

Summer of Hope



Summer 2022
Youth ages 11 - 13

“Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, and what you believe shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish.”

– John Jakes

You cannot be a writer unless you see yourself as one. Each program begins with an exploration of ourselves as writers, creators, and communicators. Some work is developed by the individual, and some work is a collaborative effort.

Enjoy youth pieces from Podium partners at:

Southside Boys & Girls Club

Fairfield Middle School

Wilder Middle School



Let the Creative Juices Flow

Enjoy short stories and poems from our talented youth!

A Coco Middle School Kidnapping

Khalib J.

Fairfield MS

Something bad went down at Coco Middle School: one of my best friends was kidnapped! I heard it on the news, so that night, I went to my secret closet and got on my superpower suit. With that on, I had the ability to do anything in the world. I went out that night, but I couldn't find him, so the next morning I went out again. This time I went to the park, and I found him in a tree, gasping for air. I got him down and chose my fast power to take him to the ER.

The ER team couldn't heal him, so then, I healed him with my healing superpower. Thankfully he came back to life! After that, we found the man who kidnapped him, Jake. Instead of fighting, we sat and talked to Jake. He said he was sorry, so we made a deal that he would never kidnap anyone else, and he said agreed. We shook hands.

Sync The Superhero

Derrick C.

Fairfield MS

One day, PJ got out of bed and realized he had powers. Then he said, "I can't take it no more," and he let it all out at his camp. That's how he became Sync: he can sync to other people's minds. His best friend is his sidekick, and he has powers too. Now, they fight crime together and win every fight.

Am I Dreaming?

Maliyah A.

Southside Boys & Girls Club

Shakira had five cats, four turtles, and three lizards. People did not understand how she could put up with so many pets. One day, Shakira got another pet. It was another turtle. Her mom said, "Child, you don't need all of them dang pets in my house!"

Shakira said back, "But Mom, I need them!" Before she could say anything else, she slipped and fell on a banana. Her mom just started to laugh. Then, she woke up and decided to make a joke. "Hey mom, what do you call a cute door? A-door-able!"

Her mom started laughing again, and then Shakira fell again. After she woke up this time, she saw her dad and said, "Oh my gosh, you finally came back!" And then, she suddenly woke up again. She stubbed her toe on someone's door, and just like that, her little brother was with her. He started to run away, but then he fell and slipped on a rotten banana! Shakira started to laugh, and just when they started on the way home, they both fell and slipped. Two days later, she bought three more pets: a dog, another lizard, and a goldfish.

"Whoa, I have like 15 pets, if my math is right. But whatever... I swear, Am I dreaming?" Then, she woke up in her bed.



Lights, Camera, Action!

Scripts and skits for the stage and screen.

Greenbrier Middle School Monologue

Kaylee H.

Fairfield MS

Main characters:

- Stephanie: A 6th grader
- Lexi: Stephanie's best friend

Storyline: It's Stephanie's first year of middle school, and she doesn't know what to do. She knew her elementary school so well, and practically everyone knew her name. Now she had to start fresh, learn to have more than one teacher, and handle her ex-best friend Naomi riding up her back.

Stephanie (to Lexi): You, Naomi, and I have been best friends since kindergarten, but once we got to the fourth grade, that all changed. Naomi got an iPhone and became popular. After that, she never had time for us. When she got her phone, the "popular girls" wanted her to join their posse, and with no hesitation, she left us for good. She started dressing differently, and the nice, fun-loving Naomi was gone. She changed into a whole different girl that started bullying us. Sometimes every now and then, she can be kind, but whenever a "popular girl" comes over, she starts with her "Miss Thang" attitude all over again.

Mini Chicks

Kierstin B.

Fairfield MS

Katrina wanted to make a movie, kind of like Mean Girls but called Mini Chicks. It was going well until Katrina learned there was a spy chasing her. When they finished the movie Katrina, found out it was her BFF who was the spy.

She told her the reason she was after her was because she was trying to kill her and steal her identity because she wanted to be her. Then, the BFF attacked her by kicking her in the face. This broke Katrina's nose, so passed out and woke up in a basement. She was terrified.

Fortunately, Katrina's mom was in The Mafia and had implanted a chip in her neck to keep tabs on her location. Just then, her mom checked her location and saw that she was in the BFF's basement. Katrina's mom quickly came to save her, crashing through the door and knocking the no-longer BFF out.



Shopping Problems
Acheyla J. and Maliyah A.
Southside Boys & Girls Club

Setting: H&M at the mall

Characters: S and AJ

S: It's cold in here.

AJ: You always say it's cold.

S: I know, but it's really cold.

