

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

A SAMPLING OF IMAGES AND WRITING FROM 2015-2018



Through a journey of self-discovery in the arts and humanities, Odyssey Junior empowers youth to find their voices, envision their futures, and change their communities. The Odyssey Junior Oracle provides participants with a chance to share photos, art, and reflections with their classmates as well as with adult family members in the UW Odyssey Project.

SELF EXPRESSION



The Skin I'm In

You may say my skin
Is black
But that's incorrect
"The skin I'm in" is the skin
Of the slaves
The skin I'm in is the fighters of the country
The skin I'm in is
Everyone ~Kamoria



See Me

I want someone to see me
Not as my race
Not as just Angel
Not just someone
See me as Joy
See me as Kindness
See me as Love
See me as Hope
See me
That's all you have to do
See me as the sky
See me as God
See me
Don't judge me
See me
See me
Don't be mean to me because this and
that
See me
See me
See me as the sun and moon
See me.

~Angel



Unity

In a world where nothing makes sense
It's like no one can realize that they're
blessed
Can't make a comment on Facebook
without making a mess
Black or white, we need to unite
People killing each other just out of spite
Why can't we be one?
~Savannah

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
made speeches and led marchers.
Inspired people, kind to people
and himself.

Ruby Bridges,
kind to herself,
broke rules
to break racism,
like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A girl
Went in a white school.
Inspired little girl.
I wish I could meet you.
And you are the same,
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
And Ruby Bridges. ~Kimari





Acrostic Me

J is for joking
A is for athletic.
V is for very exciting.
O is for organized.
N is for nice.
E is for excellent.

I was named after my father! ~Javone



Just
A
Cool
Kid
Surviving and
Overcoming
Negative situations

~Jackson

My Fair Skin

My fair skin brings up questions definitely if you have seen my parents.

My fair skin is one of the many reasons why people are racist. This racism is tearing me down, making me feel like nothing. My fair skin makes me me, but this feeling of not fitting in at all horrible.

Tell me why my skin is so fair?
 Why do I have it?

My parents are black but I am mixed,
 Not fully black and not fully white but half and half.
 I hate when people call me a half-baked cookie.
 I am human. ~Olivia



is

I admire my mom [Keena, Odyssey '10] because she had me when she was 16 and my dad went to jail when it was 3 and when my mom was 19. Another reason is because we used to sleep in a nearby barber shop with our friend and then he moved to Chicago. I used to have a lemonade stand with his son in front of the barber shop and we sold some candy and a lot of lemonade. Another reason is that she managed to take care of me when she was just in high school and when she didn't have any money. Then she took care of me when she was in college. She took me to some college classes sometimes until I was in 5th grade. My last reason is she makes a lot of sacrifices for me and my brother like paying for my sports which add up to around \$350 dollars then she has to pay for my brothers daycare. She basically pays for everything we have with no help. In conclusion my mom is a really great and nice person and she loves to encourage people who have trouble with their lives to not give up because she was in their position once but she found a way to fight out of it. ~K'Shawn



THE ARTS



FIELD TRIPS

Madison Children's Museum

I like the butterflies hanging from the ceiling. I like them because butterflies are very beautiful to me. I also like them because I loved the color of the wings and the color of the background too. And that's why I liked the Children's Museum. ~Alleanah

The Madison Children's Museum was fun. I loved the water display. It was cool and splashing, as the balls were pushed up in the air and then came crashing down. I also liked painting the window. It was fun to go on the hamster wheel. In the shadow room, you go into this space, you put your back to the wall, and push a button; it will leave a mark of where you were (a shadow) on the wall. The climbing gym was cool; I went up in it, and it twisted around. We went back to the UW Space Place and played a few games, and then it was time to go home. ~Kamia

The hamster wheel, the kitchen, and the little playground were my favorite. I liked them because I could cook, run so fast like a hamster, and run so fast down the slide on my tummy. I liked the piano and little rocket ship and the art room with the little designs. ~Kamiya



