

# THE IMAGINE SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING *AWARENESS*  
KIDS SEPTEMBER EDITION VOLUME 25!



*"Walls turned sideways are bridges."  
- Angela Davis*

## Catastrophes in Classrooms

by Shelby Fenton

School is a place for learning and socializing with others of a similar age and maturity. It can lead to some negative effects on students. It can lead to oppression and affect a student's overall view of themselves.

In schools many LGBTQ2+ students feel unwelcome and are mistreated. In 2001, *Human Rights Watch* published a report called *Hatred in the Hallways: Violence and Discrimination, Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students in US Schools*. The report reported bullying and against discrimination against LGBT students across the USA in schools. The report urged the making of more solid steps to respect and protect the rights



Brilliant artwork by Audrey (13) in support of our Calculator Drive (see p 7) & making the world a better place!

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of LGBT youth more adequately. Over time, after this report there has been an increase in recognition of LGBT youth in schools. This progress however isn't the same in all schools. In many schools in the US there is a lack of respect and protection of LGBT students and youth. In some states and schools the protection of LGBT youth is weak or not adequately enforced. In certain states teaching about LGBT issues is restricted. These are just some points about how the LGBT youth in schools are mistreated and put to the side.

Unfortunately *ableism* is also an immense problem in the US's schools. *Ableism* in the US is a topic that needs to be recognized and discussed in general but especially in schools. The school system usually fails to realize that not all disabilities can be helped by doing the bare minimum such as adding a ramp or a Special Education classroom. It can be hard for certain students to excel in a classroom setting. The school system in the US often fails *neurodivergent* students. *Neurodivergent* is a term often used to describe people who have different mental functions such as sociability, learning, mood, and attention. Many teachers participate in *ableism* without knowing they are. Teachers may get after a *neurodivergent* student for not being able to focus without clicking a pen or for drawing on the sides of their notes. These behaviours sometimes help with stimulation. Teachers may be frustrated with the behaviour of students with certain disabilities causing the student to become frustrated. These are some ways the US fails students.

Fighting systemic racism in schools can be hard for students. BIPOC students can face racism from a fellow student or a white-washed history book. Studies show that when compared to white students, black students are less likely to be put in gifted class and more likely to be expelled and suspended. White teachers' implicit stereotypes can make them less effective while teaching black students according to a study done by Drew Jacoby-Senghar, PhD, at Columbia University, and Colleagues. The study had white teachers prepare a history lesson for a black or white student. The "teachers" that had higher levels of implicit racial bias, their black (not white) students scored more poorly on a history test based on the lesson. After, the lessons recorded that were originally given to black students were presented to white students. These white students did more poorly on the test. This shows that it was the lesson and not the student affecting the outcome of the test. This is just one study done to show systematic racism in the school system.

There are many ways to try and make change in the US school system and help fight the oppression these students face. Many schools have social justice clubs. In these clubs, students help raise awareness throughout their school. It can be hard to make big changes, however spreading awareness can help others understand. More people being aware can help with support and creating change. Another way to create change is sending letters to school boards and policy makers. Looking out for youth and the next generation is important for everyone and for creating a better tomorrow.



Thank you Shelby for a very thought provoking essay and one that really makes us think about the importance of awareness!

**Shelby Fenton (14) is in grade 10 at Fenton Academy Homeschool in Alberta, Canada. She is also on the Editorial Staff for The Imagine Newsletter!**

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#### Resources

"Like Walking Through a Hailstorm" (Human Rights Watch, 2016). Available at: [www.hrw.org/report/2016/12/08/walking-through-hailstorm/discrimination-against-lgbt-youth-us-schools](http://www.hrw.org/report/2016/12/08/walking-through-hailstorm/discrimination-against-lgbt-youth-us-schools)  
Valant, J. "The Banality of Racism in Education" (Brookings, 2020). Available at: [www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2020/06/04/the-banality-of-racism-in-education/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2020/06/04/the-banality-of-racism-in-education/)  
Godinez, O. "Ableism in Schools Must Be Stopped" (RHS Today, 2021). Available at: [rhtoday.com/perspectives/opinion/2021/05/12/opinion-ableism-in-schools-must-be-stopped/](http://rhtoday.com/perspectives/opinion/2021/05/12/opinion-ableism-in-schools-must-be-stopped/)  
Weir, K. "Inequality At School" (American Psychological Association, 2016). Available at: [www.apa.org/monitor/2016/11/cover-inequality-school](http://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/11/cover-inequality-school)

