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Odyssey Junior Teens
From Yemi Harding:
Dear Tosumba, Thank you for always being there. You irritate me to the fullest, but you will always take care of me. Thank you so much because without you I would not have had a chance to enroll into this amazing program. Odyssey has been a breath of fresh air, and I have met so many people because of YOU. I hope that you fulfill all of your educational dreams because you got that, Juju Baby!

From Chochoma Harding:
Dear T-Dog, thank you for Odyssey. I appreciate it. It is a good place to be. The food is good, and the people are nice too. Thank you for this opportunity.

From Denaria ‘Nari’ Rowe:
Dear Dad, Joining Odyssey with you has helped me develop more as a writer and just as a human being. Not only has the program helped me, but you have, too. You taught me a lot. One thing you’ve taught me was that people can and will change. It sucks that you started this journey by yourself, but now that I’m here, I hope we can finish it together. I LOVE YOU. Love, Nari.

From Tyelle Latham:
Dear Dad, I’m grateful for you being the best Dad in the world, for being there and helping me play soccer and putting me in the 56ers so I can get better. Also I’m grateful to you for going back to school and doing all your homework.

From Janiya Price:
Dear Grandma, I appreciate you getting me in Odyssey Junior. I know you worked hard when you were in Odyssey, and I am going to work as hard as you did. Thank you.
From Claudio Uriostegui:
Dear Mom, how has Odyssey affected you? It’s affected me a lot. It can be used for a good review for college. This class has also taught me a lot of things that will be useful. Thanks for sending me. I have noticed a few things have changed in you. You have been smarter about what you do. You plan ahead and get to events earlier than needed. You got a great job through MMSD. I’m really glad you got into Odyssey. Love, Claudio

From Santana James:
Dear Mom and Dad, I love what you guys do for me. You buy me clothes, shoes. Being in Odyssey has made you smile more, talk more, laugh more. Dad works harder on art and studying more.

From Jocelyn Moore:
Dear Mama, You are the best mom anyone could ever have. You are smart, caring and open to ideas, you learn and listen. You have the most creative mind, and you can forgive. You are everything a girl could ask for. And I noticed something that I never said—“thank you.” I should have said thank you a long time ago. So, thank you, Mama, and I love you with all my soul. Love, Jojo (#Emoji Girl)

From Aiah’Neanna Thomas:
What I like about Odyssey. They give us free food that is good. They give us fun opportunities and they help us learn things we don’t know and how they work. I love to come to have the almost same experience as my sweet mother and some relatives. We also have fun learning things from our science teacher named Mrs. Beverly. She taught us about body cells and the digestive system and our brains.

From Maka Chikowero:
Dear Mom, Thank you for greeting me every day with a cheerful smile or “good morning.” Thank you for helping me when I have a problem. Thank you for just being here for me when I need you. I really, really, really, appreciate it! I LOVE YOU! Love, Maka

P.S. When you were in Odyssey I noticed that you were really happy writing. When you came home you were eager to tell us (the rest of the family) what new things you did in your class, and I enjoyed listening to it every time.
Eight Years From Now

Olivia Partee
Eight years from now I will be in college at Spellman getting my second degree and becoming a doctor. I will solve problems by understanding people’s stories. Some qualities I would have are self-confidence, understanding, and compassion. Here are some people who would help me reach this goal: my mom, my sister, TT, and Sagashus.

Dianna Murray
Eight years from now I will be in a classroom. I want to be teaching my students that their small actions can change the world. I want to be teaching real American History. I want to teach my students about how much their voices matter. Eight years from now I will be happy in my own skin, master the art of black hair, and show others that beauty is not only skin deep.

