

# ODYSSEY ORACLE



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# MOVED BY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Dear Dr. King:



I read with interest your letter that you wrote in the Birmingham Jail in 1963. The words you penned then are still true to date. Despite official segregation having ended in 1964 with the Civil Rights Act, there are still injustices in American courts and jails. There is a massive black incarceration rate even for minor offences that our fellow white Americans can walk freely away from if they get arrested. Although Colored Only and Whites Only posters have vanished, there is still high unemployment in the African American society. . . . It is sad to read that in your time you had your fellow clergymen who condemned your nonviolent civil disobedience citing timing, extremism, etc. We too now have fellow brothers who are now legislators aligning themselves with the system to help condemn us and preserve unjust laws like Stand Your Ground laws that have led to the murder of many black and vulnerable people with impunity. Voter ID laws disenfranchise us so we won't have a voice in who rules us. . . . Thank you for being an extremist for love. (**Lucia Chikowero**)



"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." I believe this was one of your more brilliant lines. . . . I think you're so brave to go to the city [Birmingham] with the most bombed African American houses in the nation. Knowing your position, that must have been really scary. I have also been to jail, so believe me when I say it is hard to write such an amazing piece of

writing with nothing to look forward to in there. You are truly an inspiration to us all.

(**Kunga Chokten**)



As a woman I have grown to accept what is being said about me. I have been called all names in the book and have often turned to violence to please my emotions. Let me just say that I admire your amazing strength. I was floored to know that you were not just an activist but also a man of God. I love how you utilized repetition as a writing style to get many points across, as when you proudly accepted being an extremist. Being a Latina woman in modern times, I feel truly blessed that I am able to speak freely about how I feel about unjust situations. . . . Many allusions were made to Socrates, who just happens to be a favorite of my own personal liking. I too believe that we lack gadflies. Your "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is an amazing and inspirational tool for any gadfly. Our friend Socrates would have been proud!

(**Charllienne Cotto**)



I first want to say "Wow" for such a powerful letter. It must have taken a lot of time and thoughts to do. I want to say also that I agree with the letter because you explain your position as to why you were in Birmingham. You told them that the non-violent action was not untimely because you broke down the steps to them that led up to protests and boycotts. As I read this letter I could feel the anger and the frustration between the lines. . . . (**Jaquan Fleming**)





Who can really understand the sacrifices you have already made to build the SCLC to the position it now holds? History will remember what you have said and done because, just as Paul, you have given your whole self to the

struggle for equality. Your open letter rivals any literature produced on these or any other lands. It will stand as a Great American Essay to be studied and discoursed over for generations. . . . Your use of persuasive writing techniques such as the loaded question, repetition, allusion, personification, and metaphor has created an essay that will educate and inspire future generations. Dr. King, your knowledge base, candor, and eloquence are matched by your courage, compassion, and commitment. **(Robert James)**



Dr. Martin Luther King, thank you for everything that challenged racial wrongs. . . . What I got out of your letter is if you believe in something or you think it is wrong and you don't do something about it, you are just as wrong. You never know what you can do to change

something. **(Christopher Bester)**



You gave us knowledge on how to fight for our Constitutional rights in a nonviolent way. At first I didn't understand your nonviolent approach, being that we are violated every

day, many times a day, and at will, which enrages me. But reading "Letter from Birmingham Jail" has brought forth a nonviolent fight in me that will not go away and must be explored. . . . Dr. King, I love the metaphor you gave about the boil

needing air and light to heal. Injustice needs to be exposed and dealt with in a jet-like manner. I do agree that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." . . . May I carry myself in a majestic manner of understanding my brethren.

**(LaPrice Black)**



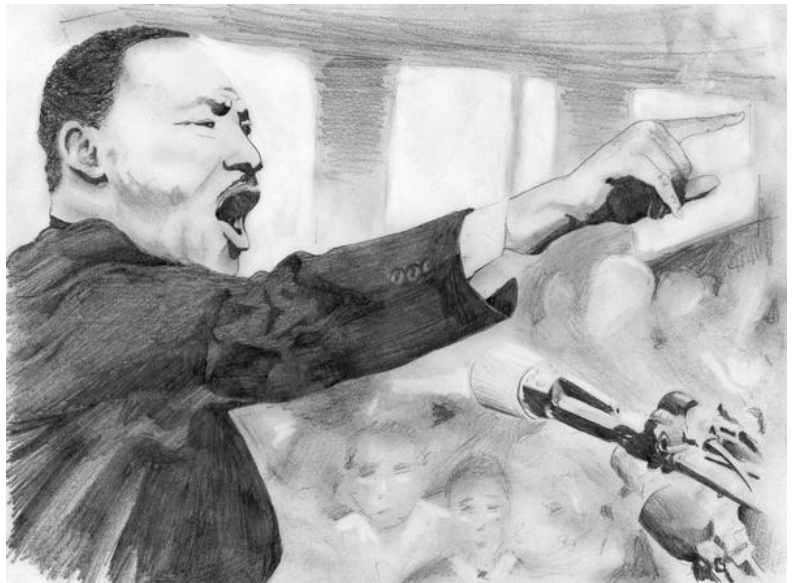
You stood firm and strong on what you thought was right. That's why so many people look up to you and want to follow your examples of leadership. You're not just a man talking. You're a man of action and results. . . . You fought the fight until you couldn't fight any more. I

love the way you broke down just and unjust laws. Now I will question every situation I'm in or come across as to whether it's a just or unjust law. **(Mallory Carter)**



In historic documentation the "Founders" saw fit to incorporate "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," bound by the shackles of negritude from high atop this nation's fear of its citizens of a darker hue. . . . "Wait" becomes a

prelude to death. **(LaTrease Hibbler)**

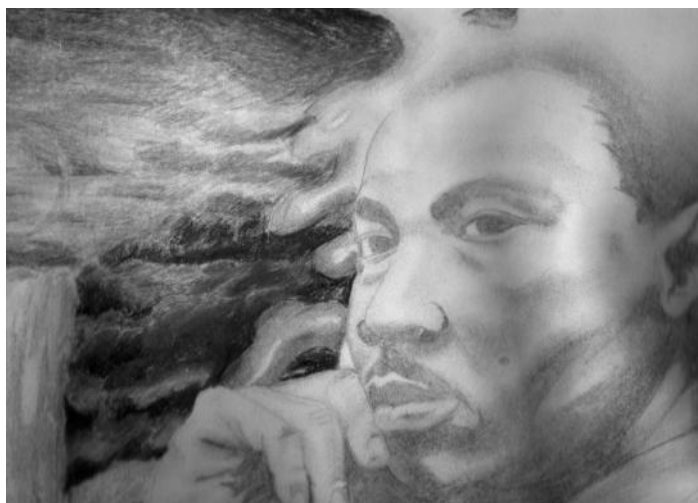




I've learned that it's necessary to be pro-active for the greater good of all, for the dream of all, quality, freedom, and justice for all. You have given me the substance I needed to hope that being active would definitely make a difference for our world. I've learned that it is better to serve faith with works instead of faith only with words. Even in this time of 2014, we still have, even of our own race, leaders that speak well, promise much, but give little or nothing at all. **(Nafisa Davis)**



The year is 2014, and I cannot imagine you being ecstatic with the snail-like progress this nation has had with the acceptance of natural human rights. . . . Today African Americans experience segregation in various forms. We are degraded into second-class citizens because of our income status and credit score. The economic dividers are a part of the scheme that has masked the racial hostility in the community. This racial tension is very thick; it is much more obvious over the past few years and is very deadly. . . . Police officers have stopped and apprehended African-American individuals who they felt "fit the description" of a criminal suspect, sometimes ending fatally. . . . I believe



we are living in controlled chaos. The excruciating wait for justice and equality for African Americans is like being on the verge of starvation, then only to be given crumbs and told to wait some more. **(Michael Martin)**



