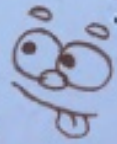
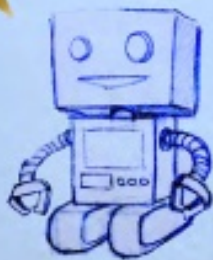


Project Excerpt

Growing Up American



ТЕТРАДЬ



для Growing Up American

учени IRINA SOLODUKHA





Growing Up American



written and illustrated

by

IRINA SOLODUKHA



Hello.

~~02/07/00~~ 02/07/00

My teacher Mrs. Lenor said to me to write a diary so my english becomes better. I can not understand why other girls write in diary because they have



much more better english then I do. I come to America 1 month ago.

~~12/31/99~~ → 01/01/00

My mom, dad and my sister Xenia. That is her russian name. I will not write her english name because it is very long. She is 5 years older. We do not like one another. But she is smart. She read many books and reads and writes and talks english good. She have no ESL class. But I have ESL. My english is so so. I will write more later. Bye!



Mrs. Lenor

Hello.

~~3/12/00~~ 3/12/00

I miss my school in Kiev. I think I wish I can fly back but mom said I do not know what I am saying because she say America give us more then Kiev.



In Kiev news told stories how children go disappear and many were Jewish because that is what happens to Jewish people there. We come

here so we can not be afraid. And I see HAPPY HANUKKAH! on TV. Jewish people do not hide but people are still mean.



When I was in a village with grandparents I was afraid because 2 brothers did not like me. They say bad words for Jew and they say they will kill me when they see me. And they even throw rocks at me.



Birthmarks look like pimples



In my class there is Natalia who other girls call a bimbo. I do not understand what that is and I can not ask my sister because if it is a bad word. Natalia has big boobs. I do not like her because she think she is smarter and prettier than everyone because she has big boobs.



Who has boobs that big at 10 year old?

★ Hello Diary! 09/12/00
I am VERY happy to tell these news to you!

FREEDOM! ★
Today my teacher told me that I do not have to be in ESL anymore!

I am soooooo happy because now I can be with all other students who speak good English.

