

## Youma:

Watch Youmas' video article on our school YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/AxTWWZP3sgQ> or Instagram @arkbolingbrokeacademy



**Youma had this to say about her work:** I created this video to make sure students who feel emotional are not alone. How you feel will always be validated. I used a digital flip-book app on my phone and drew 155 pages. I even had to make a DIY stylus to draw the images! I've noticed many young people on social media feeling confused and overwhelmed throughout this lockdown. You are not alone. You are all heroes.

## Ms Alabi:

### Woman on a motorbike

Whose motorbike is that? They think they know.  
Its owner is quite happy though.  
Full of joy and face aglow,  
She slowly smiles. A village show.

She gives her motorbike a shake,  
And laughs until her belly aches.  
The only other sound's the break,  
Of dusty wind and birds awake.

Pharisaic meerkats look in deep,  
But she has promises to keep,  
Ankara skirt hoisted, a sudden leap.

She demands applause with a loud beep.  
Whose motorbike is that? They know her name.  
Soaring through the air, a black-crowned crane.  
She's gone as quick as she came.  
Unapologetic, wild and unashamed.



**Ms Alabi had this to say about her work:** This poem is about my grandma. She was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1936 in a village in Nigeria. Her father said because she was a girl she couldn't go to school but she was able to read and memorise the bible quicker than her brothers and so was able to convince her father to get an education. Because of her love of reading, she became an English teacher. In the 1960s, she got the rare opportunity to go to France and study French. At the time, she was already a mother to three children and had built her house by hand! When she came back she was able to afford a bicycle that was built for a man and after that she bought her first motorbike. It was very unusual to see a woman at that time ride a motorbike and she was actually the first!

**Sarah:**

### **The Wonderful Doctor**

It is no secret that we are currently living through the biggest turning points in the history of our generation. Through this has come so much loss, pain, anger, and despair. However, it is through this that we have seen heroes arise. It is these life-changing people who have inspired The Bark Magazine's introductory theme: Heroes.

One of these heroes I met only for a night on the 15th of November 2020, in St Thomas' Hospital. This was the second consecutive day in the yellow-painted walls of the waiting room. I had already missed two weeks of school since testing positive for covid-19; my isolation was complete, yet my chest felt like it was being ripped apart with every stabbing breath. The previous day, I lay on a small bed in a cramped room, cold grey walls, the sterile stench of antiseptic filling my nose, only to be discharged 9 hours later with my pain being dismissed as anxiety. The pain got worse. I returned the next day, struggling to breathe, a cannula in my arm, and x-rays taken. (I would be lying if I said it was not insanely cool to see the inside of my chest). It took hours of stress and waiting on that cold bed for all of my scans and blood tests to arrive.

It was a little before midnight when I finally met my doctor, the real hero of my COVID-19 journey. After a series of strange (and rather intrusive) questions, she had concluded that, despite what my previous doctor had said, my pain was not all in my head. She fought for scans and more tests, despite other doctors denying it as necessary, she stayed into the early hours of the morning to tell me that this pain was caused by damage to my lungs as an unfortunate consequence of the virus, and advised more time off in order to make a full recovery.

I finally left the cold walls and the smell of disinfectant in the dark morning of around 3 AM, medication in hand, and a sigh of relief. I was going to be okay. Without my wonderful doctor, and without the help of the extremely underappreciated NHS, I would most likely have exhausted my body more, possibly causing long-term damage.



Unfortunately, I am still dealing with the effects of 'long Covid,' but it was my wonderful doctor whose kindness, patience, and support made her the real hero. It is the people in our lives, the people who stay at home to protect us, the people who care, and the people who support each other, who are the real heroes at the end of the day. It is through exploring this theme of heroes that we can come to understand the everyday heroes we see, and show them our gratitude and overall, our support.

By Sarah Ibrahim, Chief Key Stage 3 Editor, The Bark

We hope these wonderful, moving and honest pieces inspire you to get creating! We cannot wait to see your amazing submissions. Remember, please send them to us before the deadline! And if you have any questions, direct them to any member of the new Bark Magazine editorial Team below. **Good Luck Bolingbroke Academy! You are all Heroes!**

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