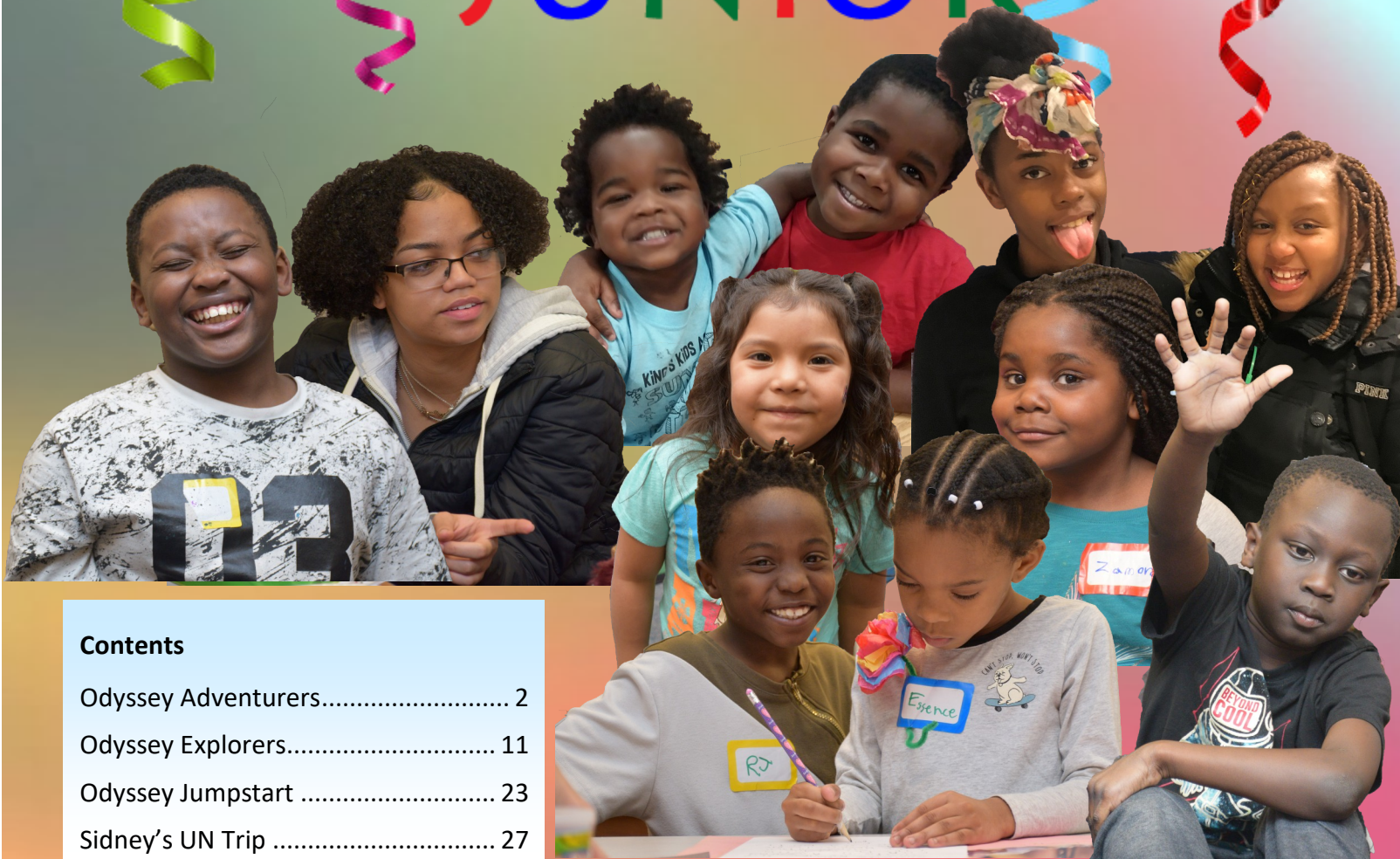


ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



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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

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Guests: UW Madison Slow Food, Alliance of Therapy Dogs (Read to a Dog), Andrew Illene (art teacher), Fabu Carter (poet), Dean Robbins (children's book author), Shawn Robinson aka Dr. Dyslexia (author), Jan Vidruk (music teacher), Lalita Du Perron (Zumba instructor), Sidney Moore (Class of 2018 Explorer), Jerrod Buckner (Afterschool Expeditions), Sabrina Madison (The Progress Center for Black Women), Dr. Roxie Hentz (CEOs of Tomorrow), Enjoyiana Nururdin (Odyssey Intern), Chanel Sims (Black Cultural Center Undergraduate Intern), Ann Halbach and Miriam Roman-Avalos (TEEM Scholars Program); Venus Washington (RU Fit); Living History Panelists: Muhammad Abdullah '19, Joyce Johnson '19, Oroki Rice '07, and Yolanda Salazar, mother of Teresa Tellez-Giron '04

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Emily Auerbach, UW Odyssey Project Director; Oracle Editor

Beth McMahon, Oracle Designer

Colleen Johnson, Director of Development and Community Partnerships; Photography

emily.auerbach@wisc.edu; 608-262-3733

www.odyssey.wisc.edu

ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS



LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

On March 20th, the Adventurers class joined the adult Odyssey class for an evening of history and storytelling. This evening was made possible by the NEH grant in which Odyssey Professor Emily Auerbach intended to “bring history to life” for our teen students. We invited four elder panelists (Oroki Rice, Yolanda Salazar, Mother Joyce Johnson, Muhammad Abdullah) to share their life experiences and answer questions asked by each of our teens. What are you most proud of? What has changed most in your lifetime? What were some of your best childhood memories? What would you tell your 16-year-old self? Here are some reflections and notes written by our teens after our shared evening of Living History.