AJ: Girl, whatever. Let's look at some clothes.

S: Okay, girl.

AJ: Hey, could this fit me?

S: Girl, you probably need something with no shoes

AJ: What about them Yeezys?

S: Oh heck no! Child, you don't have no feet! Girl, talking about some Yeezys!

AJ: Girl, whatever.

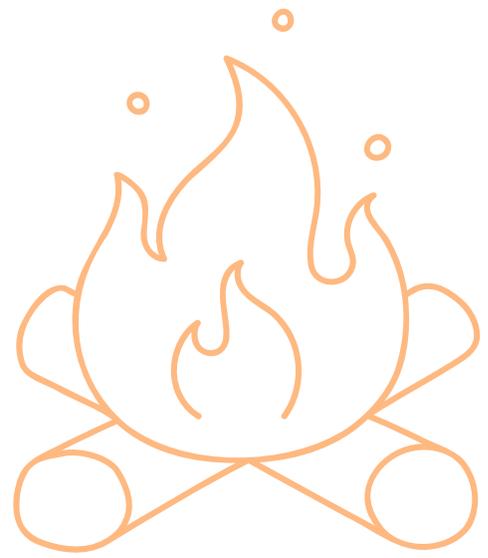


A Commercial Pitch: Enrjum!
Royal S. and Zion N.
Southside Boys & Girls Club

Hey you! Have you ever wanted superpowers? Well now you can at Power Corp. We are working to make a super tomorrow. The scientists in our lab found a compound that will give you superpowers depending on how much you take. It's called Enrjum. We are working to make it into a pill, so it is easier to get. Don't believe me? I'm going to go get a pencil in Mexico. Here is it. Didn't notice I was gone, did you? The release date is tomorrow, so go and preorder on our website: www.powerup.com. And remember folks, stay super!



A Commercial Pitch: Tropical Hotel
Mckenzie H. & Catherine A.
Southside Boys & Girls Club



Narrator: Tropical Hotel has the best customer service, and it has a chocolate fountain that is so good, you can even stick your phone into it! They have a very nice water fountain and an aquarium that you visit and have fun in. The rooms are biggish, and the master bedrooms are even bigger. You have so much space to walk around, and the view is very beautiful! Also, if you wake up at a certain time, you can see the beautiful beach! With a 5-star rating and great Wi-Fi, come on down to Tropical Hotel today!

Shakira: Hey girl! I just found this 5-star hotel! Do you want to go?

Katherine: What's it called?

Shakira: Tropical Hotel!

Katherine: Oh cute! But what do they offer? Or is it just a place to chill?

Shakira: Nah, they have personal chefs, the best room service, and the views from the room are perfect!

Katherine: Amazing! Although I have to ask, do they have Wi-Fi?

Shakira: Yes, the BEST Wi-Fi!

Katherine: I'm sold, let's pack our bags!

Together: The Tropical Hotel is a slice of paradise!



The Prank Wars
Mckenzie H. and Maliyah A.
Southside Boys & Girls Club

Setting: In school

Characters: Beniqua, Shakirah, and Lilyana

SCENE ONE: CAFETERIA

[In the cafeteria with tables and chairs everywhere. It is loud from people talking. Beniqua is already sitting down, and Shakirah and her classmate Lilyana walk in. They get their food, walk over to Beniqua's table, and notice she is sleeping. Shakirah grabs Beniqua's water bottle. Lilyana grabs a ketchup packet and gives it to Shakirah. Shakirah pours some ketchup in the water bottle and sets the bottle back on the table. Beniqua wakes up when Shakirah and Lilyana sit down.]

Beniqua: Hey guys, what are you doing?

Shakirah: Hey, we just wanted to sit by you. Oh! You look dehydrated.

Beniqua: Oh, you're right! Thank you.

[Beniqua grabs her bottle and drinks it. She tastes ketchup and spits water out all over her clothes.]

Beniqua: Ahhh!

[Beniqua drops the bottle on the ground and runs out of the cafeteria to call her mom while crying. Shakirah & Lilyana start laughing, but then Lilyana starts to feel bad.]

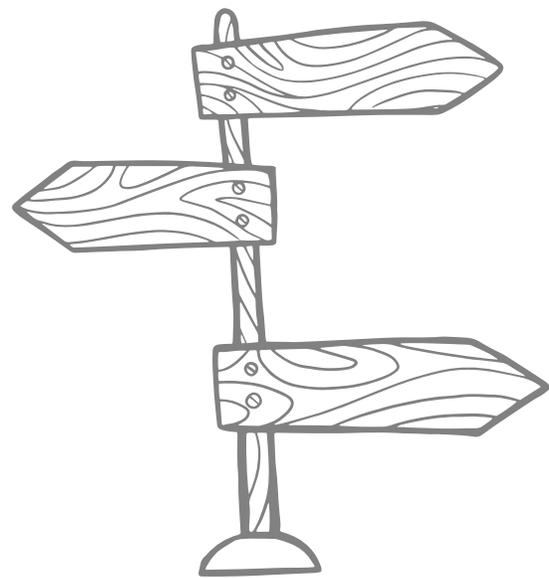
Lilyana: That was too far, I better go check up on her.