Abdul Mohammed Saed
Eight years from now I will be 20 years old and in college. I hope to be studying to be a policeman. As a policeman I can protect people. Many people think Islam is equal to terrorism, but Islam means “peace” and is peaceful. As a policeman I can help people and show that Islam is about peace. A terrorist could be from any religion, not just Islam.
Claudio Uriostegui
College, Computer Science, Engineer, Getting money, Madison. When I grow up, I want my kids to have the schooling I never had—that they solve problems, not worry about them in the middle of the night, looking right up thinking about how it could be better. For now, though, I hear all these jokes about government, money, and terrorists, and it makes me laugh because it masks the truth that we don’t want to see. Every time we look at the world, we see the truth, but we turn away from it again and make believe with the jokes and lies, making it another laughing matter.

Safaa Mohammed Saed
The biggest problem that is facing my family is education. Basically it is about what choices my brother and I are making now and how it will affect our education—or, it’s more about my older brother and sister and about who they will be.

A problem that is facing my community, I guess, is racism. People have different opinions about it, and it is being discussed a lot, especially in schools.

A problem that is facing my country is ISIS. They call themselves the “Islamic State of Iraq and Syria,” and I think that this is not fair. People from Iraq and Syria hate ISIS, except the closed-minded people. They call themselves Muslims, but I totally disagree because Islam is not based on killing others who disagree with your opinions.

Anyway, when it comes to thinking about a problem that is facing the world, you can’t find it right away because I feel like the world is like a game that will never end from anything bad. In eight years I will be 22, and I think that the problems that are going on now will still go on, and more. I will try to change the world by speaking out loud and saying what is not being spoken. That requires that I become brave, confident, and responsible, and I should gain that from my parents.
Santana James
In eight years I am playing college football for the Oregon Ducks, number 15, green and yellow with cleats to match. All the fans are yelling my name. Why? I’m catching one-handed touchdowns, studying to be a veterinarian, helping animals and people’s pets, traveling across the world with my friends, being the #1 person and team going to the championship, and winning the state finals with all the trophies on my shelf.

Yemi Harding
In eight short years I’ll be 21. I’ll be able to drive, go to college, work, and many other things. But despite all of those wonderful things, there are problems now. There is resentment in my home, blindness in my community, unawareness in my country, and money in the world. I worry because I know that in the future there will be another problem—greed. That is the direction we are headed. What I have the courage to do now, and hope I still will have in eight years, is to raise awareness. I’m not good at organizing protests and groups, but I do talk and argue. I will argue my point strongly. The qualities I will need for that are persistence, courage, and to be educated on the problem. I think that I would need help from my mother and siblings, my superiors and my leaders. I know that I could never single-handedly change the world’s views, but with the help of my peers I would give them something to feel guilty about.

In eight years I’ll be 21. I hope I will be in my last years of college. I will be applying to Law School at UW-Madison. I will have friends from multiple cultures who support me and are good influences on me. I hope to have self-love and new experiences. I would like to be a good role model and to never experiment with alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. I want life to be about living instead of waiting for death.
Keziah Bester
Problems are something we all have experience with. When it comes to my family, a big challenge is illness because no one ever wants to see their loved ones sick. Illness can strike at any time, any moment, and sometimes it is out of your control, and that is what scares me. When it comes to my community, poverty and crime are major problems, but on the good side we all come together as one in times of need. When it comes to this country, cooperation and miscommunication are big problems which lead to the world’s problem, which is people. People are the ones who create the problems but don’t use the great minds they were given to solve those problems.

Eight years from now I will focus on a career helping to solve these problems, a career in science or criminal justice to help strengthen the community. But whatever path I take, it will take these three things: persistence, generosity, and wisdom to help me succeed.

Dauntrea Vance
In eight years I see myself successful and happy. I graduated from college to pursue my career as an international entrepreneur owning my own music label. I plan on producing inspirational and magical music in my studios. Not only do I have a rewarding career but also general happiness.

Maka Chikowero
In eight years I think I will be going to an Ivy League College getting really good grades, still playing soccer and doing swim team, eager to bring home the gold. I think for a job I’ll be a professional swimmer or soccer player, author, artist, or anything my heart will desire when I’m older. Only my future will hold that secret.
Denaria Rowe
In eight years I will be 21. I see myself living in an apartment and finishing up school. I think I will have a good job to provide for myself.