You are a nice person and told me I can make it too. **(Angel)**

Muchas gracias por hablar con los niños de Odyssey. Sus palabras fueron muy inspirables. Me gusto mucho como dicias tu historia. Tengo mucho respeto para usted. Muchas Gracias! **(Jenni)**

Thank you for taking time to come and speak to us about your childhood and how it took one and half hours for you to get to school and back. Thank you for telling us about how things were different back then. **(Tenzin)**

Thank you so much for speaking to our teen class! Hearing about your experiences growing up and the advice you wish you had when you were a teen was inspiring. **(Mackenzie)**

I liked hearing about your life and what you had to go through. Your story is really interesting. **(Kimari)**

I wanted to thank you for all your words of wisdom. It really let me know that I honestly take everything I have for granted. I hope to be able to tell my story as confidently as you did. **(Ruhqayyah)**

Thank you for inspiring us. **(Nyjua)**

Thank you for talking about what you were going through in your life. **(Jeremiah)**

Thank you for sharing your inspirational words. **(Kamoria)**

You made me want to be a lawyer. **(Amari)**



Living History: Comments from Adult Odyssey Students



I really enjoyed the Living History panel. Listening to everyone's humble beginnings and how they overcame their hardships was truly inspiring. I found Yolanda's story the most intriguing because she had to basically start over with her education after emigrating from Mexico. The teens asked great, thought-provoking questions that made the discussion interesting. **(Zataiya Gober)**



I enjoyed being a part of the audience! I learned about how hard it was for them to attend school. For instance, Yolanda had to help with house duties because she was the oldest. I think the questions the teens asked were meant to reflect on their lives as upcoming young adults. The questions were personal but respectful to the adults. **(Ricardo Marroquin Santos)**



I admired that the children were very mannerly and smart. They asked strong questions, and you could tell they were genuinely interested. **(NatuRa Warford)**



Living History was a great idea. It gives the youth a chance to learn from elders' mistakes. **(Galeca McCain)**



It was honestly interesting to hear how those on the panel thought of kids growing up today versus then. I think that with the introduction to the internet and cell phones, kids have lost somewhat of a "childhood." Being put in front of screens and exposed to the vast internet can make them adult very quickly, no longer spending time outside. **(James Horton Jr.)**



I liked how Muhammad's daughter kept making him elaborate on the questions she was asking him. **(Quishanta Cary)**



The kids really surprised me with their questions. I definitely think that the living history idea is super awesome for all of us. **(Alice Ramirez)**



I believe it is very important for teens to be exposed to this "living history" from elders and to know that in order to reach their goals, hard work is a must. We all carry our own baggage, and sometimes it is not as easy as they might think. **(J. Luis Pérez-Olgún)**





I enjoyed hearing stories from people from generations before me. I was really shocked and pleasantly surprised to hear that Ms. Joyce was a model when she was younger. Her big personality



I was fascinated by all these questions that the teens asked. One of the questions I liked the most was when one girl asked Joyce Johnson if she could be 16 again, what she would be able to change. Joyce's answer inspired me.
(**Hezouwe Walada**)



What I appreciated most was that after the information was fervently offered to the young ladies about avoiding teen pregnancy, I was able to offer the same admonition to the young men present. I also appreciated the opportunity to ask a question of myself as a teen. (**Muhammad Abdullah**)



During "Living History" I could hear the tone of their voices, see the facial expressions, and feel the emotions. That was the beauty of listening to someone rather than only reading books about history. I thought it was an amazing idea for younger generations to hear, see, and feel what older generations had gone through.
(**Yangchen Lhamo**)

really fits who she is. Oroki Rice's story was a reminder of how I was easily influenced when I was young. Muhammad spoke with so much pride, and him working with the NAACP was really inspiring. He was the change he wanted to be in his community. Yolanda Salazar is actually the grandmother of my childhood friend. I remember the stories she used to tell me about going to Mexico with her and how much fun it used to be. I think the kids were really interested in what the elders were doing at their age. I believe it gave them some insight on what they could be doing. (**Kayasia Blake**)



FIELD TRIP TO UW CAMPUS



"I really enjoyed talking with the kids. It reminded me of what it was like to be that age and be curious about college." (Enjoyiana Nururdin, Odyssey intern and UW student; daughter of Odyssey graduate Takeyla Benton '12)

Earlier this month, the Adventurers rode a yellow school bus to campus where we were greeted by our wonderful tour guide, Enjoyiana Nururdin. Our teens' eyes widened as we walked through the Black Cultural Center which was teeming with life on a Wednesday evening. Enjoyiana and fellow student, Chanel Sims, led us around the multicultural student center where we stopped to talk about college life. Students wondered, what's college like? Is it boring or hard? How big are the dorms? What do you eat? How

do you decide on a major? One student made us laugh with her question, is there pajama day in college? Chanel and Enjoyiana enthusiastically replied, "Every day is pajama day in college!" We finished our tour with ice cream cones at the Memorial Union. It was a fantastic night, leaving many students with a vision of themselves as college students some day.

I had fun. I liked how we got to talk to them about life in college and ask them questions. I remember talking about my teachers and my classes. Teachers need to remember not everyone is going to be the same as you. I might go to college in Madison or maybe New York which is close to some of my family. **(Amari)**



The campus tour was nice. It smelled like chicken in the student center and I liked that. I'm not sure what I want to do about college. I hope to be a you tuber in college. **(Tara)**



REFLECTIONS



You aren't my mirror.

When you think or see me, you might just think I'm black but I'm not just black

I'm a pretty black

Just right

When you see me you say she's in a lot of drama

I'm not in a lot of drama

A worker, but not just a worker

A hard worker

Not kind, but fantastic

This is me **(Kimari)**



Some Women

There are 4 billion women on earth

Some women have blue eyes, some have brown, some women have blonde hair some have black hair

Some women are tall some are short, some have to fight just to get a Passport

Some women are in pain, some cry, some are at the point where they just wanna die

Some women laugh and giggle and some women can't even see water ripple

Some women struggle to eat and some women struggle to not get beat

Some women try to look nice and wear something that will fit but, when it looks too short, "she was asking for it."

Some woman struggle to have a voice and all women struggle to keep their choice

Some women are mothers

Some women are sisters

Some women are victims

But all women... are survivors! **(Kamoria)**



I love pizza
 I love you
 I love blue
 I love my family
 I love my cousin
 I love me
 I don't need no one
 I love nails and video games
 I love the song, *Money*

I hate my ex
 Don't like most people
 Hate wearing shoes
 Love the person that I am now **(Angel)**

PERFECT

by Ellen Hopkins

HOW

do you define a word without concrete meaning? To each his own, the saying goes, so

WHY

push to attain an ideal state of being that no two random people will agree is

WHERE

you want to be? Faultless. Finished. Incomparable. People can never be these, and anyway,

WHEN

did creating a flawless facade become a more vital goal than learning to love the person

WHO

lives inside your skin? The outside belongs to others. Only you should decide for you -

WHAT

is perfect.



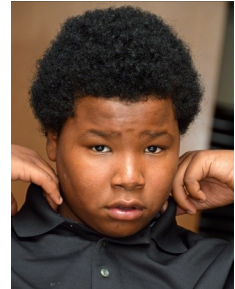
My favorite quote is from Ellen Hopkins' poem "Perfect." I love this quote because on this day in society a lot of people strive to be somebody else that the rest of the world has already decided is accepted because they are "perfect." Not many people choose to live comfortably in their own skin, so you never know if the person you are talking to is truly themselves or a reflection of someone else. As Ellen Hopkins said, "only you should decide for you." **(Ruhquyyah)**

If you could have dinner with anyone, living or dead, who would it be and why?



