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ORACLE

A SAMPLING OF IMAGES AND WRITING FROM 2015-2020



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SELF EXPRESSION



The Skin I'm In

You may say my skin
Is black
But that's incorrect
"The skin I'm in" is the skin
Of the slaves
The skin I'm in is the fighters of the country
The skin I'm in is
Everyone
(Kamoria)

Unity

In a world where nothing makes sense
It's like no one can realize that they're blessed
Can't make a comment on Facebook without making a mess
Black or white, we need to unite
People killing each other just out of spite
Why can't we be one?
(Savannah)



See Me

I want someone to see me
Not as my race
Not as just Angel
Not just someone
See me as Joy
See me as Kindness
See me as Love
See me as Hope
See me
That's all you have to do
See me as the sky
See me as God
See me
Don't judge me
See me
See me
Don't be mean to me because this and that
See me
See me
See me as the sun and moon
See me.
(Angel)



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
made spechcs and led marchers.
Inspired people, kind to people
and himself.

Ruby Bridges,
kind to herself,
broke rules
to break racism,
like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A girl
Went in a white school.
Inspired little girl.
I wish I could meet you.
And you are the same,
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
And Ruby Bridges.
(Kimari)



Acrostic Me

J is for joking.
A is for athletic.
V is for very exciting.
O is for organized.
N is for nice.
E is for excellent.

I was named after my father!
(Javone)



Just

A
Cool
Kid
Surviving and
Overcoming
Negative situations
(Jackson)

My Fair Skin

My fair skin brings up questions definitely if you have seen my parents.
My fair skin is one of the many reasons why people are racist.
This racism is tearing me down, making me feel like nothing.
My fair skin makes me me, but this feeling of not fitting in at all is horrible.
Tell me why my skin is so fair?
Why do I have it?
My parents are black but I am mixed,
Not fully black and not fully white but half and half.
I hate when people call me a half-baked cookie.
I am human.

(Olivia)



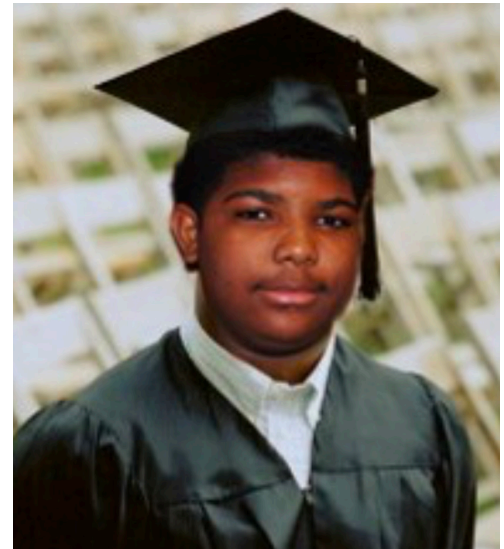
I admire my mom [Keena, Odyssey '10] because she had me when she was 16 and my dad went to jail when I was 3 and when my mom was 19. Another reason is because we used to sleep in a nearby barber shop with our friend and then he moved to Chicago. I used to have a lemonade stand with his son in front of the barber shop and we sold some candy and a lot of lemonade. Another reason is that she managed to take care of me when she was just in high school and when she didn't have any money. Then she took care of me when she was in college. She took me to some college classes sometimes until I was in 5th grade. My last reason is she makes a lot of sacrifices for me and my brother like paying for my sports which add up to around \$350, then she has to pay for my brother's daycare. She basically pays for everything we have with no help. In conclusion, my mom is a really great and nice person and she loves to encourage people who have trouble with their lives to not give up because she was in their position once but she found a way to fight out of it. **(K'Shawn)**

THE ARTS



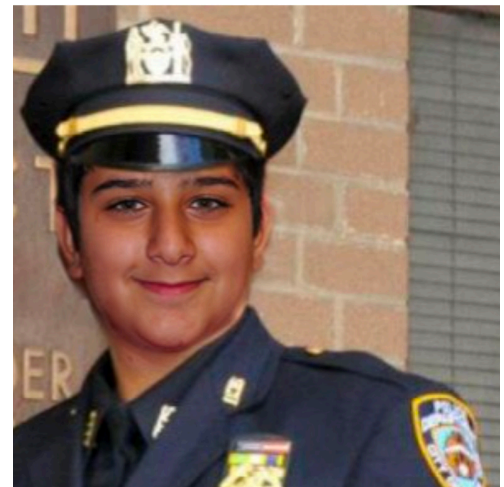
ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

