



WHO I AM

2022 FALL ZINE

YOUTH AGES 10-13

Fall 2022 Youth Ages 11 - 14 Zine

“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:

Carter G. Woodson Middle School
Fairfield Middle School
L. Douglas Wilder Middle School
Lucille Brown Middle School
River City Middle School
Peter Paul Development Center



Poetry and Prose

Enjoy creative poems and narrative storytelling from our middle school students

JEAN

Jamia U.

River City MS

Being a **Jewel** has its place to rule
like an **Emerald** is like a green stool.
Amythyst is like a beautiful seed,
and being a **Negative Nancy**
would claim you as mean.

A Girl

Mariyah C.

Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am a girl

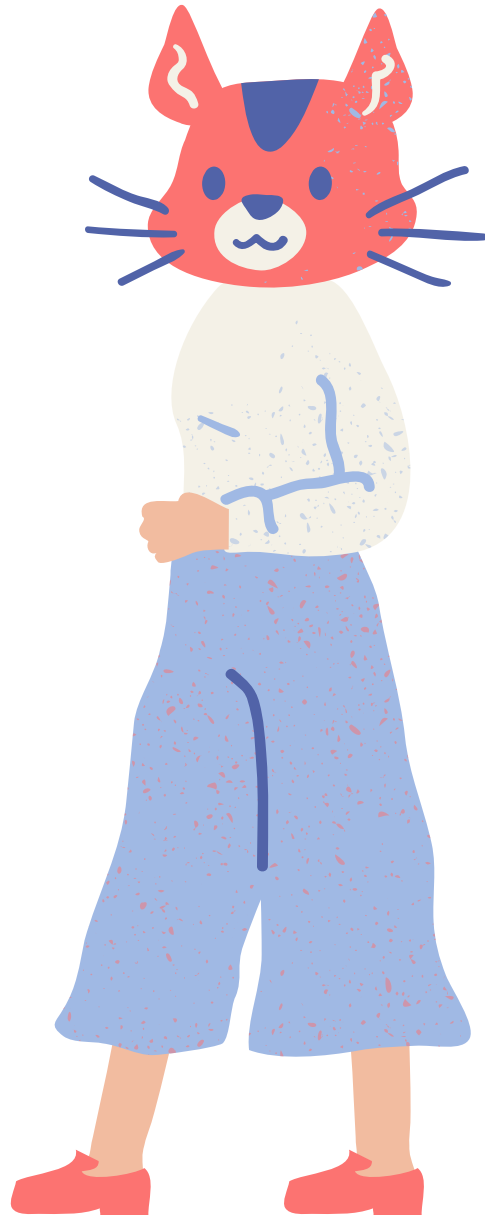
I am not weak
I am not a girly-girl
I am not clumsy
I am different.

Just because I am small

I am not a nerd
I am not mean
I'm not stupid
I am an A-B student.

Just because I am shy

I am not alone
I am not weird
I am not scared
I am me.



Wants and Needs
Serenity V.
Lucille Brown MS

Naomi is a rich girl who lives in Beverly Hills, California. She lives in a big, four-story mansion with maids and butlers. She got anything she asked for whether she needed it or wanted it. She was a very kind girl, and everyone adored her. Her only problem was that her parents passed away.

