

A group of about ten young people are sitting on a gravel path, surrounded by large, leafy trees. They appear to be in a park or a similar outdoor setting. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated angle, showing the path leading into the distance. The lighting suggests it's daytime, with dappled sunlight on the ground.

We were young once, too Lessons learned that still matter

IPA World
Calgary, Alberta
September 13-16, 2017

Patsy Eubanks Owens
Sarah Little
Adina Cox
Janet Loebach

Think back to when you were a teenager

Think of a place that was important to you

Think of what this place looked like

Think of what you did when you were at this place

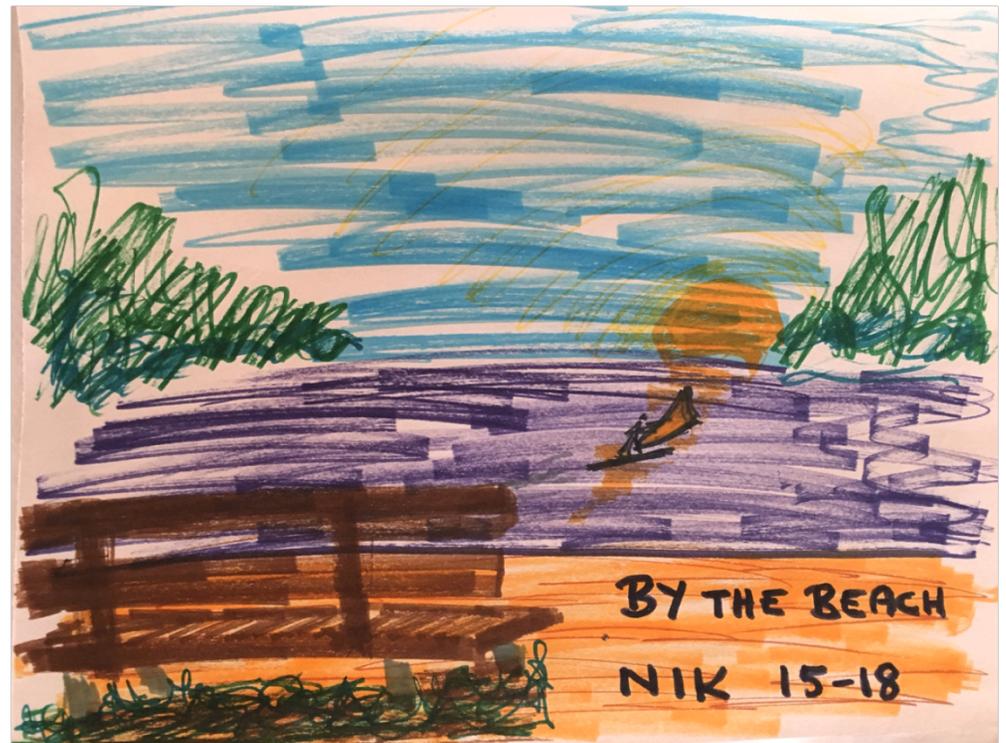
Think about who was at the place with you

