

ODYSSEY JUNIOR



ORACLE



Karen Dreyfuss, Odyssey Junior Coordinator
 Emily Auerbach, UW Odyssey Project Co-Director/Founder; Oracle Editor
 Beth McMahon, Oracle Designer

karen.dreyfuss@wisc.edu; 608-345-0807
 emily.auerbach@wisc.edu; 608-712-6321

Thanks to Odyssey Junior instructors and mentors Christina DeMars, Brian Benford Odyssey '07, Savion Castro, Albert Watson '08, Qiana Holmes-Abanukam, Takeyla Benton '10, Rene Robinson '08, Jerome Flowers, and Marisol Gonzalez '16; Madison Reading Project; Nancy Daly and the Hat Ladies; Slow Food team Margaret Nellis, Conner Raboine, Libby Schnepf, Hannah Kasun, Alexis Schnauk, and Julia Grande; Tutors Leigh Button, Jack Kulis, and Austin Triggs; Early Childhood team Jenny Saffran, Haley Weaver, Kelsey Kopiske, Desia Bacon, Melina Knabe, and Ellie Breitfeld; and Jamie Henke and Virtually Arts.

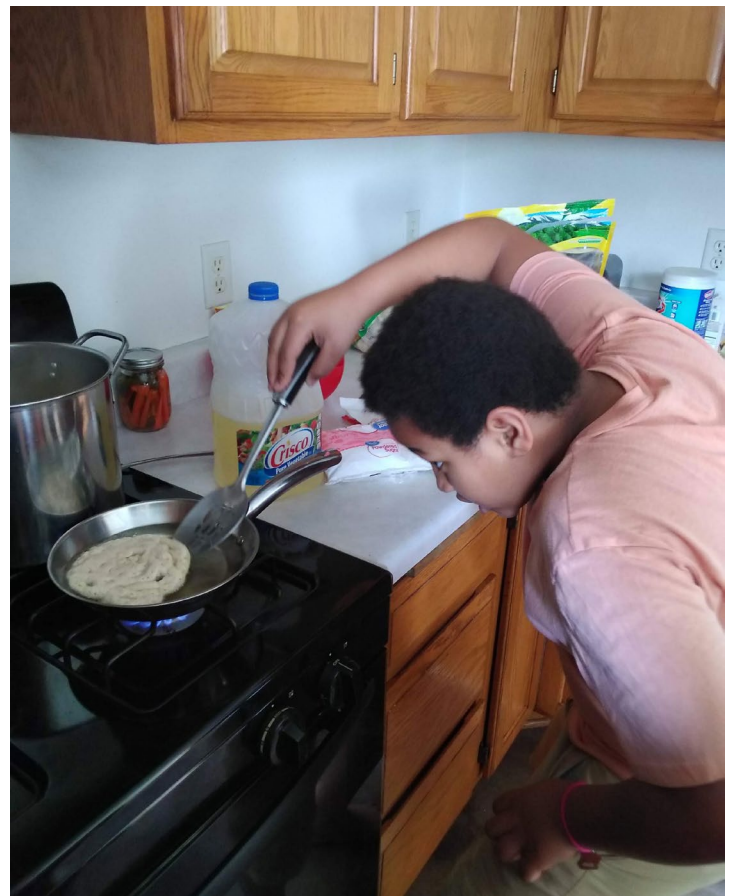
I LOVE...



I love owls.
I love me.
I love my family.
I love the color green.
I love food.
I love my friends.
I love reading.
I love my hair.
I love horses.
I love Roblox. **(Saniya)**



I love cooking. **(Stephen)**





I love donuts.
 I love my bed.
 I love games.
 I love cheeseburgers.
 I love Burger King.
 I love Roblox.
 I love XPloiters. **(Solomon)**



I love my family.
 I love rapping.
 I love creating things, like a lot of stuff.
 I love pizza.
 I love my life.
 I love being the oldest.
 I love being young.
 I love having friends.
 I love meeting new people.
 I love being able to breathe. **(Sam)**



I love being left alone.
 I love sleeping.
 I love food.
 I love dancing. **(Kahliana)**