Creative
Darrell B.
Fairfield MS

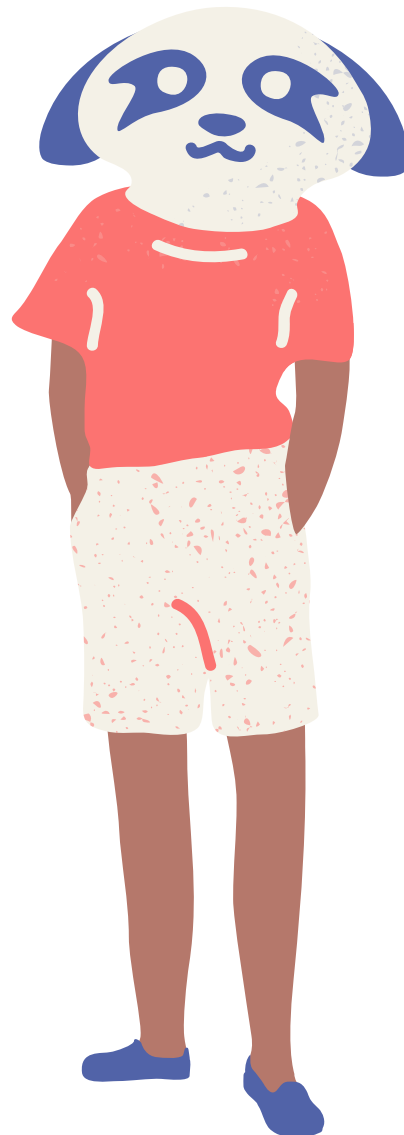
Darrell is creative.
Darrell is like a god.
Darrell is like Stan Lee.

Athlete
Tyler M.
Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am an athlete
I am not tall
I am not weak
I am not dumb
I am smart.

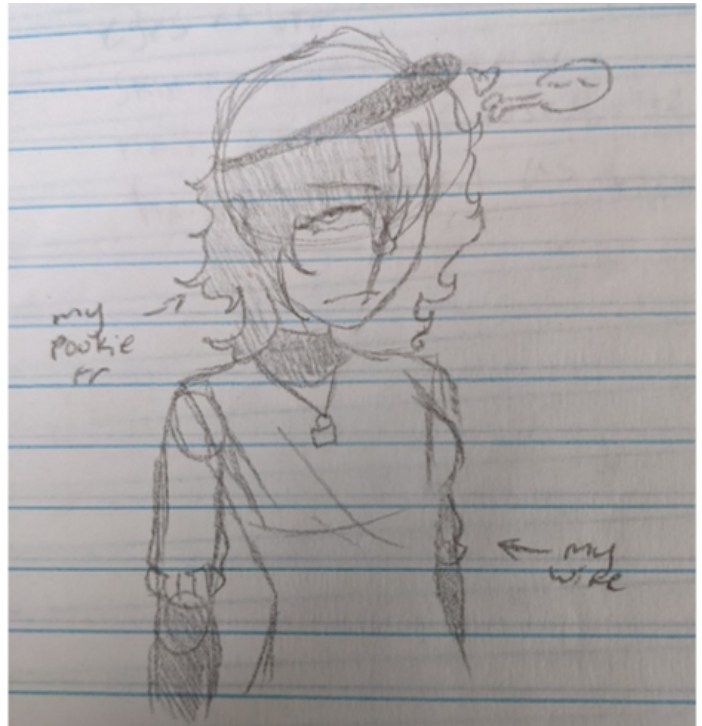
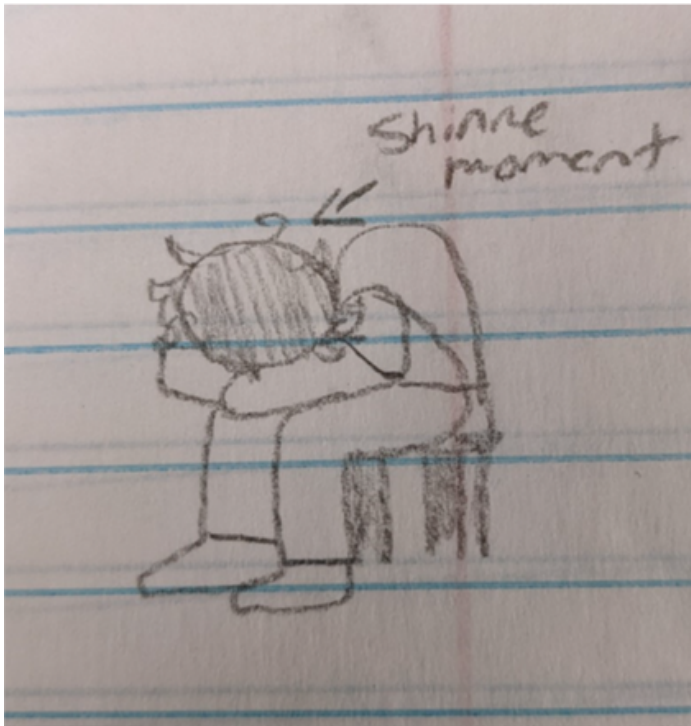
Just because I am Black
I am not racist
I am not a judging person
I am not a bad person
I am nice sometimes.

