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Odyssey Oracle

Voices and Visions



Contents

Chazen Choices..... 2
Declarations of Strength..... 10
Seven-Word Poems..... 19
Metaphors..... 20
Rainbow Metaphors..... 34
Famous Rainbow Quotes..... 38





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Chazen Choices

Thanks to the Chazen Museum of Art for welcoming Odyssey back. Each student responded to one artwork.

Songbird (2003) by Alison Saar



This art piece speaks to me in a disturbing way. Reminds you of the strength of a woman and all the things women endured—not being important, not having rights, and not being able to be free. I feel like the bird represents and shows how the woman was caged or could feel caged. She's being hung upside down by foot, making me feel like it shows how women suffered vs it being instant hurt and pain. Her body is red and black speaking of blood and strength. **(Valvree Mosley)**



The Woman Dipped in Red:
Her hair long, black and unbroken
Flowing down into a cage
Where the last words she spoke sit waiting.
The world likes the truth upside down
So they tied her feed and called it art,
Dipped her in red,
Not paint, and just called it art.
This cage is not the end
It is a memory.
It holds the little girl she was
Before the rope, before everyone
Asked her to be silent and still
But no don't look away
For she is not ashamed.
She is history hanging by a thread and still here.
(Corrie Thomas)



The red, naked baby, tied up, wanting to be free. Being held hostage, Golden Bird. Looks like she's being held against her will or being lynched by her feet. Not sure if the bird means resilience or just a symbol of freedom and song. **(Crystal Lee)**

Pink Flutter by Sam Gilliam

As the sun sets on the day,

Beautiful light floats all around

Carefully moving through the night

I have never seen a light so bright.
(Abby Wilson)





The means to an end...A Shadow Drama in Five Acts by Kara Elizabeth Walker

I feel like this piece truly tells a story. Looking at the left side, you see what presumes to be a slave breastfeeding a child that looks like the slave owner's child. Then, you go to the next photo and it's a little girl who looks like she might be carried away by a wolf, but the woman she's reaching towards is busy feeding the other child. Then, it looks like there may be a lake that has slaves drowning and a woman stepping on their heads to make it across the lake to save – maybe – her daughter from being choked by the slave master. This piece of art makes me have a lot of questions and feel sad because the slaves went through so much and had to do so much just to survive! **(Ladella Wilson)**



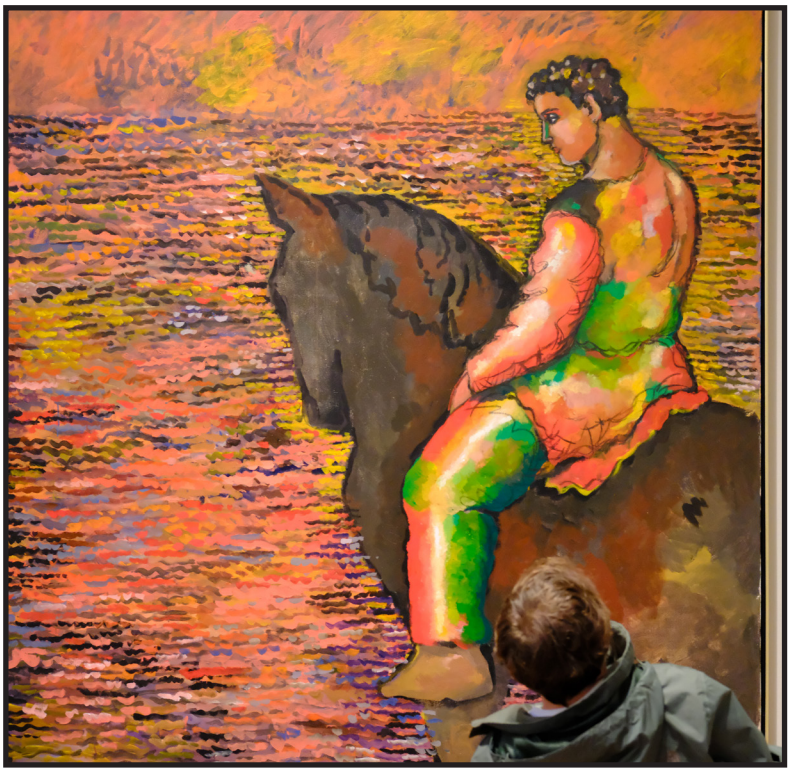
Man Balancing a Vessel with Eye by Michael Lucero (NYC)

I found this piece very unique, abstract, and colorful. The art piece has very many dynamics and faces the more you look at it. The ceramic piece is from a collection that demonstrates the relationship between physical form and storytelling. When I look at this piece, I think it's trying to express how everybody is different but we're still all human (the same). **(Mariya Lucas)**



Shard Whopper by Dante Marioni, Richard Marquis

This vase makes me think of spring. It also makes me think of a garden with fresh produce or a special vase that I might see at my grandma's or aunt's house holding beautiful flowers. **(Ashli Smith)**



Horseman in Front of the Sea
by Sandro Chia

So, when we started the tour, this painting instantly jumped out at me. I told myself to keep an open mind as we went through the tour, but as we made the full loop this was the piece that continued to draw me in. What I saw was a man who chose to be with his trusty horse (maybe to provide comfort?), as he gazed over the sea with a very deep look of reflection on his face, almost like he was trying to think through a problem as he faces the changing tides of the sea. I definitely saw a little bit of myself in The Horseman. **(Dillon Dahlk)**



Fabrice Monteiro by J. David and Laura Seefried Horsfall

She's wrapped up in plastic and her hands are tied up. She's covered in a blanket, like she's being punished for not cleaning or picking up after the children while the man sleeps. She seems unhappy. It seems unfair. No roof, and it is cold.
(Sable Wright)

The Fall of Novgorod (1891) by Klaudii Vasilievich Lebedev

Time seems to stand still, as I look around at all of the casualties and destruction. As the bitter cold pierces my cheeks all I can think is, “How do we re-build? How can we rewrite this wrong?” As the mother of this town, I have to be strong. No one can see me as weak. Although my heart has shattered, I will not let a tear run down my cheek. I will be their beacon of hope and a symbol of strength. Although we have lost, as long as we keep going, they will never win. **(Adrianne Farrow)**





Happy as Larry by Alexander Calder

Within this one picture, I can see a number of other pictures. At first glance, it looks so simple (to the standard eye), but from an artistic viewpoint, it’s much deeper than the silhouette of a bald man’s head with a terrible ear infection. With that said, I’m a bit confused, but that intrigues me more. **(Alexus McClain)**





The Proof of Awareness by Loretta Huiyang

This piece speaks volumes through its stillness. It looks as though it is a flower blooming, which can be transformed, inviting contemplation about presence and prediction. Like a butterfly from a cocoon that has transformed giving a spring-like time, giving a serene feel. **(Gloria Knight)**



Crab, Mackerel, and Morning Glory/The Fish Market by Utagawa Hiroshige

The first market comes to life at dawn, like a great morning glory, opening up.

The fish market

Emphasis or architecture with the use of straight lines and right angles. While placing emphasis on life and moving parts of the piece with circles and rounded angles

Every person depicted has a purpose. Everyone is a portrait doing their task with detail. You can see who's doing what.

Crab, Mackerel, Morning Glory

The use of dark, cool colors to represent life, healthier versions of the items

Together, they represent summer. The use of warm tones as the setting and the use of cool tones to highlight the subject.

I wonder if these are seen as the official change in the seasons. As if this is what we look for when judging nature and its life cycle.
(Dan Thomas)



The Colonnade at Versailles
by Giovanni Boldini

This Italian oil canvas reminded me of my favorite TV show: Game of Thrones. Also, the paintings in Mario 63. I feel like I could step into the Coliseum and take a breath of fresh air. In the middle, it even looks to be a dragon starting to face off bringing up a gust of wind. The clear blue skies with empty benches surrounded by bright bushes that tower over you along the red stand, maybe showcasing the aftermath of a bloody battle. It reminds me of the Dragon Pit where Tyrion was convicted of murdering Leirs after the mountain killed Tee Upper who stood for his innocence and lost his life in pursuit of justice. **(Daija Pigram)**

Dodge Custom (1982) by Arthur Gonzalez



As a butterfly, I lived,

As a butterfly, I'll go,

Through the cracks of my wrists,

And the smile that time froze,

I have lived life phenomenally,

From my head to my toes.
(Angelica Alvarez)



Past Sins by Therman Stantom

This piece stood out to me because of its simplicity. It represents how we are all like glass houses. Fragile and exposed, we can break. Inside is a strength to either stand up and accept our past "demons" and bad decisions, OR we can let others tear us down with their judgments. Fragile, yet a solid structure.

Like a house of glass, I am fragile.

One stone thrown can cause my structure to crack like bone.

All my sins were exposed and bared for the world to see.

I must accept all these imperfections and demons in me.

