

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



Contents

Odyssey Junior Teens	2
Odyssey Explorers	7
Odyssey Jumpstart	12

Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

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

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

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

Guests: Kay Kriebald, Krissy Wick (Madison Public Library), UW Slow Food interns, Read to a Dog volunteers, Venus Washington, Marshall Cook, Clare Norelle, UW Speech and Language graduate students

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

ODYSSEY JUNIOR TEENS



I LOVE...

I love the beginning of fall. I love how the leaves are changing colors to express their feelings. I love the smiling sun that only fades when the leaves are tired and ready to die. I love the early light blue sky that turns gray and starts to cry when the leaves are saying their goodbyes. I love the red leaves



because they tell me that they are in love with life and angry that they will be leaving it. I love the yellow nearly dead leaves that are filled with hope to live again. I love the colors of fall that express their feelings. **(Safaa Mohammed Saed)**



I love my skin. I love the skin I'm in. I love how dark my skin is. I love how cream nail polish contrasts with my skin and how red lipstick makes my lips pop. My skin absorbs the sun. My melanin is fleekin. I'm flexin my complexion. **(Dianna Murray)**



I love many things. I love my family, every single family member, from my dad to my mom to my brother. This time, it is about my dad. I love my dad so much! I love it when he plays soccer and goes swimming and biking with me. I appreciate it when he helps me with my homework and essays. Thanks, dad! **(Maka Chikowero)**



I love my famo (family) and cuzos (cousins) and I am glad to have them in my life. Even if they irritate me or make me mad, I still love them.

(Aiah'Neanna Thomas)



I love my mom. She is very supportive and a hard worker. She is very independent. I love her because no matter how awkward, annoying, and mean I am, she is always there. **(Yemi Harding)**

I love my mom because she never gives up. She is the best mommy. **(Olivia Partee)**





One person that I love is my mom because she puts my brother and me before anyone. She loves us, so our love is mutual for her.

(JaQuez McAlister)

I love baseball; baseball is a fun sport. It is tricky. It is hard; that's what some people say. Practice. Practice. Practice. That's really all you need. With the bat, you need focus, practice and strength. Once you hit the bat, you'll also need speed. With speed and strength, strength will hit the ball far. Speed, speed will help

you run through, past the bases, bases, we'll get around once and you get a point. Pitching, you will need strength and speed and also catching skills. You need strength to throw fast and strike them out, and speed helps with that too, plus catching skills on the field to get them out. **(Antonio Uriostegui)**



Love is putting someone's or something's needs or feelings before yours. Love is when you can argue with someone and then they make you smile. Love is also when you can share food with someone without feeling mad about it. Sometimes people get so hurt that they start to believe that love is something false. Some people have been treated so right that they believe love is all you need. I think that love is something that comes and goes. When it's there you're happy, and when it's gone you're unhappy. **(Denaria Rowe)**



Milk chocolate: you are good, but you can kill me. If I had to build a home of chocolate I would, but I would eat it in two weeks. **(Abdul Mohammed Saed)**



I love my grandpa.
He has always been there for our family
And he cares for my health,
Education
And
My success in this world
Because it's dangerous,
And he wants me to be prepared. **(Claudio Uriostegui)**



DREAMS

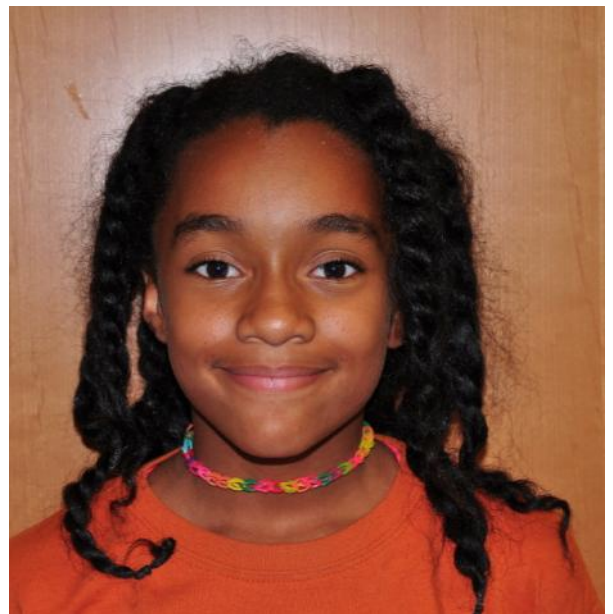
When I closed my eyes, I saw a room of mirrors, a place where past, present, and future have collided. I saw a reflection of me, but when I blinked, my reflection picked me up and brought me together with the other me. As I entered the Jell-O-like mirror, I found myself gliding through the universe on my way to see the TIME. I was on a mission to stop time from repeating itself. (**Jocelyn Moore**)