I would have dinner with my grandma because I have never met her and want to hear all her stories. (Amari)

I would have dinner with my great grandma. (Jeremiah)



Stevie Wonder-I really like his music. (Tara)



If I could eat with someone it would be LeBron James, Lemelo Ball or Zion Williams because I want to play. (Nasier)



Michael Jackson (Shadavien)

FUTURE THOUGHTS



In 5 years, I'll be 18 years old.
I'll still be in school.
I want to be a boxer.
I'll be living by myself.
I won't have a job. **(Nyjua)**

In 5 years, I will be 17 years old.
I'll be a senior in high school.
I might have a job. I really like cooking.
Maybe I'll be a home economics teacher one day. **(Tara)**



I wish life could be fair and square.
we think we have it hard. We don't.
I keep dreaming

When there are people dying and
But until then

I wish everything was fair and square

no pain, but that's not possible yet

No water no food and we think we're suffering.

But it's not kids around the world are suffering.

(Shadavien)



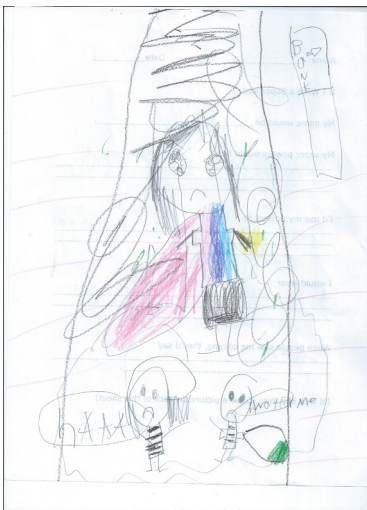
ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



IF I WERE A SUPERHERO....

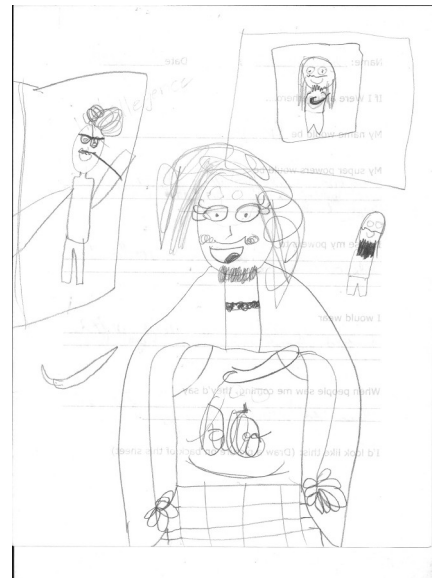
After our visit from Dr. Dyslexia (see page 17), each Explorer had a chance to channel their own inner superhero. Here is what the Explorers had to say:

If I were a superhero, my name would be Super Guy. My super powers would be lightning and thunder. I'd use my powers to defeat the people in fighting. I would wear a suit of green, blue and red. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Hey, It's Super Guy!" **(Erick)**



If I were a superhero, my name would be Song Girl. My super powers would be making a good song. I will summon things that would make bad noises and eye lasers and not bad things. I would use my super powers to put people in jail and summon a key. I would wear a black skirt with pink, blue, and purple in the middle. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Oh, No! It's Song Girl – Run!" **(Essence)**

If I were a superhero, my name would be Dr. Des. My super powers would be helping people, doing hair picking out, making people happy, and making people turn even nicer. I'd use my super powers to save the world and help others in Madison. I would wear a tight red suit with a red bow and red high heels. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Dr. Des is here to save the day!" **(Desiray)**



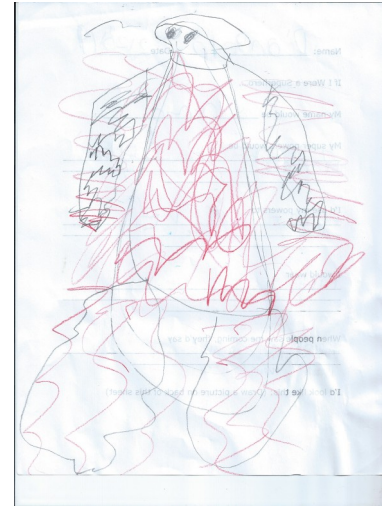
If I were a superhero, my name would be Batman. My super powers would be flight, mind control, and karate moves. I'd use my powers to sneak up on and spy on people that were doing bad things. I would wear a bat suit with batteries on my back. When people saw me coming, bad guys would say, "Oh, come on! He's the only one that's coming..." **(J.T.)**



If I were a superhero, my name would be Dr. Intelligence. My super powers would be hyper intelligence. I'd use my powers to pass high school. I would wear a lab coat. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Family!" **(Z)**

coming, they'd say, "Whoa, Wow!" **(D'Angelo)**

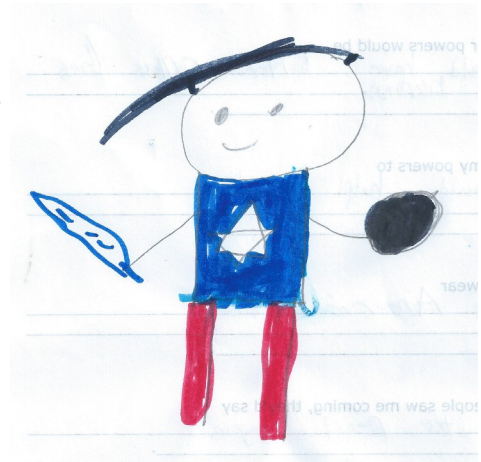
If I were a superhero, my name would be Flame. My super powers would be all of the super powers in the world. I'd use my powers to defeat crime. I would wear fire. When people saw me



If I were a superhero, my name would be Little Miss Marvel. My super powers would be Legos, creativity and acid. I'd use my powers to fight crime in the galaxy. I would wear a Lego superhero suit and a cape. When people say me coming, they'd say, "Awesome!" **(Blessing)**

If I were a superhero, my name would be The Super Soldier. I would have better reflexes than any other human.

