

ODYSSEY JUNIOR



ORACLE

MEET THE FAMILIES OF
ODYSSEY JUNIOR CLASS OF 2021

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Thanks to all the Odyssey Junior families who sent photos and writing to add to photos Karen Dreyfuss, Em Azad, and Char Braxton took from a distance. Thanks to Odyssey donors, the Madison Reading Project, and Cigdem Unal and Barb Douglas of the UW Office of Campus Child Care and Family Resources for providing books and other gifts for our 56 Odyssey Junior children.

BETSY'S FAMILY

I am a mother of two girls, ages four and one.
I am currently enrolled into the Medical Assistant program at MATC.
I love playing soccer. **(Betsy)**



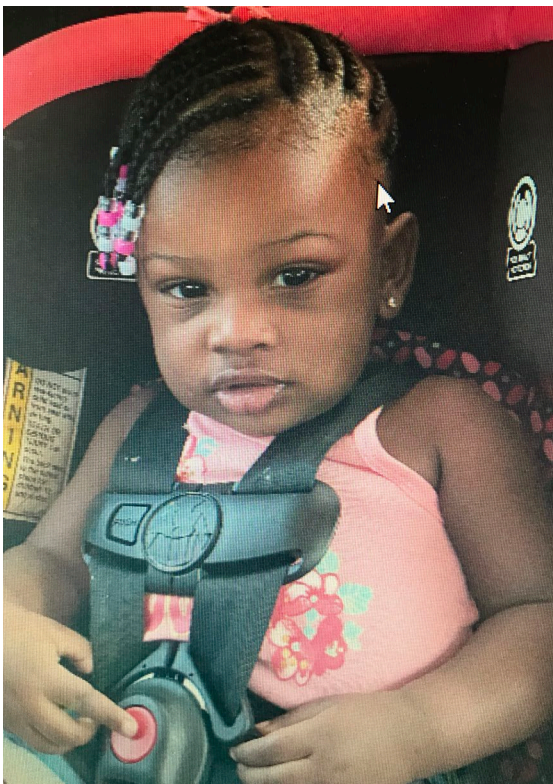
My name is Layla.
I am four years old.
I love to play dress up and am a complete princess. **(Layla)**

My name is Naliyah.
I am two years old.
My name means successful. **(Naliyah)**



TAWANIA'S FAMILY

I am a mother to a baby girl 14 months old and an auntie to ten beautiful children (three girls, seven boys) that I love and would do anything for. **(Tawania)**



I am 15 months old and just took my very first steps!

I also started to say "yes" to everything. **(Milani)**



SARINA'S FAMILY

Jumping
Outstanding
Nice
Airbender
Handsome

Happy
Awesome
Roar
Reader
You better have food because he's hungry

Buff
Elephant
Nachos



SOUAD'S FAMILY

My name is Souad, and I'm from Morocco, North Africa. I have lived in the US for four years.

I like traveling, reading and cooking.

I am a mom of one adorable little three-year-old girl named Rita Omyma, and we call her Mima.

(Souad)

I love to dance and jump.

My mom speaks French.

I like to read books and draw with my mom.

Most people call me by my middle name, Omyma.

My nickname is Mima=Mee'maa. **(Rita)**



ANJELICA'S FAMILY

My name is Aiden

My name is not

Ayden

Aydan

Aidan

Aaden

My name means a fiery one

A is for adventurous

I is for loving my family

D is for daredevil

E is for energetic

N is for nice but also naughty



Aiden's favorite words are mine, no, and phone. Some new words he just learned are go and the number nine.

(Anjelica about Aiden)

TISHA'S FAMILY



I'm a gamer and love my Playstation.
I'm trying to become an American Ninja Warrior.
I love vegetables.
Mom says I have a personality that everyone loves.
(Cavadion)

I love all sports, but basketball is my favorite.
I love younger kids.
My hope is to be a marine biologist when I grow up.
(Trinity)



CASHAE'S FAMILY



I'm ten years old. I love to dance and make Tik Tok videos. My favorite color is yellow. I like to draw and cook. I make the best eggs. **(Ka'Trionna)**

I'm five years old. I love to play Roblox on my phone. I also love my dog. I take him everywhere I go! Milk is my favorite drink. I love to eat McDonald's. **(De-Aria)**



PARIS' FAMILY

Londyn is very smart. She loves reading and burgers from McDonald's. She also loves her grandmas, Maria and Lolita. She really likes Peppa Pig and Baby Shark. **(Paris About Londyn)**



FERNANDO'S FAMILY

I am a father of two amazing girls. To be a father is the greatest honor. I am a first generation Mexican American. I love to read. I would love the opportunity to show my daughters that through education, all things are possible.

