

YOUTH



"Our generation has the ability and the responsibility to make our ever-more connected world a more hopeful, stable and peaceful place."
-- Natalie Portman

Youth - young people aged 15 to 24 -- make up nearly one-third of the world's population. Youth are directly affected by social, economic and political developments around the world. But in many countries, youth are not allowed to be involved in the decisions that shape their societies.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 1985 as International Youth Year to highlight the important role that young people play in our world and their great potential to help make the world a better place.

Ten years later, the United Nations adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, an international strategy designed to address many of the problems youth around the world face, and to help increase their opportunities to participate in the life of their societies. This blueprint for action covers ten important areas: education, employment, hunger, poverty, the environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making.

The United Nations declared August 12 International Youth Day, as an annual opportunity to raise awareness about the important contribution youth make and to highlight the goals of the World Programme of Action.

Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more about issues affecting global youth
2. Join a youth service group:
betterworldclubs.com
serviceforpeace.org
servenet.org
wfuna-youth.org
3. Volunteer in your community
4. Organize or participate in an event on Youth Day and other 'Culture of Peace Days'
5. Support youth organizations

Youth Links

- ChangeMakers.org.uk
- DoSomething.org
- [Global Youth Action Network \(youthlink.org\)](http://GlobalYouthActionNetwork.org)
- GlobalYouthConnect.org
- [International Youth Foundation \(iyfnet.org\)](http://InternationalYouthFoundation.org)
- [Oxfam International Youth Partnerships \(iyp.oxfam.org\)](http://OxfamInternationalYouthPartnerships.org)
- [Taking It Global \(takingitglobal.org\)](http://TakingItGlobal.org)
- [World Federation of UN Associations Youth \(wfuna-youth.org\)](http://WorldFederationofUNAssociations.org)
- YouthActionInternational.org
- [Youth at the United Nations \(un.org/youth\)](http://YouthattheUnitedNations.org)

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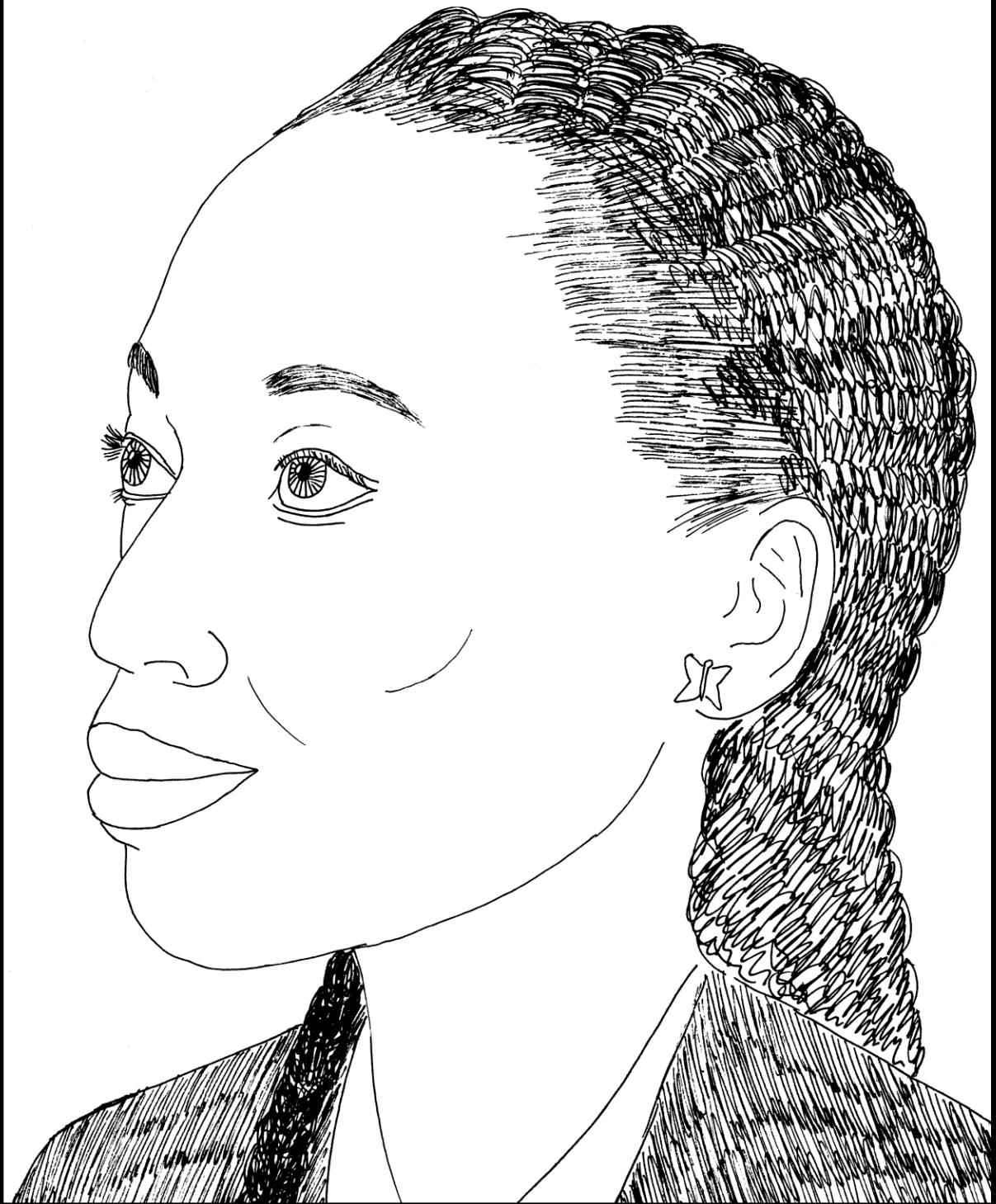
The Emily Fund - Education, Mentorship, Inspiration, Leadership, Youth for a better world

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BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

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"Guard your light and protect it. Move it forward into the world and be fully confident that if we connect light to light to light, and join the lights together of the one billion young people in our world today, we will be enough to set our whole planet aglow."

-- Hafsat Abiola

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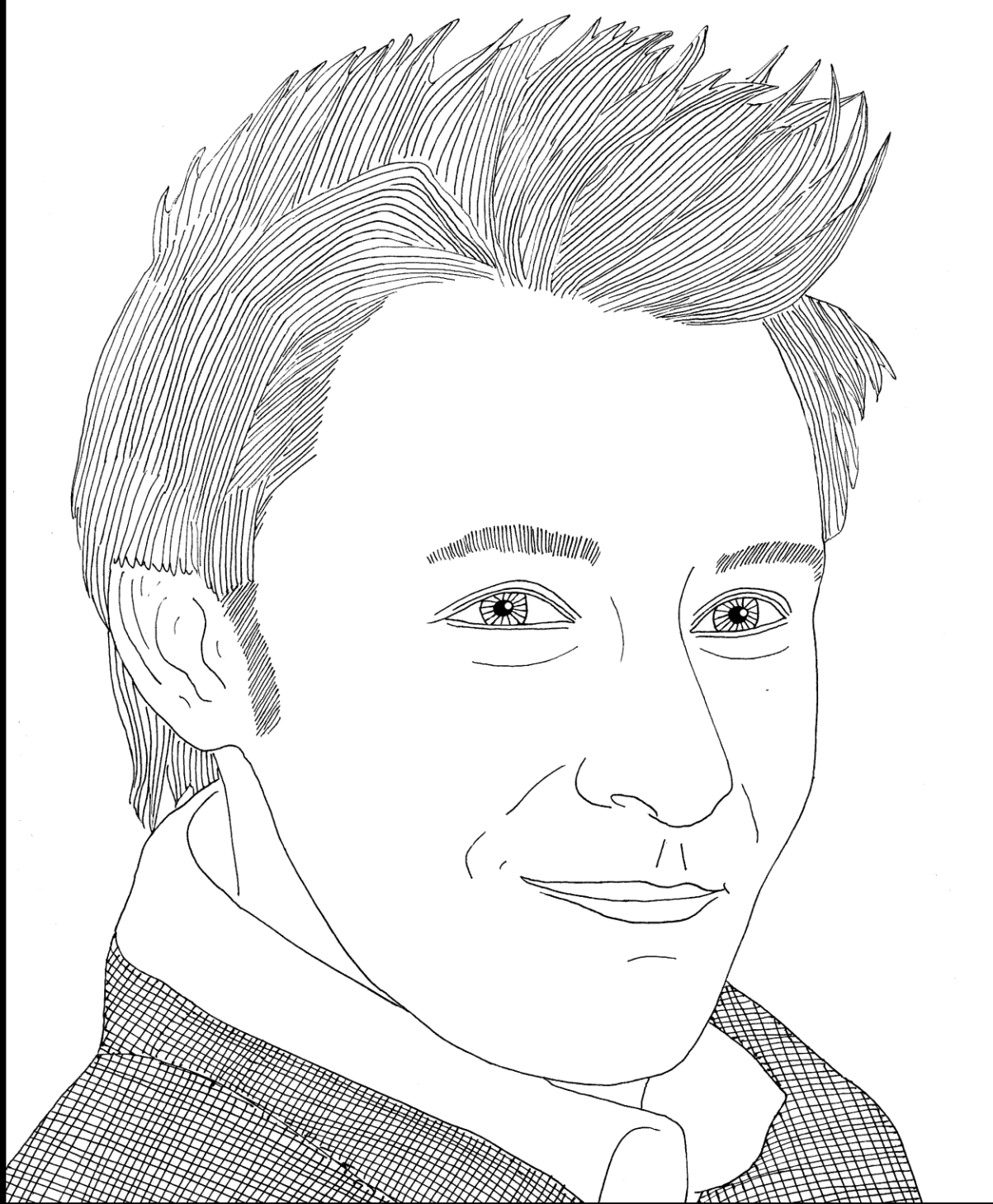
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**"UNICEF is working for the survival of children worldwide.
What can we do to get more Americans committed to the cause?"
-- Clay Aiken**

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"In this society the young people from the cities and from the countryside, professionals or not, often unemployed, have all means to join and reinforce our efforts to raise the brave torch of Human Rights that illuminates the way in which the future of us all is decided."

-- Martín Almada

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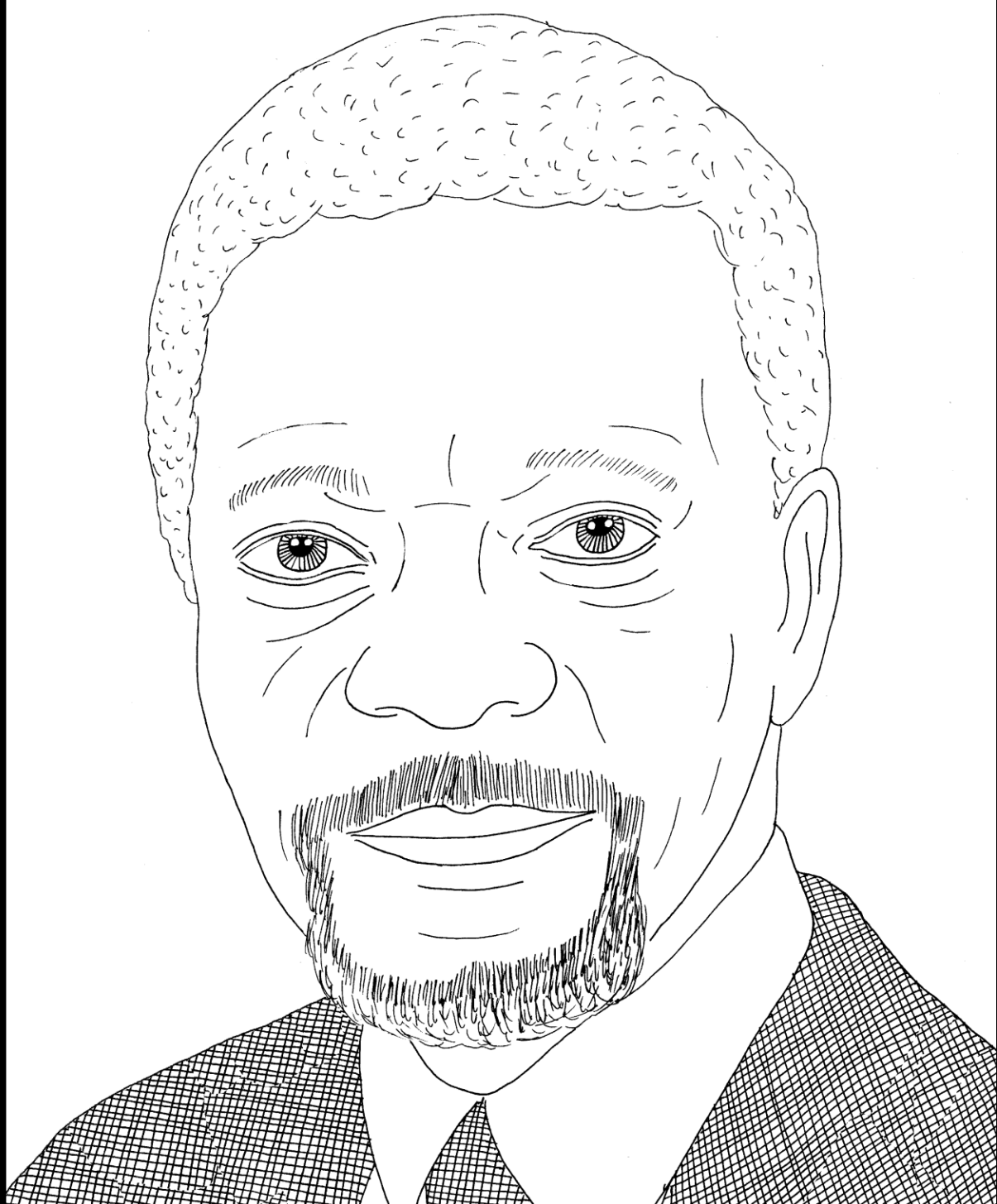
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"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies."