I would use my powers to help people. I would wear the American flag. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Let the feast begin!" **(Zion)**



If I were a superhero, my name would be Talia. My super powers would be to stop time, fly, be invisible, read people's minds, shoot crystals, draw anime, and predict the future. Everybody would try to catch me. I'd use my super powers to save people. I would wear a blue scarf, blue hair, blue shirt, and blue crystals. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Talia is coming to save the day!" **(Jessica)**

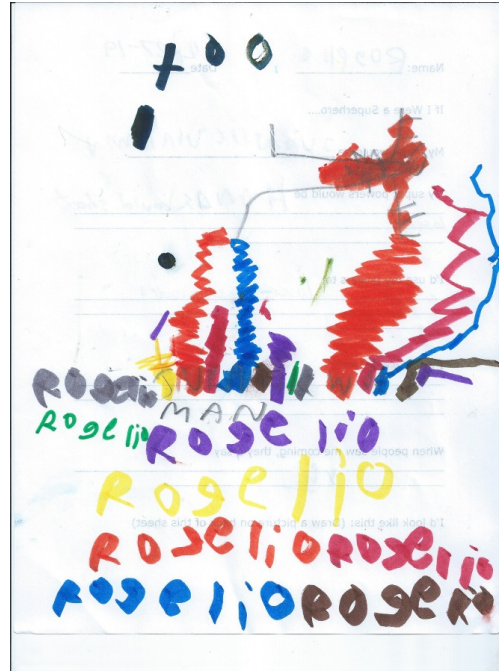


If I were a superhero, my name would be Bob. My super power would be strength. I'd use my powers to fight evil people. I would wear the Batman suit. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Wow, it's Bob!" **(Alan)**

If I were a superhero, my name would be Jurassic World Man. My hands would be

able to shoot lasers. I'd use my powers to laser the dinosaurs. I would wear a mask and a blue outfit. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Yes!" **(Rogelio)**

If I were a superhero, my name would be Ninja Girl. My super power would be speed. I'd use my powers to save people. I would wear a Ninja suit. **(Zamora)**



If I were a superhero, my name would be Lil R.J. My super powers would be speed and flying. I'd use my powers to help people. I would wear a cape and a mask. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Oh, man! They KD?" **(R.J.)**

If I were a superhero, my name would be Super Time. My super power would be the ability to change time.

I'd use my powers to go back in time so people can correct their mistakes. I would wear a suit. When people saw me coming, they'd say, "Stop!" **(Alex)**



KINDNESS

“When you have a choice between being kind or being right, choose kind, and you’ll be right every time.”

Odyssey Explorers are studying kindness this semester. We read the powerful book “Each Kindness” by Jacqueline Woodson. Just like the children in the book, we each had the opportunity to throw a pebble (courtesy of Bernie’s Rock Shop) into the water and watch the ripples circle out from it, just like they do whenever someone commits an act of kindness. We are all trying hard to practice kindness in our lives.



Write about a time when you were kind to someone or a time when someone was kind to you.

My friend Cecelia was falling from the top of the snow mountain, and I caught her.

I got bullied, and Cecelia stood up for me. She asked, “Are you OK?” I said, “Yes.” **(Blessing)**

One time when I was going to the library with my friend, my friend had 20 bucks. My friend bought himself a Roblox gift card, and then he bought me one, too! **(Elijah)**

I stood up to a bully who was bullying someone in the hallway. It took a lot of courage to stop letting him bully people, but then I thought if I were being bullied, I would want someone to step up for me.

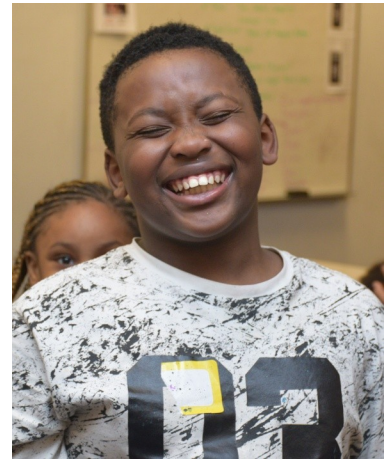
Someone was kind to me when he helped me when I was hurt. We

weren’t really friends as we were in a fight, but he still helped me. **(Zion)**

Last week, I made a lime juice with honey for my mom. **(Alex)**

I was kind to my friend when my friend got hit, and I said, “Are you O.K.?” Then I rubbed her back.

My friend, Maria, was kind to me when I fell, and she rubbed my back. **(Essence)**



I help out in the lunchroom with the little kids every Monday at my school. I also helped someone fix their iPad.

People were kind to me when I fell and busted my knee open. A bunch of people came over and asked me if I was O.K., and then they helped me up. **(Desiray)**

We/my family went on a trip to Florida, and we were swimming in the pool. What happened was my brother was drowning, and I saved his LIFE!

I was having a bad day, and a teacher helped me and made my day! **(Jayden)**



I am kind when I play games with my sisters, Aimee and Daphne.

I sat with my friends George and Elliot on the first day of school. **(Dylan)**

I play with my little sister when my mom is cooking and when she goes to the bathroom. I read her a book. **(Erick)**



I helped an older lady with her groceries.

My mom is nice every time she makes breakfast for me, smiles at me and takes me places. **(R.J., aka Rasaki)**

One time I was kind to someone who was at my school. I was kind to one of my friends named Cesar. I helped him do his homework.

Once my friend named Alexander helped me go to the nurse when I got hit in the face with a basketball, and I couldn't see. **(Alan)**





I was kind when I let my sister slap me, and I didn't hit her back, even though I wanted to so badly.

"When I was kind to them, they were kind to me," like when I lost my jacket, and they helped me find it. **(Zahnia)**

I was kind to my mom when my mom told Dylan to do the baby chores, but he didn't. Then I did them.

My mom is kind to me when she buys me clothes, shoes, and vegetables. **(Aimee)**



I asked my friend Zahnia if she would be my friend. **(Jessica)**

I was nice to my sister.

My friend is nice because he is my friend. **(Rogelio)**



Last week, I was listening to the book and being respectful to the teacher.

My friend was sticking up for me when people were bullying me. "Stop picking on my friend," he said. **(D'Angelo)**

I help my mom get the groceries.