Sometimes when I’m by myself I think about very deep things. Sometimes I think about my family, which is filled with lots of stress, deaths, and greed right now. Or sometimes I think about things going on in my community, like teen pregnancy, homeless people, uneducated people, and people who just don’t care.

Eight years from now, I want to be somewhere successful and happy. I want to be done with school/college and be on my way to becoming involved in law or science, whether criminal justice or biology. I just want to be on track to have a good job that I like and enjoy doing. I feel like right now this world is very messed up. There have been lots of climate changes, and I think that if we keep destroying the earth there will be no more of it. The reason all of this is happening to the world is because of this society. There’s a big problem with race, and there are lots of wars being started. People need to understand that Earth is the only place we have, and if we destroy it and each other, the human race will end, and Earth will be an empty place.

I got asked, “What problem do you think you will face eight years from now?” My answer to that would be work, family issues, and dating issues. With the world, it would be water and climate change. I was also asked what three qualities I would need to solve these problems. I think I would need lots of passion, bravery, and cleverness.

There are lots of people that can help me and inspire me, but the people I think will be the most help would be my mother, Alicia, my friends, and the people in my community. With lots of help and support, I feel like I can do whatever I put my mind to.

Antonio Uriostegui
My name is Antonio. In eight years I will try to solve the problem of pollution by planting more trees, driving a car less often, or selling my car when I have enough money to start riding on the bus. Finally, I should recycle more often rather than throwing away recyclables.
Tyelle Latham
In eight years I’m going to be in England playing for Newcastle. I’m going to take the World Cup trophy home to Brazil.

JaQuez McAlister
One future problem I could have eight years from now (I’ll be 22) is finding a high-paying career in the field that I want to get into. My solution is finding a great college and getting my grades better now so I can go. One reason I joined Odyssey is because it makes me look good to big Division 1 schools. One of the things is being a player in the field. What I need for that is to have power, smarts, and athleticism. A person that can guide me in this is my brother Shareff Smith, who played for JMM Varsity B-Ball. He has lots of sports traits.

In eight years I’m going to be doing something with technology on the Western coast, or a big goal for me is something in the sports world. Also I want to be the first in my family to graduate from a Division 1 college or university or maybe working with kids that are living in poverty and inventing something to help the black community. For all the goals I have in life or making the setup process of my life, I have to make not good but great CHOICES in life and surround myself with good, hardworking people.

Aiah’Neanna Thomas
I will be rich and fresh and fleek.
Jocelyn Moore
In eight years I will be sitting in an apartment building in China, getting ready for another day in college. Walking down the block onto the school campus, with the biggest smile on my face, I will be talking to the neighbors and having a great time. I will also be working hard and thoughtfully so I can study up on mechanics, auto body, and engineering so that I can invent hovercars and make this world an even better place, but in a green way.

A problem that I will face when I am 21 will be many things, for example smoking, pollution, racism, and sexism. I mean, really?!

I will solve these problems by, one, giving them the facts about what they’re doing. I will wake them up and tell them what is happening to our place that we call home. And when I’m through, they will definitely stop what they’re doing!

Three qualities that I’ll need to accomplish these goals are courage, pride, and intelligence (meaning awesome education). The people in my life who will help me accomplish these goals are my mom, my dad, brothers, sister, Sagashus, everyone in Odyssey (yes, including Cho) and everyone who chooses to think about these problems (the people who care).

I’m not going to sit around and waste my chance to make the world better. I’m gonna “Just Do It.” P.S. Hey, Ma!

Fernando Cacahua
Discrimination is a huge problem in today’s world and will be for the rest of our own personal lives. We might see ourselves as innocent people giving no harm to others. Just by our skin color tone, we are judged just by our appearance. In eight years, I hope to see myself hopefully alive. My parents always tell me that education is the key to succeed in the future.

