

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



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Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

Odyssey Adventurers/Goodman Library, grades 6-12: Brittany Brazzel, Todd Lilly, Mackenzie McDermit, Leigh Fredrickson, Scott Cooper, Lucia Chikowero '14, Kirk Parslow

Odyssey Explorers/Space Place, grades 1-5: Marian Slaughter, Christina Wagner, Shannon Huberty, Max Lenz, Kay Kriewald

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Guests: Fabu, Will Allen (Growing Power), Read to a Dog (Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Inc.), Milli Lau, Dean Robbins, UW Language and Speech, Holly Storck-Post (Madison Public Library), Rockameem, UW Slow Foods

Photography by Dick Baker, Colleen Johnson, Keith Meyer, and Odyssey Junior staff members

ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS



COURAGE



Safaa Mohammed Saed

My mind is empty.
My eyes are glassy from tears that do not hold hurt.
I am breathing hard and fast.
My mouth is zipped
And my body is tired.

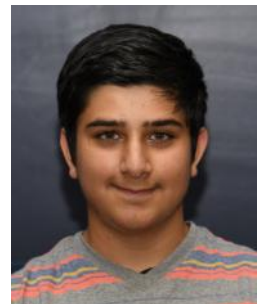
The first two words that seem to appear in my head
That make sense, I couldn't hold in for long.
I blurted a whispered, "Thank you..."
It's barely audible but it has every flowing emotion
I was having at the moment when my hero
Defended me while someone assaulted me because of my
religion, when everybody else stood watching and some laughing.

Tears finally flowed easily down my cheeks,
not from humiliation,
but from joy of having someone,
only one,
believe in me...
A drop of hope.

This is how I would feel if I ever become involved in a horrifying situation like this.

Abdul Mohammed Saed

In Malaysia, school was too expensive for many kids. The refugee center wanted a place for kids to go to school. My mom was a teacher. When we got to Malaysia, my mom homeschooled us. She had to teach everything from the ABCs to middle school. She homeschooled us for four years. Then, the center asked my mom to teach. My mom agreed, which was brave because the school didn't have many supplies or space. By the time we left, there were more students, supplies, and space.

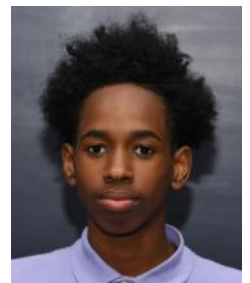


Gael Rodriguez Tapia

Something I saw but nobody else saw was when I was walking back from school, and there was a cat that got his head stuck in one of the fence holes. A guy went to go grab some giant metal scissors. He cut the fence to let go of the cat because the cat's head was so stuck he couldn't take it out. So, the guy helped the cat out, and I kept on walking.

Jerry Sanders

A time when I've seen courage was when I was watching the news and it was a school shooting. The shooter came in a room and the teacher hid all the children and said, "They're in the gym," and the shooter killed her. You have to have a lot of courage to do something like that.





Yael Gonzalez

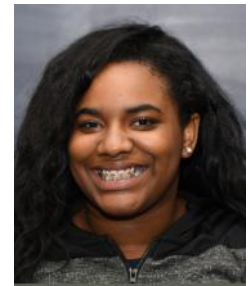
Courage: To do something for yourself or others, that you don't need to do and usually involves risk, for the greater good.

Courageous act: There was one book that I read called *Angels and Demons*. The protagonist is a professor at Harvard named Robert Langdon. He did something very courageous. He stayed in a place where there was a bomb and, instead of fleeing, stayed and tried to disarm/get rid of it without it blowing up.

Courageous parents: My parents are some of the most courageous people I know. My parents were born in Mexico. Everything they knew was in Mexico. The first time that I knew my mom was courageous is when I was born. My mom had me when she was 18. My mom had a choice then and there. She could continue with her young adult life, not having that extra responsibility of having a child at such a young age. But no, my mom said that she was going to have me which came with a huge risk because she was so young. I was born on April 22, 2002. The second time that my parents were courageous was when they decided to come to the United States of America. My parents thought that Mexico was not the right place for them to raise a child. So, leaving everything behind, my parents came to the U.S. to start a new life.