Adriana aka Nana is 13 years old. She's a 7th grader at Sherman. She is kind, sensitive, and smart. She teaches me a lot.

Lilyana aka Lily is a 3rd grader at Hawthorne. She has a strong personality just like me. She loves animals and adventure. She wants to sky dive and deep sea dive one day.



SARAH'S FAMILY



Stephen, my youngest son, is a future chef. Agriculture is LIFE! He loves to learn about the process of food and how gardening is essential for ALL.

Saniya, my only daughter, is a fashionista. Saniya loves to dress and dress others. Her sense of style is amazing. She's a true boss.



Solomon, my middle son, this young man has such a beautiful mind. Just the way his brain operates is truly divine. Solomon is a computer whiz kid.

Samuel, my first born, is a future policeman. Sam already abides by the rules and also enforces them. He is a law-abiding citizen and a great keeper of law and order.



I am so grateful to have such bold children. My four-piece spicy! **(Sarah about her children)**



ERIKA'S FAMILY

She's three years old. She only speaks English, but understands Spanish. She loves her grandma. She's very silly and very smart. **(Erika about her daughter Addie)**



BRESHA'S FAMILY



I'm six years old. I love my mommy and daddy. I love to play video games, and I might play basketball. I ask for snacks all day and refuse to eat most of my food because everything is nasty including the food I never tried. I don't like homework or reading. I want to be a police officer when I grow up. **(Uriah)**

I'm three years old. I have autism and I'm very smart. I love to dance and sing. When I'm upset, I love hugs. I know all the planets; I want to go to outer space one day. **(Isis)**



I'm two years old, and I have autism like my sister. I love to explore my surroundings, and I enjoy running, especially when someone is chasing after me. I do not talk, but I yell and scream. Never turn my music off or I will yell at you. The best part of my day is when my mom picks me up from autism therapy; I smile and my mom hugs and kisses me. **(Neill)**



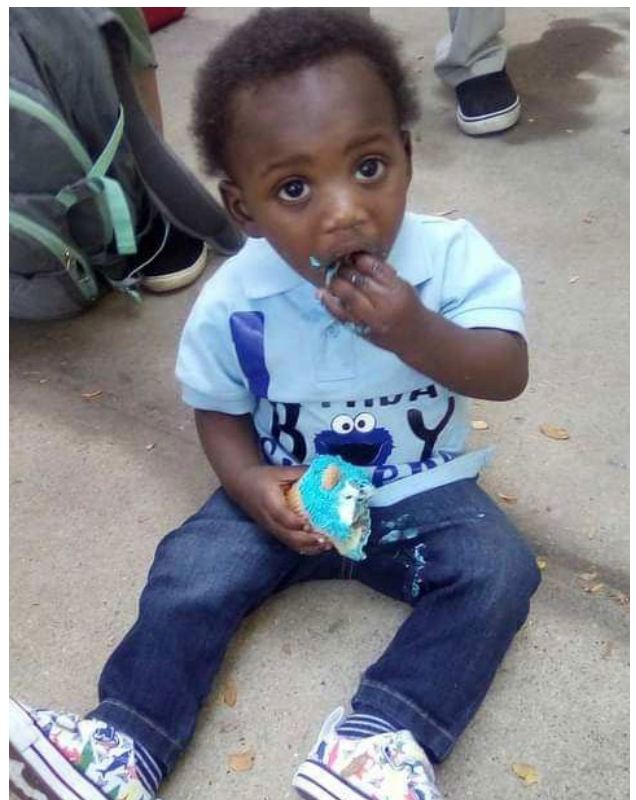
BRIANNA'S FAMILY

Hi, I'm Anthony. When I grow up, I want to be a policeman and a gentleman. **(Anthony)**

Hey, it's me Au'Brie. I like watching Mulan, superhero girls, and Trolls. When I get big, I want to be a superhero. **(Au'Brie)**



Hi, my name is Sincere. My mom calls me Cookie Monster because I eat all the snacks. I like to run behind my brother and sister and play all day. I dance to any commercial or beat. Grooving is my best thing. **(Sincere)**



YVONNE'S FAMILY

I have four kids, ages two, seven, and twin 11-year-olds with special needs including one on the spectrum. My three boys and one girl are my life.

