

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



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ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS



FIELD TRIP DOWNTOWN

On April 3rd, our class boarded the yellow school bus for a downtown adventure! First stop was Ian's Pizza on State Street. We enjoyed choosing from the myriad of creative toppings and being out to dinner with our community. From there, we walked to the Central Library where Jesse Vieau, teen services, greeted us for a brief tour including a stop at The Bubbler, where students learned about free summer programs and drop in opportunities. Our final stop was the Media Lab. Audrey Martinovich from Audio of the Arts gave kids a chance to make their own music. It was awesome! Brave Adventurers stepped into the sound booth to record original songs, while others learned the art of mixing beats and tunes. We laughed and danced and enjoyed this very creative experience together.



WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS INSPIRE

THANKS FOR VISITING THE ADVENTURERS!

On March 27th, we were lucky to hear the amazing stories of both Sabrina Madison and Dr. Roxie Hentz. Sabrina Madison was recently featured on the cover of the CapTimes with an in-depth interview that students read, giving them details from her life story to ask informed questions. She inspired the room with her resilience and leadership as she described her path to Madison and most recently founding The Progress Center for Black Women.



Later that night, Dr. Roxie Hentz taught students about "social entrepreneurship" and why she founded CEOs of Tomorrow, a local non-profit teaching young people how to start their own businesses while helping their communities. We are excited to send two Adventurers to summer camp at CEOs of Tomorrow this year! Thank you, Dr. Hentz.



MY FAVORITE MEMORY FROM ODYSSEY THIS YEAR

Tara: Trip to campus

Nyjua: Going to Ian's Pizza and the Downtown library

Nasier: Children's Museum and recording at the library

Zawadi: Storytellers and guest speakers as well as the field trip to campus

Jeremiah: The Children's Museum

Juan: Ian's pizza and making friends

Jenni: Spoken word

Kamoria: Valentine's Day when we did arts and crafts and ate good food

Elijah: Recording studio at the library

Shadavien: Hide and go seek at the Children's Museum

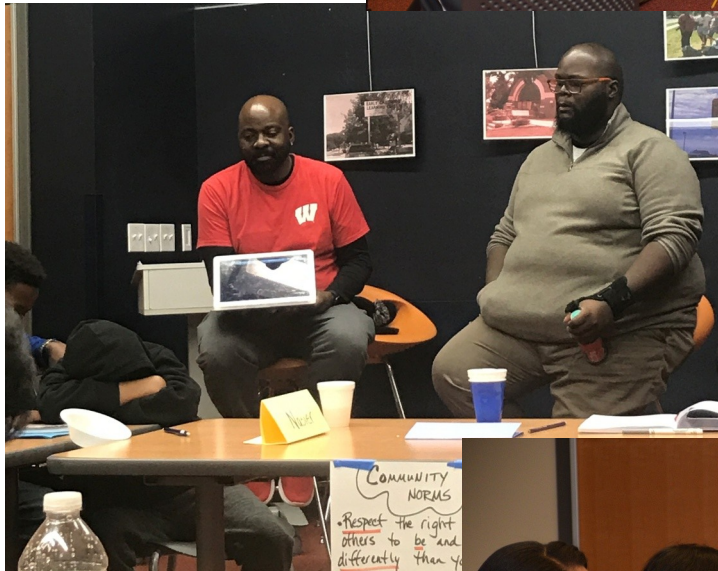
Karen: I loved visiting the UW Campus with students and hearing their questions.

Leigh: All of the great guest speakers and storytellers we had this year



STORYTELLING WORKSHOP SERIES

On April 10, we invited five storytellers and Odyssey alumni (Otis Harris, Sahira Rocillo, Karina Tinajero, Takeyla Benton, Albert Watson) to share a five-minute story with our class. Takeyla Benton hosted the panel helping students focus on specific storytelling strategies and techniques they could employ in their own stories.



After a riveting evening filled with tales of heartbreak, friendship, loss, hope, and love, students were inspired to begin seeding their own story ideas for the following week. On April 17th, the panel of storytellers returned to lead small groups as they workshoped their very own short stories. On April 24th, we shared our stories.



