

**METROsquash  
Summer Enrichment Camp**

**2010 Anthology**



# METROsquash Summer Writing Anthology 2010

This is a compilation of all the writing METROsquash campers completed over the duration of the METROsquash Summer Enrichment Camp. Campers explored three specific genres of writing: expository, narrative and poetry. This anthology is intended to give the reader enjoyment and inspiration, as well as a keen insight into the lives of our campers.

The success of our camp would not be possible without the help of our volunteers. METROsquash would like to thank: Philip Mardoum, Brian Young, Joyce Nimocks, Samantha Matos, Daquan Leslie, Sarah Sweet, Karen Fields, Joe Brown, The University Church and The University of Chicago.

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### Aniah Banks / Autobiography

Hello, my name is Aniah Banks and I was born in 1999. I live in Chicago and I am being raised by my mom and dad. They are both great and they both have always been there for me. Something that I am very proud of is my family. They are great!

I like to play basketball too. It makes me feel good and I know that it is great exercise. I love to play basketball whenever I get the chance.

I attend Kozminski School in Chicago, Illinois. Kozminski is not my favorite place in the world, but I guess it is ok. So far at camp this summer I have learned a lot and also had a good time.

Thank you so much for reading my autobiography. I hope that you have learned more about me and now know that I love my family and basketball. Thanks for reading!

### Kaija Caldwell / Autobiography

My name is Kaija Sarah Caldwell. I was born on the anniversary of Martin Luther King's death which is April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1998, to Vanessa McArthur and Keith Caldwell.

My parents wanted my name to begin with a K, so my family sat down for a couple of hours and my auntie finally said, "Kaija," Then my middle name, Sarah, after my Grandmother's first name, and Caldwell for my last name. That is how I got this great name.

When I was three years old my dad bought a basketball hoop for Christmas and I have been playing basketball ever since then. When I was four years old I went to pre-K at Resurrection Lutheran School, where I also attended through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Also when I was four years old I found a stray cat that coming back and forth to my house every day. I asked both of my parents if I could keep him and I was surprised to hear them both say yes! So I named him Gilbert, from a television show I watched called *Cailou*.

In 2004 of May, I graduated from Kindergarten to first grade. In second grade I was lucky enough to get a couple new best friends. My new best friends were Dominic and Quanda. From second grade on, I knew they would be my BFF's forever. After 2<sup>nd</sup> grade ended I went on to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. My teacher told me, "I'm going to miss you."

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade things went well until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006, my cat Gilbert passed away in the morning before I went to school. It was definitely the worst Halloween of my life. I cried all day and didn't want to go trick-or-treating. But on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 I got another cat and named him Jynx.

After that happened I went to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and my teacher was Mrs. Leatherman. Once I even saved her from an asthma attack. A lot of times she saved me from having an asthma attack as well. 5<sup>th</sup> grade was my last year at Resurrection Lutheran. Before school ended all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders went to camp and that was definitely the best part of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

In 2009 I began attending the University of Chicago Woodlawn charter school, where I now go to school and enjoy it. I hope that you have learned a great deal about me. I am a fun cool girl with a great family and friends. Thank you for reading my autobiography!

### **Yadeeah Chambers / Autobiography**

Hey my name is Yadeeah D. Chambers I'm 14yrs Old. I attend Charles Kozminski Academy! I will be going to 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year. I would love to attend { U IC} College Prep for my freshman and sophomore year with my best friend Destini Washington and my big sister Xaria Nicole Echols. I want to finish off high school and attend a school called Chi Arts, a performing arts school. I sing and dance and everyone knows it! I was once before a LADY -REDSKIN! I cheerlead for Washington Park Redskins. I have three sisters and six brothers. I love them all so dearly.<3

I play Metro Squash which is a great sport. I love it, especially the staff! The summer program is cool though every once in a while it gets very hot & sticky. I hate that part! I started getting into dancing and singing when I was twelve years old. I want to live in Atlanta because my favorite male rapper is T.I.P and he lives out there. Another reason is because his daughter and Lil Wayne's daughter are a part of the O.M.G GIRLZ and I love them. They also live out there in Atlanta.

Now my favorite color is pink. The reason I like pink so much is because it's a girly kind of color and I am very girly. So that's All I can really say about me, Yadeeah Demi Chambers :-)

### **Kyra Elizabeth Clark / Autobiography**

I am Kyra Elizabeth Clark-Scott. I got a presidential award for getting the highest GPA in my whole middle school. I plan to go to the University of Chicago for Management and then to Yale University for Architecture. I was born on May 30, 1998 at McNab Hospital. I currently live in the far south suburbs.

Life is very valuable to me. The reason is because a lot of children suffer from foolish actions. I have a lot of friends. I just do my work and don't think about it. I have a lot of extracurricular activities too. No, I do not have a boyfriend. My activity is percussion ensemble. I love to play instruments.

In 2021, I am going to have my own building with my own business called Kyra's Kreationz. I will live a big house or mansion. Maybe if they are nice or kind or wealthy. Also, I might have twin girls named Madison and McKinley.

So that is me. Kyra Clark-Scott. I want my future life to be perfect. I am a big dreamer as you can see. I also make those dreams come true. That is all about me.

### **Kaniya Coleman / Autobiography**

My name is Kaniya I was born December 12, 1999 in Chicago. I now live in Hyde Park. I attend Shoemith elementary school. My mother's name is Kiya, our names both start with a K. I am nice, kind and sweet. I like to read and travel around the world. I like to imagine words in books. I won two awards for a program at my school, there called winning words. I performed at the University of Chicago. It was something for children who love to read, like me. I have nice careful friends who are special!

When I grow up I want to be a photographer, who takes pictures around the world. To reach my goal I will finish school and college and practice taking pictures while I'm young.

### **Julius Dodson / Autobiography**

Hi, my name is Julius Dodson. My favorite thing to do is play squash. I was born on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999 and I think I am destined for greatness.

I don't know how I started to love squash, all I know is that one day my dad took me to go and play squash. As soon as I took the racket in hand, I knew that this was it. Later on I got better and eventually I got good enough to beat my sister Kora, while I was in my first tournament. I beat everyone except for one other person I was playing that didn't show any mercy. Even though he didn't show any mercy, I still beat him. This is how I won my first tournament.

I think that overall I understand my mistakes. Not only can I see my mistakes, but I can understand them and learn how to be a pro squash player. Also, I hope I can be the best I can be when I am still a kid, so I can be the best when I get older.

I think that in the future I will be a pro squash player and help kids play squash like METROSquash did.

### **Jasmine Easley / Autobiography**

Hey my name is Jasmine Easley. I was born on April 28, 1998 in Chicago, Illinois. I was raised my family. The person that impacted my life was my mom, she's my role model. I also love to swim, swimming is a big part of my life. I love swimming because it makes me feel free.

My life has been great so far. I have new true friends. The reason I don't have a lot of friends is because I don't depend on everyone to be my friend. I attend the University of Chicago charter school and now my days go by as I just keep working hard in school. I don't have a boyfriend because I am not really into boys as far school. My favorite place to go on dates is to the movies, mall, and restaurants. I don't like the school I attend because it's too much drama. I love to live free of drama and girl fights, it's just something I have no interest in.

My future goal in life is to become a veterinarian. A veterinarian is an animal doctor. In 5 years or so I will go to school for medical training. I love animals. Being a veterinarian is my dream. Ever since I could remember, I loved animals.

### **Xaria Echols / Autobiography**

Hi my name is Xaria Nicole Echols. I am the daughter of Ximena Echols. I was born 2-13-1996 in the U of C hospital. I graduated from Charles Kozminski in the year 2010 and will be attending UICCP (University Illinois Chicago College Prep) in the fall. In the future I hope to become a model and a millionaire

My mom's most treasured moment in her life was the day of my birth. I was born Tuesday, 2-13-1996 at 5:14 a.m. I was one small chocolate baby. I had a head full of hair (still do) and cried louder than the volume on a bullhorn, but yet I was still a quiet baby. I was special and after one look at me my family could tell. Some people thought I wasn't anything special just another Echols child, but I showed them I was smart. The first word I learned how to spell was hippopotamus. I learned that word from my mom when we would play hungry hungry hippos together. I even learned how to work a VCR when I was 4. My mom taught me by using shapes she told me that square means stop, triangle mean out or in, and arrows mean change channels. Since then my mom has never had to turn on Barney, Teletubbies, or Arthur again.

