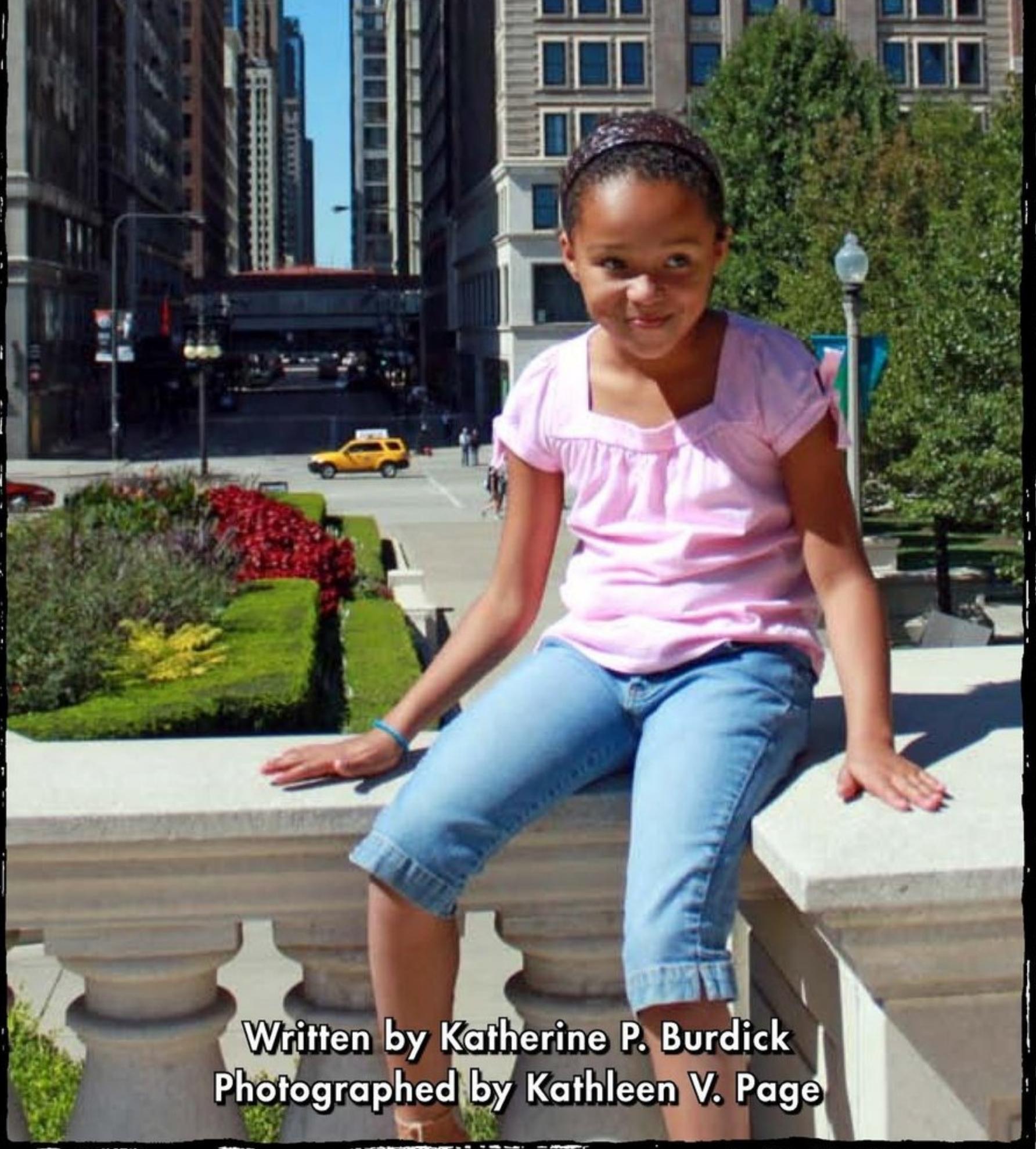


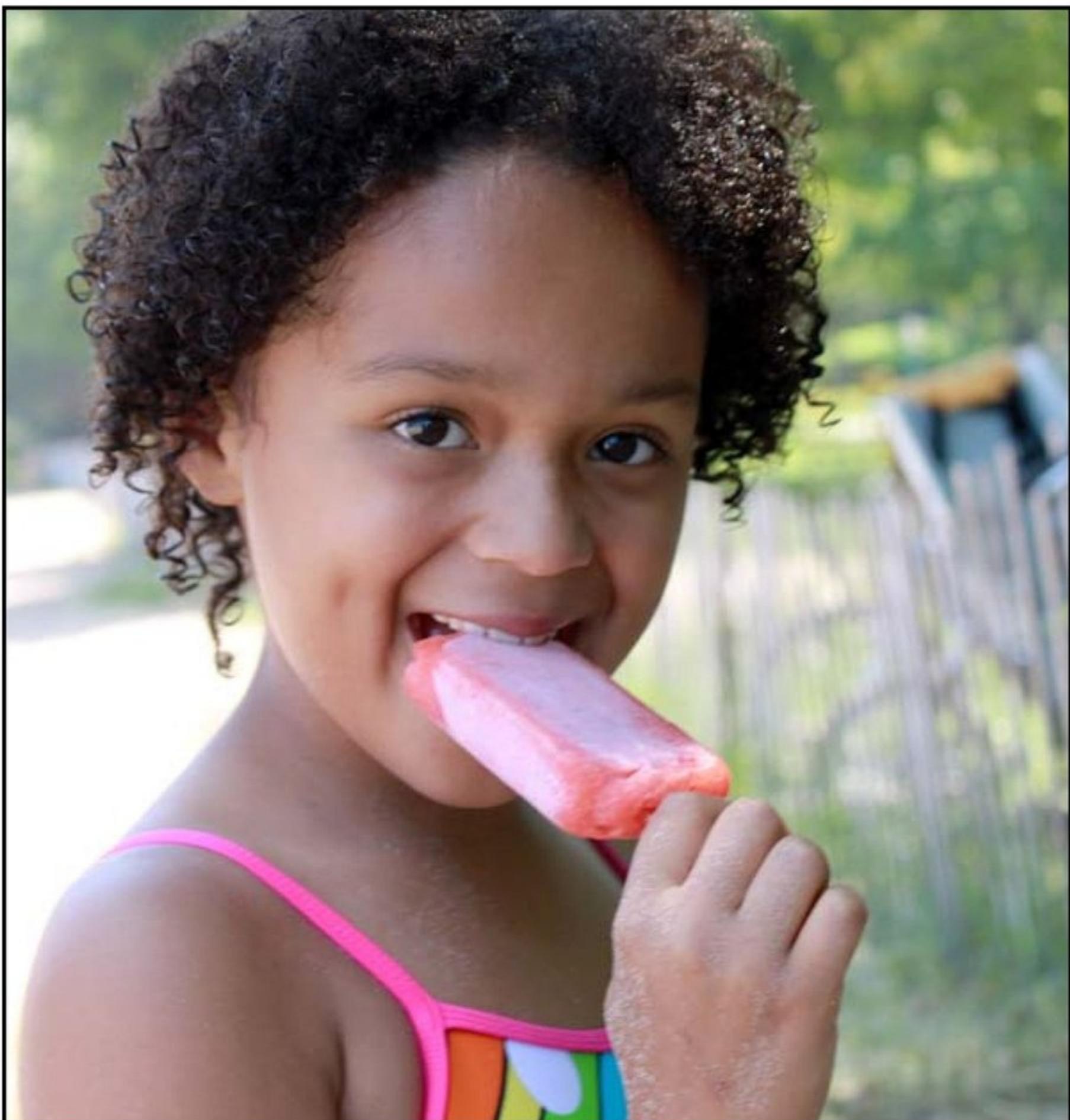
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I Love City Parks



**Written by Katherine P. Burdick
Photographed by Kathleen V. Page**

I Love City Parks



Written by Katherine P. Burdick



Hi. My name is Nina.

I live in Chicago.

I love living in the city.



Chicago has many tall buildings.

People live and work in them.

