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Kiana Reyes-Parson

Amelia Dunnell
dunnella@kenyon.edu

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Latinos in Rural America
Oral History 2015
Interviewee: Kiana Reyes-Parson
Interviewer: Amelia Dunnell
Topic: Latino Experience in Knox County
Date: June 30th, 2015

BEGINNING OF INTERVIEW

Amelia Dunnell: This is Amelia Dunnell for the LiRA Project, Latinos in Rural America, interviewing Kiana Reyes-Parson to speak about her life experience as a Latina in rural Knox County, Ohio. Today's date is June 30, 2015 and we are speaking in Kiana's home. Kiana, thank you so much for your willingness to participate in our project, could you please state your full name and your birth date.

Kiana Reyes-Carson: My full name is Mercedes Kiana Reyes-Parson. Mercedes comes from my father that gave me that name. Kiana is from my mother, and Reyes-Parson is a combination of their two last names, at least before my mom was married. And my birth date is September 29, 2001.

AD: Awesome, thank you. So since you mentioned a little bit about your name, I was wondering if we could just start there and if you could just tell me - go into a little more depth about that, if you could?

KRP: Um, Mercedes - I was at least told that one of my grandmothers on my father's side of the family was named Mercedes and she died a little bit before I was born. Which is why that name was given to me. It also means the word mercy in Spanish, so that's also why it was given to me - or at least it's a name that was based upon that. Kiana - I'm not like completely sure on what that comes off of but it was given to me by my mother who got the idea from my grandmother whose name is Karen, and she wanted both of our names to start with "k" so that's why that was granted to me. And then, again, the last name's just a combination of my father's last name and her last name before she was married. And it didn't change in the marriage like I thought it would, but I'm fine with that to be honest.

AD: Is there a reason why you choose/prefer to go by your middle name instead of your first name?

KRP: It's mostly because I do not live with my father, I haven't communicated with him for...how many years? Five, maybe. The last time I saw him was for my tenth birthday, maybe before that, maybe it was my ninth. I can't remember. So, basically, it's because the connection

between us is not strong. And the last time anyone's called me Mercedes seriously was the last time I visited him. So...

AD: Right, interesting. So, if you could just tell me a little bit about what it's been like for you growing up, that would be great.

KRP: I'd say my life has been perfectly fine, growing up. It's been fine, I guess just a few struggles with my little brother, him being diagnosed with autism and ADHD. But that's - I've gotten used to all of that, all of that's perfectly fine with me. I guess, like, in the past few months, I have been somewhat depressed, but it's nothing big that I'd thought out of it. So those are really the only troubles I've had in my life. My mother and biological father technically, I guess, "divorced," they weren't married. But they went apart before I was born, so that's why I never really dealt with any of the pain to go with that. I was not there to go through it all, so there was no issue with that, nothing of the sort. And my life's been fine, especially growing up here. It's a very nice place, very relaxing, I really like it.

AD: Have you lived in Gambier your whole life?

KRP: I'd say so. I was born in Oberlin, Ohio, but my mother moved here because my grandmother lived here and this is where she grew up. So she wanted to bring me here, raise me here, and this is also where my little brother was born. So...

AD: Cool. Could you tell me about some of the values that have been present in your childhood?

KRP: Values, as in...? More of a descriptive term?

AD: Yeah! Let's see, how should I phrase this...values in terms of what are the important things that your mother or any parental figure in your life have passed on to you as something important to focus on such as education, spirituality, stuff like that.

KRP: One of them is definitely to stay in school. And try to do your best in school. And I'd say that I've been doing well, because for the past two years I've been in middle school, sixth and seventh grade, becoming an eighth grader in August. I've been a straight-A student, I've gotten honor roll both of those years. I do have evidence of that in my room, but I don't want to go in there and get it.

AD: [Laughs] I'll take your word for it.

KRP: So I've been a good student as far as I know in school. I think even in kindergarten I guess when I was the most mischievous I've ever been [both laugh] I was good back then, too. I was a

favorite, I've been a favorite of all of my teachers, as far as I know [both laugh]. Even in the classes I dislike! So, I've also been taught to accept all...sexualities, religions, cultures, all of that. And since gay marriage was just legalized only a couple days ago, that really made me happy! So, I'm extremely accepting of that. I've also been taught to support my culture, and especially support my little brother, who, um, he has mental disabilities, as I mentioned. And I've been told *never* to make fun of that, and I never do. It's very unacceptable to me when some people make fun of mental disabilities, like, online, since I am *obsessed* with the internet. I hear insults like that all the time, and it's very rude. That's all I can describe it in. So I have to defend him at all points possible, if it's ever needed.

