

Issue 7

April 27, 2016

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



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Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

Odyssey Junior Teens/Goodman Library, grades 6-12: Sagashus Levingston, Gretchen McClain, Anthony Ward '04, Todd Lilly, Leigh Fredrickson, Scott Cooper, Lucia Chikowero '14, Catina McAlister '11

Odyssey Explorers/Space Place, grades 1-5: Marian Slaughter, Christina Wagner, Shannon Huberty, Max Lenz, Percell 'Pat' Swiney

Odyssey Jumpstart/Head Start, ages 2-K: Char Longino, Deb Ham, Patti Washington, Beatriz Hernandez, Wanda Carpenter, Cathy Rasmussen; Literally Arts (Jamie Henke, Jessica Courtier, Jackie Colbert, Kate Hewson, Randi Neimeyer)

Guests: Kay Kriewald, Krissy Wick (Madison Public Library), UW Slow Food interns, Marshall Cook, UW Speech and Language graduate students, Dean Robbins, Afterschool Expeditions, Engaged Children in Science, Fabu, Rockameem, Claire Norelle, Read to a Dog, Will Allen, Gene Phillips, Chazen Museum staff

Photography: Dick Baker, Keith Meyer, Emily Azad, Colleen Johnson, Milli Lau '14 and Odyssey Junior staff members

ODYSSEY JUNIOR TEENS



This program helps form and mold children to become lovers of reading and writing, while helping them discover the world around them. ~Nissa Uriostegui

POETRY MATTERS

When my mind is empty,
I don't feel anything...no emotions.
Or at least that's what I think.
When I am sad in madness,
I think "why was I ever born?"
But after a few minutes of eyes dried of tears,
I think of what I said,
And regret it.
But I think again and say "I should think positive and not just regret what I said in the past."
Be different,
And be proud,
Stop regretting the past and change to be better. (**Safaa Mohammed Saed**)



African Americans
The people that make history.
From the people that took the
Road out of the cotton fields
To the promised land,
All the way to the people
That made the march for freedom,
To show that they are equal to the white people. (**Claudio Uriostegui**)

Stars twinkled, bold, light
Leaving her home
The Taliban, because they shot
Her parents.
The stars are guiding her through
Her life.
(**Olivia Partee**)



I am not a poet
I try so hard
I am not a poet
I go so far
I am not a poet
And I can show it.
(**Tyelle Latham**)



My Fair Skin
My fair skin brings up questions definitely if you have seen my parents.
My fair skin is one of the many reasons why people are racist.
This racism is tearing me down, making me feel like nothing.
My fair skin makes me me, but this feeling of not fitting in at all is horrible.
Tell me why my skin is so fair? Why do I have it?
My parents are black but I am mixed,
Not fully black and not fully white but half and half.
I hate when people call me a half-baked cookie.

I am human. (**Olivia Partee**)



Fishes
The orange one came first,
Used to be hand fed, but no longer.
Then came others,
And then black and red eyes came.
Always hungry,
Ready for flakes.
Some fish fade,
These ones stay.

(Abdul Mohammed Saed)

African American Artist
An artist,
A person who expresses themselves,
Precise, efficient, unique art!
Figures, colors, emotion
African,
Brown, unique, different
Filled with passion.
An African Artist,
An exquisite person
Who expresses exhilaration.
Professionals of beauty and elegance.
To be an African Artist is an awesomely unique privilege. **(Jocelyn Moore)**

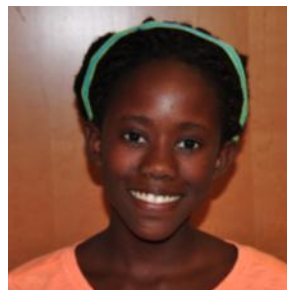


There's colored then there's white.
Wrong then right,
Separate but equal.
But together we fight.
The children, like trees,
Are the branches of life.
They learn from the roots
And they grow with the light.
(Keziah Bester)



Stars are beautiful at night.
I wonder why they are bright?
It's like looking into a small light
And you can see constellations if the time is right.
And when I sleep, my eyes are shut tight. **(Antonio Uriostegui)**

I am creative from my hair to my
Clothes to the way I sit.
I am like nobody else.
No matter how much you copy me,
You can't be me.
No matter how much you try,
You can't catch me.
You can't copy my stride.
You can't have the same vision as me.
But you can, however, share the same interests as me.
You can be my friend.
You can be my go-to person.
You can be my homie.
But remember, you can't be me.
I am Makanaka T. Chikowero. **(Maka Chikowero)**



ADMIRING ART

Responses from an April 20 field trip to the Chazen Museum of Art

Jocelyn Moore

Walter Page, "The Visit," 1890s

I enjoyed observing this painting because of the difference of the outfits. There are two ladies who seem to be chatting, maybe about the beauty of the dresses. The black dress is sleek and mysterious, and the silver dress is fluid but delicate.