-- Kofi Annan

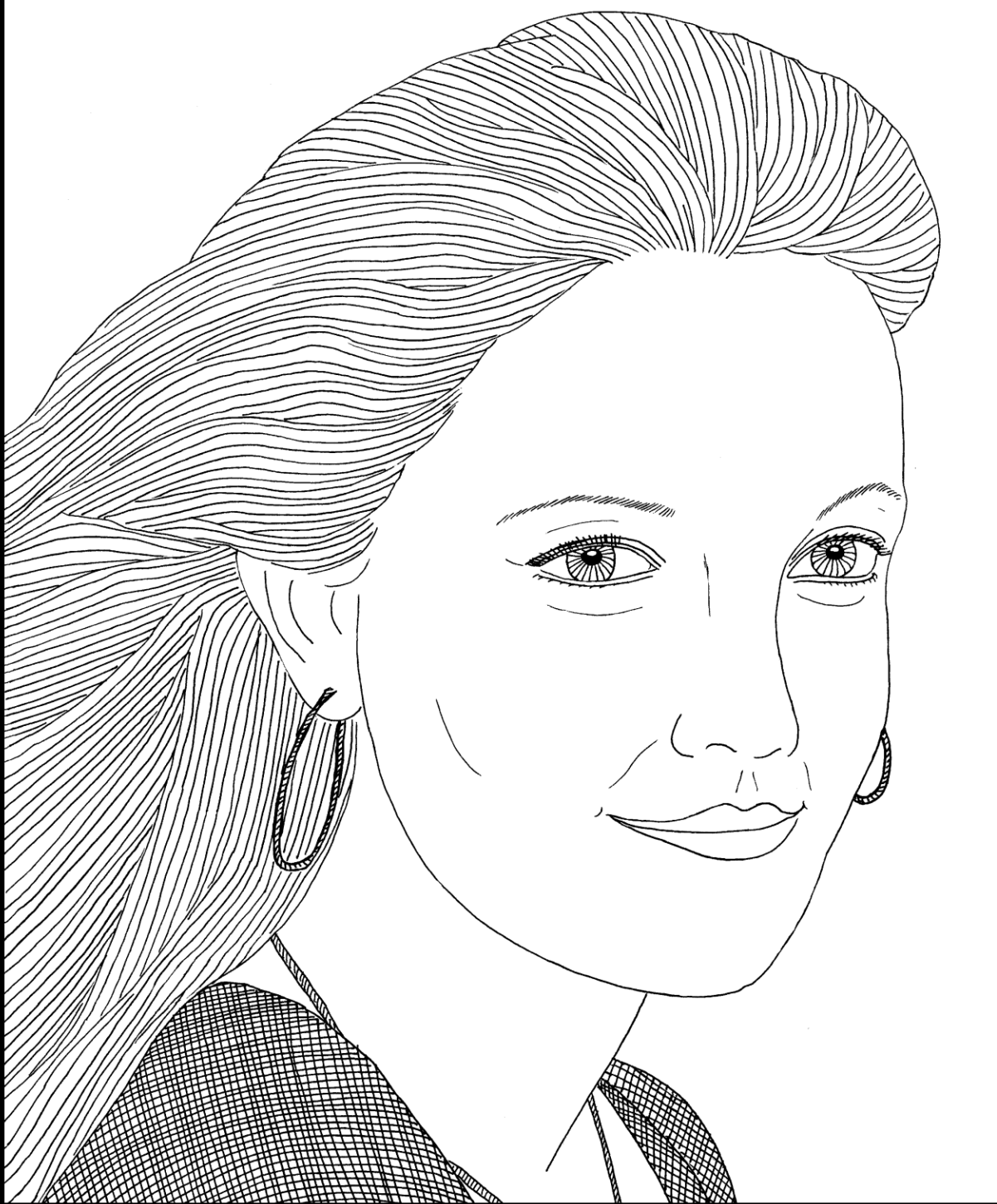
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**"I can't think of any issue that is more important than working to see that no schoolchild in this world goes hungry."
-- Drew Barrymore**

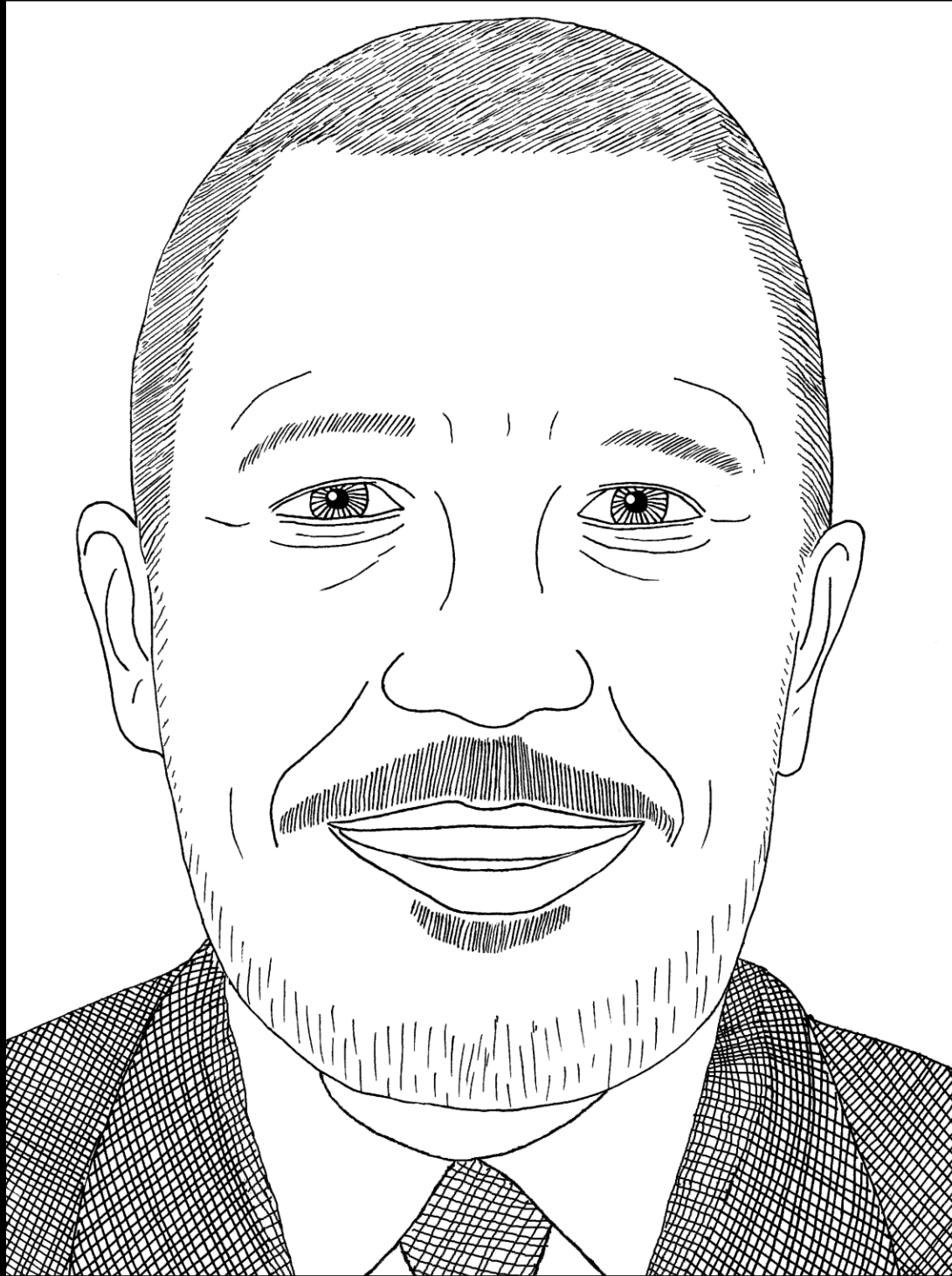
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"If you want to address racial disparity in the juvenile justice system, everybody has to have a role in it. Everybody has some responsibility."

-- James Bell

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"What is needed now are increased efforts to promote youth participation and commitment; more services aimed at youth; more parental involvement; more education and information, using schools and other sites..."

-- Carol Bellamy

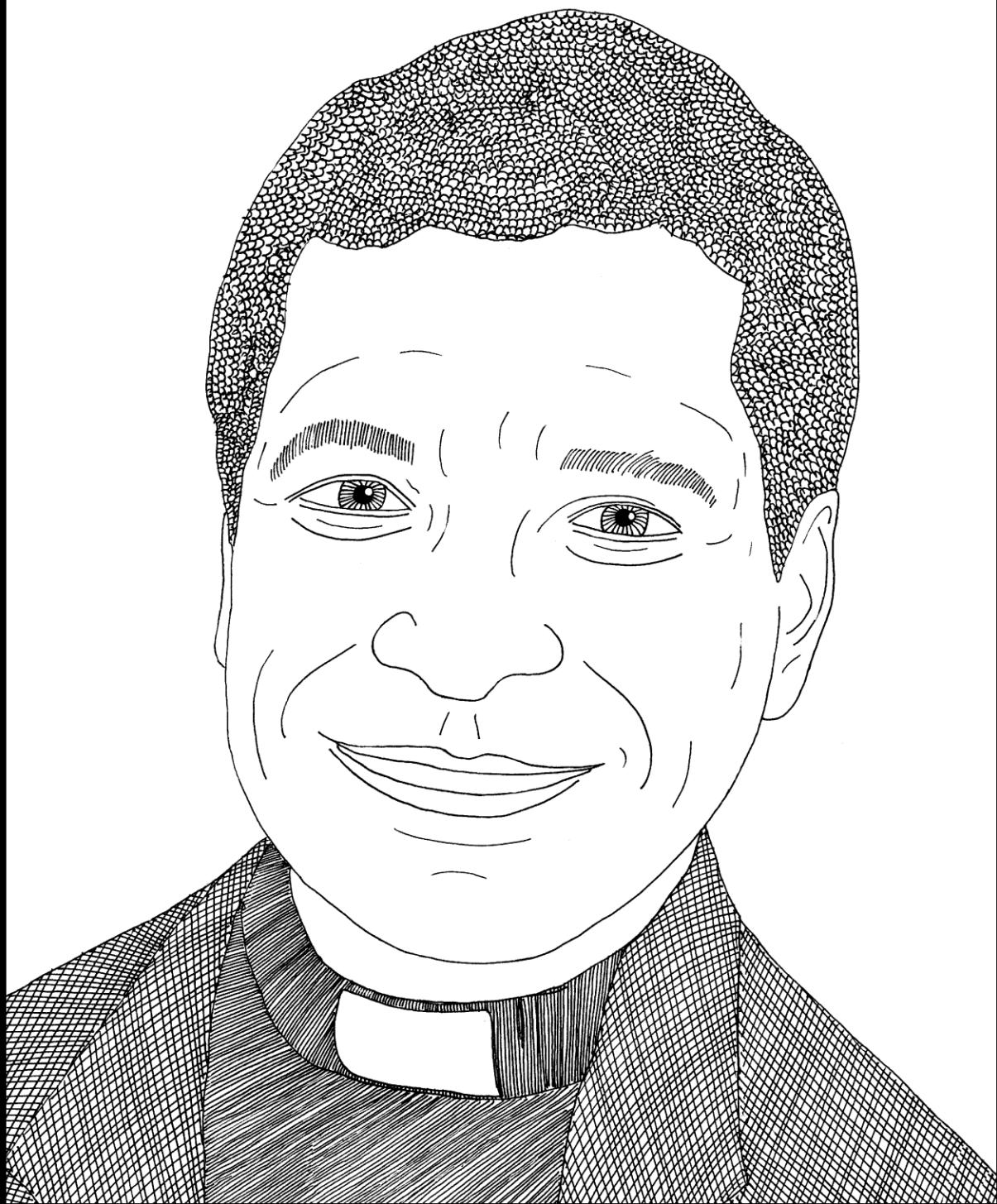
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"Under your shoulders, dear young people of the entire world, weigh the responsibility to transform tomorrow's world into a society where peace, harmony and fraternity reign."

-- Bishop Carlos Belo (1996 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)

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**"We have a powerful potential in our youth,
and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices
so that we may direct their power toward good ends."**

-- Mary McLeod Bethune

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**"This is a time for bold measures.
This is the country, and you are the generation."
-- Bono**

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**"The young do not know enough to be prudent,
and therefore they attempt the impossible,
and achieve it, generation after generation."**

-- Pearl S. Buck

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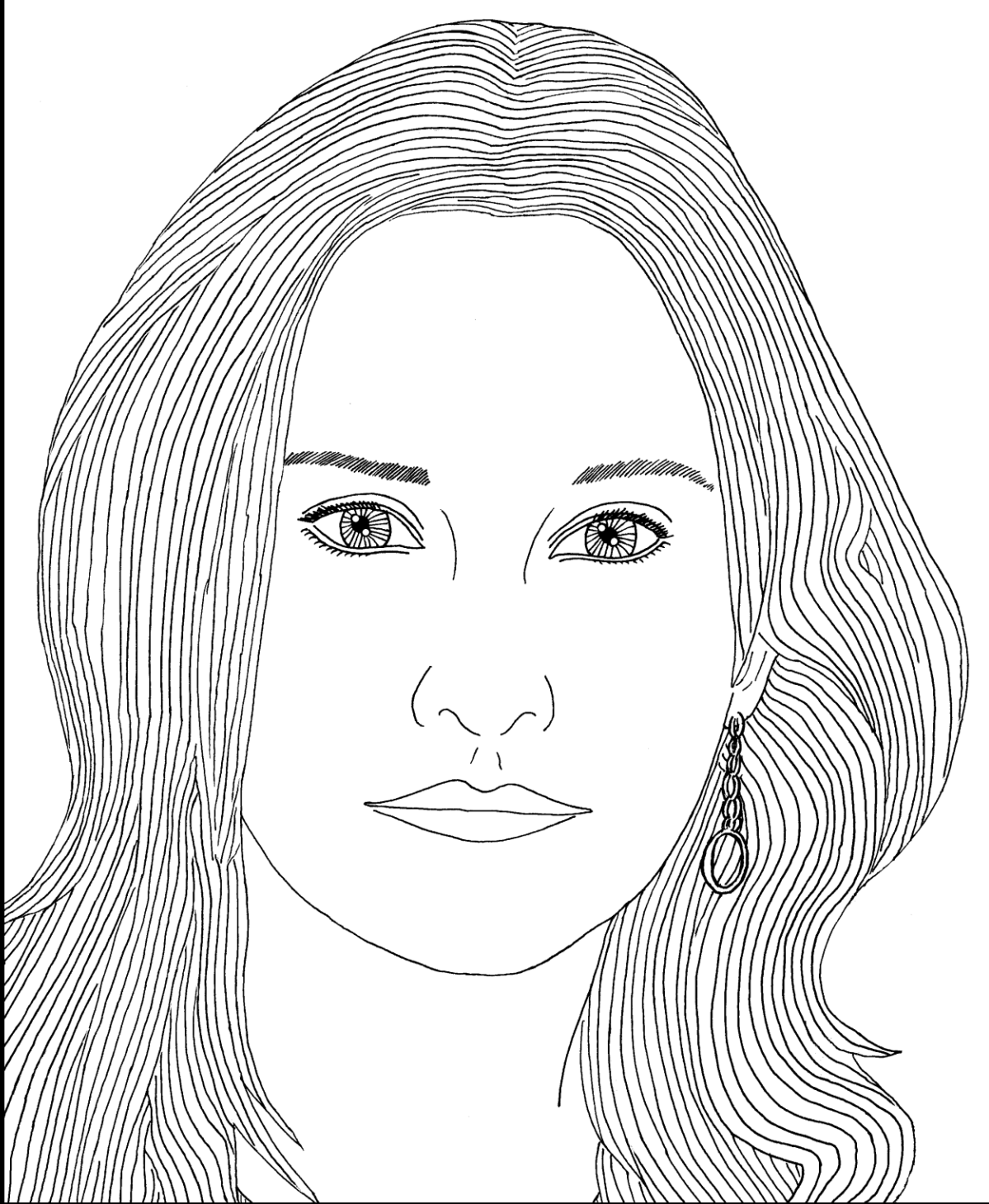
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**"People don't see hunger in front of them
so they are not directly affected.
What I am doing is connecting young people to the issue."
-- Lauren Bush**

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"Every night on the stop global warming college tour, Laurie and I would tell these great young people that they have the power to do anything they want. That we all have the power to create a movement for change. That the best part of ourselves is the part that rises up instinctively from compassion."