AD: That's great. You mentioned that you've been taught to be very accepting of other people's religious beliefs. Have you grown up inside a religion, or?

KRP: I was raised a Christian but I am not at all religious, personally. I don't go to church, I don't do any of that. My mother and father, or I guess stepfather in this case, go to church, but I choose to never join them. I'm really not religious at all, with my mother sitting close - I hope you're not offended! [Laughs]. But I'm definitely not a religious person, but I do accept every religion. I have a Muslim girl at my school, which makes me happy because there's diversity in there, that's good.

AD: Could you tell me a little bit about that sort of thing? Are your friends at school - is it a very diverse group of people, or...?

KRP: I'd say it's very diverse, there's all sorts of cultures there, all sorts of different ethnicities of people. Although a majority of it all is white. There are African Americans, there are Latinos, I know a few. There are others. I see very few Asians, the majority is white. But it's very diverse. As far as I know, Muslim is the only religion other than Christianity that I've ever seen, so...but I'd say it's diverse. At least enough for a small town like this.

AD: Yeah, definitely. So, this might be a kind of big question for someone of your age, but do you identify with any one particular culture or ethnic community?

KRP: To be honest, I identify myself as African American more than anything. But that's just because, again, my mother's raised me my entire life, I grew up most of my life without my dad, who was Mexican. So, I do consider myself to be more African American than anything.

AD: With that being said, do you feel *any* sort of connection to your Mexican heritage?

KRP: I definitely do. My mother still keeps in touch with the Mexican side of our family. And, again, I do have Hispanic friends at school, although we don't talk a bunch. They're still my

friends. And I do feel like I am part of the Latino community, although it's not very major, especially for me being just a little kid.

AD: Yeah, of course. Do you think that your Mexican or other Latino friends at school are comfortable with their identities as Latinos? Do you think it's easy for them?

KRP: I've never questioned it. Because nobody seems to make fun of anybody else there. So, they don't seem to mind that that's their ethnicity, they don't seem to care at all. So...

AD: Do you see a lot, outside of the classroom, outside of your schooling and education, do you see in the Knox County community a representation of diversity of different cultures?

KRP: I do not see it very often. It's more in Gambier than anything, because of the college. The college is very diverse, extremely diverse. I've seen many different ethnicities and religions of different people there. Because on occasion I like to go there and wander around campus, since it's free [laughs], I just do it for fun sometimes. And it's very diverse, but that's really one of the only places that I see any major diverse and good representations of it. There's not a lot of spreading of it here in Mount Vernon, as far as I know, so...

AD: Have your only interactions with Kenyon been sort of, just those walks around campus, or have you participated in any programs?

KRP: Um, no. I went to Wiggin St. That was my elementary school for most of my life. So I went there, so I participated in, I guess - I wouldn't call it a district, because it's part of the Mount Vernon City Schools district. But that school is where I was basically raised. I do go to some events with my mother, if she invites me to do so for her work. Since there is a Knox County kid's center there, I do go there often. I go with her most of the time if I don't really have anything better to do [both laugh] or if I don't have any homework or anything like that. And, um...what was I thinking. It went away from my mind!

AD: That's okay!

KRP: But, that's basically really the only interaction I've had with the college. I do go to their 4th of July Parade is coming up, I go to that sometimes. My uncle is a professor, my aunt is an artist that works there, so I interact with them, and they're part of the college. My aunt's also teaching me certain things about art, so that helps. And I do want to go to Kenyon once I get older, but that's only a possibility, that's not...confirmed. Because I have no scholarships and even though I am good in school, I don't think I'll do as well in college.

AD: Well you don't know that! You're a long way away. So you mentioned that your aunt is teaching you some stuff about art, are you interested in pursuing art throughout your life?

KRP: I'm *very* interested in it. I'm personally a sketch artist, I really like drawing. That's actually what I've been known for this entire school year.

AD: Wow.

