

ODYSSEY ORACLE

VOICES AND VISIONS



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HAZEN CHOICES

Thanks to the Chazen Museum of Art for welcoming the Class of 2024 for a second visit.

Artwork: Kolanut Bowl in form of a chicken
with mother and child (olumeye)

Artist: Lamidi Olonade Fakeye

I found this art piece to be very powerful. Before I read the meaning behind the chicken and the woman kneeling, I instantly thought strong nurturer, a woman who is respected, dedicated, and takes care of people. I don't know what it's like to be a mother, but when I saw this art piece I instantly thought of my mother, who will do anything to protect and nurture her kids/loved ones.



I learned that for this culture, kneeling is how the woman gives birth. When a woman kneels, this also represents respect and devotion. I initially thought the woman holding the chicken represented nurturing (ability to feed her family). I researched what olumeye means and this is "she who brings honor." In the writing by the artist, he states the olumeye is often kept on an altar for gods or ancestors. That goes back to my original thought when I saw this art work—very respected and honorable. (Dontaeva Acklin)



Artwork: Songbird

Artist: Alison Saar.

Woman bound by ankles—upside down
hair holds and makes up cage
with gold bird in it.

no eyes

Why is skin tone red?

no details on bird

The woman is naked, but bound?

Strong but still captive.

Beautiful bird still in a cage

with a desire to be free. (Carissa Andrews)



Artwork: Are a Hundred Playing You? Or Only One?

Artist: Xiang Jing

The stork has lost someone in transit. We discard our vanities. Remove our hair and strip down, dip our toes into the marble basin that holds warm water and on certain occasions, new life.



Not today. A circle of stone. A circle of bodies. Where eyes do not meet. The water has all but evaporated in the basin. She holds your belly basin; rest her head on your shoulder. Shout away the stork that lost someone in transit.

(Lucas Benford)

Artwork: The Generation Below Them
Artist: Sam Gilliam

I Speak Loudly, Surround Sound
Circles of Truth
Colors of Eternity
Bright as Day, Dark as Midnight
I Speak Boldly
Fire Ignited from My Love Below
As Chaos Forms
I Fly with One Wing
Ripples of Venom Are My Fingerprints
I Speak Aggressively with a Powerful Tone
Hear Me from a Distance
Drawing You Near to Admire My Mysterious Beauty
I'm Radiant. I'm Rich. Pleasing to Your Sight
---I Speak Life--- **(Vernell Cauley)**



Artwork: Coffin**Artist: Eric Adjete Anang**

Seeing this sculpture reminds me of freedom. As the wings expand, all the beautiful colors speak of peace to me, like a bird in the wind with no worries. The swirls of colors resembling motion give the piece life, but if you look deeper into the eyes and the way the mouth is sculptured, I feel like its guards are up. It's aware, it's ready, and it will overcome what's ahead/coming. **(Taeshia Clark)**

**Artwork: Chain people****Artist: Richard Peter Stankiewicz**

I don't know why, but this piece called to me, and it's crazy because it's Black History Month. Seeing chains makes me so emotional because just not too many generations ago we had slaves representing our family. To be free and not be free completely is the bitter gust of wind that nips at your nose, the breath you hold in fear, the darkness that makes you wonder is there anything besides you out there. It's brutal, but it's honest. It hurts so good to be on the edge of freedom but so far from the truth. **(Mekicia Davis)**

**Artwork: Steal Drawing/Reclining Nude****Artist: Tom Wesselmann**

She looks at peace makes me think about my bed that's the best part about my day going home letting the girls hang taking a shower and lying in my bed watching TV and listening to music. **(Andrea Evans)**



This piece of art drew my eye because I love being nude. It's a feeling of self-love--having the gift-given body and cherishing every beauty and flaw. Nudity is a way to self-express. Love the skin you're in. The piece of art shows detail and firmness in her natural posture. **(Aleesha Flowers)**

Artwork: Our Good Earth
Artist: John Stuart Curry

I see this picture of a man with a boy and girl child.
 I wonder, where is his wife/mother of the children?
 I think Dad is being the man he needs to be figuring out
 how much crop he can bring in to feed his family.
 The kids haven't a care in the world. They seem playful,
 favoring fraternal twins (boy and girl).
 Mom, she's home cooking or cleaning.
 Taking care of home. Putting her trust in her husband.
 He is a good dad and husband
 because he gives mom a break from the children.
(Andreya Gavins)



Artwork: Oil on linen
Artist: Tom Uttech

Young and Free
 Reminiscing about younger days
 no worries in the world
 no responsibilities
 At peace
 Clear mind
 Enjoying the scenery **(Mikaylah Harris)**



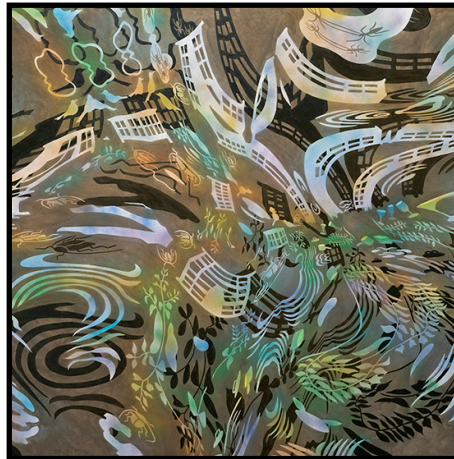
As I sit and look at this painting, I feel myself feeling at peace.
 Somewhere far in the country, no distractions, free from life
 and all my responsibility. As time stands still, you can actually
 hear your thoughts for one never wanting to leave here forever.

It gave me an image that beauty is pain. No matter how
 beautiful you are, you can still be going through things. This
 second image seemed very godly to me--all white and seeming
 like she's still rising up even though the candles are melting
 down, and the hands in the back were like string.
(Shanigel Goodwan)

Artwork: The means to an end...A Shadow Drama in Five Acts**Artist: Kara Elizabeth Walker**

I love how she captures the story of the African woman in those times.

1. She illustrates the personal connection one shares with their mother on a more intimate level.
2. The personal experiences and trials one might face like being taken from your mother, or being forced to do things you aren't comfortable doing.
3. The joy of finding yourself and starting to feel like you have a grasp on who you are and where you're headed.
4. Drowning. Losing everything. Being stripped of everything you thought you knew.
5. Being reborn to fit customs that were not meant for you. Being stripped of everything you've built yourself up to be. **(Synquar Harston)**

**Artwork: Vortex****Artist: Nancy Mladenoff**

I really like this one. It sort of reminds me of my life. My paths/journey have been far from easy/perfect...which is what a vortex is, a swirling mass of air or water. The painting speaks to me and says, "No, the road won't always be easy," "You have to keep going even if the path isn't lit"—things like that! "We may not be perfect, but we're worth the picture still." **(Cierra Jackson)**

Artwork: Circe**Artist: Romare Bearden**

The Odyssey, my current journey. Just like the picture, I'm going to use all my resources and guides, just like he used the pieces of construction paper to make the beautiful picture that was filled with detail. You have to use what you have to get what you want and where you're going.