Just because I am a basketball player
I am not tall
I am not a bad player
I am not slow
I am a team player.



**Artistic
Shelby S.
Wilder MS**

Shelby is very artistic.
She is a lovely person to see.
Shelby is a ball of light
who brings joy to all she touches.



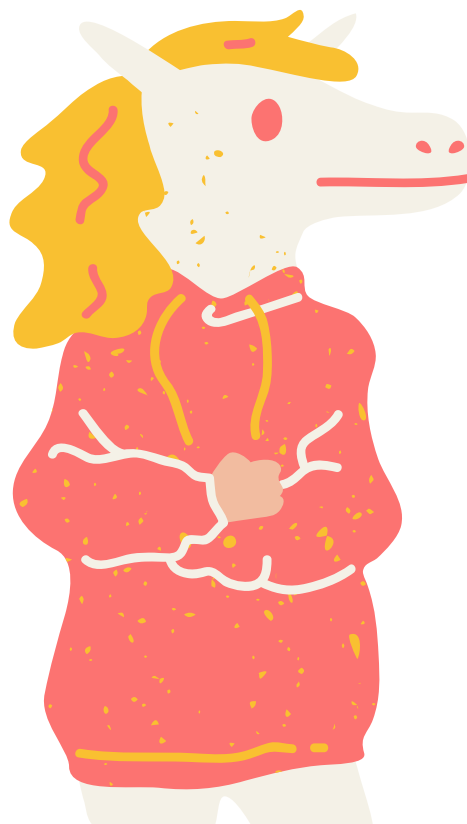
**Two Poems About Rye
Carter C.
River City MS**

1

I am one with the sky
Said my piece of rye.
The rye, said he, will never die.
But the sky disproved of the rye.
Rye now has a reason to cry!

2

The rye will never see the sky.
It was disbanded because of his crime.
The rye felt dead inside
Even though he said he would never die.



Comfort

Leilani L.

Peter Paul Development Center

Lani is an amazing listener.

Lani is the happiness you get when you take a midnight walk after a stressful day.

Lani is like the smell of fresh flowers.

Lani is the feeling you get when you put your feet in warm sand at the beach.

Skillful

Javell M.

Fairfield MS

Javell is skillful.

Javell is like a professional gamer.

Javell is like Ray Lewis.

Javell is like Kratos.

A Boy

Joel G.

Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am a boy

I am not good at many sports

I am not a big rap music fan

I am not rough

I am ME.

Just because I am black

I am not loud

I am not a basketball player

I am not unprofessional

I am ME.

Just because I am an ambivert

I am not mean

I am not fake

I am not weird

I am ME.





Pumpkin Pie
Ke'Shauni J.S.
River City MS

I love pumpkin pie. Oh why,
Oh why can't I have my
Pumpkin pie?
I love, I love my pumpkin pie.

Epic
Myceian P.
Peter Paul Development Center

Myceian is the only one with his name also in the bible.
You can hear his name from across the field.
He is tall like the sight of a giant.
You can smell his fresh new kicks from across the world.

Strong
Joshua T.
Fairfield MS

His name is Josh, and he's as intelligent as a lion hunting its prey.
He is as strong as an Olympian.
He is talented like an athlete.
He is as powerful as Kratos.