John Sloan, "Spring, Madison Square," 1905

The trees in this painting made me think of fluidity but also freedom filled with busy-ness in the background.

Dale Nichols, "Spring Plowing," 1940

This art created by Dale Nichols reminds me of open land and has fields filled with grace and freedom.

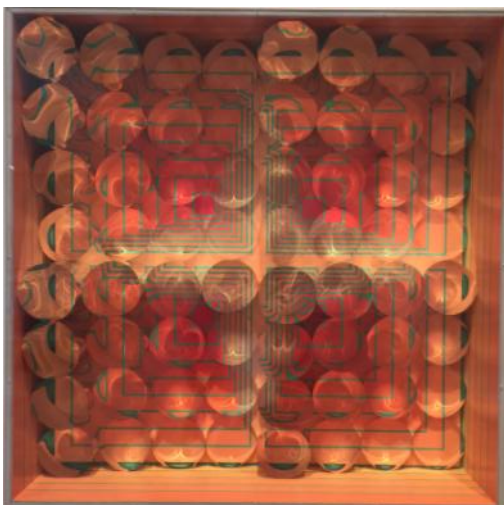


Carl Röttken (1830-1880), "Italian Village"

The land and setting shows me the daily life of the poor in Italy – the sand brick houses, the dirt roads, and the mountainous background.

Edmund Kanoldt (1845-1904), "The Greek Coast"

I like this painting because the texture and detail in this painting are just fascinating. It is so fluid and, to me, emotionally different.



Melvin Butor, "Eastern Star," 1972

This abstract art is elegant but smaller, signifying indifference.

Maka Chikowero



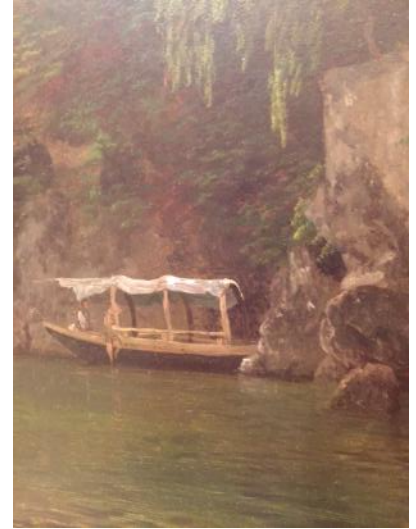
Severn Roesen, "Still Life with Watermelon," ~1858
 "Help! I'm falling!!"
 "Shh! Someone will hear you!" exclaimed the orange.
 "Easy for you to say. You are in a basket."

Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), "The Boating Party"
 In a boat going into swampy trees.
 I just need some time alone.

Seriously, who wants to attend
 fancy dinners and balls all the
 time?
 Being a prince is so boring.



Eugène-Louis Boudin, "Étretat,"
 1891
 Fishing. We just needed to get
 out of the house.
 I have already caught three big bass.
 I hope they are as good as they sound.



Olivia Partee

Daniel Maclise, "Scottish Lovers," 1863
 "Scottish Lovers" is about two lovers who found love over
 painting.



Santana James

Karen LaMonte,
 "Kabuki," 2012
 This statue is black
 with no hands or
 head. I saw
 invisible karate
 spirits that fight evil spirits for money. And sometimes it comes to
 the real world to help us conquer evil spirits. Someday I might
 come back as an invisible karate spirit to stop evil people who steal
 from Grandma and hit women.





Abdul Mohammed Saed

Su Xinping, "Busy People No. 1," 2010

I liked the picture of the man walking fast. He was in a rush to help others. But I think he needed to take time for himself. His hair was messy and his clothes were dirty. I believe he can't help others if he is tired and doesn't take care of himself.

Safaa Mohammed Saed

Irving Wiles, "Lady at Fireplace," 1910

She takes out a book every night and reads or looks it over.