Javè Sanders

Courage is a word that means bravery; courage is admitting you're wrong when you don't want to admit you're wrong. Consequences of your actions have to be put in consideration.



Jackson Gamble

The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.

My definition of courage is someone going above and beyond (past the limit), not for something that benefits them but to benefit or help somebody else.

My example is Martin Luther King, Jr. He didn't have to stand up for us, but he did even though it was a big risk.

Besides the risk, people don't think of the sacrifice he made. More than anything, he sacrificed time, something you can never get back. He missed time with his family because of determination and hope. That makes people really question: is it courage or a self-driven motive?

Ashzianna Alexander

I'm an outgoing, courageous person because when someone needs help, I'm there for them. When someone is down, I help them back up. If you are alone, I'm right there for you. Don't worry about bullies. I'll just watch out for you. Sleepovers, I love those, too. You want to be friends? I'm going to say "yes" to you because friendship is very cool. Sometimes, I have days when I don't want to talk, but I'm still, of course, your friend! My name is Ashzianna. I'm a friendly person, and I stick up for people who stick up for me!



CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Poetic Expression

By Kavon Bent

gold

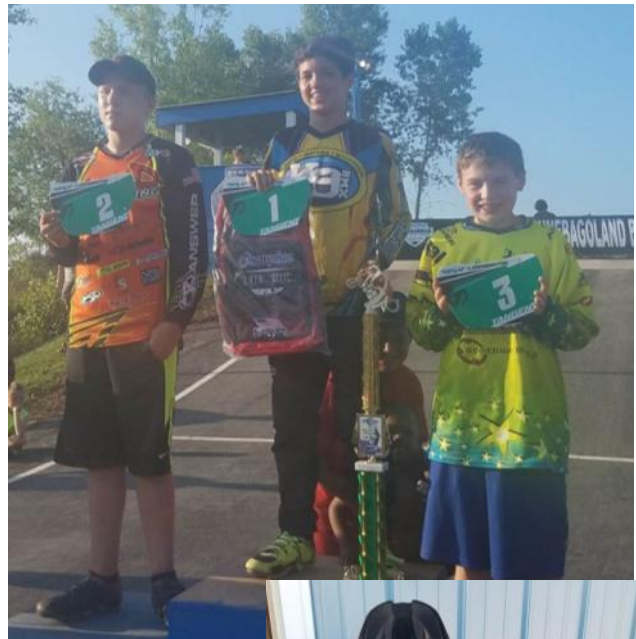
gold. I speak that. gold. I make that.
gold. I sell that. gold. I spit that.

verbs

My verbs are burns I my burns are
inflamed by verbs I verbs are what I
speak I my verbs have been burned I why
ain't they burned.

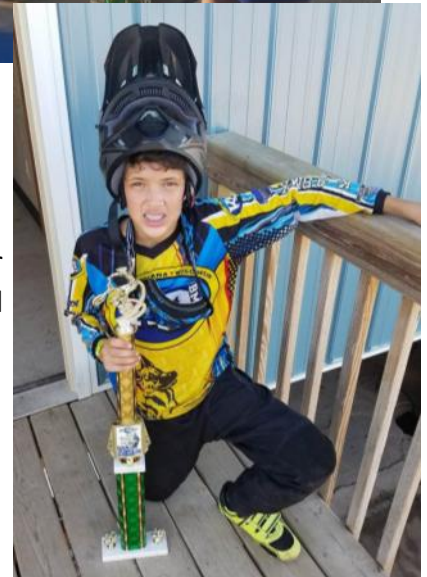
America

Red, white and the blue I gloom like
the moon I that's american pride I I ride the
Flag to victory I victory is that



Champion Bike Racer

Although I have only been racing for a little over a year, I have developed into an elite rider. I love BMX for the feeling of freedom it gives me. I hope to race pro or in the X-games one day. I have already been in magazines. I am almost there! A huge thank you to my grandmother and mom for all they do.