After 5 years of sitting around, playing games, and watching Sesame Street with my cousins who didn't start school yet, while my other cousins did go to school, I finally started my preschool year. You could imagine how happy I was. All I would tell my grandma was "granny I want to go to school with Jazzy" { my older cousin} and I finally got to go. I spent my first 2 years at Reavis, then the next 7 at Kozminski and graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade there on June,14 2010. I will be attending UIC this year as an INCOMING FRESHMAN = ).

I would like to become a model in the next 10years. I want my model career to take off. I will earn a million dollars, who knows maybe I will; maybe I'll only get half of that. I WILL go from modeling to acting and will live a long happy life.

SO HERES TO THE FUTURE....

### **Kayla Griffin / Autobiography**

Hey my name is Kayla, I was born on April 21<sup>st</sup> in 2000. I live in Chicago. Chicago is my hometown. My parents raised me, they live in Chicago, just like me. I love to swim; swimming makes me feel happy. My favorite subject in school is math. Math has helped me improve my grades and confidence.

I have a great school, my school is Rosenwald. I enjoy going to school because I have lots of friends, their names are Nyari, Angel, and Jessica. We have so much fun together. We like to have parties and sleepovers, we go to parks and we love to go to the swimming pool.

When I grow up I can't wait to get in college most of all I can't wait to start a new career. I've been waiting so long for this. Then when I am an adult I am going to have a job as a veterinarian so I can take care of sick animals so they can feel better. I love animals because they are so much fun to play with and they are so cute and fuzzy and so amazingly adorable.

Every time I watch T.V. I see horrible commercials about homeless and helpless animals. I feel so sorry, I think it's my duty to help endangered animals.

### **Adam Honore / Autobiography**

My name is Adam Honore. I attend Ariel Community Academy. I'm in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and math is my favorite subject. My favorite sport is soccer. My favorite soccer player is Cristiano Ronaldo.

I want to go to Wayland High School in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and I want to take Latin as my first language class. For college I want to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology and major in math. I hope to be learning calculus my first year in college. In high school I want to take mostly Advance Placement classes.

The job I want is a Mathematician or something that involves math. I think I like math because there is only one right answer. Also math is a subject that you'll never find an ending point. This is what I want to do and where I want to go.

Metro Squash is ok so far. For the rest of the summer I will be playing soccer. In soccer we have a tournament coming up. Thank you for reading this story from a soon to be legend, Adam Honore.

### **Hassan Honore / Autobiography**

My name is Hassan Honore. I am 11 years old and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I attend the Ariel Community Academy. I am from Chicago, Illinois, but I was raised in Country Club Hills, Illinois. My birthday is February 19.

At Ariel I have decent grades of A's and B's. For high school I would like to attend Wighlen Academy in Wisconsin; it is a very good school both academically and athletically. From there I would like to go the University of Florida for Football, or Duke University to play basketball.

For my career I would really love to play football for the Arizona Cardinals. I hope to be like Walter Payton and play the position of halfback. If I choose to play basketball I would like to play basketball for the Miami Heat and be like Mike. I plan to be the best in the game since MJ! I plan to live in whatever city I play for.

My favorite National Basketball Team is the Miami Heat, and my favorite football team is the Indianapolis Colts. Aside from sports, I enjoy skateboarding and also playing video games.

### **Nahgeyanna James / Autobiography**

My name is Nahgeyanna James. I was born and raised in the Southside part of Chicago, Illinois. I attend Kozminski Elementary, hoping to get into De La Salle high school. I also plan to attend Penn State University, when I get older.

I was born on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997 to Navena James and Derrick Tate. After one year in life I lost my father and my mother was left as a single parent. As for me, life can be a lot of things. For example it can be painful, happy, emotional, and more.

In my future I hope that I get a good paying job as a doctor, teacher, or singer. I don't want any kids but I would like a faithful husband as I get older. I would like to stay in Chicago close to family and friends. I also want a condo with no bugs or rodents at all times.

I want to live happy and start a good life ahead of me. And as for now, I have a great life and I would like to continue it.

### **Gregory Johnson / Autobiography**

There was a bright light at the end of a dark tunnel I've been sitting in for months. So just as I'm getting comfortable I get pushed out and there is a man standing in front of me wearing a white coat. There was also a black woman there and with a look of joy on her face, and a black man who looked as if he was going to pass out. So obviously then I was named Gregory Johnson, Jr. and I was ready to take the world by storm.

Growing up as a boy I always thought that I was invincible. My mother did not agree and I would soon learn later that she was right. I do think that I am a very exciting person who has a great deal to offer the world. Also, I love all types of sports. Really, I will try any sport that there is. I used to be a real football-head and basketball head; all that changed one day when I was introduced to squash.

I hope that you have learned a little bit more about me after reading this. Basically, I'm just a fun person who is trying to lead a good life. I'm a good friend to those around me and I'm just a happy guy.

## Kayland Jones / Autobiography

My name is Kayland Jones and I'm one of the greatest basketball players and fashion designer of the twenty-first century, whose incredible skills and fashion designs amazed basketball fans and fashion shoppers everywhere.

Before I became the greatest basketball player and fashion designer, I was a young girl named Kayland Jones. I was born on October 4, 1999 in Blue Island, Illinois. When I was eight years old I moved closer to the Chicago area. We lived in Chatham, where my father had to change his area as a police officer. Being one of two children, I became interested in basketball and fashion design. I created my own fashion and basketball skills.

Later, I moved to New York City and began fashion designing and trying out for the WNBA in 2018. For my fashion designs and basketball skills I changed my name to Kyla. My first name would be in honor of one of my favorite T.V. actresses, Kyla Pratt.

Not long after I started fashion designing and basketball, I met a basketball player in the NBA. We got married in 2023 and he became the light of my life. Some of my tricks involved escaping the press from finding out about the proposal or that I am a fashion designer. We traveled all around the country together, delighting all basketball fans in the United States with our basketball moves and skills.

Over the years, my fashion designs and basketball skills got more difficult. I escaped triple defense, and made new basketball skills. One of my most popular basketball skills was the 360 degree turn, with a slam dunk. The basketball fans watch anxiously as the great Kayland did her new slam dunk move.

In addition to basketball, I had many other interests. I liked to draw fashion designs and make them come to reality. In some of my fashion designs, I share some of my tricks and drawings on how to draw fashion designs. I also starred in several films. I am still here in the present at the age of ten. The girl who thrilled her fans with such stunning skills. I left behind many legacies. My work inspired the next generation of the WNBA.

## Diamond Kane / Autobiography

Hi my name is Diamond. I am 11 years old and I have a dog named Ivory. Ivory is 9 years old. The school I am enrolled in a school named Roycemore. Our school mascot is a griffin. I started going to Roycemore in kindergarten. I am now going to the sixth grade next year.

I live with my grandmother. My mom lives in Minnesota. I got my dog when I was six years old. I am very athletic. Even though my favorite sport is tennis I also play basketball and volleyball. My grandmother gives me tennis lessons. I first learned how to play tennis when I was with my grandmother at a very early age.

My first birthday was in Jamaica. I went back to Jamaica when I was 8 years old for my cousin's wedding and I was the flower girl in the wedding. Everything was purple because her favorite color is purple. I also went to California twice to attend other weddings. I have been to Disney World a couple times and the second time I went I got a picture taken with Goofy.

While I was in California I saw my cousin Decarla in San Diego. I went to Sea World and saw a whale show. Then we went on some water rides.

I am 11 years old and will be attending Roycemore next year. Also I love sports. Thank you so much for reading my autobiography. See you next summer!

### Senerra Laws / Autobiography

Hey, have you heard of squash? Well, I hadn't either until a year ago.

Hi, my name is Senerra Laws! I was born in Chicago, Illinois. I am eleven years old and I am a straight A and B, honor roll student. This year I will be going to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. After school I go to a program at the University Church to play squash! Squash is between racket ball and tennis. Try it! It is lots of fun.

In the future, I plan to be a hard working young lady. I also plan to get straight A's so that I can go to a good boarding school.. Boarding school would provide me the opportunity to see how it feels to live on my own as a young lady. I also plan to go to boarding school because it is different. Most people think that boarding school is boring because their family and friends aren't there. Also, because they have to live in school. I just want to go to a great school.

### Jordan McJimpsey / Autobiography

I am one of the best MLB baseball players of the 23<sup>rd</sup> century. Also, I was the first black player to smack 150 home runs in a single season (I hope).

