

2022 - 2023



TED ANKARA COLLEGE FOUNDATION PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL

# QUILL



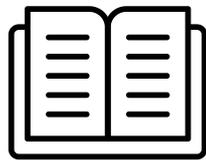
Nehir KANSU- İlgin CILGA - Işıl Selen KORKMAZ  
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QUILL, TED Ankara Koleji'nin ücretsiz yayın organıdır.





# CONTENTS

- 3 A Reminder of Fragility And Strength by Ali KAYA
- 4 Visual by Efe KOÇAK
- 5 To Antioch by Ali Demet GÜLÜM
- 6 Visual by Aylin GÖKTÜRK & Melis BENLİ Utku BAKI & Zeynep ATALAY
- 7 My Thoughts on the Recent Earthquakes by Bora ÖNCÜ
- 8 Visual by Elifnaz YILDIRIM & Melis BOZDOĞAN
- 9 The Painting by Melis AKBAY
- 10 Visual by Defne KIZILTEPE
- 11 Rack and Ruin by Eylül Duru ÖZMERCAN
- 12 Visual by Mina AYDIN & Nehir ÖZDEMİR & Zeynep Nil İÇMEGİZ
- 13 Wonderful Country, Disastrous Catastrophe by Defne ECERAL
- 14 Wonderful Country, Disastrous Catastrophe by Defne ECERAL
- 15 Visual by Eda REŞA & Yağmur AKLAN & İnci TENCÜZOĞULLARI
- 16 Calamity by Yağız KAYA
- 17 Visual by 9th and 10th Graders
- 18 Visual by Asena Nehir BADEM
- 19 Under the Rubble by Evrim GÜVENİR
- 20 Clippart by Elif ÖNDER
- 21 Visual by Bengü GACAR & Elif EMİRDOĞAN & Gülin Ada ERGÜN & Ceylin ÇELİKDEMİR
- 22 Earthquake by Demir DURMAZLAR
- 23 Visual by Ülker Defne IŞIK
- 24 Forlorn by Ada DEĞİRMENCİOĞLU
- 25 Visual by Busenaz GÜNGÖR
- 26 Illustration by Efe KOÇAK
- 27 Visual by Mert DENİZOĞLU & Alp AYGEN
- 28 Lessons Of Empathy by Ada KAYMAK
- 29 Visual by Damla ATAR & İlay KABAÇAM
- 30 Power Of Benevolence by Nehir DAYANÇ
- 31 Visual by Selin SÜTÇÜOĞLU & Zeynep ATASEVEN Aleyna ARMAĞAN & Yağız ÖZKAN
- 32 Earthquake by Ömer Hamza ATAÇ
- 33 Visual by 9th, 10th and 11th Graders
- 34 Emotional State by Beren Naz ALTINBAŞ
- 35 Visual by Nehir KANSU & Iğın CILGA & Işıl Selen KORKMAZ & Eylül Ece BAŞDAĞ & Eda ÖZSOY
- 36 Editorial Board

