



Writing | Symposium 2021

Comic Book Sketches

By Cesar Garcia

Life is like a backdrop of comic
book sketches.

Rewritten in bubble letters, Floating
match-box messages.

Cigarette smoke dissipates, Cloudy.
Caught up in the stories,
Strung together Hourly.
Minute by minute,
Quicksand hourglass,
Childhood passing,
But dreamers never last.
You hold on too long
And burning embers
Turn to ash.
What are you going to do then?
Come on, come get up off your ass.

But that's easier said than done, For
people who haven't come,
Burdened with dreams of others.

Dreams of overbearing
mothers, fathers, who
struggled to bring another into
this world, so they can carry
dreams they threw away, but
not forgotten. Begotten,
bystander
To the spectacle of life,
The carrier of torches
Burdening the stride,
Harnessing potential, before you go and die.
Don't let their dreams perish. Launch them
with broken wings Hoping they can fly!

Higher! Higher!

Medicine & the Muse

Go and touch the clouds!
The twinkle of the eye, Your
family sure is proud!
Who cares if you burn the wax off
Like Icarus did,
And fall back to the stone-hard ground
While Daedalus screams in dread.
While you wore the wings the captain designed,
They felt perfect, sleek, refined,
Flying higher with them than
their maker ever could. But the
sun was too bright And there
you were mistook.

Bearing weight that did not belong to you, Or
perhaps it did?
A confusion that persists,
How can one comprehend,
How to write in the bubble clouds of comic strips
That are already filled in?

I guess like Nas did,
You have to push the words past the margin
And write with your own pen.

Cesar Garcia is a first year medical student originally from Tehachapi, California which is a small town located in the Central Valley. He likes to think that life can be lived through the lens of hip hop culture, where the point is to express your unique style by combining disparate elements, seeking to understand others, and having fun. Growing up, Cesar was always an avid lover of hip hop and breakdance, traditionally known as breaking, and looks forward to expressing these parts of himself as he pursues a career in medicine. Cesar is excited to share the following spoken word piece which was written with rhythmic progression common to freestyle rap.

This piece is also available in audio on our website.