AMERICAN ★

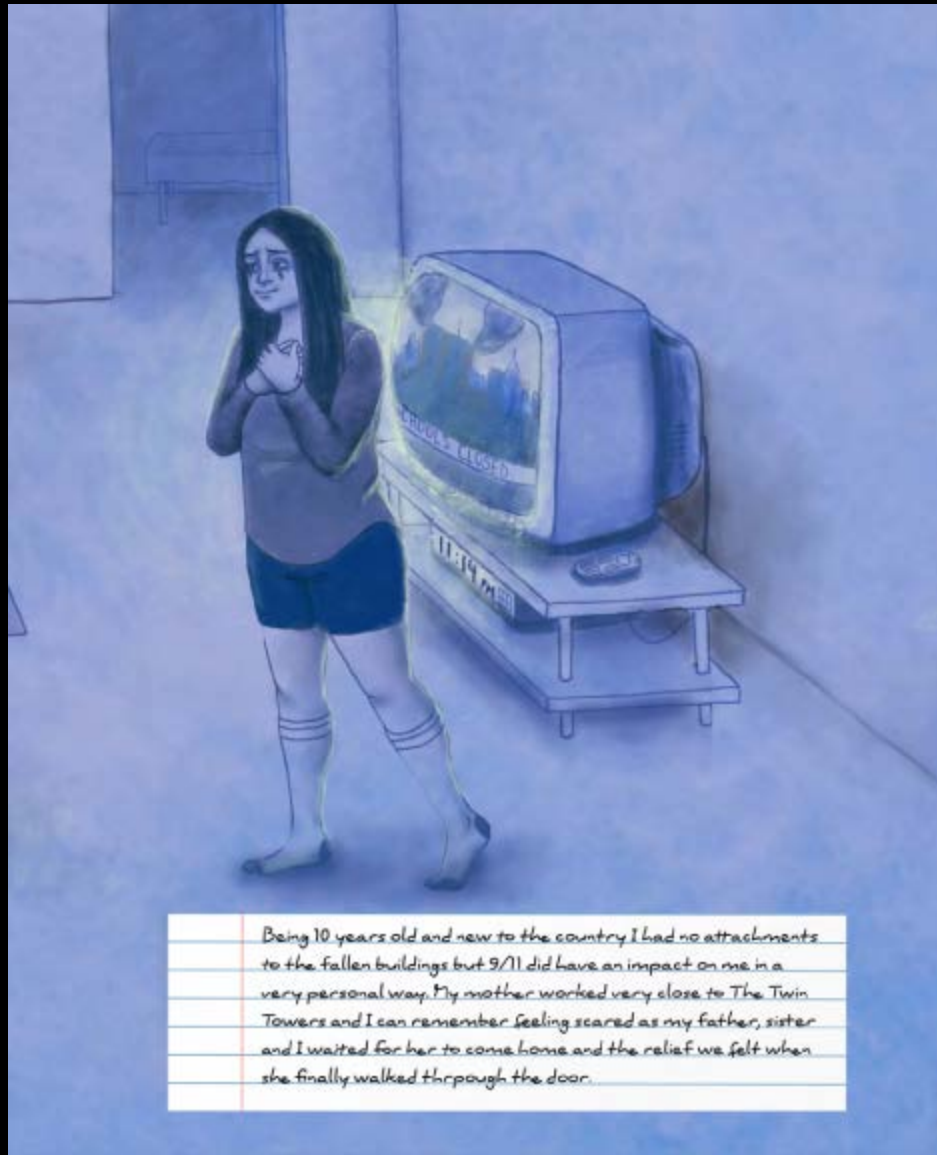
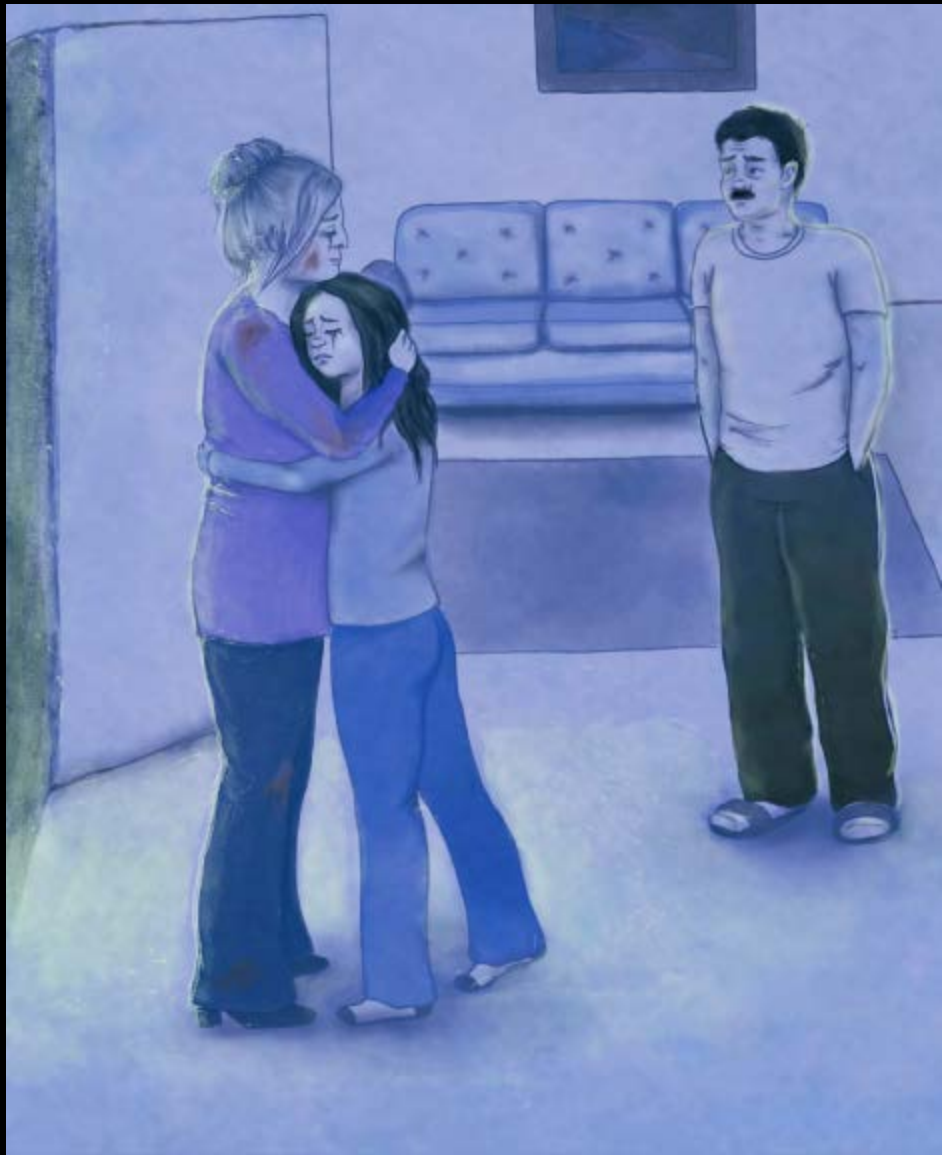
My teacher told me I did a GREAT job and that I passed faster than many other students. I can still make mistakes!

