

ALISON and THE SECRETS BEHIND MAKEUP

BY ALLEE DEPALMA

- 7th grade -

GRATTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Stanislaus County

Illustrated by Inderkum High School



One day Alison's teacher assigned an essay. "I want the essay to be something you're passionate about," she said.

Later, Alison's mom asked her, "How was school?"

"It was good. I have to write an essay about something I'm passionate about, but I don't know what to write about."

"Well, you're passionate about makeup, right?" asked Mom.

"Yeah, I guess."

"You have been doing it for three years and it's all you talk about," her dad said.



"Yeah, you're right," said Alison, "but if I write about makeup it would only be about the process of putting on makeup. I don't think people would find that very interesting."

"Well, then don't write about the process of putting on makeup. Write about the process of how makeup is made," said Mom.

"There is actually a lot of agriculture behind it," said Dad. "You should look into it. I promise you'll be surprised."

"Okay, I'll look into it tomorrow," said Alison.



The next morning, she talked to her friend Hannah.

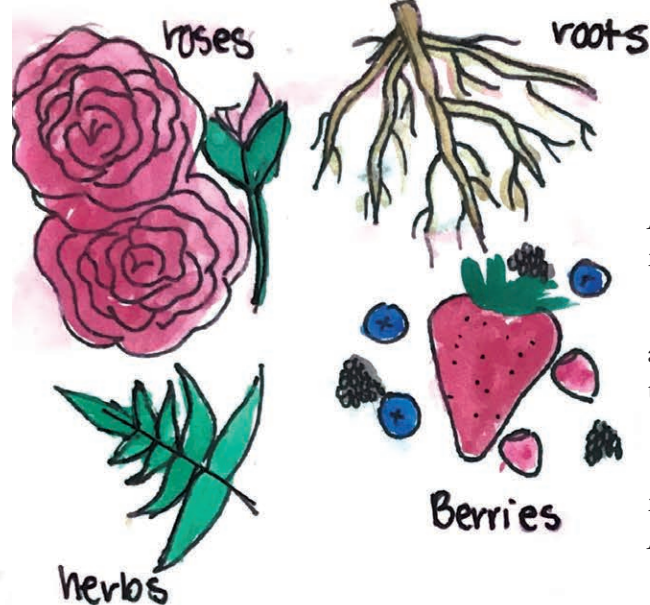
“What are you going to write about for your essay?” asked Alison.

“I’m going to write about dance. How about you?”

“I’m going to write about makeup, but I need to look into it more,” said Alison.

“Do you want to hang out after school and research it then?” asked Hannah.

“Sure! I’ll ask my mom to pick us up,” said Alison.



When they got to Alison’s house, they began researching.

“Hmmm, what’s this?” asked Hannah, pointing to a link on the screen.

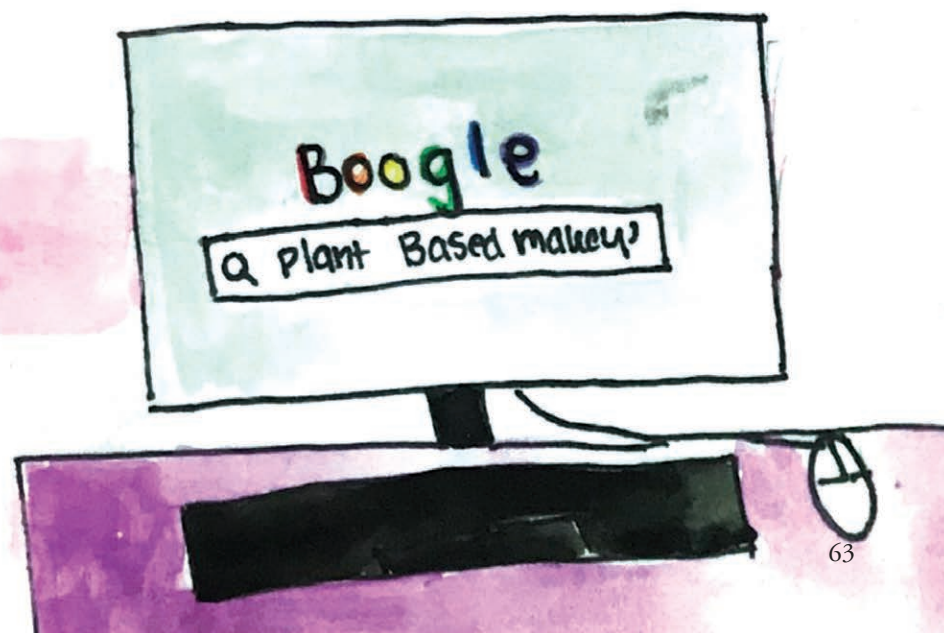
“Plant makeup? I’ve never heard of that,” said Alison.