I love cats and dogs. **(Aria)**



I love my family.
 I love my mama because I love her.
 I love my grandma because I love her.
 I love my grandpa because I love him.
 I love my great-grandfather because I love him.
 I love my family. **(Emmy)**

I love haikus.
 "I simply plainly love
 Loving and being loved is a blessing
 Please give love a try" **(Albert)**



I love waking up to the sight of the sun peeking through my blinds and birds chirping signaling Spring is not far behind. I love catching up with my children over a meal. I love the thoughtful just because cards and hand drawn artwork. My children love the home cooked meals and movie nights. They love the uplifting texts and emails I send when they are having rough days. February is for celebrating birthdays: that of my aunt, who is the matriarch of our family, and of my oldest son, Noah. Noah was hours away from being a Valentine's baby and won't let me live it down. It's also a great month to pay homage to the achievements of Black people who have come before us and paved the way. **(Qiana)**

I love my family. I love Frozen. I also love make up, music, and my dolls. I love school and playing at the park. **(Tyasiah)**





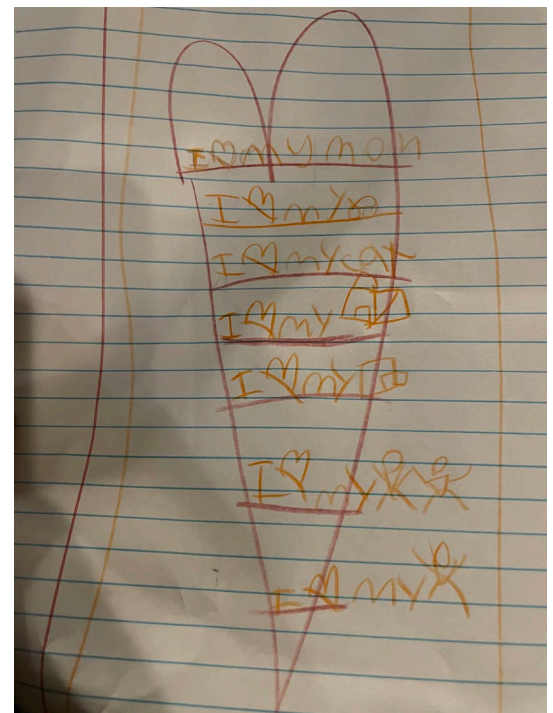
I love my family and pet cats. I love my tablet, playing at the park and music.
(Aiden)



I love to play outside. (Daniel and Abraham)



I love my mom.
I love my racecar.
I love my cat.
I love my house.
I love my room.
I love my friends.
I love my brother. (Kingston)



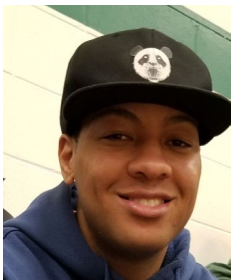
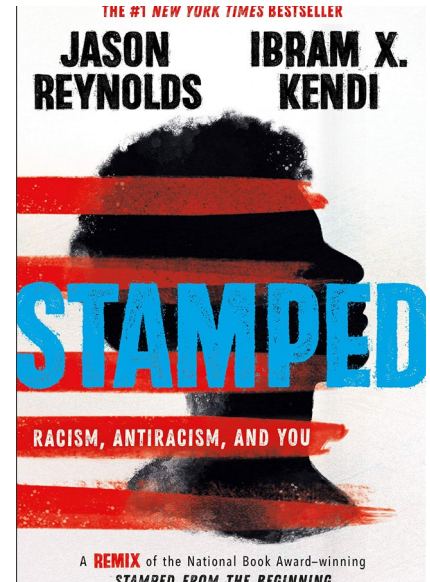
WINTER BREAK FAMILY LEARNING

*Odyssey families love to learn, especially during a long winter break. First, families with teens were invited to read and discuss **Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You** by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. Teens, parents, staff, and volunteers shared a two-week session to reflect and discuss the book.*

