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ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS
Reflections

Listen
Can be as quiet as a mouse
Can be as loud as a siren
Can be as high as the sky
Can be as low as the grass

I just want to be heard
Want to be seen

Just a girl from the “ghetto”
Trying to make her way

No one knows me
No one hears me
I try to scream but--

My words get stuck in my mouth
If only you could listen

Savannah Benjamin

Favorite Thanksgiving Foods
My favorite Thanksgiving foods are dressing, collard greens, and cranberry sauce. My mom makes everything perfect. The collard greens have a bitter taste, but a good bitter. My mother seasons them with cayenne pepper and seasoning salt, then she makes bacon, and then she puts the bacon and the bacon grease in the collard greens.

Javé Sanders

Batman vs. Captain America
In a battle between Batman and Captain America, I think Batman would win for one reason: money. Captain and Batman are strong but they are in the end relatively normal people. Batman can buy anything or make anything he wants because he has access to resources and money. On the other hand, Captain America, even though he is a super soldier, is relatively poor. Batman could counter Captain America’s moves with technology or his own moves. I just feel that Batman would win. If Batman can’t use technology, then I think Captain America would win because Batman without technology is just a man, and Captain America is a super soldier.

Yael Gonzalez
Don’t Hurt Others
Life, what is life? Why don’t you get what you want? Why does everything go wrong when you want it to go right? Why do you look at me like I’m nothing every time I walk by? You tell me I’m ugly. You tell me I’m weird? YOU TELL ME GO DIE. Don’t you know I have feelings? I’m done. You make me feel low (like my grades). I feel so stupid when they try to say hey! But why, though, why am I not good enough? I walk to the bathroom and look at myself. I pull out that razor and... (This is to any and every person in the world. You should not hurt someone for how they look, act and for what they wear. Have you ever heard, ‘Don’t judge a book by its cover?’) Ashzianna Alexander

The World of Reading
Hate would be an understatement to what I felt towards it. Sitting and watching the clock tick. Tick...tock...tick...tock
“Agh, why does time seem like it’s not moving...”
An annoying voice reminded me with the same whisper every minute in my head. And with every minute, a breath is out of my mouth.

With every second my chest tightens,
I feel like an innocent captive surrounded by fire flaming bars that will never let me out.
Why do I hate reading so much?
How do I learn to love it? I have no idea.
I tried different books, started reading sentences, and threw it away Until I came to what kind of books I like.
It got me interested and happy.
I loved what characters went through.
I cried when the bad happened and laughed when happy things happened.
My chest tightened when they were hurt.
I got excited for what will happen next, and I smiled when they were happy.
My world became of reading, every day and whenever I can.
I learned and I loved, and most importantly I know I could never hate now, ‘cause you can’t something you have not discovered.
Safaa Mohammed Saed

I fell in love with BMX even more than before. I didn’t win as big as I hoped (fourth place in the country), but I will dream bigger. The whole experience was amazing. I am proud of myself for even getting there and getting to race with the best in the country. Kavon Bent
Post-Election Responses

Donald Trump isn’t a politician. He’s a business man, so he’ll think of running the U.S. like a business. Why would he do anything that doesn’t line his pockets? **Jackson Gamble**

Trump is disrespectful. You don’t mimic people or girls. If they’re insecure, that would just make them more insecure. **Ashzianna Alexander**

After watching Hillary Clinton’s concession speech, I was feeling empowered because even though she didn’t win and was feeling sad, she was still able to stay positive and tell us we matter. My mom taught me there’s always going to be someone in your way, but you just have to keep going. **Olivia Partee**

A Christmas Surprise

What happened was yesterday we did this interview for a home remodeling thing at the Boys and Girls Club. Today they came to the house with Channel 15 News and told us that we won! That means that we’re going to get a home remodel and Christmas presents. I’m excited. Yay! We’re going to a hotel for two days while they remodel. My mom will get her own room, and my cousin and I will get another room. I made sure it had a pool. **Jaayd Roquemore**

Hamilton

In my class we’re studying “Hamilton,” and I’m really excited because I know everything about “Hamilton.” Hamilton had the first sex scandal. The play has rap. What I like about the play is that there’s more rapping. Most musicals are more classical. In “Hamilton the Musical” they’re making Hamilton’s life and history more relatable. In school we’re going to learn about Alexander Hamilton, which is awesome. If I hadn’t fallen in love with the musical first, it wouldn’t be so fun. Lin-Manuel is bae because Alexander Hamilton was a forgotten founding father. He made people remember him and made him relatable. **Olivia Partee**
**Read to a Dog**

Completely white bundle of joy
Cranves and loves who loves her.

