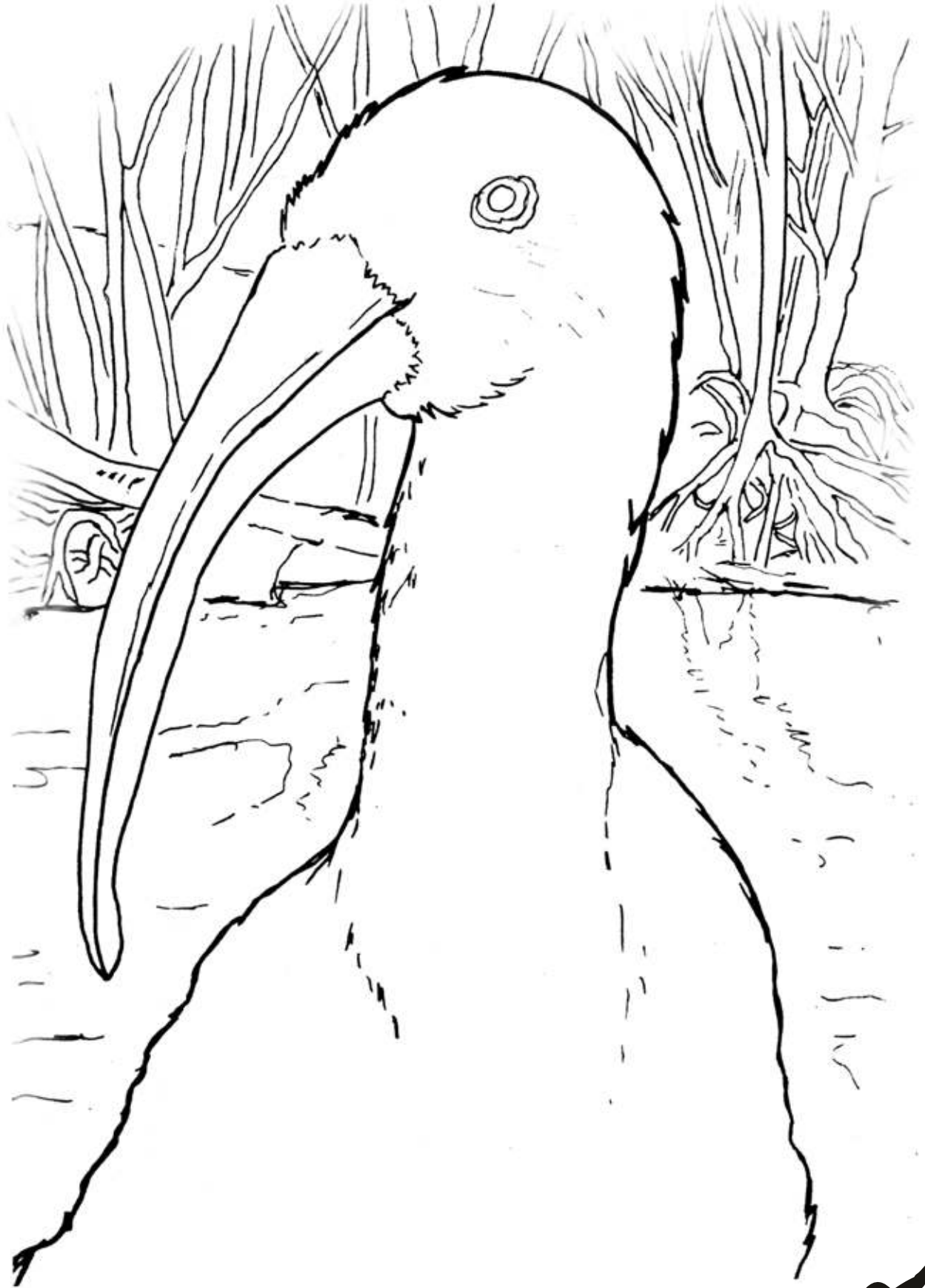


HOW KEVON AND AURORA WON THE POETRY COMPETITION



The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago decided to have a National Poetry Competition in which contestants had to write about preserving the environment.

Kevon was a Grenadian boy with a short ras' who had moved to Trinidad and lived with his mother. His father worked in environmental conservation in Grenada. Kevon wasn't your average boy as he loved the environment and wrote poetry about it. In fact, Kevon loved writing so much that from a class of seventeen children he got chosen to go to the national competition. Here is a bit of Kevon's piece:

"Shout it!
Pollution, pollution ain't the solution!
Help out!
Picking up garbage is a good contribution!"

Kevon was very excited about the competition. On the way to Port of Spain to take part he saw a travel poster offering a tour to Grenada and remembered the hurricane that caused his family to run to Trinidad and Tobago.



At the National Library, he was told he would be partnered with someone selected at random. The judges wanted to see how the contestants could work together and to know that the winner would be able to work well with other people.

Aurora was 9 years old and was a Chinese Dougla, meaning she had Chinese, African and Indian blood in her. She lived with her parents in Aranguez.

From a young age, Aurora's parents recognized her love of Nature and also her care of animals and every Saturday, they let her walk her dog around the Aranguez Savannah.

One day,, as Aurora walked her dog, she observed the plastics, metals, paper and glass recycling bins. She watched people playing football, basketball, flying kites, and buying doubles.

Aurora also noticed some pretty birds chirping, like the keskidee and semp and felt inspired to write a poem. Here is a piece of it:

“Plastic things are for plastic bins,
paper for paper dustbins,
paper clips and cans for metal bins,
and glass for those glass recycling things.”

The rhyme won her a place in the final competition.

On her way to the competition, travelling in a maxi to Port of Spain, they passed saporilla, avocado, mango and coconut palm trees. Aurora was very excited.

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author speak.

Upon arriving at the National Library, however, she saw the crowds of people gathered for the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and Aurora's excitement turned to nervousness especially when her parents left her at the children's library and went off to hear a famous

She waited quietly and soon the judges pulled names from a hat. Kevon was to be partnered with Aurora. They talked about many ideas for the poem and that helped her relax, and they set about working on their piece.

Some of the competing poets spoke about deforestation, sea pollution, oil spills, air and noise pollution and even endangered animals.

The two children decided to write about the Scarlet Ibis, the Caroni Swamp, hunting and litter.

Eventually, they came up with their piece. It began:

"There once was a Scarlet Ibis who lived in the Caroni swamp,
His home was threatened by bottles and cans and lots of other junk."

It told the story of a talking Scarlet Ibis who knew he was the national bird of Trinidad and Tobago and about how he spoke to children who visited the swamp. In the end those children spread the message of caring for the environment.

No one else in the competition had written on the National Bird and the Caroni Swamp and its importance and the judges all agreed Kevon and Aurora deserved to win.

It was indeed a great day for the children as even Kevon's father came from Grenada to the competition!

THE END