I was born on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000. I was adopted and went to a new mother named Michelle McJimpsey. When I was a child my mother did the best for me to help me learn. She put me in KUMON, and other tutoring programs to make sure that I was getting the most out of my education. I even played in other athletic programs like basketball and football.

I got interested in baseball when I was 9 years old. My mom put me in this baseball program called B.I.G. Baseball. (Best Instruction Guaranteed) At first when I came to practice I was not sure how to play baseball, but I kept playing on that team. Then after a lot of practice, I was good enough to play for my school team. My school is McDade Classical.

I would hope to play for Whitney Young when I play for a high school team. I would like to make the varsity team all four years and also win the MVP award each year.

I know that these things will all be possible as long as I keep trying in school, get good grades and put forth effort into everything that I do. Thank you for reading my autobiography and I hope that you have learned a great deal about me.

### Joshua Howard Nash / Autobiography

My name is Joshua Howard Nash. I was born on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1996, on my dad's birthday. I like to play sports and fun games. Also I like seeing people do jobs.

Ok but back to the autobiography. You know how we do one thing and more things start to come back to back. I'm saying like I do a job then I got two more to do at home.

I have two sisters, one is 23 and the other one is 14. I kind of like them, but I also don't see them. So not seeing them is why I kind of like them. Now I will tell you something about my dad. His name is James Howard Nash born on August 20<sup>th</sup>. He had 3 houses but now 1.

But the autobiography is about me. I wish I was a 21 year old man, but to me I am a man at 13. Ok I still live with my mom but I am all man. So autobiography ends like me.

5 years from now I will be in school at Howard University going for lower things, I'll have 3 kids, live in a big house, and be living in San Diego. Having fun doing all the things I like. So thank you for reading about my autobiography.

### **Maxwell Okwuede / Autobiography**

I am Maxwell Okwuede, I just turned 12 last week. I am one of the best steppers in the world. I won the 2008 stepping contest in Kenwood academy, with my brother and his friends. We won the first place trophy and the grand prize of 30 dollars for each participant.

I was born in Nigeria (a state in Africa) on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998. When I was very little my dad moved to Texas. And a few years later, my mom, two sisters, and my brother got on a plane to America. First the plane took us to Europe. I saw the Eiffel tower with my own two eyes. Later that day I went on a plane to the United States. Overall the Flight was 48 hours long.

I am a squash player. My team is called METRO Squash. We travel the country playing other teams. On the last week of June, I went to Massachusetts. We went to Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. It was the biggest trip of the whole year. Also two weeks ago I went to Wisconsin. I travelled around a lot, so in the future I want to travel the whole globe.

### **Gabby Powell / Autobiography**

My name is Gabrielle, you can call me Gabby because that's my nickname. I was born in Chicago, Illinois, 1997, in the month of December and the day of the eighth. I'm the type of person that can be funny if I want to. Once I made my friend laugh so hard she had milk fly out her nose.

I play a sport called squash. Not too many people know this sport. Squash is a sport between racquetball and tennis. So far I've been playing squash for two years. In the beginning of this year, 2010, in January I won an award from METRO Squash. I was at the University Club downtown in Chicago, Illinois. I came in third place in girls under 13.

Right now I just passed sixth grade. So now I'm in the seventh grade. I will always plan to pass and go to high school. I want to go to a boarding high school. I want to go to a boarding high school because I want to see how to live life on my own at an early stage. I want to live free. I just want to experience the nice life. I really don't plan to go to college. My brother told me it was hard and not easy, that kind of brought me down. My family is always telling me that's not a good idea, but it's my choice.

Also in the future I plan to have my own house and sing for my job. I don't plan to have kids. Also, I don't plan to get married, but my mom would always tell me I will change my mind about getting married. You never know what your life has planned for you.

### **Marielys Quintero / Autobiography**

I am Marielys Quintero. I was born January 15, 1999 at Mercy Children's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. I think I am one of the most talented sixth grade girls in my school, Ariel Community Academy, which I have attended for six years.

I have earned lots of A's and just a couple of B's so I can be accepted to the best high school in Chicago, The University of Chicago Lab Schools. I exceed in math, and I'm good at reading although it is not my best subject. I'm very good at writing too, so I might be an author.

I have gotten some awards for sports and academics. Also, I am a pretty good swimmer. I can swim in 3-12 feet of water. I've finished six out of my twenty years of school. Twenty because I might become a doctor.

I plan on going to college and might get accepted to the University of Chicago! Life is like a rollercoaster for me. I have my ups and downs and I get treats, prizes and punishments. I plan to

have a healthy, happy family when I'm much older. Hopefully, I live long enough to see my family enjoy their new generation.

### **Christopher Roberson / Autobiography**

I am Christopher Roberson. I am 13 years old. Even though I am young people say I am the nicest, funniest person that they know! I would agree with what they say!

The people that really know me, like my family and friends, call me Chris instead of Christopher. This is what life is about. Well, part of it anyway! Like many others, I love life and living it! I am very happy and most of the time I am that way! I have a lot of friends, not even counting my friends at school! I am very popular almost every place I usually go!

The future will be so awesome for me! I think that around the years of 2020, those years will be some of the best years of my life! I will be living in a big, wonderful house and I will have an awesome car and many other amazing things! I can't wait to be married to a beautiful wife, and have respectful twins! I can't wait until that happens!

### **Alec Sandifer / Autobiography**

Hi, my name is Alec. I was born on March 5<sup>th</sup> 1999. In the 11 years of my life, I have earned 5 awards. Most of my awards came from football, basketball, and baseball. I am in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade going on 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Once I finish high school I plan on going to LSU (Louisiana State University).

In 2007, I wrote a book about the class of B207. Also, I wrote a book in 2008 about friendship. In my many years of swimming, I have swum in 3 feet and 11 feet. So, that tells me that I am a good swimmer. I think I also am a good basketball player from what I am told. I have two awards from basketball. One for Most Valuable Player and one from good team work.

In the future I think that I will be a good football player. Also, I hope to be in the NFL. Once I am drafted from LSU, but if that doesn't work I plan to manage sports for all types of sports teams. I plan on having two kids with a good wife that loves me for what I do.

I hope that everyone who read this has learned more about me or everything about me. Thanks for reading and I hope you have enjoyed it.

### **David Stark / Autobiography**

I was born on December 30<sup>th</sup> in 2001 I live with my mom, and her name is Mary Stark. My dad lives Washington, D.C. I live in Hyde Park with my mom. I was born before my grandma was working at the University of Chicago. When I was born, I was a little baby. When I was born, my mom played games with me. I want to be a baseball player in my dreams. My best friends are David and B.T. I want to go to Kozminski Academy in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I want to play baseball when I grow up. When I grow up I want to go to Kenwood High School. I'm going to live with my mom until I reach my late forties. I am going to have grown-up friends. I am going to stay with my whole family forever. I want to attend the best college in the world. I am going to grow-up and ride a motorcycle and a horse. In conclusion, I am cruising with my friends.

### **Matthew Teague / Autobiography**

Hi, my name is Mathew Teague. I was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000. I go to Ariel Community Academy and I started Pre-Kindergarten at The Children's House. But, I have gone to Ariel Community Academy since Kindergarten. Five people live in my house, which are my parents, my brothers Chris, Josh and I.

I enjoy playing, watching and learning about sports. My favorite to least favorite sport is Soccer, Baseball, Squash, Tennis, Basketball, Golf, Volleyball, and Lacrosse. I got a Camera award and sportsmanship awards in Soccer. I am going to fifth grade. I plan on going to the University of Chicago for college.

I see life as a fun experience and a chance to be successful when you grow up. I am happy right now because METROsquash is kind to me and METROsquash, dueling, playing outside, the computer, the Wii, and my T.V. all keeps me occupied. I have lots of friends inside and outside of school. I spend my school days trying to fit in with everyone else.

I think I will have a bright future like my dad. He works in two businesses which are T.K.A Inc. and Country Financial. I will either live in or close to Chicago. That way, I can visit my parents and my kids can sleep over at their house for one week.

Finally, I am living a great life because I am reading 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade books at school. So, I am very proud of myself.

### **Joshua Teague / Autobiography**

My name is Joshua. I am 12 years old. I was born on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1997 at 2:30 in the morning. My parents named me Joshua because they wanted a simple name from the bible. When I get older I want to become the best soccer player in the world.