“Let’s look into it more,” said Hannah.

“It says that plant makeup is handmade with 100% natural ingredients – roses, flowers, roots, berries, and herbs. I had no clue all that was put into makeup!” Alison said, eager to learn more.

“Is that the same as regular makeup?” asked Hannah.

“We should look more,” said Alison. “Ohhh, it says here that plant makeup is a bit different from regular makeup.”



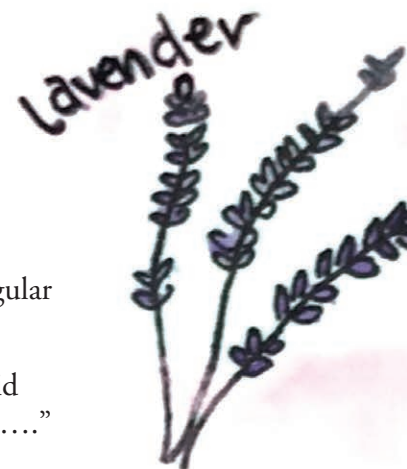


versus



"That makes more sense," said Hannah. "It also says that plant makeup is gentle on the skin and sometimes not as pigmented. We need to try plant makeup sometime."

"Definitely," agreed Alison.



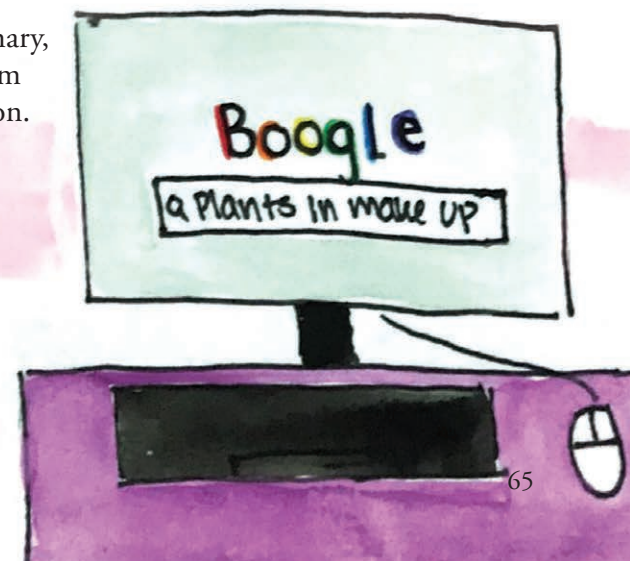
"Now, let's look at what plants go into regular makeup," said Alison.

"Sounds good," said Hannah. "Look at this...."



"It says aloe vera, rosemary, lavender, basil, and geranium go into makeup," said Alison.

What's a geranium?" asked Hannah.



"It says geranium is a popular flowering decorative plant and a key ingredient in lots of cosmetic products," Alison said.

"Wow, it's such a beautiful plant," said Hannah.

"Wait, you'll never believe this," said Alison.

"What?" asked Hannah.

"It says that the use of cosmetics dates back to 7,000 years ago!" said Alison.

GERANIUM



"You're kidding!? How long even is that?" said Hannah.

"Back in Ancient Egyptian times," said Alison.

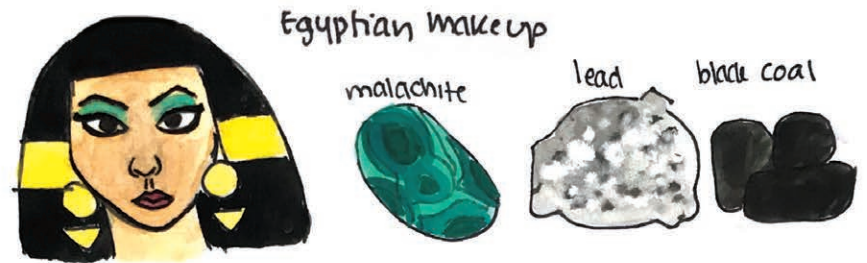
"That's crazy," said Hannah.

"Look, it talks about the advances in history," said Alison.

"It says that people in Ancient Egypt used very harmful chemicals to make the makeup such as malachite, black coal, and lead," said Hannah. "But, now they make makeup out of natural ingredients."

"Why in the world would anyone put that on their face?" asked Alison.

"I have no clue," said Hannah.



"I wonder where they grow the plants to make the makeup?" asked Alison.

"It says that they grow the plants in regular gardens and there's actually one here in town," said Hannah.

TOWN GARDEN



"Girls, time for dinner!" yelled Alison's mom.

"Coming!" they yelled back. They rushed downstairs to eat.

"What did you find?" asked Mom.