For if I do, I can be a strong structure too. **(Vanessa Martinez)**

Spoken Word (1992) by Ed Paschke

Man kneeling before AI, as well as the man kneeling and entering the program, commands into the Hardware of the AI. The man is also casting a shadow. Either the man has very long arms, or when a person stoops our arms are able to reach our feet in that matter. The AI has lipstick on, hence it may be considered a woman-like program, such as the Siris or the Alexa models. **(Timothy Comer)**





Adoration of the Shepherds by Giorgio Vasari

Seeing how grand this piece is and the room it is in even makes me feel a strange curiosity and anxiety because of the broadness and impact of religion itself. Religion and the overall hand-over of the mind to a fictional figure is what causes much societal shame and hate based on any disagreements of another person's beliefs. All religions have blame for someone has believed wrongdoings assigning such behaviors to demons or the temptation of demons. The painting itself has three angels watching over who I imagine is Jesus who has all of this power been given to one person and followed for centuries. **(Brianna Español)**

Day-Summer by Aaron Bohrod

To me, this photo looks like somebody's view out of their window. It's beautiful. The water and the sky look pretty. Even time, slow traffic looks pretty, and it reminds me of San Diego. It looks like a long flower right under the window. Makes me happy. **(Lailaini Reed)**



Montenegro II, from the Brazilian Series by Frank Stella



Very abstract. This piece is so beautiful to me, yet confusing because I'm wondering, Is it paper planes, or artwork for an elementary student? Just a show of what colors can be. It's very precise with the edges and creases. It comes across as very 3-D. I would put this in a school. It seems like you can learn so much from it. It's very attention-getting.

Blue, Brown, Beige, Orange, Lavender, turquoise, purple, green, Grey, yellow, white, and silver Maybe these are feelings of The artist. The feeling starts off small but gets bigger.
(Tiffany Brenston)



La Alberca (2005)
by James Casebere

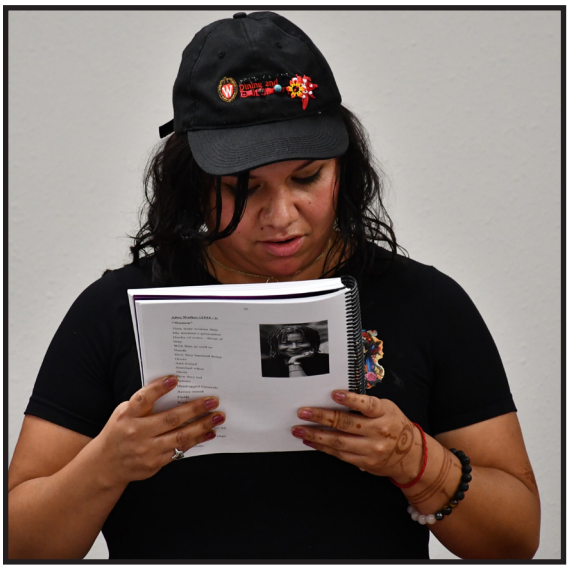
I see the dark cave where the slaves couldn't see the light. They face the dark part of the cave, only seeing shadows in front of them and above them. The only light shining in is through a dark cloud. The slaves are facing the dark, dreaded side of the cave, not able to turn around. You can see the shadows up above behind the trees.
(Sable Wright)

This painting gives off a pool of peace: blue water and a blue atmosphere. Great place to clear your mind and unwind from a long day. Nothing can stand in your way in the coming days. **(Jamal Jackson)**

Declarations of Strength

After reading William Henley's "Invictus" and Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman," students wrote their own poems or mini-essays of strength in the face of adversity.

Pause and Pray



Sitting still never worked.
My soul in pain, and my spirit burnt.
No release.
No escape.
"One day at a time" restored my faith.
Pleasant words and worldly knowledge.
AA, NA meetings keep me balanced.
The strength of words,
Cut deep like knives,
Yet heal the wounds, like midnight skies.
What a gift.
Such is life.
To pause and pray, and honor mine.
I am woman, a wondering wonder.
I pause and pray when it starts to thunder.
Pausa y reza, para sentir complete. **(Angelica Alvarez Valenciano)**

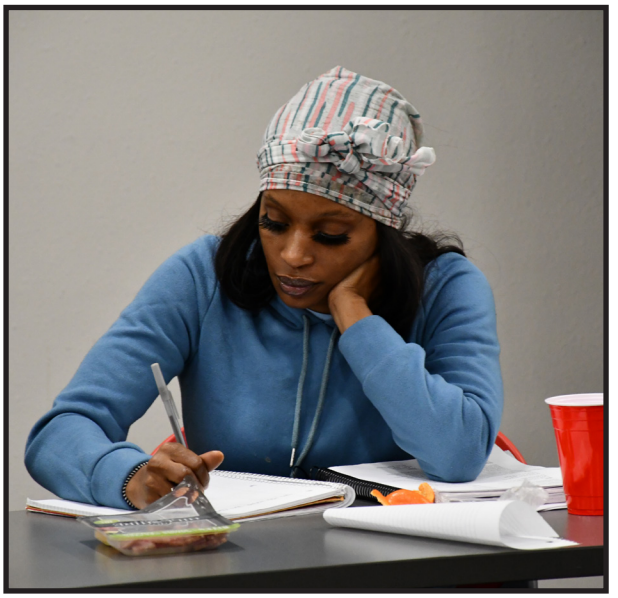


When I need to think about strength, I think of my nieces and nephews.
My nieces were born when I was seven years old,
Built-in best friends.
I always played with them; I am Aunt Kyky.
They are all my world. I have been through so much in life without having support from my family, and I need for my nieces and nephews to know that Kyky will always be there for them.
I do everything for them. When I want to give up, I think of my nieces and nephews.
I do it all for them. **(Kyianna Baker)**



Overcoming Obstacles

I don't walk with my head hung low.
I don't grovel at the feet of many.
My strength has come from a place of brokenness, cowardice, resilience, and all-around growth.
That's the high talk, inspirational talk.
I been giving myself pep talks and praising myself for making it through and overcoming obstacles.
Some tiny, some large. I have so much grit in me.
I don't walk with my head hung low.
I don't grovel at the feet of many.
I'm unique. **(Tiffany Brenston)**



When I'm feeling overwhelmed, I think of my son depending on me and my mom who relies on me heavily. That there gives me motivation to keep going and stay positive. I have been learning that the tongue is very powerful as well as the mind, so it's very important to feed yourself with good thoughts and actions.

Every day I look at my son and see a pure loving boy who I want to keep happy and pure.

Also my mother relying on me is very important. She did her very best raising me, and now it's my turn to take care of her.

I hope you all see a little insight on my motivation and wanting to keep going. **(Eleanor Ceaser)**

The Tinman

Crumbled up in a pile of metallic alloys,
Mental health sparks, disability too bright to ignore.
Engulfed in the dark cloud of struggle,
Yet he is extraordinary aluminum foil.

In search of the wizard, where there's a will there's a way.
Capturing visionary droplets smothered in oil, this man of tin hopes for a brighter day
Battle-tested chronic health conditions, does he have the heart?
Perseverance and determination,
it was in place from the start.



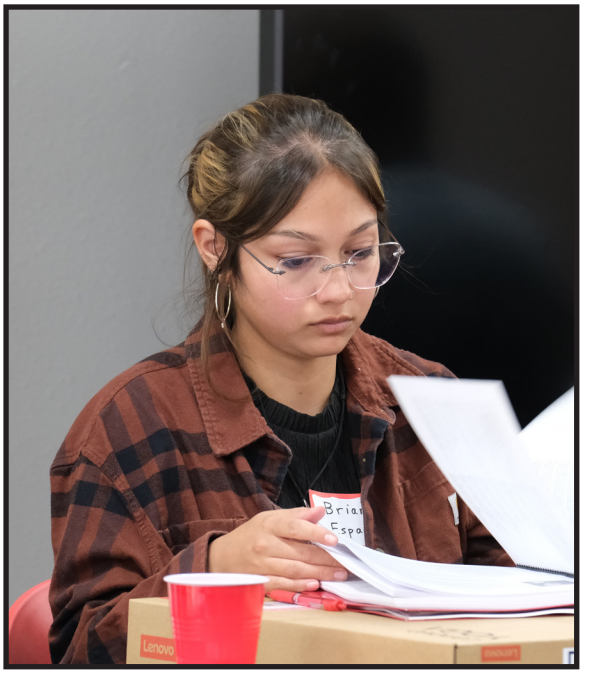
On and on, clank, clank,
down the golden-paved brick road.
He isn't getting any younger, time has it,
his days are getting old.
Obstacles are glaring, challenges are bold,
His heart is truth and confidence,
so the story's been told.

