

ODYSSEY JUNIOR



ORACLE



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Adventurers: Qiana Holmes, Albert Watson '08, Brian Benford '07, Leigh Button (volunteer)

Interns: Summer Kleppek, Gwendolyn Coale, Sydney Twink Jan

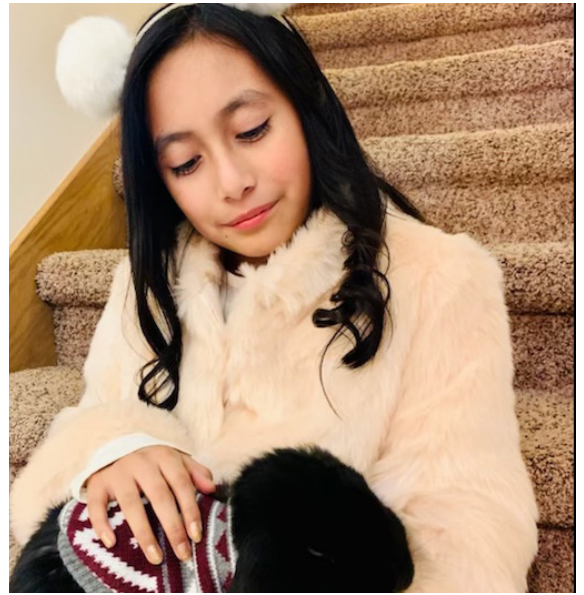
Volunteers: Austin Triggs, Parker Mays, Christina Wagner, Nicole Klostermann

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ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS

Gratitude

I am grateful for my mom.
 I am proud of being a bunny mom, good grades, and my two-ingredient mug cake.
 I appreciate that they cook food because it's good and made after a long day.
 I am grateful for my parents' food.
 I am thankful for rice and eggs because it's a good meal.
 "Jeans" starts with the first letter of my name.
 I am thankful for my skill making paper hearts because they're cute.
 My favorite holiday is Christmas.
(Jamie Lynn)



I am grateful for my mom
 I am proud of my grades, my skills, and my job.
 I appreciate how accepting my family is.
 I am grateful for my computer; it was a gift and I got it for free.
 I am thankful for Mexican food because it's good.
 "Joy" starts with the first letter of my name.
 I am thankful for my cooking skills so I can make food.
 My favorite holiday tradition is going to Texas. **(Jay)**

I am grateful for my mom because she sacrificed so much!
 I am proud of everything my mom has overcome, how she has grown as a person, and myself for growing.
 I appreciate that my family is so funny no matter what comes.
 I'm grateful for everything and everyone that has ever come to a game, talked with me ever, or did anything for me.
 I am thankful for butter pan and that's because it's a family dish and it's so good.
 I am joyful for my family.
 I am thankful that my broken bones heal quickly.
 My favorite holiday is Christmas because it's just a fun day. **(Jayden)**

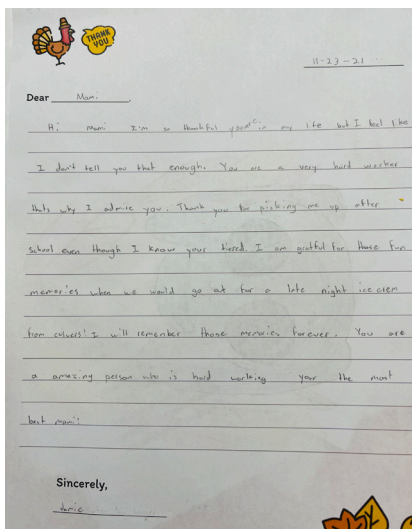




I am grateful for my youngest brother Kingston because he is precious!
 I am proud of my academics, creativeness, and being involved in several school clubs.
 I appreciate that my family makes time for me.
 I am grateful for my family, education, and friends.
 I am thankful for Sukuma Wiki (kale and collard greens that are sautéed) with Asida (others call it fufu or ugali). I also like Chicken Alfredo.
 “Zen” starts with the first letter of my name. It is being able to wind down and take a breath.
 I am thankful I am fluent in Spanish (I have been learning Spanish since kindergarten).
 My favorite holiday tradition is spending time with family (watching football games). **(Zawadi)**