Unity

By Savannah Benjamin

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?
Why hasn't anyone seen what the devil has done?
He's trying to put a wedge between us all
No one's trying to break the wall
To survive this world, we all need each other
It doesn't matter your color, you're my sister and you're my brother
Just gotta love the humans for who they are
Underneath the skin we're all the same
I think it's time to stop playing the blame game
Take a stand like others have done in the past
The unity never seems to last
It's time to end the hatred



Teaser from an Upcoming Short Story by Jaayd Roquemore

For three months Sarahi was being bullied by a boy named John. John bullied Sarahi online, at school, and even in her own home. John was best friends with her brother Michael. One day Sarahi tried to tell her brother, but he exclaimed, "John would never bully you. You're like a sister to him." Day after day, night after night, Sarahi felt meaningless and worthless. . . . (to be continued in a later Oracle)

ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



HOW CAN WE HELP?



My Great Ideas of Helping!

How can I help make our time together safe and fun? I could help by being friendly. I can also help clean up the classroom when it is dirty and messy and pick up the trash. Playing is fun, but I should clean up after myself first. I can try to do my best and try helping other kids and adults when they need help doing work.

Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh

I can help by remembering: no running, no cartwheels, no trying to jump over chairs, people sitting, people lying down, or things dropped on the floor. Also, no name calling, no hitting, and no being a bully to others. Clean up after yourself and other people, be kind, be respectful, be responsible, play with others, make new friends and, last but not least, have FUN! **Francisco Uriostegui**



How can I help make our time together safe and fun? I can help children by cleaning up after myself and not bullying people. Also, I can be kind to others and welcome people here, do my best in class, so I can learn more and make others feel good here, and by getting stuff done! **Kimari Christian**

How can I make our time together safe and fun? I can make our time together safe and fun by listening to directions, by being kind to others, and also by being respectful and responsible. **Don'ielle Spivey**



I will help kids by helping them with their homework.
Amari Diagne

No Bullying

We can be safe and have fun by remembering: no fighting on the bus when you're not supposed to. Especially when you're in class, remember no bad words. When someone hits you, just tell your teacher and get back to work. No pushing when you are about to get off your bus. When someone pushes you, it doesn't mean you can hit them back. **Nyjua Daniel**



We can respect each other by sharing, helping other people, doing what the teacher says, and listening. This will make things go faster. **Alan Mendoza**



We should not run with scissors. To make the class fun we should play with puzzles. **Keenan Hayes**

How can I help make our time together safe and fun?

I can make our time together safe and fun by not bullying.

I can make our time together safe and fun by working and helping other people.

I can make our time together safe and fun by learning what other people know.

I can make our time together safe and fun by playing with other people.

I can make our time together safe and fun by accepting other people.

I can make our time together safe and fun by learning new stuff.

I can make our time together safe and fun by keeping my hands to myself.

Yarianie Rodriguez Tapia



I can make our time together safe and fun if I clean up after myself, help others, be kind to everyone, play with everyone when I am told, listen to everyone when they talk, get along with everyone, be respectful to the teachers and listen to the teachers. **Don'ye Spivey**



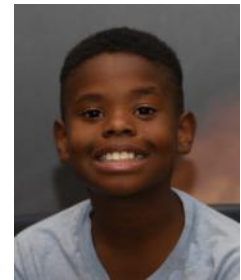
I can open doors for others. **Sheari Evans-Miller**

I can make this class more fun and safe by helping others when they need it the most and stopping bullying before it happens. I can clean up after myself so people don't trip over my things. Next, I can always follow directions the first

time, so something bad doesn't happen, like getting lost or hurt. Lastly, I will not break down other people's self-confidence because that would not be fun for anybody. These are all of the things I believe would make this class more fun and safe. **Anna Uriostegui**



We should respect the teacher. We can have fun by playing dodgeball with the nerf ball. **Nasier Daniel**



I want to be great! **Mario Drone**

We can make the class safe and fun by sitting down on the ground and playing guessing games and also playing Connect 4 on the ground. **Alí Melendez**



FAVORITE VEGGIES

What is your favorite vegetable and how do you like to eat it?

My favorite vegetable is a sweet potato cooked with sugar and cinnamon.