As white as snow,
And beautiful as the moon.

Luna of her time
That cares till the day she dies.

Give her the attention she needs,
And she promises to stay by your side.

She stays calm, without a sound,
To get your nerves wound down.

Love her, pet her,
Returned by a lick on the palm.

She won’t judge you,
So do her the honor of acceptance.

Tyra, goddess of winter and fall,
Bundle of joy and comfort.

*Safaa Mohammed Saed*

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I have always been scared of dogs. I know that I may seem well, but I have not been with dogs. I have always had this fear that a dog would do something to attack me. 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 Mohammed Saed*
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. When you read at school, you usually don’t have a choice about what book you read. You are just asked to read it, which is not fun. No one learns anything or gets something out of the story if you are forced and do not like to read it. When you read to a dog (even if you don’t like the book), you get a little happier because you know your dog is right there next to you, hearing every word. After all, a dog is man’s best friend.

Yael Gonzalez

Dogs? Reading to dogs? Would you think it’s weird? Well, guess what I did? As I first walked in the room, all I saw was dogs. There were about seven dogs--all different types of mixtures in the air!! But one dog stood out to me: Tucker, the most amazing dog ever! I picked the perfect book to read to the dog, and it was exactly the type of book that I LOVE! The dog Tucker was so cute and was very excited, but he was just my type of dog! He was licking my knee at one point, which was very weird!!! J Moral of the story: Reading out loud to dogs is a great and fun thing to do! But sometimes it hurts your throat. Ashzianna Alexander, Dog Whisperer
Odyssey Explorers
**Being Brave**

Write about a time when you had to be brave. What did you do and how did it make you feel?

I was brave when I was going on the roof at UW Space Place. I was scared and really, really tired when I got up and down the stairs. But it was worth it because I got to look through a telescope. I was also brave when Danny the dog licked me on the face. After he licked me, I started to like it. That’s how I was brave. **Alleanah Hancock-Jammeh**

When I was at the beach, I was climbing a steep hill and then looked down. Then I said to myself, “I am brave. I’m never looking down.” And I made it and I was happy. **Rae’Jon Shaw**

The time I was brave was when I was new to this school, and a kid wanted to be my friend and I’m scared. The next day, I asked to be her friend.... And guess what she said? “No.” I went to my desk and she said, “I’m just kidding, Kimari.” I said, “Don’t do that to me. Just kidding, girlfriend.” The next day we were friends. **Kimari Zakyra Christian**

I was brave when I saved Chewy from falling off a giant stair. When I saved him, I felt very proud because I saved somebody. **Anna Uriostegui**

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**Hurt Feelings**

Write about hurting someone else’s feelings or someone hurt your feelings. What did you (they) do and how did you (they) make it better?

I told my older brother that I was smarter than him and then I said I’m sorry. **Yarianie Rodriguez Tapia**

One day in my class, we were playing a game of Memory, and I won all 14 rounds. My partner called me a cheater and that hurt my feelings. I told her, “How could I be a cheater if you dealt every game?”

About 15 minutes later, she said, “I’m sorry for calling you a cheater. It’s just you’re so good; can you teach me how to play like that?”

I said, “Sure, it’s like the name of the game – memory. You look at the card your partner flipped and see if you’ve seen it somewhere else. If you’re lucky, you hopefully will have gotten a match of cards. Well, that’s how I do it.”

So, we made up, and we promised to never fight over a stupid game again! **Don’ielle Spivey**
I hurt my brother’s feelings by being a jerk to him. This is how it went. At first, something happened, and I said curse words to him and said to him, “Special. Autism. ADHD boy.” It made him really angry. I didn’t feel guilty at first, but then later on at bedtime, he moved all of his stuff into the living room. When my family fell asleep, I wrote two notes to him. The first one said, “Autism ADHD boy” and the second one said, “Nobody wants to be with a low-life like you anyway.” “When I was writing them, my heart was beating really fast like I was going to regret what I did. The next day, I apologized to my brother and said sorry to him, and he said it was OK. In conclusion, everything that happened worked out perfectly fine. 

Francisco Uriostegui

Heroes

My hero is my cousin because she is a good sport on and off the court. And because she is a good sport off and on the court, that makes her my favorite cousin in the world. Sheari Evans-Miller

Cris is my hero because he saved my life. He caught me when I fell off a slippery rock. Ali Melendez

My hero is my cousin because she saved me when I fell off the wall at Rockin’Jump. Mario Drone

My heroes are my mom, dad and my two brothers because they protect me. 

