

STUDENT VOICE

A Publication for and by Students of The READ Center

Summer 2021

Gwendolyn Brooks

By Andretta

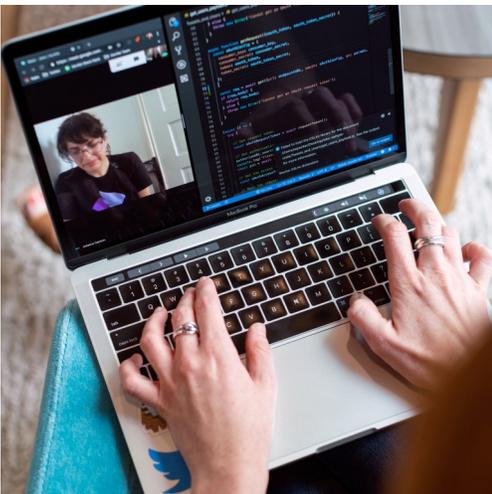
Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was an African American woman. She was a famous poet, author and teacher. Gwendolyn was born June 7, 1917 in Topeka, Kansas. She joined Chicago's NAACP Youth Council where she met her husband in 1939. They had two children together.



Brooks' most famous book is *Annie Allen*. The book of poetry is about an African American girl growing into womanhood. Gwendolyn won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in the 1950's. She became the first African American to receive a Pulitzer Prize. Today her book *Annie Allen* is worth over \$1000 on Amazon.

Chesterfield schools should stay virtual.

By Marcia



The schools were closed since March 2020 to in-person learning because of the pandemic. Kids should stay virtual because they feel safe at home. They can stop spreading the virus to older family members. Some kids might not have a choice to stay virtual because some parents might need to go to work. If some students can't learn virtual they can have half of the students come in specific days. Personally I want my kids to stay at home so they can stay safe.

Fear Can Ruin Your Life

By AS



Fear can hold you back from so many things. It can stop your ability from doing a lot of things. Fear stops you from accomplishing your goals that you set for yourself and fear stops you from finishing your goals. Reading is my fear. That fear keeps me from going places and doing things. I try not to have fear but it's overcome within me. It's like someone ties my hands and doesn't let me go. Fear makes me feel like I can't

complete things and move forward. I am too old to allow fear to hold me back. I will stand up and fight back. Don't let fear win. I will tell myself I can do it.



Time

By ACB

Time is very important to everyone. It is so important that we have timepieces. We carry time in our pockets, grandfather clocks in our homes, and on our wrists. Wrist watches were gold and silver. People showed off by wearing them. Now, because of technology, watches are advanced. They do not look fancy, but they do more than tell time. They keep time, tell heart rate, count steps, and sound an alarm. They do change but time does not change!

Mother's Day Cookout

By Laquinda

My sister had a cookout for Mother's Day for the family. It was great and I had a good time with my family. Also, my mom wasn't feeling well so I went to visit her on Mother's Day. I went back home to enjoy the cookout, and for the most part everyone had a wonderful time. I would love to do this again on Mother's Day.





Mother's Day HangOut

By Letisha

I had fun with my family. We had a cookout. It was awesome. I talked and drank and ate.

Ramadan

By Inaam

I started the Holy Month of Ramadan on April 13 with an early - 4:00 AM - meal, followed by prayer, and then fasting from all food and drink until sunset. Every day from April 13 to May 13 I will follow this practice.

Ramadan is a blessing to each of us as we use this time to focus on feeding the poor and praying. Fasting is a gift from God to help strengthen us. We pray five times per day. We pray for good health, and for respect and peace for all peoples. We fast all day and break our fast after sunset. The evening meal is a healthy meal with good food shared with family. Following the meal we go to Mosque and pray from 9 to midnight. Ramadan ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr which includes a large meal shared with many friends and family, and sharing of gifts.



My Favorite Sport is Football

By Bernard

I like playing football. I used to play when I was little. I used to play on the little league football team. I used to play center and linebacker. I have played running back two times.