My mom gave me a new phone, and I gave my phone case to my mom. **(Nakyiah)**

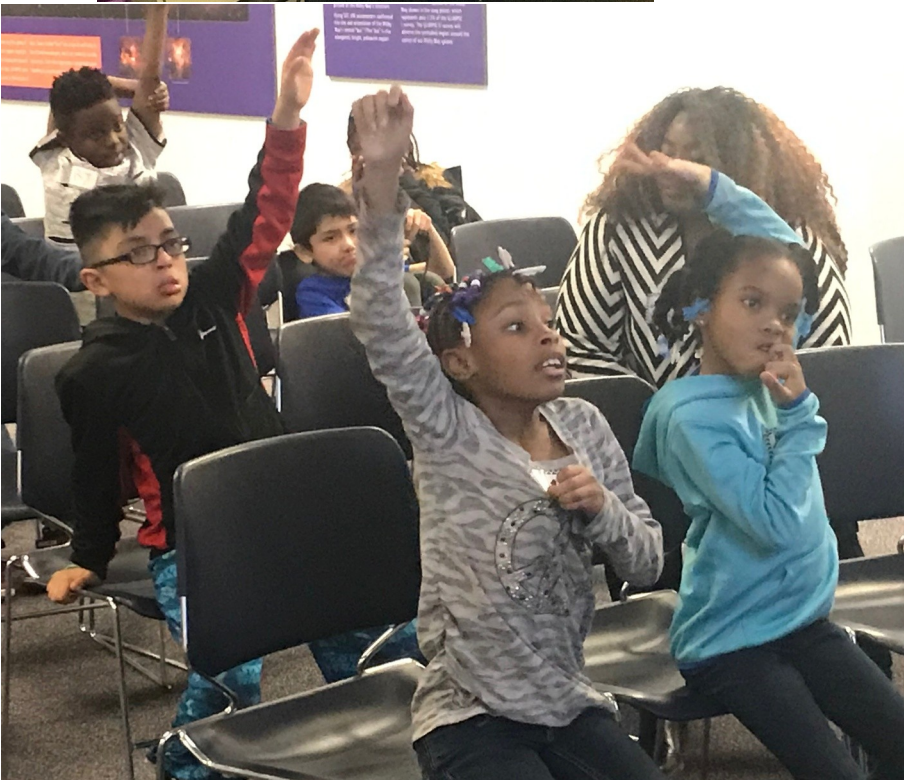


AUTHOR VISITS

Three published authors have made special visits to the Explorers this semester.



Dean Robbins presented one of his inspiring books, “Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton Saved the First Lunar Landing.” Dean talked to us about how he gets his ideas for his books, why he chooses to tell stories that bring to light people that overcame huge barriers to accomplish important things, and what’s involved in researching, writing and publishing a book. Explorers had lots of great questions, but Dean’s favorite question was, “Have you ever thought about writing a book about yourself?” Dean loved that idea! At the end of the presentation, Dean signed a copy of one of his books (“Margaret and the Moon,” “Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass,” and “Miss Paul and the President”) for each child in the class.

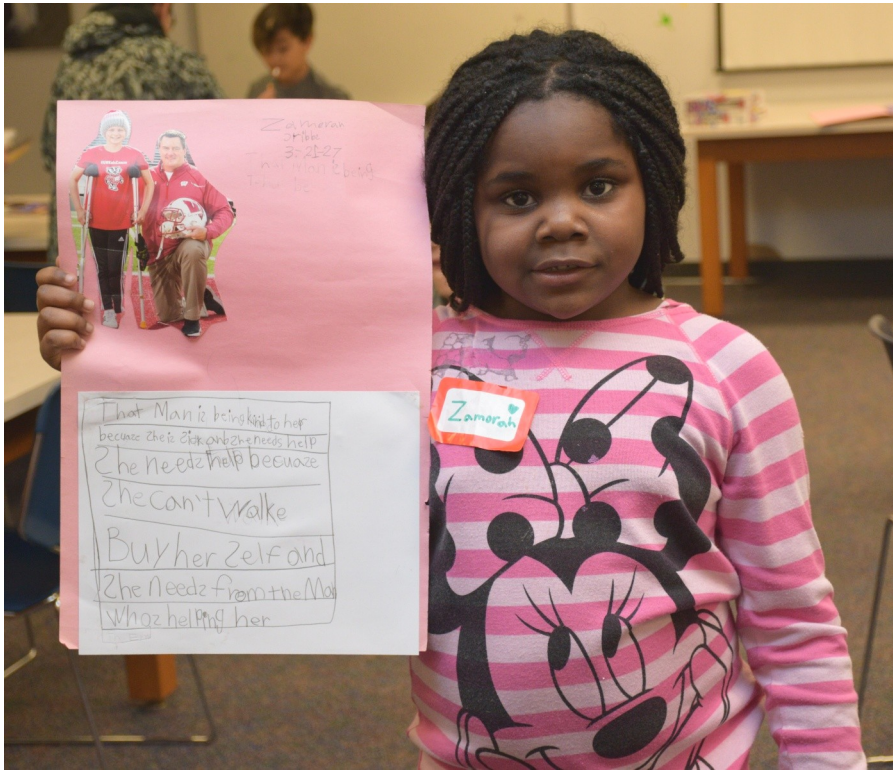


Our next visit was from Dr. Shawn Robinson, co-author with his wife, Inshirah, of the graphic novel “Dr. Dyslexia Dude.” In this true story, Dr. Robinson, aka Dr. Dyslexia, tells the true story of his struggles with learning to read and how he eventually found his inner superhero and not only learned to read but obtained a Ph.D. in Literacy and Language from Cardinal Stritch University. Dr. Dyslexia tells this story from the perspective of his son and credits his UW Oshkosh college



professor, Dr. Robert T. Nash, for teaching him the basics of language structure and how to read. Dressed in his Superhero identity as Dr. Dyslexia, Dr. Robinson shared his book with us and answered questions about his journey. He then signed a copy of the book for each Explorer. Parents, if your children is struggling with self-esteem or learning difficulties of any kind, read “Dr. Dyslexia Dude” with your child for inspiration in helping your child find his or her own inner superhero.





On March 27th, we were so happy to have another visit from Poet Fabu. She challenged us to use some

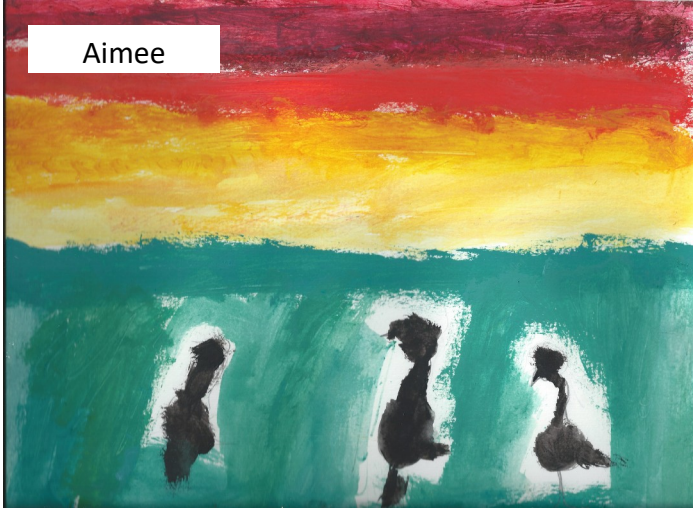
magazines to find a picture or pictures that illustrated “kindness” to us. We then pasted our pictures onto a large sheet and wrote about why those pictures signified kindness to us. It was a great exercise in expanding our ideas of what kindness is, who might give and receive kindness, and in what settings might kindness occur. Explorers then had the option of reading aloud what they wrote and sharing their picture or collage. Afterwards, Fabu surprised us each with a copy of her book “Poems, Dreams, and Roses.” Parents, you can enjoy this book with your children again and again. You can use it as a springboard to write your own poems or write a poem together as a family. You can share stories from your own life like Fabu shares stories of growing up in her book. Don’t forget to look for the surprise on the last page!