Education is key to helping yourself and even others with education. It helps you see different perspectives and easily accept others. Without the proper education, a person only has one view of people and the world itself.
RESPONDING TO AND WRITING POETRY

Fire and Ice
By Robert Frost
Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I’ve tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Will the world end in fire or ice? Who knows—the world could end in fire or ice. We could be frozen in ice and be lawn gnomes to a giant, or we could burn and be life size puppets to aliens that live in another galaxy. Or we could suffer both ways.

Maka Chikowero

Magical Eraser
By Shel Silverstein
She wouldn’t believe
This pencil has
A magical eraser.
She said I was a liar too,
She dared me prove that it was true,
And so what could I do—
I erased her!

When I read I thought about how if someone says I can’t do something and then I show them that I can. Or it also reminds me of when I cut someone off and they turn invisible to me.

JaQuez McAlister

My favorite part of the poem “The Poet” by Yone Noguchi is when it says “something perfect.” In this part of the poem it is signaling that she sees this person, in her eyes, as perfect. Another part that I like about this poem is the part when it says “a sparkling mystery, a shape.”

Jocelyn Moore
Let It Be Remembered
By Claudio Uriostegui
Let it be remembered,
Like the flower in the
Bouquet from the wedding,
Remembered like the
Fire that I met
Her by and sang
Camp-songs with
Let it be remembered
She was a good friend
I grew old with,
If anyone asks,
I say she is remembered,
Long ago to today,
As a flower, a hushing mother,
And,
A long remembered fire,
On that,
Long,
Cold,
Winter fieldtrip.
I sit alone in the game room
In the back of the retirement home,
Always joining a quick game of Black Jack.
But,
I go back to my room
Light the fireplace,
Water my flowers,
Call my kids,
Read a book,
Enjoy dinner,
And go to bed

She Never Believed
By Yemi Harding
She never believed that
she was beautiful. Everyone told
her she was beautiful; her mother,
father, friends and even the nice police
officer that talked her off the ledge.

Every day when she woke in
the morning she would rush to the
mirror to see if she became even
pretty, but every day was an even
larger disappointment.

One day she met the devil
disguised as a handsome young
man, he told her that
she was beautiful. She continued to
disagree and he watched her
self-hate grow deeper and deeper.

One night the devil snuck
in her room and cast a spell
upon her and when she woke
and looked in the mirror, her
eyes met horror. She
regretted her choices and left
town from shame. The girl
was never seen again.
Out of the Deep and Dark
By Aiah’Neanna Thomas
Out of the deep and dark
I dare to hear dogs bark
My home has a park!
I don’t know the word lark
Usually if you get hit it leaves a mark
Some say the world will end in five
I know that beezy live in a hive
People love to not lie
If you do God will be wise
I love to try to work real hard
People love sending b-day cards
I hate the store Menards
Columbus said the world was round
and I hate to see animals in the pound
There was a bus called the greyhound
Dogs are cute when they are brown
I’ve seen a dog crown in the song FLAWLESS
Beyonce said, bow down!
I can tell you, boys and
Girls, you should know who runs
This world, me! You know I love
Pink and always on fleek. And if you
Wanna see, go.

This Started as One Word
By Denaria Rowe
This started out as one word.
Next came a big herd of words,
but it still all started out from one word.
I’m probably being misheard,
but it’s not that complicated.
IT ALL STARTED OUT WITH ONE WORD!!!

It Started Out as Kicking a Ball
By Tyelle Latham
It started out as kicking a ball
You probably think I play
But it started out as kicking a ball
You probably think I play
I Am Magic
By Santana James:
I am magic but people say it is tragic.
Everyone knows I have it.
My favorite power is flying,
everyone thinks I’m lying.
My friend was crying
because his dad was dying.

Jumping Rope
By Shel Silverstein
This started out as a jumping rope
You prob’ly think that
I’m a dope
But this started out as a jumping rope
And now I fear there is no hope
But this started out as a jumping rope.

