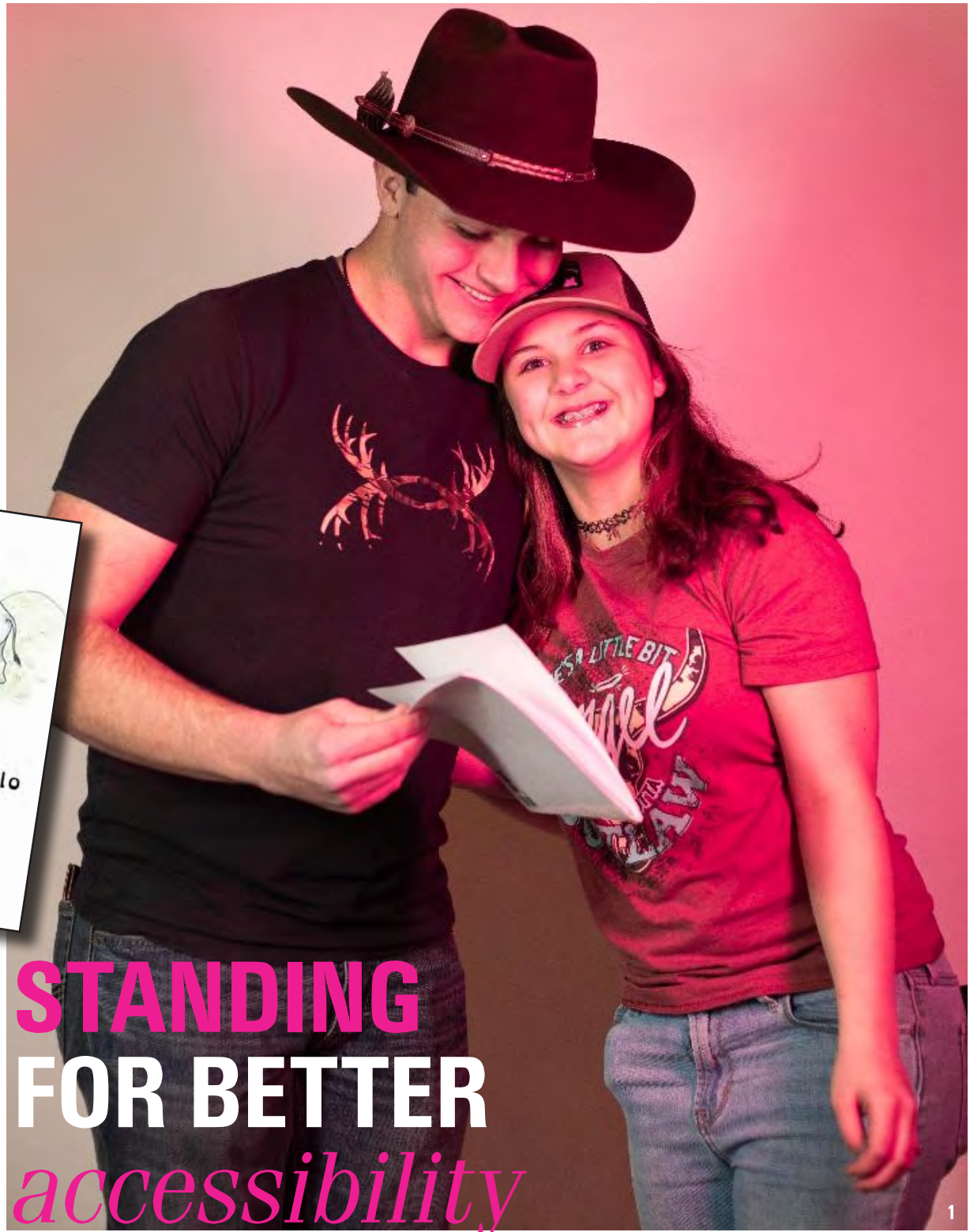


1. FLIPPING THROUGH HIS PUBLISHED BOOK,

Ashton Clifford¹¹ poses with his little sister. "She was a huge inspiration for me, when I wrote the book in class," Clifford said. "My goal was to make an inclusive book, making everybody feel seen and heard." Clifford's book was inspired by his sister, written by him and illustrated by a family friend. See interview in the copy below for more of the story, photo by emily robertson.

Scan the QR code to purchase the book on Amazon!