School Year 2020-2021

By Asa

If anyone says that this school year has been completely erratic and overwhelmingly stressful, then they are correct. It's to the point that some students have even quit school altogether, or have taken a month's vacation due to the stress levels students have had to deal with. What makes it worse is the pressure to keep up with day to day issues on top of all the school problems. Some of the issues are psychological, emotional, or behavioral.



READING IS FUN

By Brenda

Hello my name is Brenda. I am in a reading class.

My goals are reading, writing and spelling. It is fun to pick up a book and know how to read it by myself. I want to read so I can get a better job and a new house. With my reading I can also do an application and read the newspaper. I read the bible on my phone every day and night, and I can spell a lot of words. It feels so good to know how to read.



The End



Anywhere in the World

By Ebony E.

If I could go anywhere the world, I would go to Jamaica. I would go to the beach at Montego Bay. I would climb the waterfall. I would go swimming at the beach. I would be a beach bum.

It's Hard For a Person in a Wheelchair

By Dempsey

A lot of people think that people in wheelchairs can do the same as they can, but that is not the case. It takes us a longer time to put on our clothes and to get in our cars or vans. I am not trying to get people to feel sorry for me. I just want people to take this into consideration. Sometimes I need help, but I would like to do it on my own first and if I need help I would ask for it. I like for people to see me as me, but they have to realize that I am still in a wheelchair.



I Remember My Third Grade Teacher

By Mrs. D.



I was in Fairmount School and my teacher's name was Mrs. A. She didn't think that my older sister was going to be successful in school and so she thought I wasn't going to be anything. She called me a dummy. She put me in the closet and put headphones on me

so I could not hear her teach. It happened every day. I could not hear so I could not learn. My sister went on to be a scholar student and went to college. I am successful too. SHE was so wrong. I made it!

GARDENING

By Charles

I like planting flowers around my house. That's something I enjoy doing every year. This weekend I planted about 75 to 80 flowers and plants. Now I am waiting for it to rain to help water my plants and flowers. Now my next job is to work on my garden.



My Problem with Fig Trees

By S.R.

My friend has a big fig tree. She opens the bedroom window to collect figs. This encouraged me to buy fig trees. I bought three fig trees maybe six years ago, but they didn't have any figs. When I bought the last one it had three figs that were brown and too sweet. Next year it didn't bloom. When I went to the shop to buy this tree, he said he brought them from North Carolina. Because of different weather and ground, I hope one day I will see figs in my trees. If anyone has a solution to this problem please let me know.



John The Football Player

By Brenda S.



John is a football player. He plays for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He has a wife named Karen. He and his wife have two young kids. Today, John has a football game. Karen and the kids are going to see him play. His kids are excited to watch their dad play and win the football game. John is the quarterback for the Steelers. The game was tied and John ran the ball into the end zone and scored the winning touchdown. Karen and the kids were happy.

Working

By Nancy S.

I get paid every 2 weeks
I'm very good at work.
I need to listen to my supervisor
I do my daily routine at work. I try to stay on tasks.
I take a lunch break at 2:00pm. My supervisor watches me while I'm working.



The Father I Never Knew

By Destiny

The girl just got home from school to tell her sister she made the cheerleading team. But her mom was out of town and called when she was in school. So her sister said “Mom called and



said you have to go live with your dad.” But the girl said “I don’t know him like that.” and her sister said “You need to go pack your clothes.” The girl said “Do you know how many clothes I got?” She did not want to go live with him. She was ready but her brother answered the door and got some mail from a guy. Her brother called her name and she came down the stairs. He told her he had some bad news. She asked “What do you mean?” He said “It is some bad news.” She went back upstairs to her sister and said “I got some bad news!” Her

sister said “Did you open the door?” and the girl said no, her brother did. Her sister opened the envelope and started reading, it said “Hi Peaches. It's your dad. I only have a few weeks to live and I want to see you.” She started crying and crying saying “Why is this happening to me? Why me?” Her dad had cancer called leukemia and before she got to even see him he died.