Amari Diagne



My favorite vegetable is a carrot. *Mi vegetale favorita es una zanahoria.*
Isabel Melendez

My name is Cadin and my favorite vegetable is carrots. I like them with ranch dressing. **Cadin Bent**



My favorite vegetable is a carrot. I like it with ranch dressing. **Alí Melendez**

My favorite vegetable is a carrot with ranch dressing because the carrots are crunchy. **Alan Mendoza**



My favorite vegetable is carrots. I like them cooked.
Keenan Hayes

I love baked potatoes because you can put different stuff on them. **Anna Uriostegui**

My favorite vegetable is broccoli. I like to eat my broccoli when it's a little bit burned. My friend Nevaeh and I had burned up broccoli once, and we stayed in the gym eating all of the broccoli. **Nyjua Daniel**



My favorite veggies are ... carrots, green beans, potatoes, and broccoli. These are some of my favorite vegetables because they are good and very healthy for unhealthy people that don't eat vegetables or fruit (basically people who don't or aren't healthy). **Don'ye Spivey**

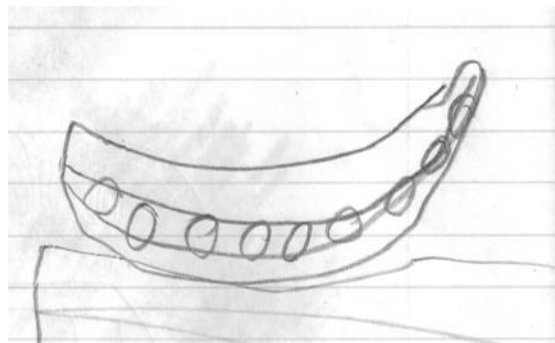


My favorite vegetable is potatoes. I like potato chips! **Mario Drone**



My two favorite vegetables are raw pea pods because I like the taste, the texture, and the crunch and cucumbers because of the taste, texture, and the juiciness.

Francisco Uriostegui





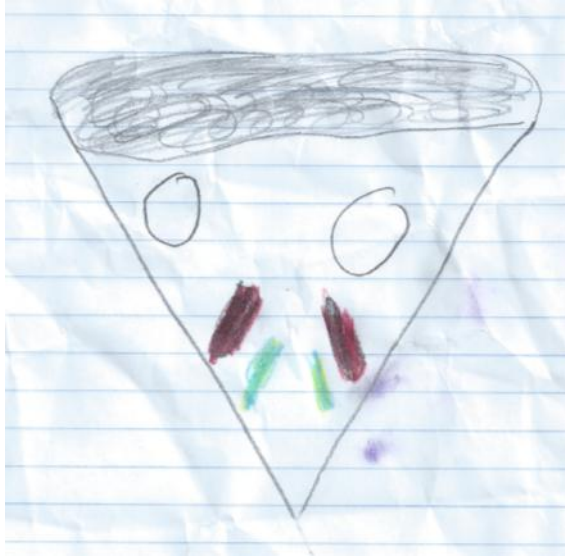
My favorite vegetable is mashed potatoes. I like potatoes with butter. I do not like almost any other vegetable.

Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh



My favorite vegetable is celery. Sometimes I like peanut butter and sometimes I like ranch dressing with celery. **Don'ielle Spivey**



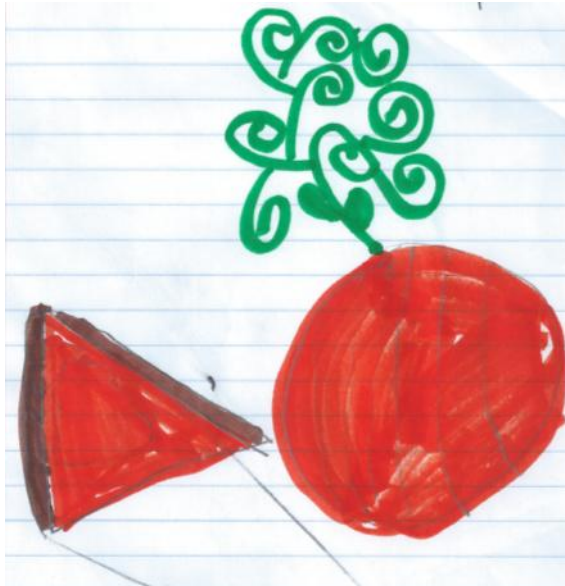


I like peppers on pizza with pepperoni. The kind of peppers that I like are red and green.