Your passage "when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park" gave me, as a parent, a wrenching chill. The thought of having to tell my children that they are unable to attend a certain event due to the color of their skin is just beyond me. . . . Dr. King, I applaud your strength, determination, and faith in equality as well as your readiness to take any consequences needed to make your voice heard by any means necessary. . . . I believe we have a lot more work to do and that one day your dream will ring in every ear equally. **(Janet Shelton)**



You got your point across by using words of truth and love instead of hatred and profanity. . . . We can't gain moral justice by using immoral means to attain it. . . . Dr. King, you are a gadfly of your time just as Socrates was of his time. I'm glad you explained how it's not breaking the law when the laws that are being violated are unjust. . . . The part that sticks out the most to me is how you used similes like the comparison of a boil being covered up unable to heal to keeping the existing tension of prejudice undercover. I feel that while this letter was long, each and every word of it needed to be said. **(Alisha Taylor)**

In 2012, a young African-American boy was shot and killed by a white man in the great state of Florida. The man claimed it was self-defense because apparently the boy looked "dangerous." Let's be honest: even though



the media wouldn't really acknowledge it, the only reason the boy looked "dangerous" was because of his skin color. This story is one of many still happening in the United States. **(Zeynab Ahmed)**



I am a woman of color. I am not just white or black, but both. My family's background is also Mexican and Indian. It has never been easy for me to feel love from either side as a whole. I am too light for my black brothers

and sisters. Also my lack of straight hair and light eyes were my white family's reason for denying me. I hope to one day follow in your footsteps, by doing all that I can to change the face of racism. Because of your strength, I name myself an extremist of justice, love, and peace! Thank you for your light. **(Simone Lawrence)**



In your movement, every participant is willing to follow just laws and serve the penalty for breaking unjust laws. Your words prove that black protestors are civil and disciplined. They are not "angry black men," as the whites believed. They are not trying to

make trouble. They are fighting for their rights as human beings. . . . Waiting for an appropriate time is a trick to fool Blacks with the idea that better days will come through patience so that they can avoid confronting the current social injustice. Thus I understand that your "civil disobedience" is necessary and cannot be delayed. **(Milli Lau)**

I remember as a six-year-old child seeing the "whites only" and "colored only" signs. I did not quite understand, but I remembered my grandmother pulling me away from a "whites



only" water faucet and redirecting me to the "colored only" one. My mom would have to meet my dad in the back of stores and restaurants because he was of Jewish and black mixed

race and could pass for white or anything other than black. My dad would tell me stories of how differently the black military men were treated even though they were fighting the same war. You see, Dr. King, I am a child of the sixties, and I spent my first ten years growing up in Virginia in an all-black neighborhood, going to an all-black school, with people that looked like me. I never realized that there was such a struggle going on until my oldest brother was pulled to start going to an all-white school. I did not realize it at the time, but it was your work being put into place. . . . I think that we need you right now, especially our young men and our youth. Thank you for loving a world that did you so wrong. You kept on fighting to make it a world that we all could live in as equals. **(Jeannine Shoemaker)**



Although I am white, I am a woman who has known oppression firsthand all my life. When I read "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed," I felt a surge

of electricity flow through me. I was jolted with the reality. The oppressed must become their own heroes and save themselves from humiliation and abuse of their basic rights. . . . "Will we be extremists for hate or will we be extremists for love?" My daily struggle is guiding my sons to treat me and others with dignity and respect. I strive to teach them to use nonviolent communication and be extremists for love.

**(Jamie Lovely)**

# EIGHT YEARS FROM NOW

In April 2022 . . .



I see myself with a successful career and a family. I hope to either be a lawyer, probably having made partner with a prestigious firm, or an FBI special agent working my way to the top. I would like to have maybe two kids who go to a really good school and a husband who is successful in his career. I would like to be really close to my family and take care of them. **(Zeynab Ahmed)**



I would love to own my own house. I would have started my Homelessness Prevention Foundation called Butterfly Wings. **(Charlienne Cotto)**

I've graduated college, and I'm living a good life. **(Jaquan Fleming)**



I am proud to be a Marriage and Family Counselor now. I live in Savannah, Georgia, with my husband and two kids spending our days happily and proudly doing what we do as a career and also being able to spend quality time with our children. We are very happy here and continue to stay that way as time goes on. My life is much easier now that I have a steady career under my belt and am in concrete stage in my life. I'm happy. **(Kelli Green)**



I will be seeing my eldest so off to college and helping my other two children complete school. I will then go to my home office, where I run my ecommerce business from home. I would spend my time growing my business and on my art. I am most proud of my college degree that I worked so hard for and setting the standard for my children. **(Nyagoa Hoth)**



I will be a senior web programmer in a small company in Wisconsin. Then I will go to university to get my bachelor's degree. Every year, I will visit at least one different country such as Japan, Africa, etc. From every trip, I will take a lot of photos and collect the coins from the countries and put them in a display cabinet. **(Milli Lau)**

I will be a college graduate. My oldest son will be a high school honor student. I am sure my young one will still be spoiled. I will be a social



worker at a school that needs a caring heart. My plans for my center will be in blueprint form. I will be working on my master's degree. I will love myself more than my twenties would allow. I will be a leader of my community, and I will love every moment of it! **(Simone Lawrence)**



I will have completed my associate degree and bachelor's degree. I pray that by then I will have the opportunity to be a permanent resident in the U.S. and able to apply for my American citizenship. I will have my own (reliable) car, and I will be living in my own house and paying my mortgage. My kids will each have their own bedroom and a big backyard. By then I also want to be doing my Ph.D. I will have a stable job, and my family will have medical and dental insurance. I also will be able to visit my family in Brazil at least once a year. I pray and believe that if I work hard, God will bless and guide me. **(Vanessa Lopes Maia)**



I will be at Odyssey helping the Class of 2022 with the cleanup after class. **(Michael Martin)**

I am approaching my graduation from the UW-Madison with my master's degree in Horticulture. I live on Center Ave. on the east side of Madison with my 18-year-old son Levi and 15-year old son Talan. I am a gardener at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, which is luckily just across the street from our home. My yard is abundant with joyfully blooming gladioli, dahlias, sunflowers, and roses. I spend my free time writing poetry and creating art in my art

studio in my basement. I enjoy traveling during breaks from school. My sons are applying for academic scholarships to the UW so they can stay close to home and share meals and family time. We are limitless. Together, we have a bright shining future. **(Jamie Lovely)**



I will be self-employed owning my own consultant company in Florida. My company will consult about taxes and financial advice, also performing payroll. My financial stability will be good. My youngest two

sons will be just going off to college. I will be someone who will be a positive influence within the community. In eight years I see my life being more comfortable financially and emotionally. I am more proud of myself for accomplishing my educational goal and being more of a role model for my younger generation. **(Derick McCray)**





through transition of being homeless, abused, or disabled. I am financially able to help people in need and finally be able to give something back to the ones in great need. I'm a grandmother, and they're doing very well in school. They

are knocking down racial barriers by being educated and prepared. My daughter is running the 200-meter dash at the Olympics, and my whole family is there to see her. I've come very far, and I'm so proud of all of the hard work. **(Alisha Taylor)**

I see myself working as a Physician's Assistant. I see myself not having as many worries as I used to. Eight years from now I see myself happily married with four kids and a beautiful house. I don't ask for much, but eight years from now I see myself happier. Last but not least I see my fiancé driving a beautiful truck, and I see myself driving a hot burgundy red 2022 Tahoe truck. Eight years from now I see myself having a happy family and life. Eight years from now I can see a Kool-Aid smile on all of our faces. **(Toshiana Northington)**

I will be a registered nurse working hard to support my family. I will have two beautiful children, and my oldest will be close to entering high school. I am going to be living in Charlotte, North Carolina, in my own home, hopefully a house of my own. My life won't be perfect, but I will be happy and enjoying it. I will have nothing but supportive people around me to help keep me motivated and positive. My days will be spent working and taking care of my children, and I will be proud of my accomplishments. **(Amber McCarley)**