WATERCOLOR WITH ANDREW ILLENE

Artist Andrew Illene returned to Explorers and showed us how to capture the beauty of nature in our watercolors.

Aimee



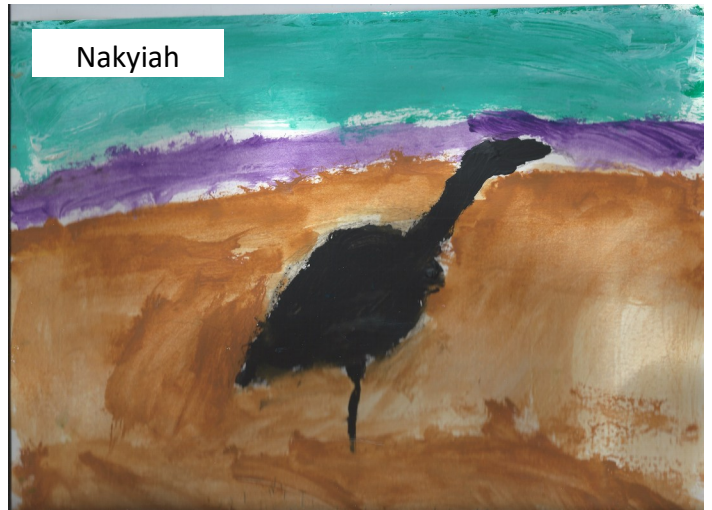
Blessing



Zamora



Nakyiah

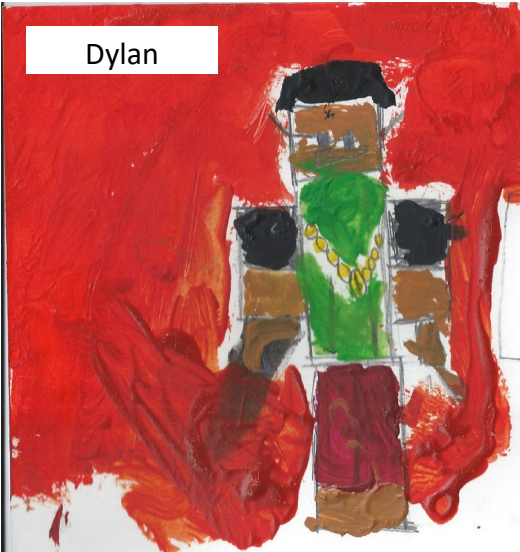


Jessica



JT

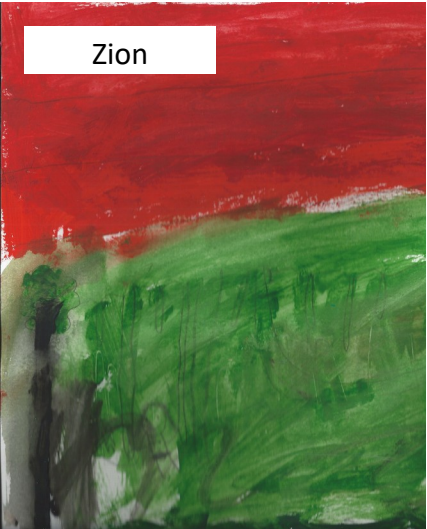




Dylan



RJ



Zion



D'Angelo



Alex



Essence



Elijah



Jayden

ODYSSEY JUMPSTART



“Pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can’t take their eyes off you.” —Maya Angelou

What do you love to do?

Daphne: “I love drawing for my baby sister.”

Korireon: “I love to color.”

Zaria: “I love drawing.”