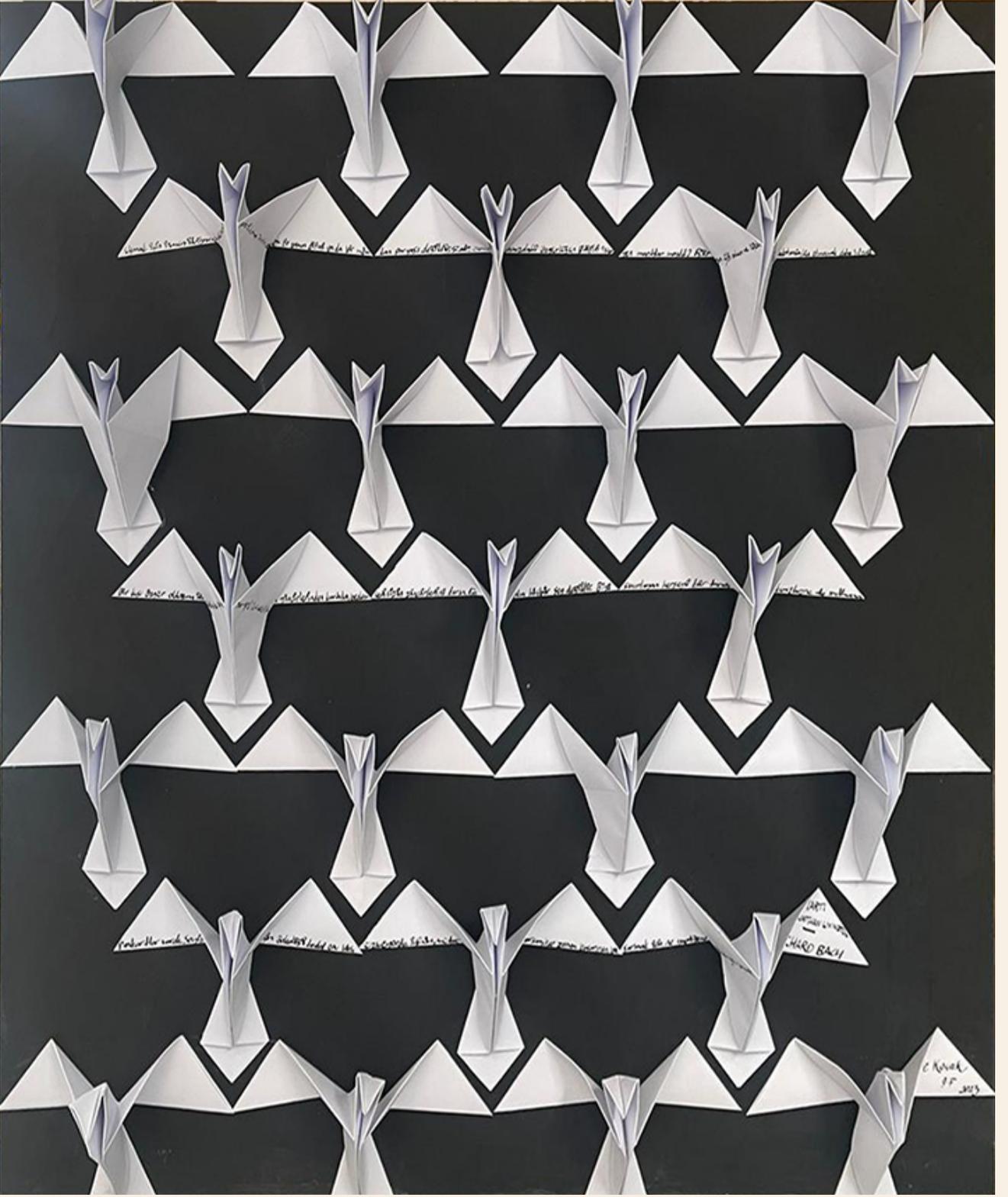


# The Devastating Earthquake of February 6th: A Reminder of Fragility And Strength

I still get the creeps when I think of that time. The 6th of February at 4.17 am. Everything was shaking the moment I opened my eyes. The only thing I could sense was the sound of shuttering walls. The incessant shake lasted for a minute but took many things from people's lives... In that one moment countless people were stripped of everything they held dear. Homes and belonging were lost but, even more soul-crushing was, that many lost their friends and families under the debris of collapsed buildings. The pain and suffering in that single minute was immeasurable. The dining tables that had been set a few hours ago, the sound of happy chatters, the promises that had been made on that table, and all of them lost in the dark dismal night while what was left were the desperate screams of helpless people as the rhythmic pitter-patter sound that followed. As the air was filled with heavy dust people were on the street after they got over the initial shock at least the people who could... My ears were filled with the sound of crying children and screams of devastated moms, and dads whose children couldn't make it. I consider myself lucky because my family was all right. At least physically unharmed I can say. In that crucial second that I stepped out from the apartment I felt innumerable feelings at the same time. The feeling of survival because I could safely get out of the house and the sense of despondency as I saw the buildings collapsed obstructed the roads and the desperate people around the debris. Their faces were etched with fear and desperation, sinking into despair as they didn't know if their loved ones alive. People were seeking shelters to take cover from the torrential rain, but it was hard because almost all the apartments were damaged or collapsed. Some people took refuge into their cars, but most cars were wrecked because of the rubble fell on the top of the cars. Luckily there some were safe places to cover such as low-rise buildings.