Q&A WITH
LIBERTY'S FIRST
PUBLISHED
AUTHOR

STANDING FOR BETTER *accessibility*

At only 17 years old, **Ashton Clifford**¹¹ wrote and dedicated a children's book to his younger sister who happens to have a reading disability. The published book, "The White Buffalo," focuses on inclusivity and spreads acceptance to those who might feel like an outlier. Clifford also paid attention to small details in order to make his book accessible for all, gaining inspiration from both his sister and his mother who worked with children who have disabilities.

Q: WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO WRITE THIS STORY?

A: It was an essay on Native Americans, I decided to do a poetry thing. My teachers thought it was great. My mom works at the school district with special needs kids and they all loved it, so we decided to make it a book.

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE THE MAIN CHARACTER HAVE 3 LEGS?

A: I was born with some leg issues and I understand what disability's like around people. People may not like their disabilities but they still try their best to work with them. So, I try to show younger kids what they can do to help those with disabilities.

Q: IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC REASON YOU CHOSE BUFFALO AND ELK?

A: Buffalo's are very known for being herd animals and elk are also known for joining up in the summer. Their both known for having their own little pact. I thought it would be unusual with another animal.

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS FONT FOR THE BOOK?

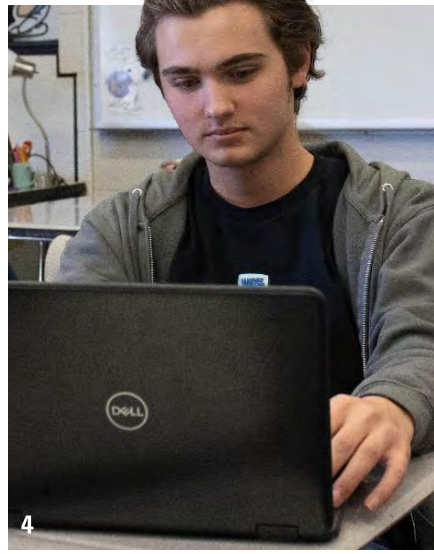
A: The type of font I chose is a dyslexic font. My little sister has really bad dyslexia. So we had found these Harry Potter books that were written in a dyslexia font. It really helped her and because of how the font was for her. I thought it would help other kids with dyslexia earlier on to help them start reading better cause it helped her a lot too.



2. DISPLAYING THEIR CLUB'S BOOK, Myah Alexander ¹¹, Jasmine Maldonado ¹¹, and Julia Ropeter ¹¹, pose for a photo. Their current book was "Six of Crows." The book club meets every Tuesday and Thursday to discuss the current read. Alexander says she joined because "[her] bestfriend, Sundo, was the leader of the group and I honestly just wanted to get out the reading slump I'm in." photo by abigail beermann

3. WORKING ON A GROUP PROJECT Kennedy Inman ¹² and Sophie Perez ¹² decorate their poster displaying a character from a book recently read in their Comp & Literature. photo by eilidh gill

4. LOCKED IN TO ENGLISH CLASS, Gabriel McMullen ¹⁰ works attentively on his assignments. "Mrs. Bartlett's pretty chill and it's enjoyable [having class with my friends]," McMullen said. photo by peyton fedorkowicz



5. POPPING OUT WITH JOY, Siobhan Patterson ¹⁰ presents the French Club Mardi Gras Guiltine float. "[My favorite part of Mardi Gras was] having a common goal of winning the float contest with rest of the clubs," Patterson said. photo by abigail beermann.

6. PRESENTING THE MARDI GRAS FLOAT, Keely Stafford ¹² shows off the Latin Club's rowing boat float. "My favorite part of the event was hanging out with the French club members and seeing the Latin club kids creation on display." Stafford said. photo by abigail beermann.

7. AT HER DESK, Sandra Cook, assists one of her students in English I, a completely full and mandatory freshmen course. photo by peyton fedorkowicz



DAY OF THE DEAD *celebration*



Liberty's Spanish department celebrated Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. The students and admin decorated the halls, as well as set out offerings to honor their deceased loved ones. This holiday is largely observed and celebrated in Mexico, and the language department decided to bring that tradition to Liberty to share with students and staff.



Many of the teachers around the school were chosen to decorate their own grave. To honor these 'passings,' Cempazuchitl flowers or marigolds, were scattered in front of the graves. These are used for the belief of bringing back the soul to enjoy the pleasures of life once more.