-- Sheryl Crow

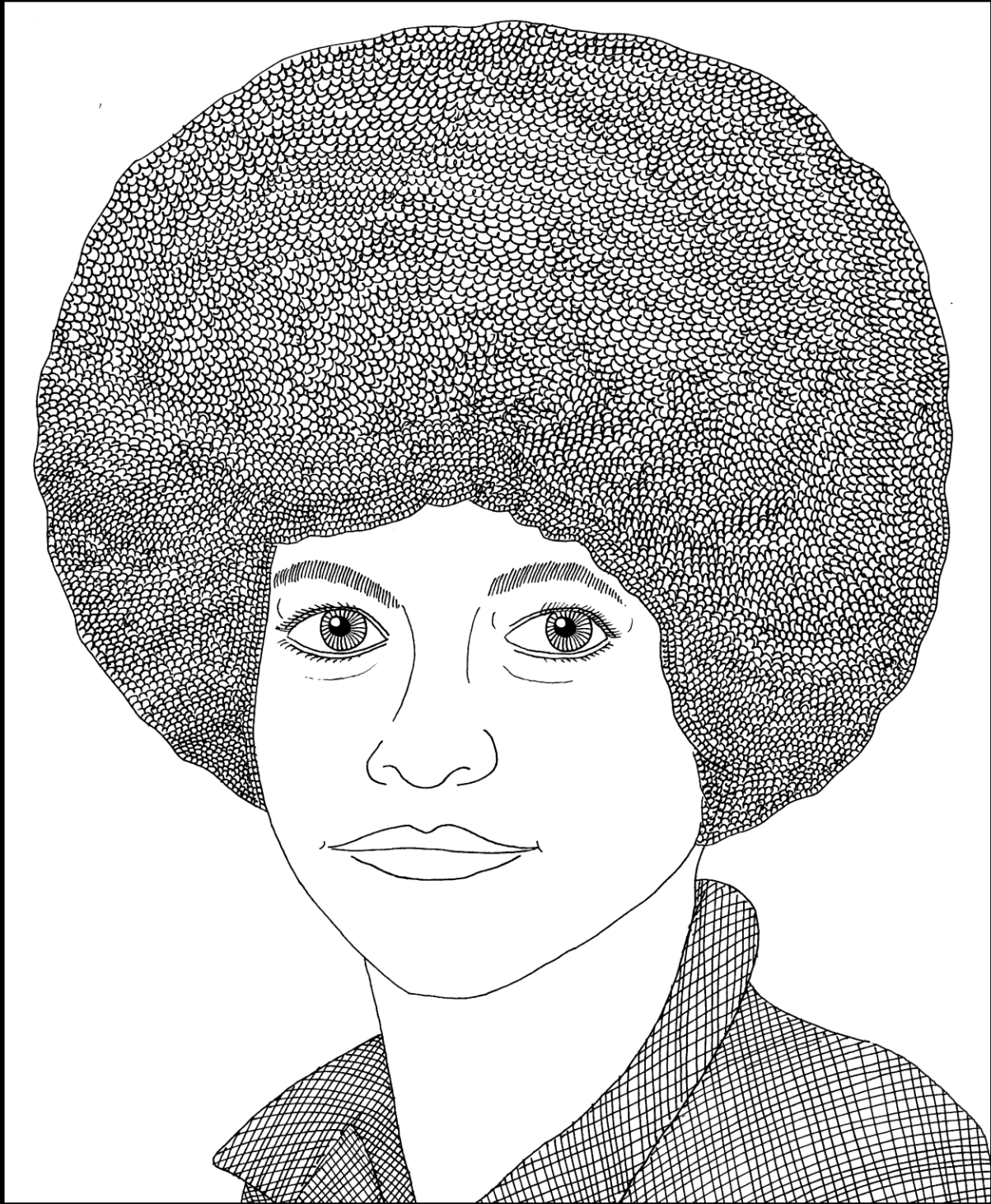
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**"You can never stop and as older people,
we have to learn how to take leadership from the youth..."
-- Angela Davis**

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"Older, younger, anyone can help...people with passionate and thoughtful concerns make a difference every day...
It's really great to see how much difference that individuals can make."
-- Doris Day

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"I think the biggest problem in the world
is that we have a generation of young people,
and maybe two, who don't think it's going to get any better."
-- John Denver

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"When I was very young, biology, the diversity of life, was one of my main interests... I really care that so many species have been wiped out, like genocide of entire races. I believe in the divine right of all species to survive on this planet. So I decided I want to be active as an environmentalist. I learned. I asked experts. I got active."

-- Leonardo DiCaprio

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**"I know there is strength in the differences between us.
I know there is comfort where we overlap."**

-- Ani DiFranco

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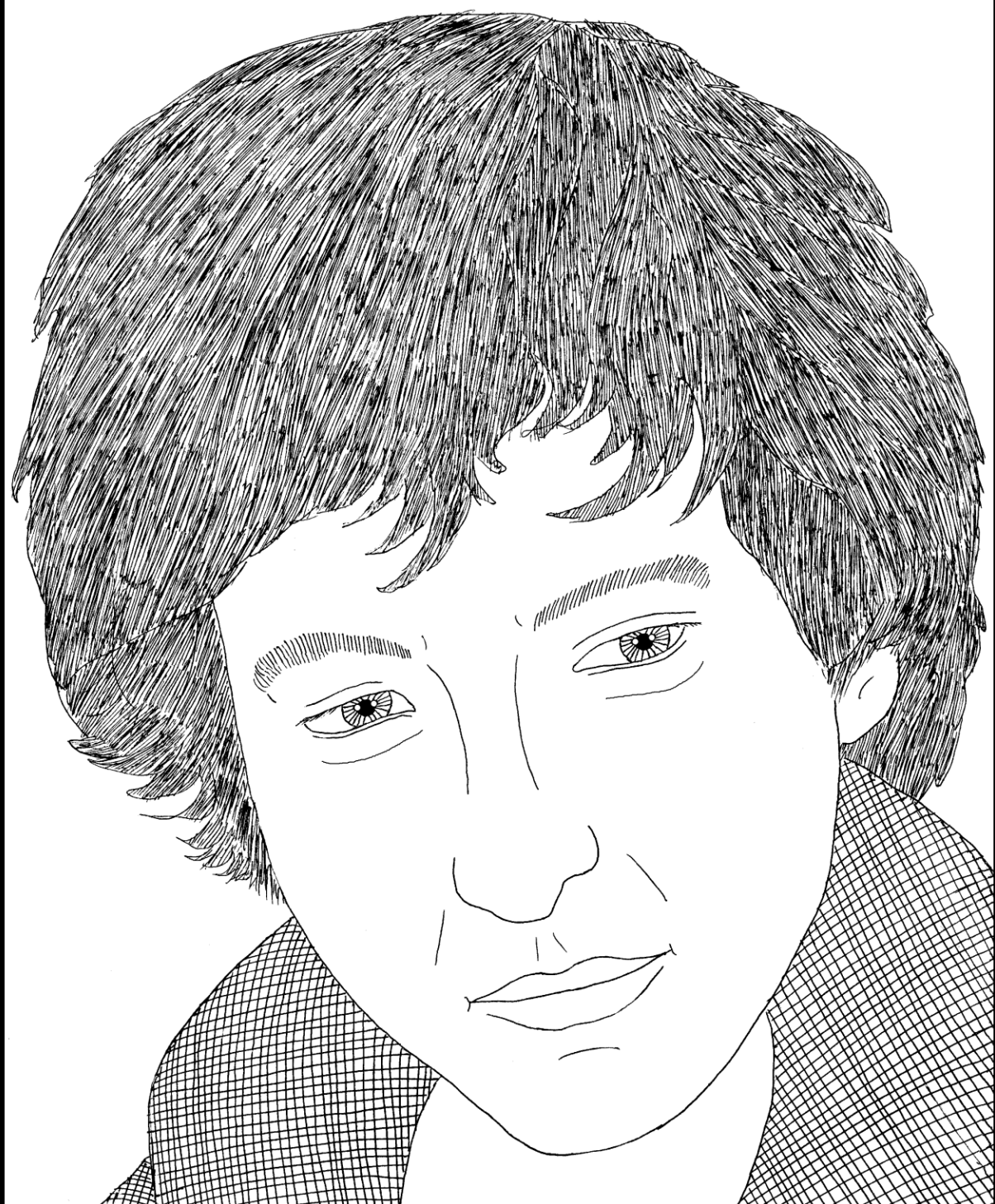
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**"...Don't criticize what you can't understand,
your sons and your daughters are beyond your command..."
-- Bob Dylan**

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"If you don't like the way the world is, you change it.
You have an obligation to change it.
You just do it one step at a time."
-- Marian Wright Edelman

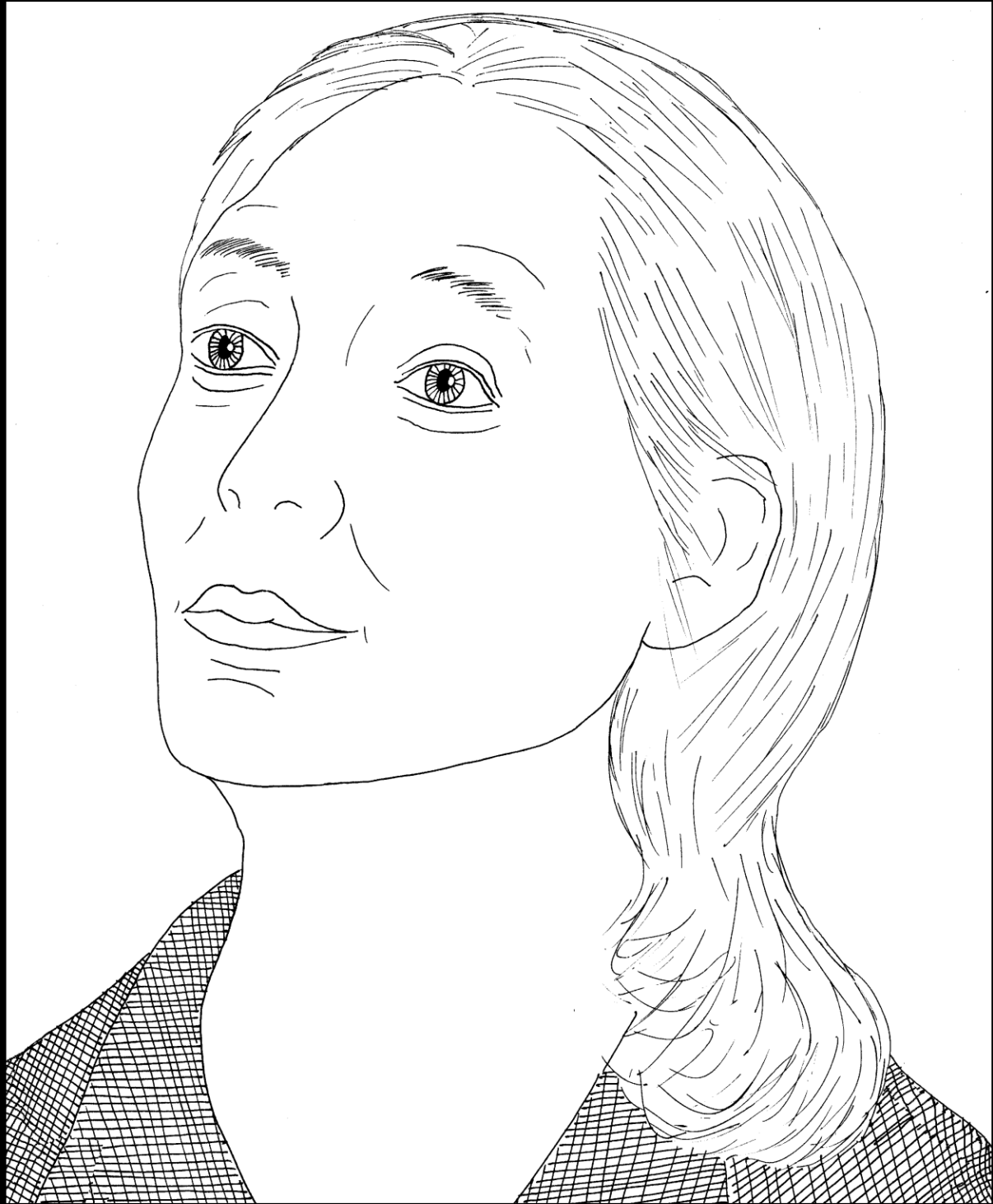
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"It's easy to become hopeless. So people must have hope: the human brain, the resilience of nature, the energy of young people and the sort of inspiration that you see from so many hundreds of people who tackle tasks that are impossible and never give up and succeed."

-- Jane Goodall

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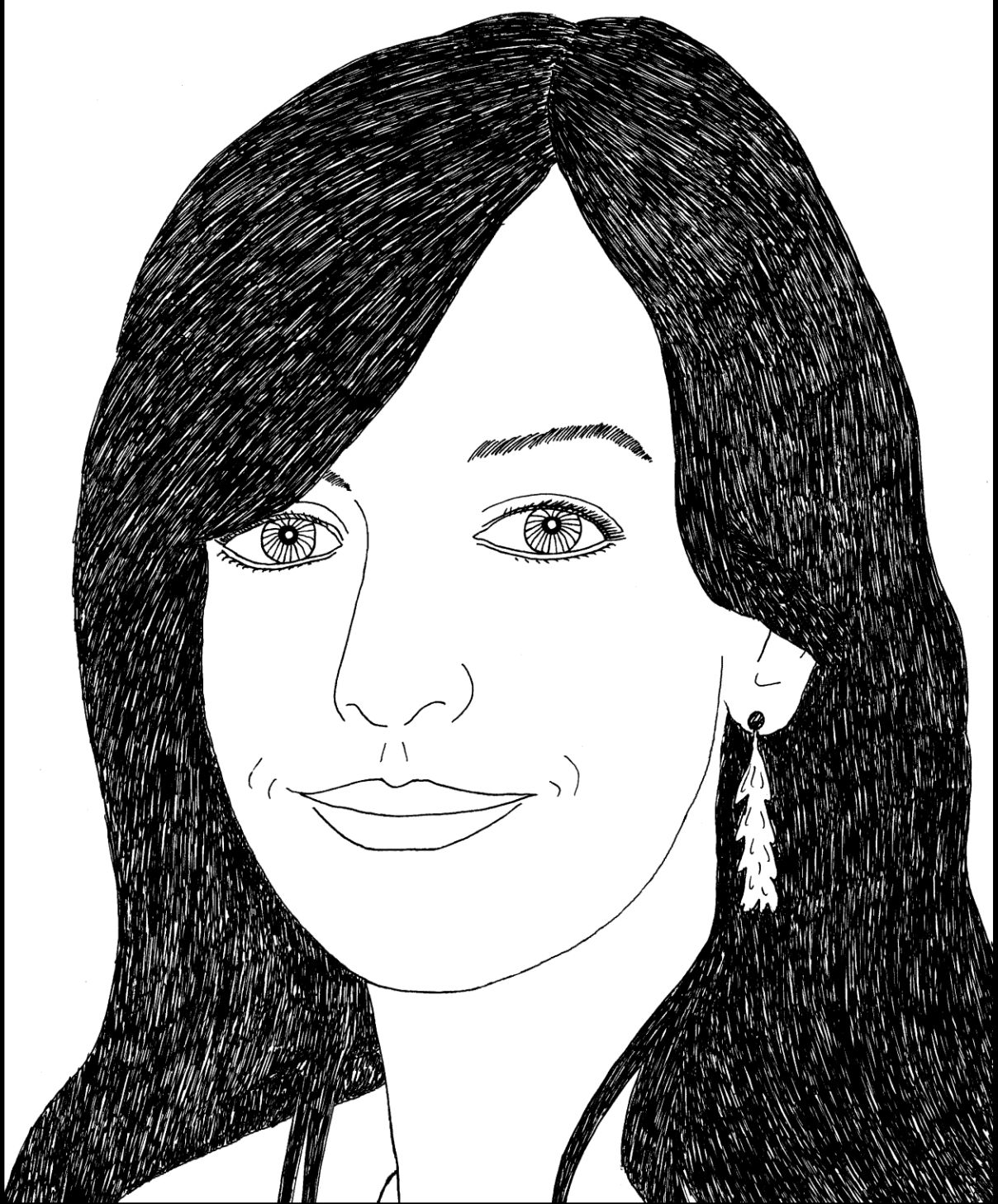
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"I've always been a big believer in equality. No one has ever been able to tell me I couldn't do something because I was a girl."
-- Anne Hathaway

