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

Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior  

JumpStart: Infant Learning Lab students including Jenny Saffran, Desia Bacon, Haley Weaver, Ellie Breitfeld, Melina Knabe, Janine Mathee, Ashley Ruba, Emily Kassans, Dasha Yermol  

Explorers: Mackenzie McDermit, Marisol Gonzalez '17, Christina DeMars  

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  

Special thanks to the Madison Reading Project, Nancy Daly and the Hat Ladies, Jamie Henke and Virtually Arts, Madison Public Library (Jesse Vieau and Will Glenn Sr.)  

www.odyssey.wisc.edu
I am *rude.
The nicest thing I did for someone this year is help a friend.
The nicest thing that someone did for me this year is a friend helping me.
My favorite song from 2021 is “The End” by My Chemical Romance.
One thing that I learned that I'll carry into 2022 is that only boring people get bored.
If I had one thing I could do again, it would be probably 2020.
I want to do better in school next year. *(Carlos)*

I am athletic.
My happiest memory from this year is going to school and seeing friends and family.
My saddest memory from this year is my grandmother passing away.
The nicest thing I did this year was buy someone a Christmas gift.
My favorite movie of 2021 is “Christmas Break In.”
My favorite songs from 2021 are TikTok songs.
The biggest accomplishment this year is winning more than eight football games.
The one thing that I learned that I will carry into 2022 is to care more.
If I had to do one thing again, it would be to spend time with my grandma. *(Marcus)*

I am flip.
My happiest memory from this year is getting to see my friends.
The nicest thing I did for someone this year is hold the door.
The nicest thing someone did for me this year is hold the door.
My favorite movie from 2021 is Ghostbusters.
My favorite song from 2021 is “So Done.”
My biggest accomplishment this year is completing 7th grade.
One thing I learned that I'll carry into 2022 is trust.
If I had to do one thing again, it would be to say goodbye to an old friend.
I want to do everything better next year. *(Zinedine)*

I am genuine.
My happiest memory from this year is my wife getting a new job.
My saddest memory from this year is losing my granny.
The nicest thing I did for someone this year was buy a stranger lunch.
The nicest thing someone did for me this year is buy me coffee.
My favorite movie from 2021 is Shang-Chi.
My favorite song from 2021 is any song by Zico.
My biggest accomplishment this year is learning a new security system at work.
One thing I learned that I'll carry into 2022 is an appreciation for life.
If I had one thing I could do again, it would be my 20s.
I want to get better next year at catering BBQ. *(Albert)*
Dear COVID

Dear COVID, no one likes you. You can rot in a garbage bag and fly straight into a black hole. You gave me a furry friend and we have so much fun together. So you're not the worst but I still really, really hate you. (Jamie Lynn)

Dear COVID, I wonder how it feels to be the most talked about thing in the world, day or night? To have someone's life in your hands and to be able to control whether or not they live to the next day, week, or even month. To send people into debt and make the economy crash and the sky fall. The only question I have for you is, what's next? (Janiah)

Dear COVID, you have ruined my life and stolen time away from me and from everyone around the world. You have stolen people away from me and others and have put us all at our lowest times in life. You have taken away from my high school years and other people's school life. You have taken opportunities away from me and have ruined birthdays and have made me more afraid of human contact. (Jay)

Dear COVID, I’ll never forget what you have done to me, my family, and millions of people. There’s never been something I’ve hated more and for that I will never forgive you. You’ve sucked the fun in life away, you've made me suffer more than anything in the world. For two weeks you’ve taken my mom and dad away and made my life a living hell. If you were a real person I’d say, “Go to hell and never come back.” (Jayden)
Dear COVID, I dislike you. You have brought me much sadness. I would like you to leave and never come back. Please repay me for the amount of times I have had to pull out the black gowns in my closet. All the time, I haven't been able to see my friends or my family. I dislike you from the bottom of my heart. (Kahli)

Dear COVID, why are you a thing? Where did you come from? Well, go back to where you came from. You gave me your sickness to my family members. You’re so rude. (Michael)

