

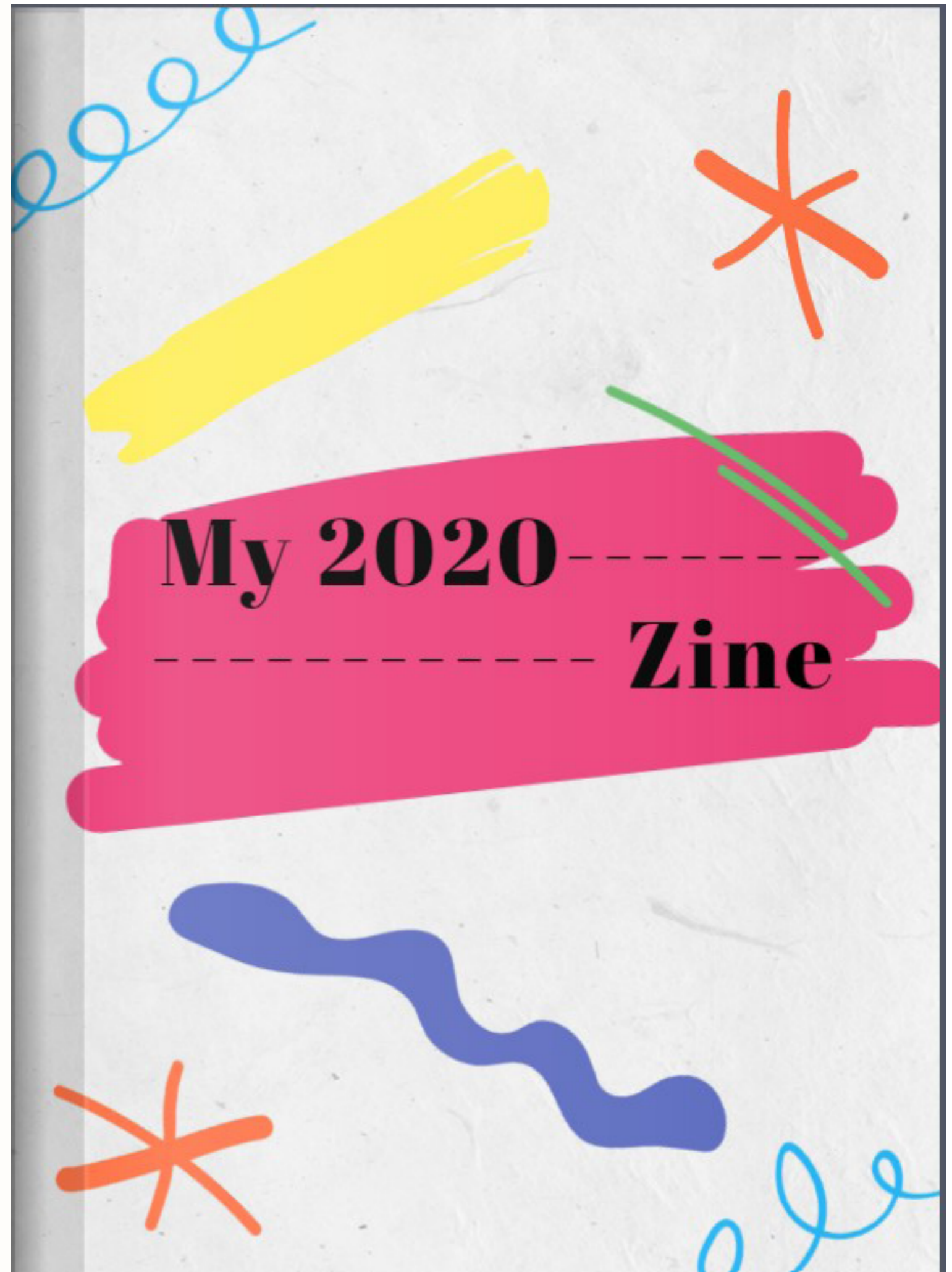
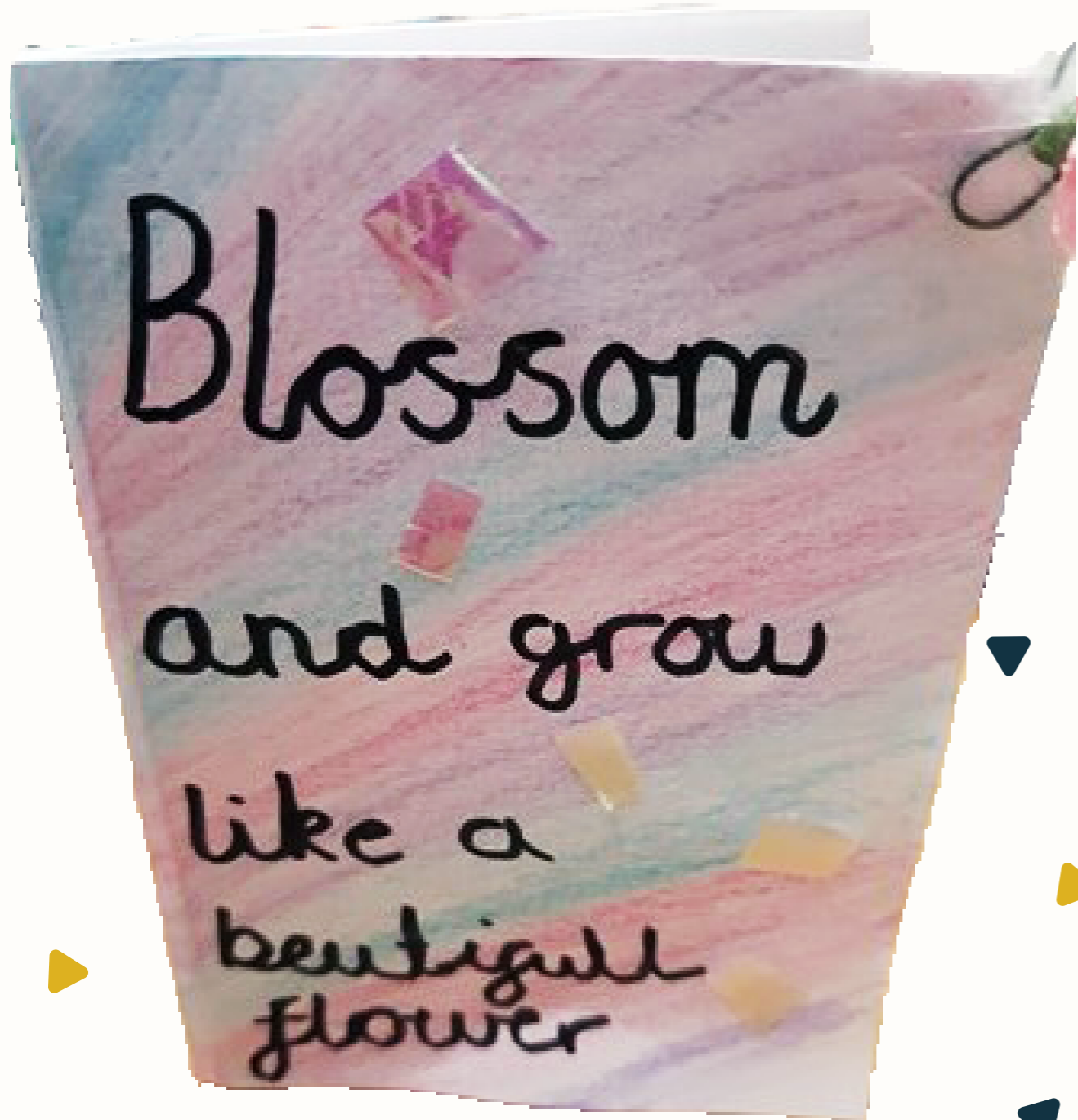
Without the darkness there may never come the light