I'm a graduate of college. I have a degree in Sociology, and I currently work as a social worker. My health is great, mind, body, and soul. My children are all living well and doing the things in life they want. I will be able to help my son whenever his depression and mental illness issues reoccur. I will be able to take a breath and enjoy life. I will be running a place for homeless people to have shelter as well as helping them find outlets to become stable again. My job will be at a school working with children and their families





I'm 61 and sexy. My young ones have finished college and are doing great things. My back is stronger, and I'm not in any pain. There is finally peace in my world. I'm helping others to deal with life's changes and letting them

know they will make it through to see a better day. I'm still quilting, and I'm teaching classes in it. My grandchildren are in college and some are entering high school. Oh, how I love my family. **(Jeannine Shoemaker)**



I will be the ultimate success. I will have the American dream: married, kids, doing what I love. It sounds so ideal, but I see now at an early age that if you work for what you want and you truly want it enough, it will be obtained. I'll be

proud to say I'm not another statistic. Well, yes I am, but not the one you're thinking of. I'm now older and wiser and not susceptible to any bologna. Welcome to my mansion. There's punch in the water fountain and an

elevator around the corner. Make yourself at home. Everyone else does. **(Shiquille Ward)**



I see me leaving Madison. My girls will be older and hopefully one grandbaby. Traveling to France and Africa is one of my biggest dreams. One of my hopes and wishes is being more helpful to family and friends. I will love to go help people in Africa, like the

young girls, about health and safe sex. I will try to go with a group to stop human trafficking. I really think this is my calling—to learn about how I can help others in many ways. So traveling is what I hope to do in the near future. **(Latrice White)**



Eight years from now I will be catering and happy in my career. I will be a grandma and a mother-in-law. All my struggles will be a thing of the past, and all my hard work will definitely have paid off tremendously. **(Janet Shelton)**



# FIGURING OUT FORTUNE COOKIES

*Dessert from Nam's Noodles turned into an in-class writing exercise.*



**Jeannine Shoemaker:** "You will get what your heart desires." This weekend my mom got to go home after almost six weeks in the hospital. That has taken so much pain and pressure off of my heart.

**Starr Miles:** "Be concerned, not obsessed, with your health." I have been ignoring my high blood pressure, being too busy with life and other issues to make sure I cared for me.

**LaPrice Black:** "A small gift can bring joy to the whole family." When a new baby joins our family, it brings forth comfort to our heart.

**Kunga Chokten:** "Strong reasons make strong actions." The stronger you care about something, the harder you will work to get it. Now that I have such strong reasons to succeed, I am putting everything on the line and giving everything 100%.

**Milli Lau:** "Your co-workers take pleasure in your great sense of creativity." It means that

my work is meaningful and my work is being recognized. I like to do what I want to do.

**Zeynab Ahmed:** "Your high-minded principles spell success." My morals that I live by have always been what has led to where I am today and will lead to great success.

**Mallory Carter:** "A person is not wise simply because one talks a lot." Actions speak louder than words. My mother told me people

have to watch out for the quiet ones. So, people, y'all better watch out because I'm slowly and quietly making my way to the top.

**LaTrease Hibbler:** "A woman's thinking is quicker than her action." My mind speaks soft while my heart beats slow, seems like I'll never grow.

**Jamie Lovely:** "A clever crow will always paint its feather black." I have a hard time understanding this fortune. The fortune I picked first, which I've misplaced, was about inner strength. I have been developing my own inner strength since I left an abusive marriage.

**Simone Lawrence:** "Team work makes the dream work!" You need good people on your team to help you succeed. I have always done things on my own and hate to ask for help. Now that I'm older I have realized that my family is my team and that's the best support system to have.



**Michael Martin:** "The best mirror is a good friend." (or is it?) This reflection is not you; it is someone else. If you judge your life based on someone else's image, you are not being your true self.

**Nyagoo Hoth:** "An acquaintance of the past will affect you in the near future." I am trying to start a new life. Maybe someone from the past that I choose not to include in my new life will affect me, but will it be in a good way or bad way?

**Toshiana Northington:** "Good news will be brought to you by mail." I apply this to my life because it would be great to receive a check in the mail with a nice amount written on it. I love my fortune.

**Latrice White:** "The best is yet to come." Sometimes I don't believe in things getting better. I feel life is life, so make the best of it. Life changes every second of the day, and people change every day as well.

**Vanessa Lopes Maia:** "The love of your life will carry you through any circumstance." My

husband and I have been through many difficult moments and hardships. We were separated against our will for seven months, in different countries, but we remained faithful and waited. We reunited once again, and I pray that will be forever.

**Isis Bernard:** "A journey must begin with a single step." I can apply this to my life by signing up for classes or taking the Compass test (school), prioritizing relationships (love), and deciding what my main goal is and how to reach it (work).

**Shiquille Ward:** "A smooth journey! Great expectations!" I believe this fortune is almost picture perfect. The Odyssey has been a long journey (not always smooth), and I think in the end the expectations for me to continue my education and my life as a man are going to increase exponentially. Success is forever the ultimate goal.

**Derick McCray:** "The essential conditions of everything you do must be choice, love, and passion." I made choices on love, and I am passionate about everything I do. I tend to work hard on the one I love.

**Janet Shelton:** "The glass is not half-empty; it's just twice too big." Being twice too big means there is room for me. I will apply this to my growth, not only being half way done but having room to grow.

**Lucia Chikowero:** "A focused mind is one of the most powerful forces in the universe." If I cease to be a scatterbrain and put my mind on one thing, I should be able to make a huge impact in my area of choice.



**Nafisa Davis:** "Teach only love for that is what you are." In spite of what I see or get from others, show them how to love, first themselves and then others, because that is who I am and what I am made of.

**Kelli Green:** "The older you are, the more experienced you are." It reminds me of my mom saying something like you can't fool me because I've done it all and been through it all.



**Tracker Dunn:** "Each day, compel yourself to do something you would rather not do." My fortune is perfect for me because I have a lot of things I have to do, but if I only ever do what I want then my life would become a complete mess.

**Christopher Bester:** "Take a vacation. You will have unexpected gains." I really need a break and also a vacation because I will gain more knowledge. I work with children and it gets hard sometimes. You tend to feel better when you take a break.

**Charlienne Cotto:** "The saints are the sinners who keep trying." In my life I've done many things that I am not very proud of. My fortune lets me know that as long as I am doing better and better and changing for the best, He is always watching me and will forgive me.

**Jaquan Fleming:** "Your greatest fortune is the friends and family you have." The greatest riches are your loved ones or the people close to you. It applies to my life because I have friends that I consider family.

**Robert James:** "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that extra." I

think my fortune applies to work ethic; specifically working hard is the extra that is mentioned. I also take it to be a reminder that we all start the same. It is the extra work which allows for us to become above average.

**Alisha Taylor:** "The memory of bad quality lasts longer than the shock of high prices." This means you get what you pay for! We should research things before we purchase or indulge.

**Amber McCarley:** "Opportunities surround you if you know where to look." I could apply my fortune to my life by keeping my eyes and attention open to everything around me, including the people surrounding me.

**Jackieta Fairley:** "Set the right example and it will inspire others." There are lots of eyes watching me in this world, no matter where I go or what I do. My children look up to me first to determine how they are supposed to act in life. If I run around acting like a fool, I will have three children running around acting like fools. Second I'm always telling people about being kind to one another. I can't be out here harming and mistreating people and preaching the opposite.