Think about what made this place important to you

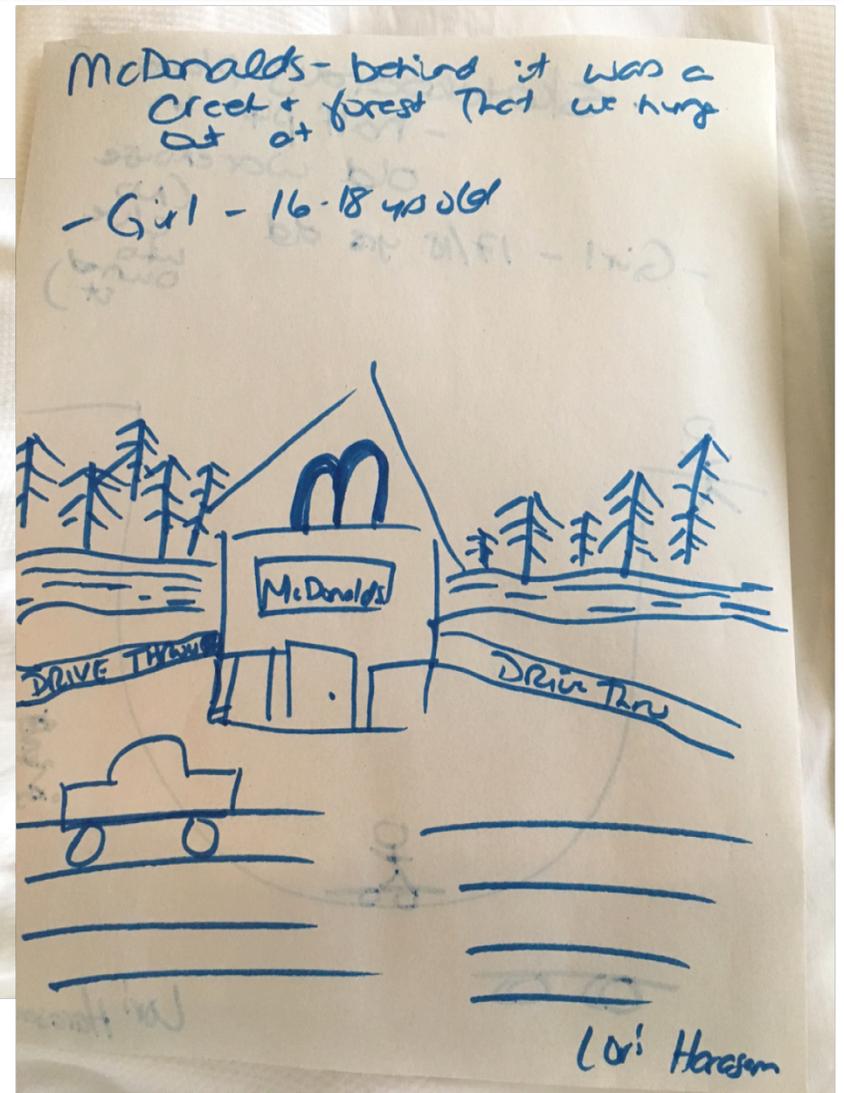
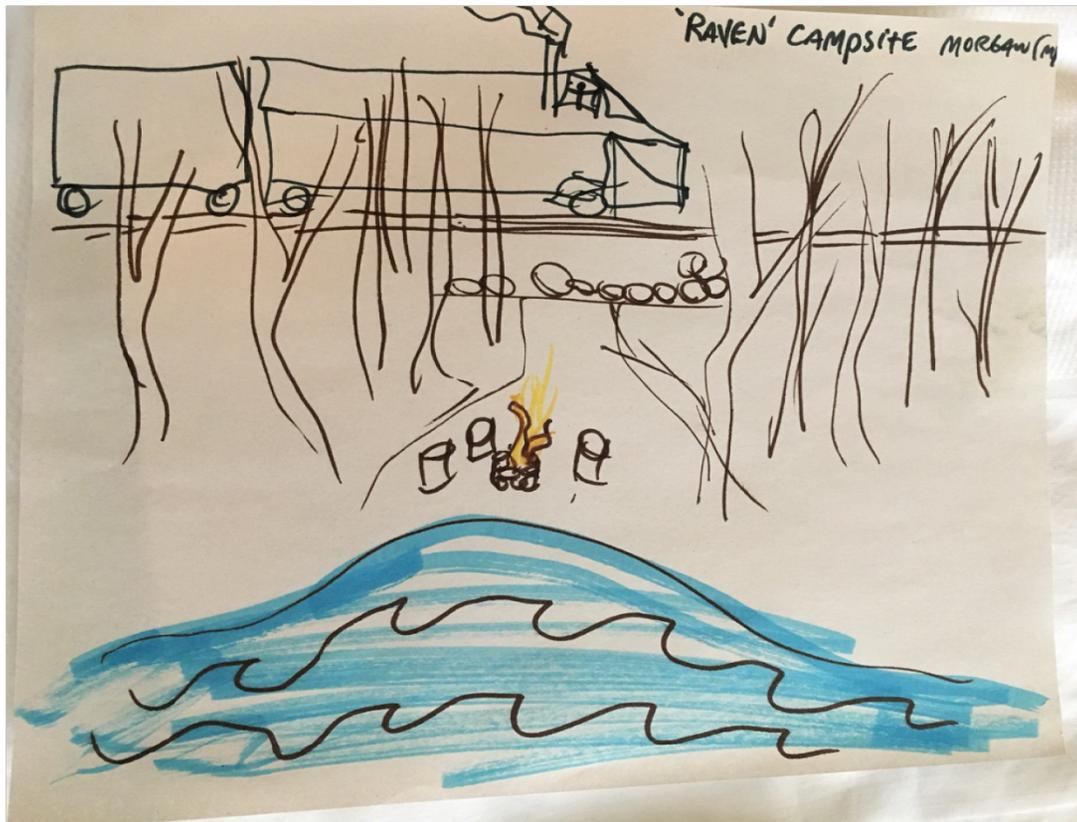
Without talking to anyone, draw a picture to represent this place

Don't worry about accuracy or artistic quality

Once everyone is finished, go around the table and share your places



Do this one more time for another place you remember from your teen years



As a group, create a list of the characteristics that everyone remembered about their places

What were the important physical characteristics?

What were the important activities?

What were the important social characteristics?

What were the important psychological characteristics?

What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important physical characteristics (responses generated by participants)

Outdoors

Wild

Natural

Structured

Unstructured

Isolated

Secret/hidden

Seclusion

Hang out spots

Not defined areas (non-purposely designed)

Places where you weren't noticed

Fires

Physically away from home

Away from adults

Prospect refuge (where you could look out, but not be seen)

Large space

Elevation

What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important activities (responses generated by participants)

Independent mobility	Fires	industrial waste
Private time	Drinking	Self defined
Connecting with outdoors	Music	Autonomous play
Pushing boundaries	The journey (walking train tracks, ravine, between houses, bike trips	Shenanigans
Being rebellious		Imagination
At your pace		Dancing
Drinking	Pool	Creating cultural identities
Smoking	Camp	
Gummy bear throwing	Hanging out with friends	
Active/sport/recreational experiences	Socializing	
Dreaming	"adult" activities	
Talking	Some have play structures/some	

What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important social characteristics (responses generated by participants)

Negotiating/agreeing
(activity, place, rules)

Someone special

Some solitary

Practicing being an adult
without judgment

With other people

Multi-aged in some places;
same age in others

No parents or adults

Always with a friend or
other peers

Gathering

Public space (even if it's
privately owned)

A kind of territory

Unstructured

Discrete age range

Organized by youth, for
youth

What are the lessons we can take away from our own experiences?

Important psychological characteristics (responses generated by participants)

Safe

Safety as a group

Put things in order

Reflective

Self development

Confidence

Brave

Independence from adults

Risky activity

Testing limits

Positive memories

Express yourself and develop identity

Special places

Peaceful/calming

Fun/joy

Closeness/sisterhood

Insecurity – wanting to belong

Be yourself

Self-defined (activities, rules autonomy)