- Albus Dumbledore

Determination is ~~where~~ ^{like} sighting a gorilla. You don't give up when you're tired you give up when the gorilla is tired



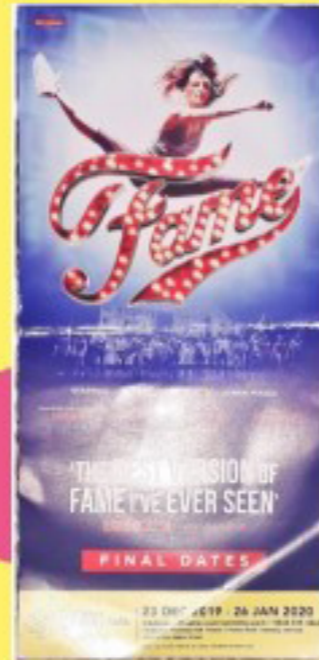
All The
Good vibes
you might
need





I attended We Belong's workshops and we did activities such as drumming, dancing and drawing which I really enjoyed.

We even attended a musical called Fame. By the end we were all singing and dancing!



Boris announces a national lockdown to control the spread of the Coronavirus

This gave us the opportunity to develop new skills, such as gardening which we all enjoyed to do!



During lockdown I had to get to grips with online learning. It was different to learning at school. I had missed my friends and could not wait to see them in September. In the mean time I got to grips with using apps such as Teams and Zoom.



This year I spent a lot of time with my family.



I love riding my bike!



We have had movie nights and walks in the park.

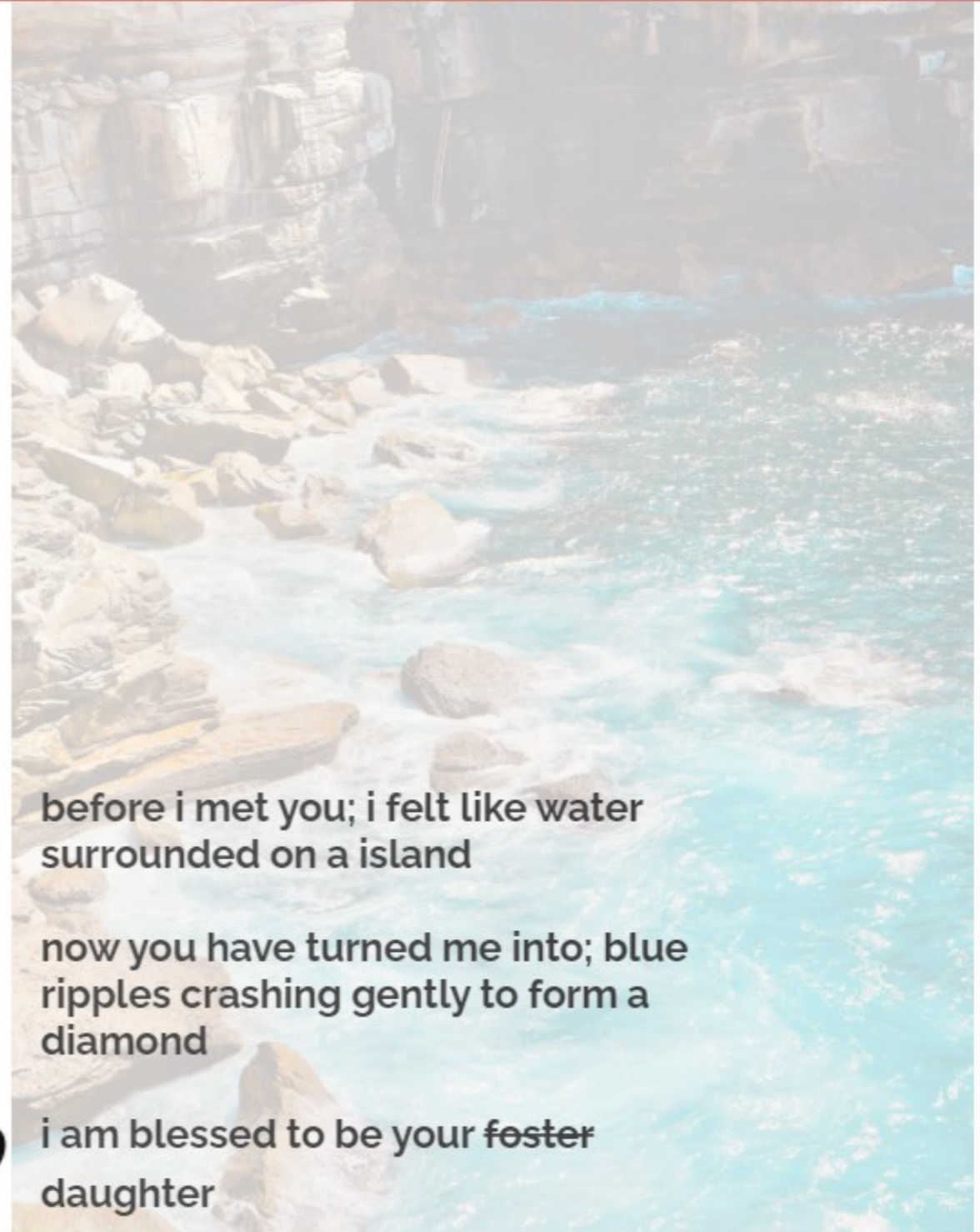
**Thank you for viewing my zine,
I hope you have enjoyed it.**