Finish line in sight, wizard's door is near,
Stumbling, bumbling, fumbling, roadway shouts out fear.
Rustling through, rusted dent in tin,
Slippery slopes, nope, will not be my end.
The Tinman, I am he; indeed, he is me!
My expression; my face; the theme is glee.
Any obstacles in my way would come from me,
Slide the oil on my heart, I am free!
(Timothy Comer)

The Woman I'm Looking For



My story is untold
But heard by many
I'm a woman of strength and dignity
Through my past experience I've developed a
resilience to trauma and cruelty
I'm constantly looking for a woman who's not there
I'm always up for the challenge,
even when sometimes I don't want to be
I work even harder so that my emotions
don't get the best of me
While teaching my family to keep going
in their pursuit of destiny
There are times I feel weak,
there are times I am strong
Both times I go through the obstacles and push on
I learn from my failures
I celebrate my wins, big and small
My support
My role model
My positive mindset
My self-care
My well being
My growth
My peace
I am the woman who was not there
I am the woman I thought I'd never see
(Gela Docks)



I Summon Thee

I summon thee out of the night that shades me

I summon thee out of the intentional sabotage of others' corrosive humanity

I summon thee out of explosive reaction

I summon thee when I feel my soul's retraction

I summon thee when my chest burns like scorching coals

I summon thee when I grieve

I summon thee when they leave
and there is no one left but us two

I summon thee

Strength is my deity. **(Brianna Español)**

Unapologetically Me

There's a lot that I am
There's a lot that I want to be
This is real life, no pause, no delete
I have failed so that I could learn to succeed

I have been put at the end of line
So that I could learn to lead
I have learned there's no shame in falling
As long as you get back up and continue daring greatly



So with self-assurance
I'll hold my head high
And speak to the masses with glee
Telling them a story from my past
About a different version of me

How I overdosed and almost died
But a voice inside said open your eyes and breathe
I was humbled, and started trusting
Laying everything at his feet

I stopped saying and started doing
It's the actions of vulnerability and accountability for me
So now all I see is light
And the source of it, is me

Now I take pride in my talents
I cater to what Adrianne needs
It's the praying, the coping,
the standing even when I'm weak
It's my focus and my drive
As well as being a mother to my seed

So I look in the mirror
Eyes opened to see
Air in my lungs to breathe
These simple things almost lost to me
I'm here, I'm alive, I'm unapologetically me
(Adrianne Farrow)



When my life is hard
And I have no one to talk to,
I am so grateful to see my children.
When life seems like nothing will be great
I talk to my daughter and she gives me strength.

When my life is hard
And all I want to do is cry,
I thank God I can call my mom
And she will solve it all.

When my life is hard
And I need some positivity in my life,
I go back to old pictures when love was real and it was no big deal.

When my life is hard
And I feel like my life is beating me down,
I look at where I am now.

When my life gets better. **(Crystal Lee)**

Strength of my ancestors, be with me.
I hold on to the strength to be indestructible.
I am strong-willed and resilient.
I am not limited by barriers
For I am committed to breaking my imaginary barriers.
Brave enough to make it,
Firm enough to be moved beyond my limitations,
I am the strength of my ancestors.
(Alfusainey Manjang)





My soul is as deep as an ocean.
Like the deep shades of blue waters,
so I show emotion.
I'm quiet like a starry night.
With these broken wings, I'll take flight.
My journey in this life has been long.
Through all the turmoil and distress, I stay strong.
Like a tsunami is my pain.
In the end I know I will sustain.
(Vanessa Martinez)

In the shadows of my gloomy heights, I stand with storms raging fierce. I clutch the land. Though obstacles loom like giants in my way, I summon my strength and will not break. I will not sway. Each setback is a lesson carved in stone. With every bruise my resolution has grown. The whispers of doubt might beckon and call, but deep down inside I hear my strength like an echo when it calls. I'll rise like the dawn, with fierce and blazing light like the sun. Fighting through the darkness I'll reclaim my sight. It's really bright. I embrace each challenge as it sharpens my life. With all the life in me, my courage ignites. I'll forge through the chaos, determined. I march with hope and faith as my guide through life. In the face of adversity, I will not hide. The spirit in me is fierce and alive, in battles unyielding. Here I will thrive, so bring on the trials. I'm ready to fight. I am relentless. I am the beacon of my own light to stay lit and keep on pushing it. **(Valvree Mosley)**





I find strength in the thought of embarrassment/ failing, not wanting to be pitied or laughed at or judged. I sit in it, let it pass, and try not to be overwhelmed by self-doubt. Usually after a day I get over it. **(Daija Pigram)**

Patience is everything
When you are triggered.
Patience
When you want things to be great
Patience
When you're feeling discouraged
Patience
When you achieve,
Enjoy it patiently
(Lailaini Reed)





UNSHAKEN

They say the path would break me,
The storms would have their way.
But I was not built to wither
I was not made to be burned out

My steps ignite the ground,
I am the flame you see all around,
I rise not just for glory,
But because I won't stay down.

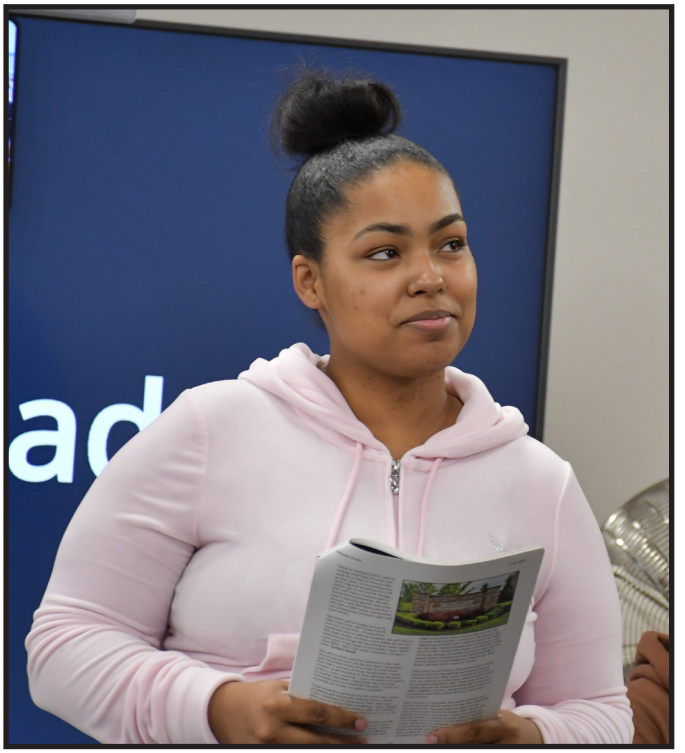
You won't see me in the spotlight
Or hear my name in cheers
But I wage quiet battles daily,
And I've wrestled down my fears.

So when the world grows narrow
And the nights feel long and rough
I'll square my shoulders boldly
Because I AM ENOUGH
(Corrie Thomas)

Magnet of the Magnate



The ability to read the room is a double-edged sword.
It is imperative to navigate that space with grace and aplomb, as not needlessly to injure yourself.
Knowledge of self is the greatest map in a tactician's arsenal.
You are your best friend, and worst enemy. You are the usurper you fear.
It is important to make amends with yourself. If only for better health.
Allow empathy to carve your path of least resistance.
As altruism corrupts your compass, the ego will lead you to your untimely demise.
Beware of this.
Your mind is a well that will nourish your crops.
Yet faulty irrigation will flood the kingdom, drowning its inhabitants.
Mail forged with experience, armed with a tongue forged in silver.
Make no haste with an unsheathed blade, as hatred reveals the folly of the smith.
Use love as a standard for diplomacy, but it can be the fabled Trojan Horse.
Not every gift is met with good intentions.
Life is a never-ending skirmish.
One that can't be won, but one that can be endured with ease.
Be humble.
Be wise.
Be careful. **(Dan Thomas)**



Strong mother <3

To all single mothers
It is not easy for you.
Running a family comes with no breaks.
You are strong.

To all single mothers
working full time
cooking every night
waiting for a break
you are strong.

To all single moms
look at who you would probably be without them.
I bet you're glad for your strength
Creating stability for your children is not easy
but you are strong **(Janessa Weichmann)**

When self-doubt whispers in my ear,
The fear of failure is quite near.
I feel overwhelmed, I don't know what to do,
So I sit with my thoughts and think them through.

I find my peace in a wondrous world,
Full of music that's quiet and peaceful.
I take deep breaths, slow, in and out,
And become one with the world again.

It's okay, little one.
With the support of my loved ones,
STRENGTH IS FOUND.

I rise above the fear
That once made me feel weak.
I listen, I watch, I try to understand.
My empathy and strength go hand in hand.
Even though fear is there, my heart stands tall
Because I know I am worth it all. **(Abby Wilson)**



I know that I am strong because some of the battles I have faced in life have not broken me.
Though some of those battles may have left battle wounds, the beauty within me has not been tainted.

Not every day is easy because of the battles we all face in life, but God, my husband, and children keep me pushing forward day after day. Because of them, I know I will never fail at this thing called life.