STUDENT STORIES

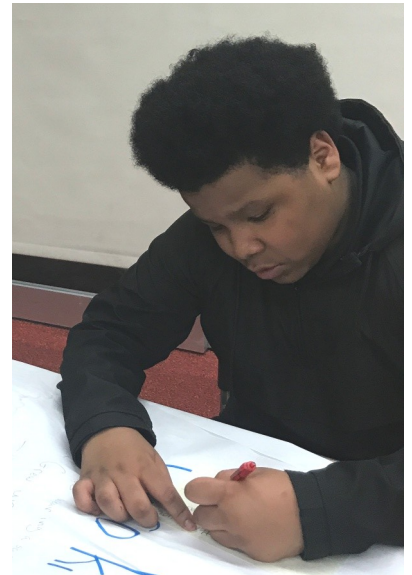


This petty argument was going to be the end of me, of us. This was never ending. I felt like I couldn't breathe, yet I wasn't even arguing with you face-to-face. I was sitting in my seat at UW, trying to act like I wasn't about to smash my phone against the tile floor. I don't know why you'd say these stupid things. If you wanted to leave then leave! I wasn't begging you to stay with me. You seemed to say these things to make me angry and protest against you. Then you really pulled it. My heart dropped, and I felt a chill down my spine. You said you did it. You swallowed the pills easily and immediately regretted. Why would you throw away your life like that? Why would you throw that against me? At this point nothing mattered to me. You said you were scared, but why did you do it then? I began to bawl because I felt like I did this. I was in the middle of a room with other students surrounding me. I was the reason why you did it, that's what you said.

I did the one thing I could think about—I called your mom. She told me everything was okay as if it was nothing. I didn't need that. This was my fault. You said so. I lay in my bed and cried my eyes out. This wasn't how things were supposed to be. It had been eight hours and I hadn't heard about you. I was a maniac, frantically looking up what would happen if it was too late. I hardly slept that night and days passed. I didn't hear from you. Suddenly you texted me like nothing, as if you didn't almost die because of me. I was furious but I was glad you were okay. My smile faded when you said, "You should have tried to come see me or sent me flowers." As if saving your life wasn't enough, you didn't care at all. I didn't have the money to go to Texas that very night, but I had the patience to stay hopeful for your life. No, it wasn't my fault. I did nothing wrong. **(Jenni)**



On Saturday morning my family and I woke up, took showers, and brushed our teeth. Then we made breakfast. After we finished breakfast we got all our stuff on and went to the mall. When we got to the mall we went shopping for a little bit, and then we went to the Food Court for lunch. When we were all finished eating, we went back to shopping. The bad part of the day was that I was the only person that didn't get anything until the mall was about to close. What I usually get is a couple shirts, shoes, and pants. Don't ask why I didn't get socks and underwear because I already had them. **(Jeremiah)**



When My Brother was Born

When my brother was born, I was so happy. I always wanted a brother. I wanted to have someone to look over me when I am old. When he was born he had a heart problem, but he made it. At that time in life I knew that he was a believer. One day he was going to be a great man and also a fighter, and he knows he is too. He will always be my little fav brother. **(Angel)**



I woke up with a swarm of emotions in my head. Excitement. Relief. Triumph. Fear. Today, I had one thing on my mind: finishing the school day with a smile. It was field day, the last day of school, and I was determined to have a blast. The day would go smoothly, having teams and rotating between games. At the end, we would have a lip-sync battle across the middle school grades. Then my eighth grade class would say our farewells to our classmates, friends, and teachers. Time to move on with our lives. It seemed like an easy process, right? Well, I was wrong. I tried to distract myself and continued my morning routine. Brush my teeth. Take a shower. Get dressed and eat breakfast, then off to the bus I go.

The bus ride was a blur as my friend and I talked about anything on our mind. When I arrived at school, I thought I was ready to start the day. Moments later I had to collect the members of my team since I was the team captain. Before I get into the rest of the day, there are some things you should know.