KRP: Because in the binder I bring around with me, that carries everything with it, had a cover that was drawn by me. It took hours to make each one. But they're always well done, and I was praised, basically, for my skills. I used to draw all the time in class, that's the only thing I got noticed for. Whenever there was a project for, I guess, where you had to draw something or make something and it was involved in a group, people would just look at me. I was the only person that they went to for art. And this year I actually plan on doing, I guess you could call it commissions for different people. They request for me to draw something for them and I'll do it for a very small pay.

AD: Sounds like a commission to me!

Tamara Anderson [Kiana's mother]: Do you want to mention you're interested in being an illustrator-author?

KRP: I am somewhat interested in that. I've kind of gotten out of it, because I am - I would consider myself to be an amateur. I'm not amazing, but I am just an amateur student that likes to draw. I had art this year in school, my teacher loved me. So, I'd say I'm very interested in art.

AD: What is it about art that draws you to it?

KRP: I don't really know. I don't even know when I started to get good at art, it's just built up over time and it just became a hobby. And it's become something that - I wouldn't even consider it a hobby, it's just something that I really enjoy doing. It's no hobby, but...

AD: Do you feel like drawing and painting and whatever medium you choose to work in is a way to express things - about yourself, about the world around you?

KRP: Sure, I'd say so. I draw certain things when I feel - if I draw when I'm angry, which I usually do to get rid of that anger, it definitely helps. And I can draw something that's really dark, I guess you could say. I'm more of a fan of just drawing characters, because that's the easiest thing for me to do. So I'll draw something really dark from something that I enjoy playing, like some sort of video game. And I'll draw something to do with that, to let it out. Or

like if I'm super happy, I'll draw something really random, like I don't even know what I'll be drawing half the time [laughs]. It just develops while I'm drawing it. It just depends on the mood, what I draw, out of boredom.

AD: And when you draw characters, are they usually based on some - a videogame or a book or something, or are they original?

KRP: Occasionally they can be original, and sometimes they may be from a videogame, it depends. Again, depends on what I want to draw, what the mood is, and it depends on also what's on my mind at the same time, so.

AD: Is there anything off the top of your head, any example of an original character that you've drawn that you could tell me about?

KRP: I do have a character of mine that is just called a persona, you could call it that, a representation of yourself if you were more of a fictional character than anything. And I drew myself like that. I actually draw her a lot now, out of complete boredom. So there's one thing, that's the only thing that comes to mind currently, because I'm deeply in love with Pokémon, so I will often draw characters or just Pokémon themselves, and base it off of that. But my persona is basically the only thing I can think of off the top of my head.

AD: Is there anything else besides art that you could see yourself pursuing later on in your life?

KRP: I thought about becoming a game designer for a very long time. I thought about it actually since I began middle school. But that's kind of just backup, because really I feel like I'll fall on my art for a career. Like I thought about becoming an animator, to just post little animations online, but at the same time, you've got to learn how to animate, which is harder than it seems.

AD: Yeah!

KRP: Because if you're not Walt Disney, you don't know what you're doing.

AD: Yeah. You're going into eighth grade, right?

KRP: Mhm [nods].

AD: So, this question is a *little* bit early, but are you excited to be in high school pretty soon?

KRP: Somewhat. I feel like it depends. It could be a good experience, it might not be. That's basically what school is; it's either a really good experience for you, where you're around a

bunch of people who you actually care about, or it's a bad experience where you just want to leave, go home, and do nothing [laughs].

AD: Right.

KRP: It could be either one of those, depending on how I feel that day when I go to school. Like, when I'm sick, I'll just like *want* to come home so badly. That even happened this year, I remember I got really sick. For the past, I don't know how long it's been, maybe eight months, I've been getting this really weird sickness, and it's like a stomach virus. And the last time I remember it happening was maybe - it was either around Thanksgiving, or in January. I'll just go off of Thanksgiving. I felt really sick, and I actually had to text my mom, while I was in class, so like hide my phone underneath my desk and text, to see if she would come and pick me up [laughs]. Because I accidentally went to school while feeling like garbage, so.

AD: Have you, I don't know if you've heard anything about the high school, or even if you could answer for this upcoming year for eighth grade, are there any classes you are excited to be taking?

KRP: Well, in middle school you cannot choose your classes, sadly enough. You get your schedule the way it is, and either your parent tries to move everything around so it actually *works* or...you deal with that. But in high school, I might continue playing the violin. I am in the orchestra, I'm not amazing, but I'm thinking about staying in it in high school. I don't know, because in seventh grade it's put a lot of stress on me, and I'm like "I don't know if I like this anymore." But there's one thing that could happen, I might be in orchestra in high school, and become one of the good people in the orchestra! And in high school, I'm almost positive, there is art. So there's something I will go to right away, just to improve, if I haven't improved in the past two years of not being in high school.