I am a strong, special, smart, and self-confident woman who will reach all of the goals that I have set for myself by any means. Sometimes we have self-doubt, but I will never let those intrusive thoughts win because I am
L oving
A dmirable
D etermined
E volving
L ogical
L oyal
A pproachable **(Ladella Wilson)**



When I was diagnosed with my heart condition, I cried in the beginning. My determination flame inside me kept me being independent. With that comes my strong faith and strength in God that gives me my power back and control of my life and health. As long as I continue to fight through my pain, my strength and energy will come.

Standing steadfast and not giving up: That's my declaration of strength. **(Sable Wright)**



Depending on the time and situation, I can either be my own best friend or my own worst enemy. Now that I'm a little older and reflect on a younger me, I can recall my signature "hard headedness" either acting as a superpower or as kryptonite. It's no secret that my hard head led to a lot of hard taught lessons, but on the flip side it was my stubborn sense of self that helped me navigate incredibly difficult times. Just like William Ernest Henley in his poem "Invictus," I find myself relying on introspection and a clear sense of self to help overcome my personal adversities.

I'll never forget the way I felt when I learned I must serve an 18-month prison sentence, all while my mom was battling lung cancer. The thought of possibly losing my mom while incarcerated haunted my thoughts of the future and pretty much hijacked any sense of wellbeing that I was clinging to. After many anxiety-filled nights lying up, I questioned myself on what I would like to come from this situation. I could either put myself through hell and constantly worry about something I had no control over, or I could channel this energy into something productive and return to my friends and family as the best version of myself possible. I had to remind myself who I really was, regardless of the circumstance. It was these dark nights filled with reflection which allowed me to get in touch with who I knew myself to be, which ultimately led to me getting enrolled in school after almost 10 years. Then I got involved with the Odyssey Project, one of the best decisions I've ever made. **(Dillon Dahlk)**

Seven-Word Poems

In "A Little Lyric of Great Importance," Langston Hughes wrote, "I wish the rent / Was heaven sent." That's the whole poem! Here are seven-word poems from the Class of 2025.



To be happy is to be free. **(Kyianna Baker)**

I am a believer
I have perseverance **(Quanna Caffey)**

I wish peace love money freedom life. **(Eleanor Ceaser)**

I, myself, am left-handed. Left-handed I am. **(Timothy Comer)**

Through storm and sun, we are one. **(Dillon Dahlk)**

My daughter
An essence of me
Amazing! **(Gela Docks)**

Dreams bloom in the midst of doom. **(Brianna Español)**

Choose your path to the right destination. **(Adrianne Farrow)**

I wish my pockets
Wasn't full o'lint **(Jamal Jackson)**

Going to the gym is very important! **(Mariya Lucas)**

Seeking from the lord of splendor Sustenance. **(Alfusainey Manjang)**

Stand on your boundaries, never give in. **(Daija Pigram)**

Once like the sunflower facing the sunshine. **(Vanessa Martinez)**

Wishing the news wouldn't bring the blues. **(Alexus McClain)**

Time be flying and life be lifeing. **(Valvree Mosley)**

Ignorance's bliss; I wish I didn't know. **(Lailaini Reed)**

Silent stars weep while hearts ignite endlessly.
(Tiana Richmond-Lee)

We will all succeed graciously and gracefully. **(Corrie Thomas)**

The guild authorizes this hunt. Say less! **(Dan Thomas)**

I wish motherhood was cupcakes and rainbows.
(Janessa Weichmann)

Capybara floats by, chilling like a butterfly. **(Abby Wilson)**

Not having enough can be really tough. **(Ladella Wilson)**

I walked in the rain with pain. **(Sable Wright)**



Metaphors

I am an orchid full of resilience and have the ability to thrive and adapt in any environment I am thrown into. To be beautiful is visual, but to be resilient is internal. People only can see my beauty when they first encounter me, but to know what I am made of takes getting to study me. **(Gloria Knight)**



I am a flower constantly growing and evolving. Taking in nutrients from the world to become what I am meant to be. Bringing happiness to my loved ones and close friends. **(Ashli Smith)**



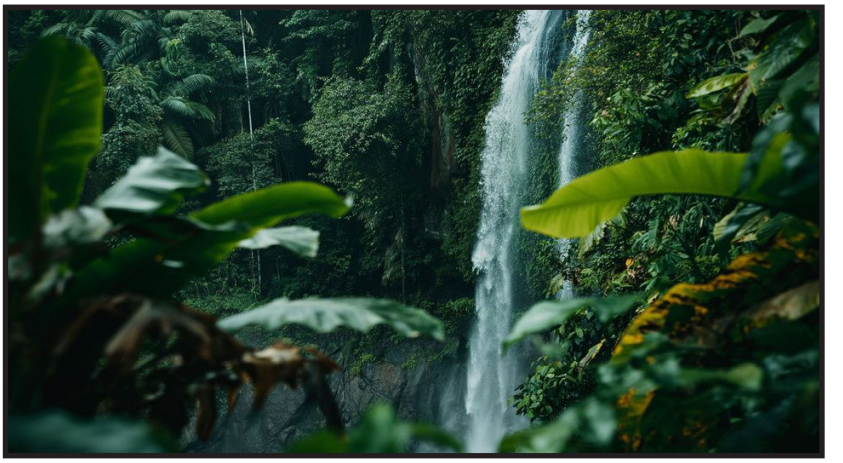
I am a sunflower bright and sunny. I stand tall with my group. I am a sunflower as sweet as can be. **(Abby Wilson)**

I am a flower in bloom,
continuously growing.

I am forever taking in knowledge like words of wisdom from your favorite elder.

I am a mixture of incomplete thoughts, which somehow makes a complete conscious picture. **(Adrianne Farrow)**

Your hair is a rainforest. Each strand is a different plant coming out of the terrain. The shower and shampoo are a monsoon. Dry hair will die and break off. Branches and trees die off and break when dry. Hair is as beautiful as the Amazon. What I eat goes into my body and hair. The elements go into vegetation. Rain forests supply O_2 and save Earth. My hair makes me so happy when healthy. Both should be valued and taken care of. **(Lailaini Reed)**





I chose to become the sun. It shines and conquers darkness. I am the sunshine that brings hope. **(Alfusainey Manjang)**

I am a sun shining on others because I help people grow. **(Crystal Lee)**



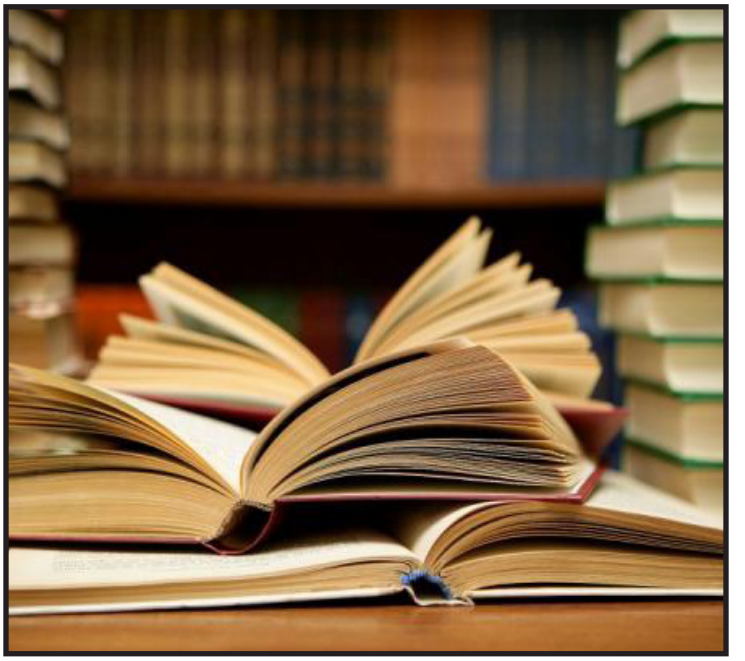
Tower
I'm rooted deep, my roots run deep.
I'm building level by level to become
A great higher source for my family and
Myself. Each level is a stepping stone to
My life and progress. **(Tiffany Brenston)**



I am a Grizzly Brown Bear. I wander through the forest breathing in the beauty at the speed of light. I am a calm, lonely, harmonious spirit but I can turn mad. I am madness in times of chaos, but graceful in moments of love. I am a Grizzly Bear, hear me roar. **(Angelica Alvarez Valenciano)**

I am a mama bear in the wild protecting her baby cubs. Keeping her cubs safe and warm. Fetching them food to stay fed. **(Janessa Weichmann)**

I am a book. I'm on chapter 25 with many blank pages ahead of me. Being 25 years old…I have gained rips and stains along the way, but I don't let those rips and stains define me because as mentioned before, there are still pages long after chapter 25. I'm not really a book, but if I was, I would use the bookmark to slow down time just a little bit. **(Alexus McClain)**