I am grateful for my mom for taking care of me when I was sick.
 I am proud of my family, my basketball skills, and my grades.
 I appreciate that my family is very kind.
 I’m grateful for all the advancements that humans have made over the centuries.
 I am thankful for burgers because they are good.
 I thankful for “zebras,” they start with the first letter of my name and I’m not proud of it either.
 I’m thankful for my basketball skills,
 and any holiday where I get turkey. **(Zion)**

I am grateful for Fortnite.
 I am proud of my games, my anime, and my brother.
 I am grateful for McDonald’s.
 I am thankful that I am good at playing games.
 My favorite holiday is Christmas. **(Michael)**



Letter from JamieLynn to her mom
 Dear Mami,

I’m so thankful you are in my life, but I feel like I don’t tell you that enough. You are a very hard worker—that’s why I admire you. Thank you for picking me up after school even though I know you are tired. I am grateful for those fun memories when we would go out for a late night ice cream from Culver’s! I will remember those memories forever. You are an amazing person who is hard-working. You are the most best Mami.

Sincerely,
Jamie

How Music Impacts Our Lives

Music is an emotion or a story for me to make.
 Nikki Minaj is one of my favorite musicians, she is just a good artist in all, and Justin Timberlake.
 When I'm happy I listen to Gnarls Barkley 'Crazy.'
 When I'm sad I listen to 'When The Sun Goes Down.'
 When I'm feeling silly I listen to 'Lollipop' by Lil Wayne.
 Without music I'd be lost and bored. **(Jay)**

My mom makes me listen to old people music.
 Music affects my life depending on my mood.
 I don't have favorite artists.
(Jayden)



I feel like music helps to paint a canvas.
 Music makes life fun.
 Stellar is one of my favorite musicians because he adds very good beats.
 I listen to 'Tonight, Tonight' when I am feeling happy.
 I listen to 'Stay' when I am feeling sad.
 I listen to 'We're Not Gonna Take It' when I'm feeling silly.
 I have no clue what I'd do without music.
 I would nominate Logic for The Rock N Roll Hall of Fame. **(Juan)**

Music speaks to my heart, mind, and soul.
 It welcomes me into a new day and is there to hype me up before important events.
 I love hearing songs where artists have experienced what I'm feeling or make emotional connections with spaces I'm in and have come out better on the other end.
 Some of my favorite musicians are Whitney, Mary J Blige, and Ledisi.
 When I am happy, I listen to Dance With Somebody by Whitney Houston
 When I am sad, I listen to Not Gon Cry by Mary J Blige or Alright by Ledisi
 When I am feeling silly I listen to Scuse Me by Lizzo
 Without music I would hum strange tunes or beat on pots with drumsticks
 I would nominate Mary J Blige and Jill Scott for The Rock N Roll Hall of Fame. **(Qiana)**





Music is sad on a level.
It makes me feel like I'm not going through my problems alone.
When I'm sad I listen to sad and aggressive songs.
When I am feeling silly I listen to trap anthem.
Without music I'd be bored.
I would nominate Juice World for the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame
(Michael)

Music is a vibe that's always there
Some of my favorite musicians are
Michael Jackson and Polo G.
I would nominate Michael Jackson for
The Rock N Roll Hall of Fame (Trey)



Music makes me sing
I have playlists that speak to me for hours.
One of my favorite musicians is Eminem.
When I am happy, I listen to Sunday Best
When I am sad, I listen to Lonely (Zinedine)