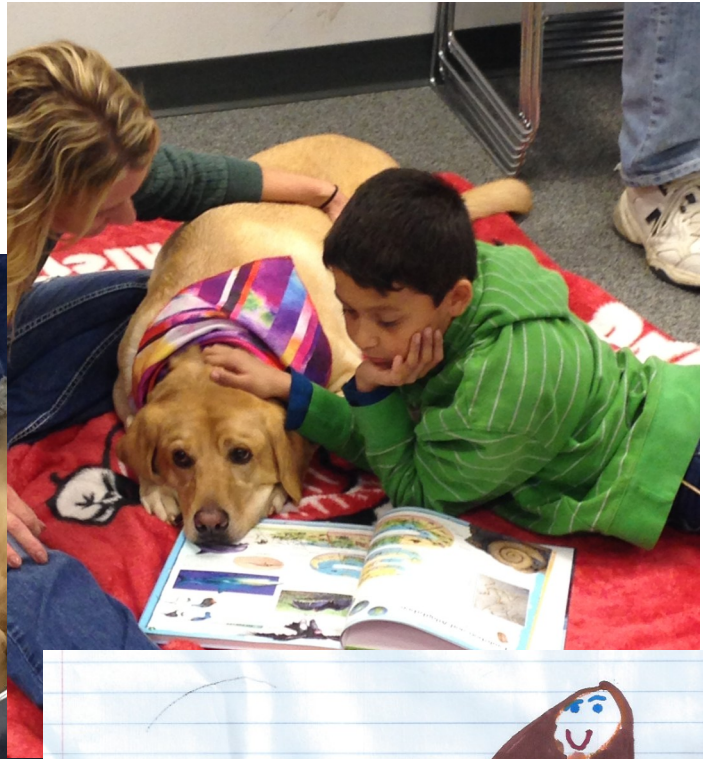
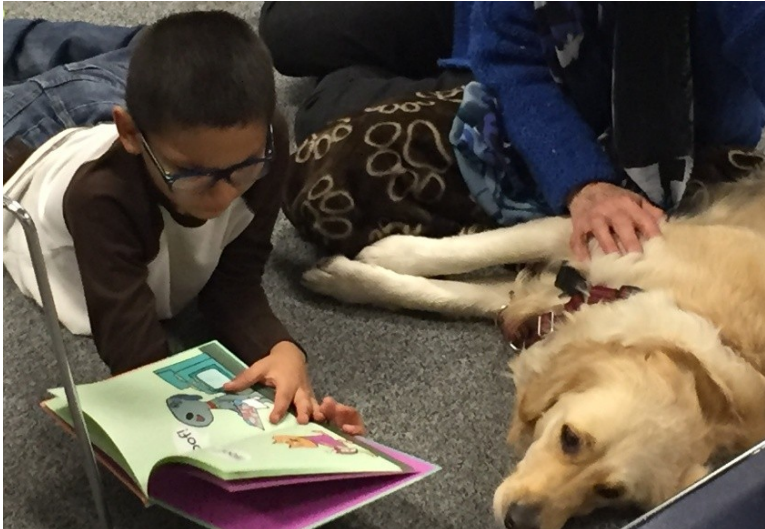
Overture Center



Geology Museum

READ TO A DOG

I enjoyed the calmness, the soothing feeling of reading to a dog while you could pet them. The difference is that instead of reading to yourself (probably alone) and in your head, you are sharing that with someone else. There is something soothing and a happiness it brings to share with a dog or another person. ~Yael



*Yo leí a un chiquito perro y era negro.
I read to a little dog and he was black.*
~Isabel

I have always been scared of dogs. . . But then when I met a dog, I saw something totally different. They are the most caring animals, so that is why you should do something different. Try something different because you may find your new favorite thing. ~Abdul

Reading to a dog made me feel happy and super excited because Jessie (the dog) was listening and after reading a couple of pages she was interested in the book. I loved reading to Jessie. ~Roselyn



SUMMER CAMPS

Every summer, Odyssey staff help youth who were in Odyssey Junior during the school to find enrichment classes and camps where they can continue to find and grow their gifts and interests.