AD: If there was something you could change about school, what would you change?

KRP: I guess...no homework [both laugh], no homework.

AD: And looking a little more to the big picture here, if there was anything you could change about Gambier or Mount Vernon, what would you change?

KRP: I guess, again, this does have to do with the Latino community - more acceptance of different races, ethnicities, religions, sexualities, again that's probably one of the most important things at this current time. And more respect for mental disabilities, because when you're diagnosed with that, nobody understands other than you and your family, and you want to be

accepted because it really like, it hurts! Being misunderstood like that. So I just wish there was a bit more respect for that in this community, and the rest of the entire world, so...

AD: Yeah, definitely. And would you say that living here has changed you at all?

KRP: Um, I don't know. Because I've lived here my entire life, nothing has really changed, there hasn't been anything major. I guess I've moved a lot, but that doesn't really matter. I moved from Oberlin to here, and then I moved to Indiana when I was maybe in preschool? I think it was preschool, then I moved back here. And then we moved to my stepfather's house when my mom and he got married, and then we moved here. So, I've moved a lot in my life, but that's probably it. And it's never brought any major changes to me. Nothing like that.

AD: Anything we haven't talked about that you feel is really important that you want to -

KRP: [Laughs] Nothing that comes to mind, no.

AD: And anything that we did talk about that you want to clarify or revisit?

KRP: Um, no. I'd say that everything has been clear.

AD: Okay! Kiana, thank you so much for having this interview with me, it's been a real pleasure talking to you.

KRP: You're very welcome.

Latinos en América Rural
Historia Oral 2015
Entrevistada: Kiana Reyes-Parson
Entrevistadora: Amelia Dunnell
Traductor: Rob Recio
Tema: La experiencia latina in Knox County
Fecha: 30 de junio del 2015

COMIENZO DE LA ENTREVISTA

Amelia Dunnell: Soy Amelia Dunnell con el proyecto LiRA, Latinos en América Rural, entrevistando a Kiana Reyes-Parson para hablar sobre su experiencia como latina en Knox County, Ohio. La fecha de hoy es el 30 de junio del 2015 y estamos hablando en el hogar de Kiana. Kiana, gracias por tu participación en nuestro proyecto. Puedes decirme tu nombre completo y tu fecha de nacimiento.

Kiana Reyes-Parson: Mi nombre completo es Mercedes Kiana Reyes-Parson. Mercedes viene de mi padre, quien fue el que me dio el nombre. Kiana es de mi madre, y Reyes-Parson es una combinación de sus apellidos. Mi fecha de nacimiento es el 29 de septiembre del 2001.

AD: Excelente, gracias. Así que ya mencionaste algo sobre tu nombre, ¿quería saber si podemos empezar ahí y hablar más sobre el tema de tu nombre?

KRP: Mercedes- Me contaron que una de mis abuelas del lado de mi padre se llamaba Mercedes y ella se murió un poco antes de mi nacimiento. Esa es la razón por la que me dieron el nombre. Mercedes también es una manera de decir misericordia en español, y esa es la otra razón por la que me dieron el nombre. Kiana - no se realmente la razón por lo cual tengo ese nombre pero a mi madre se le vino a la mente mi abuela, quien se llamaba Karen y ella quería que mi nombre también empezara con una "K". Mi nombre es una combinación de los apellidos de mis padres. Mi madre no se cambió el apellido cuando se casó con mi padre, pero yo creo que está bien.

AD: ¿Hay alguna razón por la que prefieres ir por tu apodo en vez de tu primer nombre?

KRP: Es porque no vivo con mi padre y no me he comunicado con él en cinco años. La última vez que lo vi fue durante mi cumpleaños número diez ¿o fue mi cumpleaños número nueve? No me acuerdo. Básicamente, es porque la conexión entre nosotros no es tan fuerte. Realmente, la última vez que alguien me llamo Mercedes fue la última vez que vi a mi padre.

AD: Interesante. ¿Me podrías contar un poco sobre cómo ha sido crecer aquí?