# EDITORIAL TWEETS



*All Odyssey students are encouraged to find their voices and use them. Here are one-sentence excerpts from longer opinion pieces written this semester. We hope that many students in the Class of 2014 will join our alumni in going on to publish their editorials in local papers and/or read them over the air on radio stations.*

Incarcerated individuals who test positive for HIV should have the right to a second opinion and early treatment. **(Janet Shelton)**



Unemployment has created an underworld of drugs in our own society and also fathered an illegitimate child named Entitlement; to redeem itself, America must reinvest in low-skill labor. **(Robert James)**



Everyone who is an athlete should be required to complete college just in case their athletic careers don't pan out; coaches and parents should put education first. **(Derick McCray)**

Government officials are the real crooks and are not honorable role models to be making decisions for our country. **(Kelli Green)**



Our daughters are becoming mothers before they know how to appreciate their own, and our sons are becoming prisoners before they understand their parents' rules. **(Simone Lawrence)**

We must begin the road to recovery for homeless families by donating to programs such as Salvation Army, Road Home, YWCA, and domestic violence shelters. **(Charlienne Cotto)**

We need more resources to help the victims of domestic abuse: more support beyond the 30 days in shelters, extra support for those with children, therapy, and legal representation. **(Jamie Lovely)**







Raising the minimum wage will not only provide peace of mind and reduce poverty but also increase employee retention and loyalty and promote growth of businesses and the economy. **(Lucia Chikowero)**

We've seen positive outcomes in states where recreational use of marijuana is legal: decrease in crime, increase in tax revenues, more jobs, and health benefits. **(Shiquille Ward)**

Authorities and businesses take our rights of confidentiality and privacy away piece by piece; we should wake up and be aware of our rights. **(Milli Lau)**



Fitness can help your health, happiness, and physical appearance and should be a priority in your life. **(Christopher Bester)**

Ever since 9/11, Muslims have been the victims of hate crime, racial profiling, and invaded privacy and are unfairly called terrorists. **(Zeynab Ahmed)**

People should not go into the nursing field just to get the paycheck; health care is about loving, caring, and showing compassion. **(Mallory Carter)**



I am proud to be pro-gay marriage and support others' right to love and be with the person they want. **(Kunga Chokten)**

More should be done to detect and treat mental illness at an early age, treating it as a medical illness requiring medication and regular care from a doctor. **(Alisha Taylor)**



# CREATIVE CORNER

## The White Whale

By LaTrease Hibbler

The ocean seems to shift shape before my eyes,  
Controlling my body's elongated neck,  
All moving together—  
A many-legged creature.

## Odd-I-Sea

By LaTrease Hibbler

The sea of life,  
An odyssey—  
Swim me, fear me, thrill me,  
Seek me, enjoy me, imprison me!  
The origin of species—  
Co-existing capture?  
Reality is mine to hold,  
I now belong to mine.

## Burdens

By Jaquan Fleming

Years that one lived through  
The burdens one's shoulders hold  
Where it aches to move an inch  
The heartaches that feel like valleys  
Deep and untouchable  
The tears one sheds  
like a pool of water at one's feet  
The mind that is cruel enough  
to play tricks on its owner  
The scars that the body holds  
inflicted by one's own self  
just to know how one feels  
The motions that rush out like waves  
to the shore but slowly head back  
The soul that searches for the way home  
but has lost its very way

## My Featherweight

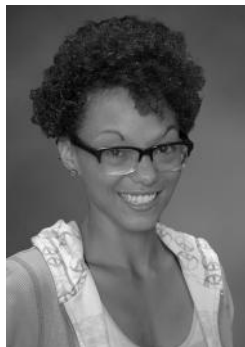
By Jeannine Shoemaker

Black and shiny  
Wheels a' turning  
Humming like a well-oiled machine  
The smell the motor gives takes me  
to a place I long to be again.

It's small but strong,  
old yet ageless.  
I'm honored to have it  
for it's a special gift to me.

I had to have it  
for it is a rite of passage  
for someone like me.  
To own it puts me in an elite group.

I hunted and stalked  
I called and prayed  
and finally it happened.  
The call came in.  
It was mine all mine.  
My 1942 Singer Featherweight  
belonged to me. I am finally  
in the league of a True Quilter.



**I Will Rise****By Jackieta Fairley**

I am weak but I'm not broken  
 My heart is broken but it remains beating  
 I will rise against these odds  
 I will rise against these odds  
 They watch me cry thinking these tears are sad  
 If only they knew these tears make me mad  
 Mad and enraged over the pain that some bring  
 Mad and enraged over how things aren't what they seem  
 This mad soon turns into energy  
 The energy of 3000 women  
 3000 women trying to protect their children  
 This in my heart and mind  
 doesn't steer me wrong or see me blind  
 It only pushes me to reach my Divine.

**Song of Simone****By Simone Lawrence**

I am society's toy, just a girl who knows her goals.  
 Will I see my goals come true, or will they become dreams as I get old?  
 I am society's outcast, will I ever break the mold?  
 To find myself is always like watching paint unfold.  
 This life is filled with games of chess and pawns I do not hold.  
 Will my struggles become my way of life eating at my soul?  
 Or will my freedom rise with no disguise and change this world to gold?  
 These are the thoughts of me, my song I sing, one day a story told.

**Song of Nafisa****By Nafisa Davis**

Nice in every way, I sing the song of me day to day  
 Anointed and appointed to take life by the horns and ride it until I can't no more.  
 Fascinating to everyone that meets, tickling fancies of all I greet  
 Inspired to look at everything with the eyes of God, free to be me.  
 Again, I declare the Song of Me,  
 Nafisa destined, yes destined  
 To be free.

**If****By Nafisa Davis**

If I could fly away and never come back  
 to misery, heart ache, and all that . . .  
 If I could set my eyes  
 only on things in heaven  
 then there would be beauty I'd see,  
 and that's my obsession.  
 If I could love unconditionally,  
 something I try so hard to do . . .  
 But in this world we live in,  
 such bliss is no way possible.  
 Only if, only if . . . if!



**Song of Michael****By Michael Martin**

Born and raised in Hittsville USA, I remember I'll always have sunshine on a cloudy day—  
I oftentimes find the right tune to play, somehow the song always fits my mood for the day--  
With the right chord, my true feelings are always revealed, despite my efforts in trying to keep  
them concealed—

The beats of pain in my heart will most likely rip me apart—  
The melody speaks to my soul, and it soothes and is an enriching tool—  
The rhythm breathes much needed life, the peaceful harmony cuts through me like a sharp  
knife—

With every note I hear, I can't help but to shed many a tear—  
When the harmonies track ends, my mental healing can begin—  
Regardless the reason, there's a perfect song for all life's seasons.

**My Death to Yesterday****By Michael Martin**

To you, your demise may be foreseen with a great deal of horror,  
but dying has been my immediate purification.

I will no longer dwell in the hell of sorrowful knowledge  
gained from ancient thoughts. I will evaporate these desires  
because these types of sustained memories  
will inevitably produce sadness, anger and fear.

So, I will die; perish to everything I have ever known.

I will become eternally and psychologically at rest  
to any negative influence; therefore, any possibility of  
what will be will ultimately deace.

I'm now reborn today and every day of all I ever knew  
and now I have rediscovered the newness in the instant.  
My fatality of the now insures instant simplicity every time.  
A daily renaissance refreshes present thought  
from every momentary existence.

I cease to exist to immediate satisfaction.

I am extinguishing any and all new thoughts  
that claim to know the future, or the unknown.

My departed mindset will bring a genuine point of view of what is.  
Now I am letting go of needing to know.

My sudden death to everything I know  
brings an uncertain clarity from the unknown;  
therefore in my rebirth I will never have expectations or expect anything.  
I must mentally come to an end so I can instantly, honestly, simply,  
purely live for the first time every time.

So at every moment I will die, then I will truly be alive.



**Dimmed Light****By Kunga Chokten**

The light at the end of the tunnel  
was never that close,  
my bright future was dim at most.

I rose, I fell, I rose, I fell,  
'cause it's hard to get up  
when you're swimming in a well.

For days I tried,  
and for nights I cried,  
so somewhere on this path,  
the real me had died.  
I danced and I sang,  
what a show it was,  
the living example  
of what racism does.