Stamped Reflections



After being an Odyssey participant for three years I really enjoyed the Odyssey book study. I feel the book *Stamped* was a great book for teens my age. I say this because *Stamped* isn't like a normal black history textbook. *Stamped* showed what history books didn't, like who created slavery, how the person who created slavery wasn't the person actually enslaving people but the one who wrote about it, which I never actually knew. Unlike normal history books, this book shined light on the past by taking us back hundreds of years to show not only how slavery was created but how we were described as lower beings and how we needed slavery to sanctify us. I really found this book to be a great read for both people of color and white people. It also does a great job of catering to the teenage audience by trying to make the book as entertaining as possible because in the day in age we live in technology is everything. In conclusion, I enjoyed the book *Stamped* and I believe Odyssey should do more book groups in the future. **(Shadavien)**



The best thing about the book club was that it came from the passion, creativity and compassion of an Odyssey alumna, Rene Robinson. The book *Stamped* is an amazing piece on American History; it reflects on our horrific past and makes the connections on how its impact still shapes our present day. It was great to be in a community with youth and parents willing to explore the true nature of our history and use it as fuel to work for a better future. **(Jerome)**



Stamped was a great book and a good discussion. I especially enjoyed involving all the teens. It was intriguing to hear their point of view. I am also grateful for the new age spin on old information and the people who put these types of books together. I am saddened that true information still isn't addressed in classrooms and look forward to any learning and teaching opportunities for the new generations. **(Feather)**

REFLECTIONS



I am hardworking. I do not give up if I put my mind to something. I can do anything. I am brave. I take risks. I can either fail or succeed. I love to watch rain and take long naps. **(Neveah)**



I'm in Head Start. I have four cats. I also have autism. **(Aiden)**



I have blue eyes that change to hazel.
I'm in kindergarten. I can draw.

Spring

Spring is almost here
Birds are almost here
They are flying here
To enjoy the warm weather
(Tyasiah)

Mama's Cooking

Mama told me to wash my hands, I hurried into the bathroom
After, I grabbed the seasonings from the cabinet and preheated the oven

I watched as she gave instructions

The scent of the flavors was immaculate

I smelled garlic, lemon pepper, and Cajun spices all in one

I remember thinking to myself that food takes an eternity to cook.

The seconds felt like minutes, the minutes felt like hours and the hours felt like months.

When I touched the chicken in the sink it was fluffy like a fleece

blanket and the boiling water on the stove hovered as I put my face over it

Mama told me not to do that. I listened, but when she went away I did it again.

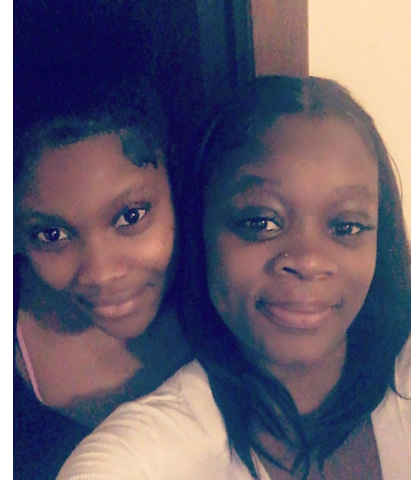
The whole experience in the kitchen was exciting. I felt like a grown woman.

We cooked the food, we set the table, we ate.

The food was organized ugly on the plate, but it was pretty good in my belly

But that's in the past and I cook all the time now. When I walk away to use the bathroom and come back, I see my mom hovering over my food.

Smelling the same garlic, lemon pepper, and Cajun spices all in one like she taught me. **(Jayda)**



My name is Emmy. I am four. My eyes are dark brown. My hair and skin are dark brown. I'm pretty because my mama and grandma tell me I'm pretty. I am kind and helpful. I miss my cousins. I like to read books. I like to do Legos and Duplos. I made the biggest tower ever. I like to play with my dollhouse furniture and characters. I like to garden. I like to do saucer and sled. I like to ice skate on the lake. **(Emmy)**

[At Olbrich Gardens] we learned about quails and canaries and doves. We loved the Japanese koi. They are white and gold and huge fish. We loved the pretty colors of all the flowers and talking to people there.