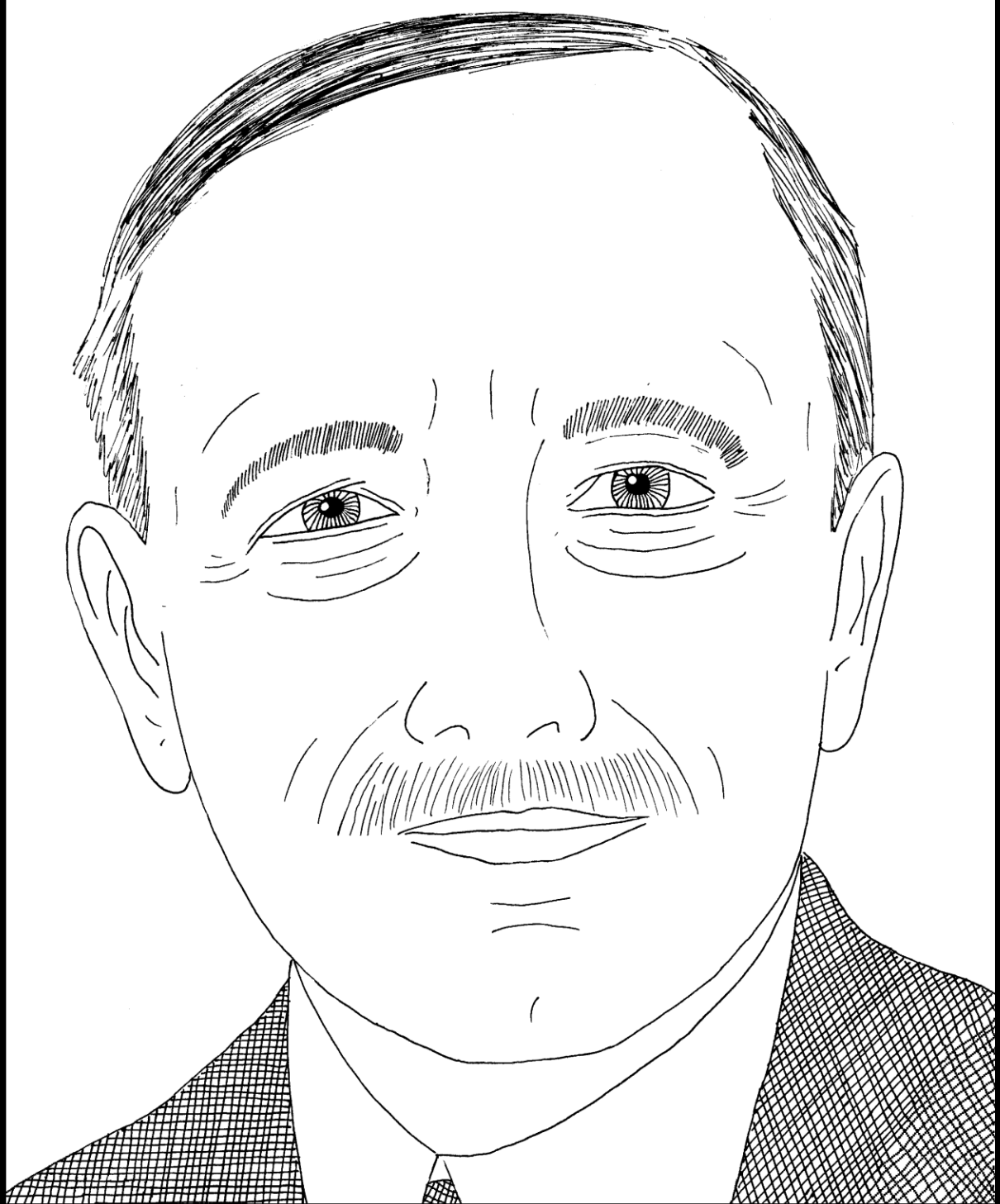
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"What greater cause and what more splendid adventure can be set before the youth of the world than the endeavor to bring into being that age-old dream of saints and sages - the great Commonwealth of the World as the visible embodiment of the brotherhood of man?"

-- Arthur Henderson (1934 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)

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"The songs that I've written about Africa, and AIDS and HIV and about the power of humanitarian love, those songs, I'm gonna sing them because I know that it's real."

-- India.Arie

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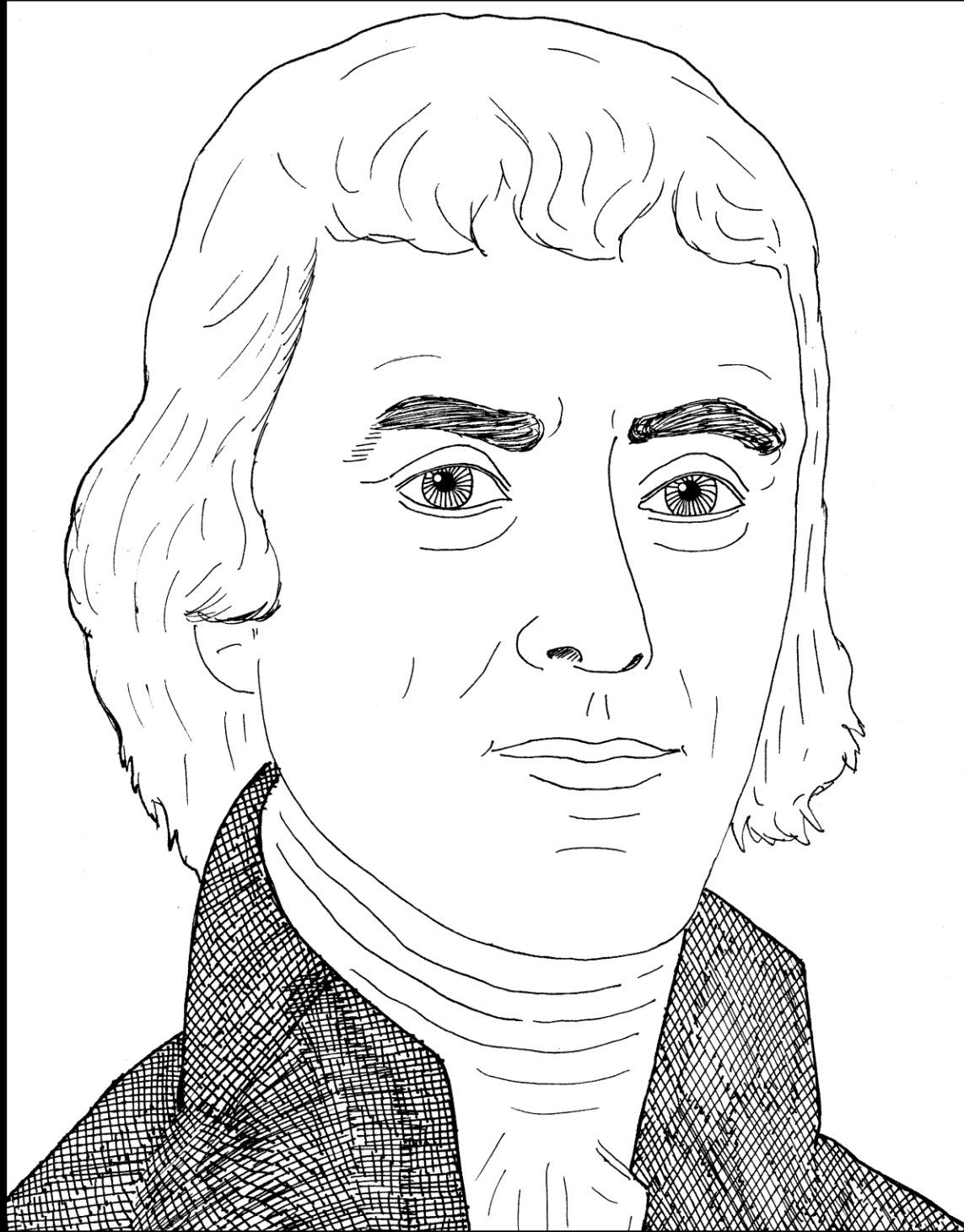
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**"Every generation needs a new revolution."
-- Thomas Jefferson**

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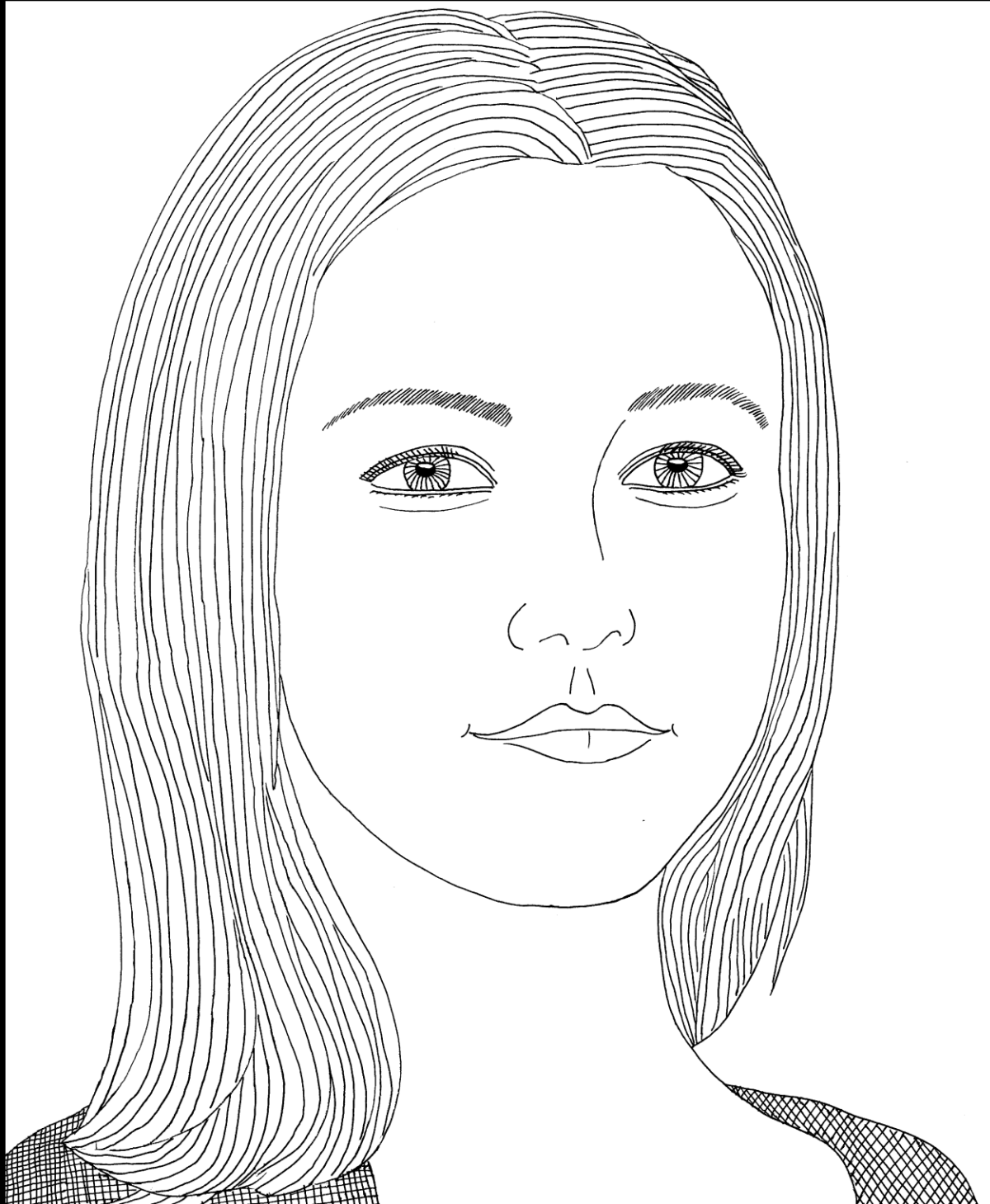
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**"We must all work together to end youth homelessness in America."
-- Jewel**

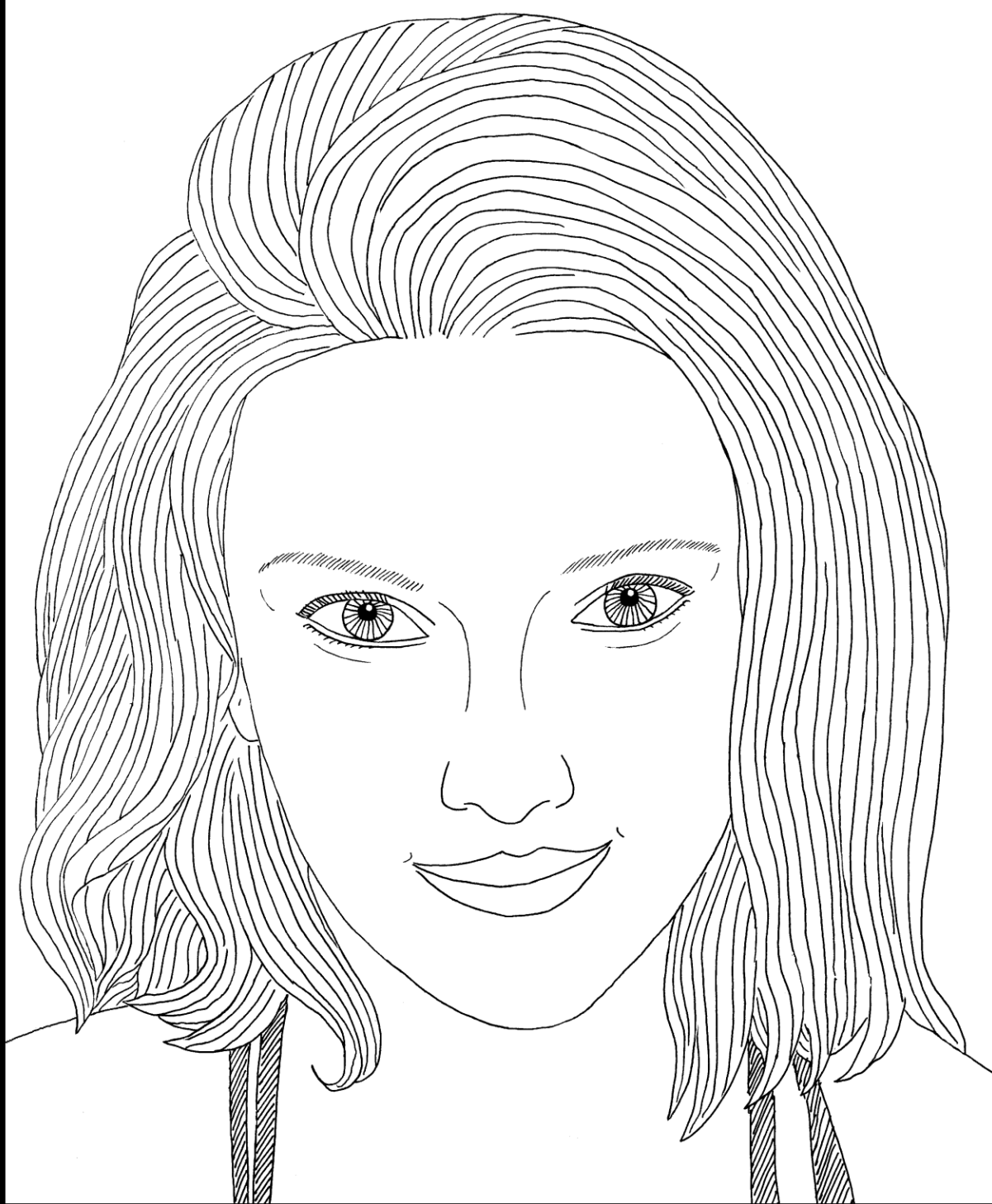
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"Having visited Oxfam-funded school programs in rural communities has made me realise how vital education is to developing countries in bringing people out of poverty and giving them a sense of dignity, self-worth and confidence."