I have been playing soccer since I was five years old. Almost every year I was the best on my team. Each year, all the teams get a medal. One team in each division receives a medal for best sportsmanship. I plan to go on to high school and then to college. Right now, I am currently in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Today I go to a soccer camp at De La Salle Institute High school. Yesterday, we had a penalty shot competition and I won. I also competed in a tournament and my soccer team was able to go undefeated. I do like to play all sports though, like basketball, baseball, football and soccer.

Every year my family and our friends have a picnic in August. We play softball, have raffles, play bingo and more. It's just a great chance to hang with friends and also to see family members that you have not seen in a while.

When I grow up I want to be a professional soccer player. Also, when I retire from soccer I want to open a tutoring business. My dream is to one day be the best soccer player in the country, or even in the world.

### **Patricia Terrell / Autobiography**

I was born September 11, 1997 I was born at University of Chicago. I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade now. I attend Fuller Elementary School. I plan to finish grammar school and go to high school. The high school I want to attend is the Chicago University Woodlawn Charter School. Also, I live with my mom, brothers, and sisters.

I am respectful, shy, and very quiet type of person but, sometimes like to be involved in certain things but the only thing about me is that I have to be interested in the sport or whatever it is first.

I see life as a beautiful thing because some people don't get chance to enjoy their life like I do. I am very happy that I am able to see and enjoy life. I have a lot of friends. I make school days go fast by doing all of my work and getting it out the way. No, I don't have a boyfriend. In 2011 I will be in switching classes, and will have locker and a code to get in it. Also, I have a lot of homework and books. No, I won't be married or have any kids. I need to put myself first!

My plan is to finish grammar school, high school, and college, and get all of my degrees, bachelor, and last but not least my masters. Thank you for reading and I hope that you have learned more about me.

### **Nick Thomas / Autobiography**

Hi, my name is Nick, I was born in October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1996. I'm 13 years old. I was born and raised in Chicago, IL. I have on brother who is 17. I attended private school all of my life until the fourth grade. I have many hobbies but my favorite is basketball. I have played basket ball for eight years. I have been on two AAU teams the T-Wolves and the Elite Sports Leaders. I also play football. I have played football for three years. I played for two years with my elementary school. I now play with people 4-5 years older than me on a varsity team for my school Lindblom Math and Science Academy. I am only in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and you can't be on a varsity team until you are in high school. I'm always dedicated to whatever I do. For my future I plan on becoming a journalist and going all around the world. I want to have a small family, a wife, one son, and a pet dog named Scruffy.

### **Brack Turner / Autobiography**

Hellos my name is Brack Turner and I am one of the most thoughtful people in the world and have come up with the most important ideas ever.

I was born on August 15, 1999, in Chicago, Illinois. I am the most athletic and brightest student in my class. I am kind and gentle. When I was young, I participated in many activities such as baseball, soccer, violin, and karate. I won many awards, certificates, and trophies. In a few years I plan to attend Georgetown Law School and graduate to be a lawyer.

My perception of life is to live life to the fullest. Sometimes I experienced ambitions about life in my dreams. Friends mean a lot to me. "It is good to have friends, so you have someone to encourage you every step of the way." I say. My way of making school go by is to take advantage of education and learn what I can.

What I think of the future is that life and dreams will stay the same. "Technology will change, but the environment won't improve unless we give a better effort," I say. "In the future I will be at home with a happy and healthy family."

I have a short story that was in my life. A few years ago I took a trip to Mexico. When we arrived, I jumped out the plane, and I obviously noticed it was hot. The main idea was I enjoyed the vacation. We went shopping a lot and we stayed at this big house my uncle had. Every day I would get in the pool. Once day I caught a komodo dragon but I could not keep it. Mexico was the greatest vacation ever.

All my life I have been chasing and pursuing my dreams. My career is the most important thing to me. Soon my decision will lead to the solutions of the world. I will change the world in as many ways as I can for the better.

### **Keveon White / Autobiography**

My name is Keveon White and I was born on October 23, 1997, at the University of Chicago Medical Center. When I was born my mom, dad, and nana (grandma) didn't know what to name me. All they knew was I was going to have the initials K.T.W. My mom said "let's just name him Keveon". Everyone replied "okay". Now my name is Keveon Torren White. Torren is my middle name. It is also my father's middle name.

When I was 9 months I took my first steps. When I was one my dad and I had a very strong bond. My father took me to Chuck-E-Cheeses almost whenever I wanted to play. Also, when I was one my first word was dad. When I was two, I began to read and write. My dad also took me to the beach a lot. When I was three, my mom, dad, and I went to the drive-in (movies).

On October 21, 2001 was when my little cousin was born. I was three years old. Her name is Nautica Smith. On May 21, 2002 my little sister was born. Her name is Katlyn White.

My mom, my dad, Katlyn, and I moved to Bloomington, Illinois. I was still four and Katlyn was one. My three cousins lived across the street. We all moved to Chicago. We lived on 92<sup>nd</sup> and Langley. I was five and my mom taught me to write, read, and add. I went to Resurrection Lutheran School. I stay there until 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

After fifth grade ended I was interviewed to go to The University of Chicago Woodlawn, where I am currently attending school. I am happy to be attending The University of Chicago Woodlawn. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 my baby sister was born. Her name is Kennedy Taylor White. Then on July 13, 2010 my family moved again.

To conclude, what I want when I get older is quite simple. I want to go to Harvard Law School. My major would obviously be law and my minor will be math. At Harvard I will pursue my Master's degree, then focus on my PHD.

### **Serena Williams / Autobiography**

My name is Serena Williams. I was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois on April 11, 1995. So of course it makes me 15. I love to play squash and basketball and won plenty of awards in basketball. Once, in Midwest Urban, I went to a squash trip, and my teammate, Joseph and I, won our team a trophy playing against 10-15 other players. I was excited because it was my first trophy. In basketball, I won tons of metals and trophies. I also played for different camps and schools and even travelled to different states. I just graduated from the eighth grade and soon enough I am going to become a freshman in high school. After high school, comes college. I really have no choice but to go to college because education comes first. Second, I plan on becoming a professional basketball player. In order to achieve these goals, I have to finish high school and college.

To me, I see life as God giving me the opportunity to live life and not take advantage of it. Life means a lot to me because it enables me to go through different phases. You can experience a lot, such as knowing right from wrong. Life is about making mistakes and learning from them. Truthfully, I am very happy in life and never depressed. I am a really nice and friendly person and have lots of friends. I love to meet new people and socialize with those that are disadvantaged. Life

can be smooth and easy only if you make it that way by making correct choices and following the right paths.

I love to wonder about my future because I believe that I will be rich. In 2076, I will be in Chicago playing for the Chicago Sky (WNBA). I will be living like the next Serena Williams, but only this time in basketball and maybe even more rich. At the age of 29 I plan to get married because it is not too late and not too early. Also, I plan to have children around the age of 31. It may sound crazy, but I want six kids. Corde Broadies will be my husband and he is perfect. We are both born in April, we're both Aries, and we are both 15. Perfect match! Great couples make great relationships which means we will be together for the rest of our lives.

In the future, I plan to be the next Serena Williams and still achieve my professionalism in basketball and squash. I will be living my life in the "fab" lane and living my life like it's golden.

### **Emmanuel Williamson / Autobiography**

I was born on October 18, 1998 on the South Side of Chicago. During my life living in Chicago the streets were very dangerous in my neighborhood so I could not hang out with friends outside. I would sit in the house and watch my friends play outside. One day I was so bored from not doing anything I decided to go in my mother's room and get a piece of paper out the copy machine to draw a picture of myself.

When I was nine years old in fourth grade I asked my teacher why did God make us? She said, "God made us to do something great in life." Since fourth grade I have tried my very best in school, respected people and I tried to participate in after school programs at my school so I would get extra credit and also get good grades. I am a troop 1559 Boy Scout. I am going to become a METROSquash member.

I will succeed in basketball, football, and baseball in high school. My specialty is going to definitely be art in college. The four reasons why I want to be a football player, baseball player, basketball player, and artist is because each one of these will help me earn a lot of money and break all types of records.

I want to break Jackie Robinson's record for hitting 6 home runs in a game. My next record I want to break is in football held by Michael Vick. Michael Vick is known for being the quickest NFL player in the league; his nickname is flash because of his incredible speed. Next is Michael Jordan – He was so good in basketball and his stats were so high that no one could break them and one of his nick names was the hulk because he had so much power when he was dunking. Some people called him the god of basketball.