**Stand Still****By Janet Shelton**

I have been beat down  
I have been weak  
I have been left alone  
I have been sick  
I have been incapacitated  
within my own soul  
afraid to come out  
and meet the unknown  
With all life's tragedies  
leaving a deep hole in me  
like a wound from  
a weapon in war overseas  
Lost and distorted I am  
when vivacity was  
a title I could claim  
Now a shell I am in  
stuck and afraid  
If I just stand still  
for all time  
is a feeling that's  
settling within me  
And yet again, I still ask  
if I just stand still

for all time  
would death's wagon  
stop riding past me?

**Who are you?****By Derick McCray**

Who are you  
To say how I should feel  
Who are you  
To say how I should think  
Who are you  
To say how I should live  
Who are you  
To say who I should love  
Who are you  
To say what I should be  
Who are you  
Truly WHO ARE YOU?

I will tell you who you are  
You are that person who never  
walked in my shoes  
Never lost what you love most  
Never saw what I've seen  
Never faced the hardships of life  
Never known anyone you truly  
could trust  
Never been truly down in the dirt

Now let me tell you who I am  
I am me  
I have been up  
I certainly been down  
I am strong  
Courageous  
Honest and true  
A joker  
I am someone who makes  
mistakes  
I am not perfect by far  
So take six months to worry about you  
Six months to stay out of mine.  
SO WHO ARE YOU?



**Song of Mal****By Mallory Carter**

Everyone looks to me for help and understanding  
 Everyone looks to me to fall back on  
 Everyone looks to me to be the bigger person  
 Everyone looks to me to be a breadwinner  
 But God damn, who do I got to look to? (No one)  
 Everyone looks to me to be organized and well-rounded  
 Everyone looks to me like I'm doing too much  
 Everyone looks to me like I wanted to be a Supermom  
 Everyone looks to me like I got all the answers  
 But God damn, who do I got to look to? (No one)  
 I used to be stressing trying to make everyone else happy  
 When I realized I was a single mother  
 Trying to make something of myself  
 When the hard time outweighed my good times  
 When I felt like giving up  
 But now I say I don't got time  
 for you, for them, for this, or for that!  
 I'm focused on myself and my kids for once  
 and that's how it's going to continue to be  
 'cause in the end all I got is myself.  
 I'm looking out to better myself and mine,  
 I got my Maliyah, Alijah, Makilah,  
 who look at me every day and night.  
 I got to lead by a good example for them.  
 I look at my kids and they look at me  
 for all the non-materialistic things.  
 So in return I give them my love, support,  
 understanding, and nurturing.  
 I look to God, my kids, schooling!  
 Blessed by the Best!

**Making the Impossible Possible****By Mallory Carter**

After losing my dad in 2005  
 I started to lose myself because  
 I was lost without him.  
 At first I thought it was  
 Impossible to graduate high school  
 But I kept pushing forward bravely  
 Refusing to give all the way up  
 Made the possible impossible by  
 Graduating in 2006 . . .  
 I am now a single mother  
 Of three loving kids, and  
 An MATC and UW student  
 Earning seven credits in May 2014.  
 The fall of 2014 I will officially  
 Be a full time student of MATC  
 To start on my nursing degree.  
 Don't let anyone tell you you can't do something . . .  
 I have made the Impossible Possible  
 With so much more to accomplish.

**Since the Day I Saw You****By Charlienne Cotto**

Since the day I saw you  
 I knew my life wouldn't be the same  
 Since the day I saw you  
 I knew my life would change  
 Since the day I saw you  
 No more did I fear  
 At the very moment I first saw you  
 I began to shed a tear.  
 I wondered why I had been so blessed to hold you  
 In my arms as undeserving as I was  
 Since the day I saw you  
 I fell in love at once.

Since the day I saw you  
 I knew I had to grow up.  
 I had to be your everything  
 And you would also be mine.  
 I had to protect you no matter what  
 Rain or shine.

**Wake Up, Pretty Girl!****By Isis Bernard**

Wake up, pretty girl, warm summer breeze hitting my face.  
 Sun rays hitting every corner of my room.  
 Downstairs to the smell of breakfast cooking,  
 Anita Baker in my ear as I start my chores, zoom, done.  
 Time for dance, gymnastics and soccer, what fun.  
 Not a worry in the world, spirit so free.  
 Up I grew so sheltered yet tarnished, you see.  
 How depressed I became, but becoming a lost soul wasn't my aim.  
 Too many tears shed, too many thoughts in my head  
 So many nights passed sitting up in my bed  
 Cranium confused, love lost and abused  
 What now, feeling like this game called life I lose.  
 No, not me!  
 You see prayer set my mind free.  
 God came and held me when no one else could  
 and said, "My child, let it be.

Since the day I saw you  
 I thought what eyes were these?  
 Since the day I saw you  
 Love overcame me like a sea.

I knew that I would have to learn to live safe and free  
 And rely on a higher power to watch over you and me.  
 Since the day I saw you,  
 I knew you would be my moon, my star, my everything.

I thank a higher power for the health He's given me  
 To watch you grow and flourish



Let me carry your load  
 And later on down the road  
 There will be a light  
 It will shine so bright  
 Full of hopes and dreams."  
 So wake up, pretty girl,  
 Your time is not done.  
 It's time to fight.  
 This battle will be won!!

**Excerpts from Medley of Me****By Robert James**

Shall I reveal what you will never admit?

I will

for the sake of those not yet awake

Borrowed am I

A loan to you all

for I speak for the Big

and also the small

I question all that is because many have been  
fooled

I question all that was to see what can be used

Questions are for thinkers and thinkers are for  
questions

I am for both

And first learned lessons.

Trained in Spartan ghettos of Chicago

to ignore pain and petty emotion

100 yards, a diamond, or court reserved for my devotion

Certainly

there would be no me

without athletic activity

Meanwhile . . .

Slavish are my truths

Change will be your constant Abuser

Warning . . .

I'll sing my song like the bards of old

I'll sing my song to save your soul

I'll sing my song and perhaps you'll see

I'll sing my song

Till it transforms me



*I think therefore I am talented*

*I think therefore I am celebrated*

*I think therefore I am dangerous*

*I think therefore I am ostracized*

*I still think therefore I am a dreamer*

I dwell amongst the unheard

Invisible men of wreckage

Inheritors of Odin's wrath

Still laugh

Amidst

the babble of barbiturates

I dwell

as the great, great grandson

still oversees

fields with no trees

To fathom Me

prepare to be abused, abased, and abandoned



**Self-Portrait****By Starr Miles**

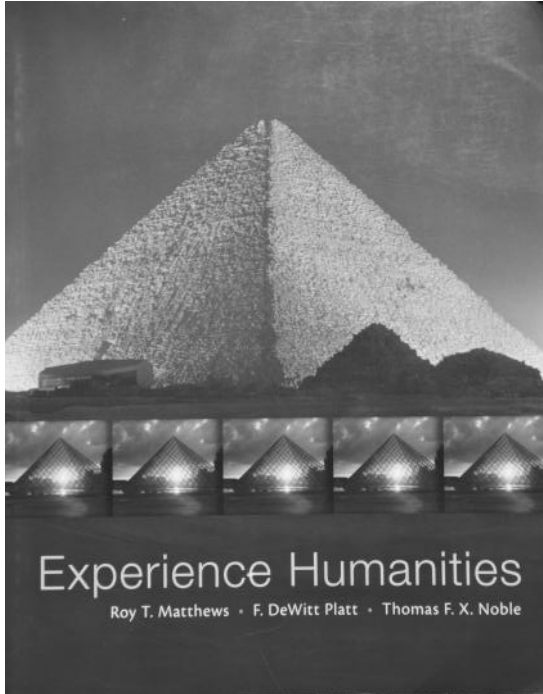
Sometimes I look at myself and I see a beautiful woman.  
Sometimes I look at myself and I am all alone on an island, isolated and alone.  
When I gaze behind me, I can see them . . . the water bearers  
of my life—my mother, my grandmother, my great aunt  
who nurtured all her sisters, nieces, nephews, and a myriad of cousins.  
Having strong, intelligent, faithful, and wise water bearers in my life  
loved and nurtured me, my children, and all our family.  
I love them. I cherished their presence, memories, and legacy.  
The rough and strong skin behind me now covers my soul.  
From the pains of my inexperience and my life's experiences,  
my skin has grown thick but softened deeper in my soul.  
My family roots extend from Africa to Arkansas to the Northside of Chicago  
and into its suburbs of Oak Park and Hyde Park and now here in Madison.  
I am a spiritual person who learned from my childhood to love my God, my family,  
and my brothers and sisters, be kind to all.  
I keep all their scriptures close to my heart. I love them.  
They have helped mold me into the ever evolving woman that I am!