(Cierra Jackson)

Artwork: Iskwaaj Nibi (The Last Waterhold: Creating a New World)

Artist: Rabbett Before Horses Strickland

I love the art of Rabbett as the blue sky contemplates the life of Indian Americans in their habitat. Water, sky, and beautiful wildlife adorn the scenery. As everyone knows or who doesn't know, this is the richness of Native Americans. This is my richness as a native woman who lives in harmony with nature **(Blanca Laine)**



Artwork: Marilyn Monroe

Artist: Andy Warhol

The picture reminds of the movie Mask. The green face of beautiful, iconic Marilyn Monroe is like a transformation **(Rosanna Lopez)**



Artwork: Marriage Chest (Cassone)

Artist: Unknown 1400-1425

I like this piece because it reminds me of a trunk my mom got when she was married. I always saw it growing up and admired it. This marriage chest or "Cassone" is made of walnut and has a fleur de le engraved in its middle. According to the description, wealthy Italian Renaissance homes had these and they were often gilded, carved, and painted. This piece has a presence to it. I wonder what it kept warm and held onto. Probably a beautiful wedding gown. **(Giana Mason)**



Artwork: Suzanne Moss

Artist: Alice Neel

I chose this painting because I feel like she looks defeated—like she has had a long week and she just needs time for herself. I feel like this painting is me. I have struggled with life this week, from parenting to work. I felt that on the last day of the week that she went into her room and just laid there and thought about all the things that went on. I had to do this myself, as hard of a decision that it was. I called my children's father and asked if he could take them so I

could get some time to myself, so I could come back better and recharged. Sometimes it's okay to take care of yourself so you can take care of the ones around you. **(Tanisha Milligan)**

Artwork: Female Spirit Spouse (bloolo bla)
Artist: Unknown

This sculpture represents the authentic, beautiful African woman. The artist, in my opinion, is expressing the central role of women in the African society—A woman is wife, mother, educator, provider, advisor—They are the timeless masterpiece of their families—the symbol of life, happiness, and prosperity.



The artist also pointed out the suffering, the burdens of African women—Furthermore, he took the time to represent all the elements (hair, style, clothing, scars, jewelry) that show her unique identity, her unique origin.

(Souleymane Nikiema)



Artwork: Whorl
Artist: Gilliam Jagger

Its whirling, spiraling, twisting form is like a twister. It also looks like a woman splashing her hair. It looks like a painting, but it's actually a fiber molding paste when you get closer. It's very unique. There are many different ways you can look at it. It could also look like an ocean wave in the wind. **(Sally Phelps)**



Artwork: Beaded Royal Coronet
Artist: Nigerian, Yoruba people, early 20th century.

I love African Art. It's so beautiful, expressive, and colorful. I like this because of the faces coming out of a crown. It makes me think how cool it would be to be a part of a tribe and these responsibilities that come with this crown passed down to you. The faces on the crown make me think it was a past king before you that's watching over, and the tribe is making sure you do right and have guidance. **(Isiah Pickett)**



Artwork: Busy People No. 1 2010**Artist: Su Xinpeng**

I see a boy or man walking through or past a fire, but he doesn't seem unhappy. It looks like he is happy or escaping from wherever he is coming from. It looks like there is hurt or pain in his eyes, as if he is walking away from his past—sad but happy to be moving on. Whatever he/she was going through is over now. **(Rodney Poe Jr.)**

**Artwork: Danu****Artist: El Anatsui**

This piece of art is amazing. It represents Africa. It put me in the mind of different countries. The gold stood out and put me in the mind of Kinjo. The red put me in the mind of a queen. Its little band aid-looking strips put me in the mind of all the different villages. The black square at the bottom put me in the mind of Africa and the Negro mother.

(Kimberly Rodgers)**Artwork: La Alberca****Artist: James Casabere**

Alone I stand wondering about the world as it bends. Alone I stand to watch the water drench the bottom of my robe as the steam seeps into my skin. Alone I hear silence in the gleams of every whispering ear. Alone I stand to watch the darkness of this room fade as the vapor of every mist escapes. Alone I cry not wanting to wipe a single tear from my eye. Is it alone that I stand on my own two feet and ten toes as my eyes glaze across these blue steel concrete walls? Alone at last I have evolved. **(Marcy Tibbs)**



Artwork: Study for Steel Drawing/Amy Reclining
Artist: Tom Wesselmann

Stressed
 All I want is my bed
 After a long day of work
 and dealing with my kids.
 Bra off on the floor
 Relaxation, I need a little more.
 Breakdown, empty the guts
 Breakdown, but not too much.
 Wet lips and finger tips
 Whirl and twirl you know I pearled.
 Light up, slow burn, just the right amount to handle
 Do you like the smell of my candle?
 Fan on, you feel that breeze?
 Watching crime shows naked with my trees. **(Amanda Van Behren)**



Artwork: Happy As Larry
Artist: Alexander Calder

I'm not a big fan of scary movies and clown-like images or clowns period, but this art puts me in the mind of the movie SAW but also a character from the cartoon The Powerpuff Girls. I also see the outlines of the eyes, nose, mustache, and mouth. The design also puts you in the mind of a maze or like a dimension. **(Endia Walls)**



Artwork: Christening a donkey
Artist: Unknown

Jesus riding a donkey
 Make me believe that he
 Was going from place to place
 Spreading/preaching the word of God.
 That alone has
 Come to be our guide
 And savior in the here and now and
 thereafter!!! **(Ronald Watson)**

Artwork: Adoration of the Shepherds
Artist: Giorgio Vasari

A picture of people
 Mary as she attends to the good shepherd.
 Jesus the savior of the world
 People around to protect him.
 Family of Christ. **(Ronald Watson)**

EIGHT YEARS FROM NOW

Students were asked to imagine a day in their life in Spring 2032.



I see myself waking up, thanking God for being alive, then making my bed. I proceed to stretch and have a small walk and work out routine. I then do my meditation, light my incense, and proceed to do the three S's. Sh*t, shower, shave. I don't have facial hair but make sure my lining is right after dressing. I head to work, where I continue to advocate for youth in my community.

My sun has propelled me to be a fixture in the community; my city trusts me. I feel so empowered by my community's trust that I decide to run for neighborhood alderman. I would serve my neighborhood by advocating for the working class, while making the tough decisions that most wouldn't be able to handle, like school funding, tax proposals.

