



Alliance for  
Young Artists  
& Writers

Scholastic  
Art & Writing  
Awards

Fia Gani

"That's just the way the world works."

Poetry

9th Grade

Bowling Green High School

Some days, I look at the world  
and see the monster itself.  
The one humanity built  
with the illusion of control  
until it rose beyond reach, inexorable.  
A creature marked everywhere with our fingerprints.  
We talk about "how things are" as if they arrived this way,  
as if skyscrapers sprouted from the dirt  
already paired with security guards and locked doors.

But if you peel everything back—  
the money, the borders, the titles printed beneath names—  
you get something embarrassingly simple;  
a species that once wandered forests  
with nothing except  
the need to stay alive  
together.

We hunted. We gathered.  
We shared the fire  
because the dark was too big  
to face alone.  
No one was above or below...



THAT'S JUST THE WAY  
THE WORLD WORKS



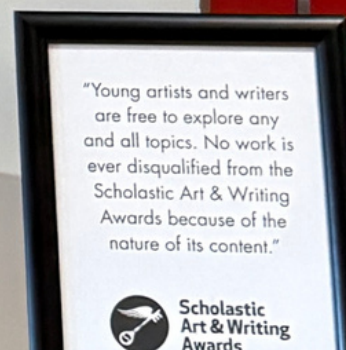
**Fia Gani**  
**Gold Medal**  
**American Voices Award**  
**Bowling Green High School**





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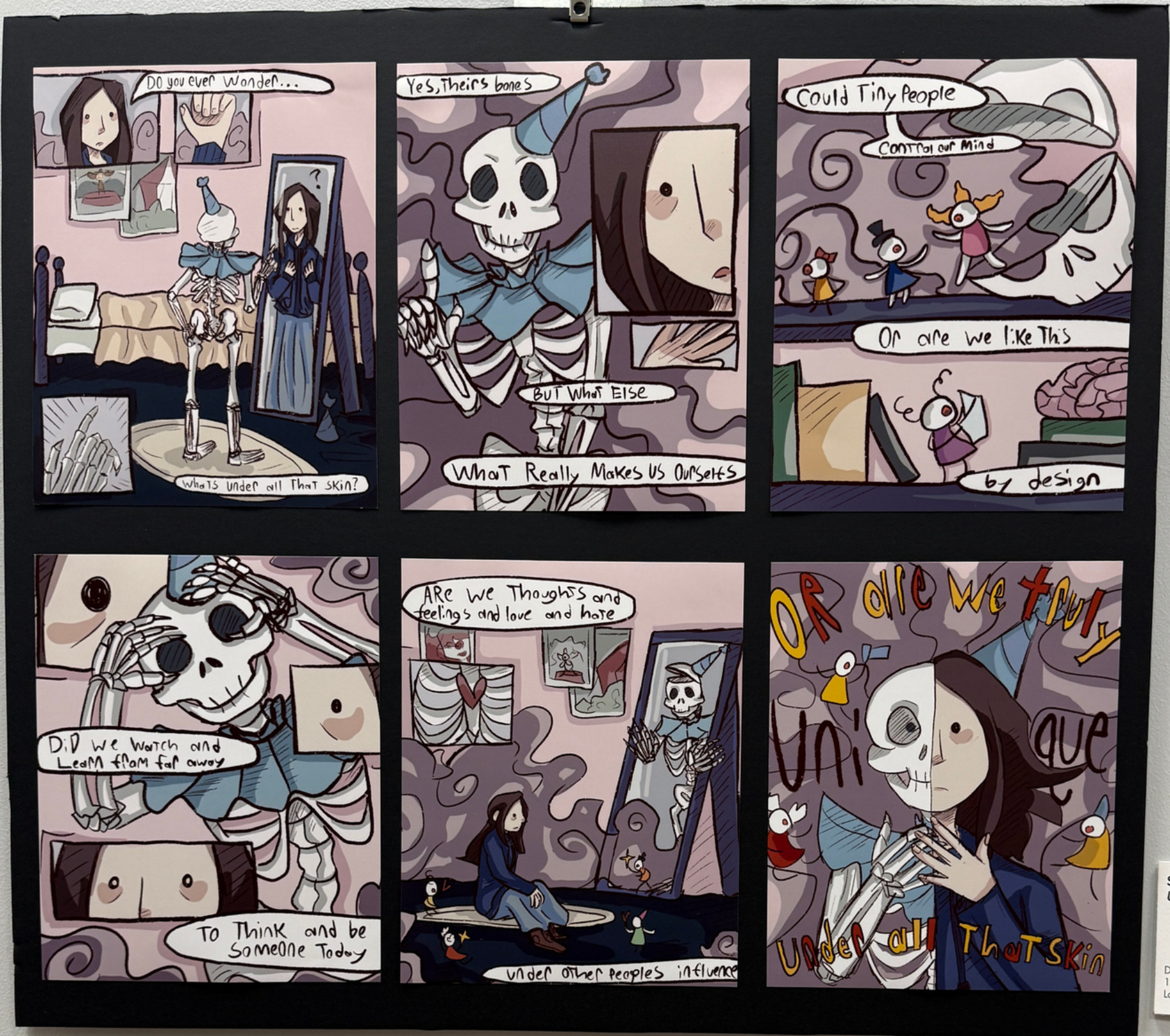
**Katlyn Stevenson**  
**Gold Medal**  
**American Vision Award**  
**Grayson County High School**





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Sydney Morris  
Under All That Skin

Digital  
10th Grade  
Logan County High School



**Sydney Morris**  
**Silver Medal**  
**Logan County High School**