The authorities arrived at disaster zone until after a significant delay. This caused a lot of problems such as lack of immediate medical attention, difficulty in locating survivors and more but besides the destruction, people from all walks of life came together to help each other and provide support in the toughest times. Neighbours have become family, the people who had never met held one another and have become friends and the bonds of the community have been strengthened amidst hardship. Now weeks have passed, and the once-bustling vibrant city was reduced to ruins and silence. The once crowded streets now stay empty and abandoned. The local people live far away from their homes, away from the hometown that they were born and started families in. The memories they made, all of them lost with the destruction of the apartments. Now what is left are the flat lands while the sun is struggling to penetrate gritty air to brighten the city as thick clouds of dust rise from the crashed buildings. The silence in the city is the reminder of what occurred. It is a reminder of the haunting memories of what once was. This devastating earthquake will be forever etched in the memories of those who experienced it. It served as a stark reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of coming together as a community in times of crisis. The pain and suffering caused by the disaster was immeasurable, leaving countless families shattered and homes destroyed. Though the city may now be reduced to ruins and silence, the bonds of the community have been strengthened in the face of adversity. I believe there the hope is still there and with this kind of strength Hatay will rise from the ashes and be restored to its former state. With the strength and perseverance of its people, this lovely city will rebuild and regain its former glory. The road ahead is hard and long but the people of Hatay will not give up. They will continue to work together, day by day, until their city is restored to its former beauty.

ALİ KAYA 11-E



EFE KOÇAK



# TO ANTIOCH

Come Antioch

Let's sit on the shore of Orontes River

And I'll play with your rainbow curls again

Come...

Or in Çevlik

Let's watch the sunset together

Sing to me

In your prosperous tongues

And me in my own tongue

Will verse to you

Come Antioch

Let's rise and shine again together

Against this dark and cruel order

Come ...

Don't look at me so helplessly

Stand up Antioch!

Stand up, so your streets will cheer up

Stand up so your mournful kids will find hope

**ALİ DEMET GÜLÜM 11-N**



AYLİN GÖKTÜRK  
MELİS BENLİ  
UTKU BAKI  
ZEYNEP ATALAY 2023

AYLİN GÖKTÜRK  
MELİS BENLİ  
UTKU BAKI  
ZEYNEP ATALAY



# My Thoughts on the Recent Earthquakes

When the first earthquake hit, I was chatting with my friends. Some of us said that they felt a shaking, but we were not sure, I did not really feel anything but my ceiling lamp was shaking so I thought that it might have been real. That night I slept not knowing anything about the situation. The next morning, I woke up to more than 200 messages from people asking if everyone was ok. That first day I did not really understand the scale of this whole thing and I thought that it was just a casual earthquake.

The next few days I slowly learned about what was happening around Turkey. When these kinds of devastating and important things happen, I usually do not get sad. At first I wasn't too sad or effected in any way but as things went on and on I started feeling really bad for all the people who lost their homes and lost ones. The fact that we did not have to go to school for a while kept me going. After a while around the time when everyone started talking about why this happened, my sadness started turning into anger.

I was mad at the fact that the buildings had bad structural integrities; I was mad that no one complained about this or stopped the usage of unacceptable materials. In the following days, I got angrier with every piece of new information I learned. I got angry at people robbing empty houses, I got angry at people emptying abandoned stores, hijacking donation trucks and more. Then at one point, my rage suddenly came to an end because the schools were going to open again.

As of today, I am not furious, sad. Remorseful or anything about the topic. At this point I'm just opinionless and I do not care. My only thought on the subject is that I am annoyed and disgusted by the people who had a finger in building these homes. The ones who knowingly let these unstable buildings be built and were careless enough to not put precautions in place are to blame and should be punished somehow. Anyways from this point onward I don't care about anything concerning this ordeal and I'm just fine with anything happening.

**BORA ÖNCÜ 10-D**



ELIFNAZ YILDIRIM  
MELİS BOZDOĞAN



# The Painting

I had a dream.