-- Scarlett Johansson

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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"There is no obstacle in the path of young people who are poor or members of minority groups that hard work and preparation cannot cure."

-- Barbara Jordan

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"...we condemned them, our children, for seeking a different future.
We hated them for their flowers, for their love, and for their
unmistakeable rejection of every hideous, mistaken compromise that
we had made throughout our hollow, money-bitten, frightened, adult lives."
-- June Jordan

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**"You have so much power
to bring awareness, prevention and change."
-- Ashley Judd**

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"This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease."

-- Robert F. Kennedy

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"Peace is a culture that we create by putting it in the curriculum for young people, through creating this next generation where young people get a chance to go across borders, across cultures, to learn more about each other's life, to create a global community, learn about opportunities for helping others."

-- Craig Kielburger

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**"Give young people a chance,
our generation may just surprise you!"
-- Marc Kielburger**

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"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."

-- Coretta Scott King

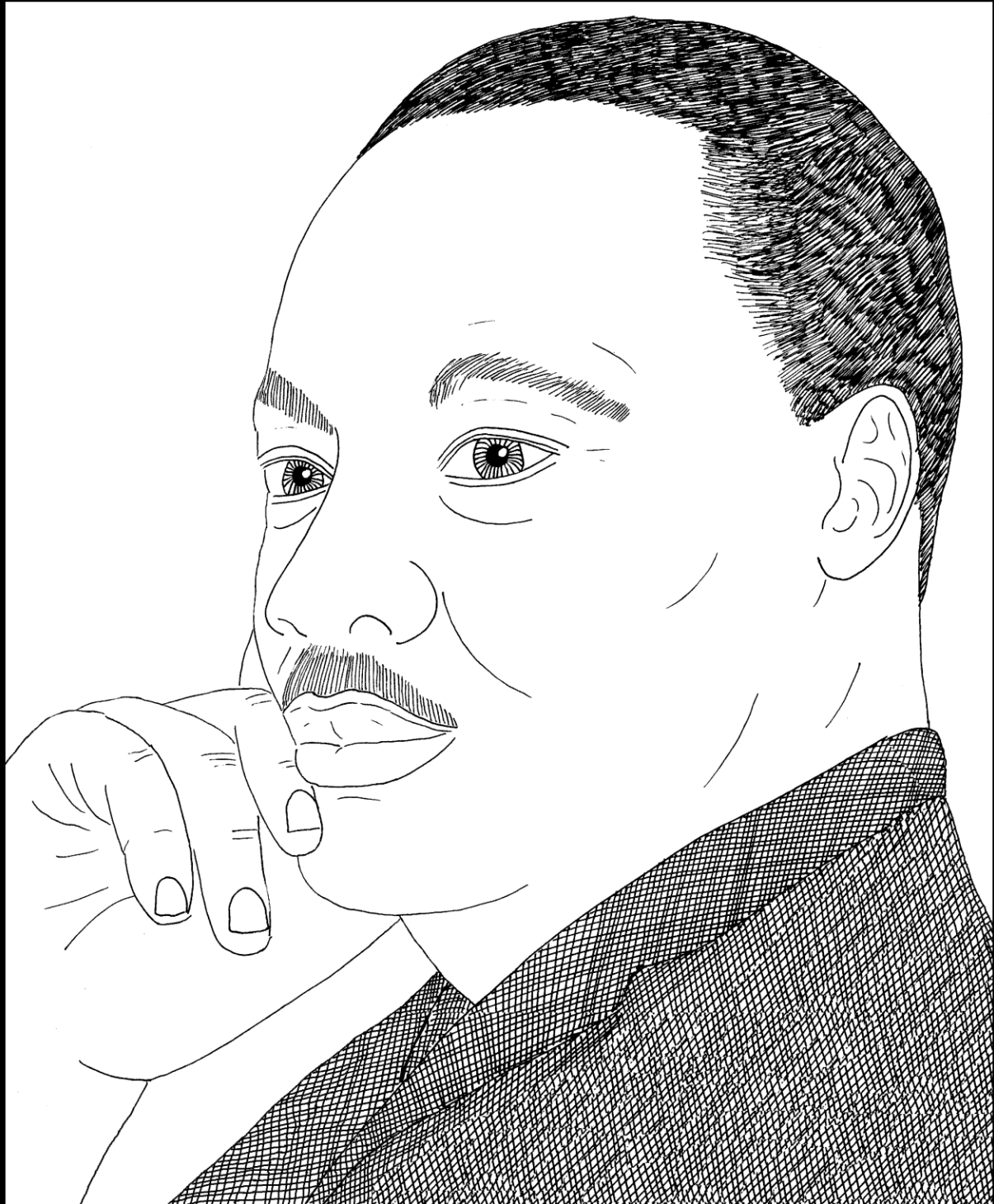
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**"Commit yourself to the noble struggle for human rights.
You will make a greater person of yourself,
a greater nation of your country and a finer world to live in."
-- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

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**"When Nike says, just do it, that's a message of empowerment.
Why aren't the rest of us speaking to young people in a voice of inspiration?"
-- Naomi Klein**

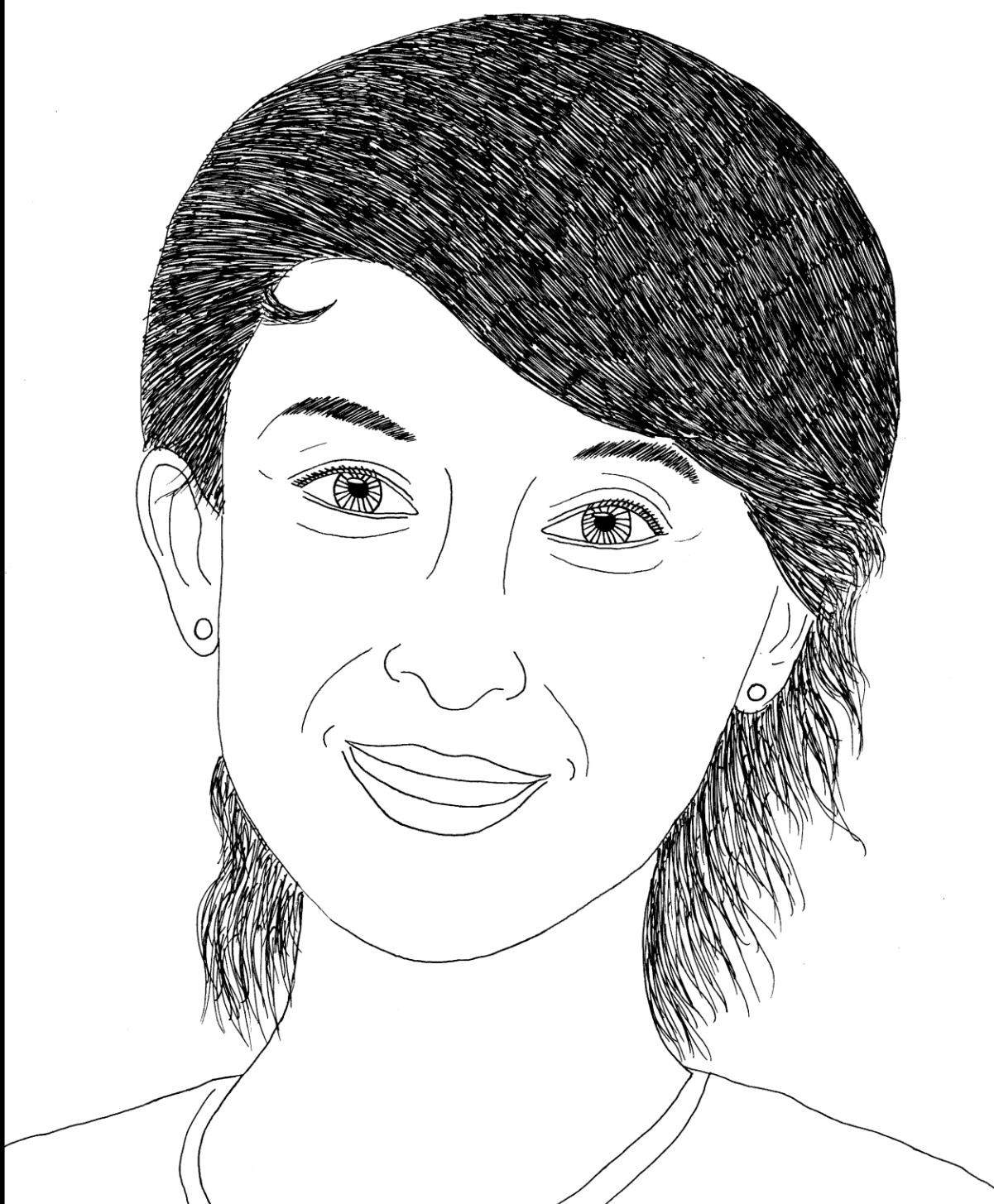
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"I was surprised by the response of young people because there is a perception that those younger than the 1988 generation are not interested in politics."

-- Aung San Suu Kyi

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"We found out that the young people who had a substantial number of lessons in the Resolving Conflict Creatively Curriculum ... not only did better in terms of people skills, that they managed their emotions, they were less violent and more caring, but they actually did better on their academic achievement tests."

-- Linda Lantieri

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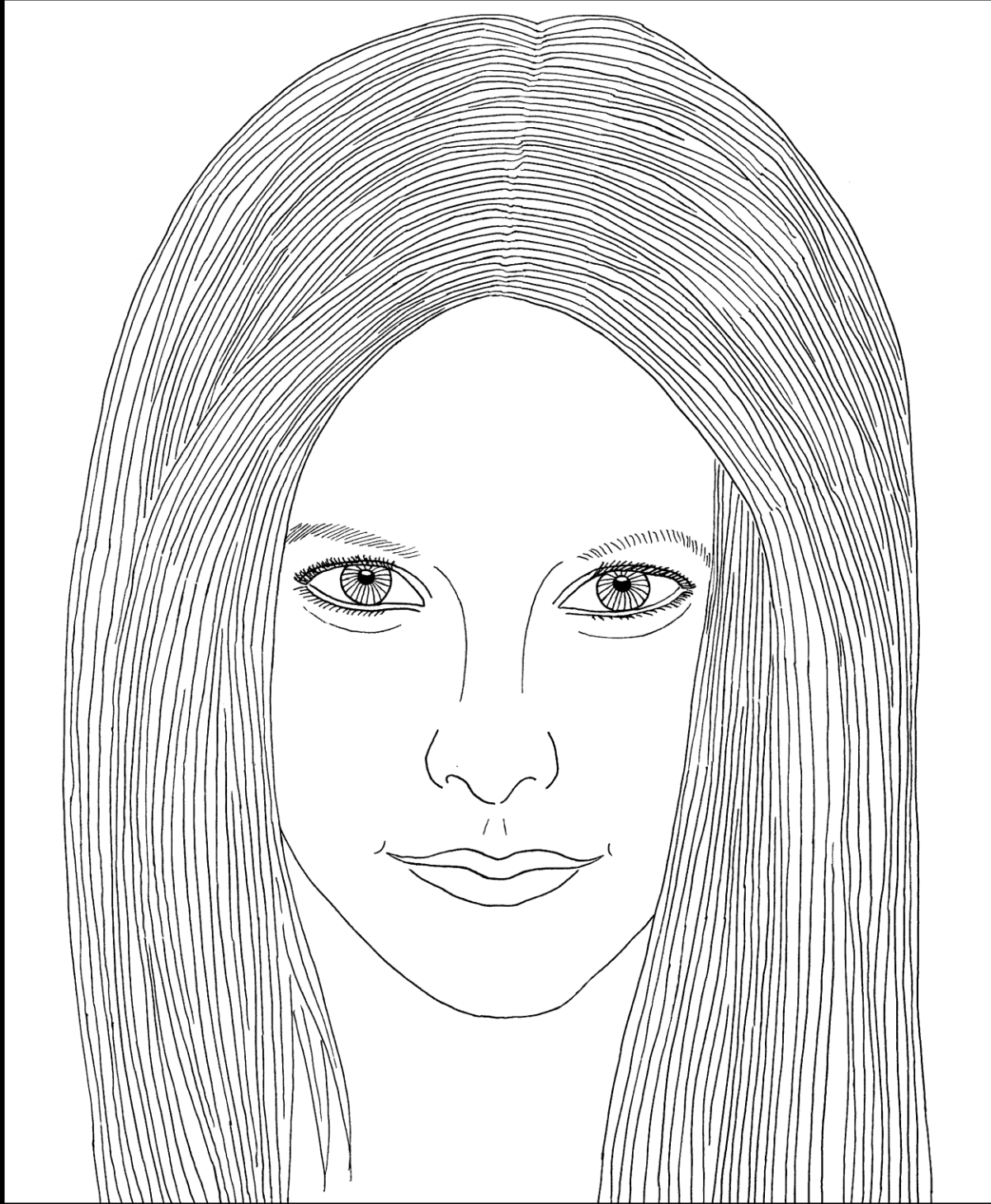
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**"I don't believe war is a way to solve problems.
I think it's wrong."
-- Avril Lavigne**

