

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



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Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

Odyssey Adventurers/Goodman South Madison Library, grades 6-12: Karen Dreyfuss, Mackenzie McDermit, Leigh Button, Albert Watson '08, Lucia Chikowero '14

Odyssey Explorers/UW Space Place, grades 1-5: Chris Wagner, Marisol Gonzalez '17, Stephanie Bernard, Shannon Huberty, Max Lenz, Milli Lau '14, Kyisha Williams '17, Denise Hardnett '05

Odyssey Jumpstart/Headstart, ages 2-K: Cassie Mattie, Erendira Giron Cruz, Lilibeth Alvarez, Fabiola Garcia, Karla Holguin, Paula Noyce, Stephanie Vitaioli (cook), Mary Wells '07, Amy Basel, Literally Arts (Jamie Henke, Jessica Courtier, Stanley Salley '07), Madison Reading Project

Guests: UW-Madison Slow Food, Takeyla Benton, Black Voices-Urban League, Michelle Bozeman '11, Andrew Illene (art teacher), Lalita du Perron (Zumba instructor), Jan Vidruk (music teacher), Dean Robbins (children's book author)

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ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS



BLACK VOICES

Our first week back after snow and freezing temperatures, we listened to inspired words at Black Voices, the Urban's League's annual kick off event to celebrate Black History Month. Several of our students shared their own strong voices as they read from the words of prominent black poets that came long before them. We are grateful to the Urban League and Michelle Bozeman (Odyssey '11) for inviting us to this powerful event inspiring our class to create new poetry reflecting each individual's unique voice.



WRITING WORKSHOP WITH TAKEYLA BENTON



Takeyla Benton, Odyssey '11 alum and writer, shared her talents with our class during a two-week writing workshop. Takeyla challenged students to write about topics that matter to them and reflect who they are and what they care about. In both whole and small groups, Takeyla taught writing techniques and modeled strategies to elicit the distinct voice that each of our student writers brings to class each week. Thank you, Takeyla!



I LOVE

A COLLECTION OF WORDS AND IMAGES

Shadavien: drawing, cooking, listening to music, making breakfast and desserts



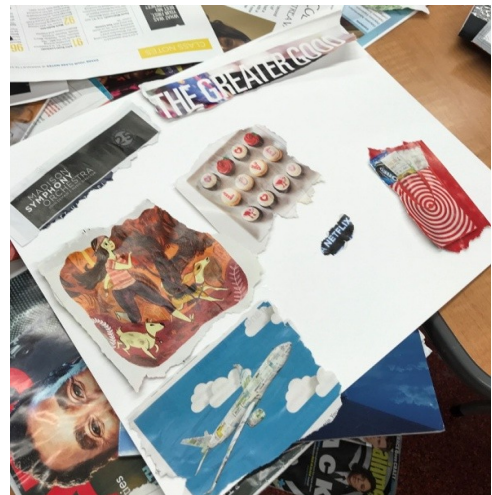
Mackenzie: tacos on Saturday night, when my students do nice things for each other, green grass and plants, living room dance recitals

Luci: taking a stroll, when people are being nice to each other, when my kids get along

Elijah: playing my games,

Tenzin: to listen to music, Bucky Badger, play with my friends

Karen: coffee, birthdays, my dog, reading, riding my bike, being with old friends



Kamoria: animals, my dog, my dad, my family

Kimari: Black History month

Angel: grandma's cookies

Char: my freedom



Juan: playing the French horn, helping students

Jenni: visual art

Amari: my birthday

Leigh: my pug Larry

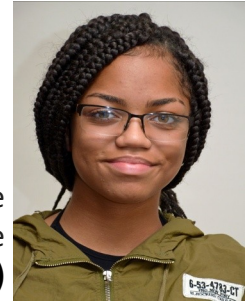
Albert: BBQ



POETRY AND MIRRORS



Love can be found in laughter,
that carbonated holiness.
We rise. **(Mackenzie)**



Blinding, undefined, ingredients of love
Heart wrenching, mind blowing, tear spilling love
Can't live without the pain **(Ruhqayyah)**



Nature

Exotic, wilderness, forest
Wilderness, forest, creatures
Forest, creatures, bugs
Bugs, flower, bloom
Flower, bloom, sunrise
Bloom, sunrise, sunset
Sunrise, sunset, pure
Sunset, pure, beautiful