I dreamt

About becoming an artist

Painting the sky

The buildings

The dreams

That little girl imagined.

I would have a famous painting

About happiness, hope and solitude,

Everyone adored.

But, if I had to paint

The sky right now

It would have coldness, chaos and loss.

The screams

Fading to a beautiful red background,

The colorful buildings

Transforming to sand children play with.

Their parents watching them

Peacefully.

Until the wave washed away the life

The hope

The dream.

MELİS AKBAY 9-F



DEFNE KIZILTEPE



# RACK AND RUIN



MİNA AYDIN  
NEHİR ÖZDEMİR  
ZEYNEP NİL İÇMEÇİZ



# Wonderful Country, Disastrous Catastrophe

February 6th 2023, a date that makes our hearts ache ever since it happened and will haunt us even a century from now. A day that, in just a few seconds, forever changed the lives of the citizens of two great beautiful countries. Sudden, unexpected yet destructive waves that resulted in many losses of innocent souls and sorrowful beings waiting to be freed: 2023 Gaziantep-Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes / Turkey-Syria Earthquakes

Waiting to open my eyes to an enchanting winter morning view full of long-awaited snow, I got up to the sound of chaos and screaming from downstairs instead. I jumped down from my bed, rushing to the source of the loud voices. I found my parents sitting in front of the TV, staring at the ruined buildings lifelessly, just numb. I turned around and saw a sight that I will never be able to erase from my memory, forever engraved in my heart. Ever since that day, it became a habitual thing to turn on the news channel on TV in my household, from the moment we wake up to the very last blink of our eyes just before a much-needed rest.

Even though it happened when I was sleeping safe and sound, hundreds of miles away from the shaken cities, my mom and dad who woke up just as it was happening, shared their experience with me in the morning.

My dad said that he woke up to the sound of creaking coming from the walls and realized the disturbing sounds were created by the metal strings of the roller blinds repeatedly hitting the walls at four in the morning. Turned his head upward, he said that he saw the lamp shaking and decided to wake up my mom with panic that was tried to be concealed by calmness. My mom, who is absolutely terrified of earthquakes, wanted to wake me up. However, my dad prevented her from doing it with the thought of it will end in just a few seconds.

Many people in our apartment complex decided to bring whatever they can to help the earthquake victims. Knowing that all those people were out in the streets with nothing but pajamas on that ice-cold February day, my mom and I quickly gathered a few blankets and clothing pieces that we did not wear anymore to help them warm up even the slightest bit. Brought them downstairs where several boxes were getting filled with everyday necessities. After helping the best we could, we returned home with a feeling of guilt because we could go back and sit in comfort yet the people who were affected by this disaster did not have a place to call "home" anymore.

**DEFNE ECERAL 10-D**



# Wonderful Country, Disastrous Catastrophe

Just after our return, we were met with the sound of metal hitting the walls once again, this time in broad daylight. Panic swept the house with my mother's hasty voice, shouting at me to come near her and stand under the door beam of our bathroom - which is definitely not a safe place to be under when the ground is shaking. Even though the earthquake only lasted seconds with not much force, the atmosphere absolutely frightened me because I did not know what to do, what to kneel or stand next to. It was almost like my brain stopped working and my mind went completely blank with no instinct of survival whatsoever. This made me realize how big of a deal it is for the 10 cities that were affected, helping me empathize with the victims, even if it was a little, because you can never fully feel the same things if you did not live through it.

The next few days, nobody could go on with their normal everyday life. No one was in the mood or right mind to continue living and act like nothing had happened. You could feel that the time had slowed down on its way to stopping entirely, making everyone and everything around it meaningless.

Although none of our family members lived there and was unaffected, sadness and silence descended on the atmosphere in our house because it was now too big of a devastation. It was not a minor incident involving just a few people, but a disaster with more than a hundred and fifty thousand wounded people that made the entire country mourn.