Nasier Daniel



My favorite vegetable is pumpkin. I like to eat pumpkin pie. **Sheari Evans-Miller**



I like pumpkin, potatoes, and broccoli. I like pumpkin pie. I also like mashed potatoes.

Another vegetable that I like is broccoli. I like eating broccoli with ranch dressing. **Yarianie**

Rodriguez Tapia



READ TO A DOG



My dog's name was Roxy. She was soft and black. I read the book *Big Dog and Little Dog*. It was fun! **Rae'Jon Shaw**

"A Great Experience"

My dog's name was Lucy. Lucy had the most beautiful, silky, slick, white, golden, short-cut fur coat in the world. I liked my dog because when I read to the dog, it would lie down and put its

head on my leg. My dog reminded me of my pet cat, Eclipse. My cat Eclipse would lie down and put its head in my lap and listen to me read. The book I read to Lucy was *On the Way to School*. I felt very happy when I was reading to the dog. **Anna Uriostegui**



My dog's name was Tyra. She was furry and sweet. It felt good. I love dogs. **Amari Diagne**

When I read to a dog, I felt excited because I don't get to read to a dog often. I forgot my dog's name, but it was soft, cute, and nice. The books I read to my dog were *The Best Soccer Player* and a dog book. I want to read to a dog again. **Alan Mendoza**

"Read to a Dog!!"

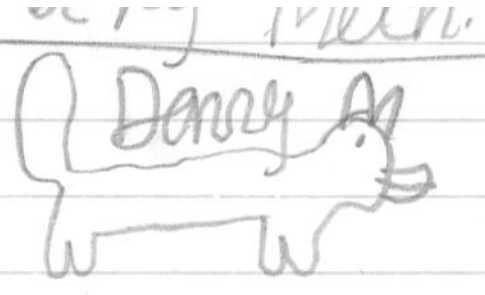
When I read to a dog, the dog's name was Danny. Danny had a Superman costume on. Danny's fur color was pale brown; his fur was so soft. He also licked me. It was so slimy, but I was okay because I have a dog at home. I read two books to Danny because I read to him twice. One book was about a snake. The other book was about a little dog and a big dog. I loved reading to Danny because I love dogs.

Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh



When I read to two dogs, I felt confident. These are the two dogs I read to: Danny and Lucy. With Lucy, I read *Animal Atlas*. With Danny, I read *A Dog to the Rescue*. I was really happy. **Francisco Uriostegui**



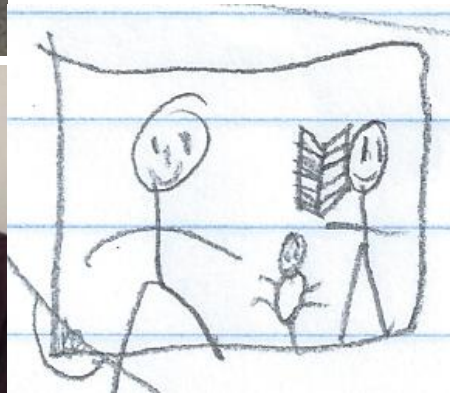


Last week, I read with Danny. He was furry, black and curious. Danny is smart and talented. Another dog I read with was Roxy. Roxy was dressed as a ladybug. She did a trick for me called "fist bump." If you put your fist out and call Roxy's name, she will bump your fist with her nose. Also, Roxy was furry and talented, just like Danny. I really liked them both very much. **Don'ye Spivey**



My dog is going to be black and yellow. First, my dad is going to get a house. Then, he will get me a dog!