This Started as a Jump Rope
By Janiya Price
This started as a jump rope
You’d probably think that I’m dope but
Since that incident we haven’t been the same
But this started out as a regular jump rope
But now I feel there is no hope for me
And him but this started out as a jump rope
I have super strength,
I got the top rank.
My name is Fred but he got hurt
because he fell off his bed.
I Have a Big Head
By Chochoma Harding
I have a big head so I said
I am going to call Fred
because Jake is dead.
Now I think of red
and I am going to get some thread
to fix my bed so Ted said so I dread.

I Have This Dime
By Chocoma Harding
I have this dime so I bust my rime
when I have time and Optimist Prime
said my rime was as bad as Krime,
so I am going to Prime time
why I’m a Lime with my Dime.

(Illustration by Claudio Uriostegui)

This Is Me
By Jaleah Price

My family, religion, gender, race and beliefs make me whole.
I am female, and female I will always be.
Yes, it is a man’s world, but women are the heart of the world.
I am African American and am always reminded that I am.
I will always be looked at, passed over, and assumed incapable
of reaching my dreams.
I accept this for what it is, but will never let this settle because I
know I can do all things I put my mind to.
I will use being a female in a man’s world and being African
American in an unaccepting world as an advantage. An
advantage to prove to all those who doubt me wrong.
I won't let these physical characteristics stop me from receiving
my blessing and reaching my many dreams.
It does not matter what your gender and race is, but it's about your capabilities, mindset, and faith.

I am one of millions living in poverty, but poverty does not live in me.
I am rich. Richer than what the eyes can see.
I am rich with knowledge, hope, faith, and determination.
I am rich in my soul, mindset, and integrity.
I don't live with luxury but instead love. Lots of LOVE.
At times I fall, break down, and cry when the storm is too strong to bear and I feel as if it's my
time to lay to rest.
But My Lord steps in and lifts my head, and again I am filled with determination to make it.

I stand strong when the hardships pour in and attempt to destroy me. I stand strong with the help
of my family.
My momma’s mistakes and my grandma’s faith give me the encouragement, push, stamina, and
guidance I need to keep my head above water.
Momma’s lived a life of selfishness and pain. Momma has brought the bittersweetness of danger
and love into my life.
Even though I will always be scared by her poor decisions, I love her unconditionally and always
will.
It's because of her I learned what hurt was at a young age.
It's because of her that I have a developed good morals because all her mistakes have shown me
what not to do because I know what great pain they cause.
It's because of her that I know how my decisions can affect one greatly and can alter a life
dramatically.
Grandma’s constant prayers, cries at night, size 10 shoes, long black hair, and beautiful smile have
kept me encouraged and hopeful about the future.
I can always depend on my grandma for whatever I need. I know she puts herself aside and puts
me first. And for this I love her so much.
Her soul sings beautifully and at times her words can sting, but this is what keeps me in check.
She reminds me of where I'm going and why I will make it. Her words, “I'm proud of you,” bring
joy to my soul.
It is because of my grandma that I am determined to make it because she has done so much for
me and I have seen her overcome so many of life’s lows.

I am who I am today and who I will be tomorrow and the day
after next and the days after because of God, the pain and
hardships I have overcome, being an African American
female, and being a child from poverty.

My hardships and pain have made me strong.
My God and faith has keeps me hopeful.
Momma teaches me what path not to take.
And Grandma shows me how to love, how to be strong, how
to keep faith through trials and tribulations, and shows my
hope every time I look into her brown eyes. She has taught
me how important education is and has told me education
is for me and I am just right for education.
For all of this I am thankful.

I am the face of the future.
Animation Scripts

These scripts accompany videos students created with the help of Goodman South Madison teen librarian Beth McIntyre.

Jocelyn Moore
Hero: Nature
Villain: Technology
Main point: getting out of the house, off games, is healthier for your brain.
Moral: Nature is special.

Boy: Hey, Emily, why won’t you go outside?”
Girl: “I want to keep playing on my phone.”
Boy: “Okay, suit yourself.”