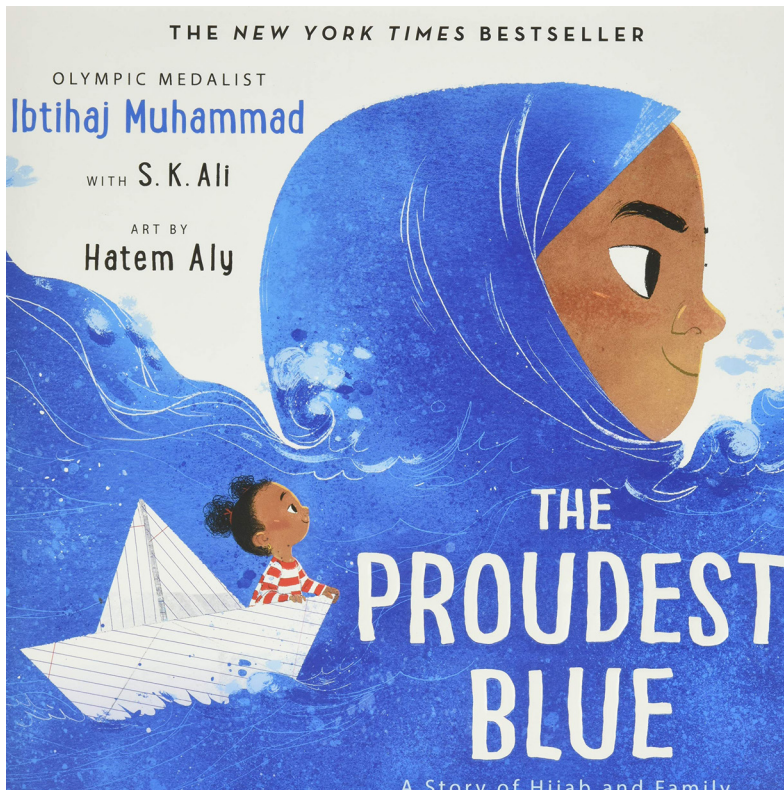


Music helps me get the idea of something, like when I'm doing homework. |
I enjoy listening to music because there are a lot of artists with amazing voices.
Music helps me focus.
Some of my favorite musicians are Ariana Grande, SZA, Demi Lovato, and Lil Nas.
When I'm feeling happy, I listen to Good Days by SZA | POV by Ariana Grande. | She's So Gone by Naomi Scott
When I'm feeling sad, I listen to Let You Go by Joshua Bassett | Consequences by Camila Cabello | Enough For You by Olivia Rodrigo
When I'm feeling silly, I listen to Sunday Best | Did I Mention- D .
(Anonymous)

Music is life's soundtrack!
It causes me to reflect.
Prince is one of my favorite musicians because his music was universal and touched folks from different backgrounds.
When I'm sad I listen to Public Enemy-Fight the Power.
When I'm feeling silly I listen to Monster Mash.
Without music I'd make my own, using my heartbeat.
I would nominate the dude that plays at the Willy St. Coop. (BB)



ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



Exploring Courage

The last few weeks, Explorers students have been reading, writing, and discussing themes of courage. Picture books such as *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwell prompted students to share moments when they have felt fear and tried to overcome it. “A Story of Hijab and Family,” *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad, highlighted another example of bravery encouraging students to write about people and moments in their lives where they have shown or witnessed courage.

Thoughts on *The Proudest Blue*

She feels protective of her sister! She loves her because of how much she protects her. She wasn't afraid of when the boy picked on her. **(Nyah)**

I look up to my older sister, who is 19, but she's like far away from me. She's in college. **(JaZaya)**

I look up to my brother Trey. **(Nyah)**

She had courage by having the hijab. **(Alex)**

I really like that book because it encourages kids to be themselves and not change because of others. **(Emily)**



Overcoming Fear



I used to be afraid of roller coasters and I'm not anymore. **(Essence)**

I actually had a fear of getting hurt, so I kind of hurt myself on purpose and I'm not scared anymore. **(DJ)**

Riding a bike. **(Iylis and Iyjah)**

Monsters. I was scared of the dark a long time ago. I feel better now. **(Nate and Naqari)**



I used to be scared of clowns and the dark. But I'm not afraid of clowns anymore! Well, I was watching YouTube and they were doing scary stuff and it had clowns in it. I lost my fear then. **(Nyah)**



**Clowns!! (Taraji)**

I went to Mexico by myself! And I was scared a girl was going to teach me to ride a bike, so I just jumped on and rode immediately.