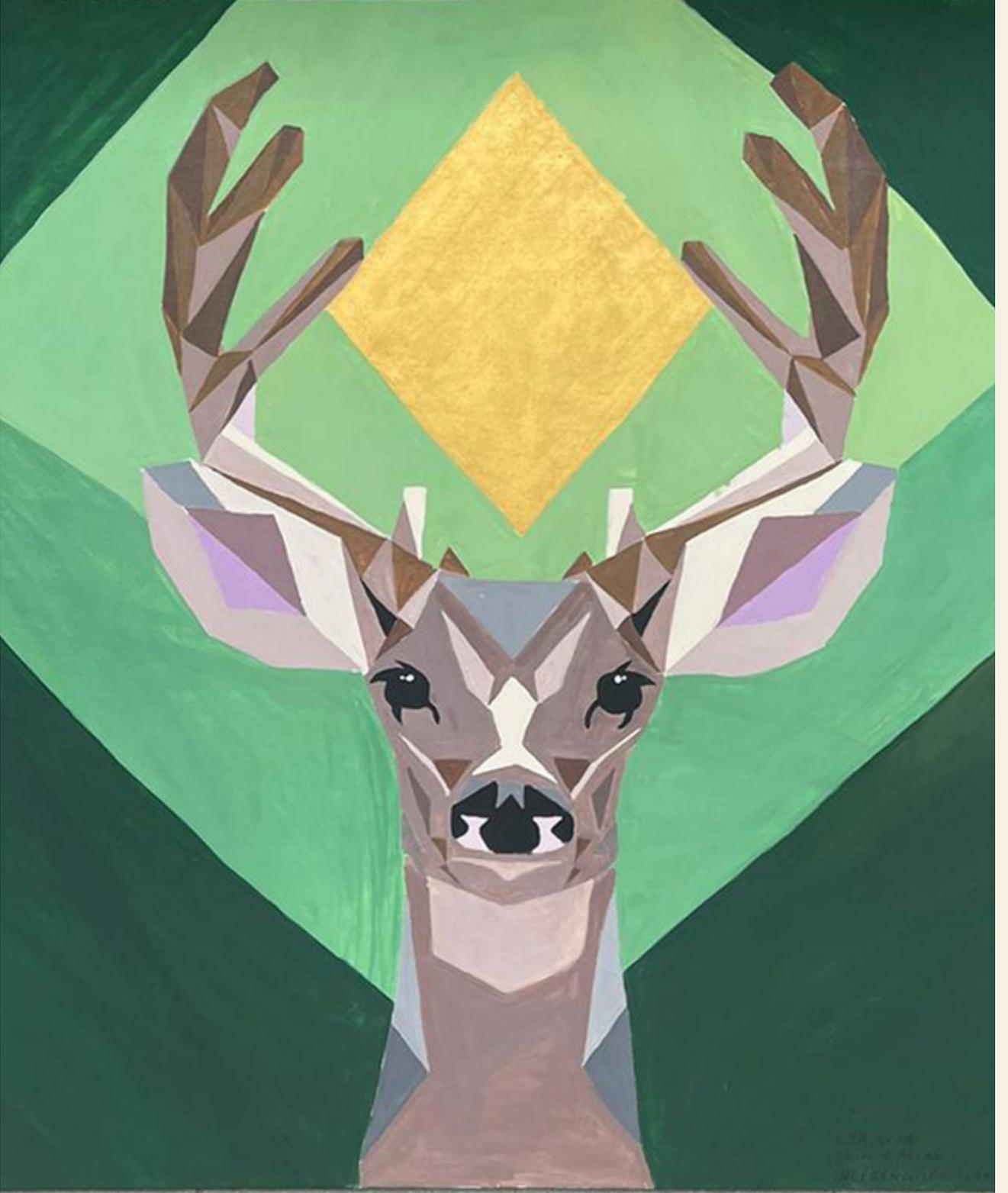
Think of a time and place where students could not bring themselves to even turn the corners of their mouths the slightest bit upward even after the news of schools not opening for another two weeks. Seems impossible, doesn't it?