KRP: Mi vida y niñez ha sido muy buena. Todo ha salido bien, lo único es que mi hermano tiene autismo y ADHD. Pero yo ya me he acostumbrado a eso y estoy bien. En los últimos meses, me he sentido un poco deprimida, pero no es nada grande. Esas han sido las únicas cosas. Mi madre y padre biológico se “divorciaron” aunque nunca estuvieron oficialmente casados. Pero ellos se separaron antes de mi nacimiento y nunca tuve que pasar por ese dolor. Mi vida al crecer ha sido buena. Es un lugar bonito, es muy relajante, aquí me encanta.

AD: ¿Has vivido en Gambier tu vida entera?

KRP: Yo diría que sí. Nací en Oberlin, Ohio, pero mi madre se mudó aquí porque mi abuela vivía aquí y ella creció aquí. Ella me quería traer aquí, criarme aquí, y mi hermano nació aquí.

AD: Bien. ¿Me podrías contar sobre los valores presente en tu infancia?

KRP: ¿Valores, como cuáles?

AD: ¡Sí! Déjame ver como lo puedo decir...valores como que son algunas cosas que tu madre u otra figura te han dicho sobre cosas como la educación, la espiritualidad, y otras cosas.

KRP: Uno de ellos es definitiva que me quede en la escuela. Y de tratar de ser lo mejor posible en la escuela. Yo diría que he tenido éxito en ese sentido. En los últimos dos años, en los grados seis y siete y recibí todas A's, estuve en la lista de honor por esos dos años. Tengo evidencia de eso en mi cuarto, pero no quiero ir a buscarla.

AD: [Risa] Está bien. Te creo.

KRP: Pienso que, he sido una buena estudiante. Hasta en Kindergarten, aunque me portaba mal algunas veces, era buena estudiante. Siempre he sido una de las favoritas de todos mis maestros. ¡Hasta en las clases que no me gustaban! También me enseñaron a respetar a las diferentes sexualidades, religiones, y culturas. Hace un par de días cuando legalizaron el matrimonio homosexual, estuve muy feliz! También me enseñaron a apoyar a mi cultura y a mi hermano menor que tiene impedimentos mentales, como mencioné. Y me dijeron que nunca me burle de eso. No me gusta cuando veo cosas que insultan a los que tienen discapacidades por medio del internet porque yo estoy obsesionada con la red. Siempre que lo tengo que defender, estoy lista para hacerlo.

AD: Eso es estupendo. Mencionaste que aceptas muchas religiones. ¿Creciste con una religión o no?

KRP: Me criaron como una cristiana, pero personalmente no soy muy religiosa. No voy a la iglesia. No voy con mis padres a la iglesia porque no soy religiosa y ¡espero que mi madre no se ofenda! Pero si acepto todas las religiones. Hay una muchacha musulmana en mi escuela y me encanta ver toda la diversidad, es bueno.

AD: ¿Me podrías decir más sobre eso? ¿Tus amigos en la escuela son diversos?

KRP: Diría que sí es diverso. Hay muchas culturas en mi escuela, aunque la mayoría son blancos. Hay afroamericanos y latinos. Veo poquitos asiáticos. Pero es muy diverso. Musulmán es la única otra religión que he visto, pero si es diverso, especialmente para un lugar pequeño como este.

AD: Sí, definitivamente. ¿Quizás sea una pregunta un poco grande para alguien de tu edad, pero te identificas con una cultura?

KRP: Para ser honesta, me identifico como una niña afroamericana más que nada. Pero eso es sólo porque, de nuevo, me crio mi madre toda mi vida, crecí la mayor parte de mi vida sin mi padre, que era mexicano. Así que yo me considero más como afroamericana que nada.

AD: ¿Sabiendo eso, sientes una conexión con tu herencia mexicana?

KRP: Definitivamente sí. Mi madre todavía se mantiene en contacto con el lado mexicano de nuestra familia. Y, de nuevo, yo tengo amigos hispanos en la escuela, aunque no hablamos un montón. Ellos todavía son mis amigos. Y yo me siento que soy parte de la comunidad latina, aunque no es algo muy grande, especialmente para mí, siendo que sólo soy una niña.

AD: Sí, por supuesto. ¿Crees que tus amigos en la escuela que son mexicanos o latinos están cómodos con sus identidades latinas? Es fácil para ellos?