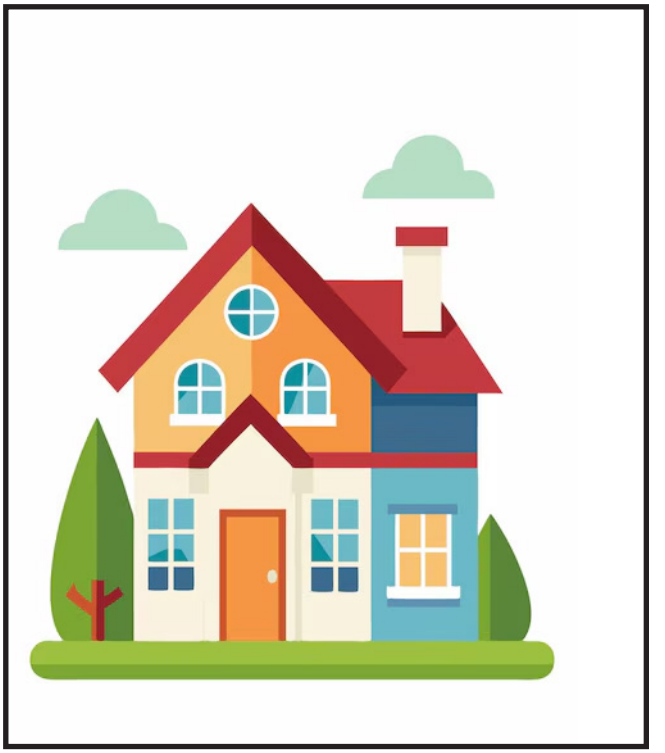


I am a book.
A book of pain of my past
Expressing the heartache and bad memories
of what I've been through.
But also a book of wisdom
of my overcoming and bright future.
I am that book of knowledge and wisdom.
I am full of history and meaningful words.
I am full of information. **(Sable Wright)**



My home
Stay away if you're not wanted,
This is my car my school my bus my safe and happy place I never leave home without it,
I lie around and stay around, know this is all mine
my circle my bubble, it's not on wheels but has many thrills, could be on flat land or on a hill.
(Jamal Jackson)

Reading is a window, opening to a world
That is beyond my own
Each page is a breeze
Carrying new ideas, perspectives, and adventures
Into my mind
(Gloria Knight)



Out at Sea with Odyssey



No land in sight to contain us
Choppy waters often sway us

How do we grow flowers without soil?
Do acid rain drops mix with oil?

Precipitation or perception?
Whose history are we protecting?

The Education System is a weapon
Boarding schools of mass destruction

No land acknowledgements to reckon
School to prison pipelines beg to beckon

What happened to the children?
Orange shirts and red handprints

Out at sea with Odyssey
Once was blind but now I see

Red, white, and blue education
Green, yellow, and red occupation

Violet liberation at sea with Odyssey
(Mickey Mestiza)

After becoming sober I found that my emotions are very powerful. They are rougher than the waves in the middle of the sea. My anger can crash and rumble louder than thunder and lightning in the midst of a storm. My sadness can consume me like a category 5 tsunami. With all that being said, I'm just grateful that I can feel. **(Adrianne Farrow)**



I am a raging storm able to adapt to any environment and overcome many obstacles. My energy is powerful. I am wind, I am light, I am water. Though my life has been chaotic, it is not what defines me because after every storm the sun shines again. **(Mariya Lucas)**

The storm was a teacher, its darkness teaching you to see better, its rain nourishing the thirsty thoughts of tomorrow, and the loud thunderous boom waking the purest form of yourself. **(Dillon Dahlk)**

Music is a rainy day
It makes me calm
It has a sound
It can be loud or soft
It fulfills my soul **(Janessa Weichmann)**





Sleep is a quiet river, gently carrying you away from the noise, pulling you into a calm, shadowed world where time flows slower and dreams drift like leaves on the water's surface.
(Tiana Richmond-Lee)

Sleep is a friend you rarely see, but when you do you feel all warm and fuzzy and happy inside.
(Abby Wilson)

I used to be putty
But now I am a backbone
I used to fold and stretch
For other people but now
I am only willing to bend
Within my convenience or comfort.
(Valvree Mosley)



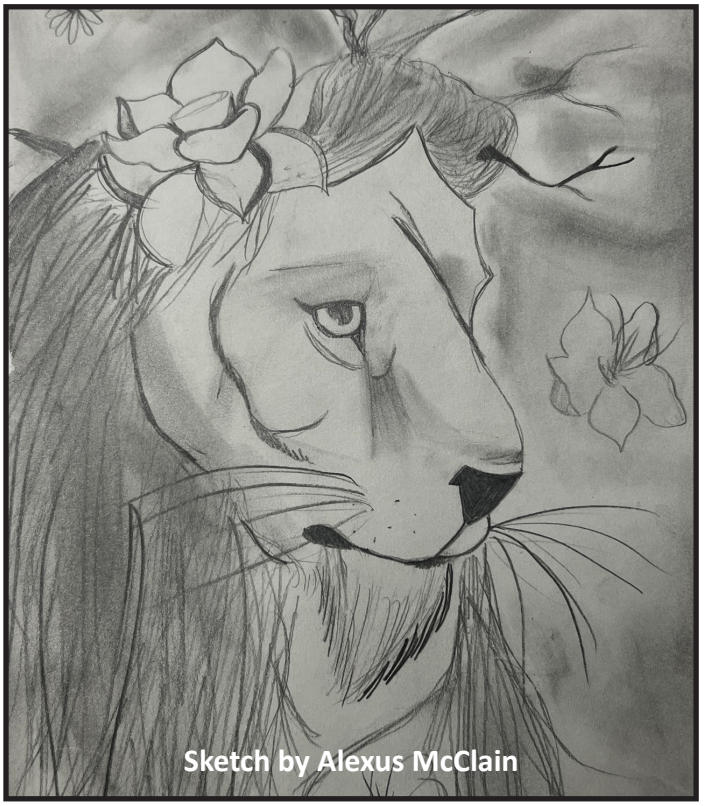


Odyssey is the door
Inside is the world
The journey is yours
Chest out, chin straight
Feet on the floor
Day by day
No need to rush
People that don't believe
Can hush
It's all up to you
Let me remind you
When it's all said and done
And you graduate
Shut the door
Behind you
(Jamal Jackson)

I am a lion. You will hear me roar. As a cub I used to be with my pack before I became a lioness. I've been wandering the jungle on my own. Trotting through bushes, getting scratches and bumps. The jungle is scary, with many predators trying to kill me. Watching my surroundings but never turning back. I am a lioness, conquering the jungle alone.
(Kyianna Baker)

I am a lioness, strong, beautiful, fearless, and willing to protect my cubs by any means. I love the wilderness and will provide and hunt for my family.
(Ladella Wilson)





Music is a big green tree, sharing its sounds as the breeze flows through the leaves. The tree's interesting soundtrack, its hardcore roots deep in the Earth's soil, while its branches are long and wide, blooming with such flair side by side. Its bark blends seamlessly into the tree's wood tones tall in the air, resoundingly good. Beauty of its form expresses such harmony, jingles the theme of the big green tree.
(Timothy Comer)

Each stroke of paint represents
a year not for the faint.
From the scratches of lead
to a colorful canvas
to be interpreted in your head.
From mistaken strokes erased
to the many challenges faced.
Although not yet framed,
in a gallery it's hanged.
I am a work of art.
(Vanessa Martinez)



Life is a butterfly emerging from a cocoon/ chrysalis. When we're younger we are sheltered in a cocoon of love and learning, helping us to slowly develop into an adult. Breaking out of our home life and entering adulthood, with our wings spread wide, we are ready to fly into the future. **(Vanessa Martinez)**



I am a butterfly, adapting to life. A butterfly so big and bright everyone stops and stares. I am a butterfly. I symbolize hope, freedom, fragility, and good fortune. I am a butterfly. **(Corrie Thomas)**



Monarch Butterflies & Public Policy

A tiny egg is fated on a leaf to metamorphosis
One million-year-old tradition
Approaching one thousand years of crusade
Did existence become a problem that needs solving?
Agendas remark, larvae eat as larvae do
While policy molts to appease the room--
A little caterpillar weaves its cocoon upside down,
As above implementation is siphoned from the ground
Pupa becomes chrysalis now decorated with spots and a gold band
Enforcement mass produces badges, to law the land where--
Transformation over a million years happened in 30 days
From tiny egg to butterfly, ancestors are born again
Quetzalpapalotl flew three thousand miles to veto occupation
Welcome five hundred years of nullified legislation
(Mickey Mestiza)

Music gives wings to the mind.
The mind flies, and rest of the body parts follow suit in joy.
Dancing to the unknown source of the joy.
Music and our mind are married.
Couples of the soul indeed.
They have jumped over the broom to the land of Matrimony.
Our minds fly to the sweet songs of music, music gives wings to our minds.
(Alfusainey Manjang)