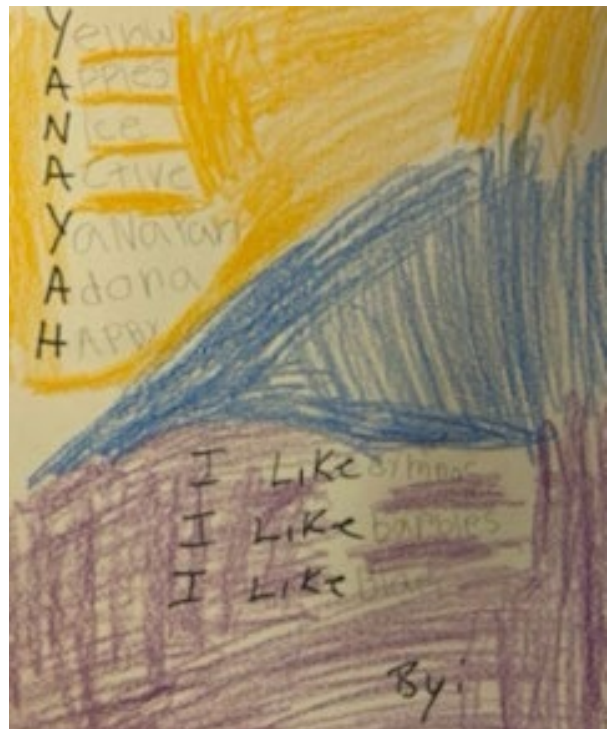
I am a Mama Shark. According to my two-year-old, I look funny every time I say "Pick up your toys" and make my shark face. **(Yvonne)**



Zay
Absorbing
Yach
Vacuum
Ice
Old
Nice

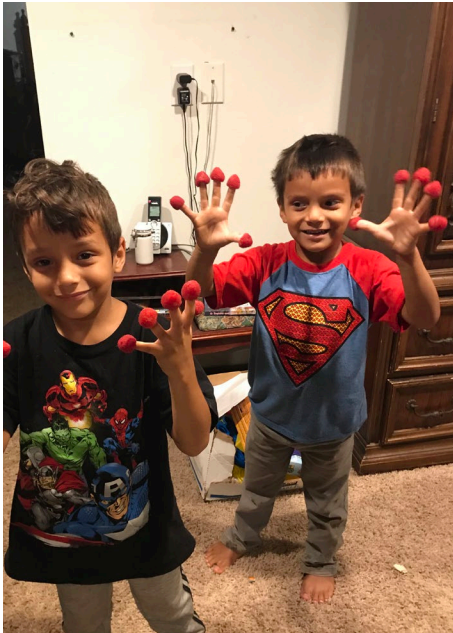
I love make up. I love to vacuum. **(Zay'Vion)**

Zebra
Awesome
Cool
Hair
American
Rocket
Yellow



Yellow
Apples
Nice
Active
Yanayah
Adona
Happy

FEATHER'S FAMILY



I like cars, Wii, trees and swings. I love to climb. My best friend is my cousin Gabe. I'm a cool dude. I like school and I'm funny and smart. Red is my favorite color. I'd like to be a business man in New York or a pilot someday.

Keeps us on our toes

Is an amazing artist

Never sleeps

Green beans are his favorite

Super silly

Totally loves junk food

On top of games

Nice to kids and animals (Kingston)

I like to go to the park. I like water and Cheetahs. I love to be outside and play Wii with my brother. I also love arts and crafts, especially PlayDoh. I like tea. I love my brother.