# Angela Davis: An Academic & An Activist

by Marre Gaffigan

An outspoken activist, scholar, and writer, **Angela Davis'** (*September's Cover Quote*) work has served as a blueprint for modern-day social justice movements. A member of an all-black sector of the Communist Party, Davis has received backlash and resistance from many authority figures and organizations throughout her career. After being accused of attempting to assist radical George Jackson escape from prison, Davis was sent to and served a little over one year in jail before being acquitted of all charges in 1972. After years of traveling and delivering lectures, Davis became a professor and eventually an author. The activism of **Angela Davis** has helped to influence and inspire the work of The Imagine Society as we continue to fight for equity and justice for everyone.



Angela Davis mural in Brooklyn, alongside Nelson Mandela & Martin Luther King Jr.



Angela Davis in 1974!



Angela Davis has written 9 books about civil rights, freedom & equality!

## Did You Know...

- ★ John Lennon & Yoko Ono dedicated their 1972 song "Angela" to Davis
- ★ Through a program run by the Quakers, Davis attended & graduated from high school in New York City
- ★ Both of Angela's parents were teachers
- ★ She graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University in 1965
- ★ Davis continues to this day to speak out for prison abolition, women's rights, & racial justice

## Published Works

- ★ "Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement" (2016)
- ★ "The Meaning of Freedom: And Other Difficult Dialogues" (2012)
- ★ "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" (2009)
- ★ "Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture" (2005)
- ★ "Are Prisons Obsolete?" (2003)
- ★ "Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday" (1999)
- ★ "The Angela Y. Davis Reader" (1998)
- ★ "Women, Race, and Class" (1980)
- ★ "Angela Davis: An Autobiography" (1974)



# Boat Rides/Fishing Story

by Louis A. Craco III



My Dad Goes Fishing Or Takes Us For A Boat Ride. When Dad got the boat he would take us on a boat Ride. Sometimes I try to eat the wind when the boat goes soaring in the ocean. My sister just stares into the view. My Mom would come, if dad could teach her how to ride one. My Brother is not a huge fan of the boat.

Speaking Of Boats, I Named It the **Auntie MoMo**. My Dad Thought it was hilarious. My Brother Was Not Interested in Naming The Boat. My Sister Had Ambitious Names Like Throwing Dad into a volcano Or off a cliff. When Dad was peppering to take me to school, when we were waiting for the bus. I told him a grate Name and he agreed with it.

The **Auntie MoMo**.

My Dad once took me in the boat to a place located where my Dad, his brothers and his father went on summer brake. He took me to see a rock they knew. A scientific professional discovered it first. His name was Albert Einstein.

When he and mom were having breakfast that morning I was listening along of what he was just talking about. He had guaranteed me to come with him on the boat and once he had finished unroping it we went flying to the into the beyond. When me and Dad had reached the location we saw his summer place where Dad and his father and my two uncles went. When we were still in the story (I had never known that Dad and the rest of the summer gang had a pet Ginny Pig) we had a possibility to see the the rock that dad was talking about at breakfast.



**Louis at the wheel on the Auntie MoMo!**



**Albert Einstein at the beach :)  
Louis visited a place he discovered!**



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Then something more exciting came along: Fishing! Fishing is more than hunting, well because hunting and fishing are more than the same thing and the reason my Dad goes fishing is because he has a lot of progress on his shoulders like you know, kill the fish and and have for a meal and that is something you would see by a fishing Professional if you know how to fish for sword fish.

Sparrow is one of our neighbors and he goes fishing too and he has quite the process of being a professional fisherman himself.

When dad goes fishing, he will sometimes let me come. We get porgies, Blue Fish and weakfish. We definitely don't go when the the water gets too choppy.