She looks through memories by

reading diaries or just looking at albums.

Other nights she reads books that describe the outdoors because her life is indoors now.



Trinity Rivera

Beth Cavener, "The Question that Devours," 2012

I like the wolf. Never be scared of something you don't know the power of because if you use yours, you don't know what powers you have on them, and what they have on you.

Antonio Uriostegui

Jan Holcomb, "The Voyagers," 1985

Once there was a voyager named Till. Till had been to various parts of the world. One day, Till had been exploring somewhere in South America. It was a beautiful place he

was at. He was somewhere near Brazil today. There were beautiful birds and plants. It was a tropical forest, but not completely.



Claudio Uriostegui

Jim Dine, "Ancient Fishing," 1989
(sketch by Claudio)



ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



Odyssey Junior is a great program that helps kids with their knowledge and their interest in books. It also helps them interact with different ethnicities and be more active in writing. ~Karina Gomez



STORY STARTERS



Roselyn Sanchez-Gómez

Once upon a time, Fabu came to Odyssey and insisted that the Explorers write stories for her. There was a table of Explorers that were girls. One of the girls took a really long time to get started and eventually wrote a story like this one. When she was done, she celebrated by taking an hour nap. When she woke up, she found that it was gone! She frantically searched for her notebook which contained her story. Later that day, when she had given up looking for her notebook, she decided it'd be good to go to sleep for the night.



Evan Sanchez-Gómez

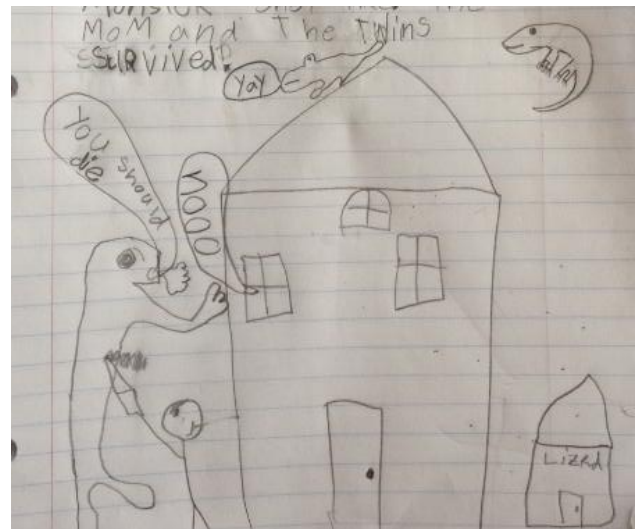
Once upon a time there was an evil brother. He said mean words to me. One night, he fell asleep. He didn't wake up for one day. When he woke up, he could only say nice words to me. He forgot the bad words because he slept so long!



Nasier Emmanuel

Monsters

A monster came in the house because the mom and dad and the twins said monsters are not real. The monster said, "you should die!" The family said, "NOOOOOOOO!" The dad ran when the monster shot fire. The mom and the twins survived.



Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh

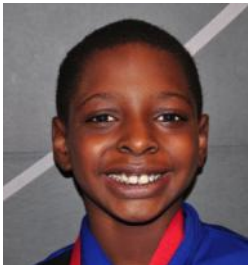
Once upon a time there were two sisters and they were playing at the park. Then a sister and brother dragon came and they had every power. The dragons asked the sisters their names. They were Peach and Daisy. The dragons asked if the sisters would be their friends, but they said, "no." The dragons were furious. They took over the galaxy. They gave the two sisters, Peach and Daisy, anklets that gave them all of the powers. Then the dragons turned the sisters into mermaids. They swam and saw two magical dogs in the sea. Meanwhile, the land on top was in chaos and destruction.



Anna Uriostegui

Wait, No Ice Cream?!

In summer, I woke up and there was no ice cream. First I screamed like crazy and then I watched the news to see if it was really true. After I was done watching the news, I got my backpack and put fruit snacks, two wishes, and a water bottle all in there. I went out the door with my backpack and went outside. I opened my backpack and took out one of my wishes and asked, “where did all of the ice cream go?!” And it will say, “Antarctica!” As soon as I heard that, I went inside and got my winter gear and put it on, but not heavy winter gear and no snow pants. I ran up the hill and got on a bus. “Take me to the airport, please!” I paid the driver \$10. On my way to the airport, I saw sad faces on kids everywhere! No ice cream trucks, and people were losing so many jobs.