After a long day of meetings and fighting for the have-nots of my community, I head to a community meeting to discuss a plan of action going forward to make our community better. Then, we focus on youth and young adults. We talk and disagree, then agree to disagree, but are still moving the goal post toward equal equity. I then head to my vehicle to go home to my family. **(Jasmine Benson)**



The date is March 1st, 2032 and I am a successful black business owner. *Twisted Tae* is in full effect and running worldwide. *Authentic Era* clothing line has taken off like a rocket ship – sending orders out on a daily worldwide. *Simply*

Cleanse is a physical store selling out on organic juices. I will have multiple streams of income and passive income coming in with a beautiful growing family. I will be working on baby #3 with a handsome, successful husband. I will have a multi-



million-dollar dream home. I will be nine years vegan – making my own food and not relying on the government. I will be fit and still in the gym, but most of all, all my dreams would come true, and I'll be rich internally before I am rich externally. **(Dontaeva Acklin)**



It is 2032, and I am living in a remote place in the north of Ecuador. My house is the only one made from mud brick that resembles the color of the big green eucalyptus located behind my house.

The place is between two colossal mountains. Everything is peaceful, restful, and quiet, but the only quite alarming sound is from the song of the scarlet flycatcher.

My day starts so early, before the sun fully rises. I need to take advantage of the early morning when my mind is fresh and there are few distractions.

From my peaceful place, I am continuing leading, working on the different social projects in benefit of my community. **(Blanca Laine)**



In eight years, I see myself being a successful Registered Nurse in St. Mary's Hospital working in labor and delivery.

I wake up each morning and get myself and my children ready for the day. My oldest son is in college, my daughter is in 8th grade, and my youngest son is in 5th grade. A typical day for us is the alarm going off at 6 am, as they all must be up, ready, and fed by 7 am and us out the door at 7:15 am so that we are all on time for school and work. My now husband must be at work by 6 am, so we don't get to see him in the morning, but that's okay as he is always home in time for dinner. After all of us are out the door, I drop everyone off at their schools and I head off to work to be there by 8 am.

I am working all day long, assisting numerous mothers deliver their beautiful babies into the world. I have an outstanding team of African American women and men who assist me with all the preparations before helping the mothers give birth. After a long day, I can leave work, pick the children up from their after-school activities



and head home. We get home, and my husband already has dinner started. The children and I go to our rooms and undress from our outside clothes and get cleaned up for dinner. We all sit around the eight-seater, marble/glass table together and enjoy the delicious meal. My oldest son and daughter clear the table and put the food away while my youngest son does his after-dinner chores. By this time, it is now almost 9 pm and everyone goes to their bathrooms and brushes their teeth, washes their faces, and goes to bed, for us to be able to do it all over again the next day. I wouldn't trade it for the world. **(Danika Bethel-Johnson)**



After five years of being out of college (graduated), I'm working at a high paying job. I'm married, living in a beautiful home with my kids and husband.

My typical day would be waking up each morning, giving thanks to God, going to the gym to work out. Either I'm going to work or taking care of home.

My job would be owning my business, with a dependable crew. I'd be stopping to work/help my crew out or just stopping to make sure it's being run smoothly.

Then it's picking kids up from school, making dinner, and spending quality time with my husband and kids. **(Andreya Gavins)**



I envision myself eight years from now. I would have my dream career job and a lovely house I would call my own. I would go to work to a job that I love. I would come home and cook a delicious homemade curry noodle soup or grilled meat with papaya salad and sticky rice. I would still be coaching volleyball, but I would have my own club, or I would have my own business of some sort, like daycare. I want my kids to be well taken care of, and I would do anything with the will of God to reach that. **(Sally Phelps)**



When I'm 44, I wake up to bright sunlight filtering through the black out curtain; parts of my body that I didn't know could hurt, do. I reach for my cell phone and pop open the weather app to see a high of 80 for March in Madison; this is coming

off of a day with a high of 12. The new normal is anything but.

It's essential that I stretch at this point in my life, and stretch regularly, so I jostle myself out of bed and roll out a yoga mat. Long ago, I established a morning stretch routine and can do it on autopilot without the assistance of the morning brew. After a number of creaks, cracks, and pops, I can feel the blood flowing through my limbs and out to the extremities. I throw on some comfy clothes and take a walk around the neighborhood, gathering my thoughts for the day ahead.

I finished my major in May of 2026; based on my existing credits, I decided to double major in History and Ecology with a minor in Spanish. Eventually, I decided to pursue a law degree because I was sick of hearing the law being used to punish marginal people. I do some work with immigration law, helping people to reunite their families and also work with unions to help support those intending to organize. In response to an increasingly unjust late-capitalistic society, I have become even more radicalized and spend a lot of my time thinking about how to create a more just and equitable society. My work allows me to feel that I'm using my energy in an effective way, but sometimes I think that I want



to start my own intentional community somewhere where we live largely off the grid and in harmony with nature.

It took a lot of work to arrive here. To move forward I had to examine why I struggled in the past and how I could thrive in the future. The easy pleasures that helped me manage day to day were exchanged for a routine that helped me maintain consistency, even when I wasn't having my best days. The depression that seemed like a gray cloud obscuring the bright sun of possibility dissipated when I unified my fractured self. Many meditations and hours of self-reflection allowed me to better understand my barriers - real and imagined. There are very few days when I feel alienated from my body, soul, community, and work. The feeling of having my work align with my passion is a great blessing that energizes me and carries me when the work is especially draining. I'm resolute in my purpose and don't allow the pain and suffering in the world to bog me down but take energy from striving against inequity.

I wake up to the promise of possibility. Dreams fulfilled lead to other dreams like a golden road to the promised land...a viridian city...a beautiful place in the country. The past is something to be proud of because we've arrived here - a moment of celebration - and the rest is sand in the wind. You can feel the future like the sun radiating through black out curtains and it warms your face. You'll have tears on your face as you've never been so happy to be alive. **(Lucas Benford)**



Eight years from now I can see myself doing what I went to school for, and that's social work. I'm pretty sure my day would start with waking my two youngest up, getting them to school, and getting myself ready for a day's work. I get them off to school and go to the school I will be working at. I could also be working out in the community with students, I haven't really decided yet. I would make the best of my day and make sure that every decision that I am making is ensuring that every student's needs are being met. After the workday is done, then it is being a mother to my own kids, cooking and getting us ready for the next day. **(Tanisha Milligan)**



Eight years from now my goal is to have my undergrad degree and be finished with medical school,

just finishing my residency. My daughter will be 11, in middle school. I will take her to and from school on my way to my Dermatology residency. We would cook breakfast together as a family. I would see my grandsons while helping my son through college. As a hobby, I would join a gun range club to teach others about gun safety. I will be running a foundation “each one, teach one” for single fathers to help with jobs, housing, food, transportation, education, and even legal aid. I will own my own home and have other homes/apartment buildings for fathers and young troubled youth, with an art/music studio in the middle. The Chazen Museum gave me inspiration for it. **(Isiah Pickett)**



In eight years, I hope I will improve my health as I am doing a fitness journey and learning this new curveball of eating healthy. By then, I will have my certificate as an optometric technician and maybe will be pursuing more

schooling to become an optometrist or to go into a financial field. By then, my daughter will be a young lady of 15 in high school and learning to drive. Thinking about that makes me emotional! My son will be 32, and I hope he will be pursuing something he’s passionate about. In eight years, I hope to be living in a house, traveling, and taking dance classes. **(Rosanna Lopez)**



Good morning, Papa, plus as I say every morning, it’s time to get ready for school. As I glance to ensure they actually get up, because they’re sleepy heads, I head downstairs to a huge beautiful kitchen and start preparing breakfast and lunch bags for my husband



and children. We sit and eat, and my husband kisses me goodbye. I load all the kids up in my 2032 jeep, kiss them all goodbye, and tell them to be good and listen and have a great day. I then head back and clean, get dressed, go check on my business, and do some errands. Then I head home to prepare dinner, go and pick the kids up from school as they sing our favorite songs, and hear them tell me about their day. They run into the house, dropping their

backpacks on the floor in the walkway, and I yell to them to come pick them up. I let them run around the house and play, and make a mess.

