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In the Borough of Queens

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JACE MILLER

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LAUREN: Hi my name is Lauren and this is my drawing—this is a lizard. See the green and grey and the pinches of red along the edge of his neck like sparks from a chimney.

MURRAY: This is a dolphin swimming in dirty water. Here is a fish walking along the beach, too tired to swim, but he still wants to look around.

LEAH: Here is a city. The buildings are made of bricks that are scuffed. There is always an extra river and too many things in the river.

RICHARD: I drew this tiger because tigers are made of sunshine divided up and they don't use napkins when they eat.

TRISTAN: This is my painting of a giant pipecleaner. My Mother said don't draw a snake. That's why the pipecleaner is smiling.

DORA: This is a coral reef. All these dots are alive. They can't see what's coming, but see how they move.

NOVA: This hawk is spying on the world. Down here is me.

MERCY: I saw this crocodile in the Bronx Zoo. He's eating while he waits for us to look at him some more. This big banana next to the railing has a real telephone inside it. My Dad called his office from that banana.

SHLOMO: My Father says flies talk to trout. This is my drawing of a fish talking to a fly.

IRVING: My Mom says this baboon don't have the right head . . . but I told her this is my anvil-headed baboon.

BEN: This is Reedy Pond. In winter we skate. In summer we're floating. When the fireflies come out we pick the leeches off and go home. This thing in the sky is a turtle. He's looking for the pond.

SARA: This is a magic bird. She doesn't fly but she can make magic. She lives in the park, right by my house.

JACOB: This is a rat in a concentration camp. My Grandmother says he's fat because he eats people. He ate her whole family but he didn't eat her.

RACHEL: Here is a horse with a duck underneath. The duck is asking for help and the horse is going to help him. The sky is not a sunset sky—it's that the woods are on fire, that's all.