Having these epic adventures and going fishing is a manner of fact. When we go to adventures we get wet and we get absolutely soaked. When we go fishing we see these three fish flop around we find a way to put them for safe keeping and then later we eat the wrath of the scrumptious animal that lives underwater and now it lives in stomachs.



Great work  
Louis!

**Louis & Dad caught a big fish!**



**Looks like Louis & his Dad have so much fun!**

Thank you for sharing  
another  
wonderful  
story!

*Louis A. Craco III  
August 30, 2021*

*I am 12 years old. I am a self advocate for Down syndrome. This was my father's birthday present.*

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# *The Perfect Paradise: Camp Anchor*

by Bella Nocera



Many kids my age are all obsessed with the same things: their friends, going out, finding love, learning how to drive, their sports, or their studies. Don't get me wrong: I love all that stuff too (not always the studies), but most of the time my mind is fixated on one thing: **Camp Anchor**.

**Camp Anchor** is a camp for children and adults with special needs. Each summer, teenagers across the Town of Hempstead dedicate 30 hours a week for 6 weeks to volunteer at this camp. I have had the privilege of being one of those teenagers every summer for the past three years.

At **Camp Anchor**, we do all sorts of things, anything that would be done at any summer camp! We cook, we go surfing, we do arts and crafts, we do horseback rides, we tie dye t-shirts, we go in the pool and ocean, we do karaoke, we eat LOTS of pizza, we have a camp show (which is my personal favorite event of the summer), and the list goes on. We exchange laughs, smiles, and good memories all the time.

**Camp Anchor** is a place that I consider my home; it is my favorite place in the world. I love this place so much that every second I spend away from it, all I think about is going back the next day. It's to the point where my friends and family sometimes tell me to, "Stop talking about camp already!" Allow me to explain why I have pretty much (unintentionally) made **Camp Anchor** my entire personality:

**Camp Anchor** is the only place in the world where you could walk around in a sequined jumpsuit and neon feather boa and no one would ask why. It's the only place where you could karaoke to songs from "Big Time Rush" or "Hannah Montana" in front of hundreds of people and not feel the slightest bit of embarrassment. It's the only place where you would roll around on the beach, and *not* get annoyed that you're covered in sand for the rest of the day. It's the only place where you could have a paint fight, and *want* to be the one to come out covered in the most paint.

**Camp Anchor** is a home, where the sun is always shining, and a place where everyone could be their true self, let loose, and have a good time.

Working at **Camp Anchor** has truly taught me so much about acceptance, and changed my perspective on life. I've learned that we really *all* have different abilities. My different abilities are different from yours, and those are different from my campers'. Everyone's different abilities make them who they are; my campers' different abilities allow them to shine and make them the coolest people I know. They could beat you in any dance off, or karaoke battle. They could make some pretty amazing nachos, and do some pretty impressive dives into the pool. They give the best hugs of all time, and could cheer up anyone's saddest day.

All in all, my campers just want to be treated like I would, or how you would. They want to hang out with you just like you would hang out with a friend. They have taught me to treat everyone with kindness and respect, regardless of their different abilities. Not only that, but they have taught me to live life with the same type of confidence, joy, and optimism that they do.

As ironic as it is, (since my job is to influence *their* lives) I model my way of living off of my campers. It may sound cliché, but I would absolutely not be the person that I am today without **Camp Anchor**. I sit here, writing this at my desk, and next to me is my countdown to next summer; only 300 days to go!

**Bella Nocera (17) is a Senior at Wantagh High School**

# History Alive

by Jack Gaffigan

To emphasize the theme of **AWARENESS** in this month's newsletter, I would like to bring the reader's attention to a very important person in history and how his life and legacy continue to shape our present. Awareness of history is one of the most important and meaningful ingredients in the recipe needed to change society for the better. Rather than just a name in a history book, Dred Scott is a historical figure who is still playing an active role in our evolution as a more just, fair and forgiving society.