(Alex)



I was very scared this summer when I visited the dentist in Mexico because he needed to take out two extra teeth. Now I don't feel so scared! **(Emily)**

I was very scared the first day of my Odyssey class because I didn't know how to write in English very well. The loving and caring environment that my teachers provide for all of us make me feel comfortable and safe. Now I try to do the same with the Odyssey Explorers class.
(Mrs. Marisol)



Women of Courage

A woman of courage in my life is my mom. She is a woman of courage because if there is a problem in the community, she is the go-to. She stays true to who she is. She pursues her dreams no matter what. For example, she is a true Mexican who doesn't hide her identity, likes to share her culture, and has a superpower: she can read my brain. I admire my mom. **(Alex)**



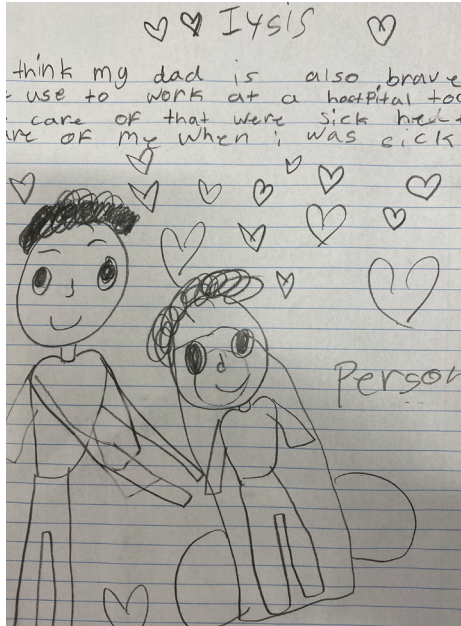
A woman of courage in my life is my mommy. She is a woman of courage because she stays true to who she is. She pursues her dreams no matter what. For example, when someone says something bad to her, she does something to stop it. I admire my mom! **(Emily)**



A woman of courage in my life is my Mom. She is a woman of courage because she doesn't care if someone talks bad about her. She works hard to make the world a better place. She stays true to who she is. She pursues her dreams no matter what because she is continuing her college education. Also, when she cooks and oil gets in her hands she doesn't give up she continues cooking without complaints. I admire my mom. **(Henry)**



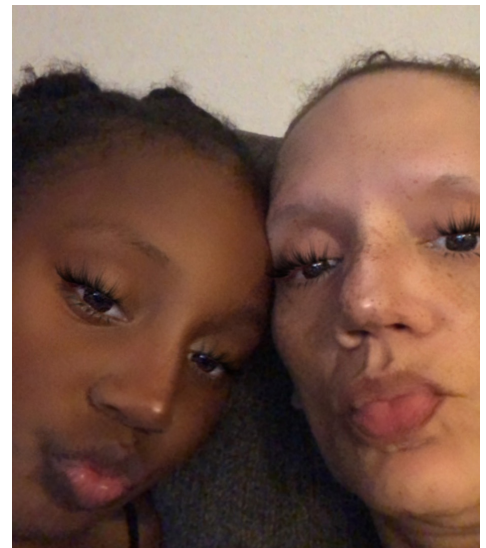
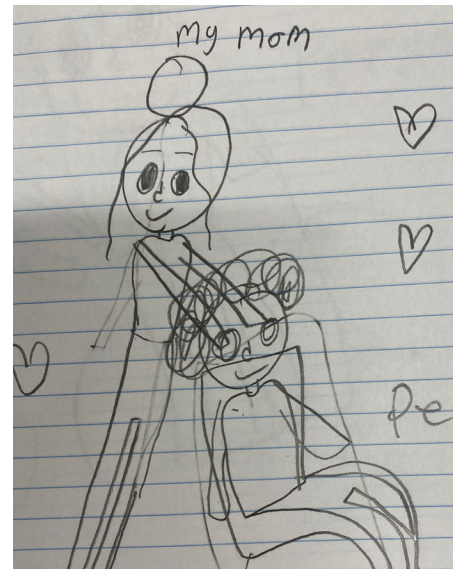
I think my mom is brave because she worked during COVID times, which was pretty scary. She did that to take care of us and because she's a nurse. She was taking care of people who had COVID. It was very scary, but she was brave. Last



time when I was sick, what made me feel better, she cooked me chicken noodle soup, and when my leg was twisted and hurting really bad, I had to stay in bed for a while. She always brought me food and water.