Almost after a month from the tragedy, it still feels unreal like a nightmare I cannot wake up from. Some people argue that even though something terrible happened, life goes on and we must continue our daily activities to keep our sanity. Others believe that it is still too early and raw to try to move on. You do you, but, personally, I agree that we should try to find daylight, leading us to better days by letting the dark ones lay deep down beneath us. With our lovely and determined new schoolmates who transferred from the affected cities; we must unite, help each other keep our heads up and not let this occurrence define how we should live our lives. There is always going to be ups and downs in life, sometimes we will just want to give up. The biggest secret to get over those is to stand together and support each other.

A special message to all who were affected: In spite of the fact that there are miles between us, we are with you, and we will continue to help the best we can. Hope to meet you in the golden days filled with delight, serenity, endless bliss and many more...

Get Well Soon Turkey

**DEFNE ECERAL 10-D**



EDA REŞA  
YAĞMUR AKLAN  
İNCİ TENCÜZOĞULLARI



# Calamity

**In a moment it all crumbled to the ground,  
Helplessness, misery, screams all around.**

**Where are my loved ones?**

**I can't hear a sound.**

**I'm here for good now, with my broken dreams,  
but will I ever again see the vast seas?**

**Surrounded by all this debris,  
will I ever again feel the radiance, the breeze?**

**YAĞIZ KAYA 9-J**



9TH AND 10TH GRADERS



ASENA NEHİR BADEM



# Under the Rubble

Earthquakes with a magnitude of 7.7 and 7.6, which occurred in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, 2023, caused heavy damage in 11 provinces. The devastation was shocking and unbelievable. Because of occurring in the early morning hour, millions of people were asleep with their pyjamas. When the shaking hit, the lucky ones were able to quit their homes and they encounter with the freezing cold and snow. Unfortunately, they had nothing with them to survive. Others, trapped in collapsed buildings and desperately wished not to die. Not only buildings were collapsed in this earthquake. People's dreams, hopes and lives were also destroyed. People lost their families, their homes got damage, they waited for days under the rubble to be rescued with a forlorn hope. People's lives are over in a single quake and that's a really sad truth.

Turkey is a country that is located on the most active fault lines of earth and is always exposed to the earthquake hazard and risk. This is a known fact. However, is the earthquake the only responsible for so much destruction? There is a saying that "Earthquakes do not kill people, buildings do." This means that the reason why so many people lost their lives is that their houses where they spend most of their times are built incorrectly, and people who do not do their job properly allow these buildings to be built. Maybe the lack of a colon caused the death of dozens of people.

Moreover, the late action and inadequacy for search and rescue efforts triggered the loss to be so great. Many people died of hunger, thirst, and cold. If search and rescue team arrived where they are earlier, perhaps they would have been able to hold on to life. People sleep with beautiful dreams and plans in their heads, but they cannot wake up to a new day. How terrible! We are really right to be so upset and angry. As someone who has not experienced this earthquake, I involuntarily put myself in the shoes of homeless people or those are trapped under the rubble. I felt guilty for being able to eat, sleep comfortably and be safe in my cozy home with my family.

In conclusion, no matter how much everyone helps, no matter how much money is donated, it is really difficult for those who have experienced this earthquake to recover psychologically, to establish a new life for themselves and to forget the indescribable pain they experienced. There is only one thing left for us to do. We must not forget too. We must learn from this terrible disaster, from those people who left their lives under the collapsed buildings and from this desperation. Earthquakes are inescapable, but the damage and devastation they cause can be minimized. For this, we must take all necessary precautions for another earthquake that could be in a hundred years or maybe tomorrow.

**EVRİM GÜVENİR 10-D**





BENGÜ GACAR  
ELİF EMİRDOĞAN  
GÜLİN ADA ERGÜN  
CEYLİN ÇELİKDEMİR



# Earthquake

**We are relaxed when we are in control  
No caution was taken in case we weren't  
A warning was made that it will happen  
And yet no one cared  
We were caught unprepared  
Such a tragedy**

