

Safe In School



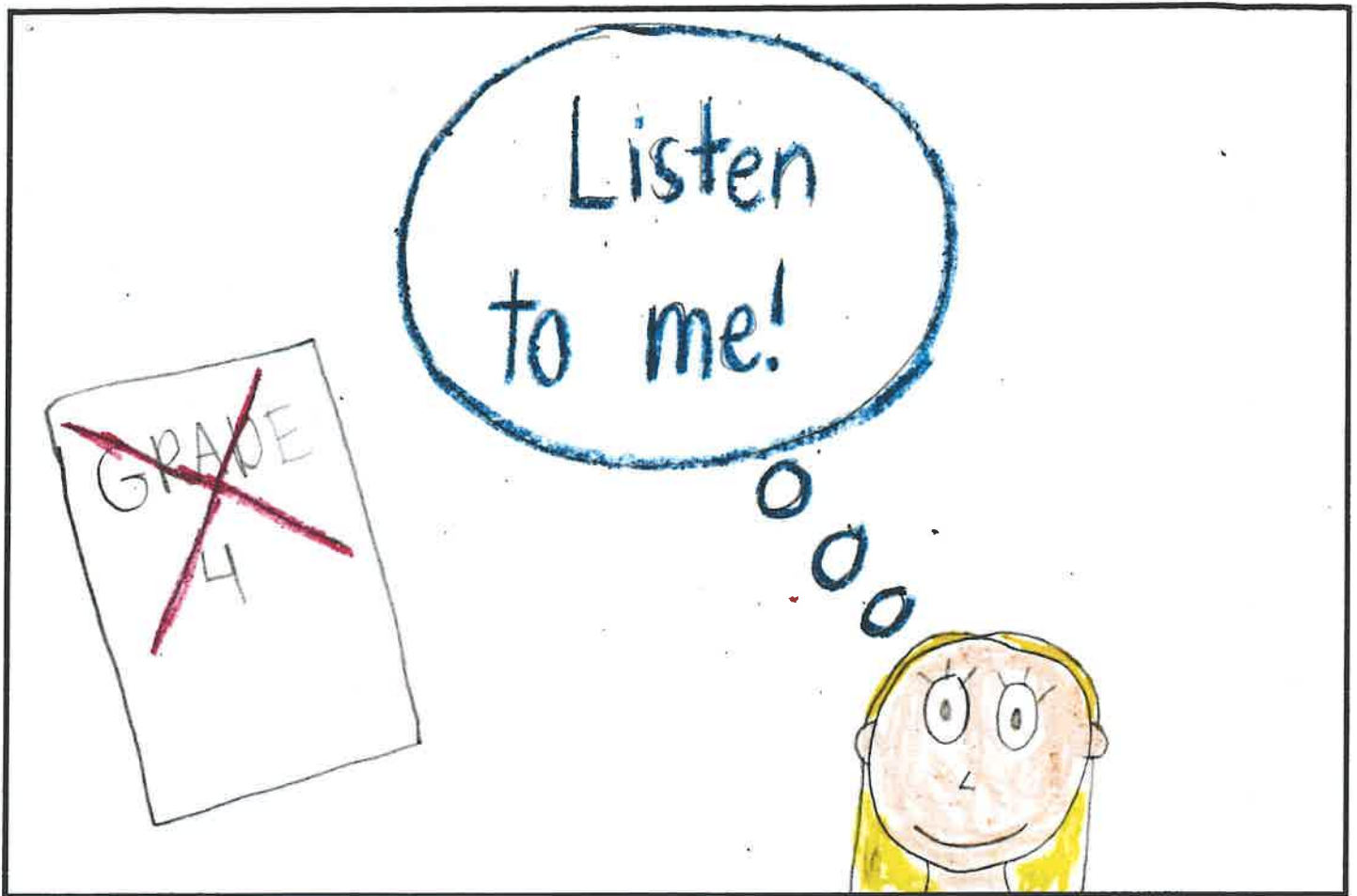
Written and Illustrated by:

Ava Jean Slezak

Grade 4

St. Louise de Marillac Catholic School

2023 WVIA PBS Writers Contest



My local PBS station is WQED,
But they'll only accept contest entries up to grade three.
It's unfortunate because I have much more to say,
So that is why I entered the contest for WVIA.
We need to talk about our safety in school,
I have some things on my mind and I'm not a fool.



These tragedies don't make sense,
You protect us like a two-foot fence.
Keep saying that you kneel and pray,
But do nothing to protect us during our school day.
Hide in the corner or stand on the toilet to practice,
Do you think our school days should be spent like this?



These kids are my exact same age,
Why were they denied another page?
A page of life that they should've had,
To kiss their moms and hug their dads.
They could have grown up and created a vaccine,
A plumber, or maybe became teacher, or beauty
queen.



Turn on the news, did this affect you?

Was it your grandchild or your great-nephew?

We need to fix it, but it's clear I see,

I guess you worry about you, and I'll hope it's not me.

We should feel safe in every grade.

If this happens again, can you live with the choices
you've made.



Stop this violence and end our fears,
Our nation has shed too many tears.
Yet you still sit there and do nothing,
But I'll use my young voice and choose to do
something.
Help us now as I pound my fist,
We don't deserve to fear our school day like this.