First of all, we are not just a middle school. My school goes from kindergarten through eighth grade. On top of that, we also have 4kers, children who are four years old! Anyhow, as I collect the members of my team, all I can hear are eager children, happy to be here, although anyone could have mistaken that for whining toddlers. Later on, we started to compete against each other. We didn't take it personally if we won or lost. We rotated and played some more games, and then it was time for the lip sync battle. My class chose one of the trendy songs, you know *Old Town Road*. The crowd would cheer in awe as they handed a trophy to us.

Last but not least, it was time to say our goodbyes. I dreaded this moment. We said our farewells to our teachers, classmates, and friends. I felt hot tears roll down my cheek. I closed my eyes because if I opened them, I would start bawling. I finally found the strength to open my eyes. I gasped as I looked around at my surroundings and my textbooks lying on the floor next to my shelf. At that moment, I understood what was going on...

It was a dream, I thought to myself.

It all felt so real. I wondered if that was how the last day would go. Would my class really win the lip sync battle? Would I really feel hot tears roll down my cheek? I know I would feel a swarm of emotions: excitement, relief, triumph, fear. **(Zawadi)**



One time my mom left with her friends and it was just me, Nasier, and my Auntie. There was no TV in my house, so we were just bored and had nothing to do. I just went to my mom and dad's room and called 911. We started a weird conversation. The cops started coming to my house, and my mom came back. Everyone got in trouble, and I blamed it on my brother. He got a whoopin'. I waited one year later and told my parents what actually happened. **(Nyjua)**





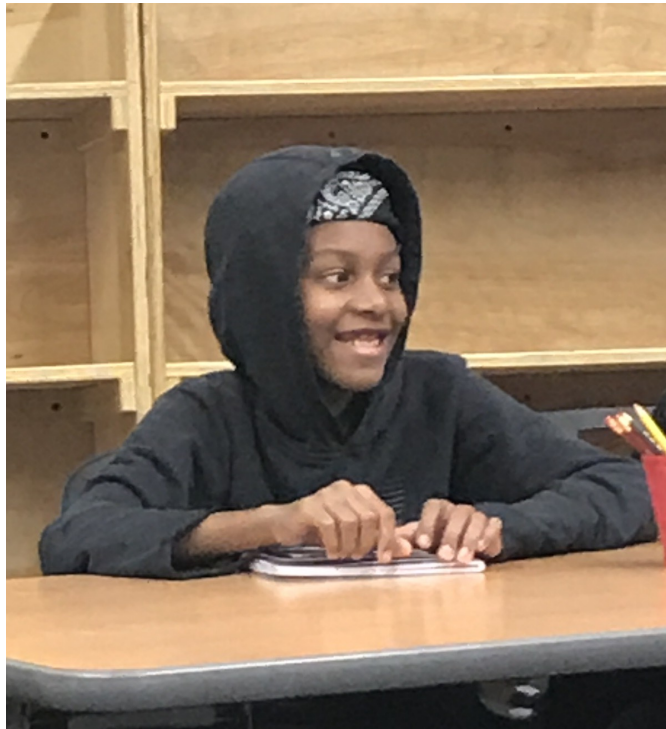
How To Be Yourself and Black

Yes, you are reading that right ***“How to be yourself and be black?”*** Yes, I go to an all white school with 0.1% African-American students. Population: me and one other girl who was mixed and considered herself white. I felt like an elephant in the classroom. My friends were in different classrooms, and I had one friend in my class who would talk to me. All the other kids had their own groups. I didn’t get picked on or anything by the other kids, but they didn’t really include me either. The one who picked on me was my teacher.

In fourth grade my teacher made a racist joke to me by giving me a book. The book was about an African American girl with poofy and curly hair. I was very confused as to why this lady was handing me a book. I felt like she hated me. She was mean to me all the time and would ask me every morning if I took medication, so I was confused about why she was giving me a gift. Why was she trying to be nice to me? The next thing out of her mouth came out a split second later. “I got you this book because you people have crazy hairstyles.” She said it in a sarcastic way, like she was making a joke. I said “thank you,” but I gave her a look to let her know I was feeling disrespected. I walked away, and I never told anybody about it. I told my mom a few months later, but I never told the principal or anyone else. They wouldn’t have done anything anyway. Now I feel like I can be heard. I didn’t before. Now I can tell everybody about my story. **(Amari)**



