

Designed for Imperfection

Emotions are not coded and designed for the perfect response; they're familiar but misunderstood, craved but unwanted and most importantly—human. A rainbow appeared outside her window after a long, hard storm took over the night. Her laptop, flashing with a neon light, had a bold “due at 11:59 pm” text on the side. Renata sighed, she couldn't paint an image in her head even after days and days of endless thinking and pondering, “what represents my struggle, how can I represent my struggle?” Renata was a 16-year-old girl who loved to create and indulge herself in art every passing day. She and her family came here from Cuba, hoping to find new and better opportunities, more specifically for Renata. She was young, but they knew she had a dream ready to accomplish in the United States. The way she played with her colors, spreading art wherever she went. She was a walking palette, ready to splatter on anything. But for some odd reason, she was having artist's block. Feeling like her thoughts and ideas keep hitting a brick wall and get nowhere, unable to feel inspired. Now, this wasn't unusual for an artist, but for Renata, it felt like hell. Like her mouth was covered with tape, and her wrists were tied together; without art, she felt unable to express herself. It was too late to even brainstorm, as the clock ticked “11:23pm.” Without choice and only guilt, she searched for "ChatGPT", she was hesitant, it was unfaithful to her morals, but she couldn't stand the disapproval of a “Z” or an “F.”

Despite all her hesitancy, she typed in her prompt, “create something abstract to show the struggle of an immigrant, young girl, who can only talk through art, something emotional and... Human.” The machine took a while. Impatiently she scrolled while it loaded and suddenly, a “beep” alarmed her that the robot had finished. “It's blank...” she whispered to herself... The AI couldn't compute her request, “maybe a glitch?” she thought. Without a second thought, she refreshed the page and sent her request again. Now all that appeared was a white page with a sad face on it. “This isn't what I asked for... Let me try one more time.” And she did, but all that showed was an “Error occurred” text. Although she was running out of time and had barely any ideas, she grabbed a canvas and painting supplies out of her little “studio” in the corner of her room. She just began painting, splotching every color of which she could think. At one point, she had used every color in the wheel. Breathless, she dropped her stencils and brushes without thinking. “I'm done,” she gasped, begging for air. Her canvas, portraying endless colors, a self-portrait of a little girl, the block she lived in Cuba and the one she lives in now, red and blue neon lights, tears and smiles. Everything she has ever experienced was on that canvas, bleeding vibrant and dull colors, inspiring emotions to take from her painting. No AI, no robot, no code could have created this, no matter how advanced. Emotion can't be generated or copied and pasted; it's expressed.

AI cannot replicate human traditions and empathy in literature, but it can try to, and doing so, erase others' artistic progress in the process. Human experience cannot be replaced by AI, no matter how hard they try. With AI, we risk losing the human instinct to try and create; when you use AI to create, you forget your ability and slowly lose everything you have done to enhance it. Although

it could help with your finances, understand markets, and help you with some homework answers, it will never be able to envision art. AI has not gone through the struggle that Renata, or any other young human has. Not one AI can truly relate to having to fight for a voice, push through to get representation and shed blood, sweat and tears to be seen and heard. Protection for diverse voices and human traditions cannot be enhanced with AI pretending to understand. Human experience is all art depends on, without it, it is just code.

Reflection:

The authors' creative choices during the writing of this story were rooted in truth and empathy, exploring emotional complexity within oneself during grim times. She represents this through symbolism and contrast, examples being the storm and the rainbow or the repetition of A.I continuously failing at requests of sympathetic art. The tone of this piece is reflective and challenges the idea of why AI is not ethical and safe to use. The decision to focus on A.I's constant errors in response to Renata's request highlights how A.I cannot replicate human experiences and emotional trauma through facts and code; it is impossible for A.I to disguise itself as human. Ethically, the student suggests that humans and their ability to learn, feel, and express are unable to be replicated by AI. Overall, this piece pushes students to be truthful and dedicated to their art and craft rather than trading their creativity for harmful technology.