I was a hero when I thought that I couldn’t read a whole book, but then I did read a whole book, and I was impressed because it was a chapter book. Yarianie Rodriguez Tapia

Batman is my hero. He is my favorite superhero because he saves good people from bad people. Keenan Hayes

My favorite superhero is Batman because he beat Superman in the movie, Batman vs. Superman. In the movie, Batman kills the Blob. That is weird. Alan Mendoza

My hero is my mom because she cares about me and protects me.

My brother is my hero because he makes sure I’m safe. When I’m playing outside in a huge field, he is watching out for me.

One last hero is my dad because he also takes care of me, protects me and loves me just like my mom and brothers do. Don’ye Spivey

My dad is my hero. When I jump, he catches me.

Mi papá es mi héroe porque me salva cuando salto. Isabel Melendez
A Visit to the
Madison Children’s Museum

Last week we went to the children’s museum, and I was climbing the jungle gym. It was fun sliding back down from the jungle gym because it was so high. I also went on the hamster wheel; I went very fast! Then at the end, we had a snack which was cookies. Then, we went to the bus and came back. **Yarianie Rodriguez Tapia**

Last week, I went to the Madison Children’s Museum. I had a lot of fun doing the different areas. I enjoyed the jungle gym, this weird telephone guy, the Wilder-West, and the entire upstairs level because there were spaceships, a piano, and some other stuff. I also enjoyed the main level because there was an old-fashioned video game and a water ball thing. **Francisco Uriostegui**

Last week on Wednesday, I went to the Madison Children’s Museum. I really enjoyed going to the museum. I liked how I explored it, and I played downstairs. Guess what? I went on the hamster wheel! It was so fun to go in it! I also made a sculpture out of clay. It was so so awe-awe-awe awesome!!! **Kimari Christian**

When I went to the children’s museum, I really enjoyed that we got to go wherever we wanted. First, I went to the art section to go paint, but something caught my eye. It was a weaving loom! Well it might not sound exciting to you, but I remembered that a weaving loom is part of the story of *The Odyssey*! I was so excited I just had to try it for myself. After I did half a row, it was pretty easy.

Next, I went to the piano because I want to take piano lessons. It turns out I kind of did get piano lessons that day. Ms. Chris taught me how to play “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” It was so much fun.

Also I went to a lot of other places like the cooking station and the big giant hamster wheel. Now I’m going to tell you something very important: I lost my sweater! It all began when I left it on the chair; it was when we first entered the building. I guess I forgot all about it! But overall, I had a spectacular time! And next time, I hope it will be even better. **Anna Uriostegui**

At the children’s museum, I climbed up a big jungle gym and went down the slide. It made me feel happy! **Mario Drone, Jr.**
Last week we went to the children’s museum. I really liked it when Mr. Max cooked me. I also liked the camera thing. I also liked the hamster wheel. 

**Alan Mendoza**


The other week, I went to the children’s museum. My favorite thing was the wheel. I ran fast. It was very fun. 

**Isabel Melendez**

Last week we went to the Madison Children’s Museum. I loved the hamster wheel. I went to the playground and went down the slide a lot. I went so fast I almost fell off the hamster wheel.

I liked the shadow room because it was like my mom taking a picture of me. And overall, I loved the fact that we were the only ones there. 

**Sheari Evans-Miller**

Last week we went to the children’s museum. My friend and I went to the piano. I played a beautiful song. My mom said, “Did you do a good job?” I said, “I did.” I had a good time.

**Amari Diagne**

I always enjoy going to the children's museum. My mom has been taking me since I was 1 years old. I have had play dates there and met new friends there too. Since it is such a special place for me I especially enjoyed going to the Children's Museum with my Odyssey teachers and friends. It was so fun because we were able to play and learn at the same time. I am really happy Odyssey took us to the Children's Museum. Hope you can visit too. 

**Alleanah M Hancock-Jammeh**

I liked the water ball and the cars with the big steering wheels at the children’s museum. It was great!

**Keenan Hayes**

What I really liked at the children’s museum was the first activity (the one with water) as you come through the door on the first floor. I also enjoyed going on the hamster wheel. I liked the giant obstacle course and the long slide down. I liked the snack, too. 