I want to be the first in my family to graduate from a Division 1 college or university or maybe working with kids that are living in poverty and inventing something to help the Black community. For all the goals I have in life or making the setup process of my life, I have to make not good but great CHOICES in life and surround myself with good, hardworking people. **(Jaquez)**



My dream is to be the President of the United States. Before I become the President, I will earn a law degree and be a lawyer. Hopefully, when I run for President, people will vote for me because of my extra experience. **(Anna)**

Eight years from now I will be 20 years old and in college. I hope to be studying to be a policeman. As a policeman I can protect people. Many people think Islam is equal to terrorism, but Islam means "peace" and is peaceful. As a policeman I can help people and show that Islam is about peace. A terrorist could be from any religion, not just Islam. **(Abdul)**



My name is Antonio. In eight years I will try to solve the problem of pollution by planting more trees, driving a car less often, or selling my car when I have enough money to start riding on the bus. Finally, I should recycle more often rather than throwing away recyclables. **(Antonio)**

My main goal is to get a 4.0 GPA. If I get a 4.0 I can do almost every other life goal I have. I can get into a historically Black College and become a surgeon, or OB/GYN, or anything in the medical field. Getting a 4.0 opens a lot more doors and opportunities. **(Javé)**



WHAT'S IN A NAME?



My name is **Ruhqayyah** not Rakiyah.

My name means gentle, doesn't mean I am.

Ruhqayyah was a wife of a prophet.

I am supportive, optimistic, and intelligent.

I love my name, for the simple reasons that it's not widely popular, it has meaning, and my dad gave it to me.

When you see me, remember I am Ruhqayyah, the supportive, optimistic daughter of a leader.

My name is **Jacary**

A lot of people mispronounce it with

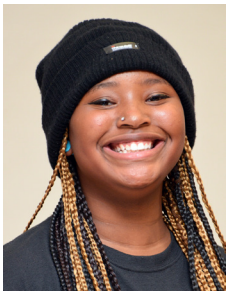
Jakary.

I am named after my father

I love my name because it's not basic and a lot of people don't have it

So when you see me remember my name is Jacary!

I LOVE MY NAME!!



My name is **Nyjua** not Nyjuda, Nijuah, Niju, Niguh or Nija.

I don't know what my name means and I don't know what I want it to mean.

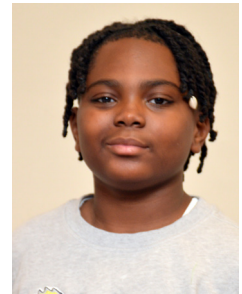
I want to be known as a black girl that ain't scared of nothing.

No one has a name like mine unless it's spelled differently.

I love my name

My name is not Marcell, Marquell or Mantell. My name is **Martell** and that name meaning is that I'm a forceful person [hammer]. It's also my dad's middle name.

When people hear my name they might think of the liquor. When people hear my name, I want them to think of me as a really good rapper and a loving and cool person.



My name is **Zawadi** Ozulamoi

My name is not:

- Zawada
- Zowady
- Zoowadi
- Zawadai
- Ozulamoo
- Ozulami
- Ozulamwai

My name means gift in Swahili

I want people to know me as a kind, funny, cool, approachable person who volunteers

I  MY NAME



My name is **Derek**.
I got my name from my dad.
I want to be known for singing.
I love my name

My name is **Nasier**. Some people call me Nasser or Naseir. My name means king, kind, and a leader. I let some people call me Naz. I would like to know how my mom got my name.
I think it's made up. I think my name is after the rapper Nas.



My name is **Noah**
I don't know why my mom named me Noah but
I'm guessing it was from Noah's Ark. I Love My Name!