To conclude, you already know I am very talented, such as my drawing skills and my athletic skills. I want to be the best artist in the world and you also know that I want to break records for baseball, basketball, and football. I know that this is only possible if I keep my grades up and practice a lot and work as hard as possible. I will continue to do the best I can in every aspect of my life, even beyond my school-work.

### **Kokui Annani Akollor / Narrative**

Have you ever met two black dogs waiting for fresh meat to come? Well, I have on a cold day in Atlanta, Georgia. My cousin Shaniya and I were walking to the school bus stop. Until something unexpected came out with fuzzy black hair and two big scary eyes poked out of nowhere.

It was two black pit bulls. As my cousin Shaniya said, "Ko-kui", we started running and screaming, "Rosie, Rosie" as my sister ran downstairs, and we ran into the house.

Then, after five minutes passed, my sister Rosie started up the minivan and we hopped in and drove off to school. Finally, after I arrived to school I told all my friends about the two pit bulls. I told the kids who live in the apartment building too and since then everyone started riding to the bus stop.

Lastly, I will say that was the most fearful, ugly looking animal I have ever seen in my life and I will never forget about it.. So remember not to run from animals like my cousin Shaniya and I did because that can be the most stupid thing I ever did. They will attack.

### **Justinn Beauford / Narrative**

I went to New Orleans for a family reunion. I did not really want to go because it was 14 hour drive. The worst part of the trip was someone kept farting and nobody ever said who did it. Somehow every time we stopped at a gas station a bunch of bugs entered the truck. We did not have a fly swatter, so we smashed them with our hands. After a while we were pulled over by the police. We were pulled over because we went over the speed limit. Luckily we did not receive a ticket. The hotel we stayed was called the Double Tree. In the hotel we stayed in a suite that had four beds, which were big enough for the whole family to sleep in.

The first day of our trip we had to go to a banquet, that was kind of fun because we played games and I won a camera. The second day we had to stay with grandma in her room. As soon as my grandma went to sleep my brother and I went to the basketball court and went swimming. She woke up; we came back and got in trouble. When we left New Orleans it was thundering and raining and I was asleep the rest of the way.

### **Steeve Cerant / Narrative**

It all started when we first work up on a Thursday. Our mom told us that we had to go and babysit for our dad's brother's wife. So we took our showers and brushed our teeth and got dressed, then our dad took us over there to their house. We also had to babysit our little sister. So when we got there we started to babysit. The kid's names were Corey, Cassidy, and Yuliana.

The babysitting started off good but when the mom left to go to work, that is when it started to get harder and harder. Corey is 4 years old and he was acting so crazy, while we were watching television shows on the computer. He was just jumping off the chairs and was so energetic like he ate sugar for breakfast. Cassidy and our little sister were acting okay, it was just Corey who was trouble.

Finally, the mom came home around three o'clock, so half the babysitting was over. But, the kids were still acting up. Then 5 minutes later their dad came home and then we took a little break nap. Then we woke up at 7 o'clock and watched some television and watched a movie while their mom went shopping. When their mom came back we ate some ice cream and the movie was still going on so we watched it until the end. So then when the movie was over we went to take showers and go to sleep. When everyone went to sleep the only baby that was awake was Corey and we were the ones who had to sleep with him. It was especially hard for me because I was the one who was sleeping by him while my brother was sleeping. So then I went to sleep once Corey was asleep. Yay, what a relief!

### Rock Cerant / Narrative

Oh my God! Look at all these people. There are almost more than a million people. Where did all of the people come from? The Taste of Chicago during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend is an absolute blast. It was a very hot Saturday. As we entered we bought some tickets and were ready to enjoy the day

First we bought some corn that was sweet and buttery; perhaps it was the best I ever ate. One of the things I we always come to taste is the turkey leg, which is very delicious. While we were on our way we were stopped by this persistent weird man. He was selling maps of the taste with all the booths. He kept forcing my family and guardian to buy a map, but we really did not need one. He would not let us go until we bought the map, so we bought had no choice to give him dollar for the map. At last we went to the turkey leg stand. My mom bought one for her and one for me and my brother. We went by the Silver Bean to eat. I can still taste it in my mouth it was so scrumptious.

I love the Taste of Chicago and cannot wait to go again next year. You can probably guess I will be getting another turkey leg next year....

### Michael Chester / Narrative

We went to Atlanta, Georgia for my dad's business convention for a week. My dad, three of my uncles, me, and my sister all drove in my uncle Marquis's Ford Expedition XL. During the car ride the space was so packed that we were like sardines in a can, minus the oil to keep us from sticking together. It was hot and muggy and it felt like a Louisiana Bayou, but lucky for me, I was back with all the luggage, cool water, ice and fruit pies. We stopped in Kentucky for rest and breakfast and ate at a local diner called ST8 Away. The food was horrible, it tasted like rat poisoning mixed with raw sewage. The eggs were cold and tasteless.

The only good part about the meal was the anti-acid and Coke I had after it. Anyway, back on the road there was a lot of nature, wild life, and wild life police. They were called on duty to remove a 500 pound alligator from a family's pool outback.

Once we got to Atlanta, the heat was so blazing hot that we had to put the AC on full blast. At our hotel we had a suite with four beds and a sofa bed. Of course since my sister was the only girl she got her own bed, so I bunked on the floor. We really enjoyed Atlanta, and I brought home a Georgia State Bulldogs hat and a Mario Brothers T-shirt. I also met the Georgia State Bulldogs on the way back.

The overall week in Atlanta was great. We went to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s memorial and a hike in Georgia woods. I had a lot of fun in that week. I would love to go back anytime.

### Joshua Fallis / Narrative

Just four boys going paintballing: myself, Joshua, my friend Adam, my other friend Jabarie and the lucky birthday boy, Tylar. Going to a paintball arena at the ages of 12 and 13 were kind of scary for us. The paintball arena was all the way in Glenwood, Illinois. It took us an hour to even drive to the paintball arena. As we walked in the arena we saw paint flying everywhere! It was on the floors, the walls, the floors and even the cashier counter was messed up with paintballs.

The referee strapped us with protective armor. He also loaded our guns for us and put on our helmets too. We were finally all set and ready to go. The referee blew the whistle and that means play!

So we begin to play. Our team began with 15 players on the field. Within a matter of minutes our team was cut down to 9 players. Tylar and Adam were hit at the same time! Man, now there were three more players out. This left only Jabarie and me left to try and finish the game. At this point I am under cover calling Jabarie's name as loud as humanly possible. Jabarie turns around as he hears me and is instantly hit with paintball in the chest. Jabarie is down on the ground; I think that he is injured so I go to him and try to cover him.

His helmet was dirty and splashed with paint – His face was sore and his gun was even jammed up. I knew that the fate of the game was now in my hands. I fought my very hardest and was able to eliminate 3 players in my final to push for victory. Unfortunately, my CO2 tank exploded in my face! I was hurt and we lost the battle.

We played another match and were all hit by paint mortars. Our opponents were forty year old men that seemed to be obsessed with this fun sport. In conclusion, although we lost the battle, we proved that we are a band of brothers who could not have our spirit broken.

### **Kayland Jones / Narrative**

It was my first day at Ariel; well it wasn't really my first day, because I was there during summer for basketball camp. I went to basketball camp for 20 days. So it was really my eleventh day at Ariel. Anyway, I was very nervous. I was almost more nervous than a nervous wreck. I felt that they wouldn't like me, because I was tall for 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. Just to make things worse I had huge feet. I thought I was a giant. My mom drove me to school that day (thank God). I was very glad my mom took me to school☺. We were one of the first kids there. When I saw the other kid's faces, I could tell everyone else was nervous like me. The security guard told me to wait to 8:00 to go in. So my mom waited with us until 8:00 then left for work. Once my mom left, it finally hit me that my brother and I were alone in a big school. So I took him to the cafeteria for breakfast. Right then I realized on some days I should eat breakfast at home. So I told my brother follow me to the back for morning recess.