I don't really know what to say but I’m a house rat. I stay in my room. I go to my mom’s room from time to time. I use my phone to look at memes and play games that I can't play on my ps4. I get up at some points in time mainly when I’m hungry to make noodles or go to the bathroom. I use my PlayStation to watch YouTube and play games that I can't play on my phone. I don't let people come to my house. I wish I could keep my brother out but I can't because my mom keeps him in. Also, I use my computer when I want to watch YouTube and play my games, but at the moment I don't know where my computer is. I do what I want in my room. I throw things, but most of the time I can’t, like when people are sleeping. Besides that, there is nothing else. I don't really do stuff. It is my environment. It doesn’t judge me. I eat my noodles in my room. I have a sacred spot. I only get up to eat. **(Elijah)**





A downtown trip to remember

The sound of my phone ringing woke me up at 10:00 AM, and I realized I had to leave by 12:00. It was Cael and Jordan calling from Cael's house, asking if I was getting ready. I was going to start getting ready. However, I was waiting on my mom and the money for my trip. It was 11:30 when she finally showed up. I had to rush out to bike to Cael's house for my first adventure without parents. I remember feeling a strange feeling I had never felt before. It was almost like a shock of excitement and energy rushing through my veins.

We chatted and joked all the way to the Capitol, not realizing we walked more than a mile to get there. When we arrived we saw tons of people filling the building. Some had instruments, and others were spectating. Jordan found this a great time to play one of his favorite games, Coast Clear, a game where you try to sneak around without being seen. After the Capitol, we wandered around State Street and went into various stores. We also bought pizza and ice cream, and we played football in the middle of the street. It felt so good to hang out with my friends alone until it started to rain. We all wanted to head home before the rain got worse, so we gathered our money and headed for the bus stop. We couldn't find the right bus stop until some man pointed us in the direction.

When we got to the right stop, Jordan realized we needed change for the bus, so he decided to go into the store while Cael and I waited at the bus stop. A minute after he went into the store, the bus pulled up and Jordan was still inside, so I ran to the store to grab Jordan. Just when I was about to open the door, Jordan came rushing out with the change and we hopped on the bus.

As we headed home, we all felt invincible and happy. I couldn't wait to tell my parents about my amazing downtown adventure. **(Shadavien)**





It was a cold and cloudy morning and our first day of coordination. I was super excited to finally get to one of the funniest things I enjoy about marching. I took a look at my first dot. I just automatically sprinted to it and was ready for the first rep of the season. I kept going and after a couple of reps we had finally gone to the second dot, but I had trouble trying to get to more and more pushups. I was able to succeed, and by the third dot I was questioning why I was moving farther away from the other horns. Our coordinator walked up to me and asked to see my dots and started laughing. I had a puzzled face. Then he said that I was supposed to be on the other side. Once I figured it out, it became a lot easier for me to hit my dots. I finished out with a good lesson, which is not to go through the motions. **(Juan)**



The Day I Broke My Finger

The day I broke my finger I was on the basketball court. I was trying to get the the ball. It was with my friends. I had scored more points than them. I was happy but I tried to get the ball and BOOM!

I broke my pinky. **(Nasier)**



I could feel the rumble in my stomach letting off a thunderous growl. I could hear it! I wonder if anyone else could hear it. Who cares? One thing's for sure, it's time to eat! What was I going to have that day? I could go for a chicken sandwich, or a double cheeseburger. Hell, hungry as I was, just about anything would do. As I entered the dining room of the Towers, which is a private college dorm off State Street, I could hear what sounded like a man choking. I then heard a woman in her East Coast Jewish voice say, "Somebody call 911." I observed an elderly man performing the Heimlich maneuver on another elderly man. I was headed to the nearest phone when something pulled me back and told me to look again at the elderly man performing the Heimlich on the other elderly man. You see, he wasn't being effective at all.