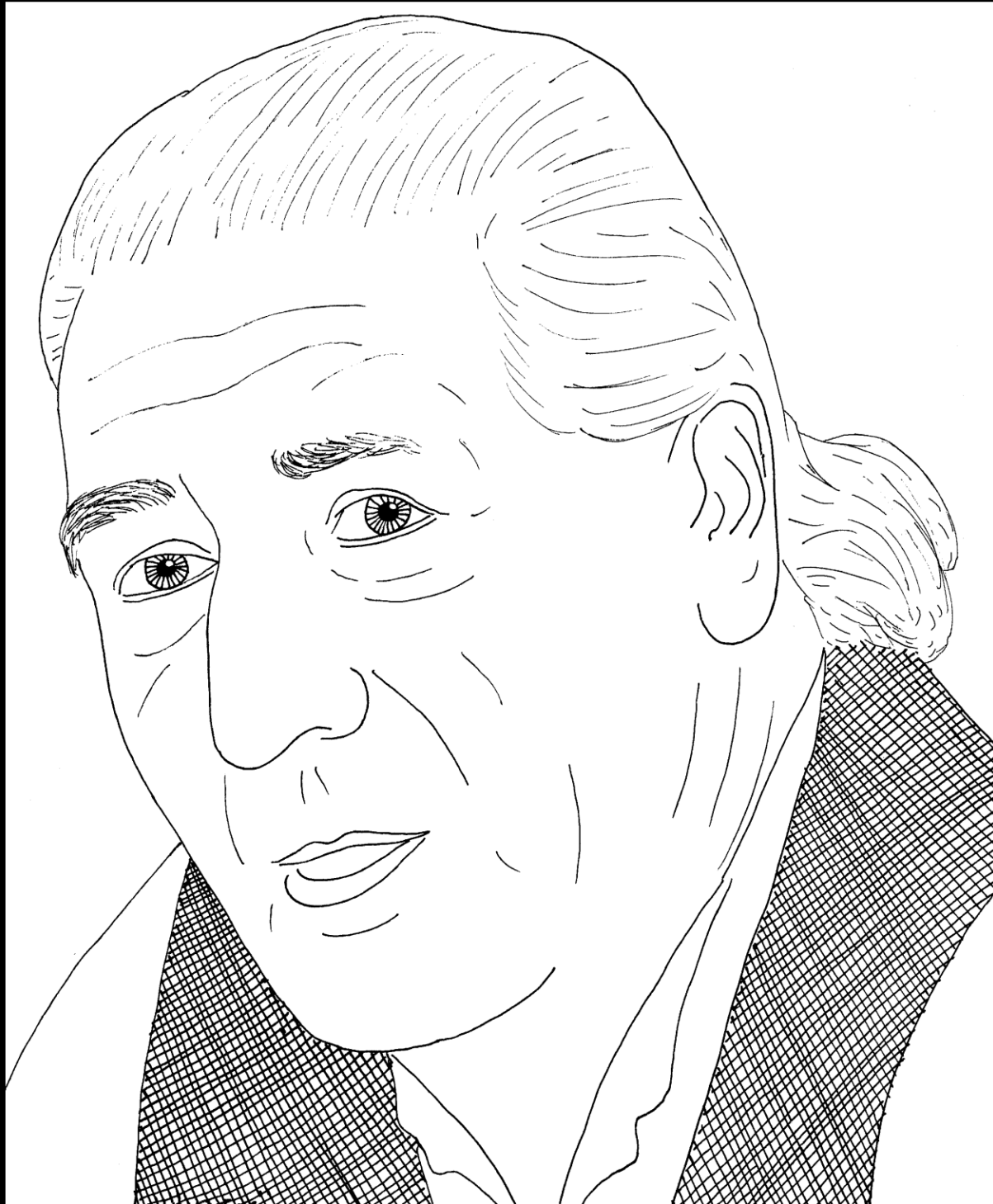
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**"The young generation can influence their elders
and can make them understand the environmental
problems that are faced by us today. The youth can make
them see that our environment is deteriorating day by day."**

-- Chief Oren Lyons

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**"Preventing the conflicts of tomorrow
means changing the mind-set of youth today."
-- Graça Machel-Mandela**

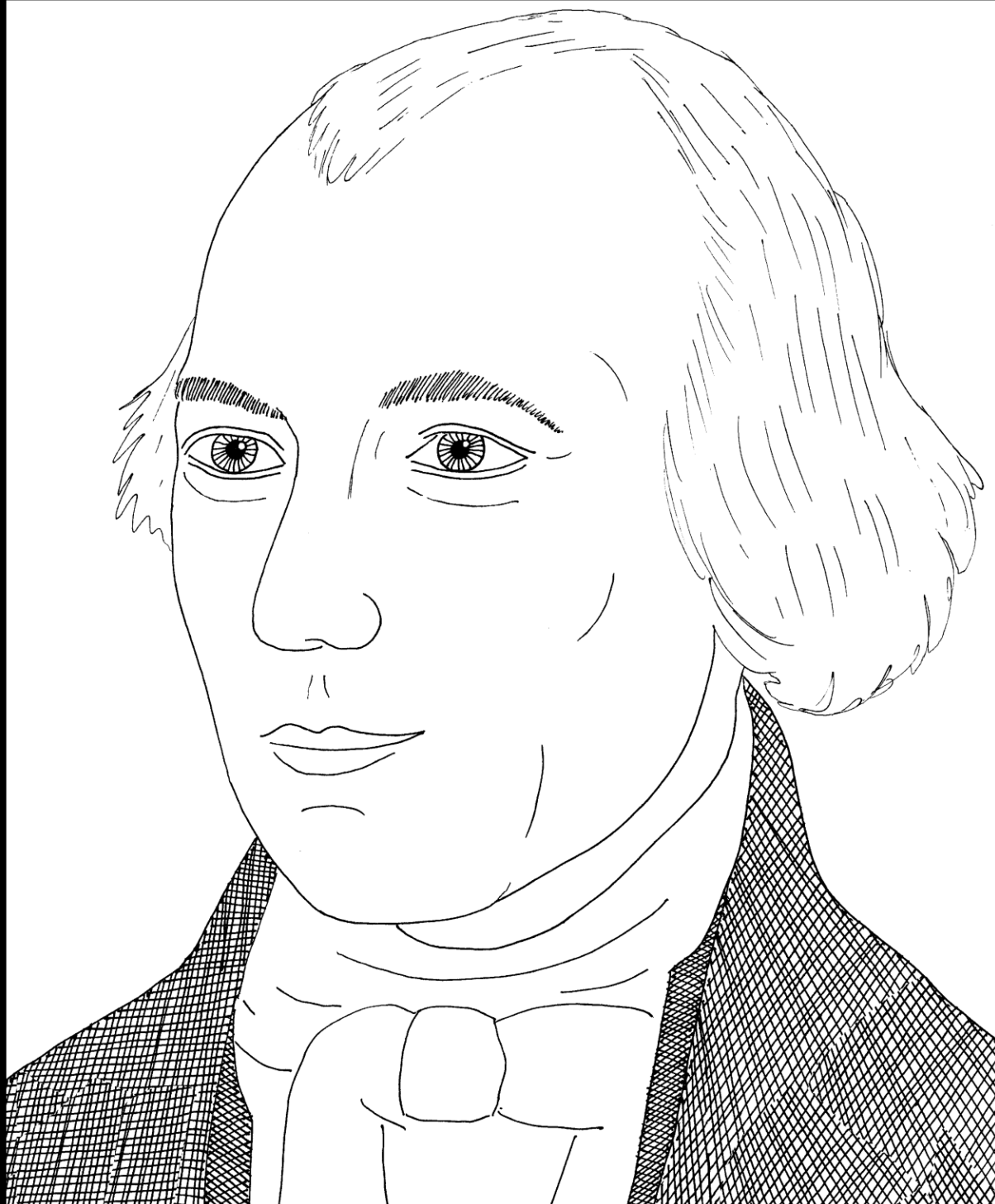
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"Each generation should be made to bear the burden of its own wars, instead of carrying them on, at the expense of other generations."

-- James Madison

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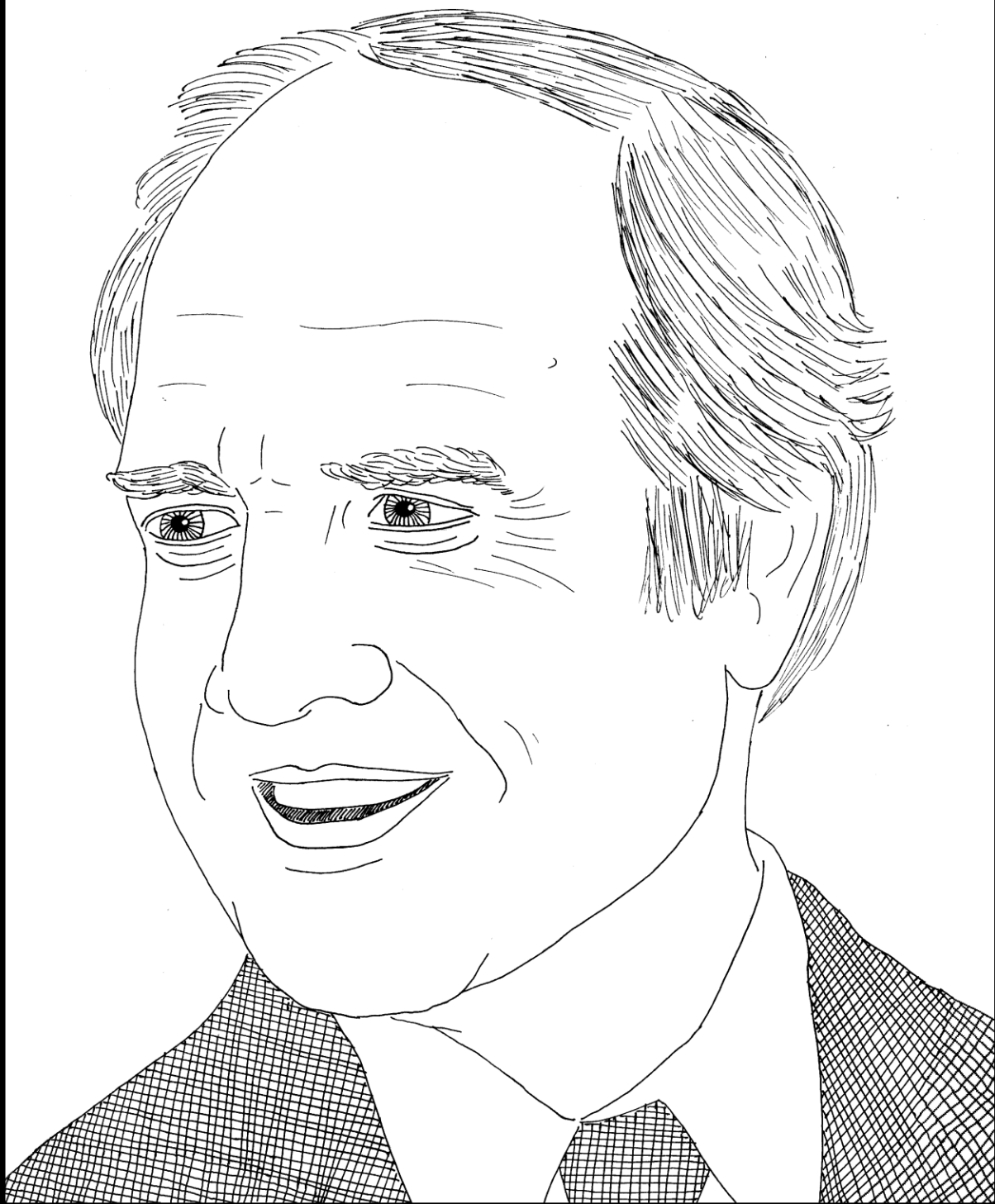
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**"I'm fed up to the ears with old men dreaming up wars
for young men to die in."
-- George McGovern**

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**"UNICEF is successfully giving children and young people
all over the world opportunities and hope."**

-- Ewan McGregor

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"The young, free to act on their initiative, can lead their elders in the direction of the unknown...The children, the young, must ask the questions that we would never think to ask, but enough trust must be re-established so that the elders will be permitted to work with them on the answers."

-- Margaret Mead

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"One world, one people, living together as a global family!
Young people will cross religious, ethnic and cultural divides
to recognize the universal human as family.
WE ARE ONE and the elders of tomorrow will carry this torch."
-- Nina Meyerhof

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"We have the most prolonged adolescence in the history of mankind. There is no other society that requires so many years to pass before people are grown up ...This prolongation of adolescence robs the country of the population group having the most risk takers, and the highest ideals."

-- Ralph Nader

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**"In less than a century we experienced great movement. The youth movement!
The labor movement! The civil rights movement! The peace movement!
The solidarity movement! The women's movement! The disability movement!
The disarmament movement! The gay rights movement! The environmental movement!
Movement! Transformation! Is there any reason to believe we are done?"**
-- Holly Near

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“Young people were once considered relatively safe from HIV/AIDS. Today, their lives and futures are at risk throughout the world because of this disease. I believe it is young people throughout the world who offer us the greatest hope for defeating this deadly pandemic.”

-- Liam Neeson

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"I do think that you're starting to see young people pay attention to some longterm issues that they feel Washington has neglected."
-- Barack Obama

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"A social entrepreneur is somebody who knows how to make an idea reality, and one of the great ideas of our time is pluralism. Can people from different backgrounds live together in mutual peace and loyalty? And what we need is a generation of young social entrepreneurs who know how to make that great idea reality..."