In my dream, I went to a zoo. There were animals dancing, and they were amazing. I felt that I was safe and one of them. (**Abdul Mohammed Saed**)

In my dream, I closed my eyes and saw my niece KayD. We were dancing to the song "Happy." In my dream KayD had just started walking. She was so cute. (**Olivia Partee**)

In another dream, I saw my sister's aunt Laurie. We moved to Fuji by flying. We talked about how she felt about having cancer and how life was happy/ sad. I was happy because I haven't seen her in a while. I was sad because I don't want her to die without having seen me since I was ten. (**Olivia Partee**)



REFLECTIONS ON SOCIETY



One social problem that humanity has is JUDGMENT. People see a black girl, and they think, “Ugh, who is she?” or “She’s different!” In my school that is the biggest problem ever! When someone sees a black girl, I expect to hear, “Oh, she’s nice” or a compliment. I’ve wasted so much of my school time trying to make people accept me, and after I quit that, I noticed how STUPID I was. I couldn’t believe that I acted that way. I needed to talk to myself, like “Duh! Not everyone is going to like you! Focus on your life, not your ego!”

Another thing that is currently happening is that every friend that is a girl has a boyfriend! And when all your BFFs talk about how sweet their boyfriends are, it makes me feel down. Sometimes it even makes me cry. It feels horrible to know that everyone is doing something that I’m not! It makes me feel jealous! **(Jocelyn Moore)**

African American Children in the School System

I think one way to help African American children more in the school system would be to add more after-school programs with mentors and teachers with similar backgrounds. This would make it so that they will not be the only one of their ethnic group in the room. We believe that 6th – 12th grade African American kids struggle most, whether it’s with stress, anxiety, or anything else that makes them struggle with school. **(Tyelle Latham, Keziah Bester, Aiah-Neanna Thomas, Yemi Harding, and Denaria Rowe)**



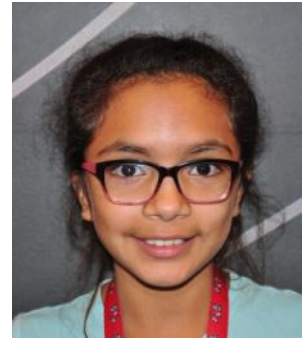
ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



I CARE ABOUT...

Roselyn Sanchez-Gomez

I really care about my family because they are always there for me! We've done mostly everything together, like go to the waterpark or go to different states together. And we always look out for each other. For example, if my aunt needs a place to stay for a while when she is looking for a new home, someone in my family will offer a place to stay until she can find what she is looking for. I don't know what I'd ever do without them. These are just some reasons why I care about my family.



Elijah Richmond

I care about school. School helps me learn. I have fun. School helps me make friends. I show that I care about school by learning. I show that I care about myself by working hard.

Alan Mendoza

I care about people because they help other people when they are sick. I also care about soccer because it gives good exercise and makes me feel happy.

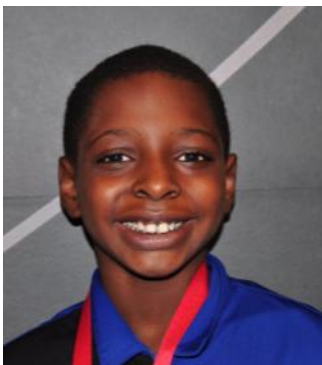
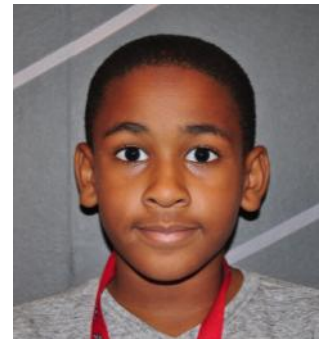


Lanagsha Richmond

I care about my mom, my step-dad, my two sisters and my two brothers because they help me. I love my mom and my step-dad. I love my two brothers and two sisters. I also love my teacher because she helps me. They are all kind.