**i need to
tell you**



the stars were aligned,
and everything felt right.
i looked at you; eye to eye
and smiled; ear to ear
just like that my fear,
which i once had, finally disappeared



before i met you; i felt like water
surrounded on a island

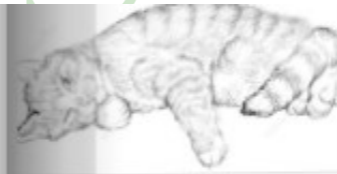
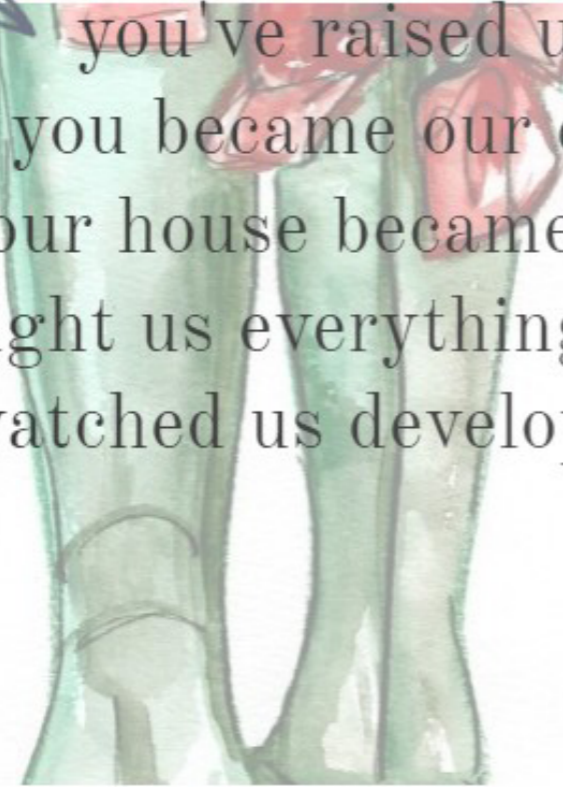
now you have turned me into; blue
ripples crashing gently to form a
diamond