Kangaroos are cool

Always outside

Yells when not happy

Dances to any music (Kayd)

Korean is going to be my second language

Always tired

Have an energy drink addiction

Loves to eat

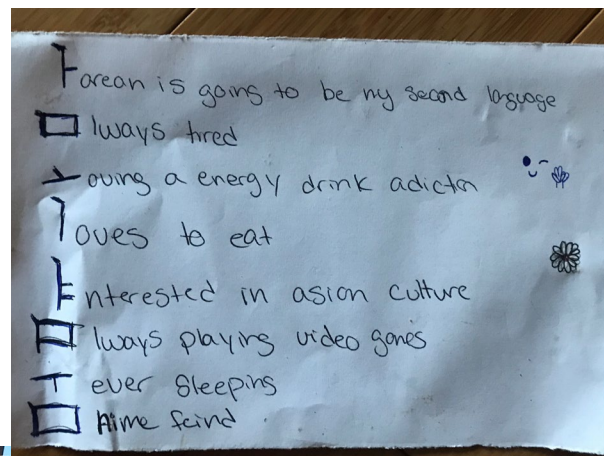
Interested in Asian culture

Always playing video games

Never sleeping

Anime fiend

(Kahlia)



STEPHANEY'S FAMILY

I am the oldest of four children. My favorite color is pink. My favorite animal is a horse. When I grow up, I want to be a doctor. **(Cherish)**

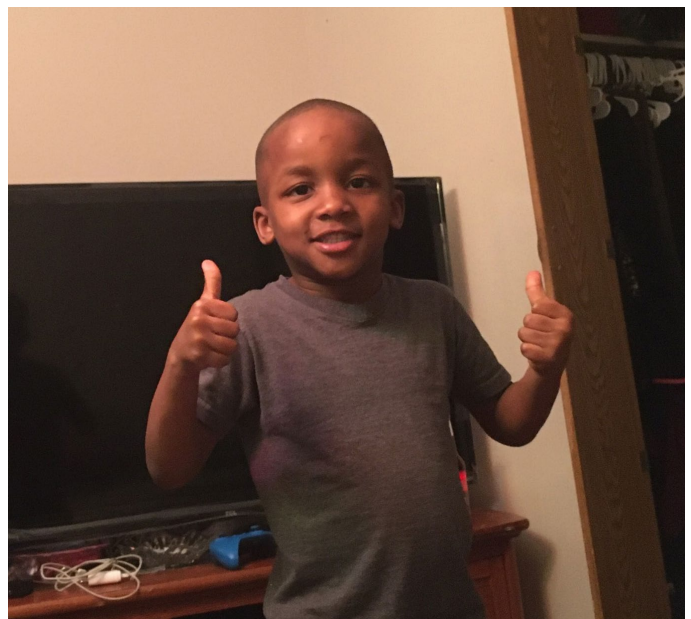
I love hanging out with family. I love to read. My favorite colors are pink and purple. When I grow up, I want to be an actress. **(Trinity)**



My favorite colors are blue, red, and green. I love to run, play video games, and write. When I grow up, I want to be an international pilot. **(Emery)**



My favorite colors are yellow and red. I love to play all day. My favorite cartoon is Paw Patrol. **(Tristan)**



ASIA'S FAMILY

I love dancing and watching tv.
I hope to learn how to read this year.
I really want an American Girl doll. **(Lola)**

I love singing and would like to learn how to play piano.
I spend a lot of time playing Roblox on my phone.
I'm good at drawing. **(Cookie)**



BURNETT'S FAMILY

I love school and my daddy. I
love ice cream, food, and my fish.
I love unicorns. (Aria)

Athletic and awesome
Run, rabbit, rainbow ice cream
Is beautiful and loves make up
Artistic, a good math learner



DELISHA'S FAMILY

Antoine is a very helpful hand around the house. He proudly holds his title as big brother very well. He's twelve years old.

Antonio is a very kind and quiet soul. He Loves his video games and sports. He's eleven years old.

A'Marion is mommy and snack crazy. A perfect day for him is being cuddled under his mommy with a snack, playing games on his tablet. He's five years old.

A'Khi is a very happy baby. The easiest infant I've ever had to raise. He's eleven weeks old.