I immediately intervened and started performing the Heimlich. After what seemed like forever, a small piece of onion came flying out of his mouth. By then, the paramedics had arrived and assisted the man, who ended up being just fine. I was called a hero that day, and for the next couple of days. It was an awesome feeling—not being called a hero, but saving this man's life. **(Albert)**

ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



DOG STORIES



Harley Goes Shopping

One rainy day, Harley woke up and went to see if it was raining. It was. Lois, his owner, went to a store called Dorn Hardware. She took Harley because it was his favorite store. When Harley got there, he went running around and then he got lost. He was looking for treats and then he remembered that the person at the counter kept treats waiting for him. The counter person caught him, and she did not give him treats because he ran away. Now, Harley understood why he did not get the treat. It is dangerous to run away. The counter person took him to his trainer. Because

Harley listened to the trainer, he got a treat. **(Aimee)**

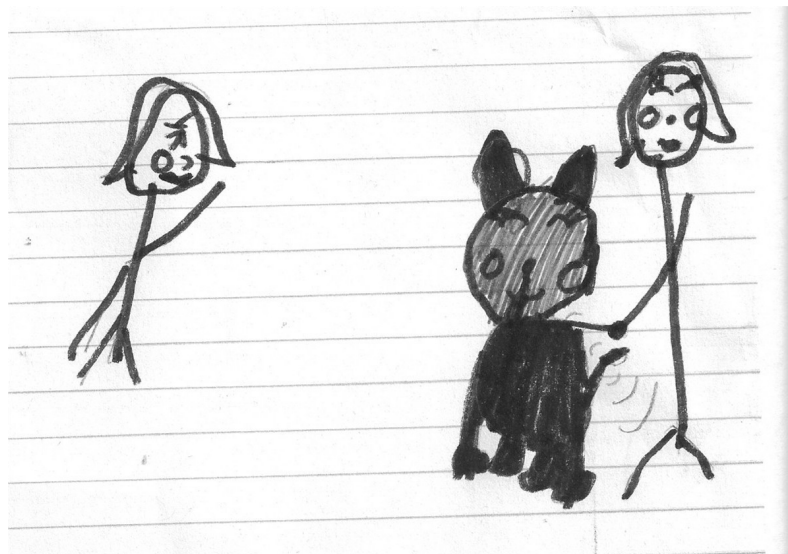
Danny's Mission

Once upon a time, Danny was in a dog park. Stephanie threw a ball and Danny ran to get it. He fell in a hole and entered a dog office that he did not know. He opened a door and the dog inside said, "What are you doing? How did you get here?" Danny said, "I was in the dog park and fell in a hole. I went in an office and opened the door. That's how I got here." The other dog, Master Dogdoodle, asked Danny, "When were you born?" Danny said, "I was born June 15, 2011." Then Master Dogdoodle said, "I will send you on a mission. Your mission will be to go to Japan and find where they have gold." Until the next chapter!!! **(Alex)**

Roxy Meets Her New Owner

Once, Roxy was happy with her previous owner, Judy. As Roxy grew older, she cared a lot more for Judy, but Roxy was a little harder to take care of. Judy knew that she couldn't take care of her anymore. Then, Judy found me, and I became Roxy's new owner because Roxy was ready for a change. Judy came to visit Roxy and me every single day.

(Blessing)



Sherman

My name is Cole. The dog I like is Sherman. He is a collie. I would love to play chase and fetch with Sherman in the summer time. My dog, Sherman, likes salmon, pork and salad with ranch dressing.

My favorite color is purple, and I would like to buy Sherman a purple color. Sherman and I will plan to run on the beach one day on our family vacation. **(Cole)**

Sherman The Gentle Dog

Sherman the dog is a rough coat collie; he was born June 6, 2014. He is kind and gentle. Sherman likes to play fetch and chase; he likes all treats. Sherman lives in a big house, and likes taking long walks. When he's tired, he takes naps and has his own bed but likes to cuddle with his owner. That's Sherman the dog. **(Jayden)**



Roxy's Adventure

One time, Roxy went on an adventure. She was looking for the lost fire and the lost water. She went in the jungle and found them. Then, Roxy was happy. **(D'Angelo)**