She thinks it is because I write in my journal so much (sozzy that it is not true). But it is really because I have been watching so much of

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

I ♥ CHANDLER!

He is VERY FUNNY!



Being 10 years old and new to the country I had no attachments to the fallen buildings but 9/11 did have an impact on me in a very personal way. My mother worked very close to The Twin Towers and I can remember feeling scared as my father, sister and I waited for her to come home and the relief we felt when she finally walked through the door.

Hello.

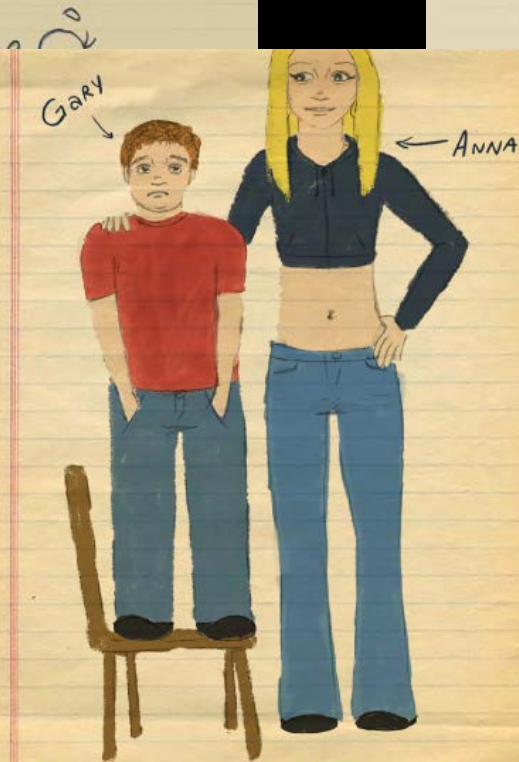
03/31/02



I have a secret and it is sort of embarrassing. I am even not sure if I should write it down because I don't want anyone finding this.

100% But here we go. There is a boy in my school who is very funny, I guess I really really like funny because I think I really like him. He doesn't notice me and like the other boys in the school he likes my friend. She is very tall and skinny. But I don't think she likes him. She likes older bodys. Like Sam. Sam lives across the street from her and he rides a skateboard and that is pretty cool.