Something That I Am Good at Doing

By Berkley W.

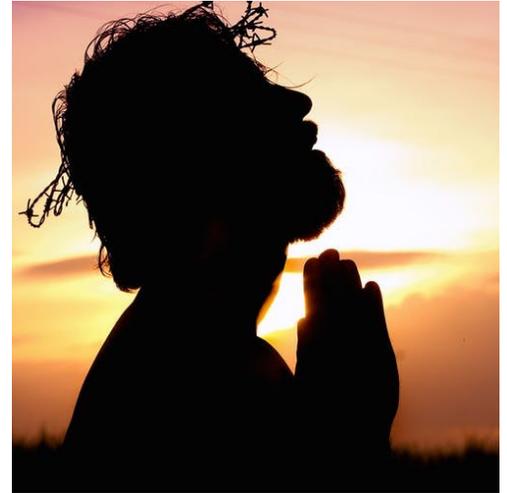
Playing drums is what I am good at doing. I enjoy playing drums at church. I play drums for two churches. I am self-taught. I started playing drums when I was 6 years old and have never stopped. I remember my first drum set that I played and banged so hard on it that I broke the drum head. My mom got me another set and I did the same thing. As I got older, I learned how to make sure not to bang the drums so hard. I enjoy playing drums for church and since the pandemic it has stopped me from being able to go to church and see my church family. When I play the drums I feel good and enjoy making sounds and music and hearing the church choir sing to the beat of my drums. I hope that soon the pandemic will be over and I can get back being around friends, family and playing my drums that I enjoy so much.



Gratitude

By Lance

Thankful for God for giving me life
Thankful for my pastors who help me today
Thankful for my wife and what she does for me
Thankful for all my brothers and sisters
Thankful for my high school gym teachers and teachers
Thankful for my manager and workers
Thankful for my parent and what they did for me
Thankful for fire company and fire chiefs with guys
Thankful for my football coaches and track coaches
Thankful for the Read Center and the teachers and tutors
Grateful for the help men and women have done for me
in my past and today.



Anywhere in the World

By Brenda S.



I would like to go to Scotland because it is a pretty country and has pretty mountains in the landscape. I know that the men over there wear kilts. Scotland is in part of the United Kingdom and it covers the northern third of Great Britain. Scotland has 96 miles of border with England. The climate in Scotland is temperate or middle because of its location. If you have names like McDonald or Mackintosh, it might be part of a clan.

Anywhere in the World

By Samuel P.

I would like to go to New York City. I'd like to see the Empire State Building and stuff like that. The Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, investment buildings - see what they all look like. I could also eat anywhere up there.



My Pool is Driving Me Crazy

By Janae K.

I wanted to get a pool for me and my family because there isn't any place that's open to go swimming due to COVID. So I have been looking high and low for a swimming pool and I finally found one. It seem like everybody had the same idea lol. So I thought this was going to be a walk in the park. I was sadly mistaken it was not the putting it together. It was the maintenance. It's like having a job on top of a job. Once I put up the pool I had to level it. I had to buy sandbags and it's still not level and if I go on with my story it will be ten pages long.



Anywhere in the World

By Bernard M.

If I can go anywhere in the world I would go to Puerto Rico. I want to go shopping for clothes, jewelry, shoes, and pocketbooks. I like to go to the beach, play volleyball, enjoy the food, and festivities.



Anywhere in the World

By Marie G.

If I could go anywhere in the world, I would want to go to Paris. Because Paris is the most popular tourist destination in the world. It's called the City of Light and it's known for it's fashion, style, and glamor. Oh, I can't leave out their culinary style, and they make good food. The other place I would like to visit just because I like to travel is Italy. The capital is Rome. I heard that it's a beautiful country and Milan is the capital of international fashion.





Story

By Tim Walker

When I was a boy my mom told me to go into the living room, so I did. I knocked down a cup of water inside the TV. She came into the living room, looked at the TV and said, "What did you do to the TV?" in an angry voice. I said "I am sorry! You don't have to yell!" The TV sparked and never worked again. She didn't stay mad for long.