Roxy and Tucker

Roxy and Tucker were Labs. Roxy lived in America, and so did Tucker. But one day, Tucker took a long five-day trip to Japan. Roxy had to figure out how to get Tucker. Roxy's owner, Judy, and Tucker's owner, Nicole, noticed that they were cousins. Judy and Nicole had to figure something out. Judy figured out a time for Roxy and Tucker to meet. Judy and Nicole got a dog babysitter to watch Roxy and Tuck while Judy and Nicole were at work. Now, Roxy can spend time with her cousin, Tucker. **(Elijah)**





Kihei, the Rich Guy

Kihei lives in a mansion. He has \$1,000,000,000,000,000. One day, Kihei was at Target and bought 100 golden PlayStations. Then, he came

back to the house and played them by himself. He could buy them because he was rich. He felt happy about it. He invited Roxy and Harley to play with him. They played Call of Duty, Fortnite, and Minecraft. They enjoyed themselves. **(Dylan)**

My day with Kihei

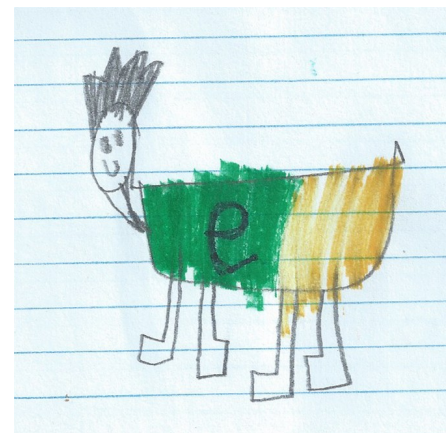
Kihei and I played Beyblades. I won the battle. Then, we played Fortnite, and he won. I didn't get mad, and he didn't get mad either. Then, we went to the Wisconsin Dells. I won the race on the water slide. We ate. Next, we went to the Aquarium in Milwaukee. We saw Nemo and Dory. Then, we went to the dolphin show. It was a fun day. We went home and went to bed. **(J.T. - Jameson Taylor)**

Kihei

Kihei is a Collie Mix. Kihei was born February 1, 2008. One day, Kihei went to the store and bought his favorite food. Kihei bought tortilla chips, sour cream and popcorn. Kihei had a party, and then we went to the beach. Kihei and I looked up at the stars that night. It was so beautiful and fun trying to find the Big Dipper. The next day Kihei went home with his owner. **(Zamolah)**

Harley and Li'l R.J.

Harley is a Shih Tzu. Harley is a boy. Harley plays basketball with me. He is a good rebounder. Harley likes me. He is a good boy. And I love Harley! **(R.J. – Rasaki)**





When Danny Went to the Beach

One bright and sunny day, Danny woke up to do his daily routine. He ate his breakfast (beef). Then, Danny put on his coat and went to the car. Danny liked to go in the car. When they got to the beach, Danny went in the water. **(Essence)**



Danny Goes to School

One day, it was the first day of school. Danny made a new friend. He was so happy. Her name was Roxy. So now when Danny is sad, Roxy will check up on him. **(Essence)**

Tarzan

Danny lives in the jungle. He is Tarzan's sidekick. They went on a trip to a land called "Opar," the lost city in the realm of the Queen of Lal. On the way, he faced a lot of things. Danny was known as Tarzan's "man's best friend." Danny met Tarzan by saving his life. Tarzan was wrestling a leopard, and the leopard had Tarzan pinned and was about to kill him. Then, Danny wrestled the leopard and scared him away. That's how Danny met Tarzan. They have been friends ever since. Now, they are in the jungle looking for Jane, Tarzan's wife. The dog found a path to Opar. When they got there, three leopard men attacked them and tied them up! Will they find Jane? We don't know. **(Zion)**

My Dog, Oli

My dog, Oli, has laser eyes. He has powers. My dog turned into fire. My dog turned into a monster.

My dog turned into jelly. Then, my dog, Oli, turned into fire again. Then, he turned into a monster again.

Finally, my dog had laser eyes again. **(Rogelio)**





Buffy Hates the Vet

One day, Buffy wasn't happy because she had to go to the vet. When she saw her owner getting the stuff to go to the vet, Buffy went crazy. Buffy went everywhere in the house because she was crazy.