Dear COVID, you really need to leave. I'm tired of not being able to hang around my associates. It hasn't impacted me, really, because I'm a homebody and play the game and make edits all day. Dear COVID, go back to where you came from. (Reagan)

Dear COVID, go away! I won't play sports and I hope that I can go outside more and play with friends. I am grateful that you are here a little, so I don’t have to go out sometimes. But please go away so I don’t have to wear a mask anymore. (Trey)
Dear COVID, when I first met you, I didn’t actually understand what you were truly capable of at first. When we first got those extra two weeks of spring break in 2020, we assumed you would go away, but you didn’t. You have and continue to hurt countless people, even costing them their lives. I despise you wholeheartedly, so do me a favor and sleep on the highway tonight disrespectfully of course. *(Zawadi)*

Dear COVID, why did you come to earth? No one likes you. Do you realize that you’re hurting millions of people? Why are you doing this? Are you jealous of the flu or something, because you need to check your planets because we’re innocent. *(Zinedine)*

Dear COVID, you despicable, nasty, little, weird-shaped virus, that doesn't care who you kill. Why do you mostly kill those that are already suffering? You have left us with uncertain days and you take the “good” and cloud them in fear. Are you teaching us a harsh lesson in how far we have fallen as humanity? I allow your dead DNA into my body through vaccinations because I will fight you from within. Go away you nasty little heartbreaker! *(BiBi)*
Love Poems

Love is like “Love u”
Kiss, break ups, not loyal, loyal.
(Marcus)

Love is like a flower
It blooms and it fades, it grows and dies.
It can come in all colors.
Love can be old, and it can be young.
Sometimes it can be nice but then turn ugly.
(Jayvon)

Love is like chocolate
Some chocolate is sweet, some is dark.
Chocolate is addicting and chocolate melts when it gets too heated up. (Jamie Lynn)

Love is like weather
sometimes it's sunshine
sometimes it's rain
sometimes it's thunder
sometimes it's cold.
(Albert)

Love is like a car
if you go too fast you will lose control
if you want to move fast in a relationship, make sure it's the right speed with your partner.
(Michael)

Love is like the sun
We all love the sun but if we get too much of it, we burn. (Neveah)
Love is like a summer breeze in a winter sky  
It warms you up.  
It can get taken for granted when it’s in season, but rare when you need it most.  
It is cherished in the “winter sky,” rather than in summer.  
We don’t acknowledge how much we appreciate that summer breeze until it’s gone.  
(Zawadi)

Love is like a rainbow  
It's multifaceted  
It spreads far and wide  
It doesn't come around often but it's worth holding on to.  
(Qiana)

Love is like the forest  
Sometimes you find a carpet of purple flowers  
Often the crunch under your feet makes you unsteady  
Sunshine beams through the branches, giving you time to catch your breath.  
(Karen)
Love is like a light
because it creates a path in the dark room
but without it you’re lost and don’t know
how to get out.
Love is like light because the more light
you have the more your life shines.
Love is like a light because the more you
use it the bigger it will shine. (Jayden)

Love is like a seed
It can sprout into something beautiful, but if
not treated with care it can be lost.
Love can connect people’s roots. (Kahlana)

Love is like a fireplace in the Arctic
It just keeps on burning no matter what.
I think I’m not sure that’s how biology
works though. (Zion)
LOVE IS. . .

Love is my mom with big muscles fighting with a ninja to protect his son and maybe the world. *(Alex)*

Love is soft pajamas and fuzzy sweaters. *(D’Angelo)*

Love is HUGS! *(Emily)*

Love is when my dog, Maple, comes into my room and sits by my bed. Love is also my parents encouraging me. *(Essence)*
Love is... 