Javon McAlister

I care about soccer. When I play soccer it makes me feel confident for my team and me. My team and I work hard to play, have fun and make goals.



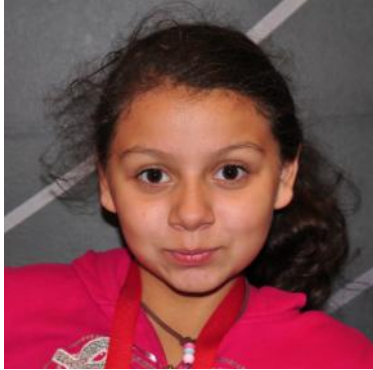
Jerry Moore

I care about reptiles and amphibians because they make sure that insects don't take over. Once my brother, Jordan, and I saw the faucet was pouring water outside, and we put the water on a leaf. The next day there were tadpoles. Then about a week later, there were about 14 frogs. Jordan and I kept them until we let them go. We went to see them two times a week in spring and summer. Jordan and I named some. The names of some were Summer, Jack, Jimmy, Froggy, Froggo, Speedy, Hop, Jumpy. Jordan's were Jet, Four, Hiphop, Number Three, Beat Box, and the last was Awesome Sauce. We saw other frogs and toads in the grass and near trees.

I love reptiles and amphibians.

Evan Sanchez-Gomez

I care about my family. My grandmas, mom, dad, grandpa, cousins, sister, brother, aunts and uncles. I care about them because I love them so much, also because we care for each other.

**Anna Uriostegui**

I care about my health! Without my health, I'm *nada*! I need good health to be a successful student and a human being. With good health I can live to be 98 years old. With good health I can do more fun activities. For the rest of my life, I will appreciate my health!

**Kamya Davis**

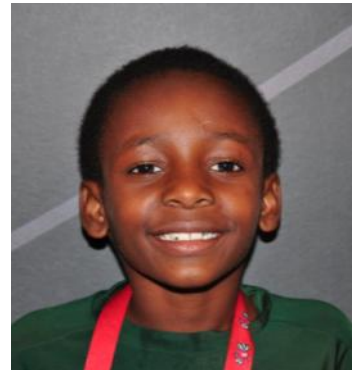
I care about myself. I care about myself because I'm good. I'm also smart. I take care of myself by eating healthy foods. I take care of myself by exercising.

**Jordan Moore**

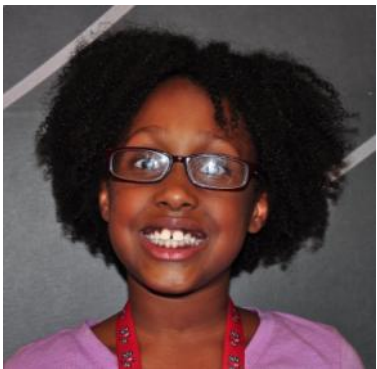
I care about my house. When I'm at home, I take care of my family. My family includes my mom, my dad, my sisters, Jocelyn and Jasmine, my brothers, Jerry and Julius, and myself. We really love each other.

**Ryland English**

I care about gym class. I like to play basketball. I like to play sports. I care about all my special classes. My other classes are hard.

**Alleanah Hancock**

I care about school.
I care about Odyssey.
I care about my family.
I care about Rocky, my dog.
I care about God.
I care about my friends.
I care about my teachers.

**Brysen Wills**

I care about my mom and dad and my little sister. I hope that they will still love me. I hope they have a longer than normal life.
I care about Jesus.



I HAVE A DREAM

Nasier Emmanuel

My dream is to go to college and make money, help old people, and get a job. I also want to be a basketball player.



Roselyn Sanchez-Gomez

Originally I wanted to be a football player. Now I want to be a special education teacher because they help kids, and I want to help kids, too. I would go to school to learn special skills, and I would go to college to learn even more. Then I would ask special education teachers for tips to maybe learn more. After all of this is done, I would apply for jobs. After around maybe 20 years of teaching, I could create a foundation to raise money for special education teachers, and I could hire some people to teach some classes on special skills. When I die, I want people to remember me for making a difference.

Anna Uriostegui

My dream is to be the President of the United States. Before I become the President, I will earn a law degree and be a lawyer. Hopefully, when I run for President, people will vote for me because of my extra experience.