My name is **Reyna**
My name is not Reyainya
My name means Queen in Spanish
I want people to think of my name and think funny, smart, kind
I love my name



My name is **Sheari**
My name is not
Sherry
Sheri
Shari
My name means song of God

My name is **Michael**
My brother named me after Michael Meyers
I want to be known as a good streamer on Fortnite
I love my name



My name is **Illiana** Angelina Lizette.
My name is not Lilliana, Ilana, or Illianna. My name means "ray of light." When people hear or see my name they think of a nice and funny person. When I'm older I want to be a cosmetologist or social worker.
I LOVE MY NAME!

My name is **Jayvon**
My name is not Javon, Jade, Jayden, Jace or John
I don't really know where my name comes from
When people look at me, they think I'm ghetto, mean and stupid
I love my name



My name is **Neveah** Marie.
I am sassy, rude, and kind of funny. My name spells Heaven backwards.
My mom lived in Milwaukee and someone said Neveah and she really liked it. So, my name is from Milwaukee. Some people say my name is backwards, but it's really not.



My name **Angel** means a person, esp a woman, who is kind, pure, or beautiful, a male or female name, a guardian spirit.
 My mom named me Angel because she thought she could not have kids and then I came.
 Sometimes they call me angle at school.
 When people hear my name, I want them to think I am kind and I'm going to always be me.

My name is **Kimari**.

My name is NOT Kamari or Kemari.

My mom thought she was making Kimari up, but she wasn't.

I don't know what it means, but I want it to mean a beautiful black woman or girl.

When people hear my name when I'm older, I want them to know that I finished college and got my dream job. I want them to say, "She's like her mom, Dominique."

I LOVE my name!



My name is **Kamoria** Priscella Sharon.

My name is not Kamoreea, Kamariah, or Camora.

My name comes from a famous poet, but I also know my name means beautiful snow flower in a native language. When people hear my name, they might think "pretty name" or "different name" or maybe even "weird name."

I love my name.

SENTENCES ABOUT US

I have a lot of goals for the future.
 I want to be an entrepreneur.
 I'm really bad at saving money. (**Ruhqayyah**)

I love basketball.
 I love football.
 I like sports. (**NyJua**)

I like music.
 I like traveling and riding on planes.
 I like watching YouTube music videos.
 (**Martell**)



I'm empathetic towards others.
 I was born in Erie, Pennsylvania.
 I like art and singing and music. (**Zawadi**)

I like to sing.
 I like to go outside.
 I like to come to Odyssey. (**Derek**)



I like to play basketball.
I hate math.
I like to play video games. **(Nasier)**

I like football.
I love math.
I like cooking.
I love riding my bike. **(Noah)**

I am Amariamma.
I love to cook.
I have a brother.
I love different types of countries and states.
I have a mom and dad, but something is different about me. My mom is American and my dad is from Senegal, which is the western part of Africa. I have many hidden talents like playing the violin and drawing. I like to paint. I love art. I love going to the opera and going out in nature. I love movies and I know when the latest movies come out, sometimes before my parents.
These are some of the things some people didn't know about me. **(Amariamma)**

I'm shy at first but once you get to know me, I'm a fun person to be around.
I like to do hair and makeup.
I get along with everyone.
I like to play peace maker. **(Illiana)**

I like video games.
I'm shy.
I like to cook.
I love to draw. **(Jayvon)**

I like drawing.
I like singing.
I like playing the violin. **(Neveah)**

I am creative.
I am resilient.
I am an innovator. **(Qiana)**

I like to draw.
I love football.
I was bit by a squirrel. **(Kamoria)**

I do too much.
I'm a nice sister.
I'm a great little sister.
I like to cook. **(Reyna)**

I like food.
I like to cook.
I like to dance. **(Sheari)**

I like football.
I like pizza.
I like the color red. **(Michael)**



I like math and science.
I'm in 7th grade.
I hate Trump. **(Shadavien)**





My name is JT. I am 7 years old. I want to be a racer. I like to play basketball, but my favorite thing to do is to build giant robots. **(JT)**

I am Amazing because I'm beautiful.
My birthstone is Emerald because my birthday is in May
I can be capable because I'm strong.
I am Smart because I'm Excellent.
I can be Incredible because I'm Sweet.
I can be Joyful because I can Enjoy things.
I can Imagine this because I'm Amazing.