Jerry Moore

Once there were two boys named Jimmy and Cole. They were great friends, and they loved books.

Chapter 1: Jimmy to the Rescue

Meanwhile, Doctor Hammy, an evil scientist in his lab, was making a Word-B-Gone-A-Tron6000. Then he zapped a book and all of the words were gone! DUN. DUN. DUN. When the two boys made it to school, they went to the classroom. The teacher wasn't there. Then Bill came over, and he is a bully. He was throwing Cole's books over on the ground. Then Jimmy said, “Pick on someone your own size, Bill. Leave people alone if you're going to bully. If you are going to bully anyone, bully me!” So Bill shoved Jimmy to the ground. When he got up, Bill shoved him again over and over and over. Then the teacher came in and said, “Stop, Bill!”

Chapter 2: School!

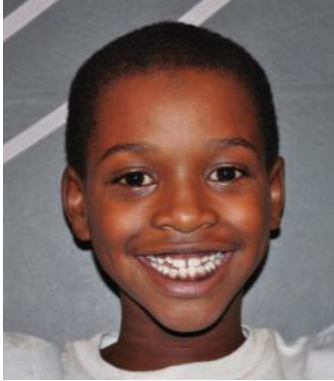
At school, Jimmy and Cole had Math. Then they walked to Science all the way at the end of the hallway. Then they had P.E. and then recess. Then at lunch, Bill took Jimmy's lunch money and then pushed him. Jimmy ignored the bully. After school, Jimmy came to the science room to get his project. Then Bill punched Jimmy's head. Jimmy spilled his project. Then he was super-fast and hit Bill seven times and dashed away like the wind. Some of the project got on Bill, and he turned into an evil flying super villain. He became a minion of Doctor Hammy, the hamster.



Brysen Wills

Run Away Flower

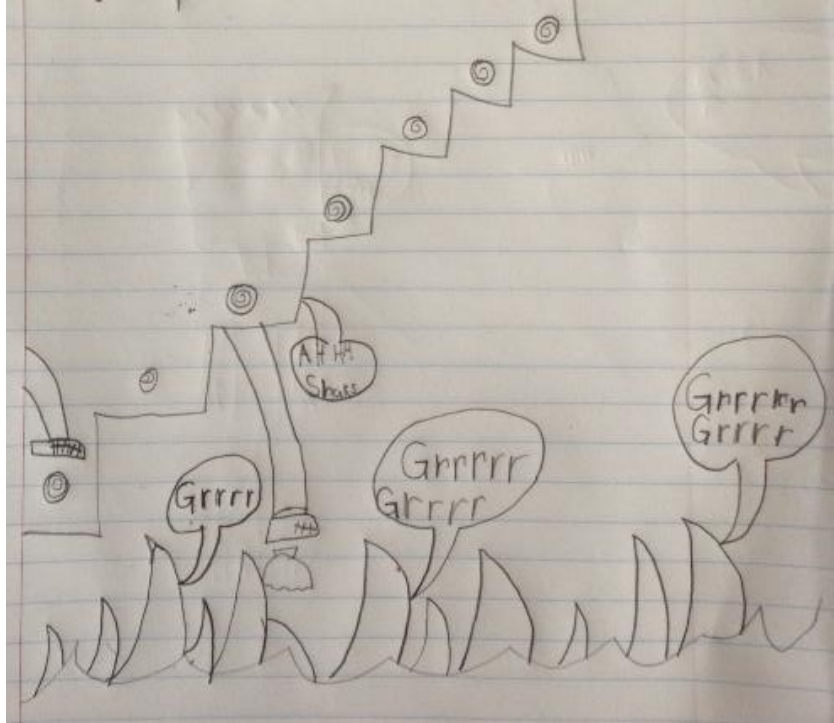
Once upon a time in Minecraft, there was a flower named George. It was a boy. He was 10 years old. His favorite toy was his nerf guns. George's favorite type of food is pizza. That is all the information you need to know about George. Once upon a time, there was a flower. He was terrified of ponds. He was too close to a pond, so he went, Hop, Hop, Hop, to a new spot. Now some more information: he was born in 2005 in Canada. His birthday is February 20th.