Setback

Mijae S.

River City MS

My friend and I went to school. When we got there, our classmates looked at us and saw that we were mad because someone spilled our coffee. To set that person back, we looked for their clothes that ended up being in their locker. I put some rotten clams on their clothes in their locker then slammed the locker door so hard that it sounded like someone had explosive diarrhea.

In Love with Basketball

Jonté H.

Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am in love with basketball

I am not in the NBA

I am not planning on joining the NBA

I am not planning on joining the NFL

I am in love with football and basketball.

Just because I am Black

I am not racist

I am not caring about other people's skin color

I am not worrying about people's looks

I am worrying about myself; that's all that matters.

Just because I am brave

I am not fearless

I am not that brave

I am not a punk

I am brave.



Incredible
Deon M.
Wilder MS

Deon is smart and
Incredible. I am so good
At Fortnite, Call of Duty,
And Roblox.

My eyes are so beautiful,
And I eat healthy foods
Like apples, bananas, grapes.

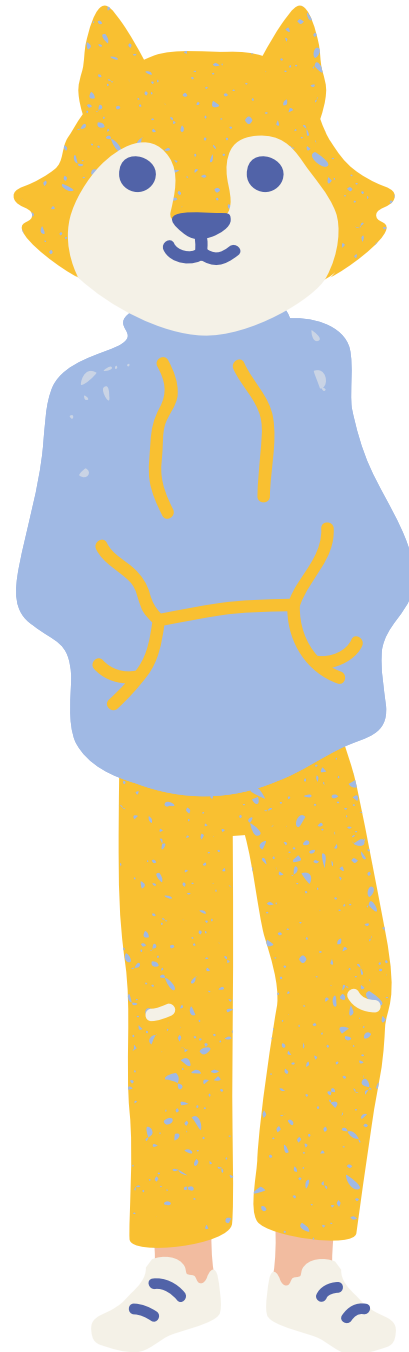
I like smelling good foods
Like shrimp, crabs, or
Breadsticks with sauce. It
Smells really good.

Funny
Sincere J.
Peter Paul Development Center

Sincere is funny.
Sincere is funnier than the taste when you eat lemons.
Sincere is funnier than hearing funny noises.
Sincere is as funny as the sight of Kevin Hart!

I Am So Good
Aaron W.
Wilder MS

I am so good and a nice person as well.
I give handshakes when I say hi to people,
And I eat noodles and pizza.
I can hear everything,
And I can smell food and everything else well.



Victory

Caleb J.

Peter Paul Development Center

Caleb is athletic.

I see a future in Caleb's eyes.

I hear cheering in Caleb's name.

I can taste the victory already.

About Me

Arilon P.

Wilder MS

Arilon.

I like my hair, it

Fits my face.

My eyes are so big

I can see the

Outer space.

Personality so bright

And fun, and

The things I make,

So bright and happy.

Smells like strawberries,

Nice and fresh.

Chill

Aubrey W.

Wilder MS

Aubrey is chill.