While I cook dinner, my husband’s come home just in time. We sit and pray and eat. I make them all take turns getting in the fun. We do the work, clean up the mess they made earlier, and make them go to bed. Then I go to my husband and talk, plan, and prepare for whatever may come our way and relax and watch tv and enjoy our night. **(Mikaylah Harris)**



Eight years from now I see myself happily married and wealthy with a big family traveling the world with five or more kids. I am a nurse, owning some of the best well-managed and operated healthcare facilities in Wisconsin

and a homeowner and landlord owning several properties, living in a mansion with large windows and a big backyard. I see myself being in a position to put others in motion and lead them in the right direction.

On a typical day I would give back to the community, giving second chances to those who go through trials that they feel like they can’t beat the odds against or can’t seem to get another chance at life with. Nevertheless, I would like to build and own a safe house for troubled children with lack of support, free of charge with several opportunities and support groups for them to utilize and get their life together, or keep it together. **(Fataeshia Clark)**



As I open the shades of my eight-bedroom house, the sun shines in, illuminating a glow from my white comforter, which lies on my king-size bed. I stand, overlooking the California hills. The poetic blue sky inspires me to pray, so I close my eyes. “Thank you, Jesus,” I say to myself, then open my eyes. A sense of gratefulness falls heavy on my heart. I begin to think of my children with all their success—being graduates from college, married, and running their own businesses. A smile forms as I open my eyes from a slight prayer of gratitude.

A video call comes through my room T.V. It’s my scheduling manager, proposing another speaking engagement I’m offered. While he talks about how many people are looking to attend, I think how many souls will be saved. “What an honor,” I say as I stroll to my kitchen. The glance of my wife brings an inner joy to heart just as strong as when we first met. I gently kiss her on her forehead while she pours me a cup of my favorite Columbian black coffee. What a privilege I have to make a living off of helping those in need.

My program *Boyz to Kingz* has officially progressed in five inner cities now. We are supporting young men in Chicago, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland, Los Angeles, California, Madison, Wisconsin, and Dallas, Texas. With talks now of southern Florida and Georgia, I can see this in every city in the world. My

phone rings. It’s my granddaughter, Zonija. I can see she loves her new phone I just bought her. I laugh to myself saying, I’ve come along way, thanks to the Lord above. **(Vernell Cauley)**



Today I woke up feeling blessed. The sun’s shining on my face and the birds are chirping by the window as I stretch my body. I raise my hands high above my head with a big smile while I thank the man above for my life. It is

March 8th, 2032. I am 56 years old and semi-retired. I am happy that I have raised the last of my seven children. Coffee brewing, music playing, I shower for the day. I get dressed and go to the kitchen to make everyone’s favorite breakfast of pancakes, eggs, grits, bacon, sausages, and fried potatoes. We have our morning prayer before we eat.

All my bags are packed for our family annual road trip. This year we are RVing to North Carolina in the Great Smokey Mountains. It will be all seven of my kids (and I must keep telling myself they aren’t kids anymore!) and my twin granddaughters. We are all so grateful for the time spent together. This family trip will be the greatest vacation of all vacations. God has been so good to me with guiding my strength to publish my autobiography in hopes to touch others and have others relate to my book. We are all packed in the RV, so it’s time to roll out and make more memories! **(Aleesha Flowers)**



Waking up and jumping out of my Purple bed (that’s the name brand because I always wanted one), I jump into my house shoes with the nice fur in the inside, putting on my house robe. It’s the one with my name on it because we all need one of those. Then I make my way to my Keurig. Those are nice, too. Making my way to the porch as the sun shines, I’m smelling the crisp air as I pick up my newspaper. “They still do that at this time!” lol. After reading the sports section, I look at my beautiful wife as she makes breakfast, now that she doesn’t let me after my cholesterol went up. **(Terance Nix)**



Eight years from now I hope my life is as content as having a date with a book and a cup of tea relaxing on a Sunday afternoon. I've decided I want to enter into the medical industry because there's always a need for a medical

worker. I plan on maintaining a reliable source of income throughout my life while giving my personal interests the same love and care. Once I'm finished with my education goals, I plan to attend a cosmetology school to gain those skills. By that time, I'm hoping to sell clothes I sew personally myself and offer hair services as well while still maintaining a medical career.

Eight years from now I hope I'm in a position to keep my family traditions together. I want to be able to pay to bring all my family together how I experienced growing up with my great grandparents. I want my little cousins to experience the family bonding I did as a kid. **(Synquar Harston)**



Eight years from now I envision myself being the best version of me, living a healthy, happy, God-loving life with my 13-year-old son going to his games, getting him ready for his school dances.

I'm just enjoying being his mother and watching him grow into a smart, caring, loving young man. Now I can smell the freshly baked cupcakes coming out of the oven. I can hear the mixer machine turning now full to the rim with banana pudding. I can hear the music playing in the background as the rest of my employees walk in with the biggest smiles on their faces, jamming



along, ready to sell out another day!
(Shanigel Goodwan)



In March 2032, powered with my MBA diploma and all my experience, I run my successful carrier business with tact and passion. I have a better life condition. For example, I have true financial freedom with investment

in stocks and real estate, and a good savings for college tuition for my smart, caring boys. Also, I have saved a firm-starting fund for my smart, wise daughter and her husband. She became a lawyer after her PhD degree.

Currently, my life is rich. I have my foundation and farm up and running. My foundation helps people worldwide, from basic needs to life improvement, such as access to potable water, food, health care, decent housing, adequate education, and appropriate funding for entrepreneurship, etc. My farm grows organic food like vegetables, fruits, wheat, beans, etc., and breeds animals like cows, sheep, horses, chicken and more. In addition, I have now reached inner peace, the spiritual and physical betterment I strived for— a better understanding of my religion, a better connection with my Rabb. Furthermore, I am more active physically—more willing and available for my family and friends.

I have become a busy philanthropist and wise, successful African American businessman. I wake up at 4 in the morning, and the first thing I do is to connect with my Rabb—I perform my ablutions and pray, and then I read the Holy Quran for 30 min. The second thing is to exercise— I go for a thirty-minute run, and I stretch for fifty minutes. After a cold shower, I review my schedule, pay my bills that need to be paid, and check the news while having some hot green tea with a couple of dried dates. The next thing I do is to show love and gratitude— I spend time with my lovely family, conversing nicely, showing love and support to each other. I also help prepare breakfast and with certain tasks like washing dishes or laundry.