**DEMİR DURMAZLAR 10-D**



ÜLKER DEFNE IŞIK



# Forlorn

**Alone, stuck in a void of nothingness**

**I will not be found, instead forgotten, what an unlucky soul.**

**Oh how sorrowful, once a beautiful land full of life,**

**Now under the crushing weight of the world, going down like a myth.**

**If only you knew how much I tried, how hard I tried to be seen.**

**Screaming, begging for help, my screams inaudible yet so loud.**

**The frost affects me no more, my cold body is too hot to handle,**

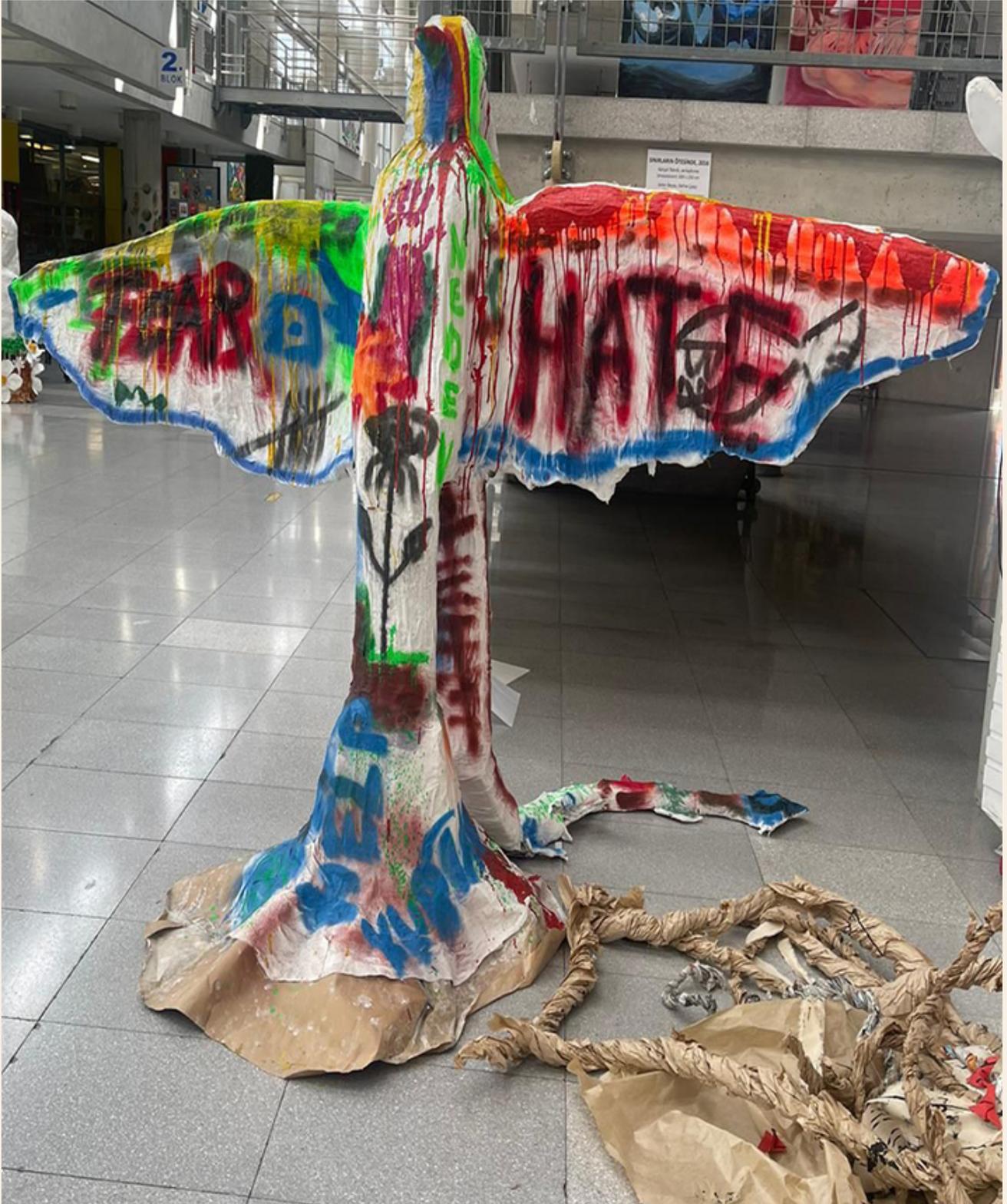
**A peaceful death is too much to ask for.**

**ADA DEĞİRMENCİOĞLU 9-J**



BUSENAZ GÜNGÖR





MERT DENİZOĞLU  
ALP AYGİN



# LESSONS OF EMPATHY

On the 6th of February, a terrible earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 took place in my country which is in Turkey.