We assisted Sidney (Odyssey Junior, class of 2018) in getting into a couple camps, but her father (Bruce) really took it a lot farther, helping Sidney find all kinds of camps and classes for a summer of fun and learning. Sidney wrote us this letter about her camps:

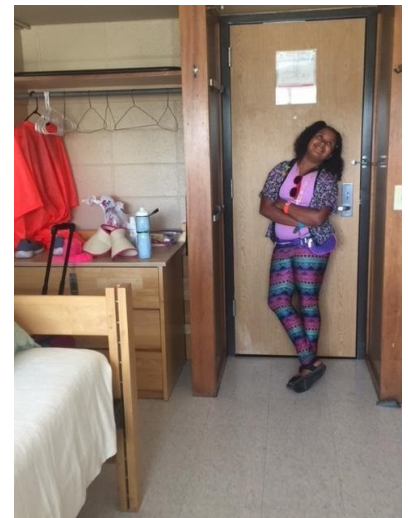


My first camp was my geology camp (Space Rocks Camp). We learned about different kinds of rocks, and we also went to the Geology Museum. For example, did you know that diamonds are made out of coal because the coal is made into diamonds by applying a lot of heat and pressure? That camp was really fun but also educational!



My second camp was WYSO Music Makers Camp. I got to practice singing in a choir, and I learned how to play the violin, which was totally awesome because I had no clue at first. I learned how to sing "This is Me" from *The Greatest Showman* and a few other songs. I am glad because I love singing. That camp was definitely one of my favorites!

My third camp was the WCATY camp. In that camp I stayed in the UW college dorms for a week. I had a roommate, and it was SO FUN! We even had RAs, which means "Residential Assistants." The WCATY camp was definitely my favorite, but I still liked my other camps too. I did the theater class, and I loved it! Our class was all girls! With my theater camp the things we mostly talked about were the expectations that society puts on us as girls. In the theater class we did a performance art piece about this. Actually, I have been in four plays with VACT (Verona Area Community Theatre). I loved the WCATY Camp, and I can't wait to do it next year!



The fourth camp I did was Chef like a Scientist at Edgewood College. In that camp we learned how to make different kinds of food. We learned multiple ways to make cookies, mint caviar, and ice cream. They taught us six different ways to make ice cream, including liquid nitrogen. I had a lot of fun making and baking.

My fifth camp was CEOs of Tomorrow. This was my second year being in this camp. We always sell something, and this time we made and sold bracelets. I love this camp because I love helping people or animals and a little less than half of the profit goes somewhere that will help people. This time we gave it to the Dane County Humane Society. This is my second favorite camp.

I am looking forward to the Young Writers Camp (Greater Madison Writing Project) at Olbrich Gardens. We talked to one of the teachers, and she told me what we would be doing and it sounds really fun.

Thank you so much for helping me get into the camps. I had an amazing summer because of you. ~Sidney

Shadavien (Odyssey Adventurers, Class of 2018) participated in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) camp this summer through the Urban League of Greater Madison and Strang, Inc. He sent us a letter telling us about the highlights:

There were so many great things about camp, especially the food, but my favorite part was going to the U.S. Army base. The reason it was my favorite is because we got to try on army gear, feel and hold grenades, and even hold missile launchers. It was really awesome.

Another thing is that we learned a lot more about being a parent. We did that by playing a game in which you were a parent and you have to take care of a wife/ husband or child or both. You need to pay for clothes, Internet, food, housing, etc. In that exercise, I was a pharmacist and had a take-home salary. It taught me how hard it is; I knew it was hard but not THAT hard.

The last question you sent was about my career goal. It hasn't changed; I still want to be an architect. Once again, thanks for the help into STEAM camp! ~Shadavien



In other camp news,

K'Shawn (Adventurers, '18) and his class created and ran a family-friendly event, "Sports Brings Us Together," promoting multicultural unity through games as a part of the CEOs of Tomorrow Camp, "These Teens Mean Business."

Kamoria and Ruth (Adventurers, '18) attended Vilas Zoo Girls' STEAM Camp and got a real "behind the scenes" look at the zoo, including seeing what it was like to feed a cow leg to a lion!

In Aldo Leopold Nature Camp (Insect-igations and Amphibians), Alan and Erick (Explorers, '18) reported that they learned about invasive species such as the Japanese Beetle. They reported that the best part of the day was pond dipping. They also liked morning meeting and puppets.

Carmella (Explorers, '18) reported enjoying kayaking at Junior Badgers Recreation Camp.