**Heron****By Jamie Lovely**

I am the great blue heron  
Poised and wading  
In wakeful stance  
Along the shore of life.  
I gaze at my reflection  
In still water, the window of  
My burgeoning soul.  
I am a lone hunter  
Hungry for the piquant  
Taste of knowledge.  
As I stretch my legs  
A deeper life can be explored  
A greater feast can be enjoyed.



# ART INTO WORDS



## Understanding Humanities art book

Western ancient art works  
 Are the pieces of you and me,  
 A thousand silent words  
 Telling the origin of our history.  
 Telling ancestors' struggles  
 And hopes for what's to come  
 In this new world of freedom  
 And opportunity.—**Christopher Bester**

## The Alba Madonna by Raphael

Mother  
 Soul bound  
 Gone is two thirds  
 Irreplaceable our strength  
 Unity of a mother and child destroyed  
 Eyes closed and placed in time  
 Past, present definitely unsure  
 To hug and bond  
 To love and inspire  
 From a mother to her child  
 The bond of a love so strong  
 Distance  
 Closeness  
 Two heartbeats of infinity rhythm  
 When made to synchronize  
 Motherhood, blessing by GOD  
 The child, for no matter the man  
 Bonded always by heartbeats of  
 The mother and her child  
 A child a bond is born  
 The beauty of a child  
 Is the bond  
 The bond is the child—**Janet Shelton**



**Varekai****Cirque du Soleil show**

Falling angel  
I hear your cry  
With illustrious wings  
Why can't you fly?

Falling angel  
I hear your plea  
As you descend from heaven  
You ask how could this be

Falling angel  
Hear my cry  
With illustrious wings  
While perched up high

Falling angel  
Hear my plea  
As you descend from Heaven  
Just to look after me—**Derick McCray**

**Lady in a Cage by Sylvia Fein (at Chazen)**

Downhearted Demeter,  
Withered and blue,  
Forlorn and forsaken,  
For Persephone had been taken.

The narcissus plucked,  
The Earth opened up.  
Away with her screams,  
Persephone became Hades' Queen.  
Upon his chariot they fled,  
To live in the land of dread.

Leaves fell from trees,  
Away went the bees and purple  
Crocuses, royal blue irises,  
And the fragrant hyacinths.  
Warmth faded into the  
Gray sky as wretched winter fell.

The Goddess of Grain and growth  
Neglected her Earthly duties  
As she wept by the unbroken furrow.—**Jamie Lovely**

**The Birth of Venus by Botticelli**

Beauty

I see it

I smell it

I admire it

I am at peace with it.

I am beautifully chiseled to perfection

Even the hosts of heavens sing with me

Their admiration excites me

So do the oceanic spirits

Their undisguised admiration calms the waves

Their soft form affirms my beauty

Why does she have a problem with it?

Come on and join in the celebration, woman.—**Lucia Chikowero****The Harbor at Lorient by Berthe Morisot**

The water calms her as she allows her mind to wander.

She has thoughts of what's to come and what is gone.

Is it too late to change what she sees in this world?

Are the things she holds close worth the weight of her heart?

Can the man she loves ever understand who her spirit has become?

The water calms her as she allows her mind to wander.

The wind soothes her as she allows her heart to heal.

She will take life in her arms tomorrow

for today she is just a lost girl

with beauty found in the water and wind.—**Simone Lawrence****Bronze Boxer, 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C.E.**

Beholden

Bronze

Boxer

beset

by

Bias!

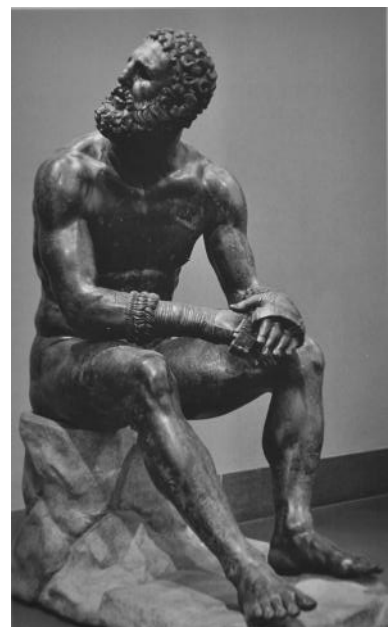
Betimes

Breed

Bravery

betwixt

Biddable

Bondsmen—**Robert James**

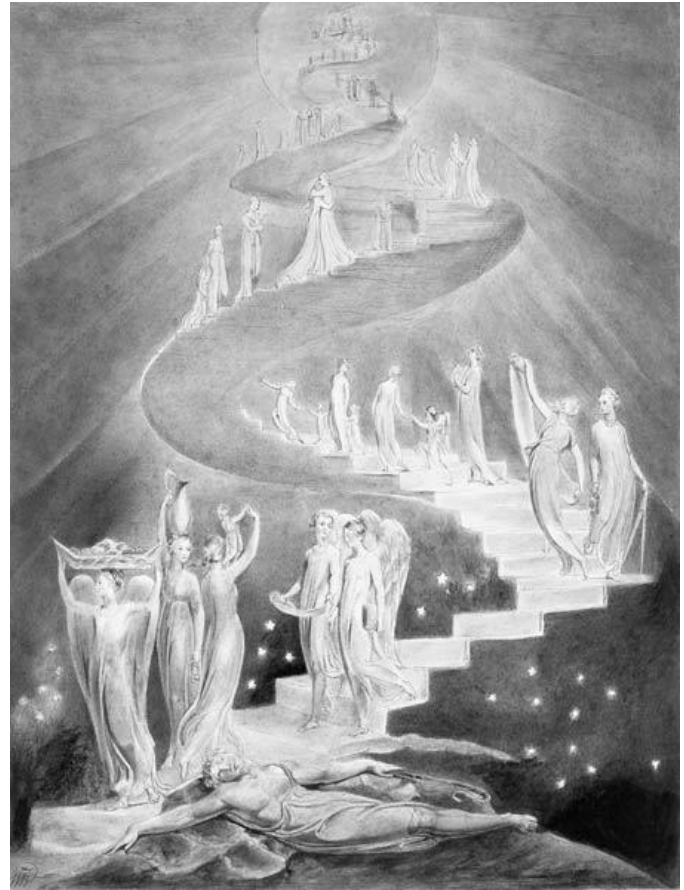
**Jacob's Ladder by William Blake**

Through the Eyes of Blake  
I find freedom to establish  
who I am and what I am  
destined to be.

Free to give life to my  
inner voice, to believe the  
unbelievable.

Through the eyes of Blake  
it's okay to say what I mean  
and mean what I say,  
to fight for what I know is right,  
to give all I have where God places my sights  
to love in only the way I know how,  
with no regrets, no sorrows,  
no fake smiles, looking forward  
to tomorrow.

Through the eyes of Blake,  
I found my own.—**Nafisa Davis**

**The Sea Nymph by Romare Bearden**

My eyes are closed, I cannot breathe,  
My life is going away from me.  
I see my mother, I see my dad,  
And instantly I feel so sad.  
Will this be the last of me?

I can't believe it, this cannot be.  
I scream so loud but no one can hear  
As into the abyss I near.

I say my prayers, I keep my peace,  
But internally I am yelling Please!  
Someone help, has no one seen me  
Falling out of this floating fleet?