Pure, beautiful, nature **(Zawadi)**



How do you feel?
Do you feel sadness
Or possibly happiness?
Sad like a cold storm,
Or like a happy sunshine?
Feelings can always vary. **(Zawadi)**

The stars shimmer in the ebony night sky
As I gaze upon it **(Zawadi)**



When people see me,
they might think that I am an Asian boy.
But when I see myself,
I am a hard working soccer player.
When people see me,
They think that I wear athletic clothes.
When I see myself,
I am someone who takes pride in being a
different race than others.
So don't judge me
By how I look. **(Tenzin)**

**Mirror**

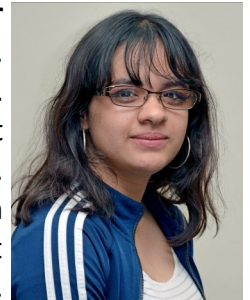
You are not my mirror
 When you look at me
 You may think I'm weird.
 Weird is just another word for different.
 When you look at me
 You see my blackness,
 But the words that come out of my mouth sound "too white" or I'm ghetto

But you do not understand my culture.
 You may think I'm violent
 But sometimes you have to think about why violence is an option.
 Violence is an option because I'm black
 Because I'm a girl
 How I dress
 Or just for who I am.
 I do not have to live up to the standards that you put on me and who you want me to be.

(Kamoria)

**Mirror**

When you look at me, you assume I am antisocial.
 You are not my mirror.
 I am an introvert
 With the most creative mind fueled by silence.
 You say I look mean
 But a mirror does not show the depths of my heart
 Which blossoms with care.
 You are not my mirror.



I look small to you
 But I assure you the words that come out of my mind can move mountains.

You are not my mirror.
 You say I look calm and there is nothing wrong with that,
 But I know the orange flicker that sits beneath me is fierce.

You are not my mirror.
 Don't assume what you see reflects who I am. **(Jenni)**

**Mirror**

When you look at me
 You may see that I'm annoying, but most of the time I'm quiet.
 As you catch a glimpse of me, you think I'm a bully.
 But, I'm very nice and kind.
 When you hear my first words you may think I'm a smart mouth
 But smart mouths can be bold.
 When you see how I act you may think I'm dumb,
 But I'm very intelligent.

I want you to see me as someone who has great potential to do great things. **(Juan)**



When some white people see me they see a ghetto black boy.
 I just love to have fun.
 Some people see me as dangerous and vicious.
 I see myself as someone who likes everyone.
 People think I'm dumb and I'll end up a bum,
 but they'll be the one living with their mum.
 All I got to say is don't judge me because I'll be more than you'll ever be.
(Shadavien)



Stealing

In fourth grade, my teacher was yelling at me when she thought I was stealing something I didn't. I was looking for something. Being a good kid, I thought she would be nicer or listen to my side of the story. Her not listening to me made me feel wrong and not right with my words.

No one believed my teacher and she eventually was the one that was blamed.

Having an older brother that is 22 years old is hard. It's always going to be hard for me in life.
 I can be strong and know that I can impress myself. **(Amari)**

Fun games
 Outlive opponents
 Rare skins and pickaxes
 Team up with friends
 No raging
 I killed a streamer
 To practice a lot
 Encourage my teammates
(Jeremiah)