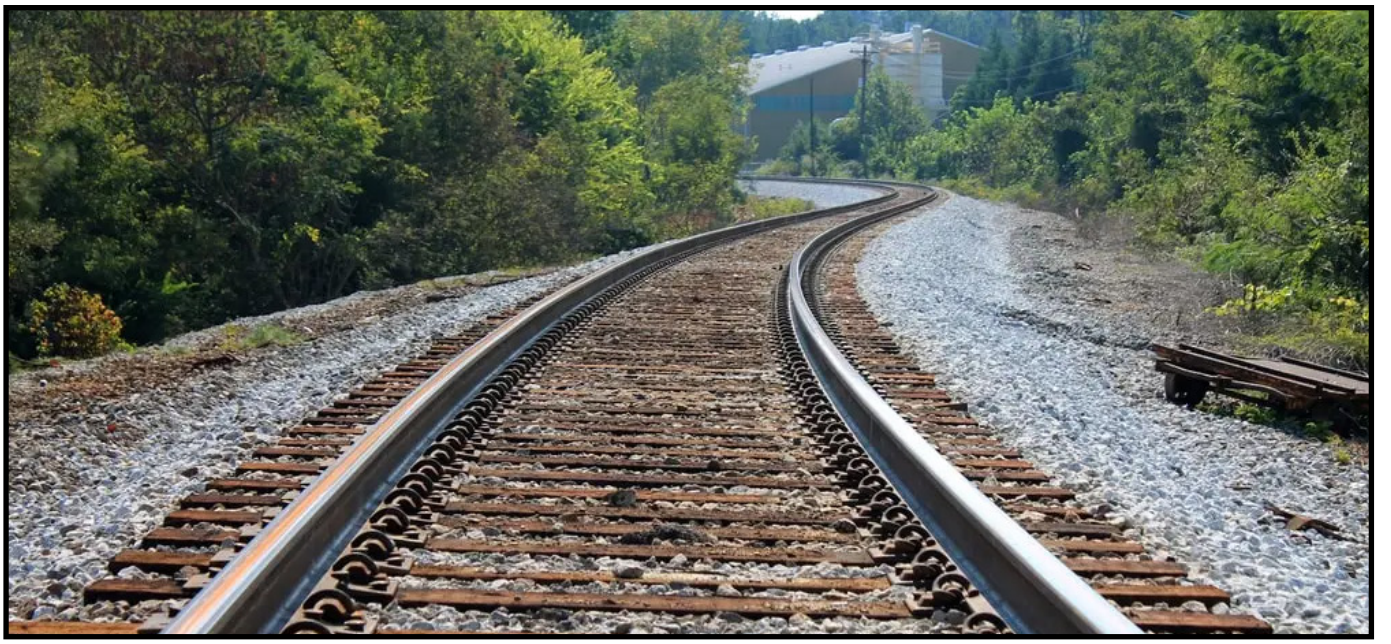
Writing poetry about metaphors
should be a piece of cake.
Wracking my brain to pick a subject.
Drowning in a sea of rough drafts.
Turns out I need to go on a diet.
I've had my fill. **(Dan Thomas)**

My addiction is my own intimate self-given rotten gift, intriguing and luminous at a glance… while at the core a snake slubbers until the light gives it a chance to strike with a venomous sting that kills me.
(Angelica Alvarez Valenciano)

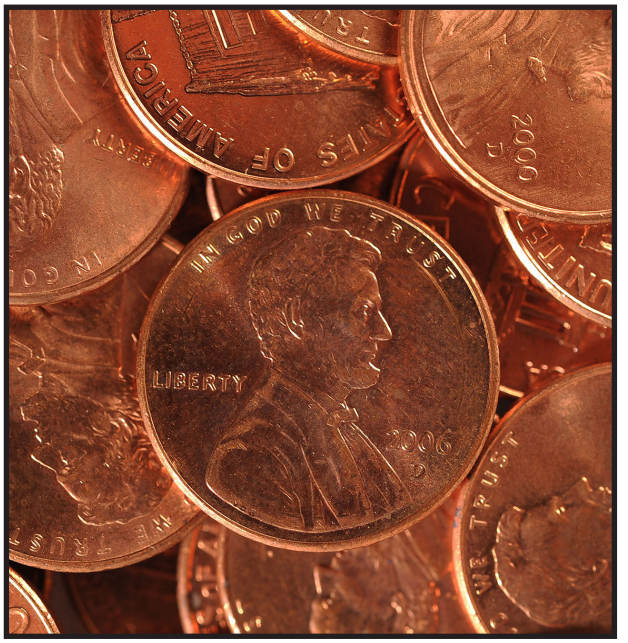


Love with wrong people.
First it's sweet
Like the ice cream slithering
down your throat in the heat.
Then things get mellow.
To the byes to the love yous to the hellos.
Then it ends with a sting to your heart
Rather than a ring on your finger.
(Eleanor Ceaser)

I am a railroad. No matter how many times a train comes, I try to be on the right path. **(Quanna Caffey)**



Life is a cobweb. It requires many layers to become complete. Some of those layers are family, work, love, stress, friends, accomplishments, failures, surprises, disappointments, and laughter. Like a web, life can be very beautiful and surprising but also sticky and complicating. **(Ladella Wilson)**



I am papier mâché. Torn, fragmented pieces of history. Shreds of current events. Layer by layer, using my own truths and experiences as the mortar and paste. Friends and family are my skeleton, giving me structure, the support needed to hold me together. Opportunity is the paint that will turn me into the work of art I know I envision. After all, I am the grand artificer. **(Dan Thomas)**





A penny goes place to place in the trust of different people along its life.
It tarnishes but can be shined again.
(Brianna Español)



Motherhood is a song.
It has its low notes, but it also has its high notes.
Whether it be LOUD, mellow, groovy, rough, quiet, alternative, etc.,
it's beautiful!
(Alexus McClain)



I am a bus. Daily hanging out on the avenue riding through the hood, opening my doors to/for smiling strangers and friends. Watching 'em come and go, glowing, waving their hands, while sending "Thank yous" that have the appearance of street signs, that signals to me as I go on my way. I am a bus, a four-wheeled, bit-blue canister. Showing up and servicing everyone that needs me. Wherever you need to go, wherever you need to be, I am your trusted friend. You can count on me. I am a bus. **(Timothy Comer)**

I am a moving car. Every day of my life is a different turn. Some days, I don't know where I've gone, stuck inside four windows. I feel trapped and don't know where I belong. I'm the driver and just trying to pick a route. Stuck at the top of the hill. Don't know if I should go down and get fuel; everything is moving so fast. My brake pads are on their last. But it's time. I move past and know that this isn't my last. But why do I always feel last? **(Tiana Richmond-Lee)**



Life is a long, bumpy road full of unexpected twists and turns, dips and potholes, rocky and rough, yet there's a definite destination at the end, of our choices. **(Vanessa Martinez)**



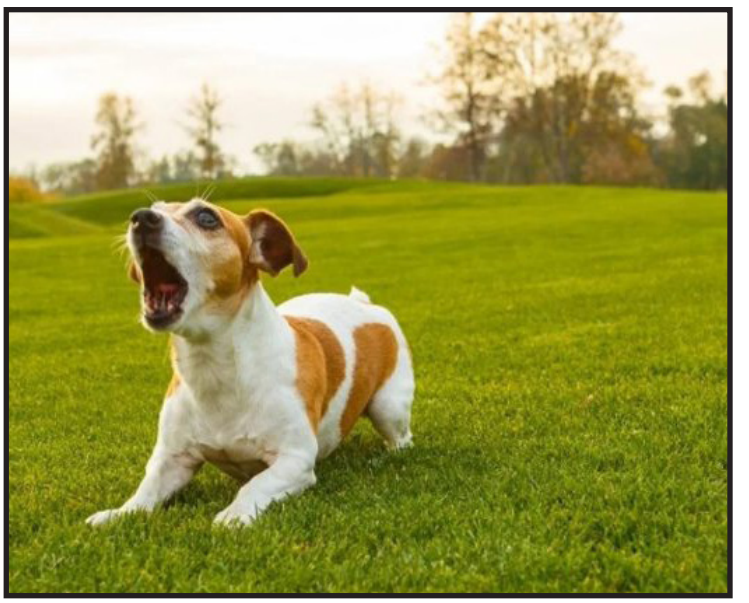
Beautiful and intense, passionate and growing. Very compassionate and loving, yet experiencing so much pain. Inflicting pain on anyone who touches me wrong. But bringing joy to everyone's home. I am a symbol of love and pain. I am a rose. **(Gela Docks)**



I am a rose that grew from concrete
Thriving in challenging
and unforgiving elements
Reflecting my true self
Authentic
Intentional
Fulfilling
Rooted deep in the Earth
Reaching for the sky
Choosing to exist **(Gela Docks)**