K. K.: “I love making pictures.”

R. J.: “I love to play.”

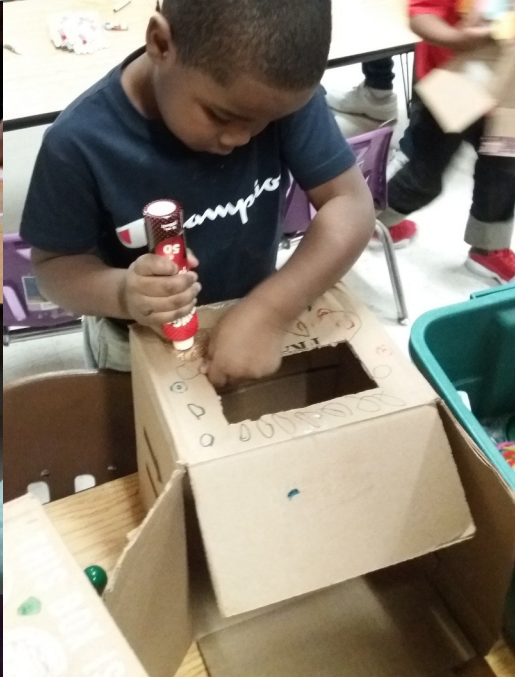
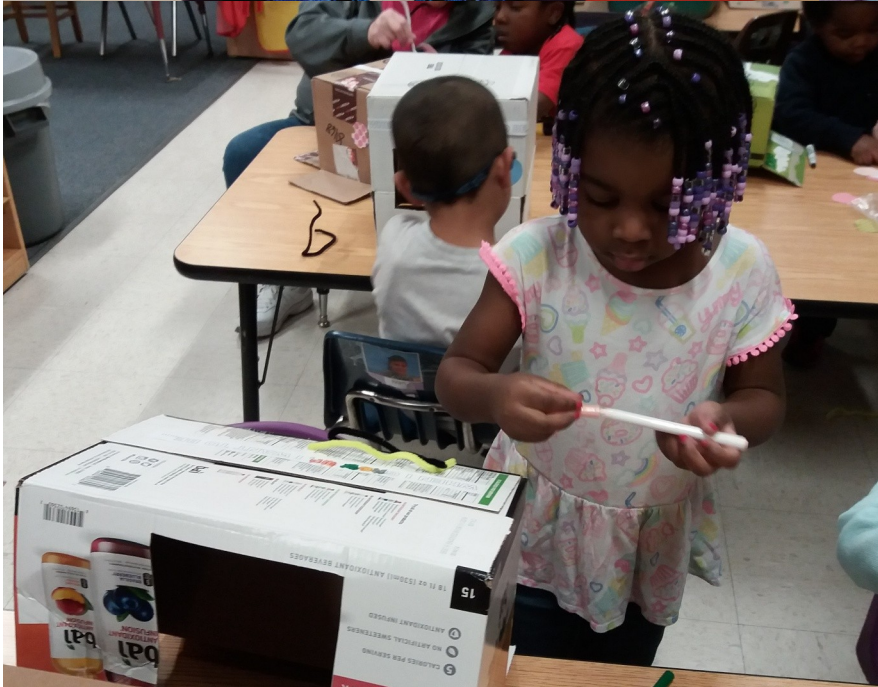
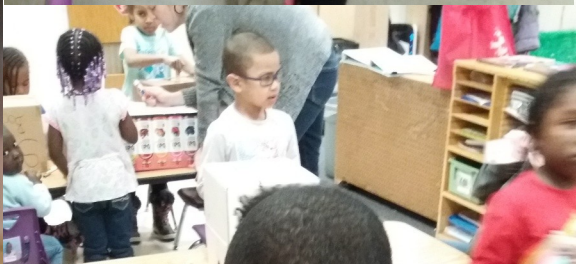
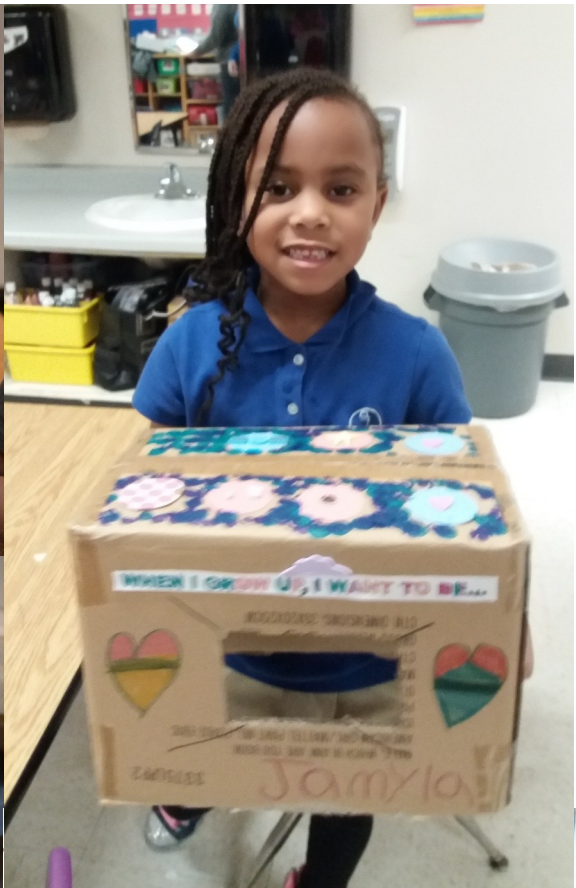
Zion: “I really love to play I-Spy.”

Nadia: “I love to draw.”

Kayden: “I love to color a giraffe.”







SIDNEY (ODYSSEY JUNIOR 2018) DESCRIBES HER TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Hi everyone!

I recently went to the United Nations, which is a place where they make very important decisions about everyone. The conference I went to was specifically about women and girls around the world.

Most of us went to New York by airplane. For me, it was fun but really, really scary! It was scary because I was in the air and I have a little fear of heights, especially when there is turbulence, which is wind pushing the airplane left and right, up and down. It made my stomach feel weird, like it was being pushed in. The airplane went really, really high, and even above the clouds. Houses seemed like tiny ants and dots. It was cool coming down out of the clouds because everything on the ground seemed to grow larger and get bigger. When we were landing and the pilot was putting on the brakes, the plane was vibrating like somebody shaking me really fast. When it stopped we went into the airport and left for the United Nations!



The conference that I went to was called the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. There were women and girls from 50 countries!



On the first day, I went to the United Nations building to get my badge so that I could get into the conferences. There were long lines. Everyone had to go through metal detectors and take off their shoes because they had to check for weapons and bombs. It was kind of cool and fun!

After we passed through the building with the metal detectors, we were outside in the courtyard in front of the huge United Nations building. In the courtyard was a big golden sculpture of the world, and my dad took a picture of me in front of it. I felt really excited to finally be in New York and at the UN!

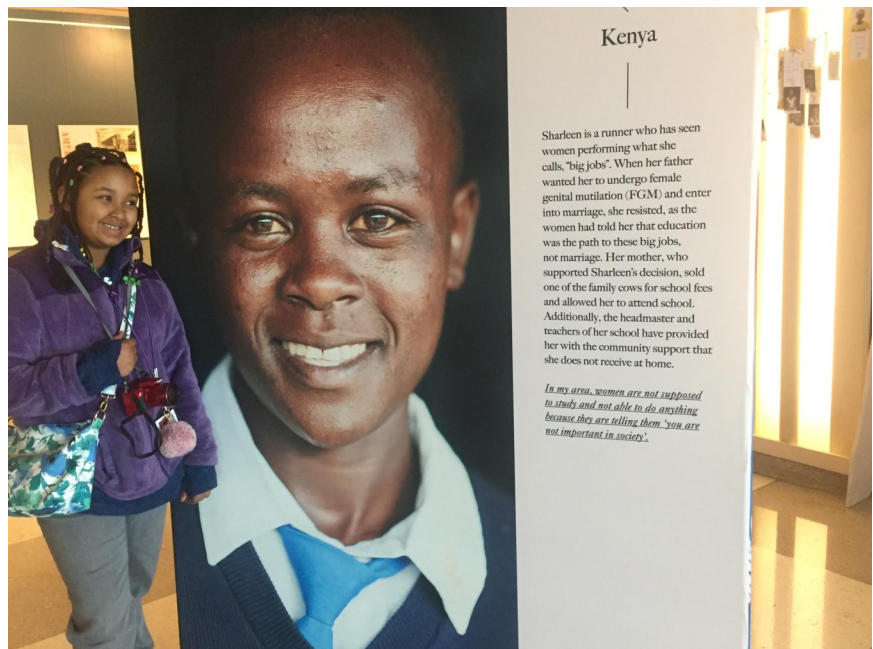


After that we got to go in the UN building! Just inside the entrance, there was a statue of Nelson Mandela, a famous South African leader who helped to end apartheid and was also a member of the UN. It made me feel very empowered because I got to stand next to his statue.