KRP: Nunca lo cuestioné. Porque nadie parece burlarse de nadie. Por lo tanto, no parece molestarles que ese es su origen étnico, no parece preocuparles para nada.

AD: ¿A parte de tu escuela crees que la comunidad de Knox County es diversa?

KRP: Yo no la veo muy a menudo [la diversidad]. Es más que nada en Gambier, a causa de la universidad. La universidad es muy diversa, extremadamente diversa. He visto diferentes etnicidades y religiones de diferentes personas allí. Debido a que en ocasiones me gusta ir allí y pasear por el campus, ya que es gratis [risas], yo lo hago por diversión a veces. Y es muy diversa, pero ese es realmente uno de los únicos lugares en los que veo alguna diversidad y

buenas representaciones de la misma. No hay mucha propagación de esto aquí en Mount Vernon, hasta donde yo sé.

AD: ¿Tus interacciones con Kenyon han sido nada más tú caminando por allí, o has participado en algunos programas?

KRP: No. Fui a Wiggin St. Esa fue mi escuela por la mayor parte de mi vida. Participe en programas allí, pero no en el distrito. Pero allí fue adonde me crie. Sí voy a algunos eventos cuando mi madre me invita por su trabajo o cosas así. Si no tengo tarea o algo pues voy con ella y voy algunas veces al centro de la comunidad de Knox County. ¿Y en qué estaba pensando?...me olvidé.

AD: Está bien.

KRP: Esa ha sido mi única interacción con la universidad. Voy a ir al festival del 4 de julio. También mi tío es un profesor allí, mi tía es una artista de arte allí también, y hablo con ellos cuando voy. Mi tía me está enseñando algunas cosas de arte y eso me ayuda. Me gustaría ir a Kenyon cuando sea mayor, pero sólo es una posibilidad. Porque aunque soy buena estudiante, no creo que voy a ser tan exitosa en la universidad.

AD: ¡No sabes eso! Te falta mucho todavía. Mencionaste que tu tía te está enseñando arte, ¿es algo que te interesa seguir en el futuro?

KRP: Estoy muy interesada. Soy una artista también, y me encanta dibujar. Por eso es que me conocen en la escuela este año, por mis dibujos.

AD: Wow.

KRP: Porque la carpeta que llevo conmigo tiene todo, yo dibuje arte para la cubierta de la carpeta. Me tomó horas crear cada una. Pero siempre están hechas con calidad, I fue muy apreciada, básicamente por mis habilidades artísticas. Antes dibujaba frecuentemente en clase. Era la única cosa que la gente notaba sobre mí. Cuando teníamos que hacer un proyecto, yo creo, en el cual tenías que dibujar o crear algo que involucraba un grupo, la gente siempre me miraban. Yo era la única persona a quien ellos iban por arte. Este año tengo un plan de, pudieras decir, hacer comisiones para diferentes personas. Ellos me piden o encargan que les dibuje algo, y yo lo hago por un poco de dinero.

AD: ¡Para mí, eso suena como comisión!

Tamara Anderson [La madre de Kiana]: ¿Quieres mencionar que estás interesada en ser ilustradora- autora?

KRP: Sí me interesa. Pero no tanto ahora porque todavía estoy empezando. Mi arte no es tan asombroso, pero me encanta dibujar. Tuve arte como una clase en la escuela este año. Le encantó [en referencia a su arte] a mi maestro. Sí, estoy muy interesada en el arte.

AD: ¿Qué te gusta del arte?

KRP: En verdad que no sé. No sé cuando me empezó a gustar o cuando empecé a dibujar. Empezó solo siendo una afición, pero ahora no creo que es solo una afición. Pero si me gusta dibujar mucho.

AD: Crees que el arte te da la capacidad de poder expresarte?

KRP: Yo diría que sí. Por ejemplo, dibujo cuando estoy enojada y me ayuda a no estar enojada. Y puedo dibujar cosas que son oscuras. Soy más fanática de dibujar caracteres porque es lo más fácil para mí. Algunas veces dibujo cosas oscuras de cosas que me gusta ver, como los juegos de video. Algunas veces estoy feliz y puedo empezar a dibujar algo también. Todo depende en cómo me esté sintiendo.

AD: ¿Y cuándo dibujas caracteres, son de libros o juegos de videos, o son más originales?

KRP: Algunas veces son originales y otras veces son sobre juegos de video. Como dije, depende en como me esté sintiendo y qué esté en mi mente a la misma vez.