i am blessed to be your foster
daughter



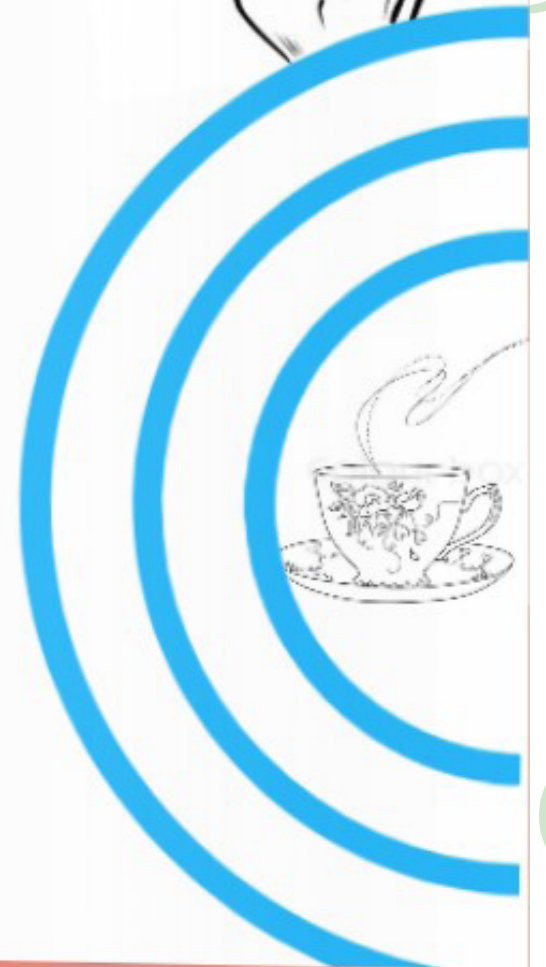
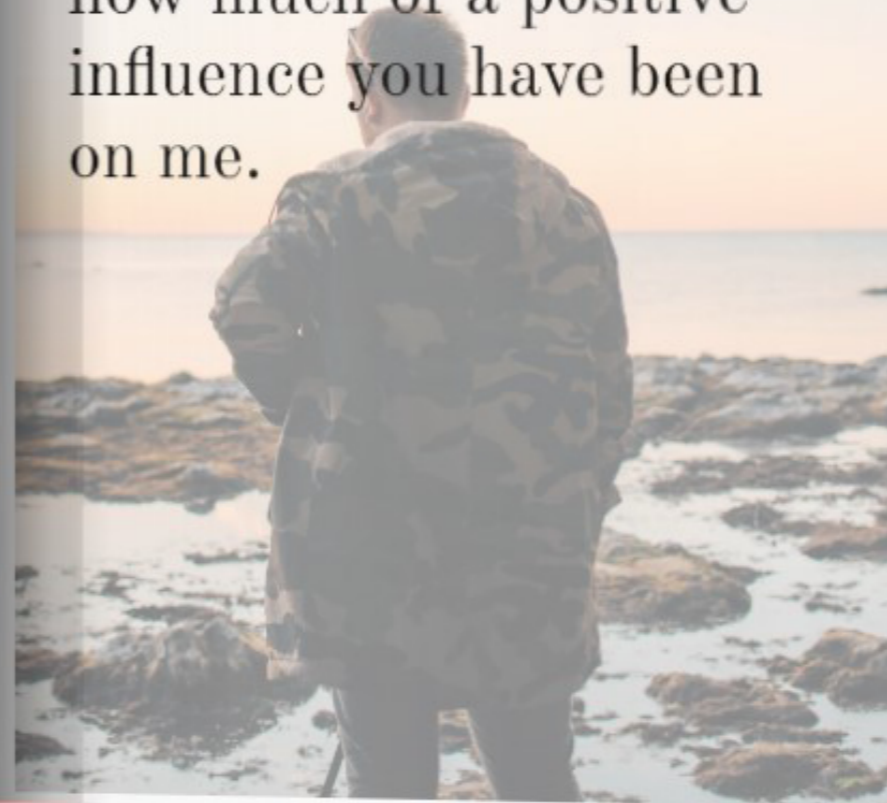


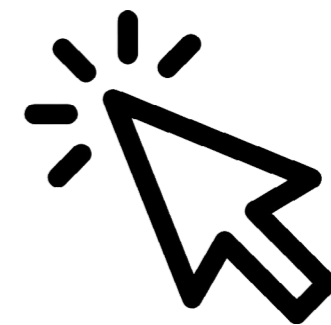
you've raised us all alone,
you became our everything,
your house became our home,
you've taught us everything we know.
you watched us develop and grow



Your endless cups of tea,
help you calm down after
losing your patience with
me.

But one day I will see
how much of a positive
influence you have been
on me.





Find out more about the We Belong Programme

We Belong is a programme designed to tackle loneliness by building a supportive community and creative platform to empower children in care.

The arts enrichment programme aims to:

- » Build relationships between looked after children and local authorities
- » Connect children in care with each other
- » Raise awareness of their experiences and give them a space, platform and voice

**Head to anewdirection.org.uk/we-belong
to find out more**

The programme is kindly supported by Co-op Foundation, part of the national Building Connections Fund supported by HM Government and National Lottery Community Fund.