Jordan Moore

Shells

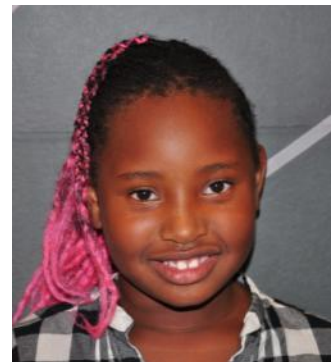
Once upon a time 12 shells were trying to escape humans who were stepping on them! One of them jumped to the sun and one of them jumped into the sea.



Nyjua Emmanuel

That One Cute Girl

Once upon a time there was a cute girl. She had a lot of jewelry. It was her first day of fifth grade. She had to do guided reading, gym, and science. Then she met this one girl and she said, "Hey."



Alan Mendoza

Once upon a time there was this monkey that lost his tooth. It got buried with grass, leaves, and hay. In the night the tooth fairy came and took the tooth and made the monkey turn into a man. The man was furry and strong and friendly, but the problem was that he had no friends. He had no friend because he was dirty. He was dirty because he had mud and hay sticking on him. He never took showers. After a month he took a shower and was clean. He went to school and learned a lot and made a lot of friends. He

was rich and was president, a lawyer, and had lots of houses all around the world because he finished college at the university. He was there for four years.

Jahnla Pigram

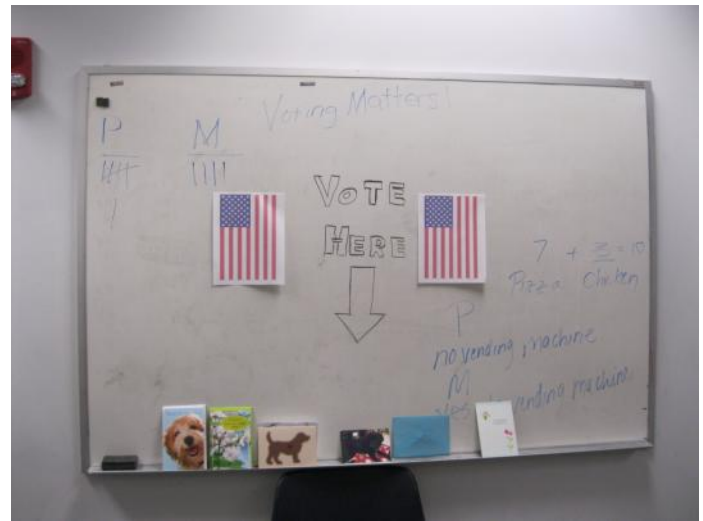
NBA player Stephen Curry is number 30. He is a great basketball player. I want to be like him one day. They could call me "Jahnla Curry, #30."



VOTING MATTERS

The Odyssey Explorers' room was so quiet you could hear your neighbor breathing. Shannon held the last vote in her hand. And then GASP! The room erupted in cheers and jeers. The people had spoken!

That was the scene a few Wednesdays ago when Marian taught the class all about voting. After explaining how it works and why it is so important, Marian had us vote on whether we preferred chicken or pizza. Chris read aloud the story *Duck for President*. Then, the serious election began. Marian had explained the difference between direct voting (when everyone votes on every issue) and indirect voting (when we vote on a person to represent us, with the hope that they will support our beliefs). Now, we were going to experience how that worked.



The two candidates were Pat and Max: Max ran on the “Vending Machines in the Schools” platform, and Pat ran on the “NO Vending Machines in the Schools” ticket. Max spoke first, rousing the crowd with his speech that began, “Who likes candy?” It looked like he had swept the room with his vivid description of

how skittles and pop can provide you with that needed energy when you’re feeling low during a bad day at school. Despite the appearance of a totally uphill battle, Pat nonetheless rallied the crowd with his powerful message that began, “Who likes cavities? Anybody want to see mine?”





After both candidates had presented their side of the issue, Marian informed us that campaign time was over, and it was time for us to each cast our confidential vote. Poll booths were set up away from the crowd to minimize outside influences, although one candidate (who shall remain nameless) continued to shamelessly campaign with the flamboyance of someone who was sure he would win.

When everyone had voted, Shannon pulled the votes out of the ballot box one at a time and read them off as Marian tallied them on the board. It was close, so close. Those who wanted vending machines in the schools, voted for Max (M) and those who did not want them voted for Pat (P). Odyssey Explorers, though divided, had voted for the No Vending Machines in the Schools candidate, Pat (P).



