

# KEEP IT DOWN



## THEODORE

I was inspired to do this because it was brought to my attention as a school assignment. I was motivated to participate because I am interested in such topics and wanted to explore how creative I could get.

This artwork, as seen from the eyes of the character, is of the character kneeling in front of a toilet, holding the sides. The words "BIG BOYS DONT CRY" appear within the toilet bowl. The meaning is that it symbolizes what it is like to keep emotions down. Kneeling at the toilet as if about to throw up contributes to the idea of keeping it down, as most people make an effort not to throw up. The words come from the song "I'm not in love" by 10cc, a song that also deals with themes of denial. The saying in and of itself is a source of stigma around emotional expression. The character is trying very hard to beat down their feelings, even when tears are actively falling, as shown by the ripples in the toilet water.