Anyone who has taken US History class in school knows about the Dred Scott case. If you skipped US History or slept through it, let me bring you up to speed. In 1857 after Dred Scott sued for his freedom as an enslaved person on the grounds that he has resided in a free state where slavery was prohibited, The US Supreme Court under Chief Justice Roger Brook Taney ruled that African Americans were not, and could never be citizens of the United States. The judge stated that the Missouri Compromise of 1820 (which had declared free all territories west and North of Missouri) was "unconstitutional" because it violated an American's right to own property. Yes, Dred Scott, and all African Americans were considered "property," and this despicable decision was only concerned about the "rights" of slave owners over enslaved people, who were stripped of any rights whatsoever. This decision outraged everyone who was against slavery and is considered one of the biggest factors in starting the Civil War. This is where the story ends for most people who learn about Dred Scott, but this is really where the story begins.

When studying for a history class it is easy to forget that there were real people behind the story. Dred Scott, on behalf of himself, his wife and two daughters had the bravery and strength to go to court to fight for their freedom at a time when enslaved people and African Americans were thought of as less than human, enslaved people were regarded as property, and freeing them was seen as a violation of slave owners' constitutional rights. And this was decided in an actual court of law! Looking back in shock, we view this as one of the worst most disgraceful Supreme Court decisions ever. The basic take away is that the Scott family and those that stood behind their cause were good and right, and the other side who believed in Judge Taney's decision were horrible and evil and should never be forgiven. And that should be the end of it to anyone with an ounce of humanity. Enslaving human beings and regarding them as property is obviously, absolutely wrong.

That is a major reason why President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation followed by the bloodiest war on American soil that led to a victory by the north and the eventual abolishment to slavery, victory for all who believe in equal rights and bringing an end to the darkest period in US History.

But whatever happened to Dred Scott and his family? In 1957 on the centennial anniversary of the Dred Scott case Lynne Jackson, the very young, great-granddaughter of Dred Scott, went with her family to Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, MO where genealogist Fr. Edward Dowling had discovered the unmarked grave where this incredibly historically significant figure was buried. Since then, Lynne has dedicated her life to bringing the legacy of Dred Scott into its important and rightful place in history.



Photo Courtesy of <http://commonplace.online/article/freeing-dred-scott/>



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There have been many important achievements toward honoring Dred Scott's historical significance, and many yet to be accomplished. Lynne Jackson has spent a lifetime learning about her famous great-great-grandfather and is helping to educate others about this incredibly important component of black history, which is truly the history of America. To accomplish this she has established the **Dred Scott Heritage Foundation**, based in St. Louis, and **Dred Scott Lives**. Please visit the website to discover the reading program "Reading: A Civil Right" which we will be talking more about in future youth led Imagine Society projects. Dred Scott Lives is a vitally important mission to inform and educate the public about Dred Scott, his family, and the impact their lives have on the present. The foundation seeks to bring people together to learn about history and reconciliation. Jackson has been involved in bringing many people together including descendants of "arch enemies and unlikely friends."

One such unlikely friendship was between Lynne and Charley Taney, the great, great, grandnephew of Chief Justice Roger Brook Taney, the same judge that would not grant freedom to Dred Scott back in 1857. Charlie Taney grew up in the shadow of the historical event that changed the country forever. Interviews with him describe him as feeling painfully embarrassed when the lesson about the Dred Scott case would come up in history class and he would silently hope and pray that no one would connect his last name. He was horrified that a relative of his was such a famous racist. The reunion became a possibility when the daughter of Charlie Taney, Kate Billingsley, wrote "A Man of His Time," a fictional play about a Taney descendant meeting a Scott descendant. This idea led to an actual meeting where Lynne Jackson met with Charlie Taney. He apologized on behalf of his relative, and she accepted on behalf of hers.



Photo Courtesy of the [Washington Post](#)

Aside from the mission to educate about the real US history with a focus on reconciliation, there are two more important aspects to the work of Lynne Jackson and the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation/Dred Scott Lives that I would like to bring everyone's attention to.