-- Eboo Patel

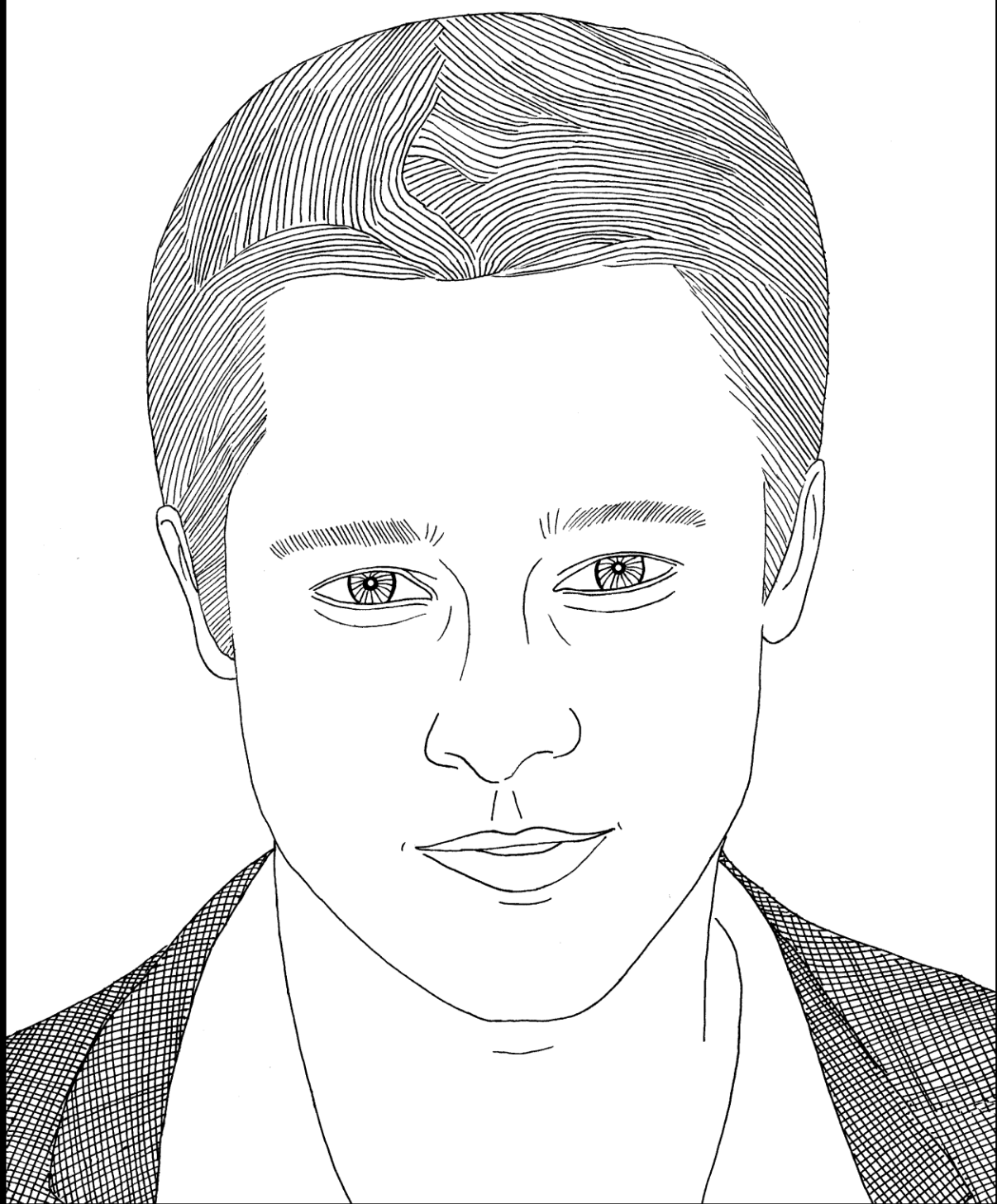
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"In my younger days I was more of a drifter. I'd try many things – I'd try anything. But now there's a real pride in understanding myself and what's important to me and my own values."

-- Brad Pitt

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"Our generation has the ability and the responsibility to make our ever-more connected world a more hopeful, stable and peaceful place."
-- Natalie Portman

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"Our goal is to establish a permanent Youth Assembly on the global level that would serve to represent the voices, ideas, concerns and solutions of youth to the issues that directly affect their lives."

-- Benjamin Quinto

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"I'm trying to help us change our definition of growing up, so that it ceases to mean giving up on our ideals, and comes to mean learning how to live our dreams, every day, on the Earth. I want to awaken the passion and creativity of youth, combine it with the wisdom, experience and insight of elders, and transform our world."

-- Ocean Robbins

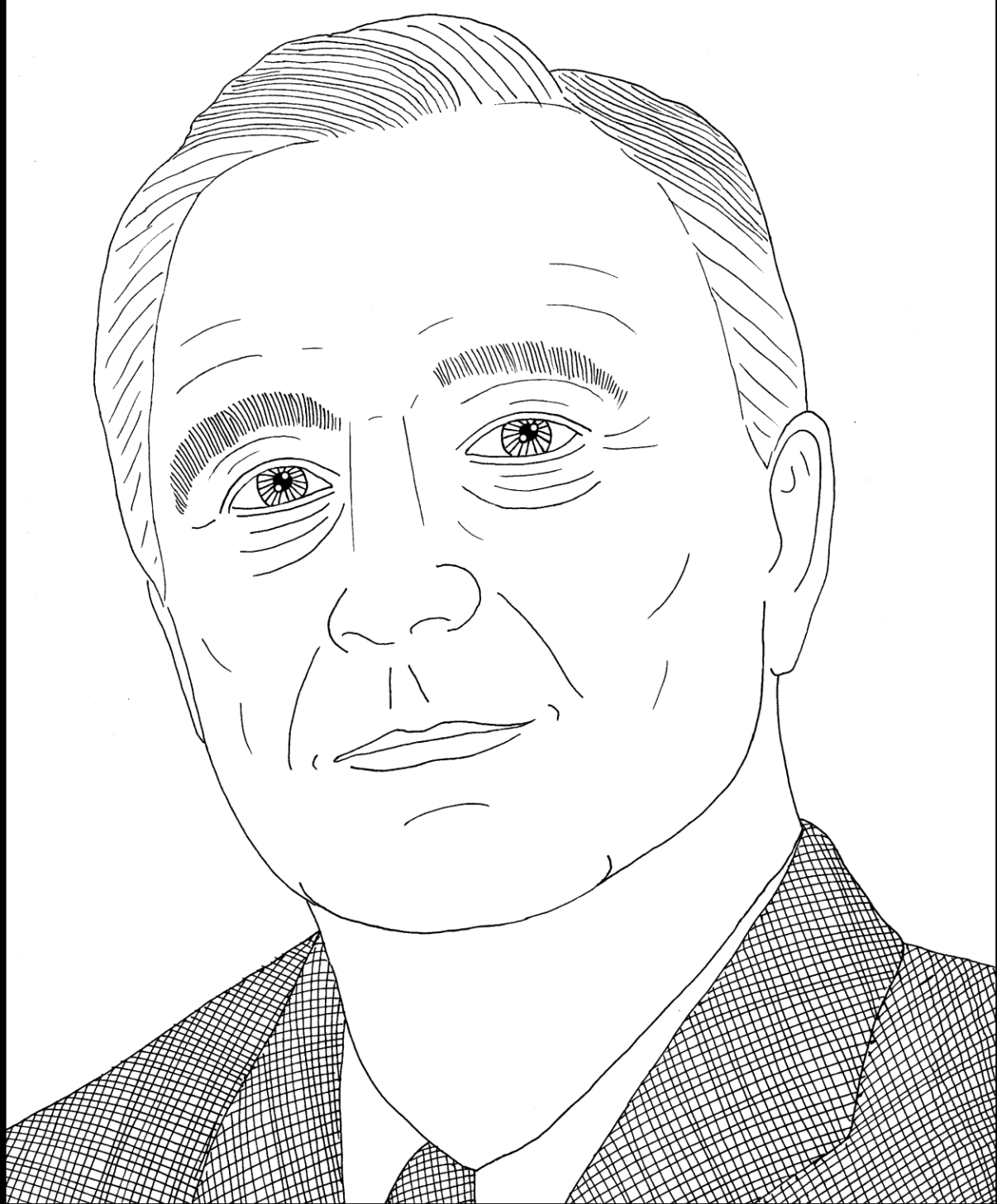
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**"We cannot always build the future for our youth,
but we can build our youth for the future."**

-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Education is critical for people to become compassionate.
If you don't know the problem and you don't
know the reality, how can you help?"

-- Marla Ruzicka

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"I want my child to walk in a world guided by love. This means that everybody will have a job, or the resources to take care of basic needs. A world where families are not oppressed and are connected to their neighbors and their communities, where the best in humanity is honored. That's when we will truly be at peace."

-- Malika Sanders

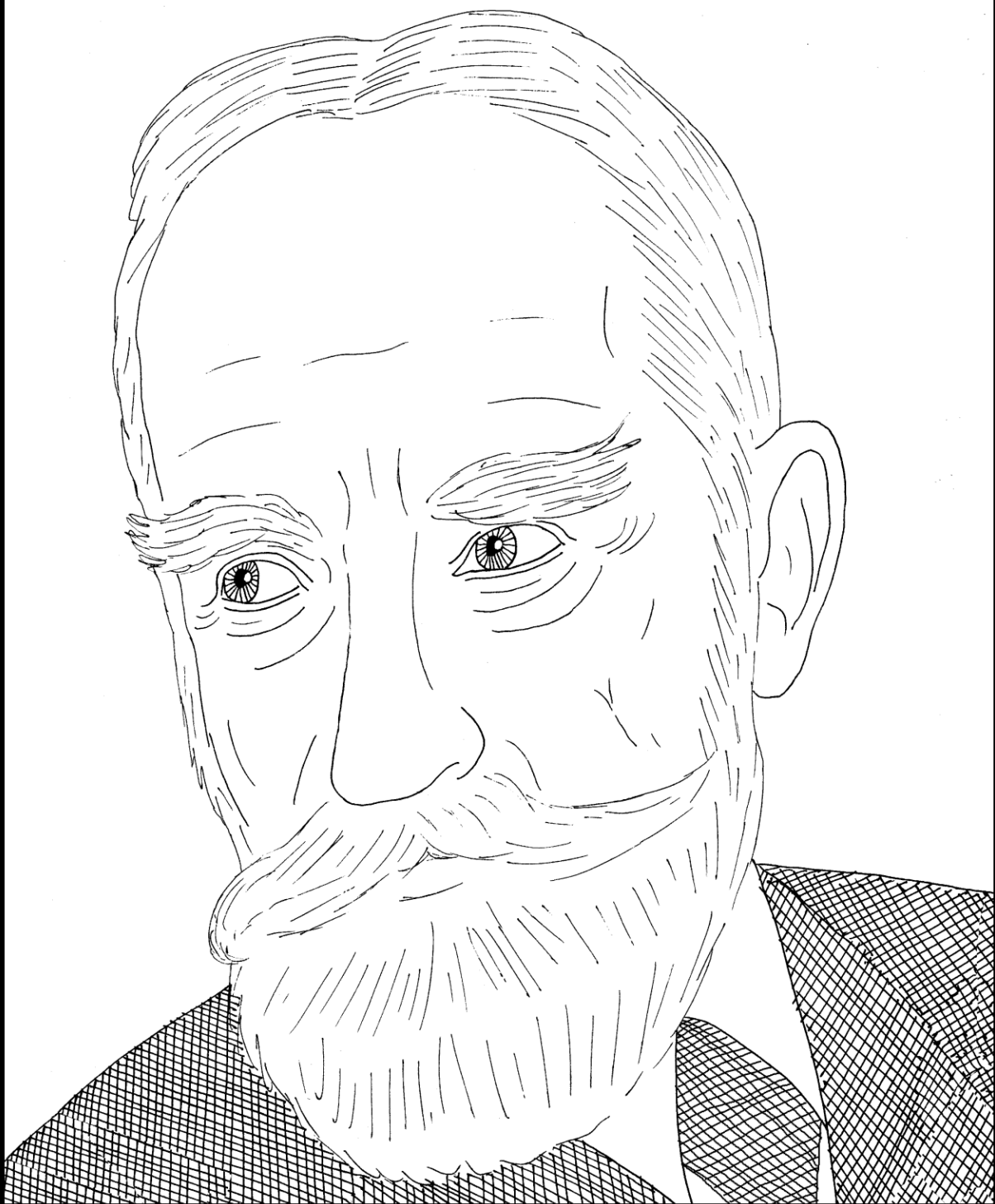
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**"Youth, which is forgiven everything, forgives itself nothing:
age, which forgives itself everything, is forgiven nothing."**

-- George Bernard Shaw

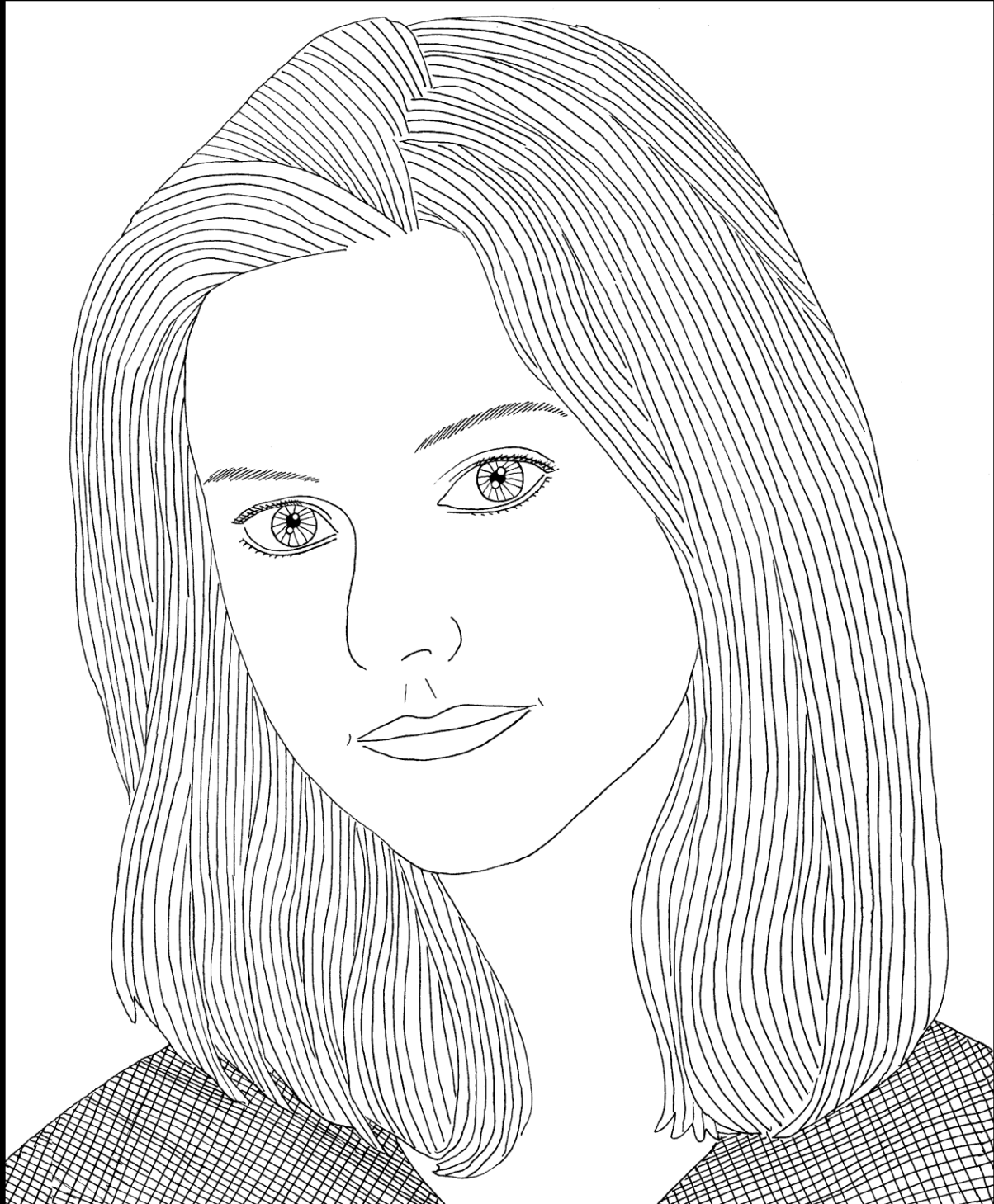
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**"...you can make little choices that can change the world
to be a better, happier, lovelier place every day..."**

-- Alicia Silverstone

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"I live in a country where we put children in shackles and in concrete cells. Working together, with righteousness and hope, we can create a country that is about reverence and reconciliation, not a world of shackles and concrete cells."