But I REALLY like Gary. The only thing I don't like about him is that he has red hair. I don't even mind that he is chubby because how I feel about him is bigger than that.



She is so tall that I couldn't fit her on the page. (Poor Gary)



Gary
Gare-bear

Irina
Irina's
Gare-bear



GARY + IRINA



We make so much more sense

P.S. I HATE THESE 99¢ pencils!!!
THEY SUCK!!!!

05/23/03

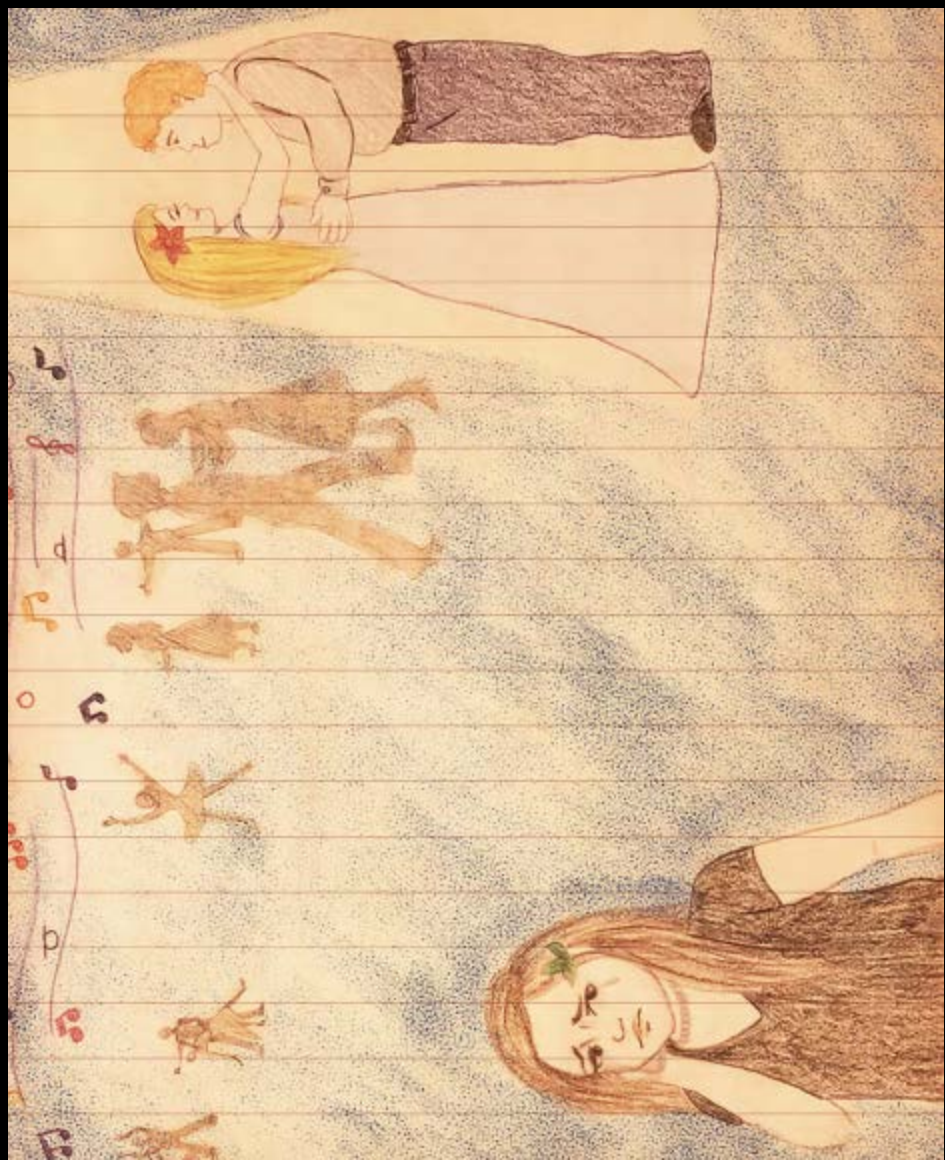


My heart is shattered into a million pieces! I don't know how to recover from it.