And so another election is over. The Explorers learned that voting means you can participate in decisions that affect you and your life. They also learned that ONE vote can make a difference. Now, our Explorers call on all of you to remember to VOTE – every election! Your children are depending upon you!

Reported by Chris Wagner

DOGS LOVE READING



I wanted to give a HUGE thanks to Chris Wagner and the rest of the Odyssey staff for their support and wonderful work bringing the participating kids in Explorers to us for the Read To A Dog program. We have loved working with you and with the amazing kids these past several months. It has been fun and

rewarding. As one of the UW students said Wednesday night, we saw the kids grow in their reading skills, too!! We also thank you so much for the beautiful and useful dog blankets that the kids made as a service learning project and that we use now in many of our pet therapy programs.

We look forward to future adventures and programs with you, the Odyssey staff, and kids in the future. Have a wonderful summer!!

Best Wishes,

Stephanie Smith, Danny and Rachel, the Collies

Judy Barbian and Roxy, the Black Lab

Ann Koski and KD (for Kupie Doll), the Sheltie

Wendy Kuzma and Dublin and Yahtzee, the Yellow Labs

Colleen Getty and Bailey, the Golden Retriever

Holly Stadler and KC (for Kansas City), the Cockapoo

Pam Prestegard and Rocky, The Gordon Setter



ODYSSEY JUMPSTART

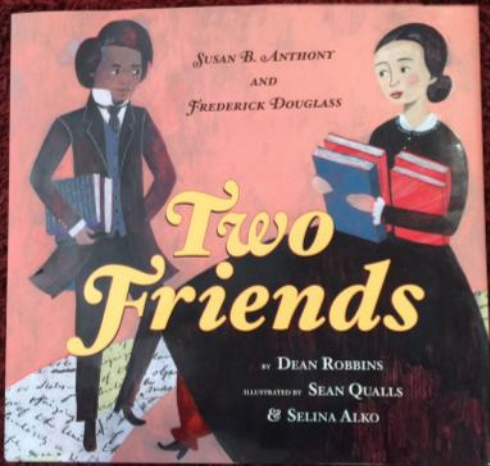
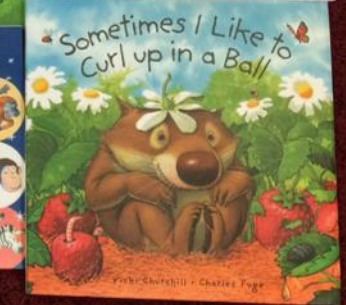
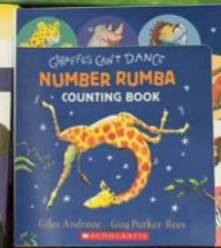
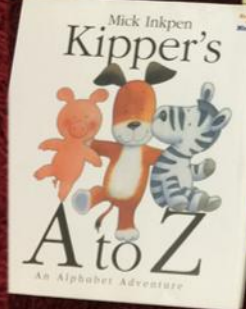
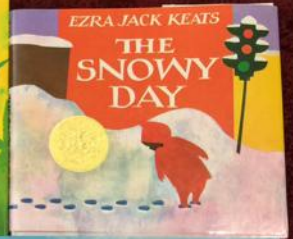
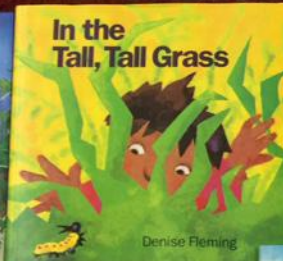
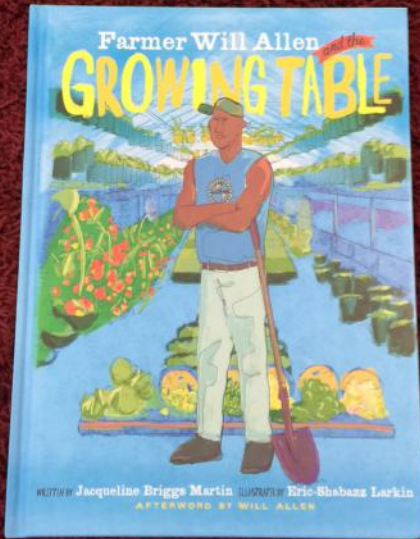


My daughter is more inspired to read and go to school.
~Brandice Hatcher





Amelia talks about her friends and teachers. She's "excited to go to college on Wednesday nights." ~Ashley Wills



Thanks to
Literally Arts for
a treasury of
books for every
Jumpstart child!