I am a flower. I have seasons where I bloom and seasons where I fall. My roots are what make me who I am, and above the surface shows my seasons. I am strong and confident in certain aspects and am easily torn down depending on my surroundings and environment. Some places I can't grow because I'm not being watered and the soil isn't right for me. Just like the sun for a flower, the summertime and heat give me joy. Vitamin D gives me life, it gives me color, it gives energy. My name means heavenly flower, and it fits me perfectly. **(Lailani Reed)**



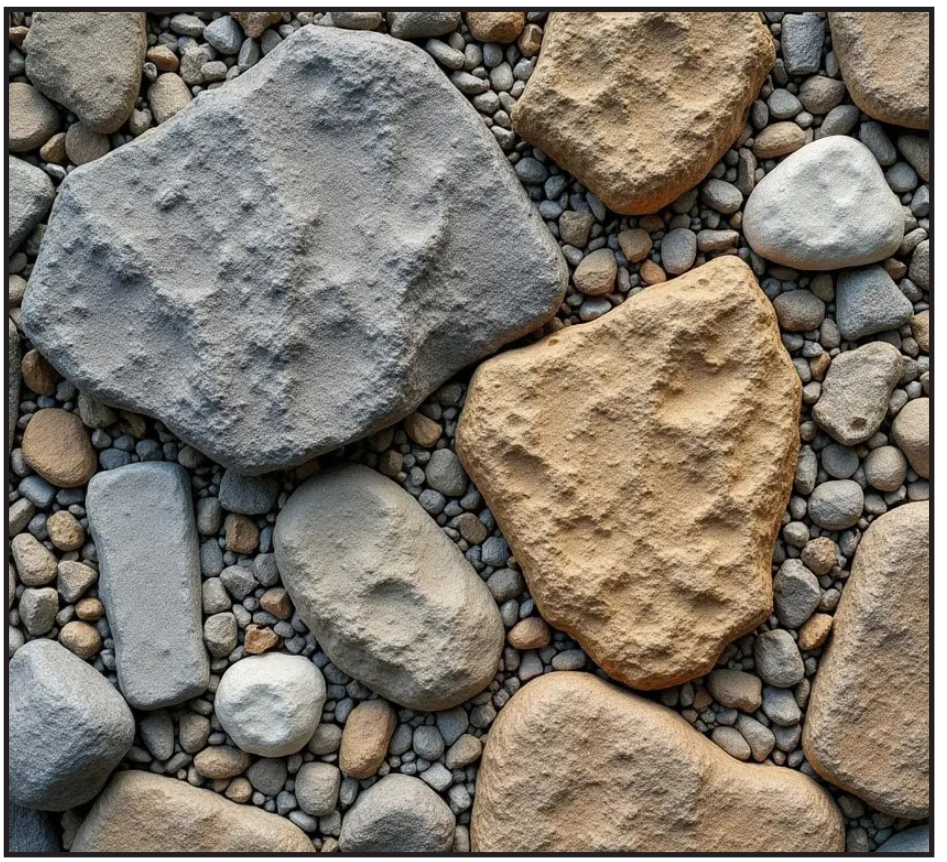
I am a dog. I bark with a bite. I am loyal to those who treat me with respect, and I guide those around me who need my help. There are times I walk alone, but I always look out for the ones I love. **(Brianna Español)**



I am a blade of grass blowing in the wind. That's how it feels living in this thing called life. Life is about going with the flow and trying to live the best life you possibly can. You always want to do better for yourself and those around you. Grass wants to grow tall; over, under, and around anything it can grow around. **(Kyianna Baker)**

Michael Jordan, Will Smith, some of the greats I compare myself to. Not saying that I'm them, but I strive to be the best. Martin Luther King, Malcom X, I'm not the GOAT but I've been blessed by the best. **(Jamal Jackson)**





I am a rock. I am solid, firm, sturdy. and hard, made out of good material. I can be thrown very far and long distances. I am a beautiful rock with different designs on me. I am a rock that can hold anything down. Now I have been made to be a paper weight. **(Sable Wright)**

I used to be clay
Until I sat through the fire
I turned to stone listening to my heart's desire **(Mickey Mestiza)**

Music is the wind
It flows through my life
It breezes through me
like the wind in the trees
And can be loud like a storm
But suck you in like a tornado
And give you energy
like a powerful winded tsunami.
(Crystal Lee)



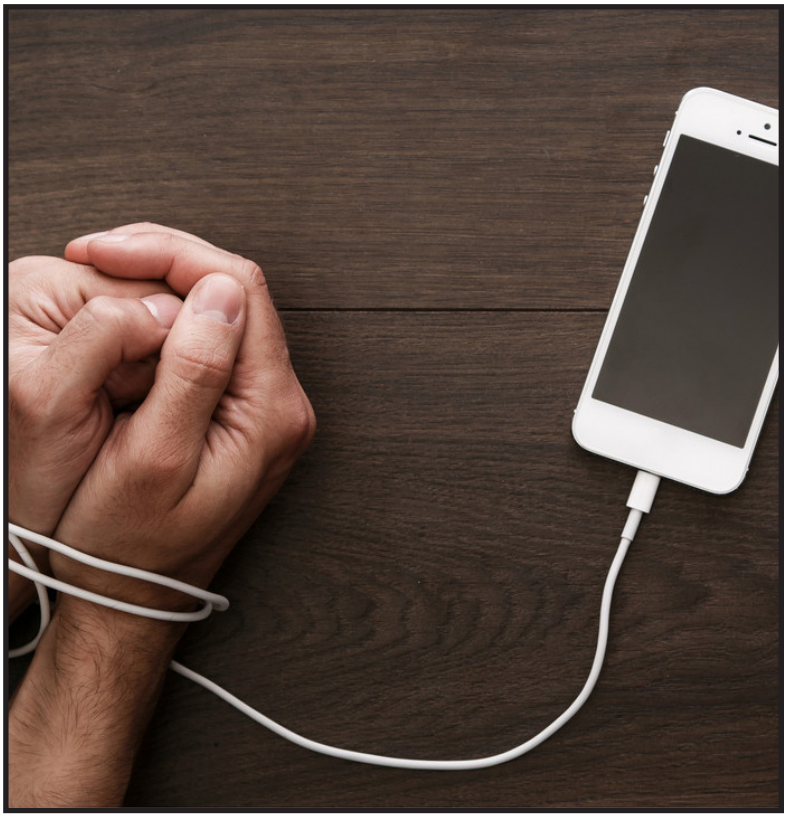


I used to be as tough as a contestant on Fear Factor. I used to be as hard as a steel toe boot. I used to talk before I thought. Now I am as chill as a summer breeze in Hawaii at 5 pm. I am as soft as a baby's butt. I now am calmer like the waves brushing against the ocean, chill as the wind that was freezing us the last week.
(Eleanor Ceaser)

Soup is like a bowl of opportunities. You take your spoon and dive in fishing for your favorite piece. You might get a meatball or onion or you might get broth alone. You decide to fight against the bowl until you get it or break down the pieces to make it easy to eat. By the time you are finished, you are full; the outcome got you satisfied. You wouldn't throw the rest away because the spoon wasn't long enough or had holes in it. You would pick the bowl up and drink it. Make it work, enjoy the experience, eat the soup.
(Daija Pigram)



Cellphones are thieves, thieves of time.
Thieves preventing you from effectively
Completing tasks.
Thieves of activities and good habits.
Thieves taking away a significant portion of
Your day.
Cellphones are prisons,
leashes that reduce freedom
A prison with limited control,
A prison full of addiction. **(Corrie Thomas)**



My cellphone is a drug
I'm addicted to it I can't go
without it I need it I have
to have it whenever I don't
it's like having withdrawals
my hands sweat like the outside
of a cold bottle of water
my legs start to shake like an earthquake
I can't calm down until it's safe
and sound in the palms of my hands
(Valvree Mosley)



Life, life is an amusement park. All year round it doesn't matter summer or winter. Whether it be the tallest water slide in Wisconsin Dells or the fastest dry ride, there will be ups and downs. I've learned to appreciate both. The ups in life are like making it up to the top of Mount Everest, sometimes tiring and requiring sweat and hard work but feeling proud when meeting the end goal. On the other hand, the lows can be bittersweet, feeling like you've hit rock bottom, suffocating under pressure. However, I've learned to appreciate both because sometimes hitting rock bottom can teach you lessons that mountain tops could never! **(Ashli Smith)**

Rainbow Metaphors

I am a rainbow, something that is possible
because of a little bad weather.
Currently in between the dark and the light,
just tryin' to be better.

I am a rainbow. Where it ends is uncertain.
But regardless of destination, it never lacks purpose.

I am a rainbow, slightly overwhelmed
by the sun on my face and the storms of my past.
But then I stop and remind myself
that beauty lies within the contrast.