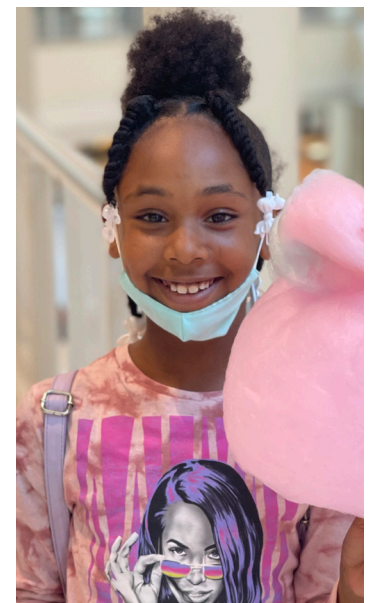
I think my dad is also brave because he used to work at a hospital too. He [took] care of [patients] that were sick and he took care of me when I was sick too. **(Iysis)**

I pick my grandma. She flew on a plane before – she was going to Atlanta. She was on the plane by herself! She was brave going to a new place by herself. She was going for vacation! I want to see the places and stuff like she did. My grandma plays Roblox with me—she's good at it! **(Iyjah)**



My friend Lydia, she's brave because she helps me when I was a little mad. And I got happy! She played with me during recess. It happened a couple days ago. **(Lucciano)**

A woman of courage in my life is my auntie. She is a woman of courage because she works hard to make the world a better place. For example, she helps our family out, she is kind to people, and she protects me and my cousins. She is an awesome auntie to me! I love to hang out with her and help her because she helps me. I love my auntie! **(Jazaya)**



A woman of courage in my life is my mom. She is a woman of courage because she makes the world a better place by taking good care of me and being a good mom. For example, she makes breakfast every day for us and she reads books with me every night. I love my mom! **(Kayden)**



A woman of courage in my life is my mama. She is a woman of courage because she makes the world a better place by being such a good mom to me. For example, she cooks for me and gets us food and clothes. She also helps me do my letters in school. I love my mom! **(Nyah)**

A woman of courage in my life is my mom. She is a woman of courage because she does things that scare her. She works hard to make the world a better place, she stays true to who she is, and she pursues her dreams no matter what. My mom is nice. She makes me food every day. I admire my playful and good cook mom. **(Imani)**



Gratitude

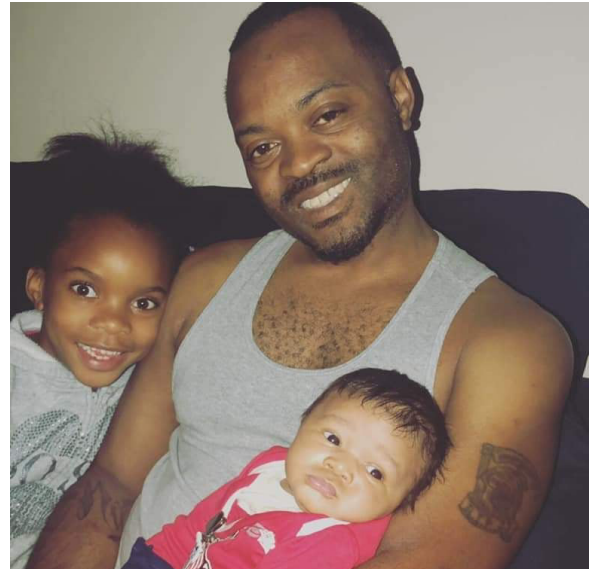
I am grateful for my dad because he looks after me. He's amazing and I love him very much. My dad makes delicious food, he tries to have as much time with me and my siblings as possible. And he does crazy dancing! He loves playing with our dog, Maple. **(Essence)**



I'm grateful for each of my children and husband because they filled my life with joy and love. I'm also grateful for Odyssey Junior! Each kid that I have the privilege to meet leaves a mark in my heart. I LOVE MY ODYSSEY FAMILY VERY MUCH! **(Mrs. Marisol)**

I'm thankful for everything that my family buys me. I'm grateful for my mom because she lets me play with her, and she cooks me rice and chicken and green beans. Also, pizza too! When I'm sad, she orders me pizza. **(Iysis)**

I feel grateful for my family and my grandmas and my cousins and my sister and my dad and my mom and my cousins and teachers. I love my mom and my dad because they play with me. My favorite is hide and seek. **(Iyjah)**