ODYSSEY JUNIOR PARENTS

Always when my kids are back home from Odyssey, they have a lot to talk about. I didn't know who was talking because all of them talk at the same time. My kids like all of the guests that visit. They also like the books they get. I feel that they like everything and enjoy every minute. My kids were shy and didn't like talking with others. Now, I feel Odyssey has helped them break out of their shyness and make new friends. **(Shaimaa Ahmed)**



Odyssey Junior helped Santana develop his writing skills. He was already interested in poetry, but he became a more independent writer. Mileena loves to read books even more now. She'll take initiative and grab a book and come sit on my lap and ask me to read to her. Mileena is more social with other children, and Odyssey Junior sparked Santana's creativity. **(Arkeshia Sallay)**

My kids enjoy and love 'college,' as they call Odyssey Junior, LOL. **(Betty Emmanuel)**



Tyelle really enjoyed the conversation with other students. He also talked about being challenged. Tyelle liked reading what I wrote in the Oracle. A change I see is that he is much more respectful and open minded when discussing the treatment of women. This is a great environment for children to socialize without their media devices. It is rooted in love, care and education. **(Tory Latham)**

Zaria talked about how she was always ready to go to school with her mom. She loves to read and meet new people. She loves how she feels like she is in college and it gives her bedtime books. My daughter is more inspired to read and go to school. **(Brandice Hatcher)**

I am often shocked and very proud of actually how insightful and empathetic and opinionated about current issues Olivia is. Olivia does have a love and appreciation of the gifts of books, visits, and experiences that she has received from Odyssey Junior. Now, I must confess, I have taken the beautiful book she received by the local author [Dean Robbins] and "suggested" that we keep it out here "with Momma's special books." I believe Olivia, much like myself, has flourished by just being allowed to "bask" in the positive energy that is created each time we come together. And that alone, to me, is very valuable for her to take away as she returns to her school. **(Lisa Partee)**

They really liked meeting Will Allen. Anna loved getting the chance to plant her own veggies and herbs. She watches over them every day like they are babies. Anna also really enjoyed “Reading to a Dog.” The Oracle was very important to both the children and me. It is so wonderful to see my children’s voice put onto paper. They are even more proud to be able to share it. Since starting Odyssey Junior, my kids have become stronger and more creative writers. If you believe in Odyssey, then you must believe in Odyssey Junior. This program helps form and mold children to become lovers of reading and writing, while helping them discover the world around them. **(Nissa Uriostegui)**



My child, Keziah Bester, enjoys and talks about each and every single class when she arrives home, from the theme of the class to the teacher’s positive life lessons and educational guidance of creative encouragement that empowered her writings skills, time management skills, thought skills, and organizational skills. She was excited and empowered by her classmates’ presence in her life each week also. Keziah received new books and visits from guests. Oracles with her and her classmates’ writings made her feel so encouraged and empowered within a space all her own. She felt she positively belonged, grew, and learned through a community of love, respect, and educational freedom of endless creativity. **(Sherri Bester)**



Amelia talks about her friends and teachers. She’s “excited to go to college on Wednesday nights.” Brysen likes the food and meeting new people. He says he makes friends everywhere he goes. Brysen enjoys reading his books from class to his sister. He also enjoyed reading with the dog. I think that my son Brysen has shown respect and love for other people of color because at his school, it is predominantly white. I also think he enjoys reading more.

(Ashley Wills)

They enjoy the creativity and the painting, and my daughter loves the free books. She seems to enjoy reading more. Even though my kids are young, every bit of encouragement or engagement helps. My daughter loves picking up a book and telling her story, which I think is amazing. **(Jayvonna Flemming)**



They enjoyed the opportunity they had to read to a dog, visit the museum, write and read all the books. They enjoyed the food and the opportunity to share with other kids. My kids came home with books from visits from guests. They were excited because these books were signed by the guests. One thing they remember a lot is the visit from the dogs and the opportunity they had to go and visit the museum and have it all just for themselves. I love that they had their own Oracles with their writing. My kids enjoy reading more and they also had the opportunity to write and share their ideas. They came home confident and excited to come back the following week and always guessed what the next subject will be. Odyssey Junior is a great program that helps kids with their knowledge and their interest in books. It also helps them interact with different ethnicities and be more active in writing. Also, the teachers and people in charge of Odyssey Junior are good with kids. **(Karina Gómez)**