Janiya Price
My short film is about being yourself and that you shouldn’t change yourself for anyone. That’s my superhero. My villain is not being yourself and being afraid to express yourself.

Maka Chikowero
An alien ship came to planet earth. It was broken, and the aliens didn’t think it would fly again. No one would help them. A small group of earthlings came across the ship and were friendly to the aliens. They became friends and fixed the ship. The aliens flew away back to their home.
Hero: Kind people.
Villain: People who won’t help others.
Main point: Everyone needs help sometimes.
Moral: Be kind.

Olivia Partee
Hero: Queen Beyoncé
Villain: Janiya
Main point: Beyoncé is trying to win Janiya over.
Moral: You don’t have to like the person, but you should try new experiences.

Chochoma Harding
Hero: Big object – stands up to the bully
Villain: small object – is mean and a bully and beats up on other things
Main Point: bullying is not okay
Safaa Mohammed Saed
Chasing a Path
The story is about a guy who is at a stage of finding which way to go. It is either what people ask him to be or just following his heart and what HE thinks is right. One day he was thinking about going to school, and his fellow gangster was waiting for him outside; which way would he go? Would he go with the gangster to do some crimes for the day, or would he go to school and be a more successful kid? But, of course, he didn’t think about it that way.

He is going out of his house not sure where to go, but here’s how it happens: his gangster friend gets arrested for doing a crime. And since he sees that arrest, now he knows which way to go. He just had to make sure where to go!

Antonio Uriostegui
Moral: Crime doesn’t pay.
Hero: Me
Villain: Mr. Rex
Point: Stop Mr. Rex from destroying the city and robbing banks in town.

Story: A hero is born. I came on a ship from planet Halo. Mr. Rex is my enemy, and I came to save earth. Mr. Rex is robbing a bank. Heroes are too old to fight crime. Then suddenly I come, and Mr. Rex (Rex for short) is gone. I practice against zombies. I get more armor, and soon I fight Rex; soon I kill Rex. THE END.

Claudio Uriostegui
From the dark came a light—no source, just there. But it was not bright enough, so it made a fire. Everything was nothing, so the light dug through nothing and planted an acorn. That light gave it grass and water to grow till it was big enough to defeat the villain.

A car, just one, caused the villain Pollution to grow and grow until he was a towering giant above the trees. But the tree wasn’t scared, he started breathing in and out, in and out, and Pollution started to get smaller and smaller until he was nothing.

Stop Pollution; plant a tree.
Odyssey Explorers
Jahnila Pigram

Evan Sanchez-Gómez
My favorite food is pizza. It tastes good.

Elijah Richmond
My favorite food is pizza. I like it because it’s good.

Jerry Moore
My favorite food is pineapple.
They usually grow in the summer: my favorite season.
They’re in a very weird shape.
They’re very sweet and juicy.
They’re healthy and very good.
I like other fruits, but pineapples to me are the best.
It’s my brother’s favorite color: green.
It takes a while to grow.
When Jordan and our family moved to a farm, we grew pineapples.
It’s fun to pick.
They’re one amazing fruit.

Anna Uriostegui
My favorite drink is a strawberry banana milk shake with whipped cream and a cherry on top! And do you know why I like that drink? First, because I love those bursting flavors in my mouth! Those bananas are just perfect and ripe and give that little blast, and those strawberries just give that flavor! Yum Yum! Whipped-cream: that just looks pretty and good, same for the cherry. That’s why I like strawberry and banana milk shake with whipped cream and a cherry at the top!

Roselyn Sanchez-Gómez
One of my favorite foods is my mom’s strawberry milk shake because it is sweet but not too sweet, and it is homemade. It is even more delicious with whipped cream on top. My second favorite food is tamales because I like how spicy they are. But I don’t like just any tamales. I love them when they are made by my grandma.
Lanasha Moten
My favorite food is nachos. I like spicy cheese. I like the crunchy chips. I also like pizza, especially with pepperoni. I like to have cookies after pizza.