By 7:30 a.m. I am the first to arrive at my company. I like to start early before the arrival of my

collaborators, so I have time to check the latest updates and stay on top of things. I make sure everything is working smoothly— making decisions after consulting with my staff— having meetings, setting new goals, and readjusting old goals if needed. I also spend a couple of hours working on my foundation and checking on my farm activities via cameras. Also, I make sure everyone has what they need to do their job. Moreover, I make sure the work environment is safe and pleasant for everyone.

At noon I take a break to have lunch and to connect with my family back home, and once more I check the news before I go for a walk in the closest park. When I get back, I stay in the office and work until 5:30 p.m. I stay a little longer than everyone else when I do not have a business dinner or a meeting somewhere else. This allows me to set up everything for the next day.

After the office, I go back home to meet with my family and have dinner by 6:15 p.m. It is one of the most relaxing and joyful times of the day. It is a special moment because of our reunion and the sentiment of satisfaction after a productive day. We catch up with each other by listening to how everyone's day went—sharing ideas, advice, and planning together. By 7 p.m. I check the news before going to the mosque for the last of the five prayers of the day. When I get back, I read one of the instructive books from our family library, and then my day ends past 9 p.m when I go to bed.
(Souleymane Nikiema)



Dear Diary, Today was one of those unexpectedly warm days in March, pleasant enough by early morning that I was able to take my greyhound Evelyn out for an extra-long walk. Mornings remain sacred to me and my sobriety, as I am still in awe of my eight years clean from drugs and alcohol. This afternoon, I went to Hilldale and splurged on well put together ensembles for my... book tour! My memoir, *The Power of a Shower*,

has been a developing dream of mine since middle school. To be 40, my feet firmly planted in my essence and at peace with my past, I cannot come up with words to describe the joy of this moment. I practice gratitude every day, and it keeps me young.

This book is for the outcast. It's a glimpse of what it feels like to be invisible, for the young person living in a broken home. I felt like no one was listening to my quiet cries for help as a child, and so much of what I was suffering from was related to mental illness and trauma. I wrote this book because it offers solutions and awareness. Funny enough, I have found when it comes to conquering bouts of depression, there is holy ground found in the power of a shower. I leave for my tour tomorrow, and I can only pray that my presence and story help just one person choose to keep fighting whatever battle they perceive to be losing. **(Giana Mason)**



In eight years I'll be 31 years old, my daughter will be 12, and my son will be 9 years old. I hope to be married and living in something that I can call my own and potentially own! I would like to have at least two degrees under my belt for social sciences and have a career in either domestic abuse intervention services or alcohol and substance abuse services. I want to travel around the world with my kids and partner and create memories that we can look back on together. I want to be the person who throws all the family events

and brings everybody together. I could also see myself doing public speaking on various topics because it's something I enjoy doing.

It's hard to think about the future when there's so much going on right now. Most of all, I would like to just be happy and healthy mentally and physically as well as emotionally. I want to stay an involved parent and show up for my kids any way possible that I can. **(Mekicia Davis)**





I am accepting the Community Impact award for opening "The Rock House" in 2026 to focus on giving a healthy start to young men

experiencing mental issues, substance addiction, reentering back into society, and homelessness. We have helped change over 200 young men's view on life! The staff consists of mental health and trauma therapists, counselors for substance abuse, and case managers along with peer specialists and older guys to tell their stories.



control of myself and be the best person that I can be in any situation. I pray to God to continue to guide me to always treat others with love and respect, and most of all, treat others the way I want to be treated. I ask God to allow me to listen so I can

hear him and recognize what he wants me to do and how he wants me to be so that I can be great!

As I approach the rotunda of the Capitol wearing a light blue suit, white shirt, and sky-blue tie, I look up and see my parents. My mom with all white gown and my dad in his black tuxedo smile down on me. They were there all the time. **(Ron Watson)**



Eight years from now, I pray to still be alive and in good health, continuing to spread the word and love of God. I look forward to enjoying family, friends, and loved ones. I also pray to have my degree in funeral home directing as well

as having a growing, successful family business as a funeral home owner.

Sometimes I feel as I have reached my goals and dreams because I feel that if God still got me here on Earth, I'm winning. God has brought me through many hurricanes. If nothing else that I do in life, I want to serve and continue to stay healthy. I feel I have won and have achieved the basic and simple things out of life. I'm satisfied and grateful to have what I need.

The eagerness and ambition inside of me, wants me to fulfill my soul by continuing to push me forward. **(Kimberly Rodgers)**



Eight years from now, my daughter will be 11 years old and my son will be 13, a very tough pill to swallow when I think about it. Myself, I will be 36. I see myself in a way better situation—clean name, better credit, overall putting my kids in a better position to win. I see myself up. Over the past couple of years, I have struggled a lot in every aspect. I have grown so much. I know I can and will have myself in whatever position I want to be in.

A typical day for me is waking up, giving gratitude to God, praying to God to give me that great spirit and attitude that I need to get up to go help others, understand what God wants me to do, and understand the kindness he wants me to be. I pray to God to start my day with focus and help me make healthy choices, mentally and physically, so that I can get through a day. After I'm awake, I get my clothes out, or already have them prepared the night before, depending how tired I am.

I set up all my personal items, get my iPhone, and turn to the music of my choice, including spiritual and relaxation music. I get into the shower, and I wake up. I turn off the music and I pray to God to give me the best personality, the best attitude, the best disposition. I ask God to remind me to stay in

I see myself as the ultimate entrepreneur because I can do anything I put my mind to. I would really like to be a real estate agent and enjoying the life that I desire, not society's. My kids will be spoiled, but they will also understand and be grateful. I see my kids having a better life and being put into a better position due to me doing what I have to do.

(Rodney Poe Jr.)



March 2032, I am alive and well. Anxiety gone. I can breathe again. Anijah and Dre'Jean are 26. Dae'Vion-24, True-17, Rae'sel-15, Sincere-12, and A'Nadiyah-11. All my babies are striving and living happily. My oldest kids are busy,

successful, and happy. The "Little Kids" aren't so little anymore. They are all growing beautifully and finding out more about themselves every day.

Beautiful morning here. As I slowly open my eyes, I can smell the bright, fragrant, sweet smell of my coffee. True sure knows how much I love to wake up to coffee. As I walk downstairs in my newly purchased four-bedroom house, I can't be anything but thankful. It's been a long road to get here, but I made it.

I open up my back patio to big, beautiful, snow-topped mountains. It reminds me of back home. Can you guess where I am? Colorado! I happily accepted a job at a middle school. I am an advocate for the homeless children. We provide transportation and other necessities for children who are homeless—stuff like gas cards, help with clothing, stable jobs for parents, housing, mentorship for the children.