We saw a lot of kids outside lining up for class and teachers holding up signs. My auntie said that my little brother will be in Mrs. Dones's classroom. My auntie also said that I need to go the sign that said Mrs. Uoik. When I got in line we headed up stairs. When I got upstairs Mrs. Uoik handed us a card and shook my hand. I got a card that had the number 50 on it. So I went to table five where four other kids got the number as me. We all introduced ourselves. I met Haley, Michelle, Cameron, and Matthew. Mrs. Uoik took all the supplies we brought to school. We played games for three class periods. Then she told everyone to line up for lunch. She took us to the cafeteria line. Then she left for her lunch break. Right then I realized the schools lunch is edible enough for me to eat. Michelle, Haley, and Taryn invited me to sit with them. Then we played and talked all recess long. Then Mrs. Uoik came to pick us up and we played and did arts and crafts for three class periods. Then Mrs. Uoik walked us outside to go home. WHAT A DAY!

## Johnathan Montgomery / Narrative

It was Monday morning when I woke up and realized that, that day was the day that I was going to start my first day at camp with the Second City. I woke up at 5:59 AM without realizing that I had exactly four hours and forty-five minutes to be at camp. Before I came to notice that it was now six in the morning I had ironed my clothes, brushed my teeth, washed my face, taken a shower, and eaten breakfast! I was really excited. Before I knew it, it was finally 9:45. During that time I had been updating my face book status saying, "I can't believe I start camp in a matter of minutes." After I updated my status on face book I picked out a sky-blue shirt that read, "I'm extremely talented." Along with the shirt I picked out some off-white jeans and a new pair of vans that were also sky blue. When I slowly put on my clothes it was like I had short dreams in my head about how fun camp would be. Every little step that I took to prepare for camp felt like forever. Soon after the dream I got my lunch and was out the door.

I ran down the stairs to get in the car. As I was doing that I was wondering why every moment felt so so long. Once in the car I slammed the door, BAM! The door went and my step-dad and I went speeding off downtown. As we got closer I started to get very nervous. My stomach felt bubbly and my hands were shaking. Before my eyes I saw Piper's Alley Marquee. I got out of the car and ran through the spinning doors. I got on the escalator and was totally nervous, stumbling on the stairs. I stopped myself and muttered, "ok now I really need to settle down and pay attention!" I looked over and saw at least 200 kids before my eyes. I went over and signed in and began to listen to my IPod. I was really just in my own zone at that point. I saw that everyone at camp knew each other and I was alone. Finally, 10 minutes went past and the director of the camp began to talk.

The director, who was named Randy, started to talk about some of the things Second City has to offer to their campers like professional teachers that are Second City actors and the shows that we were going to see while at camp and lots more. After 10 minute talk from the director of camp it was time to head to our classes but first each camper was assigned to their teachers. One teacher was an improve coach and the other were our sketch coaches. Amanda was my improve coach and Edmund was my sketch coach. Immediately after meeting our coaches it was time for our improve class. Everyone came in and we played a game. We had to catch a ball and say our name and something interesting about us. It took forever for someone to throw to me by eventually someone threw it to me and I said, "My name is Johnathan Montgomery and I'm a total crazy person." After the first hour I already had four friends.

The first day of Second City camp went very well and I knew, driving away in my step dad's car that afternoon that it was going to be a great summer!

## Taylor Moran / Narrative

My trip to Florida was amazing because I went with my sister Casey Elizabeth Edna Moran and we went to go see our Nana Ardelia Levesque.

On our trip to Florida, while Casey and I were on the plane, I was sitting by the window scared to death thinking the plane was going to crash but luckily it did not. During the plane ride the flight handout asked do you want a hamburger and I said yes and she gave it to me.

After the two hour ride we landed in Orlando. When we got off the plane it was midnight. As soon as Casey and I got off the plane we saw our Nana, Ardelia Levesque, running towards us and giving us a big hug.

After Casey and I got a hug from our Nana we took many ways to get to her house. First we took a shuttle bus. Second we took a miniature train ride to my Nana's workplace where her car was

parked. When we got to our Nana's house she showed us her wonderful bathrooms, kitchen, bedroom and dining room.

Then we went to bed. When we all woke up, my Nana said, "Girls we're going to Disney World." We got dressed, hopped in the car and drove to Disney World. When we arrived at Disney World we parked by Goofy. We went to the front desk to buy our Disney World tickets. We told the front desk our names and filled out a sheet. Nana showed them her ID so they saw that she was in the Army and they said "Thank you for what you do for us." They gave her an extra ten dollars. Then we went inside Disney World and it looked amazing.

Before we got on any rides we ate lunch. I had two hot dogs and amazing salty but sour French fries. My sister ordered a hot dog, one burger and some salty French fries. After we all ate, we went on some rides. First we went on a roller coaster, then, we took some pictures. After that, we went on a Merry Go Round for my sister. We also took pictures with Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and some gerbils. Next we all went on a ride that spun around really, really fast. Last, we went home to her apartment.

### Joshua Nash / Narrative

My name is Joshua Nash and this is a life story about my first dog. I was seven years old when I got a dog. It was a Sunday and we were about to go see my grandma when my mom got a phone call. I didn't know who it was but my mom said we could go and get a dog. So, we got in the car and headed off.

Now, we are in the car and all I can think about is names. So we got to the place that we were supposed to go to and my mom said yes to getting a dog. We see a black dog with brown eyes.

So we got him in the car and he kissed me on my face and I thought his name should be J-Rock,. So now we go home and when he got in the house he peed and 5 weeks later my mom said we had to give him away. She told me we were going to get him back but we didn't.

### Marielys Quintero / Narrative

My best friend Lily and I started off playing in my basement, which was actually my playroom, when all of a sudden Lily had an urge to dress my adult long haired dogs in my baby doll clothes. So, I got motivated to agree with her after she explained that we were going to play house.

We ran to the garage, which was where we kept the dogs, when Lily opened the door quickly and startled me when she said, "Rats!" I ran as quickly as my little three foot eight inch body could with a broom twice the size of my body about to smack them away. But I realized after a moment that they weren't rats, they were my puppies! I said, "They're not rats silly Billy, they are puppies."

Lily said, "Oh, how cute. Can I have one?" I told her to ask my mom, but my mom was so surprised she celebrated at Old Country Buffet. Yum! Then, she told Lily and I to bring over the puppies and we took three puppies and gave Lily one.

This was by far the best day of my life, because I got to choose my life companion, my baby Troy. Our relationship is so close and unusual. We play all day, we take long walks, we take long naps, and so much more. I just love him. I picked him out based off of his little personality. He was very playful, rough, and just too cute to reject. I shall always keep this day, August 27, 2006 as a prized moment. I love you Troy!

### Christopher Roberson / Narrative

I recollect the time I joined this camp called METROsquash! The camp was really fun and all of the people there were really awesome! A lot of people there treated me like I was really special to them! I knew for a fact that I would be accustomed to them, no problem! Even when I made a lot of mistakes they weren't condescending to me! I am really glad about that!

Another thing I did at METROsquash is academics and other learning activities! I remember when we had to write a whole bunch of essays! That was very maniacal! Like when we were focusing on various things like: narratives, expository, autobiographies, and some other types of writing!

Also, there was this sport that we played called Squash. That is where the word came from the name of the camp METROsquash! Squash is very fun, active, and energetic! I was so good that some people were scared to play me!

In conclusion, there was a time when I went to this camp called METROsquash! It was fun and I really liked the people there. I had no problems and everything was smooth! If I wanted to, I would go back there again!

### Christian Scott / Narrative

Last Sunday I went to Deep River Water Park with my two sisters and my cousin. It took an hour and 23 minutes. We took the street, but we could of taken the express way, which would of took 20 minutes. Once we arrived there the sky was dark; it looked like it was going to rain. They would not let us so went back to the car then we waited a few minutes then we went back and they let us in.

The water was cold so before we started riding rides we jumped in the lazy time river. We went around three times, then my sister and I left out of the river and went over to the wave pool. I swam under water and the waves always pushed me back when I tried to swim forward. After that, it was time to go. My sister and I had to go find my other sister and cousin, but we could not find them until we checked around the kiddies' pool. After all that we went home.

### Matthew Teague / Narrative

Yesterday was a boring and exciting day for me. My mom took my brothers and I shopping for picnic supplies. The exciting part was that I got a Yu-Gi-oh structure deck of dinosaurs. I brought 2 packs of cards and 6 bonus cards. I had my favorite dinner served to me, which is rice and gravy with string beans and a gravy coated meat.

What I thought was boring was the shopping because I really didn't need to be there and I just wanted to go home. I told my mom I was bored and she said Chris can drive me around in the neighborhood. I started to get excited to see him drive but then I got bored again and wanted to go home. The stores we went into was Target, Wal-Mart, Family Dollar, Sam's, and Dollar Tree. They took a while to get through. We went to Panda express for lunch and I got really full. The worst part was that I had got a massive headache because I hit my head on the window in the car.