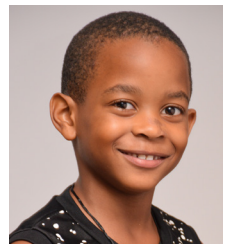


I Love Art because I can Imagine. **(Jessica)**



I want to be a basketball player and get very rich. And I want to be a business man. I have a nice heart. I am quick and fast. I am good at Math and I love cookies. I like school sometimes. I'm intelligent and a gentleman. I have friends and brothers and sisters. The End **(Zion)**

(Inspired by Read to a Dog) If I were a dog... I am a dog. I am fast. I dig, dig, dig. I lick people I like. I like people. **(D'Angelo)**



My name is Damien. I am 7 years old. When I'm older, I want to be an animal tamer. I like to play soccer. Practice helps me to be better at soccer. **(Damien)**

My name is Jamyla. I am six years old.
When I am older, I want to be a teacher.
I like to do gymnastics. This helps me stretch, too.
(Jamyla)



My name is RJ. I am eight years old.
When I am older, I want to be in the NBA.
I like to play and practice. **(RJ)**

My name is Rogelio. I am seven years old.
I love my sister. **(Rogelio)**

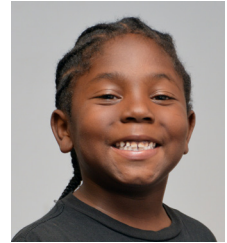


My name is Essence. I am seven years old. When I am older, I want to play baseball. I like dance. It helps me calm down. I am nice because I help others. I am caring because I'm thankful. I am a star because I'm kind. **(Essence S.)**



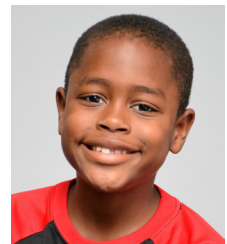
I am smart because I am big. I am sweet because of my mom. I am six and my birthday is in December. (**Essence E.**)

My name is Kas'Myr. I am six years old. I want to be a doctor and be rich. But, I really like to go to the pool and read books. I like to help and help my family. (**Kas'Myr**)



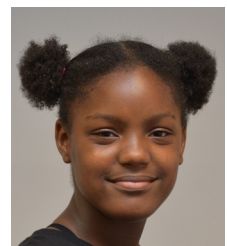
My name is Devvin and I am six years old. I am good at video games because I beat games really quickly. I am really nice because I say nice things and not mean. (**Devvin**)

I like to run because I like to play. I like to have fun and I like dogs. I'm in the second grade. I like my name. My name is O'Shawn. (**O'Shawn**)



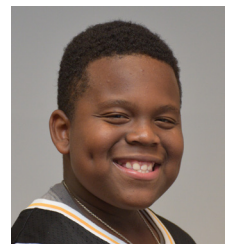
My name is Kaleah. I am ten years old. When I get older, I want to be in the WNBA, then become a nurse. I like to play basketball. (**Kaleah**)

My name is Kamia. I'm ten years old. When I am older, I want to be a basketball player. I like to play basketball. This helps me to be calm and ready to be in the WNBA. I want to make money, spread the word, make a fantastic YouTube video, and try to make good enough to be on the news. A lot of people watch the news. (**Kamia**)



My name Kyniah. I'm not sure what I want to be, but I like gymnastics. (**Kyniah**)

My name is Truth. I am 11 years old. When I'm older, I'm hoping to be a CEO of a multi-million dollar company. I like to read about Malcolm X. (**Truth**)

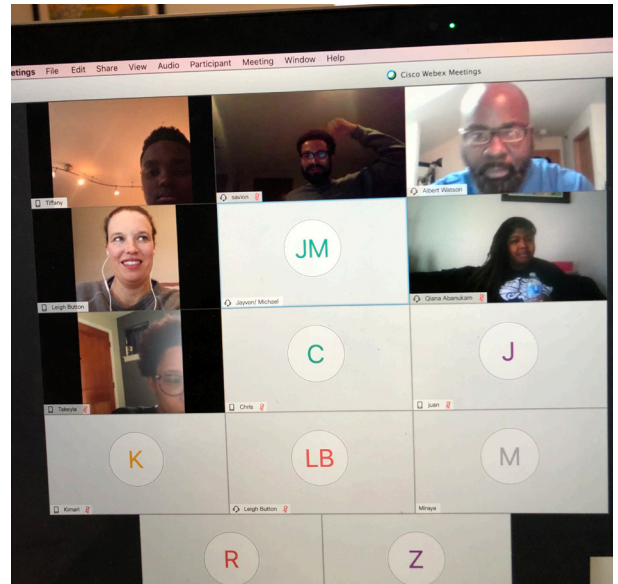


My name is Alex. I am nine years old. I like playing in the water. (**Alex**)