After helping the kids, I come home to my children. I make them their favorite dinner, nachos. As we sit around my big glass table and discuss our busy days with each other, my heart is beyond full. Some things might change, but being there with my kids will always be my favorite. My kids are still my #1 priority, still my biggest blessing, and still the thing I will bring up time and time again because my kids will always be that favorite thing to talk about. **(Amanda Von Behren)**



I can't say where I'll be in eight years because only God knows the outcome of my life, so I will leave that in His hands, but I can tell you where I want to be. I always wanted to become a wife, a mother of three, and the best lawyer

anyone could ever hire. I dream of me and my little family in a big house without the white picket fence (those households never last). I want a not so perfect household. I want my kids to have toys everywhere

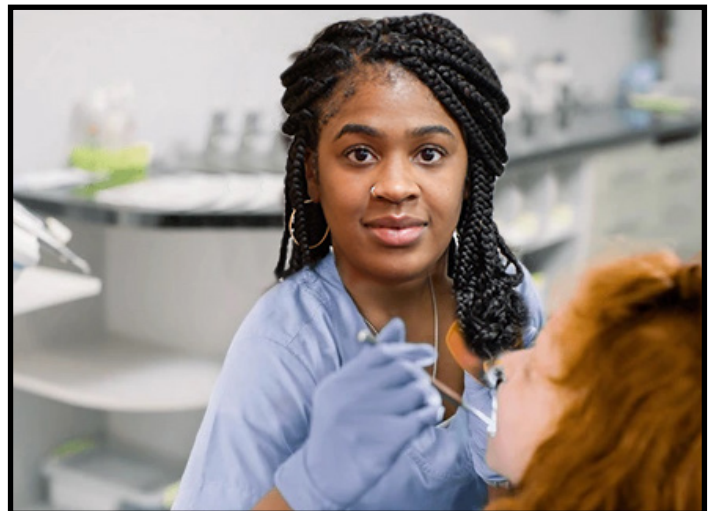
to the point I'm screaming for them to pick every single one up. I want them to write on my walls and break things so that my husband can fix them. I want to go to every concert and event that is important to them. I never had that when I became a mother. My daughter is top notch when it comes to being clean, and I never had to yell at her when it was time to pick up her things.

I want good chaos when it comes to my little family, but most of all I want to pray for and with my children. I want to sit at the dinner table to talk and laugh about all that happened to them on that day, good or bad. I just want to be out of the way and in good grace. That's where I want to be in life in eight years. Plus, I love children. **(Marcy Tibbs)**



Eight years from now I imagine myself married to a successful black man, with two more children, a girl and a boy, so that I have two daughters and one son. I will have my own dental practice, hopefully at more than one location. I will be

a dentist at both offices alternating locations each day of the week. I will have a five-bedroom home on a large piece of land. My children will have their own rooms and I'll have an additional room for me to paint in. It will have a gated backyard with a pool, a garden, a basketball court, and lots of green space. My house will hold all the family gatherings. Eight years from now I imagine myself happy with the small things in life. Doing what I love with the small things in life. Doing what I love with my happy family and financial comfort. **(Mia Cannon)**





In March 2032, I will have turned the big 50 in January. A typical day would be getting my 16-year-old son Ashtyn up for school and making him a loving breakfast, since most days it's just me and him. Then I would set off to work

where I own my own behavioral care company, making sure my employees and clients have everything they need. I would call and check up on my older kids and make arrangements to take my grandchildren to the park or museum after school. I would probably get my hair done, do a little shopping before it gets dark, and check on my beautiful garden in the backyard of the house that my son who plays for the NFL bought me. I would fix a great dinner for Ashtyn and me and have a relaxed evening at home. **(Endia Walls)**



In eight years, I will be almost 39 years old. My goal is to be at a consistent healthy weight for myself (because it fluctuates too much now). Working out and playing sports have been a part of my life thus far, so I will continue

to do those things and will introduce my kids as well. A typical day will start and end with family time: convos with my kids and partner about our goals and visions for the present and future. **(Carissa Andrews)**



This question can be difficult to answer. The way I see myself in eight years ahead of now is not something I often think about. To tell the truth, it scares me a little. Thinking about my future is scary and fascinating at the same

time: The world is changing so quickly that it is very difficult to predict exactly where I will be in eight years. On one hand, I have a lot of plans and goals that I wish to accomplish; on the other hand, I have a fear of choosing the wrong path or not achieving everything I have planned.

Therefore, I decided for myself that I would use the following rules in order to live the most successful and balanced life. Of course, I am sure that my

career will be successful, but in what direction it will go I cannot predict it. I do trust life. I know that I can never give up on my goals, which I need to achieve no matter how hard the situations are. What I am certain of is that if God gives me the opportunity to continue to go on, I will make the most of my years and put all of my effort into becoming a successful, happy woman. I have to make myself capable enough to take good care of my family and myself.

Another one of my wishes is to be able to build a beautiful house with five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, two living rooms, a nice big backyard, and a basketball hoop in the front of the house. I want to upgrade myself in a way that I have no grudges or competition with others. I want to concentrate on making myself a strong-willed and calm person who is not affected by the actions of others.

Over the next few years, I will try to fulfill all my plans with all my strength. I will not leave any opportunity which proves to be a hallway to the completion of my goals. As any other person, I also want to change happiness and success for myself as well as for my babies. Eight years from now, I hope to be stronger, more independent, and healthier and most important of all a happy woman/mother. I am aware that the only person that can get me there is myself by putting all the passion, effort, and determination I have in everything I do. I plan to continue working hard and expanding my knowledge



and skills. I believe that with dedication and hard work, I will be able to climb the ladder of success in my chosen field.

I feel the game plan starts with me, believe it or not, I know that I am my children's number one role model.

I want my children to work to fulfill their own dreams and ambitions along the way. I hope they will be kind to the older generation. What do I see for my children in the future? It's funny how one simple question can bring up so much emotion surrounding what the future holds for my babies. When you live in a time that is changing so much, it's tough to think about what their futures hold. I hope for happiness and health, for love and wellbeing. I hope that life is fair to them, that they surround themselves with people who see their worth, men/women that respect them, friends that cherish them. Eight years from now, my kids will all be grown. I never really even sat and thought about how old they will be. My youngest will be 18 years, my oldest will be 25 years: I can't even really wrap my head around that. So where I hope to see myself in eight years is as a homeowner and successful registered nurse. While the future is uncertain, I am excited to see where my journey takes me over the next eight years and beyond.

Growing up we all wanted that fairy tale ending but it NEVER hit us that it will never turn out that way. Growing up you always picture how you want your life to be, but it never hits you that it's not going to turn out that way. **(Andrea Evans)**



In eight years, I will have become a successful lawyer, known for my expertise, spunk, and little razzle dazzle I contribute in my field. I will have worked hard and overcome challenges to

become the black, beautiful, smart lawyer in the legal system. People will recognize my skills and trust me with complex cases that for sure are going to bring in a bag of money!!