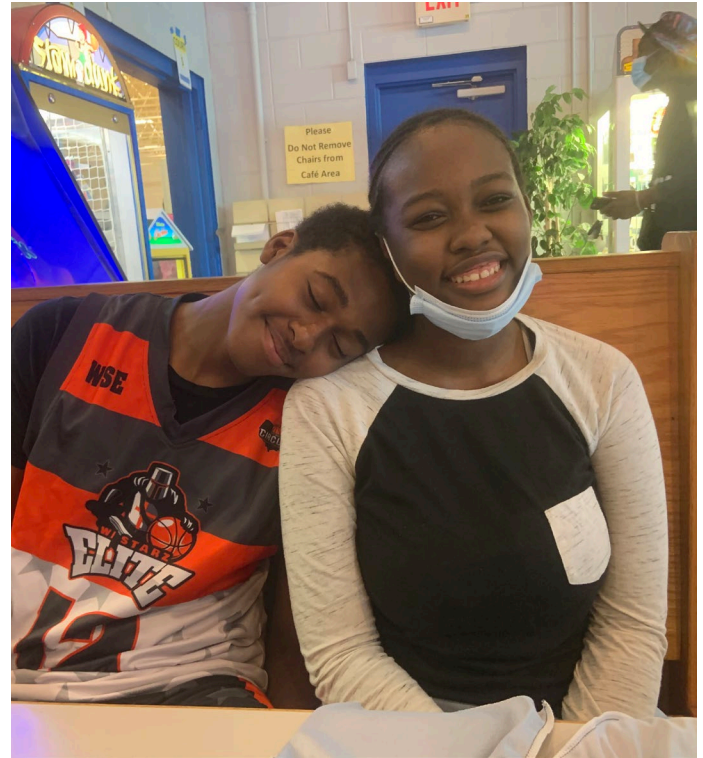
(Delisha about her boys)



THEDORA'S FAMILY



I like to play basketball.
I am creative.
My favorite sauces are ranch and buffalo. **(James)**



I like to go outside.
I also like to draw.
I like to be active and make friends outside the community. **(Janiyah)**



DANA'S FAMILY

It's true that I like to play with bubbles big or small, I like them all.

It's true that I like to play with hot wheel tracks.

It's also true that I ride my bike every day! It's true I love my mom. **(Abraham)**



Likes going outside looking for rocks

Likes to give Mommy and brother hugs

Likes to add Goo Jit Su to his collection

Likes to play on the playground

Loves cheese pizza and bagels. **(Daniel)**



KEYANNA'S FAMILY

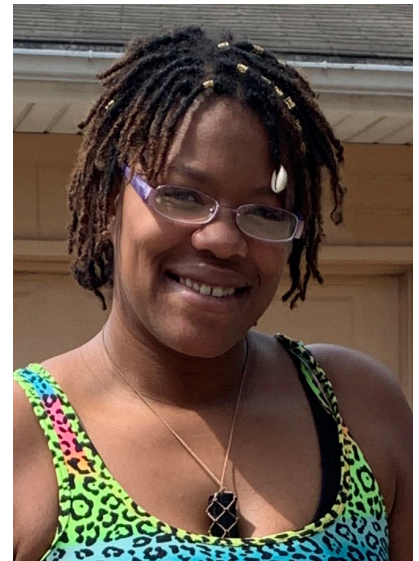
Joyful
Adventurous
Youthful
Loving
Awesome



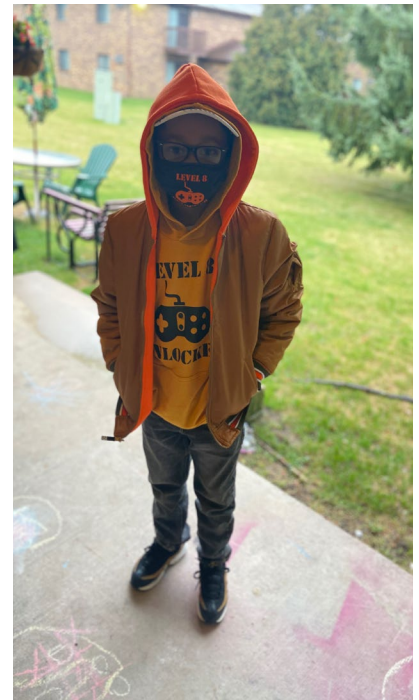
FALESHUH'S FAMILY



I like to be goofy and play around. I love making video edits. I like to dance almost everywhere I go. **(Sariyah)**



I like to draw. I have a huge Hotwheel Collection. I have a new telescope. **(Nathaniel)**