I'm grateful for my sister, my brother, my mom, my dad, and me. **(Alex)**

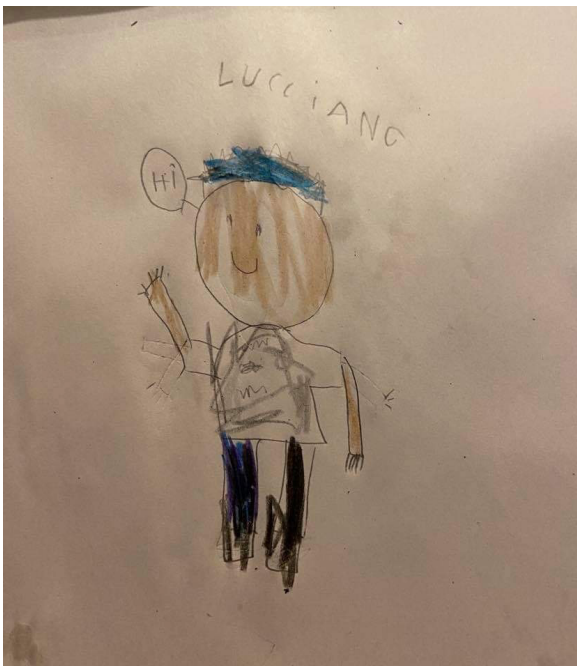
I'm grateful for my Mom because when something is wrong she does something to make it right. I'm grateful for the girl I see in the mirror every day. **(Emily)**





I'm grateful for my mom because she is good and she makes me food. Pizza!! She orders something sometimes too! My favorite is Pizza Hut or Little Caesars. We like to talk about Roblox and Minecraft! And drawing. **(Imani)**

I'm grateful for my family. **(Kayden)**



I'm grateful for McDonald's. I like McChicken burgers. **(Lucciano)**

I'm grateful for my dad. I'm grateful to my mom because she feeds me. **(Nyah)**



ODYSSEY JUMPSTART

Our youngest Odyssey Junior students, the Jumpstart class, love to talk about food. "I love chicken!" was a popular sentiment among the group. They also discussed cooking, gratitude, and holidays while they shared stories, drew pictures, danced to new songs, and played fun games like ISPY together. When asked at the end of class about their favorite activity, one student excitedly said, "I like to do all the things!"



I am thankful for my mom. I love Culver's. I like to eat oranges and lots of broccoli. **(TJ)**

I love chocolate-frosted donuts with sprinkles, mashed potatoes, and cold milk. My favorite food is rice and broccoli is my second favorite. **(Cinderria)**





I am thankful for my brothers. My favorite food is shrimp. **(Essie)**

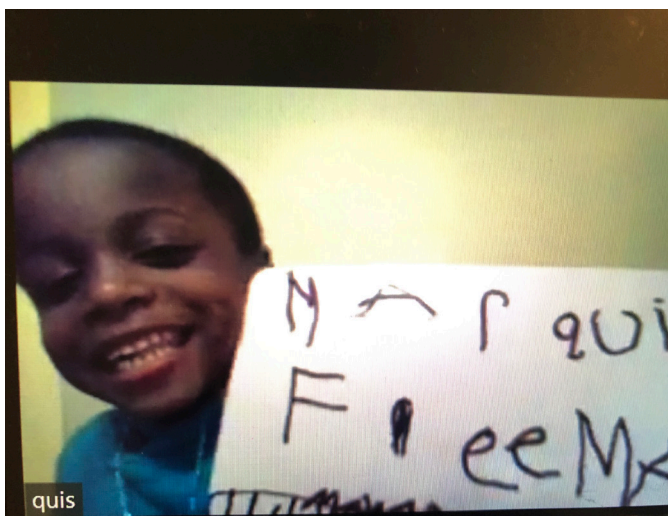
My favorite food is Ramen noodles. **(Kayden)**



I am thankful for my baby brother, my oldest brother, my sisters, mommy, daddy, uncle, and Nana. I really like Banana Crème Debbie cakes, Skittles, mint gum, chicken, noodles, and any juice that is orange. I also really like cake and ice cream and whipped cream and sprinkles.



This is paper cheese. **(Camarrior)**



I am thankful for my mom, Marcus, and school. I like to eat tacos and cereal. **(Marquis)**