Buffy's owner caught her and petted her to help her calm down. Buffy finally calmed down and went to sleep. When Buffy woke up, she was at the

vet. Buffy was so scared, she took a deep breath and then she calmed down. Then Buffy liked the vet. Whenever she went to the vet, she would be happy as long as she got a treat. **(Jessica)**

Tucker's Adventure

Tucker is a black Lab. Tucker is four years old. Tucker loves peanut butter. One day, Tucker went on a walk. He played with all of his friends at the park. They were playing tag.

Tucker ran so fast that he ran into a dog trap and got taken to another continent (Asia). Tucker's owner, Nicole, realized that he was missing. Tucker had a friend that went on a trip to Asia, and Tucker's friend found him and told his owner. His owner couldn't understand what his dog was saying. The dog ran outside to the place he had found Tucker. They found Tucker. They called Nicole, and she said, "Take him with you to your house in Asia and then take him with you when you come to Madison, Wisconsin." Three weeks later, Tucker, his friend, and his friend's owner arrived at Tucker's house, and Nicole said, "Thank you!"

After that, they went to the park and played tag, but this time, Tucker did not run super far but he still ran really fast but stayed on the playground. After that, they had a party at Tucker's house. The people who came to the party were the people who saved him. However, that is a different story... **(Alan)**

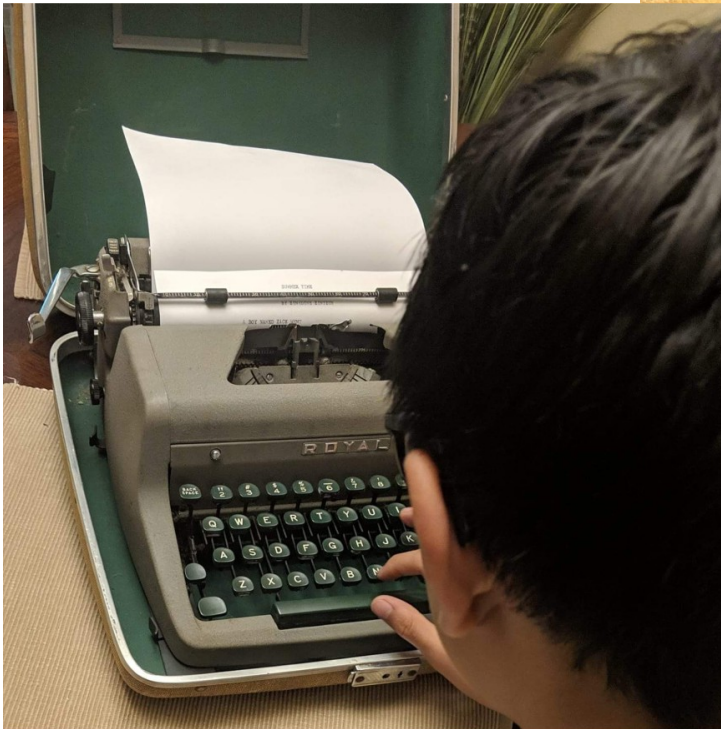


The Silly Dog

Once upon a time, Buffy the dog saw a kid with ice cream. Buffy jumped up and knocked the ice cream out of the kid's hand. Buffy ate the ice cream. Then, he went to the ice cream shop and ate all of the ice cream. Buffy went to the peanut butter store and dropped all of the peanut butter containers on the floor. The kid took one of the containers, and Buffy jumped up and knocked it out of the kid's hand. The kid cried and dropped the peanut butter container. Buffy licked the kid's hand, showing that he was sorry but he really loved peanut butter! So, the kid bought all of the peanut butter in the world. Buffy and the kid went to their house and played with his toys. **(Nakyiah)**

Rocky's Friend, Clifford

Rocky is seven years old. He loves to eat and go on walks. When Rocky was born, he was a tiny dog. Then he grew and he got medium-size. Then, he got even bigger. He could still go through the door. He went outside and played with his friend, Clifford, the big red dog. **(Erick)**



The Story of a Poor Dog

Rocky was a very poor dog, but he did the best he could to be happy. He was picked up by a dog shelter and given the right treatment. Seven years later, he was big and strong. Then, he was ready for adoption. One day, a man picked him up, and Rocky felt right at home. From that day on, Rocky felt like he had a family. **(Z)**

To do a good job, you need the right tools. Z found this typewriter and negotiated a good price for it. Now, he is working on his first story using it.