First of all, I am so sad and feel so bad that my country has to face such a disaster like this. A huge number of people lost their lives, their families, family members and most important and saddest thing that they lost their living spaces, where they felt the safest. The most wrong thing my country and people in general did was that we were very unprepared for such things like that. Many buildings were not built strong and sturdy against earthquake hazard and that was the thing that bothered me the most.

However, looking on the positive side, I have seen that people can be so helpful sometimes. Hundreds and thousands people had donate a huge amount of money and clothes including my own family members too. With this horrible disaster, I think that the most important lesson that the humanity must learn is, being prepared for every bad thing and situation.

This two weeks that we spent have made everyone sad and depressed. However, everyone has experienced it in very different ways. Some of them went through it with depression and sadness, but some of them tried not to show their feelings and loss reflect on people and I was one of those people. This situation effected me so bad, looking those people and not to empathize is so difficult. My mom always told me that 'We need to be very grateful for the situation that we are in right now and we should always try to help those people who need help.' Therefore, I spent a lot of days with packing the parcels and taped them with her.

So, in those two weeks I spent my days doing a lot pf helping and calming myself and trying to make my self happy at least a little bit. All we can say that we are so sorry and sad that our country had faced a disaster like that again.

**ADA KAYMAK 10-D**



DAMLA ATAR  
İLAY KABAÇAM



# POWER OF BENEVOLENCE

Turkey was shaken by a big earthquake disaster and the effects of this disaster still continue. The material and spiritual losses are getting bigger and bigger. We are trying to cover material losses by making donations. The donations really helped also I got very proud of the donations when I saw it. Everyone helped as much as they could. This made me so proud. However, instead of material losses covering spiritual losses will not be easy and it will take long time maybe months maybe years. No matter what we do, maybe that pain in people will decrease, but it will not go away. For this pain, everybody just needs some time. Now, we must learn from this earthquake and do something for our country, which is an earthquake zone. While healing these wounds, new wounds should not be opened. We need to build durable houses for our cities that were damaged in this earthquake. Also not, just for those cities. We should strengthen the places where earthquakes are expected, by listening the warnings of knowledgeable people. We should learn from our mistakes and do not make those mistakes again. We should think about what we can do and what the government should do. We must always go in the light of science. So that we can decrease our pain a little bit and not create new pains.

NEHİR DAYANÇ 10-D



SELİN SÜTÇÜOĞLU  
ZEYNEP ATASEVEN  
ALEYNA ARMAĞAN  
YAĞIZ ÖZKAN



Wouldn't it make sense if money was collected from everyone on a monthly basis and spent in an emergency?



Do you mean tax?



9TH, 10TH AND 11TH GRADERS



# EMOTIONAL STATE

As you know, we were affected all over the country by the earthquake that took place on February 6th. This earthquake took place in 10 provinces and many of our friends came to our school because they were impressed. Due to the earthquake some of our friends lost their families and loved ones of friends. We need to support our friends in these difficult times. We need to put ourselves in their place and support them. We need to empathize with them and treat them well. In this earthquake, I did not lose a close friend, a love, or an acquaintance, but I think I was as affected as they were. When I woke up in the morning on February 6, I turned on the TV and saw that image I missed so much I had really scary nights for a week. After this incident, I could not sleep without fear even for one night; I always thought of the events and always sleep with sadness. This earthquake affects me in many different ways, but the way I am most affected is the fear of an earthquake while I sleep at night. Now my biggest fear is losing a loved one close to the earthquake. I hope we will not experience such a bad event in our country again and everyone can live a happy life with their loved ones.

BEREN NAZ ALTINBAŞ 10-D



NEHİR KANSU  
ILGIN CILGA  
IŞIL SELEN KORKMAZ  
EYLÜL ECE BAŞDAĞ  
EDA ÖZSOY

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ONES WE HAVE LOST IN THE  
FEBRUARY 6TH EARTHQUAKES...”