Jordan Moore

I have a dream to see a real live rocket ship blast off to outer space. I hope to see it.

Evan Sanchez-Gomez

I have a dream that I will be able to get my brothers to stop hitting me.



Elijah Richmond

I have a dream to be a football player to make more money, to be a basketball player, and to pass college.



Javon McAlister

My dream is to play soccer for 11 years because I'm already playing, and I have been playing for four years. I'm really good at making goals. Last year I made 20 goals.





Jahnla Pigram

I have a dream that one day I will grow up and become an NBA player and be the best on the team. My number will be 23 or 30, and while I am on the court I will show them how I am and what I can do. I have a dream that one day I will be wiser, stronger, and, yes, older. I have a dream. This is my “dream” speech.

Lanagsha Richmond

I have a dream that one day I will be a jump rope star. I will build up my strength until I get faster and faster. I will work on my tricks until I am perfect. I will focus on my skills. My mom encourages me.

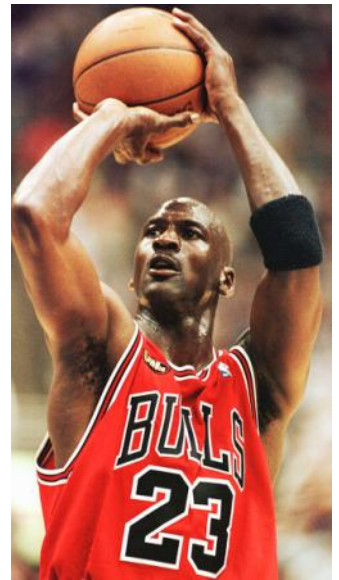


Brysen Wills

I had a dream that I woke up in the morning and there was a hamster sitting downstairs on a couch. It was in its cage and running around its wheel.

Jerry Moore

I have a dream that I will be one of the best basketball players ever! The person that inspired me was Michael Jordan. He was always the best of the best. He was on the Bulls team when he retired. The Bulls were the best; nobody could beat Jordan, Pippen, Harper, Rodman, Longley, Kukoc, Simpkins, Kerr and everyone that played on the Bulls. It is a bummer that they all retired. The Bulls are still a team, but there are different players. The Bulls still can't be beat. The reason I wrote this is my friends told me to never give up and to achieve my goals, and I love to play basketball and to achieve my goals.



Ryland English

I have a dream to go to Chicago because my family members are there. I don't want to be in Madison anymore.

Alleannah Hancock

I have a dream that my dog Rocky will live forever.
I have a dream that my friends and I will stay friends forever.
I have a dream that I will go to college.
I have a dream that God will continue to bless me.



ODYSSEY JUMPSTART



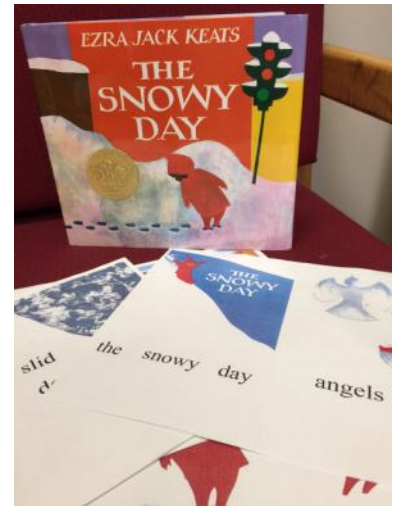
CATHY'S CORNER

One book that was a big hit with the youngest members of Odyssey is Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day*. Parents have probably seen it since copies and dolls were sent home with the children in December.

A boy named Peter goes out to tramp and to slide after a big snowfall. Our guests had the kids pretending to walk through huge drifts of snow and making snow angels on the rug.

It is a book that remembers how exciting snow is when you don't have to shovel it.

Since we can't go out at night in the winter, we have been going to the Big Room, where there are balls, bowling, and hoppity horses. The bigger kids are pretty good at sharing with the younger ones: if you get Millena and Jasmine going on the horses there is no stopping them.



Back in the classroom, most make a beeline for crafts, especially if they involve lots of glue and some glitter. Others are drawn to the rainbow magnetic blocks, and beautiful structures arise.

--Cathy Rasmussen, Odyssey Jumpstart Volunteer