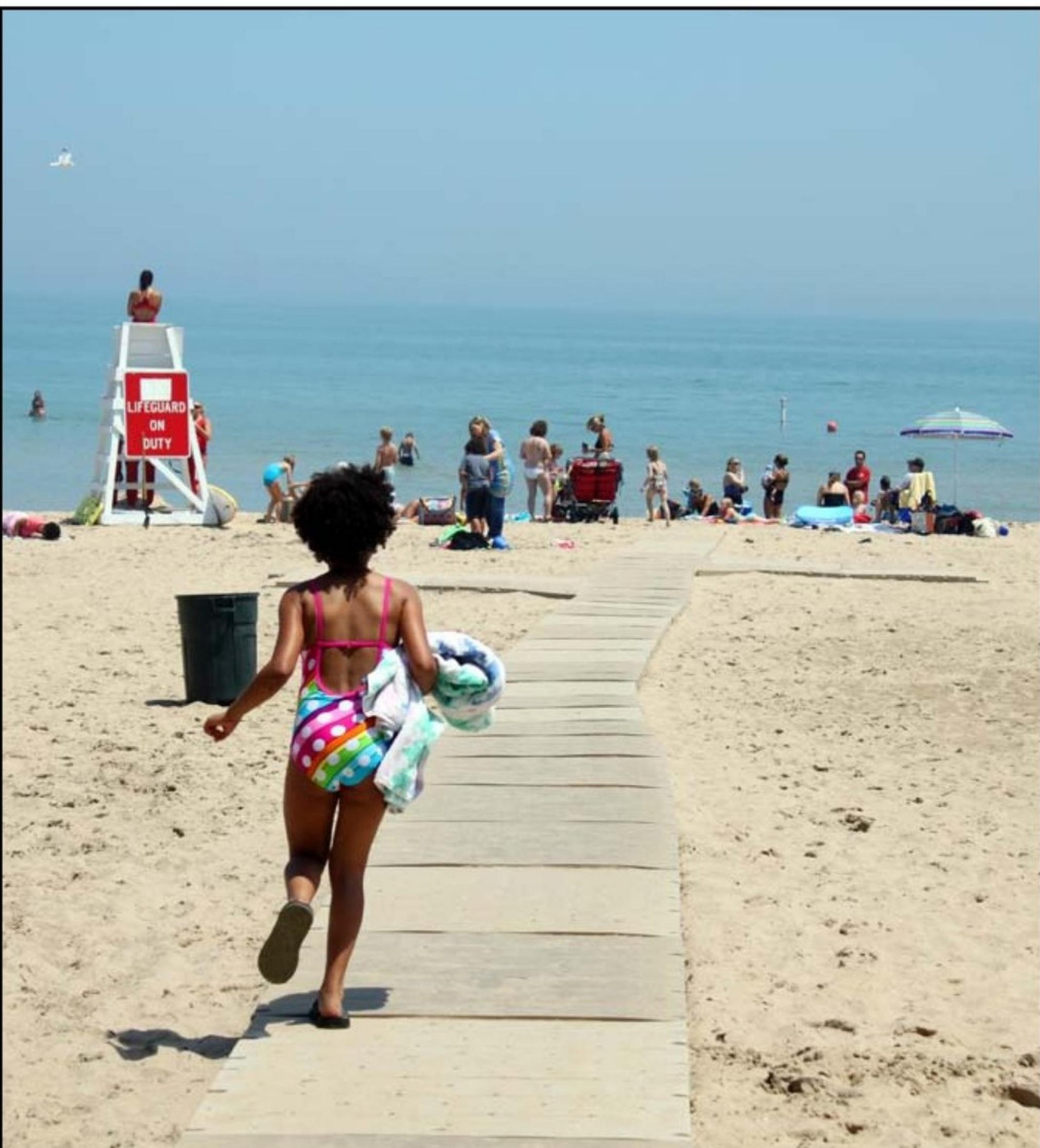
Sometimes I feel as if I am walking through a canyon.



One of my favorite things to do in Chicago is to visit the parks.

Sometimes I play soccer at the park.

My uniform is blue.



Some of the Chicago parks have beaches.

Chicago is next to Lake Michigan.

Lake Michigan is one of the Great Lakes.



On hot days, I love to put my feet in the water.

On really hot days, I jump all the way in.

But Lake Michigan is usually cold.
Brrr!