[Lilyana leaves to check on Beniqua.]

SCENE TWO: HALLWAY

[Beniqua is on the phone with her mom when Lilyana walks in.]

Beniqua: Okay, thank you mom, love you! [Hangs up the phone, changes her shirt, and turns to Lilyana.]



The Prank Wars (contd.)

Beniqua: Why didn't you stand up for me?

Lilyana: I wasn't in the right headspace, but now I am. Do you want to get her back?

Beniqua: Okay, here's what we're going to do.

[Beniqua whispers a plan to Lilyana, and they both leave the stage while talking.]

SCENE THREE: OUTSIDE FIELD (RECESS)

[It has just finished raining, so it is muddy in several places on the field. Everyone is on stage.]

Beniqua: Are you ready to do this?

Lilyana: Of course, bestie. We got this.

[Shkirah walks up.]

Shakirah: Do y'all see that mud puddle? It's so gross!

[Shakirah squats down to look at it. Beniqua walks up behind her and pushes her in.]

Shakirah: Oh my God!! Why would you do that? I thought we were 4lifers!!

Beniqua: Just a little revenge for stealing my crush, and Lilyana is my new 4lifer.

[Shakirah runs away crying, and Beniqua and Lilyana walk off together laughing.]

END OF SCENE



Monologue: The Day Pigs Fly
Pheonix C.
Southside Boys & Girls Club

Scene: a person on their phone

Okay so get this, I was just walking to school because the bus got run over by frog zombies again when I hear oinking. Like, a lot of it. And I can't tell where it's coming from. All of the sudden, a pig falls on me. So I look up, and there are pigs literally flying! I was so confused, but I ignored it because given frog zombies, it's not too crazy.

I stopped by that library next to school for a textbook on how eating zebra skin helps your immune system, you know, just some light reading for school. Walking in, I see people eating the book and yelling, "He's coming!" I assume it's one of the people from The Fortune trying to warn us or whatever. So luckily, I grabbed the book, and again started walking to school, but as I stepped out, this dinosaur with angel wings crushed the building. A whole bunch of flying dinosaurs showed up, big ones and small ones, and started chanting "Find the meat eater!"

All of the people in the library just ran out and yelled "HE'S HERE!" But the dinosaurs started spraying everybody with something, and now, I'm hiding in the backrooms of the library. So, can you pick me up?

The New Kid in Town
Linda M.
Wilder MS

Setting: Amanda's first day of school.

Characters: Amanda, Alley, and Kim

Scene: Amanda and her mom moved to Richmond because her mother got fired from her job. They got a small apartment because that's all they could afford. Amanda had to go to a new school where she had no friends. On Amanda's first day, she had very little school supplies with her because she did not have enough to buy everything she needed. Kim notices and calls Amanda out.

Kim: I'm not giving that broke new girl anything!

Amanda runs out of the classroom crying. Alley sees Amanda crying and walks over to her.

Alley: Are you ok?

Amanda: No, I'm not. Kim is being so mean to me on my first day.



The OSS
Royal S., Zion N., Destiny H.H
Southside Boys & Girls Club



Setting: The Headquarters of the OSS

Characters: Ms. Shush, Agent Aztec, Agent Love Muffin, Agent Grass Roots, and the President

Scene: A gathering of OSS agents. Agent Aztec stands alone in an office on the phone with Ms. Shush, the Head of the OSS.

Ms. Shush: Again Aztec, we have a new mission for you!

Aztec: What the sitch?

Ms. Shush: Two of your close friends, Agent Love Muffin and Agent Grass Roots, will accompany you. I am appointing you head spy.

Agent Aztec hangs up the phone. Agent Love Muffin appears at the door with Agent Grass Roots.

Together: Hey Cortez, what's up?

Love Muffin: What's up with Ms. Shush?

Aztec: Code Prez. Shush gave us an assignment to protect the president.

Suddenly, headquarters becomes under attacks. All agents turn and fire their weapons back at the attackers. Love Muffin get cornered

Love Muffin: Grass Roots, Aztec, I need back up!

Grass Roots: I'm a little busy saving the president! Runs to the helicopter.