He is a cool person like vanilla ice cream because it's cold.

He is like a Minecraft game because the game is basic.

He is a handful like a bag of chips.

He's like anime because it's enjoyable.



I Love Myself

JaKayla P.

Peter Paul Development Center

I love myself because I had a good day.
Today I forgive myself for getting into trouble.
I am excited because my birthday is in four days.
Something good I did for myself today is getting a good grade.

Ayden Is

Ayden P.

Wilder MS

Ayden.
Eyes as brown as dirt.
Skin as smooth as marble.
Nails as pink as rose quartz.
Hair as beautiful as flowers.

Beautiful

Aaisa R.

Peter Paul Development Center

Just because I am beautiful

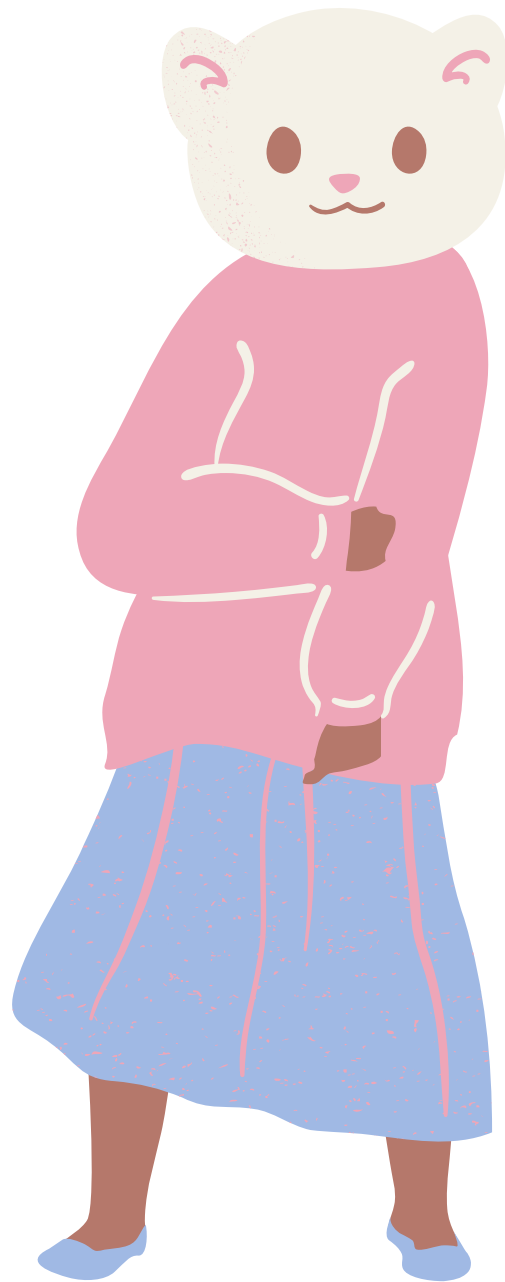
I am not delusional
I am not unreasonable
I am not to trouble
I am suitable.

Just because I am a girl

I am not curls
I am not hurt
I am not disturbed
I am heard.

Just because I am a teenager

I am not free labor
I am not of an incomplete nature
I am not free waiver
I am mature.



Dreams and Aspirations

Students in our Common Cent\$ financial literacy program at Lucille Brown MS reflected on their future goals and what it would take to achieve them.