Anywhere in the World

By Janet B.

If I could go anywhere in the world, I would go to Israel because Jerusalem is the Holy land, Yahweh, the God of the Israelites, whose name was revealed to Moses. Not only is Israel considered Christianity's place of birth, but it helped Christians connect with their religion which is why it is good for any Christian to make at least one trip to Israel in their lifetime. I am also interested in history of religions, and I can go across the border to see the church of Nativity in Bethlehem. Israel is a home. Lastly, I would like to travel with my husband and daughter.



Anywhere in the World

By Lauren P.



I went to school at Northstar Academy. I and some of my classmates went to Rome. I visited the Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica, and museums. I like the pizza and pasta. I also traveled to Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, and Jamaica with my family and friends. If I could go anywhere in the world, it would be to go back to Virginia Beach at our timeshare. My friend Brittani and I like to go to the beach, swim in the pool, and sit in the hot tub. We also go to Ocean Breeze Waterpark, and Motor World and drive the go-carts. I always enjoy going to Virginia Beach.

Daughter Gets Her Shot

By C.J.

I was worried about Debra Ann
Ever since this COVID began.

It bothered me a lot
Because she didn't want the shot.

People told her it would be best
To come and join the rest.

Get the shot and help one another
And also please your mother.



Anywhere in the World

By Hung



If I could go anywhere in the world, I would like to fly to Japan for many sights to see. First, I want to eat fresh sushi and see what the restaurant experience is like. Also, I want to sample their very expensive gift fruits, like the \$ 10 melon and a \$ 100 square watermelon. Next, I want to visit their parks to see maple trees and cherry blossom trees. Of course, I want to ride their bullet train to go shopping for fashion and cosmetics that are hard to find in the U.S.

Anywhere in the World

By Dewin T.

If I could go anywhere in the world, I would go to South Africa. I would go on a safari at Kruger National Park. I would visit Cape of Good Hope with beautiful blue green water. I might try bobotie. It is a sweet-meat cake with raisins and covered with a baked egg.



Anywhere in the World

By Harry T.

If I could go anywhere in the world I would like to go to Italy. I would like to see all the adventurous places within that country. Italy it has such a nice warm comfortable sound to it, I feel like I want to go there now. I know I sound strange and a little crazy right about now for an old country uneducated person to be talking about going to place like that. But I am still eager to get there. I know when and if I ever get there, I will probably feel out of place.



Visiting Mom

By Jammarr Evans

I look forward every week to visit my mom. I take a van to visit her. We generally have lunch together. Her beef stew is delicious and my favorite. After lunch I like to watch sports on TV. I have dinner before going home on the van.

A Bully

By Lavado Green

I used to get in trouble when I was in school because I fought a bully. He used to pick on me because I was short. He was tall and fat. I was not afraid of him. I said, "Stop messing with me." I told a friend of mine, my cousin and my teacher. They told him to stop before I hurt him. He stopped after I hit him.



Anywhere in the World— Puerto Rico

By JB

I will love to be in a luxury hotel on the beach with an ocean side view. Waking up, seeing the sunrise with my windows wide open, smelling the ocean and listening to the birds chirping. I would love to experience more of the food like the rice. It's so flavorful. Yes, I know I came from the Bronx where there are a lot of Puerto Rican restaurants. I would like to learn more about their culture.

Besides that, I would like to experience some of the activities like the Dunns river, go horseback riding off the water when the sun is setting. Sitting by the pool watching some handsome men, drinking a lot of pina coladas and I'm not talking about the virgin ones. Listening to Spanish music dancing, knowing I can't really dance. I will enjoy myself.



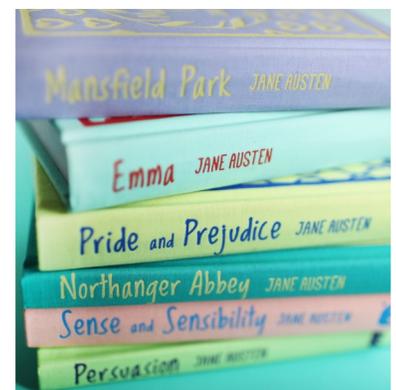
If I could go anywhere it would be Puerto Rico.