(Daniel and Abraham)



MEET SOME OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



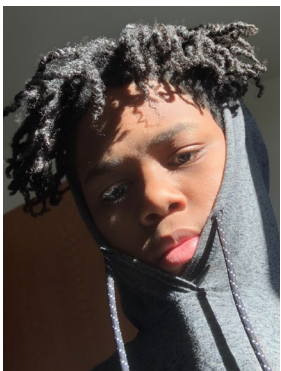
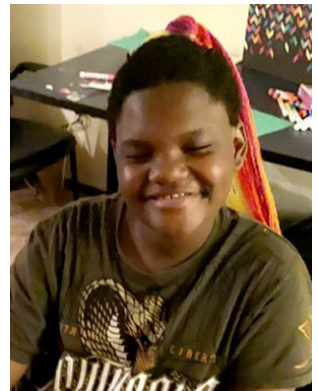
I'm Z. I'm in middle school. I have a brother who also goes to UW. I'm praying for a good career. Wrestling season ended, kind of sad. I didn't do tournaments during COVID, but competed in meets. I also started lifting. I'm now deadlifting about 100 lbs and squatting 115. **(Zinedine)**

My name is Michael. I'm in 7th grade. I go to O'Keefe Middle School. I play games. I play football. **(Michael)**



I'm Zachary 12 years old and I like to play football. **(Zachary)**

I'm Zay and I'm a drag queen. I just like to do make up and stuff. **(Zay'Vion)**



My name is Langston. I'm thirteen. I'm in middle school. I go to Badger Rock. I've been making music around seven or eight years. **(Langston)**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black history month... it is a month when people learn about black people. **(Antoine)**

It means Black Excellence. **(Antonio)**

Learning, developing skill, and learning about your culture and your history. **(Langston)**

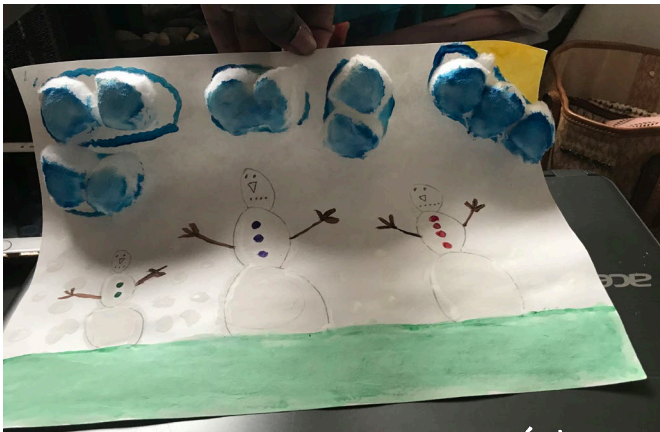


Black history month is like, basically, to me I think it's like how they've been, what they've been through and gone through just to get segregation done with, you know? **(Michael)**



I mean, for me, it means a lot seeing how people stood up for their own rights and their purpose. It was a big leap going from the 60s all the way to the 70s, because that's when times started changing. In the 50s racism was huge, people were being treated awful... For example, civil rights activist Ruby Bridges was smart, her grades went through the roof and she transferred to a white school. People didn't like that and tried to stop her. But years later, even she didn't know what a big impact she had on that school because she was always kind and considerate, and it didn't matter the color of people's skin. And she didn't know what she was doing until she was in her 30s. **(Zinedine)**