**Ali Melendez**
Musings

For break, I am going to my granny’s house but when I’m there, my mom and dad might forget about Christmas. When I’m at my granny’s house, I will be the only girl there for eleven days – until Saturday.

Then, we will have a girls’ night, and I’ll spend time with my friends.

Nyjua Daniel

My New Shoes
What I like about my new shoes is that they are blue, green and safari colors. It was my mom who bought them. She got them at Madison Nike Outlet. They make me play basketball better.

Cadin Bent

Thanksgiving was fun but my cousin got bullied at school. I did not see my step-dad. I saw him last year at Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. He was so nice and so cool… When I was six and when my sister was seven, my one year old brother died.

Nasier Daniel

Two weeks ago on Thanksgiving, my grandma made us clean our room!!! We had turkey, greens, mac-cheese stuffing, ham, and for dessert we had chocolate cake, vanilla cake, and oreo cookie ice cream. That was delicious! I said, “Yummy!” I only ate a little bit and went straight for the dessert. Shhh… Also, my Grandma Robert came over and ate a little. That is all about my Thanksgiving.

Don’ye Spivey

On a chilly Wednesday, my mom went to the airport to pick up my grandma. Grandma came to my house. Also, I helped my mom cook a dessert that’s called apple snicker salad. My mom and I took some food and apple pie, cake and apple snicker salad to her friend’s house. I think of him as my friend also because I really like him. Also, my grandma, my brother, my mom, my sister and I played uno and watched tv shows on hulu. Also, later that day we went back to our friend’s house and gave him some more food. That time my sister came along to help. On the way there, I sat the ham on my lap and got some ham juice on my pants. My friend said that the stains would not come out, but he was just being silly. On the way back home, my mom stopped at PDQ, and my sister and I got a snack. I got popcorn and my sister got some tic tacs. When we went to check out, my mom said, “Look what my children are getting on Thanksgiving,” and she then said, “Guess what? Before I came to work, I spent $16.00 at the mall!!!”

Don’ielle Spivey
The play “Big Fish,” which takes place in Alabama, starts with a kid who came home with a chapter book, and his dad said, “What the heck is this?” Then, his dad tells him a story. His mom said, It’s time for lunch!”

I liked the daffodils in the play best because they were yellow and bright.

I saw a giant in the play and he was echoing and the mermaid was singing.

Amari Diagne

“Big Fish” was at the Overture Center. It was about the dad of a boy who was telling him a lot of stories like the one of the witch. The son grew up and got married and then his wife was pregnant. The kid’s dad got sick and at the end, all of his stories (like for example the giant and the mermaid) came to life, and then the dad died.

Yarianie Rodriguez Tapia
OVERHEARD IN JUMPSTART

“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.”
Ajani Stevens

“I went in my Mommy’s Odyssey class. I got to color Pete the cat.”
Nakyiah Norton

“Butterflies are my favorite animals.”
Parish Reed

“Me and my friends always are cheerleaders!”
Nakyiah Norton

“Do you want to have a picnic with me?”
Rasaki Emmanuel Jr.

“I want to do it all by myself.”
Aria Wright

“My mittens are so pretty.”
Jamyla Davis

“I wear shorts in the winter.”
Alexander Rojas Gonzalez
What is your favorite thing to do in the winter?

“Play with the snow.”
Emily Gonzalez

“Make a snowman.”
Aria Wright

“Throw snowballs.”
KK

“If I’m outside, I make snowmen. If I’m inside, I like hot chocolate.”
Mane

“I like to build snowmen. I like Elsa.”
Jamyla Davis

“I like playing with toys in the snow.”
Johnathan Taylor
My name is Keziah Bester, and I am an Odyssey Junior Alumna of the class of 2016. Odyssey Junior helped motivate, organize, and prepare me for my college experience. I am so grateful for my Odyssey Junior journey.

I am now this week completing my first semester at Madison College. I have four classes equaling 12 credits of general studies. My favorite class was my English 1 class where I did a lot of opinion and research papers. I also have two new jobs as a student – one at the Madison College office where I do a lot of office work and sometimes work in the school store, and also one at Cherokee's after school program where I work with middle school kids with MSCR. This has been a wonderful, new, and challenging experience for me this first semester of classes and work.

My main focus has been to learn and grow as I work hard and consistently to do my best in each class and with my homework assignments while focusing on time management. My main interest and major is business management. I am working with counselors on perhaps a different major for the future. The greatest lesson I have learned this semester is a simple lesson: don't overload yourself with work and school.