



# Bank Street Occasional Paper Series

Occasional  
Paper  
Series

---

Volume 2024  
Number 52 *The Adventures of Trans Educators:  
A Comic Book Issue*

---

Article 4


November 2024

## Always Been (English)

Yarrow Koning  
*Trailblazers School of North Georgia*

Sofía Abreu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://educate.bankstreet.edu/occasional-paper-series>

 Part of the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), [Curriculum and Social Inquiry Commons](#), [Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Commons](#), and the [Educational Methods Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Koning, Y., & Abreu, S. (2024). Always Been (English). *Occasional Paper Series*, (52). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.58295/2375-3668.1534>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Educate. It has been accepted for inclusion in Occasional Paper Series by an authorized editor of Educate. For more information, please contact [kfreda@bankstreet.edu](mailto:kfreda@bankstreet.edu).

**educate**

# Always Been

*Yarrow Koning and Sofía Abreu*



# ALWAYS BEEN

written by Yarrow Koning  
illustrated by Sofía Abreu



SOMEWHERE ELSE IN FLORIDA...



...A HATEFUL GOVERNOR SIGNS LAWS TAKING AWAY QUEER AND TRANS RIGHTS.



THE RIGHT TO CARE FOR ONE'S BODY.



THE RIGHT TO LEARN ABOUT ONE'S HISTORY.

THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM BIGOTRY.

THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS ONE'S IDENTITY.



BUT WHEREVER THERE IS REPRESSION, ...

...THERE IS ALWAYS RESISTANCE, AND FLORIDA IS NO DIFFERENT.





BACK AT THE GARDEN...

HI EVERYONE, COULD WE COME BACK TOGETHER FOR A FEW MINUTES PLEASE? I'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES.



I DREW A BUTTERFLY I SAW. IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL. I FEEL REALLY CALM.

I DREW THIS MANGO TREE, AND NOW I'M THINKING ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT NATURAL PLACES I CAN VISIT AND DO MORE DRAWING.



YOU KNOW WHAT MY FAVORITE PART IS ABOUT CONNECTING WITH NATURE? NATURE IS SUPER QUEER, AND TRANS, AND DEFIES EVERY CATEGORY HUMANS TRY TO THROW AT IT.



WHENEVER YOU JOURNAL, I INVITE YOU ALL TO REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NATURE AND NATURE IS YOU. WE ARE HERE. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE. AND WE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE...



...AND THAT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN NEVER BE TAKEN AWAY.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Yarrow Koning** (they/them) is a queer, trans, and non-binary environmental educator and multimedia storyteller based in Georgia. Yarrow holds a Master of Education in Environmental Education from Florida Atlantic University and specializes in environmental education that centers equity, justice, queer ecology, and multispecies liberation. Yarrow is the co-director and impact campaign coordinator for the new *Queers 4 Climate Justice* documentary, *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*. In their free time, Yarrow enjoys hiking, birding, listening to podcasts, reading, and snuggling with their cat.



**Sofía Abreu** is an illustrator from Mexico City who is currently finishing a doctoral degree in mathematics education at Michigan State University. Sofía has enjoyed drawing since an early age and is increasingly excited for the possibilities that comics offer as a form of expression and connection. During her postgraduate studies, Sofía has had the space to grow with this medium and has authored and co-authored two mini comic books, *In-Betweens* and *Young Philosophers*, respectively, among other works. Sofía currently lives in East Lansing, MI with her cat family, Zami and Aleph, and is grateful for coffee every morning.