**You can’t understand me, if you haven’t learned where i’ve been and what i’ve been through…**

My shoe represents **me**, and **my story.** It was fun to get creative and deeply think about how my life has affected me, and others. People will constantly judge me based on how I look or talk. So I want to express who I truly am on the inside....

The soul of my shoe (the bottom) is painted blue because of my **independence.** I am very dependent on myself. In the front of my shoe, I painted a paw print. It represents **loyalty**. I am very loyal, and I love dogs! The red shoe laces represent **love**, which ties me and my life together. All around the shoe, I painted a galaxy representing **natural beauty.** I find the simple, beautiful things in life very rewarding. I also wrote **“Shine Bright”** towards the bottom of my shoe. Which I do, and I encourage everyone to do! In the inside of my shoe I made it tye-dye. It represents my different **personalities.** Most people try to classify themselves as “Sporty”, “Emo” “Popular”, “Artzy”, or even “Girly”. But I’m a mixture of all, and that's okay! The last thing that you might notice is that I didn’t paint my whole shoe. I left some white space. This represents me leaving room for new experiences, people, and **change.** I think this is important for everyone!

Thank you for reading my story, and supporting our project! I hope you enjoy our artwork and visit other artwork!

**-Janaya McKinney**