After dinner , my dad gave us Gelato. Mine was strawberry had bits of chocolate. This is how my day was exciting and boring.

### Joshua Teague / Narrative

Last Christmas, my family and I woke up at like 7 or eight to open presents. We spent 2 or 3 hours opening and seeing what the presents would be. Then at 11 my aunt and uncle were having a brunch. Me, my two brothers, and my cousin ate a lot. We had bacon, eggs, sausage, waffles, pancakes, French toast, spaghetti and much, much more.

Then we went home and prepared for the dinner at my house. Everybody brought more presents for us. I got a lot of clothes. I got new Wii games like FIFA 2010, Wii Fit, Smack down vs. Raw 2010, and Mario and Sonic At the Olympic Winter Games. I also got \$175 dollars for Christmas. We had greens, macaroni and cheese, ham, turkey, and my favorite chitterlings. Chitterlings are pig guts. It sounds nasty but tastes good. Chitterlings are a gray color and are kind of flat. It is good especially if you put hot sauce on it.

When everybody went home, we had a peaceful rest of the night playing with our presents. That was a good family brunch and dinner. It was the best Christmas ever.

### Patsean Terrell / Narrative

My name is Patsean I live in Chicago, Illinois. I busted my head when I was eight years old. I was coming back from the store, heading home. I changed my cloths and went outside to play baseball, that's when it all happened; a bat hit me in the head. I felt it, but it didn't hurt. I then stumbled to my feet and felt my head. My head was bleeding, because we live on the first floor I was able to walk too my mom's window and scream. The mom of the kid who hit me had a cigarette in her hand and she grabbed and told my mom and step-dad what happened. My mom looked at my head and started to cry so I ran to the bathroom.

I looked in the mirror and saw a big hole in my head. The ambulance came and was sitting down in shock. There much blood, the doctor told my mom if she would have came in the room she would be in shock to. When we arrived at the hospital they put two fingers in my head. Then they tried to make me go to sleep, by giving me this strange liquid in a needle. They stuck the needle in my arm. I was so scared the liquid wasn't going to put me to sleep. It took them four shots until they saw it wasn't working so they numbed my body. They put 147 stitches on my head all because of a wooden bat. When I came home at 2:00 a.m. my mom was so sad she gave me my birthday present early. She was crying so bad she could have made a river in the house. She cried for three weeks straight. Everyone looked at my head thinking 'dang his head was busted open'. The doctors had pronounced me dead, they were surprised when I woke up, now isn't that amazing! That's how my head was gashed opened.

### Nick Thomas / Narrative

He shoots and he scores. The 2009-2010 rookie of the year was Derrick Rose. Going to see the Bulls vs. the Nets was the best game ever. The Bulls won and I got to watch the game in the sky box. I had never been in a skybox before, so my first time was amazing! I could see everything really well. Being up there is very fun and you get anything you want for free.

After the game, I got to meet Derrick Rose for the first time. He is such a cool and laid back person. Sometimes people might think celebrities are just stuck up people but he is home with family and stays grounded with himself.

**Kokui Annani-Akollor / Fiction**

Have you ever met an old evil, ugly lady that wears a wig, long gloves, and a long black coat no matter if the weather is blazing hot or freezing cold?

Well I found out that this evil old witch lady lives right next door to me. She lives in an all-black house with big lion-tiger statues on the sides of the door. Every Saturday the evil witch comes out to throw out her garbage. One of these Saturdays Ciara and I saw her throw out the garbage and walk straight black into her creepy black house. That night Cara and I could hardly fall asleep.

In the morning around 6:00 A.M. we saw the black witch looking straight into our window. She looked into our eyes saying I'm going to get you girls with my creepy 3-eyed dogs on the leash of my house you evil smelling children. As my heart pumped with fear I was so scared that I ran to the phone and dialed 9-1-1. As soon as the police answered the phone, I told them everything that happened. After that they told me they will be there in under five minutes.

Eventually the police reached the creepy black house. They knocked on the door, went up the ugly cracking, grey old stairs. Finally, when they reached the old witch's room, the police saw the witch lady rocking in a chair with a grey headed rat. Then they put her in a restraining vest she could never get out of. Since that day I never saw the witch lady in my mind or in my dreams- nowhere.

**Michael Chester / The Final Moments / Fiction**

The year was 2027; years after the apocalypse under took America and half of the world. The cities are now nothing but useless rubble over lapping and providing homes for than thirteen colonies of the Drankent, an alien race. The Drankent are the ones responsible for the blood filled and terrifying decade that led to apocalypse.

We, the American Military force has formed a new team to combat the alien race, are a combination of C.I.A, KGB, Swat, GSG9, and the Green Beret. I am Zachary Klass. My specialties are sniping and explosives. I have led the Special Forces for the past five year as a GSG9 special ops.

"Major Klass, the Drankent are advancing!" yells the young and frantic gunman. Boom! Twelve pounds of C4 dynamite erupts taking down a staggering amount of Drankent reinforcements. The Crimson sons of Hades himself now lie dead and dismantled in the ash covered black night sky. The Drankent are taking our western fleet 42s and support try to hold the ground but are losing men quickly.

"Listen up men, this is the final battle. We must hold them here and shoot every clip you have at them, give them nothing but the lead from your guns and the iron from your knives!" I shouted to encourage the soldier. Now bombs are erupted, shaking and damn near splitting the ground into half.

"It's working the Drankent are falling back." My men are dominating until I see a Drankent grunt decapitate a soldier. "Nooo!" I yelled as I blast his head off his royal blue-black blood gushes.

The war is almost over. We are waiting for the perfect time to make an airstrike to totally destroy the Drankent permanently. The whistling from the deploying bombs dropping overhead sends a signal to our forces to find cover. "Men find cover." I scream. We cover until the thousands of explosives finally make a touchdown totally disintegrating the remaining enemy forces.

"It's over, it's...it's finally over, "I can't believe after a fifteen year war has been won. "Men we did it!" soldiers are throwing their guns in the air and cheer. Two-thousand dead and seventy are M.I.A., but we won the war and the battle it's finally over.

"No real soldiers have been harmed in the making of this story"

### Xaria Echols / Fiction

Once upon a time there was a princess named Layloney. She was as nice as a diamond ring, and as pleasant as a rose. Her eyes were as big as stones and she was fairly slim. Long, dark hair from her hairline to the middle of her back with bangs covering every inch of her forehead under her bangs were near thin eyebrows lying over her big, crystal blue eyes.

Layloney was known as the Aphrodite on earth. Unlike Aphrodite she chose not to love or try to seduce men. There was one man who would stop at nothing to get the one girl he wanted, Layloney. He sent flowers and chocolate but she just sent it all back to him. The prince was sick of being rejected and decided to get back at the princess because she wouldn't stop turning him down. He remembered her favorite food was pot stickers, so he snuck in the back of Princess Layloney's castle and into the kitchen. Lucky for the prince, Layloney's food was being prepared. The sneaky prince slithered into the kitchen and poured potion into the hot, boiling water and tip-toed out the kitchen without being seen.

The Chef brought Princess Layloney her pot-sticker after her first bite, Layloney's horrible nightmare began. "Um delicious, tasty and nutritious." Layloney was rhyming with every word. She rhymes all the time! Luckily for her she met a rapping prince and they rhymed together happily ever after.

### Gabby Powell / Fiction

Once there was a girl named Jenny. When Jenny was setting the dining room table to do her homework she realized that she couldn't find her favorite pen. Jenny thought about it and ran into her older brother's room. "David", she yelled but there was no answer. She discovered that David was not at home. She ran into her brother's room searching for her pen. Jenny looked under his bed, on top, and in the drawers. Jenny, surprised, did not find it. She went to her room and looked in the same places.

When Jenny went back to the dining room there was her favorite pen writing in the air. Then the ghost became visible. Jenny said in fear, "What are you doing here?" The ghost replied, "I am here to help you with your math homework but I will not kill you." Then at that moment she wasn't scared anymore! The ghost helped her with her math homework and Jenny began to know her general patterns. The next day when Jenny's teacher was going over homework and she got every question right!

Jenny soon became better in general patterns. Jenny no longer needed help whatsoever. She even helped her older brother with his general patterns. Next time a ghost just pops up in your dining room, he or she just might want to help you with your math!