The first is that The Foundation is working to create a **memorial monument** for Dred Scott at Calvary Cemetery. For 90 years Mr. Scott lay in an unmarked and unknown grave before five-year-old Lynne and her family found him. With all our help the new, beautiful monument that will attract visitors from all over the country, will be installed for the 165th anniversary year in 2022. In a time where a lot of the focus on healing our country is on tearing down statues of America's racist past, I invite everyone to be a part of healing by contributing to a memorial to honor the life and legacy of Dred Scott. Follow this link to donate today! <https://www.gofundme.com/f/dred-scott-cemetery-memorial>

... continued from page 8

Finally, we can help educate America about Dred Scott by helping to create a US postal stamp that honors him and keeps his history alive. Please **SIGN THE DRED SCOTT STAMP PETITION** and let us get this done. We can be a part of making history come alive to reshape our present and future.

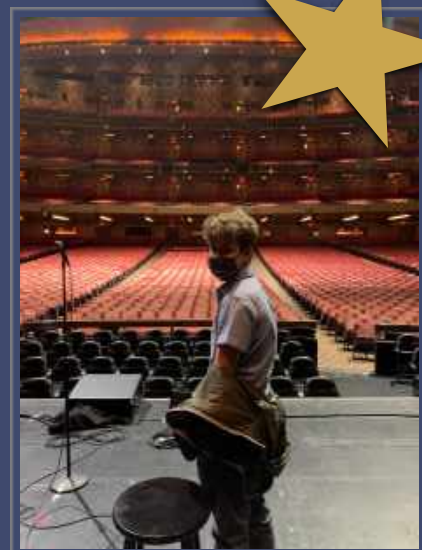
I would like to end with an incredible quote and photo from the **DRED SCOTT LIVES** website:



*On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, the National Parks Service, and master sculptor Harry Weber were incredibly proud to unveil a statue of Dred and Harriet Scott on the south lawn of the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis. The Scotts are depicted standing close, holding their heads high, their eyes directed not only Archward and across the Mississippi River, but toward a horizon of freedom in which they believed enough to one day finally see.*



Thank you Jack for your incredibly important article! It's an honor to learn about Dred Scott's history and support Lynne Jackson's efforts!



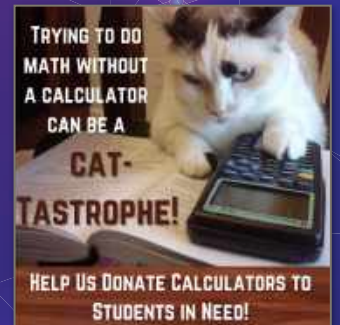
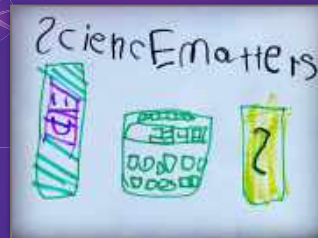
*Jack Gaffigan (15) is a Sophomore at York Prep School in New York City*



# #WECANCOUNTONEACHOTHER

In September 2021, *The Imagine Society* kicked off our **#WeCanCountOnEachOther** campaign and began raising funds to provide **50 scientific calculators** to the students in need at the **Henry Street Settlement Education Program**. **Henry Street Settlement** serves underserved communities in downtown NYC, and their youth services “provides a safe, structured and holistic environment... which educate, empower and promote social and emotional development.” The program struggles to be able to provide the calculators to their students. Our Imagine Youth in NYC and beyond quickly got to work inventing slogans, memes, songs, and artwork - all to put together a highly creative campaign. We even had many students fundraise at their own schools! The fall fundraiser, which was timed with Back-To-School season, saw our Imagine Kids putting the spotlight on supporting Equality and Equity in Education, especially in the fields of math and science. Seeing the Imagine Kids lead with compassion for their peer community was an inspiration to so many in our organization! Below see some of the hard work and exciting artwork our Youth Community put together in support of the fundraiser! Thank you to the inspired Youth Community and all our incredibly generous donors who are helping us achieve our dream in making this very important donation.

As of September 30th, we are over 75% to our goal of raising \$5000 for 50 scientific calculators!  
You can help our Imagine Youth Leaders get to 100% of our goal by donating **[HERE!](#)**





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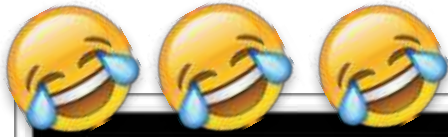
EET!