Keenan Hayes



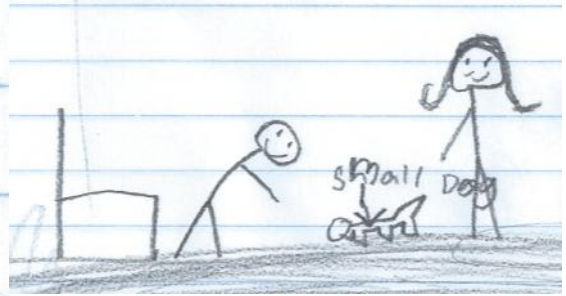
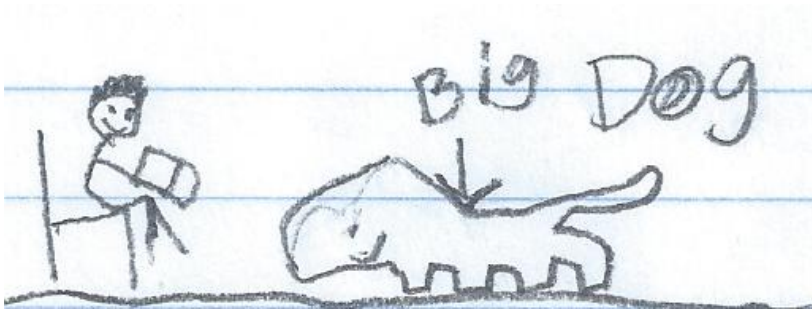
I read with Harley. He was very small. He was not that hairy. I read *Big Foot* to him. My dog looked like a poodle. He did not pay any attention to me.

Alí Melendez



My dog's name was Tyra, and she was white and fluffy. I read *The Growing Table*, and as I was reading to Tyra, I felt self-confident. Tyra was calm, but at the same time, she was active. I felt calm because at my school, we read to a dog named Keeper. Plus, I'm like Tyra because I think I am calm but active at the same time also. **Don'ielle Spivey**





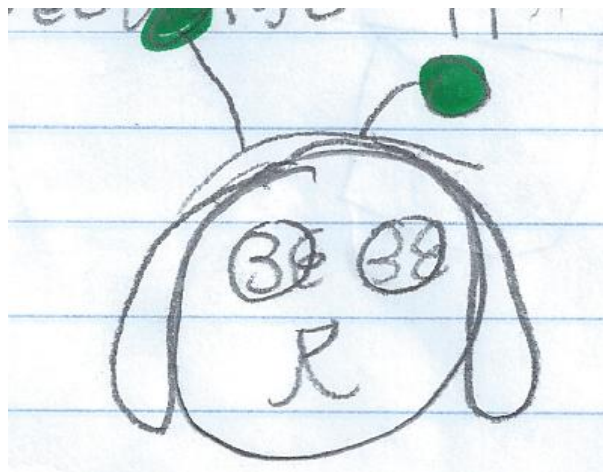
I read with Tyra. She is white and hairy and big. I read a book in Spanish to her. She was wearing a Superman shirt. My other dog that I read to was KC. She is small and hairy. **Nasier Daniel**



My dog's name was Harley, and she was a little dog like my dog, who is smaller than Harley. She was a Shih Tzu kind of dog. While I was there, I was feeling strong and confident with her. **Cadin Bent**



My pup's name is Roxy. She is three years old. She was dressed up like a ladybug. She was black and fluffy. I do not remember what I read to the dog, but I had fun. I felt happy because it was fun. **Sheari Evans-Miller**



My dog is big.
You might have had a different dog but anyway...

Dogs have different fur. My dog had brown fur.
Oh my God, I forgot my dog's name. I don't know it.
Go get a dog at the pet store; they are fun to play with.

What did I forget? Oh, yeah, he was five years old.
As I was saying, I was reading a hard book.
Sooooo I hope the dog really liked my reading.

For my example, I think the dog liked me.
Ummm, the dog was fun to read to.
North to south, the dog was super cool and big. It licked me so many times. I love that dog.
Nyjua Daniel



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



AUTHOR DEAN ROBBINS AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE

BY CHRIS WAGNER

Just in time for the presidential election, Odyssey Explorers and Adventurers were treated to a presentation by author Dean Robbins, who talked about his latest book, *Miss Paul and the President: the Creative Campaign for Women's Right to Vote*.

Dean Robbins talked about how suffragist Alice Paul had to think and act creatively to convince President Woodrow Wilson to support votes for women. Among her creative acts were planning a march for women's suffrage that upstaged the president's arrival in Washington, DC and arranging for a train of suffragists to travel all around the country, urging women to write to the president demanding the vote for women.



Mr. Robbins encouraged us to all use our own creativity in working for what we believe is right. Odyssey Explorer Anna Uriostegui noted, "Dean Robbins is very inspiring because he writes books about women who stood up for what they believe and this encourages other girls to work to make a difference."