(Imani)

Love is having fun at gymnastics. My favorite move is hanging upside down on one leg. (Iyjah)

Drawing feels like love. (Iysis)

Love is family and dog. (Kayden) note: Keydan's dog passed away 3 days ago. Good bye Big Black 💔
I like to treat my mom; when I’m good I send her love cards every day. They say, “I love you.” Love is a card that says, “I love you with honor and peace and stuff.” (Kingston)

Love is my little sister, Essie. (Lucciano)

Love is money and my mom and dad. (Mane)

Love is your family. I am nice to them. (Nyah)
Love is my friends and family. My friend took me to get our nails done for her birthday and my family helps me with lots of stuff. (Mari)

There’s something that IS love! The people at Odyssey. My favorite part is when we did the drawing games. (Nyah)

Love is my family and friends together on a nice autumn night around the campfire, laughing and playing games.

Love is helping someone that needs your help, even if it is a stranger.

Love is caring for the people that have less than you.

Love is giving you time and attention to someone that wants to connect with you.

Love is nature, tall trees, white snow, colorful flowers, big smiles. That is love for me. (Marisol)
SHOW AND TELL

On the weekend my dad got me something for Christmas and for my birthday. It’s the new x-box series S, two controllers. This is a diskless one, so I have to buy stuff from the app store. I have Halo Infinite. I play many games with this game console! I don’t know my favorite. (DJ)

Here she is. Her name is Maple. She’s a very nice and polite dog. She loves to meet new dogs and new people, and she is very, very playful. We brought her to my brother’s football game and just everybody wanted to pet her. If I call her name a few times, she always runs and comes to me. It’s so cute! (Essence)

It’s my birthday!! I got to still open up presents, and Friday I’m going to Urban Air. (Iyjah)

Well, it’s me at a party and it says “I’m nine years old” right here. (Iysis)

I’ve been working on a Lego set – it’s like an apartment building next to a library. It’s a set that I got from Chicago! (Henry)
This is my aunt’s baby, my baby cousin. My aunt’s baby was born the day after Christmas. She’s one month old. Her name is Lalisa. I was like, excited and happy to meet her. **(Kayden)**

So, I like football, and um, I went to a football game this summer and I like the Packers, that’s my favorite football team. And I absolutely got lucky and I got a signed football by Aaron Rogers. He’s the Packer’s quarterback, you guys know the Packers? It’s our state team. It’s like a collectible so I probably shouldn’t play with it. Yeah, I play football, I play tackle. **(Mane)**

I didn’t know what to share, so I just- I’m gonna show my dad’s computer. It’s a mac book. I like Nitrotype, YouTube, and I like to go on Amazon or Sheen. **(Mari)**
METAPHORS

I am as important as gravity! (I am not comparable) (Alex)

I am as sweet and kind as honey! (Emily)

I am a cinnamon roll. I am sweet, helpful, kind, and showing courage. I am a cinnamon roll because I am brave before someone eats me!

I am also a unicorn! I’ve got a colorful closet, and I am colorful! I am a unicorn because I am spreading joy, making people happy, and my hair is colorful. (Jazaya)

I am a cup of hot chocolate! I am sweet, warm, and perfectly with winter because I was born in January. (Kayden)

I am a firecracker! I can be anything. (Lucciano)
I’m a basketball, because I’ve got a lot of energy. And I’m grass because I grow fast!! My baby brother is like a pterodactyl. *(Nate)*

I am a guard, because I am protective over my kids! *(Falesuh)* *(Nate & Naqari’s mom)*

I am a Christmas tree with a bunch of glitters! I am wearing sparkles right now. *(Tyasiah)*
WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT?

Drawing! (Kha’lani)

I’m excited about Valentine’s Day. I made a card for my brother, my mom, my dad, my sister, my whole family! (Kayd)

Tomorrow is 100 day at my school. (Marquis)
After reading *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller, students shared ways they share kindness.

I drew my friends hugging. *(Camarrion)*

I play with Granny. *(Kha’lani)*

I give high fives. *(Marquis)*

I give hugs. *(Kayd)*
WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

My blankie (Aiden)

My friends (Camarrion)

Cookies (Marquis)

Granny (Kah’lani)