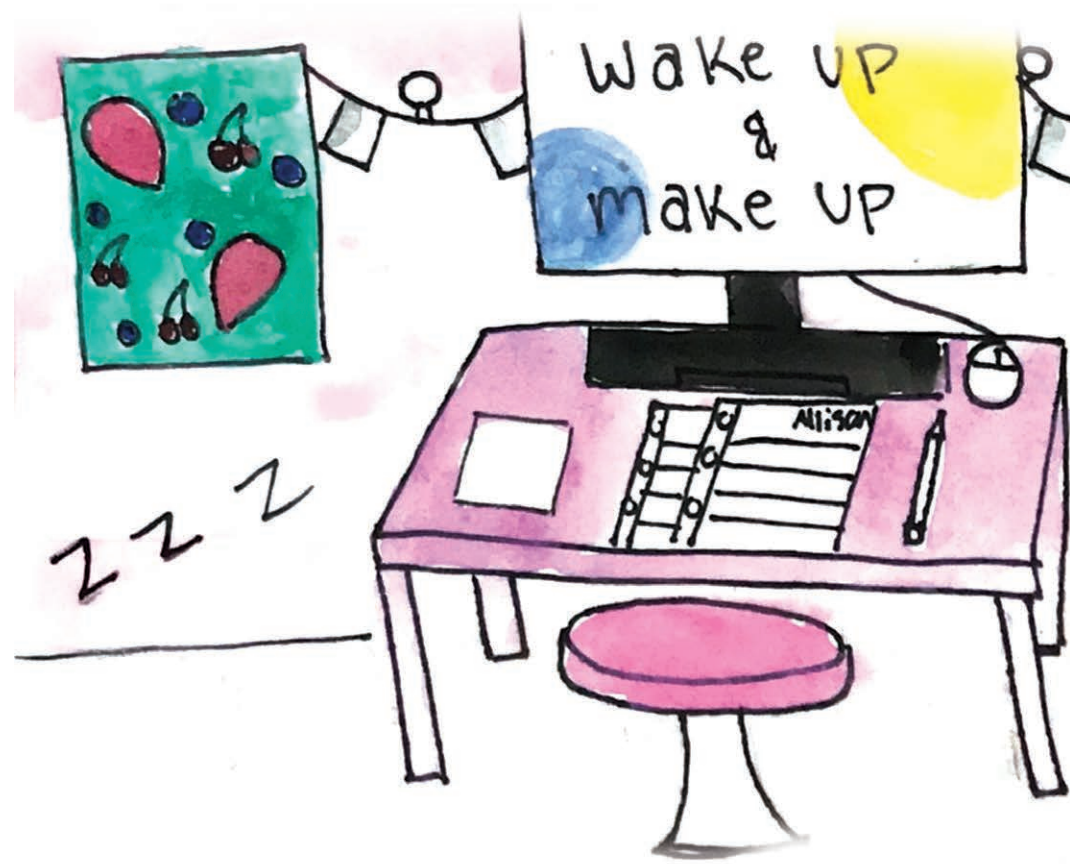
"We found out that makeup has been around for 7,000 years!" said Alison.

"And nowadays they make makeup out of plants, like aloe vera and lavender! They grow in gardens. There is even one here in town," added Hannah.

"So now do you believe that there is more to makeup?" asked Mom.

"Yes," said the girls.

"See, I was right," said Dad. They all laughed.



After dinner, Hannah went home. Alison finished her paper and went to bed.

The next day, Alison read her paper to the class and got an A+. Her teacher then asked, "How long have you been doing makeup?"

"Oh, about two or three years now," said Alison.

"You know if you keep practicing what you're doing, you'll make it far, trust me," said the teacher. "One day, I'll see your name on Broadway!"

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



ALLEE DEPALMA, AGE 13

Allee's story, *Alison and the Secrets Behind Makeup*, was inspired by her wanting to learn more about makeup. She started her writing process by researching and then writing her thoughts. She worked with her teacher to refine her story.

Her favorite part of the writing process was the research—she found a lot of products that she could use herself! Allee enjoyed learning about how makeup is made, the ingredients and the history of makeup. Allee also learned a lot by comparing how makeup is made and used today versus how it has been made and used throughout history.

She hopes that people enjoy reading her story as much as she enjoyed writing it!

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR:



TASIA KING

INDERKUM HIGH SCHOOL | RACHEL RODRIGUEZ, ART TEACHER

Tasia King, a junior at Inderkum High School, was excited to be selected to illustrate a story for the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. She knew that the story would be about agriculture but didn't suspect that it would be about makeup! She learned that there are lots of different types of plants that are used in makeup. She began by researching the types of plants referenced in the story and the type of makeup style that was done during the early Egyptian times. Tasia really liked the story and thought it was very interesting! She is excited to see the final product and hopes that she brought the author's visions alive.