AD: ¿Hay algo, un personaje original del cual me puedas hablar?

KRP: Tengo un personaje que se llama persona. Es una representación de cómo tu pudieras ser si fueras un personaje ficticio. Y me dibujé a mí misma. Ese es el único personaje en el que puedo pensar en ahora. Pero también me encanta Pokemon y dibujo mucho de ellos.

AD: ¿Hay otra cosa aparte del arte que te gustaría seguir en tu vida?

KRP: Por mucho tiempo pensé hacerme una diseñadora de juegos. Lo pensé desde que estaba en la escuela intermedia. Pero eso es sólo un plan B, porque realmente siento que me he enamorado del arte como una carrera. Pensé hacerme una animadora, poner dibujos animados en línea, pero al mismo tiempo, tienes que aprender a cómo animar, lo cual es más difícil de lo que parece.

AD: ¡Sí!

KRP: Porque si no eres Walt Disney, no sabes lo que estás haciendo.

AD: Si. ¿Estás en octavo grado, verdad?

KRP: Sí [asiente].

AD: Todavía es un poco temprano para esta pregunta, pero ¿estás emocionadas de pronto empezar la escuela secundaria?

KRP: Un poco, depende. Puede ser una buena experiencia, pero también puede ser mala. Así es como es la escuela, puede ser una experiencia buena y puedes estar con muchas personas que te importan tanto, o puede ser una experiencia mala en la cual ya no quieres estar allí, te quieres ir a la casa, y no hacer nada [risa].

AD: Sí.

KRP: Puede ser de cualquier manera, depende de cómo me sienta. Por ejemplo, cuando estoy enferma, lo único que quiero hacer es irme a la casa. El año pasado me enferme mucho, como por los últimos ocho meses, creo que tuve un virus del estómago. La última vez fue durante la temporada del día de Acción de Gracias. Y tuve que mandarle un texto a mi madre por teléfono (que escondí) para que me viniera a buscar [risa] porque fui a la escuela aunque no me sentía bien.

AD: ¿Hay algunas clases que estás súper emocionada de tomar?

KRP: Pues, en la escuela secundaria no puedes tomar las clases que quieres. Te dan tu horario y tus padres tratan de cambiarlo o tienes que tomar esas clases. Cuando esté en la secundaria, es posible que siga tocando el violín y siga en la orquesta. No toco muy bien, pero quiero seguir en la orquesta. ¡A lo mejor estaré en la orquesta durante la secundaria y pueda mejorar! Pero la secundaria también tiene arte, es algo que voy a poder estudiar pronto.

AD: ¿Si pudieras cambiar algo sobre tu escuela, qué cambiarías?

KRP: Pues, que no haya deberes [risa].

AD: Y en el contexto más amplio, si hubiera algo que pudieras cambiar de Gambier o Mount Vernon, ¿qué cambiarías?

KRP : Um ... supongo que, de nuevo, esto tiene que ver con la comunidad latina - más aprobación o apoyo hacia diferentes razas, etnicidades, religiones, orientaciones sexuales, de nuevo, creo que es probablemente una de las cosas más importantes en la actualidad. Y más respeto hacia las personas con impedimentos mentales, porque cuando eres diagnosticado con eso, y nadie entiende aparte de ti y tu familia, deseas ser aceptado porque realmente ocasiona mucho dolor ser tan mal entendido. Así que me gustaría que hubiera más respeto hacia eso en esta comunidad y en el resto del mundo.

AD: Si, definitivamente. ¿Y dirías que vivir aquí te ha cambiado?

KRP: No sé. He vivido aquí toda mi vida y nada ha cambiado. Me he mudado mucho, pero eso en verdad no importa. Me mudé de Oberlin antes de llegar aquí y también viví en Indiana. Y después nos mudamos a la casa de mi padrastro cuando se casó con mi madre y después aquí. Pero no creo que han habido muchos cambios. Nada grande.

AD: ¿Hay algo de lo cual no hemos hablado de lo que quisieras hablar?

Kiana Reyes-Parson: [Risa] No, no hay nada que se me viene a la mente.

AD: ¿Y algo de que hablamos que quisieras aclarar?

KRP: No. Todo ha sido claro.

AD: ¡Está bien! Kiana, muchas gracias por esta entrevista y ha sido un placer hablar contigo.

KRP: Eres muy bienvenida.