### Marielys Quintero / Fiction

"Umm... umm ... number one is c, no, no, uhh, I wish I had studied!"

These are the exact words Emily Swanson said in her head while she is tapping her pencil on the desk hoping Mr. Picket won't see her stalling for her hour long midterm. While the other children were on question 38 out of the 50 problems. She was barely on number twelve.

The night before she remembered she had called over three of her friends Ivy, Sammi, and Yazy. They were all playing around and giving each other make-over. Her textbook was under her bed next to a half bitten bologna and Swiss cheese sandwich with wheat bread. She's sneakily tried

to slip her textbook out from under her book bag when Mr. Picket said, "Times Up."  
Uuuuggghhhh, "Emily pouted, " why is this happening to me?"

Mr. Picket went around from the back to the front of the room she hurried and just circled random answers when all of a sudden she heard a shaky voice say "Swanson pencil down," it was Mr. Picket. Emily got mad and slammed her test packet on the desk and yelled, "I tried my best." Mr. Picket said, "You going to get an F Miss Swanson." "Nooo," she yelled but then she heard her mother's sweet voice and she remembered she had three more days to study for the test.

### Alec Sandifer / Sweet Jennifer / Fiction

Once upon a time there was a boy whose name was Alec. Alec lived on a ranch with his horse Jennifer. One late night Alec got in a fight with his dad so he went out for a ride on his horse Jennifer but she was not there.

He looked all over the place for her. He could not find her. It was getting late and too dark for him to see her so his dad told him to go to bed. He could not sleep as he wondered where Jennifer was/

The next morning he woke up and rushed to the barn as fast as he could, hoping to see if Jennifer was there. She was not there. Alec moped and cried until his momma told him that they would find her.

Later in the afternoon momma and Alec went to church. Momma prayed to the lord. She was hopin' and prayin' that Gold would help Alec find Jennifer.

Later on that night Alec ate dinner and was thinking about Jennifer and how she hisses. Momma knew he was thinking about Jennifer because she asked a question and he did not answer. After dinner Alec went outside to see if Jennifer was there but she was not.

The next day he went to his friend's house and told the friend that Jennifer was gone. Alec asked if the friend had seen her. He said no. After he said no Alec went to Josh's house so he could take his mind off Jennifer and how sad he felt.

Josh and Alec played video games all day. Then Alec heard a hiss that sounded like Jennifer. He went outside and there she was! He dashed out and grabbed her around the neck and hugged her and told her, "Never scare me like this ever again! But, I still love you."

That night Alec slept very well knowing that Jennifer was there.

### Yadecah Chambers / Poetry

#### Mother Dear

You are across the lake  
I miss your love  
You're the reason I wake every morning  
Conversations I miss your touch your kiss  
You are the reason I'm here  
Your love is not near always here in my heart mother dear

**Michael Chester / Poetry**

Might massacre you in guitar hero  
Innovative  
Can dominate in 3<sup>rd</sup> person shooter  
Hate public restrooms  
Agreeable  
Entered and won the Guitar Hero 2 tournament  
Loves to eat

**Michael Chester / Poetry**

Thunder  
Clouded nightmares lives  
Rainstorms hail winds and lightning  
All live in a storm

**Kyra Elizabeth Clark / Poetry**

Why do my thoughts go against me.  
Why can't you understand.  
We use to be hand to hand.  
Our thoughts come together as one.  
When were under the sun.  
Why don't you believe in me.  
Can't you see.  
It's over

**Adam Honore / Poetry**

A- Awesome person ever.

D- Dangerous kid to mess with.

A- Articulate kid.

M- Mega star to come.

H- Honest Adam.

O- Optimistic about everything

N- Never Back Down.

O- Outgoing for people

R- Respectful to everyone.

E- Educated young man.

**Gregory Johnson / Poetry**

Gets along well with others

Respects others

Enjoys others people company

Goes with his first mind

Older than most of his cousins

Really likes playing with his older brother

Young

Joined a team name METROsquash

Organizes his shoes

Has love and respect for peers

Never tries to follow others

Searches for the right moment

Outgoing til the end

Not too old

**Kayland Jones / Poetry**

Can dream  
High skyscrapers  
Incoming ideas  
Coming to a great beginning  
Allowing new changes  
Getting new materials  
Overcoming the great Chicago fire

Intelligent designers  
Learning new things  
Leaving the past  
Investing in the future  
Now or never  
On its game point  
In its home  
Searching for a difference

**Diamond Kane / Poetry**

After rain comes down.  
Few drops land on dirty ground.  
leaves are wet from the rain.

**Taylor Moran / Poetry**

T-alented  
A-wesome  
Y-o yo lover  
L-oving  
O-pen wide  
R-espectful

I-ntelligent  
M-ommy's girl  
A-mazing  
N-ice  
I-cy cold

M-indful  
O-pen  
R-ound  
A-thetic  
N-osy

**Maxwell Okwuedei / Poetry**

Marvelous

Awesome

X-ray vision

Wise

Exciting

Long and tall

Lean and fit

**Christopher Roberson / Poetry**

Winter

Crisp and chilling

Snow is freezing and melting

Blooming, busting, and Shimmering

Warm and lively

Spring

**Christian Scott / Poetry**

My teacher is so mean  
She made me rewrite this thing  
After that I had to give it back  
When she read it she said it wasn't all that.  
So I got a C when I should of got a B  
My grade was so bad it made my mother sad  
I study and study to prepare for the test.  
When we had the test I was ready to be the best

**O'sha Smith / Poetry**

O-outgoing  
S-smart  
H-hipper  
A-athletic

S-surprising  
M-make the best of everything  
I-intelligent  
T-the nicest girl in my class  
H- happy

**Josh Teague / Poetry**

Sometimes I love to learn here.  
Sometimes more than it appears.  
I love to hit with the racket.  
I love the academic packets.  
I love to eat lunch.  
I love squash a whole bunch.  
It's fun to be on Christian's team.  
I love warm up with max.  
I love to hear the ball get smacked.

**Nick Thomas / Poetry**

Soaring in the sky  
Shaped just like a big circle  
It's very fluffy

**Brack Turner / Poetry**

The solar system  
Planets of many wonders  
Giant mysteries

**Joshua Teague / Reader Response / To Build a Fire**

**By: Jack London**

I liked most of the story. I like most of the story because the man deserved his fate in the story. That is what he gets for being so mean to the dog. And when the dog fell in the water he didn't even help the dog get defrosted. He just left him to defrost himself.

My favorite part was when the man fell in the water. He deserved that because he was being mean to the dog and he didn't listen to the old man. I think he was very arrogant and only cared about himself.

My least favorite part was when the dog got frozen. I didn't think he deserved it since the man was already being mean to him. My other least favorite part was the beginning because it wasn't that exciting. It didn't get exciting until the middle of the story. All Jack London was doing in the beginning of the story was describing things. He wasn't really telling a story.

I think that the man deserved to be stranded in the forest because he is a mean ugly guy who looks like there is desert in his beard. His attitude is nasty and he doesn't care about the dog. He just cared about getting out of the woods. I think it was terrible that he even had to think about using the dog for warmth. The dog is too small to fit his body in it. Also, why would he kill an innocent dog for no reason at all? He is just too brutal.

That's what I think about the story "To Build a Fire" by Jack London.

**Keveon White / Reader Response / To Build a Fire**

**By: Jack London**

Yes, I liked the story "To Build a Fire." It was interesting after they described the woods. The only boring part was when Jack London described the woods. The rest of the story kept me interested. To me the dog was the lucky one. The dog stayed naturally warm, but the man got frostbite. Throughout the story the dog was the lucky one. After the man died the dog found shelter. The man went to sleep in the snow knowing he would never wake up.

My favorite part about the story was when the man didn't have frostbite, and when the dog found shelter. In my opinion the worst and saddest part of the story was when the man died. Also when he built the fire and the fire blew out.

Yes, I do pity the man because, even though the man put his self into that situation, I still feel bad for him. The man had a good life, but it was sad when the man died. In the story the man seemed very nice, but when he was shivering cold he got angry at the dog for being naturally secure in his fur.

Some things I wish didn't happen in the story would be if the man didn't die and the dog still found the camp. Also, I wish the fire didn't blow out. Lastly I wish the author didn't spend almost a whole page talking about the woods.

In conclusion I liked the story a lot. To the author I give two big thumbs up.