I Want to Be

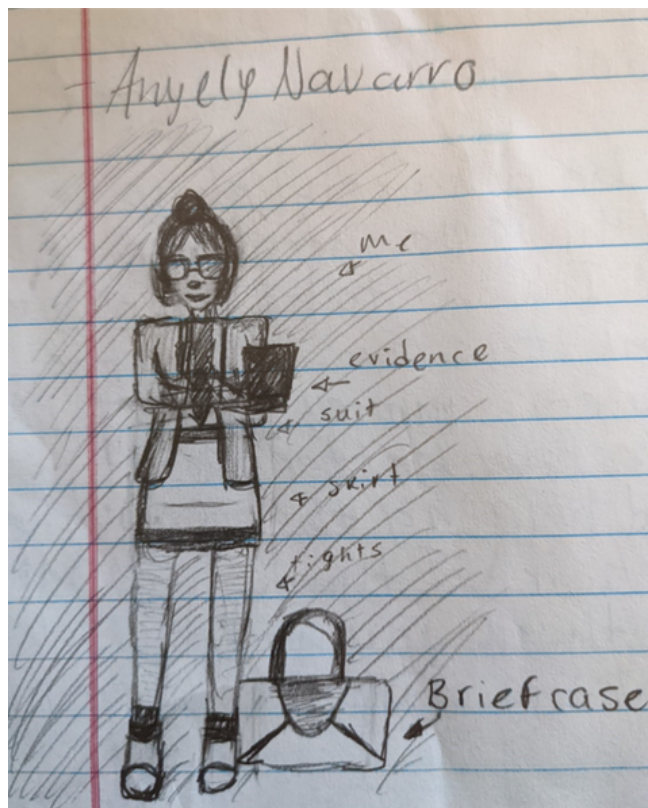
Anyely N.

Lucille Brown MS

I want to be a lawyer, hairstylist, and entrepreneur. To be a lawyer, you need to go to law school. I want to be a lawyer because I like justice and helping people. This is important to help a lot of people. In order to get the job, I think you reach out to law agencies. You need communication skills, people skills, creativity skills, and good thinking skills. I think this job pays a good salary.

I also want to be a hair stylist. To be a hairstylist, you need to go to beauty school. I want to be a hairstylist because I think it is fun. And at the same time, you earn lots of money. I like helping people feel better about themselves and helping them achieve their goal (for hair). I think this job pays hourly. I think you need people skills, fast thinking skills, and creativity skills.

Finally, I can see myself as a makeup seller. I want to have my own makeup company. This job is important to me because I like to sell products/things. I like to make people happy while earning money. I think for this career you need to go to beauty school and business school. I think this job pays by the amount of goods you sell. I like this career because I think it would be fun. You can start your own business at any age with anything.



The Job I Want

Dakota L.

Lucille Brown MS

I want to be a hairstylist. This is important to me because I like to do hair, and I want to do something I like for work. I must know how to do hair. My job will be an hourly job because I will make more money this way than on a salary. I will have to go to where I work, open up the shop, and do hair for people.

I Want to Be an Actress

Journey W.

Lucille Brown MS

Goals:

1. Be constantly auditioning for roles
2. Go to Julliard to perfect the skill
3. Taking lessons for singing and dancing

I would love to be an actress, and it's important to me because I love any form of art and expression. I would audition for roles in various musicals and plays. I need to be able to sing, dance, and act. It will take a lot of time.

A day in the life of an actor is getting up early, practicing lines and monologues, going to auditions, practicing some more, and going to lessons and classes. I will also do other things besides acting to make sure I am not doing the same thing over and over and driving myself crazy. It depends on the role or the company you are with for if you are paid salary or hourly, but if I am at a local theater, it will probably be hourly.



Each Word Has Meaning

Students at Carter G. Woodson Middle School worked to come up with 6-word stories to describe who they are during their fall Career Day!

Friendship
Armani W.

I am an overly protective friend.

Human
Samuel M.

I am the best human being.

Catch a Break
Zamard M.

I can never catch a break.

Born In
Anonymous

I was born in Trinidad, Honduras.

Survivor
Olajanae E.

Survived a hole in my heart.



Alive
Gabriel O.

I had brain surgery and lived.

Food
Kamari A.

I like to eat good food.

Clown
Mark

The class clown of the group.

Dreams
Lesly B.

I'm studying to be a meteorologist.

Moving
Yashaya E.

I grew up in six places.

School
Julie

To me, school can be fun.





I Podium

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