After the presentation, each student got a copy of the book about Alice Paul as well as Mr. Robbins' first published book, *Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederic Douglass*. Many people know that Anthony fought for women's rights and Douglass fought against slavery and worked for civil rights for African Americans, but they may not know that the two were friends and neighbors.

Explorers returned to their classroom and had their own voting activity. After learning about different ways of voting and the idea of privacy in voting, the Explorers voted on whether they would like tacos or chicken nuggets for dinner. First, we voted by raising our hands so everyone knew how we were voting. Tacos won this round 15-0. Then, we voted privately by ballot. Would the fact that no one else knew how



we each were voting change the vote? No, it was a landslide victory once more for tacos. Explorer Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh said, "I liked voting because normally kids don't get a chance to vote." Everyone left that night with a sticker that said "Future Voter."

Thanks, Dean Robbins, for speaking to a new generation of activists!

ODYSSEY JUMPSTART



LANGSTON HUGHES AND THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER

Story: Itsy Bitsy Spider, who faces all sorts of challenges and gets where she wants to go because she keeps trying.

Langston Hughes quote: "In life there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go."

"Where would you want to go, if you could go anywhere?"

Where there are toys. **Jonathan Taylor**

To my cousin's house. **RJ Emmanuel**

To a soccer field. **Jameson Taylor Davis**

To my house. **Aria Wright**

To Chuck E Cheese. **Emily Gonzalez**

To Rockin' Jump. **Parish Reed**

To a museum. **Nakyiah Norton**

To Chuck E Cheese to play games.
A'Jhani Stevens

To my house. **KK Emmanuel**



OVERHEARD IN JUMPSTART

"I like bears." (Choho Ako IV)

"Me and Parish are the same size.
Look!" (Choho Ako IV)

"My favorite toy is a fire truck."
(Elijah Lightfoot)

"Come on friends, let's go to the
store." (A'Jhani Stevens)

"My truck has wings."
(A'Jhani Stevens)

"Is that snow?"
(Mane Talley)



"We're not scared!"
(Parish Reed)

"We gotta get through it!!"
(JT Davis)

"I have more than you!"
(RJ Emmanuel)

"You have only five dollars...I have
seven!"
(JT Davis)

"I love playing house."
(Kimauriah Thompson)

COLLEGE CORNER

Keep an Open Mind

by Ian Kelsey, son of Billie Kelsey, Odyssey '12

I chose to major in Geological Engineering and Geology at the UW-Madison because it allows me to apply my interests in earth sciences and engineering principles to make societal differences.

My aspirations after graduation (May 2017) are to get a job in consulting where I can help other companies in ensuring that their development choices aren't negatively impacting the environment. Towards the end of my career, however, I would like to become involved in preserving important groundwater aquifers as fresh water becomes more of a scarce resource.

For those in Odyssey Junior who don't think college is for them, I'd say think again. Getting a bachelor's degree is not necessary to be successful in life, but it certainly greatly increases the number of job opportunities one can get. Personally, I have made some of my best friends and memories while attending school at UW-Madison. Pursuing a higher education has allowed me to grow and develop in ways that I couldn't have otherwise if I had just graduated from high school and entered the workforce. Also, the amount of networking with company representatives and similar minded people I have been able to do over the past four years gives me an advantage over those who haven't. One doesn't have to pursue a degree after high school graduation, but if you're reading this you should always keep an open mind about investing further in your education.





My mom:

Not many people can say that they're going to school with their mom. Some might think it's weird seeing her on campus in between classes, but I have come to embrace this unique experience I get to have with her and I try my hardest to support her as others have for me. Going back to school as an adult in general is hard, but attending a university where you feel isolated by your skin color and age can make it near impossible at times. I am beyond proud of my mother, Billie Kelsey, for continuing to pursue her Bachelor's Degree.

I am very excited to graduate this spring, but I am more so looking forward to watching my mom walk across the stage and receive her diploma. She has overcome a lot of adversity since being a child she is an outstanding example of the potential that we all have and the accomplishments that can come from fighting for what you want. She has fought for me all



of my life, and I will continue to do the same for her. And for those who are in a similar situation as her, push on! You have very little to lose, but so much to gain from what waits for you in the end.