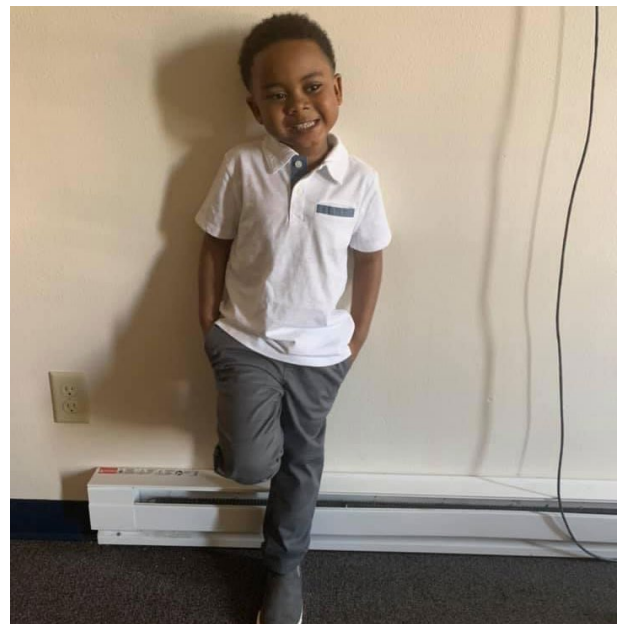


I have a lot of cars. I love spaghetti. My favorite thing to do is go to Chuck E. Cheese. **(Naquari)**

SUNNI'S FAMILY

He is five years old and attends kindergarten in Chicago. He loves to learn and play. He's learning how to write his numbers and letters. His favorite colors are blue and gold. He plays video games and his favorite tv shows are The Simpsons and Paw Patrol.

(Sunni about Brian)



SHIQUITA'S FAMILY

Jayda is an only child and very quiet. She makes outstanding grades since she's been in school. She's very respectable. She enjoys playing basketball on her school team, where she is one of the leaders. She's a senior honor roll student at Lafollette High School and is 17. **(Shiquita about Jayda)**



I'm a funny, happy, and spirited person. I like to play basketball. I like to learn. I'm an optimistic person with big dreams. I love helping others. **(Jayda)**

WHY VOTE? CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the three winners of the youth division of Odyssey's "Why Vote?" contest. Their words will be featured at our October 3rd online event and in the Cap Times.



Truth Clacks

(parent: Ta'tiana Clacks, Odyssey '18)

My baby brother didn't get the light of day,
Mortality took his life away.
George Floyd didn't get to fight,
Police brutality took his life.
Breonna Taylor didn't get to stay,
But anyway, as Huey P. would say,
I have the people behind me.
The people are my strength.
Why are we looking for the right way
To make our money, when as MLK would say,
Don't let your dream fade away.
Just like basketball, when it comes off the rim
You have to grab the ball and dunk it right back in.
I have to do this right for my family.
I have to be the man that my mom told me that I can be.
We came from kings and queens, no rags and lows,
But now these days everyone talks about Gucci bags and clothes.
But it ain't going with you. Go vote to live your life
and be strong as Jacob Blake, who gave us hope
to never give up even when your hands are up.





Samuel Ewing
(parent: Sarah Galinski, Odyssey '21)



Why Vote?

VOTING is important because I want to have a say so in the speed limit in my neighborhood. Do people speed in your neighborhood? Well, on my block there are no speed bumps, nor are there speed limit signs. My cat, Isabelle, got hit by a car.

I'm only 14 years old, but in three years I will be 18, and I WILL VOTE! This is one of many reasons you should vote. Children's safety as well as their pets' safety is very important. What may seem like a very SMALL personal issue to you may be a HUGE, very important issue to others.

So VOTE. I hope my SMALL personal issue opens your mind and heart to VOTE, and not just for the president of the United States but for aldermen and judges and senators—the people who are set in place and high seats by OUR VOTES (your VOICE).



Jayda Woods
(Parent: Shiquita Woods, Odyssey '21)

We shall vote.

We shall **V**ouch for change among us,
in doing so we become united.

We shall **O**btain a voice to choose a welcome leader,
in doing so we speak on behalf of our communities

We shall **T**ake advantage of this given right to try to fight for our country,
in doing so we'll see the outcome of justice

We shall **E**levate ourselves into making sure everyone is equal and treated fairly.

We shall vote.

COLLEGE CORNER: JALEAH PRICE



My name is Jaleah Price, and I used to be in Odyssey Junior. While in the program, I was able to express my hardships through writing. Odyssey Jr. helped me find this outlet and gave me an identity through my pen and paper.