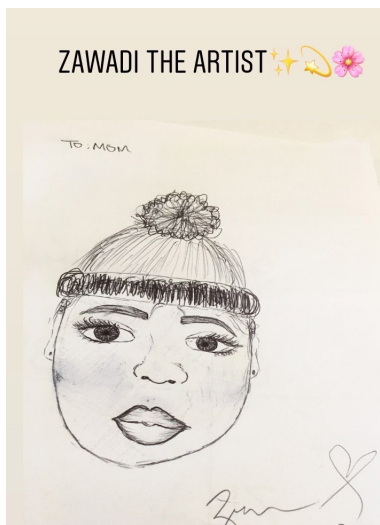
COPING WITH COVID-19

This is a real eye-opener. Being stuck in your house everyday makes you realize what you really miss. I miss hanging out with my friends and learning in an environment with my peers. I miss playing Ultimate Frisbee and making memories together. I've been coping by playing my musical instrument each day. I also play lots of games and watch movies. I redecorated my bedroom too. When this ends, I'm looking forward to getting my regular routine back. **(Juan)**

I wish people would wash their hands more. I use hand sanitizer more often now. It's going pretty good for me. I'm watching TV and staying up really late. I like On My Block and Block Lightning. School has been on spring break, but soon I start back online. It's kind of easy and boring. When this ends, I am excited to spend time with my friends again. **(Kimari)**



I am doing well; it's been fun being able to be at home and just chill out. I have been having fun playing Fortnite on my PlayStation 4; however, it can be boring at times. I enjoy coming to Odyssey Junior and miss hanging out with the friends I have made since being here. I definitely wondered if I had my last class. **(Noah)**



At first, it was kind of not real. It just felt like we were on spring break. As more days passed, it became more realistic for me. Every day, I wake up and work out with my siblings. Then we have breakfast and play. I spend some time on schoolwork before lunch. After lunch, I do some extra schoolwork until I take a break, outside if it's nice outside. We usually play again and then just have dinner and hang out as a family. I spend time texting my friends or Facetime, but when this ends, I cannot wait to hang out with my friends again. **(Zawadi)**

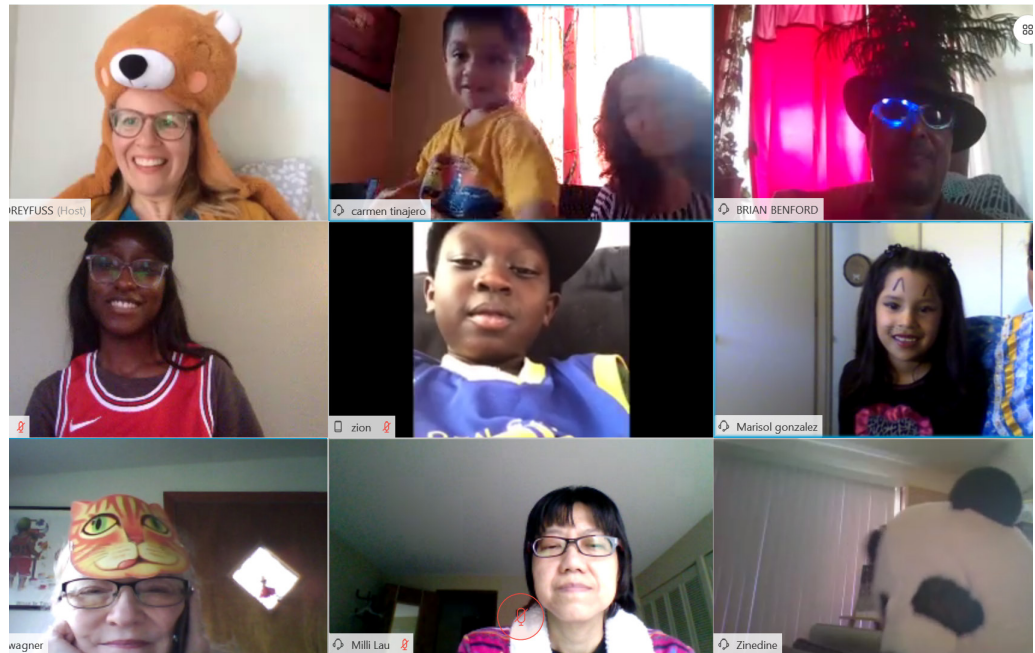
I'm bored. I usually watch YouTube or TikToks, mostly dance videos. I dance along with them. I'm binge watching On My Block. It's interesting, an emotional drama. I haven't heard a lot about the Coronavirus, I mean I know people are getting sick and we have to wash our hands more. It feels kind of like we're in a movie. **(Neveah)**