I am a rainbow. **(Dillon Dahlk)**





Rainbows usually mean that the rain has come and gone and now the sunshine gets to reign. For me when I see a rainbow I think of my child. My daughter is my rainbow baby, my little miracle after so many tries. After three miscarriages God gave me my perfect Adore. When I think of the Odyssey Project and how it relates to a rainbow, I feel that Odyssey is the bright side of things, the calm after the storm of life. **(Adrianne Farrow)**

Odyssey is a rainbow. A class full of different backgrounds and people. So many struggles and strengths but sometimes days feel very damp. There will be storms, then sunlight, but I know we will be alright. **(Tiana Richmond-Lee)**

Odyssey is a rainbow. When I see a rainbow, I feel colorful. Seeing a rainbow makes me feel warm inside and happy. I feel a sense of luck or a happy day ahead of me whenever I see a rainbow. When I see a rainbow, I feel as warm as the sun inside. **(Janessa Weichmann)**

The blend of people Odyssey brings together to make a beautiful experience is like the merging of colors in a rainbow. Different individuals come together to make something even better that couldn't be done by working alone. The rainbow represents diversity, and Odyssey embraces it. **(Daija Pigram)**



Odyssey is a rainbow because of all the different raindrops that we come from, all the different pains we have felt inside of us, Odyssey is a rainbow because we are all different, we turn our different lives into something beautiful, and we are wise in our ways. **(Quanna Caffey)**



Odyssey is a rainbow, reminding me that there is beauty and peace after the storm. Making me want to explore every opportunity the world has to offer. Giving me a sense of refreshment for my new journey. **(Ashli Smith)**

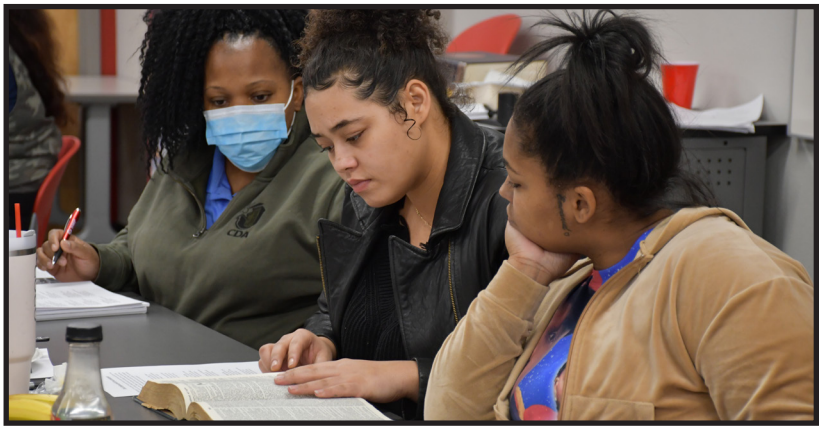
Odyssey is a rainbow because it's so colorful and diverse. It's also been saving a lot of people, so just like after the rain there is beauty, also a pot of gold on the end. When you shine on the class, the originality and personality screams at you. **(Lailaini Reed)**



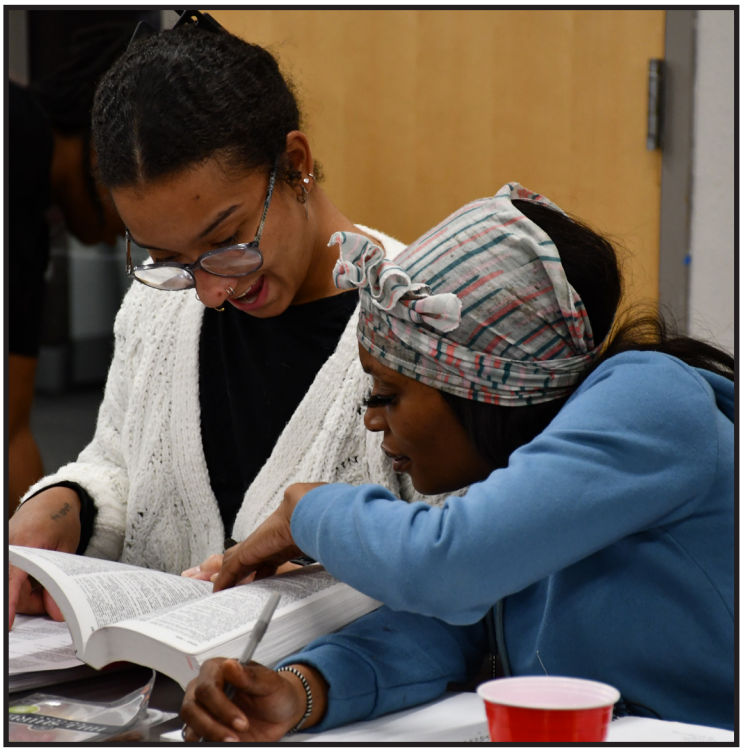
Odyssey is a rainbow. A rainbow is so beautiful and, from what the eye can see, never ending. Like a rainbow, Odyssey has so many layers to it and is extremely beautiful. Though we do not see what is at the end of it, one can only hope that it is something worthwhile and worth it. **(Ladella Wilson)**

My kids are my rainbow. Magical and surprising. They are the beauty in my world, the love in my heart. My reward at the end of a hard day. They are some of the best aspects in my world. **(Gela Docks)**

A journey of colors and all of the different experiences after a storm. Transformation and growth through the different colors. Odyssey is a rainbow of hope and beauty like each color in the rainbow, beauty after the rain. **(Corrie Thomas)**



Odyssey is a rainbow, bright as can be, giving and spreading hope after a dark and gloomy storm. **(Abby Wilson)**



As bright and positive like the vibes we have in class, the Odyssey rainbow lights me up and gives me lots of hope, love, and a great feeling. Odyssey rainbow is just a sight of fresh energy. **(Eleanor Ceaser)**

Odyssey is a rainbow to the lost. The colors represent a different path to guide its students. Odyssey connects its students to their future on the other side (dreams). **(Angelica Alvarez)**

We are on a path full of transformation, promise, and hope, just as the spiritual meaning of the rainbow. Going through Odyssey, you will transform in some way, whether it's education, positive outlooks, or finding a voice. Odyssey will open doors of promises that you have the ability to fulfill, giving hope to some of us that may feel hopeless. **(Gloria Knight)**

In Odyssey, I am a rainbow full of life and beautiful color. Red is the warm blood that runs through my veins full of love. Yellow is bright as the warm sun shining on my face. Blue is the color of water running down the mountain. Purple is royalty. I am loyal to myself as being a rainbow, an Odyssey rainbow. Being a rainbow goes a long way **(Sable Wright)**

I feel so motivated and happy anytime I come to Odyssey. The unquenchable fire of greatness in me shines bright like the sun. **(Alfusainey Manjang)**

Odyssey is a rainbow, symbolizing all of the different people, races, and thoughts. Odyssey is a part of the process that leads to greatness. **(Crystal Lee)**

Odyssey is a rainbow because this class gives me hope for my future and it brightens up my day. When I think about all that I've been through and all that I've overcome, being in Odyssey is like walking down the yellow brick road towards my destiny. **(Mariya Lucas)**





Odyssey is a rainbow. Like a rainbow, this class gives you a sense of hope. My Odyssey might not be comparable to your Odyssey, but they are both beautiful. **(Alexus McClain)**

Rainbows are such an amazing sight to witness. Always reminds me of how the rain is gone and the sun will come out. That's how I feel when I conquer major and minor goals. I can see clearly as the rainbows I've seen over the years. **(Tiffany Brenston)**

Odyssey to me is a rainbow made up with all its different cultures and diversities. Odyssey is a rainbow that gives you that hope and belief like the leprechaun wanting his gold. Odyssey is the rainbow that gives me the hope to believe and achieve that no matter how hard it rains the sun still shines. Odyssey is a rainbow that gives confirmation anything is possible no matter how high things seem to go up or down. **(Valvree Mosley)**



Famous Quotes about Rainbows

"God puts rainbows in the clouds so that each of us—in the dreariest and most dreaded moments—can see a possibility of hope. Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." (**Maya Angelou**)



"You'll never find a rainbow if you're looking down." (**Charlie Chaplin**)

"In a perfect world, human beings would co-exist harmoniously, like a rainbow. A multitude of colors, each layer vibrant and clear by itself, but in unison, boundless, breathtaking, celestial." (**Mariah Carey**)



"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." (**Dolly Parton**)

"*Donde termina el arco iris,*
en tu alma o en el horizonte?

Where does the rainbow end,
in your soul or on the horizon?" (**Pablo Neruda**)

"My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man …" (**William Wordsworth**)

"If all were rain and never sun,
No bow could span the hill;
If all were sun and never rain
There'd be no rainbow still." (**Christina Rossetti**)

"The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise forever. When I send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, I will remember my promise to you and to all other living creatures." (**Genesis 9:12-17**)