PREHISTORIC TIMES

Odyssey Explorers stepped back into prehistoric times this month: first, with a visit from Janet Riehecky, aka The Dinosaur Lady, and then with a visit to the UW Madison Geology Museum.

On April 10th, Janet Riehecky brought us her magnificent collection of dinosaur fossils and museum-quality replicas, including teeth, claws, bones, skulls, eggs and feet, as well as everyone's favorite, dinosaur poop! This collection included a 5'7" Apatosaurus femur and a complete T-Rex foot. She shared with us the knowledge she has gained by writing many books for children about dinosaurs of all kinds. She also told us about going on a dinosaur expedition in Colorado where she dug up three real dinosaur bones that turned out to be a new species of dinosaur that was named My-moorapelta.



Explorers learned about how dinosaurs lived, what they ate, and what probably caused them to become extinct.

Then on April 17th, we hopped on a bus and went to the UW Geology Museum. Brooke Norsted, Outreach Program Specialist, arranged for us to not only have a special after-hours tour of the museum but also allowed each of us to crack open our own geode! The museum features hundreds of rock and mineral specimens, a black light mineral display, and skeletons from dinosaurs and Ice Age animals.



Below, the Explorers share what they learned or liked about the tour:

I learned that you can tell what dinosaurs ate (meat or vegetarian) by looking at their teeth and jaws. **(Nakyiah)**

I liked cracking open the geodes and seeing what's inside. On the outside, it looks like a plain rock, but there are beautiful crystals on the inside. **(R.J.)**

I liked seeing the mammal, reptile, and dinosaur skeletons. Scientists recently discovered that some dinosaur-related animals gave live birth. **(Z)**



I enjoyed learning about where the purple geodes (amethysts) come from; they come from Brazil. **(Alex)**

We saw a rock that came all the way from Mars! **(Erick)**

I liked the room where the rocks glow under UV light. I also liked it that they let us hold some rocks. **(Zamorah)**

I think it is interesting that when you crack open a geode, you see different colors inside. **(Dylan)**

I liked going on the tour and meeting the new tour guide. **(Essence)**

My favorite part was the glow-in-the-dark room. **(Elijah)**

There is one display where you can smell what earth and sea water smelled like during prehistoric times (bad), but you can also smell what the gasses in Saturn's rings probably smell like (good). **(Zion)**

Most geodes have a different color inside when you crack them open. **(Blessing)**

I liked being in the room with the rocks that glow in UV light. The rocks glowed and so did some of our clothing,

especially our white clothes

and shoes. The tour guide said it was because the detergents we wash our clothes in contain phosphors just like some of the rocks! **(D'Angelo)**



One of the things I liked seeing was the meteorite. **(Aimee)**

The UW Geology Museum is located at 1215 W. Dayton (near Union South on campus). It is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Admission to the Museum is FREE! It's a great destination for your next family adventure.



EXPLORERS MAKING MOVIES

Madison Public Library Youth Librarian Beth McIntyre joined us for a busy evening of movie making on April 24th. Beth showed us how to make our very own stop motion animation movies. Then, each Explorer had the opportunity to make a short film. Some children drew and wrote their story while others used props like toy dinosaurs, miniature ceramic dogs, or toy cars to create their film. Whatever technique they used, all agreed it was a lot of fun.



Check out Madison Public Library's website (madisonpubliclibrary.org) or visit your favorite neighborhood library to find out about this and other fun and educational activities you can do with your children. While you're at it, download or pick up a copy of Madison Public Library's Summer Reading Club's "Read Like a Badger – A Universe of Stories" to encourage your child to continue reading all summer long.



ODYSSEY JUMPSTART