Next, we went to see poster pictures of girls from different countries. Most of the girls lived in rural areas in their countries. The girls in the posters made me feel sad for them. They had hard lives and had to work as children to help their families farm, carry water in pots on top of their heads from lakes and streams to their houses, and take care of animals the families needed to help them survive. A lot of the time young girls were not allowed to go to school. Only the

boys could go because most men believed that boys were smarter than girls and girls did not deserve to go to school. Also most families could only afford to pay for one child to go to school because in most of those rural areas families had to pay for their children to go to school.

One of the posters had a picture of a girl and her name and the country in Africa where she lives. I read her story about child marriage. That's when girls are married off at young ages by their parents for cows and money because the family is poor. Some girls were married off at the age of 12. The girl in the poster did not want to be married and ran away from her husband and her family, YAY! She found an orphanage that took in girls like her and helped them learn to read and write and find trades so they did not have to go back to their husbands. I found out that other people are starting to donate money to help build more places to help more girls like her so they have a safe place to go. They learn to feel better about themselves and feel empowered because they learn how to become independent.

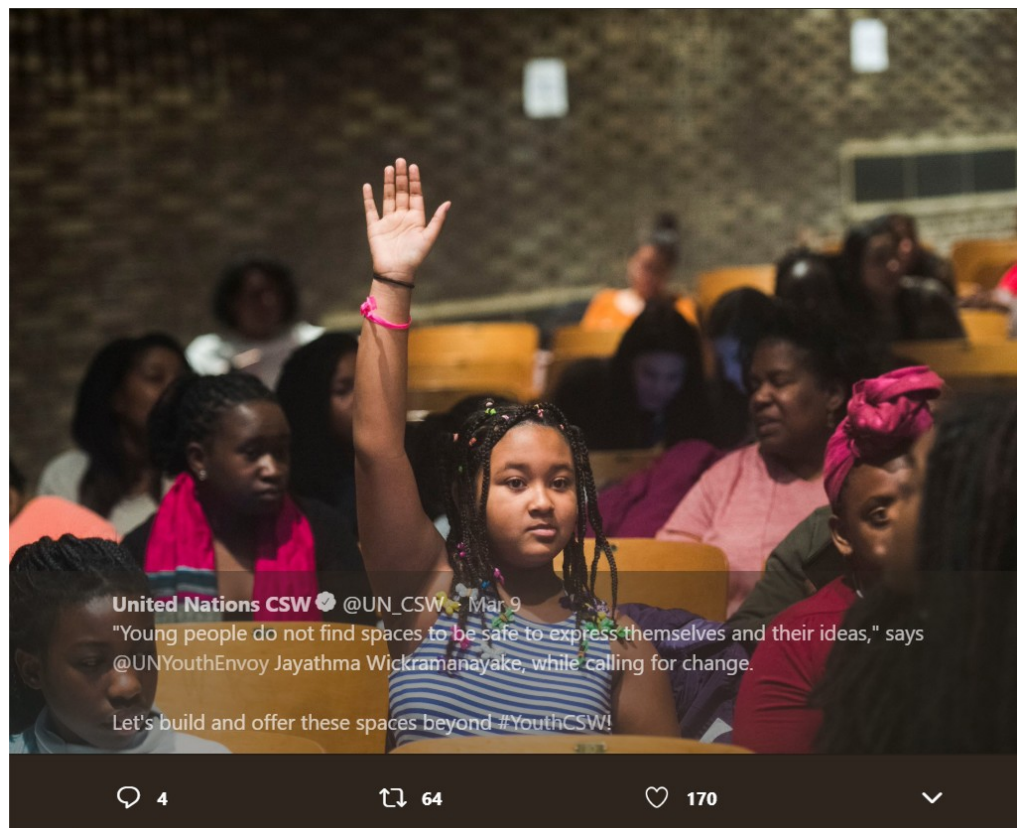


The girl's story made me feel that I am really lucky because I get to choose when I want to get married when I'm an adult, I get to have an education, I get to have my own business, I get to speak up if I feel that I'm not being treated fairly, and I won't get beaten for speaking up for myself. Her story made me feel very grateful for the life that I have. I want to know more about girls like me and girls like her and how I can continue to empower myself, help some girls like her, and be a role model for girls.

I got to tour the first floor of the UN building and see pictures of how it looked years ago, which was really cool to see. I got to see the rooms where ambassadors and delegates from all over the world make decisions on keeping world peace, protecting human rights, delivering help like food, clothing, and housing. My favorite topic is promoting sustainable infrastructure, which for me means getting help from other people, getting money and stuff to help myself and others reach our goals, like education, growing my business, and helping other girls.

The next day I got to be in a real conference with women and girls from all over the world. The conference was really fun because there was a panel of women delegates. . . . It was so cool to be in the same place with doctors, ambassadors, prime ministers, international business women, college students, and combatants, who are women from different countries in Africa who fought in wars and now work in their governments as prime ministers, ambassadors, lawyers, secretaries of states and more. The women delegates talked about ways to help girls from all over the world and then asked if anyone in the audience had questions. I felt super nervous because I knew I wanted to ask a question but I also knew I would be asking it in front of many awesome and important women from around the world. I felt overwhelmed!

I raised my hand, but they did not call on me. Then the photographer took my picture and put it on the UN CSW Twitter account. They thought I was brave for having the courage to raise my hand and not be afraid to use my voice to ask a question! A lot of women in the audience noticed me and started to talk about me raising my hand!



In one of the breakout sessions, . . . we talked about better ways of doing things to help women and girls by creating safer roads, better healthcare, opportunities for education, help starting their own businesses with microloans, and how to help them continue to work for equal rights and treatment like boys and men have. I was the youngest in my group. At first it was hard for me to raise my hand and ask questions, but I did.

After I asked a few questions and talked in my breakout session, I felt better and more comfortable. The women listened to my questions and what I had to say about how to help girls and women. I also told them about my business, Sidney's Girlpower Inc., that helps to empower girls using tools that I learned to help empower myself. The women were impressed. They said I was very talented and that I was destined to do great things. It made me feel super happy inside. I suggested that they think about creating a business like mine to help girls learn how to feel better about themselves, build their self-esteem and give themselves voices. They looked very surprised because it came from an eleven-year-old girl who wants to help others!

One of the women who was a doctor from Zimbabwe asked me to speak in her conference to girls who live in Zimbabwe about empowerment by telling them my story because she said she thought I was awesome. I was super excited, but I couldn't because we had to leave one day before her conference started! :(I'm going to email her so I can eventually do the conference on the computer!

Later everyone saw my picture in the twitter account and heard about my questions, so they would come to say hi to me. They made me feel like I fit in with them. I had an awesome time there!!