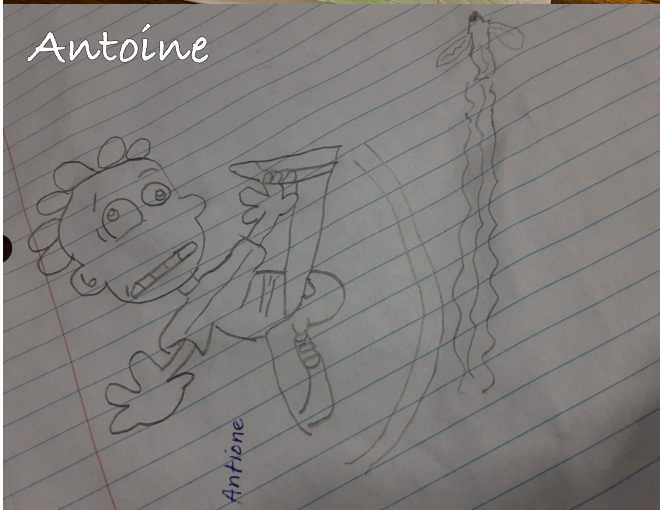
CREATIVE CORNER



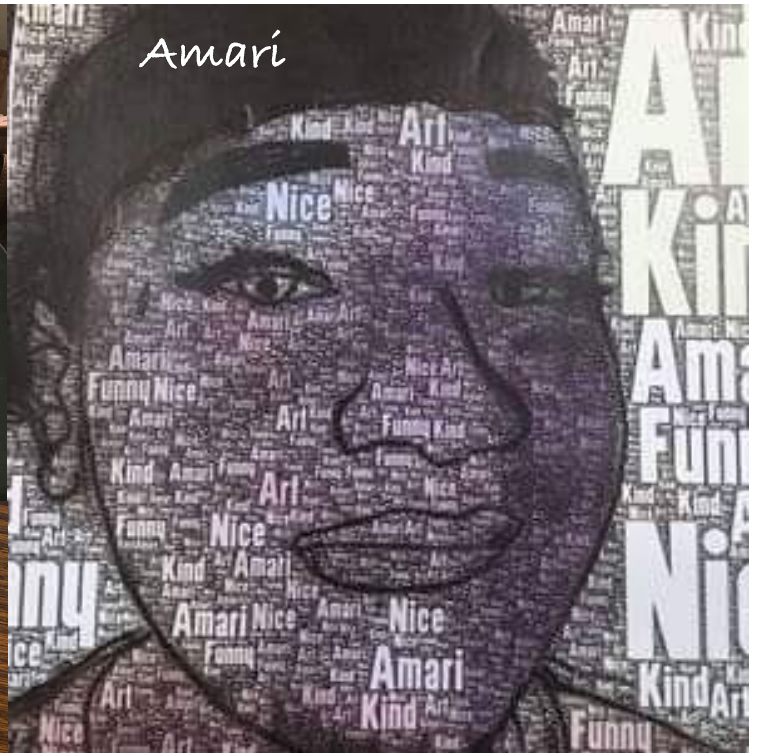
Aiden



Nate



Antoine



Amari



Daniel

Nolan



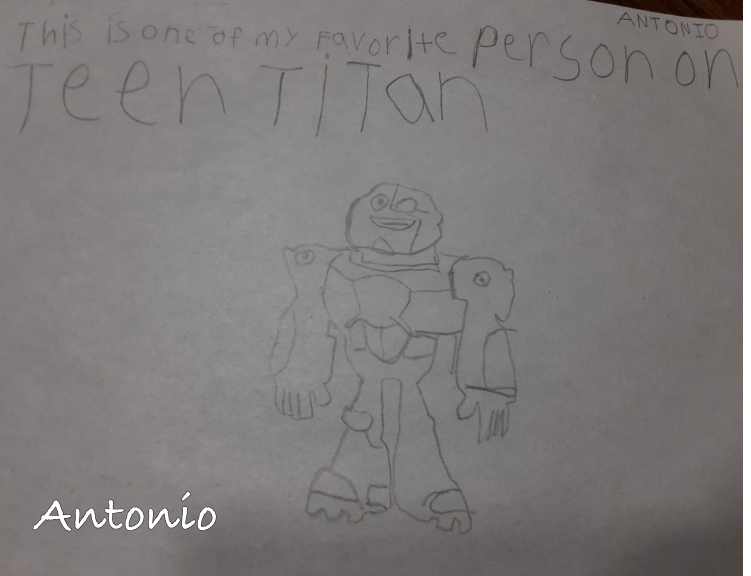
Yanayah



Zacaria



Ben



Antonio

