

Elementary School Winner: **Annelyn Marte**

Toquam Magnet Elementary, Stamford

Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest Submission

Lin-Manuel Miranda is a very talented person with several skills. He is an actor, singer, and songwriter of Puerto Rican heritage. He has written and acted in at least four major plays. For theater he did Hamilton and, In the Heights, which he also did a movie version of. In the Heights shows life in a Dominican neighborhood in NY which I loved since my family is from Dominican Republic. As well as a musical adaptation of 21 jump street. He also wrote music and lyrics for Disney films such as Moana, Vivo, Encanto, The Little Mermaid as well as the new Mufasa: The Lion King.

What I love most is how he took older history topics like Hamilton and made it so that a kid like me, who's ten, can understand and follow the story.

He has inspired me by showing me that theater is a really fun experience and makes me want to see and be involved in theater. Toquam Magnet Elementary has a theater program, and I have been lucky to be a part of several plays, two of which have been as a supporting actor.

It's cool that a person from Hispanic heritage like me, and born in NY like me, was able to follow his dreams, made it a reality and achieved greatness. I hope to be able to have a similar outcome in my life and my dreams. I too love the arts from acting, dancing, painting, sculpting, drawing and sketching. I make home movies with my neighborhood friends and even attempted to write my own play.

I am happy my parents and my school, have exposed me to theater and to a person like Lin-Manuel Miranda. I think his legacy will be how he has combined hip-hop with history. How he has changed what young people like me think of musicals and theater. And most importantly how he made a story about Latinos popular.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MY OFFICE :

 **Bridgeport: (203) 333-6600**

 **Washington: (202) 225-5541**

 **Stamford: (203) 353-9400**

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