Alleanah has thoroughly enjoyed all activities. She especially enjoys author's chair and doing the writing prompts. Seeing her work published in the Oracles gives her a sense of pride in her writing. This has been an excellent experience and we appreciate the opportunity for her to participate. Odyssey Explorers has been an excellent experience for Alleanah. She has grown so much academically through the Odyssey Explorers program. I look forward to submitting an application for Odyssey Junior (Teens) when she reaches the age group for the program. **(Sharisse Hancock)**

My children enjoyed making new friends, and they especially enjoyed getting new books for me to read to them. They also enjoyed coming every week! They talk about it every day! They definitely enjoy getting new books every week. They enjoy having guests and playing music. They liked the girls that would come take pictures and help them with coloring! They know how to play better with other kids. They had never been in childcare or out of my sight until Odyssey Junior. They loved getting books, eating, and making friends. They even play together better! And while they play, they

play school and read their books from Odyssey! I think there should be another year of Odyssey Junior! Why not? It is very helpful and it creates a good learning environment, at Odyssey and at home. Odyssey Junior helps families out. It has helped me because I have two babies and no one to help me, or to even watch them while I attend school. This opportunity that Odyssey has set up with childcare while we attend class is the best thing in the world. I appreciate it a lot!! Thank you, Emily, Kevin and the Odyssey team. **(Tasha Thompson)**

I am grateful for the opportunity of Odyssey Junior. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about my child and her gifts. **(Eunice Conley)**

We love the Odyssey Junior program. I really think that having authors come in and read their books to the children is amazing. My daughter has come home many nights and was excited to share what they were doing in class. Kamya appreciates that she can come on Wednesdays and get homework help and make new friends. Kamya has even finished up her writing activities and gone to help those next to her that struggled. By the way, all the books were amazing!!! I have actually stayed and done homework and enjoyed the interactions and the books. Fabu read her book and even sang with the children, and Kamya loved it! Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table was awesome Kamya planted peppers and cucumbers, and they have been growing!! And when family members come over, they can't believe she is growing herself some veggies. I was there when Dean Robbins visited and read Two Friends, and it was perfect. The kids are all aware of the issues in the community, and they all still stated ways to make their community better. Kamya's reading level is above where she needs to be, so thank you all for the extra books and writing offered on Wednesdays!! **(Michelle Conley)**



My daughter Aa'laisa loves dress up clothes, doing art, and dance. She loves all her books that she has. She was very happy and ready to read them. My child loves coming to Odyssey and loves the things that she does in Odyssey Junior. I think there should be another year of Odyssey Junior because it helped me a lot. My daughter loves going to Odyssey Junior every Wednesday night. She cries sometimes when I pick her up because she is not ready to go home. At home, my daughter now sits in bed with me and says, 'Mom, I'm doing homework just like you.' When I hear her say that, it just gives me the chills. I want to say thank you to Odyssey and Odyssey Junior for this amazing journey of education. (**Jalisa Galvin**)



The Odyssey Junior program benefited my children in many ways, all of which I am very pleased to brag about. In the months they have participated, I've seen my children's sense of self confidence rise. They think in more creative ways and have developed stronger social skills.

Exposure to cultural diversity helped my children feel more like they have a place where they belong. It has been invaluable to have adult staff who my children relate to as positive, invaluable role models, as is having peers who can tell them about living in another county, speaking another language, and eating foods with flavors unknown to them.

All of my children have shown an increased interest in writing, art, and language. My children's excitement in telling each other about a poem they've written or a new word they've learned really let me know that they were being enriched. It wasn't just childcare—it was so much more to them. Odyssey has motivated my children to continue their love for literature and to find more ways to express themselves.

When a step they have been struggling with is mastered, they will have a newfound confidence to realize that hard work, perseverance, and pursuing goals will be worth it! This can even give children a new motivation and reason to complete high school and graduate!

Odyssey Junior is a safe, nurturing environment that incorporates literature, discussion of ideas, songs, and art into a well-rounded enrichment program. It also reinforced social skills I encourage in my children such as working together with others, being a team, and engaging their critical thinking. One day when my children are adults, I think they will give credit to Odyssey Junior for enhancing their lives. Thank You! (**Tamara Thompson Moore**)