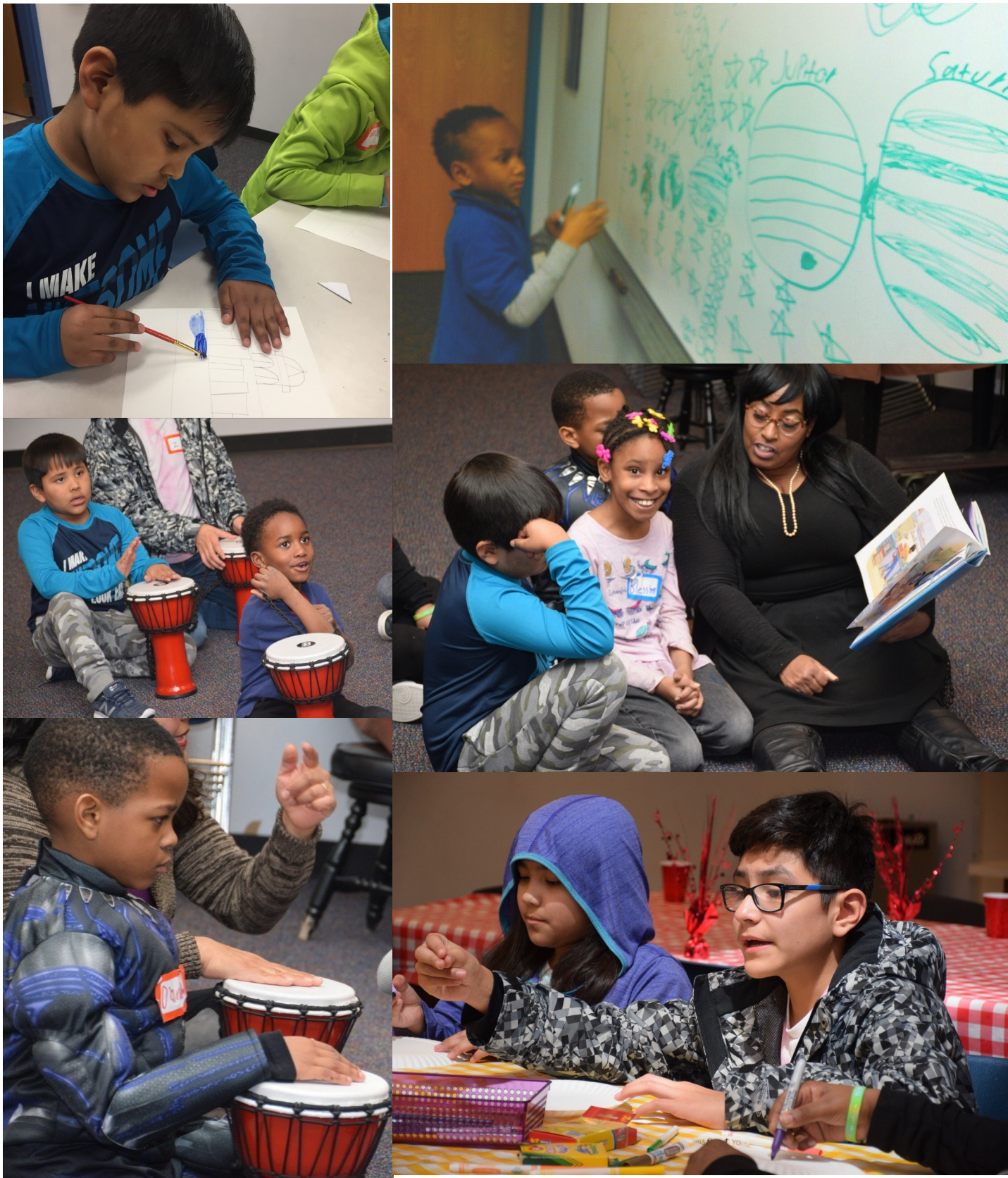
Ball bouncing on the court
 Hands on the court
 Shooting at the rim
 Kicking violation
 Eating healthy
 Turbo on the court
 Bouncing on the court and shooting
 Hands breaking ankles
 Lazy to
 Lazy on the court **(Nasier)**



Your saccharine petals
 caress all
 But those pitch black thorns deceive me
 You give a sour after taste. **(Jenni)**



ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



I LOVE

Explorers were asked to complete the sentence beginning with “I love...” or “I love to...” Here’s what they had to say!



Man, I love a lot in this world. I love my mom, but no dad, but that won't stop me from loving.

I know I have a little bit of hate, but I also know what's right and what's wrong, so focus on the love, stop the hate. Treat each other kindly.



Do you see Martin Luther King, Jr., for example? He did not hate back, he stopped the hate because he knew what was right, and look, he made the world change.