Love Muffin: Aztec, throw me the splitter splatter!

Aztec throws the splitter splatter device. Meanwhile, the President appears on the helicopter. Hiding behind a seat, he checks his watch.

President: All right, agents. I've got to get to the White House. I'm trying not to get kidnapped.

The splitter splatter sends a shockwave as the agents run to helicopter, and they all fly away. End Scene.



The Fastest Girl in School

Kadyn G.

Wilder MS

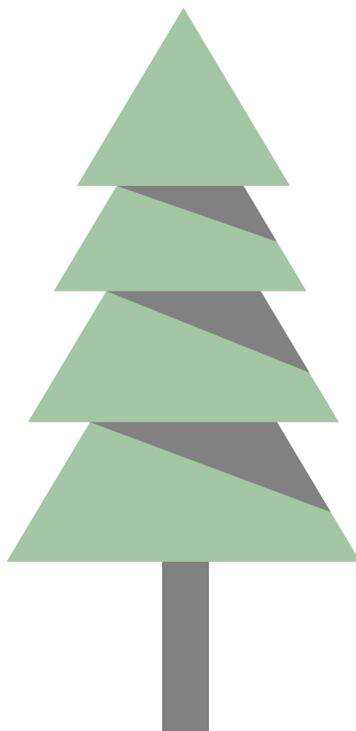
Setting: High school track team practice

Characters

- Sage: fastest runner
- Jewel: former fastest girl
- Conner: former fastest boy
- David: a prince charming type who has a crush on Sage

Scene: Sage is a high school girl who started at a new school and joined the track team. She is a very fast runner and has outrun the former fastest girl. The former fastest girl is salty about it and doesn't like the new girl.

Sage: As I walked into my new school building, I felt a sharp nerviness in my stomach. I couldn't fathom not being able to see my friends that I had worked so hard to get. I walked into my new classroom ready for anything, but I walked into something I never expected. At my other school, all my friends' classes were very calm and chill, but not at this school. No one even realized that I was there because they were too focused on throwing paper balls and arguing with each other.



The Blue Roller
Willie G.
Wilder MS

Characters: a boy, his mom, his teacher, and Zay.

Scene: Being at home and at school

Boy: It was my first day at school, and I kept getting bullied by a guy named Zay. He kept putting a picture in my locker that said loser on it, so I got mad and stomped off. Mom, the guy keeps bullying me at school, can I stay home today?

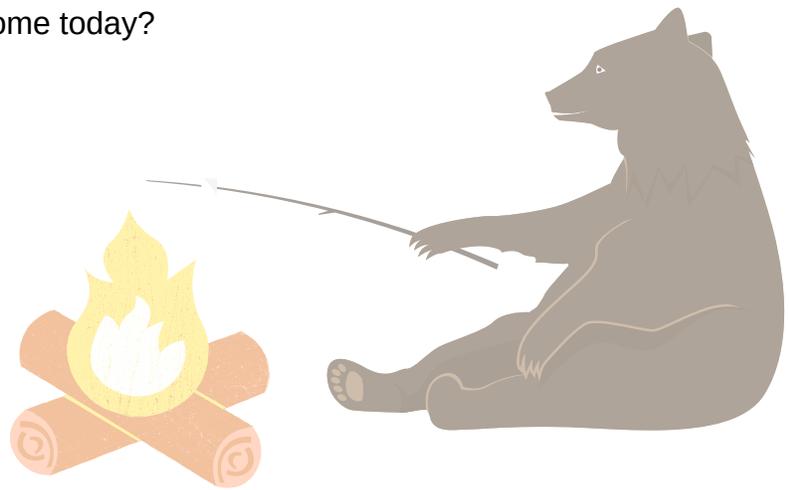
Mom: I said no.

Boy: But Mom. Fine.

Mom: Go get ready for school.

Boy: Ok Mom, bye.

Mom: Bye, honey.



Boy gets ready and goes to school. He enters his classroom

Boy: I'm finally here. Hi Ms. Jackion.

Ms Jackion: Hi there, it's great to see you on this fine day. Now that we are all seated, today we will learn how to add fractions.

Zay: Hey nerd, how's it going.

Boy: Leave me alone Zay.

Zay: Shut up before I beat you up after class.

Ms. Jackion: We are dismissed. See all of you tomorrow.

Zay: Bye Ms. Jackion.

Zay imitates beating up the boy as everyone leaves the room.

Boy: Leave me alone. Now I'm going to tell the teacher. Ms. Jackion, Zay keeps bullying me

Ms. Jackion: Stop this, Zay. I'm going to write you up.





I Podium

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