Not only will I be excelling in my career, but I will also be the proud parent of two amazing, fun-loving teenagers. My children will look up to me as a role model and source of guidance, and I will be there to support and nurture their dreams. I will instill in them the values of hard work, integrity, and compassion, empowering them to become confident and successful individuals.

Despite my busy schedule as a lawyer, I will always make time for my family. I loved the way my grandma worked so hard when I was growing up, but I always hated missing out on so much time with her. I will attend my kids' school events, cheer them on in their extracurricular activities, and always make memories together. Balancing my professional achievements with quality time spent with my family will be a top priority for me. I refuse to let them grow up with everything they need but memories made with their mom.

My success as a lawyer and as a parent will not go unnoticed. Over all, my future as a successful lawyer with two teenagers will be filled with pride and joy. I will have achieved a perfect harmony between my professional accomplishments and my family life, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. **(Cierra Jackson)**



FINDING A VOICE: EDITORIAL SENTENCES

Each student wrote a persuasive piece or editorial. Then in class they were asked to imagine they only had ONE SENTENCE to deliver the major point or call to action of their editorial.

Change your diet now before you die because America's GMO/artificial food will cause long term health problems and possibly death. **(Dontaeva Acklin)**

Support children in exploring their gender identity. **(Lucas Benford)**

Equality is a door we all can walk through at the same time. **(Jasmine Benson)**



The same lyrics we glorify in our rap songs are destroying our kids' future. **(Vernell Cauley)**

Our elderly have become systematized in healthcare facilities, stripped of their dignity, and left by families who could make a change. **(Taeshia Clark)**

We need to let dads that want to be dads BE DADS! **(Danika Bethel-Johnson)**

It's easy to underestimate the power of a single mother yet mind blowing to see the strength within a single mother who is hungry for change. **(Mia Cannon)**

Let us find a way to the legislators' offices by writing to have them fight for new laws to fund funeral expenses for families at or below the poverty level! **(Aleesha Flowers)**

Rise up, take a stand, and change the city around to give all children a chance! **(Andreya Gavins)**



Do you want to be seen as you or for what you are, and do you know what it feels like to never be forgiven? **(Shanigel Goodwan)**

Lower the rent: it may not affect you now, but it soon will. **(Mikaylah Harris)**

We as individuals control how we allow our trauma to consume us, so will you consume it or will it consume you? **(Synquar Harston)**

Imagine a world where mental health was recognized/supported just as much as physical health. **(Cierra Jackson)**

I make this call to all legislators of this country to restructure the immigration laws that can give us a path to regulate our status in the United States; I have a dream that one day America will give me hope to be free of the golden cage. **(Blanca Laine)**

It is time to legalize marijuana and generate wealth into our state to help our future in education and medicine. **(Rosanna Lopez)**

Wisconsin Medicaid should cover residential substance use disorder treatment for a minimum of 90 days. **(Giana Mason)**

We need a change and we need the minimum wage higher than \$7.25. **(Tanisha Milligan)**

Whether you are an African American or an African immigrant, we are all Black people with the same roots, facing the same hardships, so let us be strong together as a family! **(Souleymane Nikiema)**



Weed does not kill, it heals. **(Terance Nix)**

Every family deserves a loving home that they can afford. **(Sally Phelps)**

There needs to be more support and resources for single fathers, equal to what there is for single mothers, because no matter the gender, when you're raising children the struggle is still the same on both sides. **(Isiah Pickett)**

I am praying that change is going to bring better social media for our children. **(Kimberly Rodgers)**

Death is amongst us, so we must take action so that our community will not suffer anymore loss from drug addiction. **(Marcy Tibbs)**

Lower the requirements for obtaining housing or more people will live on the street. **(Amanda Von Behren)**

Help stop homelessness not only by building new housing but also by giving people the resources to help them keep their housing. **(Endia Walls)**

No bus shelters could cause health problems for those without shelter. **(Ron Watson)**



CREATIVE METAPHORS

In earlier Oracles, students wrote metaphors about themselves and about Odysseus. In these metaphors, they created unusual comparisons.



Social Media Is Cocaine

Social media is cocaine because once you start, it becomes addicting over time.

Social media: constantly checking to see if you received likes, followers, etc.

Cocaine: constantly checking for your next high.

Social media: People will kill themselves because they are so caught up in a fake life.

Cocaine: You can overdose and die.

Social media: addicting

Cocaine: addicting

Social media: Can make you go broke trying to live a fantasy.

Cocaine: Go broke spending your money on cocaine, chasing a high. **(Dontaeve Acklin)**

An Almost 70 Degree Day in February in Wisconsin

Is like a surprise party and everyone's there:
full stomachs, glittering eyes, and all the best
sensibilities.

You would toast to such a day as beautiful and
unnatural as a snowflake glinting in summer
sun.

You would hoist each other in thrones towards the
heavens, feeling the light that warms.

You would not notice a sneaking suspicion that
plants a bitter pill in tropical punch.

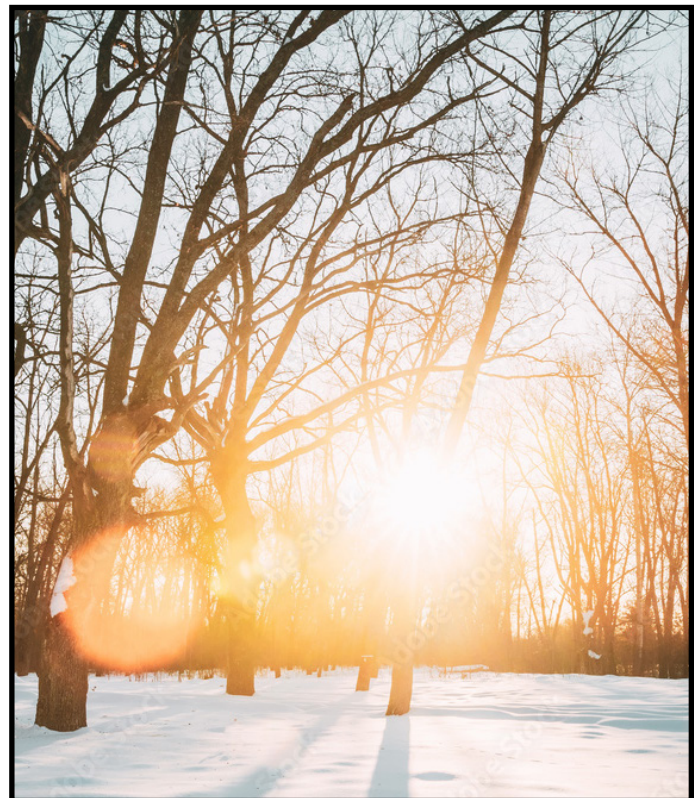
A sobering thought evaporates as quickly as the
moisture left

from a glass of the finest draft,
lifted to toast the guest of honor

hooded and mirthless. **(Lucas Benford)**

Life, it's your favorite song. Once you learn the
words, it's over and gone. The song will get played
so your memory, you hope, lives on.