Special **SPOTTED** featuring the vibrant community in the East Village, NYC!

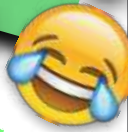


Send in your "Spotted on the Street" photos to: [outreach@theimagesociety.org](mailto:outreach@theimagesociety.org)





# FUN PAGES



**SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**  
SOME LESSONS CAN ONLY BE LEARNED ONCE!

Edited by  
Junior Member  
Katie Gaffigan  
(12)

**What do you call a  
wolf that meditates**

**Aware wolf**



**If you leave a grape out in the  
sun, it'll shrivel and dry up...**

**Just raisin awareness**

LIZ AT LARGE

When will  
things get  
back to  
normal?



There's no  
such thing  
as normal

Katie's  
Fave  
Memes  
:)

Lol!

**ZOMBIE AWARENESS  
SHIRT**



**NOT A  
ZOMBIE**



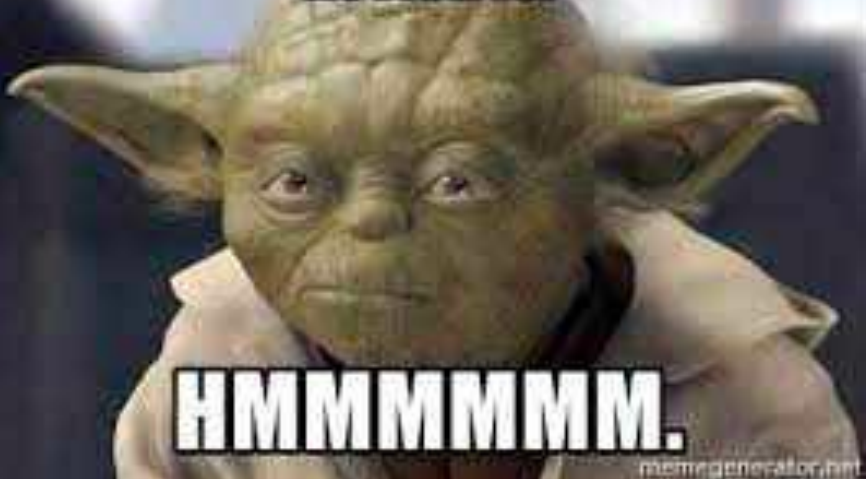
**ZOMBIE**



**AWARENESS**

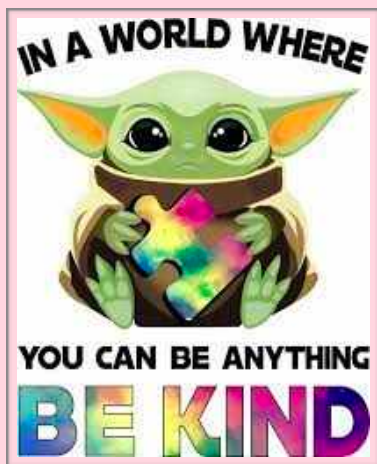
IF YOU STAY CALM WHILE ALL AROUND YOU IS CHAOS, THEN  
YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T COMPLETELY GRASPED THE  
SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION.

**WORTHLESS, AWARENESS WITHOUT  
ACTION IS.**



**HMMMMMM.**

memegenerator.net



Edited by  
Junior Member  
Katie Gaffigan  
(12)



## Awareness Word Scramble



scsoosicnuens

oegnntirio

iotiaraenzl

ezncancigo

retnepocpi

eapnpsonierh

uendiatdnsrgn

asrpg

pinaiaprtceo

teomwenngdalkc







## Awareness Word Scramble

consciousness	scsoosicnuens
recognition	oegnctirio
realization	iotiaraenzl
cognizance	ezncancigo
perception	retnepocpi
apprehension	eadnpsonierh
understanding	uendiatdnrsgn
grasp	asrpg
appreciation	pinaiaprceeo
acknowledgment	teomwenngdalkc