Black people should have the love and respect that white people have. What's the different skin or race matter? I just want to say that I love all, and all should love, too. **(Jayden)**



I love my mom because she is nice to me. I also love sparkly bright things. I love to color. **(Nakyiah)**



I love to yell and be loud, and I love Takis. I love Fortnite, My Hero, Naruto, Mob Psycho, Goku Dragon Ball Z, I love Boruto. **(Elijah)**



I love my mom and my dad and me and you, too! I love my friends because they are true. I love my teachers because they teach me about numbers. **(Rasaki, aka R.J.)**





I love my family because they are nice. They let me play at dinner time. They play with me. They are nice to me. **(Dylan)**



I love my mom because she makes yummy food. She plays with me. My mommy loves me, and I love her. **(Aimee)**



I love Jessica because she is my sister. I love my mom. I will kiss Jessica. I will kiss Ollie, my dog. I have a secret with Jessica. We love it when my mom makes pancakes! **(Rogelio)**



I love my family. The people that I love are my mom, sister, brother, dog and me. I love them because they are nice, kind, loving, and they take care of me. They give me food and take me places. **(Jessica)**



I love my mama and dad and my sister. I love them because they take care of me every day, and they cook. **(Erick)**





I love my mom and dad. I love my dog and lizard. I love my brothers and sisters. I love my family all the time. I love my family because it's the wonderful-est thing God ever made. I love my dad because he gives me whatever I want. I love my mom because she lets me go over to my friend's house. I love my brothers because they have fun with me. I love my sisters because they go to my birthdays with me. I love my family all the time. **(Jameson Taylor, aka J.T.)**



I love my brother, and the way he takes care of me. And my papa and the way he takes care of me the most. And I love my mom's food so much. **(Zinedine, aka Z)**



I love coming to Odyssey because every day we do something different. Every year, there are new people to talk to. (I have been in Odyssey for four years). Every year, I have new friends and this year, one of my new friends is Z. One thing I have done this year in Odyssey was going to the Madison Children's Museum. On April 17, we are going to the UW Geology Museum. **(Alan)**



I love to play Legos in my home.
I love riding my bike.
I would love to be the president of Mexico. **(Alex)**

I love to do art. It is my thing. I am creative. I am an artist! **(Zamorah)**



I love to sing and do gymnastics.

What inspired me to sing was one day, I was watching TV and saw a girl singing on "America's Got Talent." I said in my head, Wow... She's really good at singing. I want to try that!" So, I decided to try for myself. It was really bad at first, but I kept trying and got better and better each day. I have been singing since I was six years old. I still sing to this day, hoping to be famous some day.

What inspired me to do gymnastics was a girl named Simone Biles. I was seven and I saw her win the Olympic awards, and I wanted to try. I tried and sprained my wrist; I had to wear something like a brace! I love gymnastics and singing! **(Desiray)**



I love to play basketball at school. I love to chill in the pool. I love to play football on the field. Some people say not to play football, but what am I supposed to do – go play tennis? I don't think so. But anyway, I love gym, sports, and the Chew Chew

Chew. **(Zion)**



I love to play my Nintendo Switch with my daddy and Aimee. I really want an amiibo, and I am going to get it soon. My favorite game is New Super Mario Deluxe. It came out January 11, 2019. There are two new characters: Nabbit and Toadette. **(Dylan)**



IF I WERE IN CHARGE OF THE WORLD

Explorers listened to Mr. Max read the poem "If I Were in Charge of the World" by Judith Viorst. In this poem, a boy who has not had a very good day tells us the changes he'd like to make in the world. Explorers had the opportunity then to free-write or use the same format Viorst did to compose a poem.



If I were President of the United States, I would make guns illegal. I would make sure that no one kidnapped kids ever. I would make sure that parents can't answer their phones when they're with their kids. I would make sure kids are healthy. I would make sure parents give their kids what they want. You could not have kids if you were 16. Everything has to be free, so no one is homeless. **(Nakyiah)**



If I were in charge of the world, I would make a friend. I would turn everything into Legos. And sometimes I can, and I would turn my imaginary friends into real, living things. I will love the gods just like the gods love the world and me. I will cancel hatred, homework, bullies, cancer, death and sickness. I will always love. That's what I would do if I were in charge of the world.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be happiness, friendship and love.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have cancer, homework or bullies. You wouldn't even have sickness.

If I were President of the United States, a Black person and a white person would be a happy community. All people would be friends, and sometimes a person who forgot to do homework and sometimes forgot to go to school would still be allowed to be President of the United States. **(Blessing)**

If I Were In Charge Of The World

by Judith Viorst

If I were in charge of the world
I'd cancel oatmeal,
Monday mornings,
Allergy shots, and also Sara Steinberg.

If I were in charge of the world
There'd be brighter night lights,
Healthier hamsters, and
Basketball baskets forty eight inches lower.