Yesterday was prom. My sister took me to get my hair done at a salon, helped me do my nails which was super nice. I was so excited to go.

I hate wearing dresses but it was a special occasion so I did it. My mom drove me to the school and I was nervous but excited to go in.

None of my friends went because they thought it was stupid but Gary was going and so I had to go. Music was playing and people were dancing. I saw Gary and thought if I went to the dance floor he would join me. But I was wrong! He went to dance with Karina instead. I waited a while and watched him dance with everyone but me. 2 1/2 hours I waited and then I couldn't take it anymore. I went to the bathroom, cried, then called my mom to pick me up. I don't think I like Gary anymore.



Dear Diary!



06/11/02



Today was a weird but exciting day!



Few weeks ago I got a hamster for my 13th birthday. It's a Teddybear hamster. He was very cute and fluffy. Except when on day 11 HE turned out to be a SHE and then SHE gave birth to like 12 tiny hairless babies.



BUT

Only 2 hours have passed since she gave birth and she already ate 2 of the babies. My dad said that sometimes they do that if the babies are sick.



So now we have 9 babies left. Mom said I have to go to the pet store and give them the babies. I want to keep them or at least 1 of them.



UPDATE!



Mom said I can keep 1!



07/01/02

We are on vacation in Canada now and I forgot to take my diary with me but I HAVE to write about this because I am so upset and ~~at~~ embarrassed about this! So today is Canadian Independence Day. My parents, my sister and I went out to eat at a restaurant in Montreal. Everything was going fine until until I order chicken! When my order came I didn't realize it was a WHOLE chicken! So when my mom saw that she said "You better eat ALL of it! We do not waste food!" In Ukraine we did not have so much so I knew I couldn't waste any, so I ate it all. When the waitress came back and saw that I ate everything she said "Oh! You EAT GOOD!" Oh my god, I feel so fat! And my sister laughed at me. What the hell? 🤦🏻 I want to go home!

Oh, you eat good!

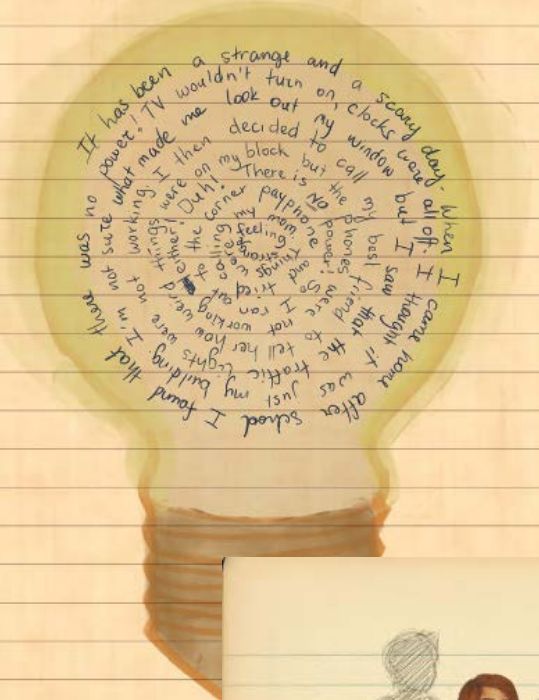
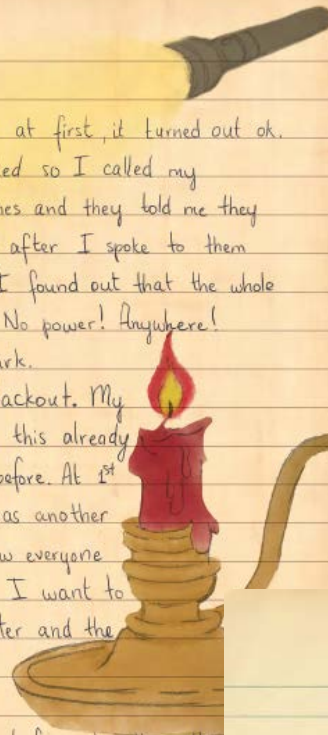


08/14/03

As scary as it was at first, it turned out ok. The payphones still worked so I called my parents on their cell phones and they told me they were ok. A little while after I spoke to them my sister came home. I found out that the whole city had no electricity. No power! Anywhere! All of NYC went dark.