(Jasmine Benson)



Sleep is a vacuum
It pulls you in and separates you from the realities of life.
Sleeping is rejuvenating.
It gives a sense of relief just as a vacuum does when you
are finished cleaning. **(Danika Bethel-Johnson)**



Jesus Is the Sun
He's Light
His Words Can Burn
There's No Darkness with Him **(Vernell Cauley)**

I am a flower
Blooming in the night wind.
I am that flower whose light never dims.
I grow as the night falls. **(Andrea Evans)**

Sleep used to be my enemy but has grown into my friend. My friend whom I cherish and makes me feel comfortable. Sleeping as little me was hard for me. No stability and always somewhere I didn't want to be. Knocking on my dreams with memories good and bad. Sleep is much needed in my life to feel the best I can be for the day ahead. I sleep like a baby and I can fall asleep at a snap of a finger. I love sleep and sleep loves me. Sleep as a child felt like punishment. Sleep as an adult is so relaxing and wonderful. Little kids, little ones, don't be so upset that you're needing a nap. You will grow up and understand that your sleep and dreams are your map! **(Aleesha Flowers)**



Cooking is an art.
You can't taste art,
But you can enjoy the substance.
(Andrea Gavins)

Love is a battlefield, with victories and scars.
(Shanigel Goodwan)

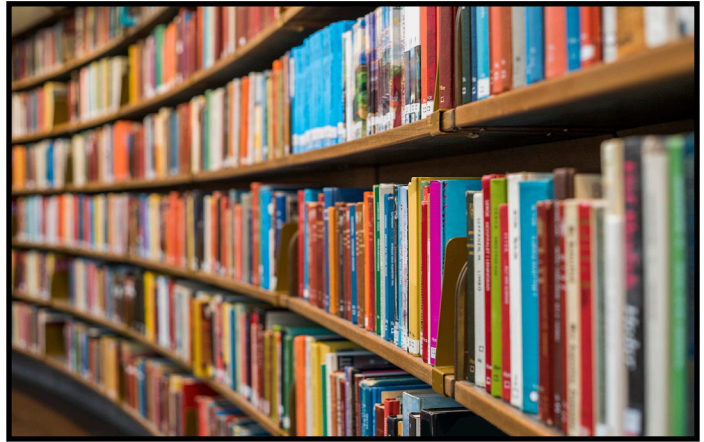
Scared is love
The fear of the unknown
Nervous and anxious
Questioning everything I know
Leaving me wondering
Like the feeling on
A wedding day. **(Mikaylah Harris)**

My thoughts are stored similar to columns of books in
a national library,
Pages, and pages of beautiful words orchestrated
to tell many stories.

Some can be completely comfortable and content while studying the foundation that makes
This library special.

And others cringe from the outside appearances,
New and old,
Long or short,
Past versus the future.

Without the pages in these books
There wouldn't be a library to fill.
Stay patient, be aware of the
Pages you're leaving
Behind to fill your
Library. **(Synquar Harston)**



Depression is a dark cloud that follows you
wherever you go, casting a shadow over even
the highest moments of your life. It's like being
trapped in a maze with no way out, where each
turn leads to deeper feelings of hopelessness
and despair. It's like carrying a heavy burden on
your shoulders, weighing you down and making
every step feel like a struggle. And yet in the midst
of it all, there is a flicker of light, a glimmer of
hope that reminds you that even in the darkest
of times, there is still a chance for light to break
through. **(Cierra Jackson)**

My mom has a heart of gold
My little sister is a night owl
My hands were icicles because of the cold weather.
(Rosanna Lopez)

Life
Life is a mystery
It has surprise
It has secrets
It has gifts too.
Life is a mystery
Today, I am enjoying life's beauty.
Tomorrow, who knows. **(Blanca Laine)**



Alcoholism is a Hum
 The draw you in love affair
 A neon sign promises
 Even the moonlight can't compete against such hues

There's a timeless collection of tangible joys
 Cracked vinyl swivel chairs
 The sheepish smile exchanged between a lover and her unrequited flame
 The dimly lit room plays peek a boo with ever growing rosy cheeks
 A dance of poison and fragility
 Clinking bottles
 Spray gun mist
 Leave your sorrows on the shoulders of strangers
 A showcase of cheers
 Laughter erupts
 From a round of spiced rum
 The bar becomes a congealed magic moment
 Connection so thick you could cut it
 This is the maddening hurt of liquid fix all
 Because songs from the past
 Sound sublimely new
 In the confines of a darkened space
 Roaring laughter
 Like a jazz ensemble pours out from the tavern windows
 Adding life and death to the pavement
 It's 2 am
 They're yelling last call
 And all I hear is a hum **(Giana Mason)**



Parenthood is a roller coaster ride
 A bunch of yelling and screaming at the top of my lungs.
 You hit bumps and turns
 But yearn to make it safely to another ride.
 Some days can be slow
 Yet other days are fast.
 Then it comes to a screeching stop
 Unleashing the day's events. **(Tanisha Milligan)**

Love is a plant.
 Like a plant, love is a true blessing, a true source of life and happiness
 Love needs to be taken care of frequently, so does a plant
 A plant needs the right nutrients to grow
 Love needs the appropriate nourishment to grow
 Love needs support, respect, and attention
 A plant needs water, compost, and sunlight

Like a plant Love needs to be kept alive
 Like a plant Love needs time and support to flourish
 Like a plant Love without any assistance is likely to die **(Souleymane Nikiema)**

Life is television.
It can be changed as fast as a blink of an eye,
Gassed by the change of thought,
Or manipulated from the words of a lie. **(Terance Nix)**

Parenthood is a thunderstorm.
If it's crying, it's wet
If it's loud, it's screaming
But the joy of a thunderstorm is a rainbow. **(Sally Phelps)**

If people were like rain,
I would be like drizzle
And they were a hurricane.
My definition of how I feel about life/love.
People's feelings to me are heavy like rain. I'm careful with
feelings –
drizzle all together, it's a hurricane. **(Isiah Pickett)**



Parenthood is a caterpillar that goes through a variety of
phases throughout life.
During my parenthood, my children helped raise me to be
the great mother I am.
Today I am still raising my children to help them become
the best parents they can be.
I realize that I am a mother, and I will always be a mother,
no matter how old my children get. **(Kimberly Rodgers)**

My heart is a caged battlefield.
Trapped and lost.
It confines all of my unexpressed emotions, and desires.
Yet, it yearns for liberation.

My heart is caged...

While my heart fights the battles
I struggle to love, and fear to engage in any eternal struggle for dominance and love.
My heart is a battlefield.
Step not on my battered heart and free me from its
own cage of battle. **(Marcy Tibbs)**

Reading is an open door to rooms that you have no
idea about. What's behind the door? Never judge a
book by its cover because you really never know until
you read it and find out for yourself. **(Endia Walls)**

Writing is building a house. Writing is hard for me
because you have to build upon what is being said.
No matter how hard I try to figure out the process,
I'm lost just as building a house! **(Ron Watson)**