If I were in charge of the world
You wouldn't have lonely.
You wouldn't have clean.
You wouldn't have bedtimes.
Or "Don't punch your sister."
You wouldn't even have sisters.

If I were in charge of the world
A chocolate sundae with whipped cream
and nuts would be a vegetable
All 007 movies would be G,
And a person who sometimes forgot to brush,
And sometimes forgot to flush,
Would still be allowed to be
In charge of the world.



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel school, homework, snow, onions and big tomatoes.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be roller coasters, clean water and pizza.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have bullies, mean presidents, sadness or hurting people. You wouldn't even have bad homes.

If I were President of the United States, a pizza with pepperoni would be a fruit, and all animals would be talking, and a person who forgot to tie her shoes and sometimes forgot her hat would still be allowed to be President. **(Aimee)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel killing (any kind of killing), haunted dolls, guns, bears, and also detention.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be reading, games, and schools, math, books and phones.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have cancer or death. **(Jessica)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel school, the wall, slavery, and also meetings.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be candy stores in every city and video games for everybody.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have schools, you wouldn't have enemies, you wouldn't have weeds or guns, and you wouldn't even have bombs. **(Alex)**

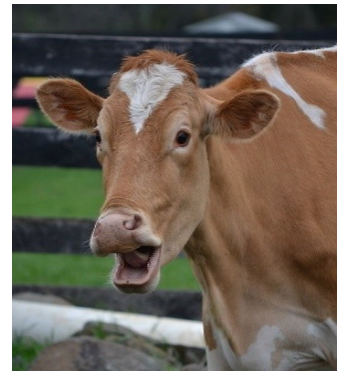


If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel TV, junk food, snow and monsters.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be pets, pizza and dinosaurs.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have sadness, sheep, tomatoes or cows. You wouldn't even have to vacuum.

If I were President of the United States, a pig and popcorn would be an airplane, all monkeys would be nice, and a person who sometimes forgot to do his homework and sometimes forgot to say, "Please," and "Thank you" would still be allowed to be President. **(Rogelio)**





If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel school, people going to space, bad rap, not Cardi, and also money.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have rats or Donald Trump, and no animals would get killed and there would be no homelessness. You wouldn't even have war or killing.

If I were President of the United States, a penny and dollar would buy a meal, all homeless would be fed, and a person who sometimes forgot to flush and sometimes forgot to wash their hands would still be allowed to be President. **(Zahnia)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel parking tickets, and there'd be no drugs.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be advancement in technology and less expensive stuff.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have weapons, and you wouldn't have meetings. **(Z, aka Zinedine)**



If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have board games, baby music, clean your room or laundry.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be pancakes for breakfast, video games, and soccer for recess.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have to walk the dog, wake up early, go to sleep on time, or pay to go on the buses. You wouldn't even have to pay for toys.



If I were President of the United States, a dog and a penguin would be friends, all candy would be free, and a person who sometimes forgot to shower and sometimes forgot to wash his hands would still be allowed to be President. **(Dylan)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel kidnapping and lightning.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be ice cream and healthy smoothies.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have cake, chalkboards, exit signs or sugar. You wouldn't even have 3D glasses.

If I were President of the United States, a baby and grown-ups would be a team, all boys and girls could be President, and a person who sometimes forgot to work out and sometimes forgot to wash would still be allowed to be President. **(Essence)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel everybody, water, vegetables and school, but I'd also want to have everybody, water, vegetables and school.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have bright lights, snow, things that hurt my eyes, or cheese sticks.

If I were President of the United States, dragons would be real and dinosaurs would be alive. All pickles would be cookies, and a person who sometimes forgot to hug me or sometimes forgot to go to bed could still be President. **(D'Angelo)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel social studies, school, Fortnite, science and Ronald McDonald.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be the first park, the first speech, and the first person to get a mansion.

If I were President of the United States, Michael Jordan would be a police officer, and all police would be basketball players, and a person who sometimes forgot to know that they were President could still be allowed to be President.

(J.T., aka Jameson Taylor)





If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel enemies, night and sadness.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be Barbies, school and flowers.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have bullies, sickness, food shortages or computers. You wouldn't even have tragedies.

If I were President of the United States, enemies and monsters would be nice, all people would be happy, and sometimes a person who forgot to remember and sometimes forgot kindness would still be allowed to be President. **(Emily)**



If I lived in Texas with my family, I'd wake up every day to the smell of tacos and warmness and my beautiful family. In the morning, my family would brush our teeth and eat our breakfast/tacos.