They called it a blackout. My sister also told that this already happened in New York before. At 1st I was scared that it was another attack like 9/11. But now everyone is home safe and all I want to

Potter and the
nix
and
ream before it all melts.



It has been a strange and a scary day. When I came home after school I found that my building was not working. I then decided to call my best friend and she told me that the traffic lights were not working. I then decided to call my best friend and she told me that the traffic lights were not working. I then decided to call my best friend and she told me that the traffic lights were not working.



"You and me, together.
we used to be together.
Everyday together always.
I really feel that I'm losing
my best friend. I can't
believe this could be the end."
Don't Speak
by
No Doubt

10/15/03

I know I don't talk much, I'm VERY shy so it's VERY hard for me to make friends. My best friend doesn't have this problem, also she is skinnier and prettier than me. She is what most boys would call "the whole package."

I hate
I feel like
only friend.
online a little
they don't
but that's
I wish

High School.
I am losing my
I talk to people
and it's easier cause
know how I look,
NOT the same.
I looked different!





**WORST DAY
EVER!!!**

11/04/03



I don't even
understand life
right now!



One minute everything
is fine and the next...

EVERYTHING IS LEAKING!!!

How is this possible?! I found an interesting pen tried drawing with it and as I was almost done... **BOOM!** **SPLATER!** And that's **AFTER** I found out that I just got my first period! Also, I told my mom and she just gave me a pad and that's it!

P.S.
It is weird to me that a pad looks like a bird. It even has wings!

**ZERO BONDING
TIME!?!**

12/23/03



He looks so
mysterious! ♡ ♡
And his beard
is so freaking
CUTE!

I met this guy last week and he already asked me out! His name is Victor ♡♡ I like his name and I kind of like him too. He says he likes me also. He even let's me call him Vic. I met him through my best friend. Vic used to go out with her other friend but they broke up. Vic said she always acted crazy and he just wanted to be the best boyfriend he could be to a nice girl and he said he thinks that's me! Oh, by the way, he is almost 4 years older. Yup, I am dating a 17 almost 18 year old! ♡

12/30/03



I am NOT ready!

Not doing it!

This is my "Not so happy" face. So Vic and I have been going out for a week now and I do NOT like how it's going AT ALL! The first few days were fine. He came to see me, we talked, we kissed, whatever, it was good. Then he started acting different. He became more aggressive. To be more specific he started pushing me to have sex. He is not a virgin but I am. I am NOT doing it!



Hurt!
Angry!
Betrayed!
Disgusted!
Annoyed!
Upset!
Torn!
Broken!

Confused! Alone!

SINGLE!

01/06/04

I feel so damn embarrassed!
Vic is a fucking prick! After he started pushing for sex and I refused to give in he became a complete ass. Constantly talking down to me, at times he shouts at me for no reason. Honestly, I kept looking for ways that I could be a better girlfriend for him until he said something to me that felt like a slap in the face. We were walking down the street and he randomly said "You know, you are lucky to be with me cause I can have any girl I want." And when I heard that I immediately thought, "Hang on a second, with the bullshit and the pressure you've been throwing at me, I should be saying this to you!" And that is where I left him. But I am embarrassed because my best friend warned me about him. On top of me ignoring her I chose HIM to be my first boyfriend. Ew! I may not be super skinny or beautiful but I deserve better than that! I WILL HAVE BETTER!