JaZaya (Jumpstart, '18) attended Growing into Spanish Camp. Her mother, Fana, said, "I enjoyed taking her and seeing her have fun while learning something she's interested in. There needs to be more programs like these."

Ricky (Jumpstart, '18) attended three MSCR Camps (Let's Play, Everything Wisconsin, and Drumming). His grandmother, Mary, said he enjoyed drawing, painting, making ice cream, making his own musical instrument, and performing on the drums. He led the class in trying out a new vegetable.

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

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. ~Jaquez



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. ~Anna

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. ~Abdul



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. ~Antonio

My main goal is to get a 4.0 GPA. If I get a 4.0 I can do almost every other life goal I have. I can get into a historically Black College and become a surgeon, or

OB/GYN, or anything in the medical field. Getting a 4.0 opens a lot more doors and opportunities. ~Javé



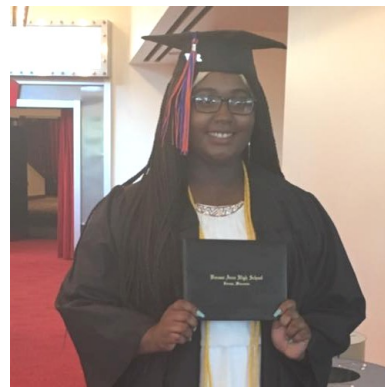
COLLEGE CORNER



I was in Odyssey Junior, but now I attend the UW-Madison. I aspire to be a defense lawyer. My goal is to work for the Department of Justice. I want to combat racial inequality in the system and help bring justice to America. . . . I'm finishing up a great summer after participating in UW Madison's LSAC Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program. To continue on my legal career path, I am happy to announce that I will be spending my junior fall semester in Washington, DC interning for the NAACP DC Branch working to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensuring political, social, and economic equality for all!

If any of you feel you are not college material, I strongly encourage you to at least look into college programs. College will give you opportunities you cannot even imagine. ~Dauntrea

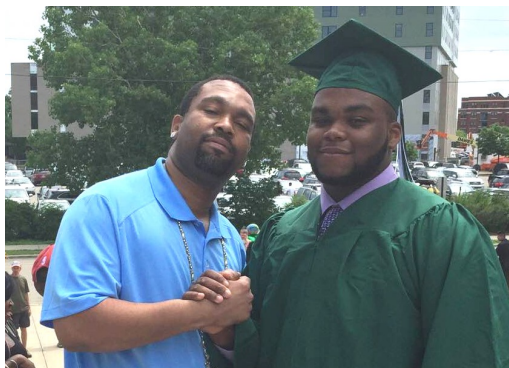
Hi, Odyssey Junior participants! My name is Jaleah. I am a former Odyssey Jr. student. While in the program, I was able to express my hardships through writing. Odyssey Jr. helped me find this outlet and gave me an identity through my pen and paper. I am one of the youngest college students on the Central State University campus. Central State is an historically Black college that was ranked the best HBCU of the year, beating institutions like Spelman College and Howard University. At Central I will be studying biology in hopes to best prepare myself for graduate school and my aspirations of becoming a community leader and role model.



I hope to pursue careers in social justice linked with psychology as they possess the ability to touch many lives through devoir service. The potential of social justice and psychology speaks to me because they offer to serve the community through the value of "service above self" by diminishing racial inequality and social barriers. . . . I want my education to influence my career to follow the ethics of community involvement, helping lives, and influencing the evolution of a more inclusive world. My classes at Central State have extremely interesting professors because they are all so diverse in ethnicity and where they went to school. The feel of a HBCU is amazing. I love stepping out my dorm and seeing people like me. ~Jaleah

I was only in ninth grade when my mom was part of Odyssey Project. She would bring her books from class home and tell me about them. I am now a senior at UW-Milwaukee and want to be a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. . . . For any kids who say 'I'm never going to college, it's not for people like me,' know I had those feelings when I was younger, too, but college offers

opportunities you may not even realize existed. Don't let anything stop you! ~Raven



I'm a freshman at the University of Kentucky, and my goal is to be a neurosurgeon. A major reason that I am in college today is my father. He inspired me by joining the Odyssey Project and re-enrolling in school. School is an adventure I believe everyone should take, especially college. ~Ishmael