Ryland English
My favorite food is hot chips because they taste good.

Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh
Bananas are my favorite food because:
You can bake a banana cream pie.
You can make banana chips.
You can make banana juice.
You can make banana cakes.
You can make banana cupcakes.
You can make a banana split.
You can eat a banana with peanut butter.
You can just have a plain banana.
You can make a banana smoothie.

Jordan Moore
Chapter One.
My favorite food is carrots because they have vitamins in them.

Chapter Two.
I like to dip my carrots in ranch dressing.

JaVon McAlister
My favorite food is macaroni pizza because macaroni and pizza are so good together. The best part about macaroni pizza is the cheese.

Brysen Wills
My favorite food is snow. I make it into a ball and then eat it. It tastes cold. I like it because it feels good on my teeth.
If I had a farm, I would grow watermelon, carrots, apples and cherries. These are all things I like to eat. My favorite is watermelon. I would sell the watermelon, but also give some to my family. I would like to have a farm in the country.

If I was a farmer, I would grow sugar cane. After I had grown the sugar cane, I would sell it to a farmer’s market, and then I would use all the money I earned to invest in candy making machines. Next, I would sell the candy that I made for money to spend on stuff I want.

I would plant a carrot so I could eat all of the vitamins from it. Carrots are good.

If I had a farm or a garden, I would grow all kinds of things, including fruit and wheat, grain, dairy, and all food so I can share with cities, counties, and states so I can be important to other continents. Then, I can share with the world. And I will be helpful to everyone that needs me. I can give advice to other farmers or gardeners and share my gifts to the world.
NyJua Emmanuel
If I was a farmer, I would grow apples, carrots, oranges, grapes, pears, strawberries. Now I want to talk about vegetables like tomatoes, potatoes, and squash. I like to eat separately. Now I want to talk about flowers like daisies, sunflowers, holly hock, roses, tulips. I think flowers make us happy. Last but not least, I want to grow pumpkins and peonies.

Elijah Richmond
In my garden I would grow cherries there. I would grow cherries so I don’t have to buy them.

Lanasha Moten
If I were a farmer, I would grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers. I would grow fruit because it is very healthy for you. I like strawberries, grapes and red and green apples. I would grow vegetables like carrots and beans. I would grow daisies, sunflowers and roses. I think it is important to grow flowers because some insects pollinate them.

Evan Sanchez-Gómez
If I was a farmer, I would grow apples because I love them and because I could sell them for lots of money.

Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh
Apples
If I were a farmer, I would grow apples, bananas, oranges, and cherries because I love fruit. And I could make fruit salads and I could make fruit pie too. I’d love to share fruit with my friends and family. And I could even sell my fruit. And fruit is healthy for you. I could make juice and sell it. Or I could make juice for my friends and family. Or I could make some banana cups. I love to grow my own garden!
**Kamya Davis**
I will grow red beans and corn and berries. I like to pick corn and carrots, cherries and watermelon.

**Roselyn Sanchez-Gómez**
If I were a farmer, I would be a fruit farmer with strawberries, watermelon, apples, melons, pineapples and peaches because I love fruit and I could give some to the homeless shelters.

**Alan Mendoza**
If I was a farmer, I would grow potatoes and corn and cherries to sell them. I would sell them because I want to get rich.

**Brysen Wills**
If I were a farmer, I would grow apples. I would grow apples because they are really good. They would be red. They taste juicy. I would pick them and eat them. I would give extras to my mom and dad and my friends.

**Nasier Emmanuel**
I will grow the pumpkin, and then I will sell the pumpkin! I will grow salad and then I so will not buy them. I will go home and chill. So I can eat my food and cherries and blueberries and cucumbers. I will grow apples and then I will sell them.

**Jahnila Pigram**
In my garden I will grow
What I Will Never Forget

Alan Mendoza
I’ll never forget being with Marisol. When I was with Marisol I liked dancing the merengue. It was fun! I also liked making the DNA and Miss Beverly.