-- Lateefah Simon

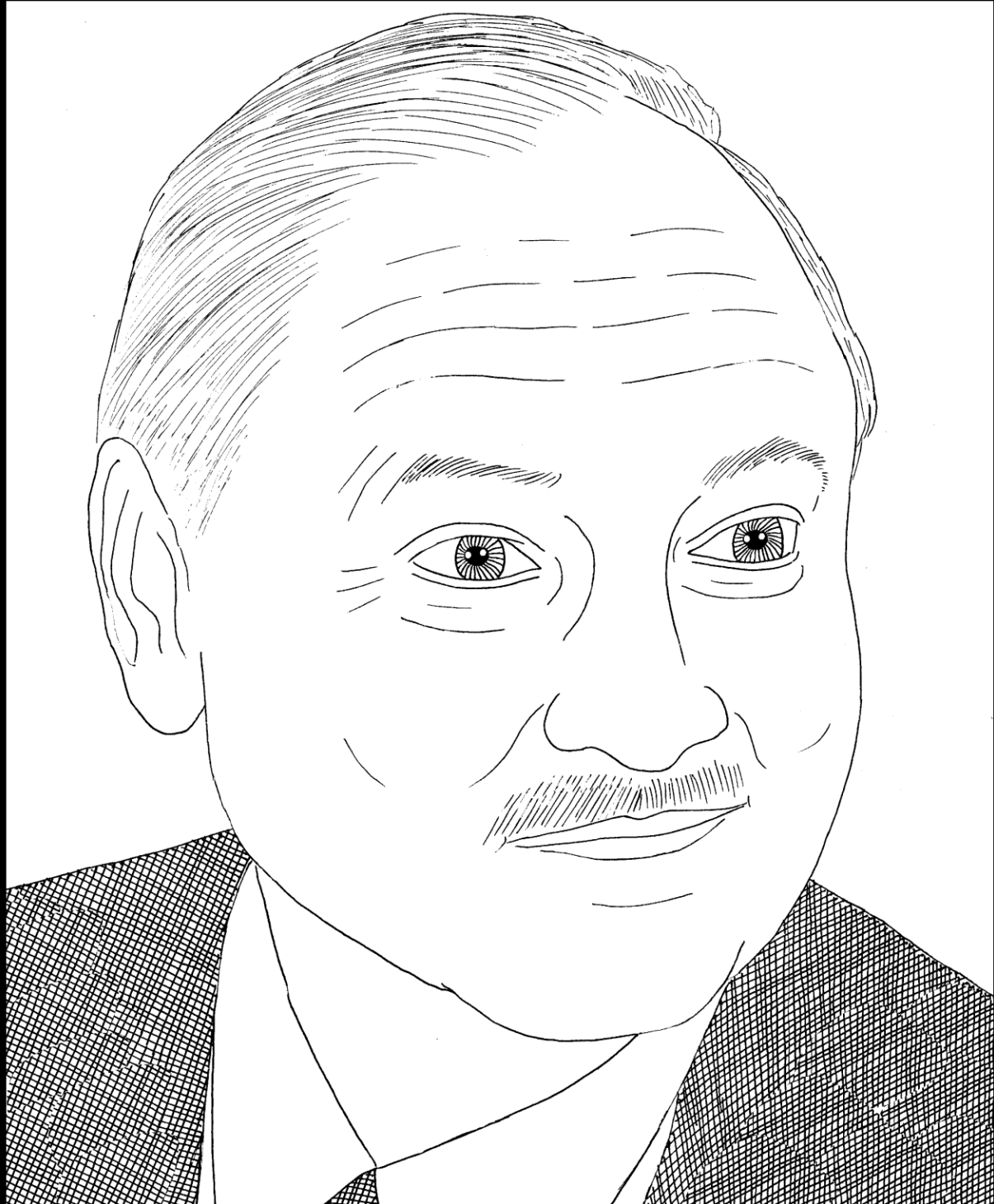
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"I am President of the UN created University for Peace, which has a strong commitment to the relationship between peace, security and the environment. I meet with young people around the world and I always come away enthused and encouraged."

-- Maurice Strong

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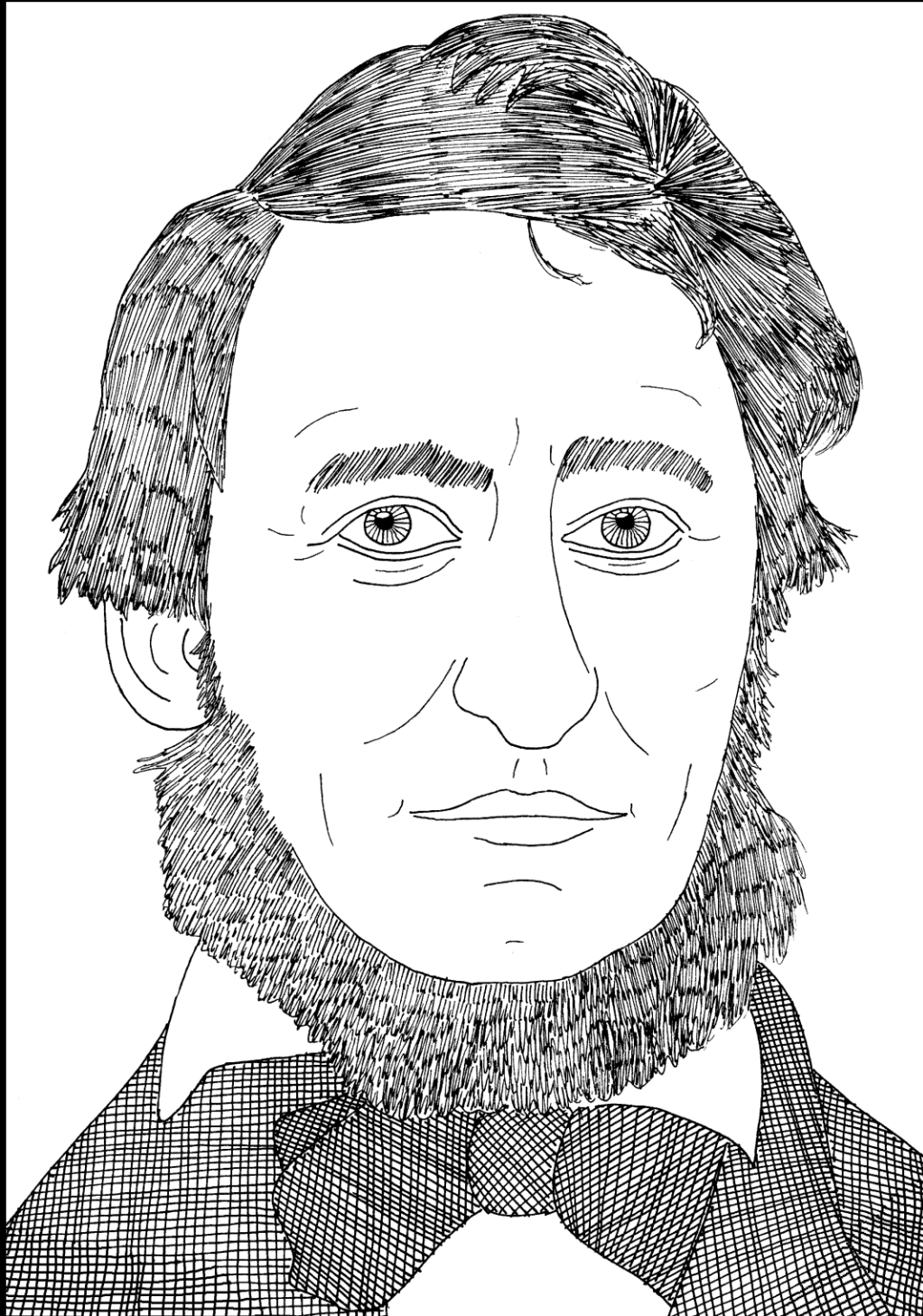
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**"How could youths better learn to live
than by at once trying the experiment of living?"
-- Henry David Thoreau**

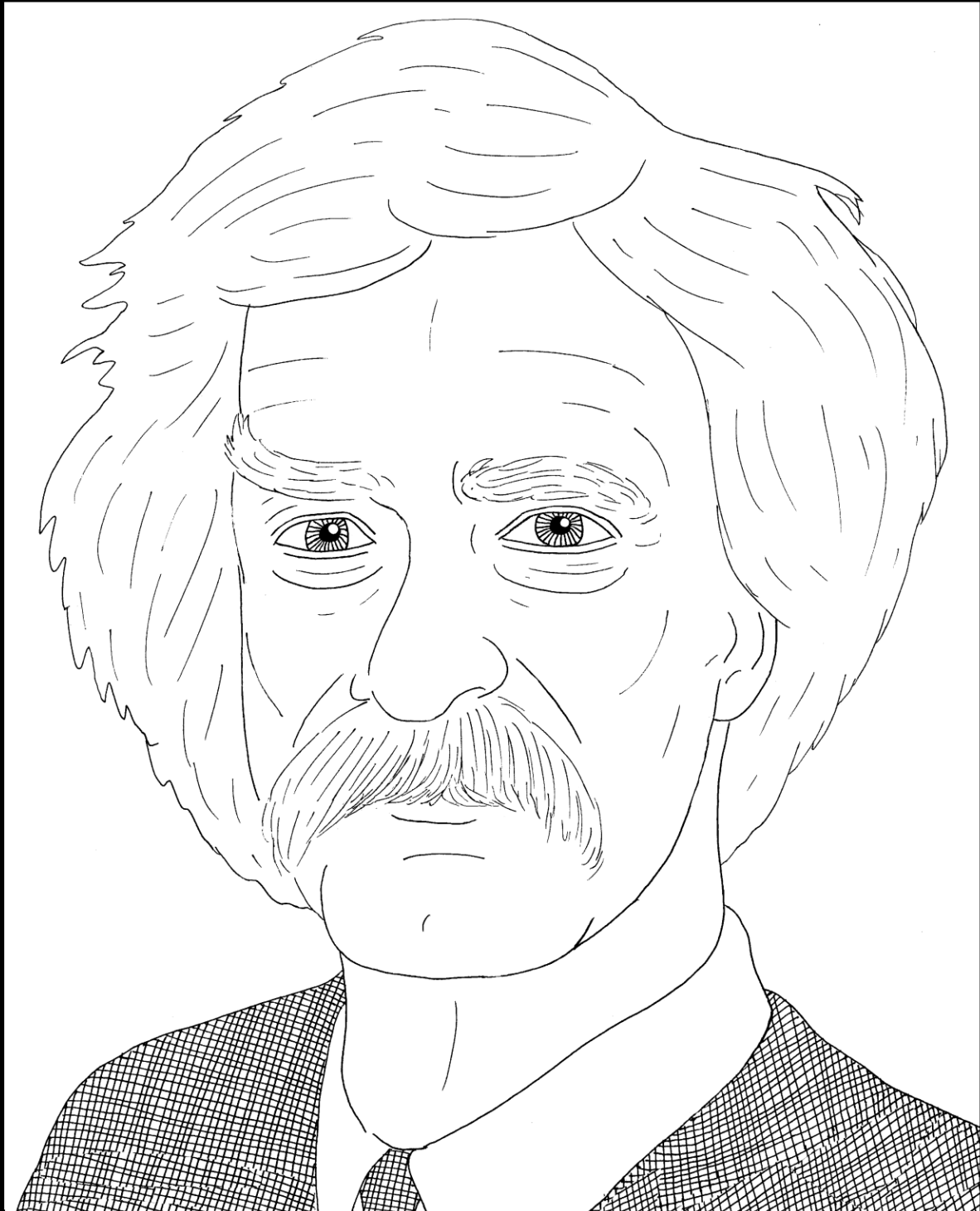
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**"There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist."
-- Mark Twain**

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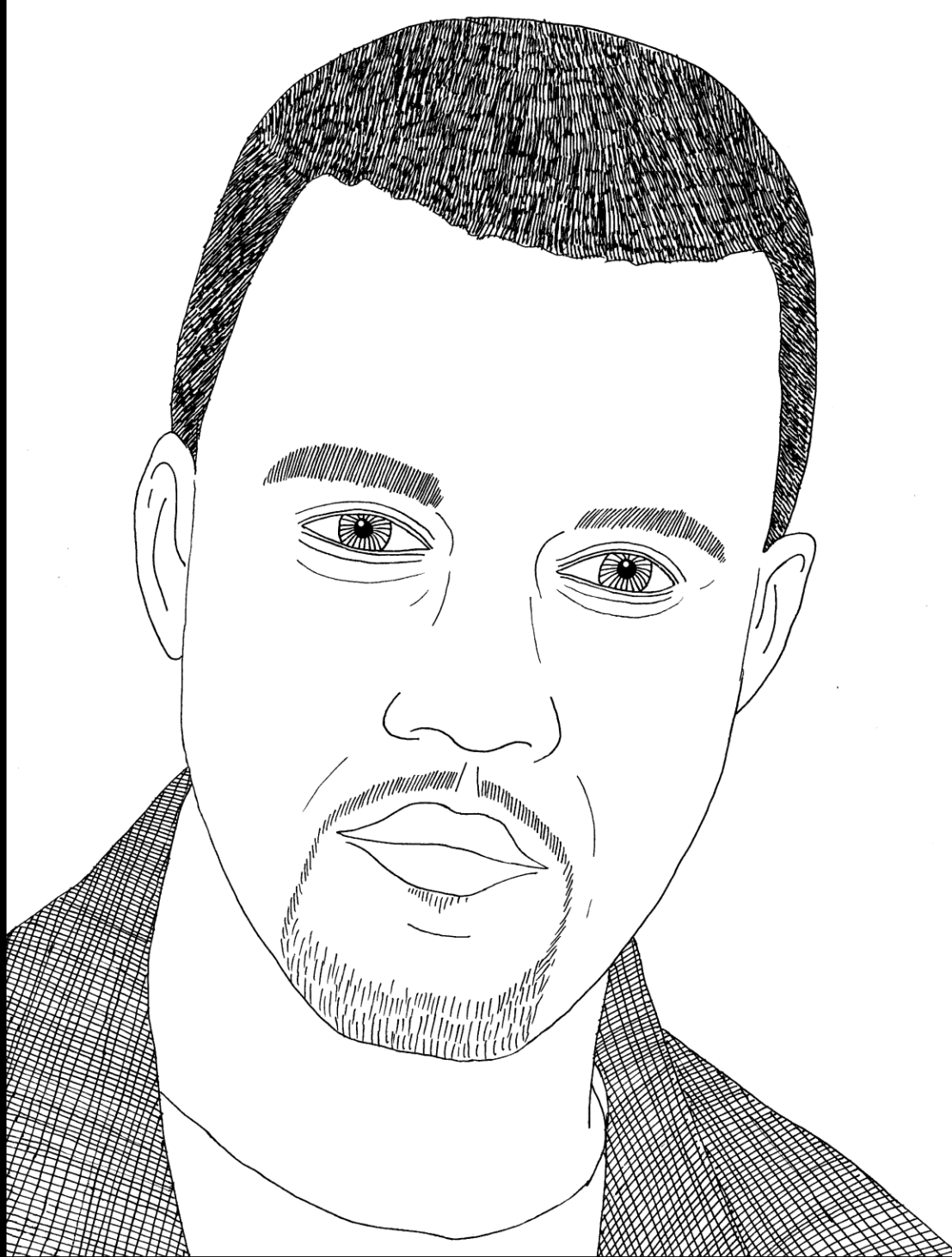
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**"I want to help change the way young people look at school,
and hence, the way they look at their futures."**

-- Kanye West

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