But this is where the fun begins. My family loves the beautiful blue ocean and the green palm trees and the beautiful weather. Ohh, it brings joy to my heart.

Hey, I just wish everyone/family could be here in this beautiful, just beautiful, place with me. **(Jayden)**



If I were President of the United States, I'd cancel schools, Fortnite, water chairs, and Donald Trump.

If I were President of the United States, there'd be better Play Stations, better Xboxes, and the First Purge.

If I were President of the United States, you wouldn't have bedtimes, iPhone X, or Mickey Mouse. You wouldn't even have SpongeBob.

If I were President of the United States, a Lamborghini and a Ferrari would be two dollars, all cars would be two dollars, and a person who forgot to brush his teeth or get a hairline would still be allowed to be President. **(Elijah)**



CITYSCAPE PAINTINGS

Artist Andrew Illene visited Explorers and showed us how to paint a simple Cityscape. Here are the paintings the Explorers created.



Aimee



Zinedine



Zion



Zamorah



Rogelio



Dylan



Alan



RJ



Nakyah



Erick



JT



Elijah



Desiray



Blessing



Alex



Jessica

ODYSSEY JUMPSTART



Everyone knows the song about the wheels on the bus. In our Jumpstart class, we read, sang, and rapped about a very different bus ride. The bus ride in our book was driven by a tiger, and the bus was full of seals, snakes, sheep, geese, rabbits, monkeys, and even skunks.

Everyone took a turn driving our own human bus around the classroom. We pretended to be all of the animals on the bus, and had a great time singing these new words to the traditional “Wheels on the Bus” tune while reading the book.



We performed our Seals on the Bus rap, and the children had a great time making their own medallions with Stanley.

“When someone starts out to build the world, they start first with themselves.” —Langston Hughes

What do you want to be when you grow up?



Jamyla - I would like to be a gymnast when I grow up.

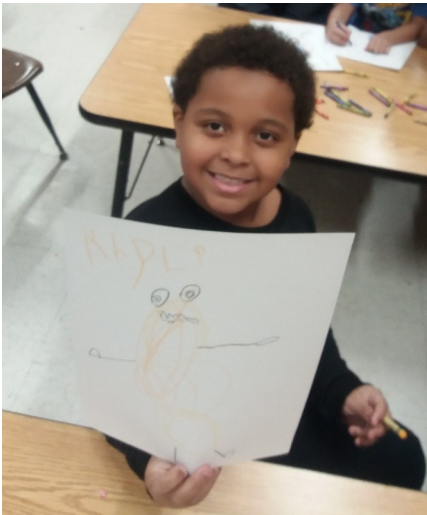


R. J – I would like to be really fast like Sonic the Hedgehog.

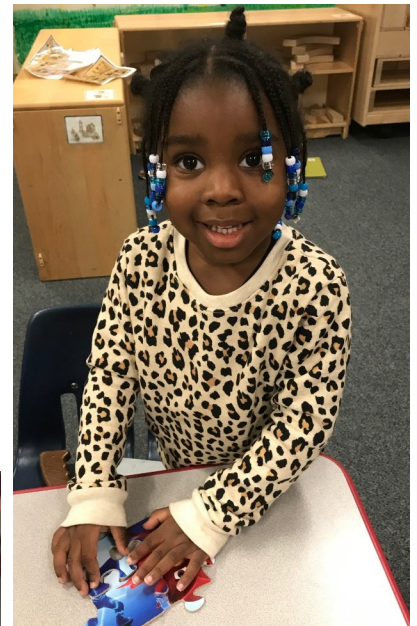


Zion - I would like to be a rapper.

Grace – I want to be super girl.



Khali – I want to be like Super Sonic when I grow up.



Daphne – I want to use a phone when I grow up.



What do you love?

Khali - My grandma because she buys me things from Amazon



Kayden - Monster Truck and Riding

RJ - My family, my iPad, and I miss my grandpa.



Nadia - My family

Jamayla - Going swimming, and my family



Grace - Kisses

Daphne - Chuck E' Cheese



Zion - I love Cheetah, and my favorite color is blue, and I got a

favorite friend named O'niel, and I love swimming, and I love summer.