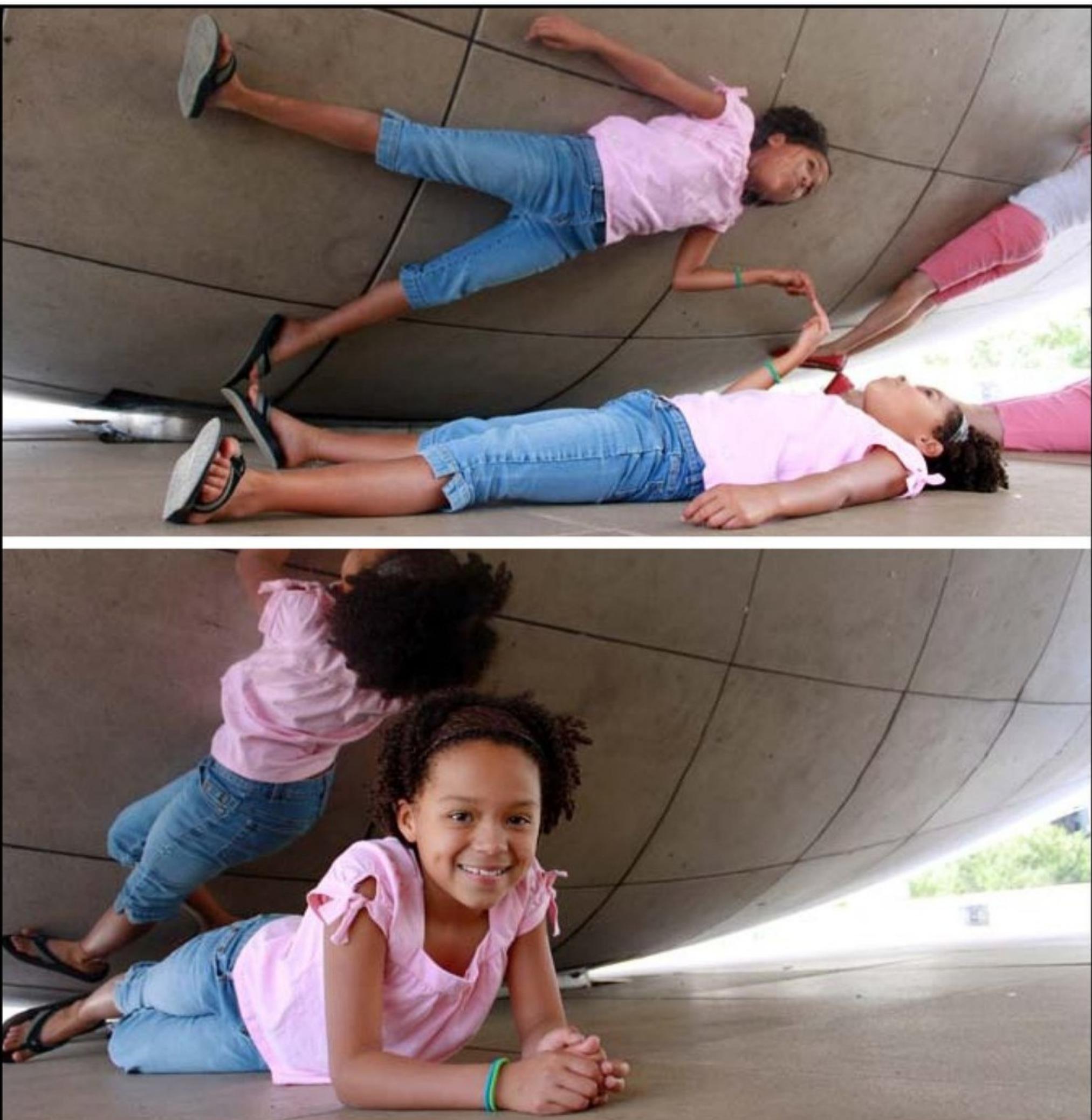


Sometimes my mom and I go to Millennium Park.

Millennium Park is huge and has lots of things to do.

The first thing I always do is run to the giant silver bean.

Its real name is *Cloud Gate*.



I like to lie next to it and see my reflection.

I love how it reflects the city and the people all around it.

If you walk under it and look up, you see something magical.



We also visit the outdoor theater.

Sometimes I stand where the audience sits.

I pretend that I am listening to my favorite singer.



At other times, I sit on the stage and pretend I am the one singing.

I can hear the crowd clapping and cheering for me.



But the thing I love the best is to tickle my toes in Crown Fountain.

Crown Fountain has two gigantic towers of glass blocks.

The blocks show different videos of faces and places.

Water spills down from the top.



People of all ages come here to laugh and play in the water.

I like to turn cartwheels and feel the water drip down my legs.



Each park has a stand that sells cool drinks and ice cream.

Sometimes my mom gives me money, and I get to choose and pay.

It makes me feel grown up.



After a long day, my mom and I take the El back home.

El is short for *elevated train*.

We wait on the platform for our train to come.

We don't have to wait long.



During the ride home, I look out the window and watch the buildings whiz by.

I think about what I will do the next time I go to the park.

Will I play soccer?

Will I play in water, or will I just turn cartwheels all day?

City parks are the best!

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