I now attend the illustrious Central State University, where I am a graduating senior majoring in biology. When I started there, I was one of the youngest college students on the campus. CSU is a historically Black college that was ranked the best HBCU of the year, beating institutions like Spelman College and Howard University. The feel of a HBCU is amazing. I love stepping out my dorm and seeing people who look like me.



Over the span of my college career, I have served as a resident assistant (RA) for two consecutive years, Secretary of the Junior Class Student Government, staff of the Central State University Men's Basketball team, a Preliminary Studies intern for cancer research, and finally an honor student for three years with a 3.8 GPA. This is my final year at Central State University. Upon me graduating from Central State University. I plan to continue my education in pursuing a master's degree as a Physician Assistant.

The pandemic has definitely affected the way I study and learn nowadays. My classes for the upcoming semester are going to be virtual, but CSU is also offering hybrid classes. Online learning takes a special kind of focus to be successful. The following picture I am attaching is my Honor Student Convocation.

A message that I have for kids who don't think college is for them is this: No one can take away your knowledge! Once you have gone to college and have experienced higher education, you acquire a different set of lenses when looking at life. You grow socially and academically in college, which gives you a good foundation in building yourself into the person you dream of being.



Before I went to college, I went through homelessness and other struggles. My struggles and my pains made me unique. My experiences helped me and pushed me to think clearly about myself. I don't really dwell on the bad things; I look at them more as gifts.

Thank you to Odyssey, especially during my freshman year of college in helping me with books. I also want to thank you for the experience and confidence that Odyssey Junior gave me.

This Is Me
By Jaleah Price

My family, religion, gender, race and beliefs make me whole.

I am female, and female I will always be.

Yes, it is a man's world, but women are the heart of the world.

I am African American and am always reminded that I am.

I will always be looked at, passed over, and assumed incapable of reaching my dreams.

I accept this for what it is, but will never let this settle because I know I can do all things I put my mind to.

I will use being a female in a man's world and being African American in an unaccepting world as an advantage. An advantage to prove to all those who doubt me wrong.

I won't let these physical characteristics stop me from receiving my blessing and reaching my many dreams.

It does not matter what your gender and race is, but it's about your capabilities, mindset, and faith.

I am one of millions living in poverty, but poverty does not live in me.

I am rich. Richer than what the eyes can see.

I am rich with knowledge, hope, faith, and determination.

I am rich in my soul, mindset, and integrity.

I don't live with luxury but instead love. Lots of LOVE.

At times I fall, break down, and cry when the storm is too strong to bear and I feel as if it's my time to lay to rest.

But My Lord steps in and lifts my head, and again I am filled with determination to make it.

I stand strong when the hardships pour in and attempt to destroy me. I stand strong with the help of my family.

My momma's mistakes and my grandma's faith give me the encouragement, push, stamina, and guidance I need to keep my head above water.

Momma's lived a life of selfishness and pain. Momma has brought the bittersweetness of danger and love into my life.

Even though I will always be scared by her poor decisions, I love her unconditionally and always will.

It's because of her I learned what hurt was at a young age.

It's because of her that I have a developed good morals because all her mistakes have shown me what not to do because I know what great pain they cause.

It's because of her that I know how my decisions can affect one greatly and can alter a life drastically.



Grandma's constant prayers, cries at night, size 10 shoes, long black hair, and beautiful smile have kept me encouraged and hopeful about the future.

I can always depend on my grandma for whatever I need. I know she puts herself aside and puts me first. And for this I love her so much.

Her soul sings beautifully and at times her words can sting, but this is what keeps me in check.

She reminds me of where I'm going and why I will make it. Her words, "I'm proud of you," bring joy to my soul.

It is because of my grandma that I am determined to make it because she has done so much for me and I have seen her overcome so many of life's lows.



I am who I am today and who I will be tomorrow and the day after next and the days after because of God, the pain and hardships I have overcome, being an African American female, and being a child from poverty.

My hardships and pain have made me strong.

My God and faith has keeps me hopeful.

Momma teaches me what path not to take.

And Grandma shows me how to love, how to be strong, how to keep faith through trials and tribulations, and shows my hope every time I look into her brown eyes. She has taught me how important education is and has told me education is for me and I am just right for education.

For all of this I am thankful.

I am the face of the future.

Jaleah's grandmother, Jovenus, graduated from the Odyssey Project in 2013. Jaleah wrote this poem in Odyssey Junior in 2015.