JaVon McAlister
I will never forget about Beverly because of the digestion part. It almost made me throw up because it looked like throw up.

Nasier Emmanuel
I will never forget reading to a dog. It was the first time I read to a dog. I read about taxi dog.

Jordan Moore
I’ll never forget that Jerry, Alan, Javon, Nyjua, Nasier, Elijah are very smart. They are nice friends and they are good friends.

Evan Sanchez-Gómez
I will always remember when I read to a dog.

NyJua Emmanuel
I will not forget: the bee hive, the vegetables, and the dog’s face.

Ryland English
I will never forget that I made a keychain. I liked that I was good at it. My favorite part is the colors.
Anna Uriostegui
I think in two years I’ll remember when we had to do a scavenger hunt for different objects in the UW Space Place. We did the scavenger hunt on the first day of Odyssey! I really think in 8th grade I will still remember that day.

Jahnila Pigram
I will never forget that I read to a dog and the dog was great. It saved a three-year-old baby and that’s why God made dogs.

Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh
What I will never forget is when we had pizza. I will not forget it because pizza is one of my favorite foods. It’s also my favorite food in my lunch, dinner, and breakfast.

I liked when Venus came to our class. I liked that because I love to run and crab walk.

Lanasha Moten
Today I read to a dog. I read to Danny. I read a story about a dog just like Danny. I brushed and braided Danny’s hair. It was very soft!

Elijah Richmond
I will never forget when we had tacos because it was my idea to have tacos. It made me feel happy! The end.
Roselyn Sanchez-Gómez
The first time I read to a dog it was amazing. The dog’s name was Jessie. She was very calm.

The second time I read to a dog the dog’s name was Bailey. She fell asleep on my lap. She was adorable and also very calm.

I will forget the day when I came in and saw all the awesome dogs.

Brysen Wills
I will always remember all my friends. I will remember doing the scavenger hunt and finding a bunch of notes. I liked exercising with Venus. I liked playing the drums with the drummer.

Jerry Moore
I’ll never forget my friends like Jordan and Max are great friends. So is Pat. They’re great friends too. They’re outstanding and great. And Venus, Evan, and Roselyn are fun and funny, especially Jordan’s great jokes. So are JaVon and Ryland: they’re very smart. They’re all great, and so is Jahnila. Everyone is fantastic, smart, fun, and outstanding. They’re all great friends. And the digestion was a little gross. Everyone is great in their own way!

I will never forget how Max and I talked about basketball and how Shannon was nice and Pat was funny and how Chris loved to read and Marian would never eat.

I never forgot what day Odyssey was on: Wednesday.

I will never forget we had volunteers who take their time to see us, like Jackie, who would sing.

And I will never forget how great the first semester of Odyssey was.

THE END
ODYSSEY JUMPSTART
The teachers of this class are very lucky because the favorite place to play is the kitchen. We are served elaborate meals and we are encouraged to eat everything.

Often the cooks are beautifully dressed in the collection of dress-clothes provided by Headstart. Somehow they find time to take care of the baby doll.

As things slow down, we down turn to some books. A favorite with Harmony is *Blueberries for Sal*. Alaisia likes *Bedtime in the Jungle*, especially when it’s read under the table by teacher Beatriz as if in a tent.

~ Cathy Rasmussen, Volunteer
"My own hands can make the world that’s in my mind." ~Langston Hughes

What is your favorite thing to make with your hands?

Rae’Jon:
I like to make a snowflake with my hands.

Brooklyn:
I like to make cookies, a biscuit, and goo with my hands.

Ione:
I like to make art, drawing, and playing with clay.

Jasmine:
My favorite thing to do with my hands is put them in my pockets.

Amelia:
I like to make purses with my hands.

Aa’laisa:
I like to make paper snow with my hands.

Julius AND Raekwon:
I like to make a snowball with my hands!