I am not really excited to start back to school. I am not going to miss anything about school. I am not doing much of anything. I recently finished watching The Fosters and Dynasty. I like that Dynasty has a lot of surprises and drama. **(Derek)**

When it's dark and we think no one is around, you can't hear a sound. You are not alone
When you feel and tingle in your body, and you wonder from where'd that come from, you are not alone
Winds whistle, leaves shake, and make beautiful relaxing sounds. Because you are not alone
4 walls, a ceiling, a floor, surrounds us, and keeps of safe, but yet and still we are not alone
So, I tell myself I'm not, as I can hear a pin drop, but I don't stop believing. I am not alone. **(Will)**

I'm okay. I am doing whatever I want like playing with legos, going for long long walks, video calls, baking, and eating good food. I am feeling happy because it's no school but also sad for the people who are dying because of Covid-19.

(Alex)



I'm doing good. I'm playing and doing school work like math, poems, a worksheet from school that's called morning work. I'm playing with my brother legos, baking, and going for walks. I'm feeling happy because I don't need to go to school.

(Emily)

I really want this to all go away soon, so I can see my friends again. At home, I'm having fun playing robots and other games with my brother. I watched a good movie, Angry Birds 2. I also play an online game called Road Blocks.

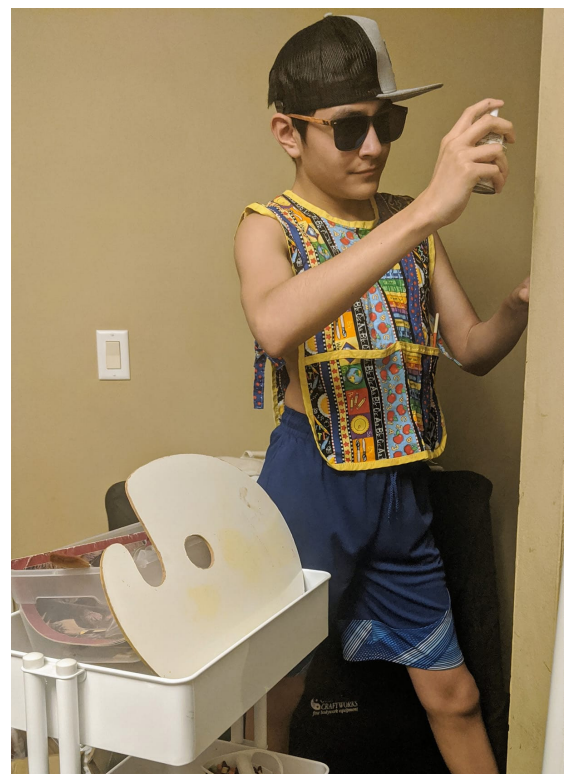
(Jamyla)

I'm doing good, but I'm hoping this all goes away soon. I'm having fun playing with my sister and playing blocks. I also play the Rubixcube Race game.

(JT)

I feel upset. I don't like being stuck at home. I'm doing absolutely nothing. COVID sucks! When it's all over I'm going to have a nice cold can of CocaCola with my boys. My saying: Waffle cures your pain.