No! They do not hear,  
the end is near, this is my fear.—**Charlilienne Cotto**



**Woodlawn Plantation, designed by William Thornton**

The Home of My Dreams

A home of my own

A place I can call home

A peaceful place where I can come to rest

A wonderful place to raise my children

A beautiful backyard where my children can run free

A place they can call their home

A beautiful garden where butterflies come to replenish

A big window in my bedroom where I can watch the sunrise

A comfortable chair where I can sit to watch the sunset every night. —**Vanessa Lopes Maia**

**Guernica by Pablo Picasso**

Wisdom War

Come with me and the minds I reach,

I'll welcome you to life.

Now you must survive, teach.

Learn to understand your mission on land. . . .

So bottle up my past and send it away,

Send it to the ocean

To the fish and prey.

Pray they piece it back together

And flow in the air with nature's feather.

Testing the water is not sharp

Neither is trying to find your way in the dark

Give reality a chance in your shoe

How it can lead you into consciousness of two.

Distinguish the two and express the one you

Careful not to let the demons

Separate you from the truth. . . . —**LaTrease Hibbler**





**Male “Child-Caller” Figure by Cameroonian artist (at Chazen)**

A Lot of Lives

A lot of lives my people have lost  
only to find a life not worth living for.

A lot of days my people have lost  
searching for a home that wasn’t dark.

But the struggles it seemed were all part of the path,  
and just as we lost our way, we found  
a home within ourselves.—**Kunga Chokten**

**Entrance into the Woods by Vasili Baksheev (at Chazen)**

A Self-Constructed Entrance

The weather can be warm, can be cold,  
I am the builder that keeps everyone warm;  
A woods can be green, can be yellow,  
I am the planter that makes everyone’s heart always  
green;  
A road can be wide, can be narrow,  
I am the constructor that gives everyone a wide road.  
Prepare your heart, open your mind,  
Start with me to work on this entrance.—**Milli Lau**



**Theseus Combating the Minotaur by Barye (at Chazen)**

I travel to center and there is no one stronger around,  
I see the beast, it will fall down.

He dares to challenge me, I will strike him down,  
And hell is where he is surely bound.

I stand at the ready, confidently sound,  
This beast will fall to the ground. . . .

I am falling down and that is a fact,  
my tail curled up behind my back  
while bracing for his blade’s deadly impact.

I will shout with a victorious sound,  
they will all fall down.—**Michael Martin**

**Autumn Gate by Thomas Kincade**

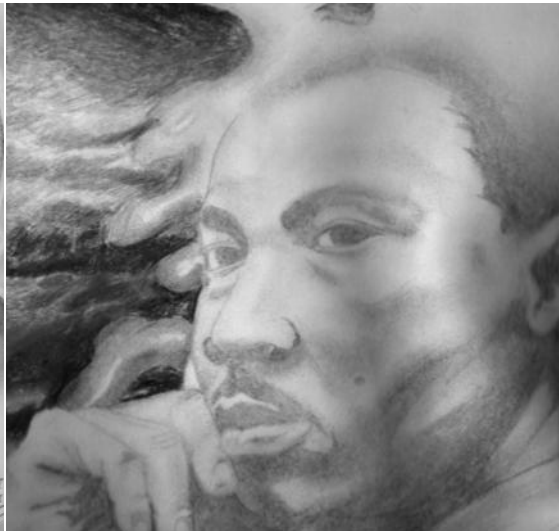
On to My Next Journey  
 A new chapter of my life is approaching.  
 I am evaluating the path I must take  
 I fear this wake.  
 I hope I take the most necessary steps that await  
 I see life in a whole new way.  
 I have learned so much in life  
 and still have plenty more lessons.  
 I am so ready to take that walk on this new paved road.  
 I'm finishing a journey that has given me a new mold  
 And that is just where I needed to be.  
 So as I stand here at the gates of my new odyssey,  
 I have mixed emotions about when to leap,  
 Fear has grabbed a hold of me  
 I stalled and procrastinated  
 I just couldn't move  
 Maybe I feared the unknown  
 My soul began to search for strength and courage  
 Tears filled my face and a sweet voice said  
 "Honey, get in this race,  
 It's not for the swift, but it is for Him that endures."  
 I said, "The time has to be now."  
 I lifted my right foot up and put my left down.  
 I'm on my way.—**LaPrice Black**

**Elizabeth I by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger**

Her dress suddenly caught my eye  
 It was big and poufy  
 Long and wide  
 She doesn't look like much in this day  
 But back in hers  
 She was somebody huge—**Kelli Green**



# MALCOLM AND MARTIN



businesses, and keep the money within the black communities.

**(Alisha Taylor)**

With Malcolm, you get the “in your face” approach. He’s brash and does not sugar coat anything. The language he uses when he says things like “stop singing and start swinging” compared to Martin’s

The main themes of King’s “I Have a Dream” and Malcolm’s “The Ballot or the Bullet” are the same—pursuing equality and freedom. However, King conveys his messages in a motivational tone to appeal to white people to change their oppressing views about the African Americans and to encourage black people to gain their rights nonviolently. Contrarily, Malcolm delivers his messages in a persuasive tone to convince black people to take action to fight for justice radically because white people will not change their oppressing opinions. **(Milli Lau)**

Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech is more calm and uplifting of all the people. He gave hope by saying things such as “blacks not being judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Dr. King believed in unifying all races. Malcolm X’s “The Ballot or the Bullet” speech is more of a wakeup call to the black community. He didn’t believe the black man could afford to keep singing and wasting time with other non-violent approaches to his freedom and liberty. He felt that blacks needed to educate themselves, own

idealistic approach of rising above by way of non-violent protest is a testament to how alike but also how different these two men were. Malcolm says it best: “we both got the same objective. We just got different ways of getting at it.” **(Shiquille Ward)**

Martin Luther King is passive aggressive and Malcolm X is aggressive. **(LaPrice Black)**

Martin was a dreamer praying that things would get better in time and having visions of brotherhood of all. Malcolm believed that blacks should look out for their own community . . . keeping the common wealth within the black community. Both men’s approach to their cause was perfectly put in their speeches, and no one can say who is right or wrong. **(Derick McCray)**

Dr. King uses hope and faith (“beautiful symphony of brotherhood”) as a persuasive tool to bring people together, white and black. In contrast Malcolm X uses violent imagery (“racial powder keg”) to fuel the flames. **(Jamie Lovely)**

“I Have a Dream” is filled with hope and possibility, whereas “The Ballot or the Bullet” vocalizes Black people’s frustration and impatience with inequality and injustice. . . . Malcolm said, “Whether you are a Christian, or a Muslim, or a Nationalist, we all have the same problem.” . . . It took greater courage to be the bearer of bad news as Malcolm X was. This is why Malcolm is so controversial and Martin is so loved. They both spoke of possibilities. One gave a plan and the other a dream; neither has been achieved.  
(Robert James)

Malcolm was speaking of equality with separation. He made points of becoming equal on our own and not trusting the white man. MLK felt the same way about black men being equal but believed we could do better as equal brothers, not equal enemies.  
(Simone Lawrence)