(Zinedine)

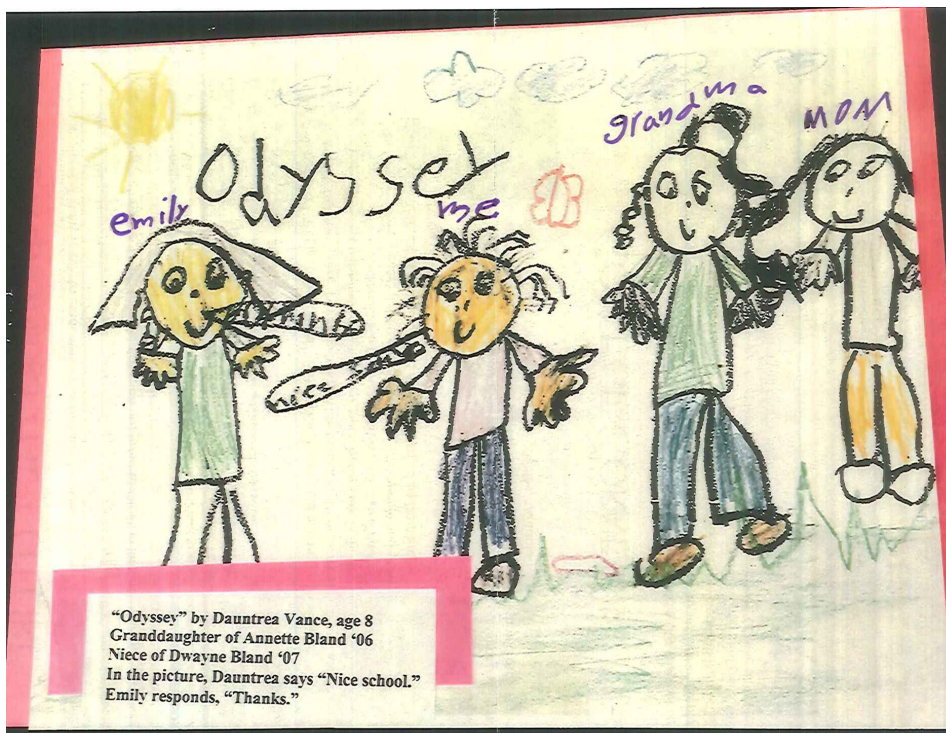


COLLEGE CORNER

MEET DAUNTREA VANCE!

I was in Odyssey Junior, and my grandma, uncle, and mom all went through the Odyssey Project. Thanks to Odyssey and Odyssey Junior, my family and I were encouraged to think about college and were supported in going forward.

The first time I thought about college was when my grandma was in Odyssey in 2006, when I was eight. I drew a picture showing me saying “nice school” to Emily [Odyssey teacher], and my mom and grandma are in the picture, too. Later, I took part in Odyssey Junior, and we were encouraged to use our voices.



After Odyssey Junior, I went on to attend and graduate from the UW-Madison. I aspire to be a defense lawyer. My goal is to work for the Department of Justice because I want to combat racial inequality in the system and help bring justice to America.

While at the UW, I majored in Political Science and Legal Studies and earned certificates in Criminal Justice and Afro-American Studies. I spent my junior fall semester in Washington, DC interning for the NAACP DC Branch working to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensuring

political, social, and economic equality for all. Back on the Madison campus, I founded a new UW chapter of the NAACP.



In the last semester of my senior year, I got to study abroad in France. But then because of the pandemic, I suddenly received orders to come home as soon as possible. When I tried to get a plane ticket, I was placed on hold and told there were over a thousand other people ahead of me! It was crazy and chaotic, and I didn't have extra money like some students do. With breaking news every hour getting worse and worse and my funds getting lower and lower, I was so relieved to make it home to Madison.

Even though my semester abroad had to end early and in this scary way, I'm so happy I was able to go. It was my first time going out of the country. Paris was so amazing! I also was able to travel to Spain and Portugal, Prague and Amsterdam. Going abroad changed how I see the world—and it changed me by giving me a new perspective about myself, too.

I was sad that my own graduation ceremony was canceled. I had looked forward to celebrating my UW bachelor's degree with a big ceremony. It was especially important to me as a person of color and first-generation student to

celebrate this moment, and my whole family was pumped up about it.

If any of you in the Odyssey Junior Class of 2021 feel you are not college material, I strongly encourage you to at least look into college programs. College will give you opportunities you can never even imagine!