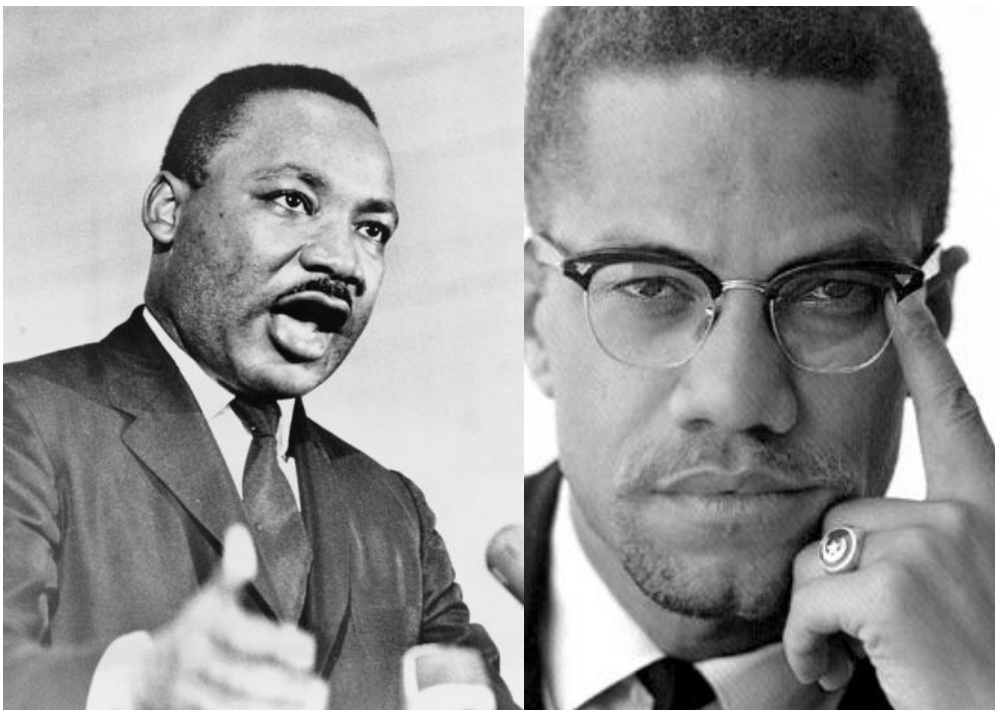
Dr. King felt unity with all through love would bring the power we needed for freedom, while Malcolm felt unity within ourselves as a

people through the economy, neighborhood living, etc. would bring the power and freedom we desired. (Nafisa Davis)

MLK directed his tone to the “Negroes” to inherit a white majority voice. Malcolm X spoke to “Blacks” to fire up the melting pot that was already burning. (LaTrease Hibbler)  
The issues both Martin Luther King and Malcolm X sought to address were access to public accommodations, decent housing, adequate and integrated education, right to vote, justice, jobs, and equality. They also spoke of the urgency of the matter at hand and how tensions were now at the boiling point in their community. . . . Malcolm X believed that King’s approach of a “persuasive nature” had failed and people should start finding other means to freedom.  
(Lucia Chikowero)

Both speeches used repetition. MLK repeated the phrase “I have a dream” to emphasize the importance of their cause and the pride of civil rights along with the beauty of having a

united people. Malcolm X used his repetition of “I’m not here” to say that he is not there (or here) for himself but for the bigger picture: the fight for human rights by any means necessary.  
(Janet Shelton)





# REACTING TO "RECITATIF" BY TONI MORRISON

I think Toni Morrison does not reveal what race Twyla or Roberta is because she wanted to show us just how color conscious we are. It also reveals subtle stereotypes related to language and physical description. Somehow we as readers end up assigning race to the characters even though race is never mentioned. . . . It certainly takes courage and sometimes a gadfly for us to recognize our own bias and prejudices. "Recitatif" is that gadfly which forces us to question race and stereotypes.

**(Robert James)**

I think the reason behind Toni Morrison's decision not to tell which character was black/white was to enable the reader to be in both characters' shoes. I believe that Roberta is black. Twyla is white. . . . Later in the story I begin to think Roberta is white, Twyla is black. . . . I think the point of Morrison's story is to question our thinking about race and how it can impact others. **(Jamie Lovely)**

This story appears to be an attempt/experiment to remove all racial codes from characters' identity. **(LaTrease Hibbler)**

In "Recitatif," Toni Morrison never discloses the race of the two characters, and that leads her audience to go through the tour to experience the power of stereotypes. Socio-economic class, physical traits, and social formalities related to race can be applied to anyone rather than a specific group of people. . . . Before I came to the United States, I did not need to think about race, even though Hong Kong is a multicultural city. Our problems are much more concentrated on classism, ageism, and sexism rather than racism. **(Milli Lau)**

The story drew me in from the beginning. The fact that she never revealed the race of the girls only adds to the effect it has on the reader. We could assume Roberta is the white girl whose mother is sick and unable to take care of her and that Twyla is the little black girl with the wild mom who loves

to drink and dance. Or maybe that's just me. Maybe Roberta was the shy black girl that smelled different and didn't keep her hair well kempt. You can make many assumptions, but there's no proof in the story to back up your argument. The stereotypes are there but they could go either way. It's impossible to decide who is salt and who is pepper. **(Shiquille Ward)**

I was able to stereotype. Twyla was black and Roberta was white. Twyla couldn't read and spoke about chicken legs. Roberta was in search of Jimi Hendricks and he liked white ladies.

**(LaPrice Black)**

Roberta was black. **(Derick McCray)**

I knew from the beginning of the story that Roberta was white. . . . The first time they met, I thought of how you are as a child, very innocent and not understanding of the importance of race. These two girls survived a cruel world together only to grow up feeling like they were on separate planets. **(Simone Lawrence)**

The struggle they were going through had no color. **(Nafisa Davis)**

I tried to figure out who was black and white at first, but then I stopped judging and just kept reading. I think that Morrison thought although we all may look different on the outside, we all are humans and are not that much different on the inside. It taught me not to judge people just because of their name, hair texture, or the color of their skin. We are all humans at the end of it all. We all stereotype, judge, predetermine things because that is what we have been taught to do all our lives. We must not assume things about other people because of what we are told. We as living and loving human beings should just accept all people for who they are and as they are.

**(Michael Martin)**

# ODYSSEY SENTENCES

My odyssey has just started, and I pray it will end in an amazing place. (**Zeynab Ahmed**)

In Odyssey I've added some vocabulary words with the help from Coach. (**Christopher Bester**)

My life changed for the better when I started the Odyssey Project. (**Mallory Carter**)

Odyssey helped me discover my talent of writing poetry. (**Lucia Chikowero**)

If everyone in life was as caring and giving as the people of Odyssey, there would be no wars. (**Kunga Chokten**)

My life is an ongoing odyssey and sails endless seas of hopes and possibilities. (**Charlienne Cotto**)

I've appreciated Odyssey for giving me the drive to really pursue who I am and how I can make a difference in this world. (**Nafisa Davis**)

Many people do not know how to spell the word "odyssey." (**Jackieta Fairley**)

I enjoyed learning about my classmates' odysseys. (**Kelli Green**)

The Odyssey Project represents a childlike wonder, speaking to all ethnicities, genders, and ages, through inspiring the frustrated, comforting the burdened, and enchanting even the youngest or oldest with a depth of truth and feeling, reflecting the whole world. (**LaTrease Hibbler**)

As satisfying as it has been, I am so sad to see the Odyssey class coming to an end. (**Nyagoa Hoth**)

Odyssey gives me friendship. (**Milli Lau**)

I heard Gene Phillips say that we were the wildest Odyssey group. (**Simone Lawrence**)

I was thirsty for knowledge and eager to learn; Odyssey gave me wings to wisdom. (**Vanessa Lopes Maia**)

The Odyssey Project has catapulted me into a bright future through higher education. (**Jamie Lovely**)

My odyssey has been transforming. (**Michael Martin**)

I would highly recommend Odyssey to others. (**Amber McCarley**)

Odyssey is a journey of the unknown. (**Derick McCray**)

Odyssey class has benefited all its alumni. (**Starr Miles**)

I feel that God blessed me with Odyssey because He believes I deserve a second chance. (**Toshiana Northington**)

From Socrates to Thoreau to MLK and Abraham Lincoln along with Douglass and Brown to Hansberry and Morrison to Blake and Hughes to others not mentioned, works from Odyssey have shaped me into a more determined woman despite my odds. (**Janet Shelton**)

Odyssey makes you take a good look at yourself and gives you the courage to believe in yourself when life has let you down. (**Jeannine Shoemaker**)

I went to the art museum for the first time with the Odyssey class. (**Alisha Taylor**)

Odyssey is a game, a game I can't lose. (**Shiquille Ward**)

Odyssey opens my eyes to much more in life. (**Latrice White**)