The Books I Have Read and Want to Read

By KeAza Harvey-Terrell

First, I only read comic books, like *Maximum Ride*. I liked the fact that they can fly, and it's about the supernatural. The pictures made it easy to enjoy and to read. And then I started to read the Bluford series. One of the books, *Pretty Ugly*, is about a new girl named Angel, and she wanted to join a cheerleading group. But a girl named Vanessa and her friends were bullying Angel. Then a girl named Jamee stepped in and stopped it. What I learned in this book is that you can't judge a book by its cover and never bully people.

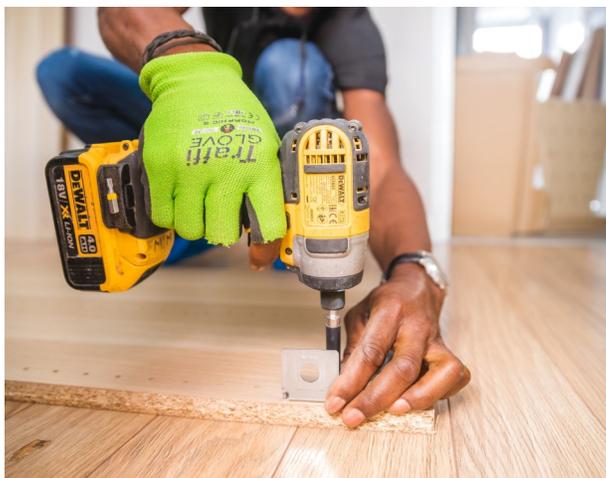
Next I read a book about Chloe Brown, who is chronically ill. But she doesn't let it stop her. She finds love and friends. And lastly, I read a book called *Spoiler Alert*. It's about a woman named April who likes to write fanfiction about her favorite TV show. She would one day like to go to ComicCon. I just found out the author has a new book coming out called *All the Feels*, and I can't wait! I want to read *Take a Hint Dani Brown*, and *Act Your Age Eve Brown*, and many more novels.



Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Janet B.

My thoughts on the vaccine: I was afraid from the beginning to take the COVID 19 vaccine. I refused to take at first. Later on I decided to take it, and the name of the vaccine is PFIZER. The first day I was fine, but the second and the third day I got sick. My family took it as well. Other people should have their choice to take it if they want to.



My Job

By Momaht Gaye

Every week, I like to learn more experiences to do my job better. If I do my job better, the customer I work for will be happy. As a handyman, I put my information online. If I do better jobs, the people keep calling me and will refer me to other customers. I have a lot of calls for next week and I look forward to completing those jobs.

Juneteenth

By Deborah Jackson

Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19th celebrating the end to slavery in the United States. On June 1865, a Union General rode into Galveston, Texas to announce the Civil War had ended and slaves had been freed. It is also called the Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day. The star on the flag represents new freedom and new people. The red, white and blue colors communicate that the American Slaves and their descendants were all Americans. Juneteenth was first celebrated in Texas on June 19, 1866, that was the first anniversary for the African Americans after learning of the Emancipation Proclamation. The celebration included prayer meeting, singing spirituals and wearing new clothes to represent their newfound freedom. We all can celebrate Juneteenth.



Anywhere in the World

By Alice C.

I would go to California. I would like to go to Hollywood. I would like to see the stars and places in Los Angeles. It is a big place. I don't have any family in California. I will go there one day to see how it looks. I know that it has a lot of fires there. That is why I visit and will not live there at all.



Dad's Garden

By Stephen Solomon



My dad and I are working in the garden.
My dad put seeds in the dirt.
He put tomatoes, squash, zucchinis and cucumbers.
My favorite plant is lemon.
My dad picked up squash and zucchinis from the garden.
My dad put flowers in the garden.
I'm watering the plants.
My dad put some plants in the basket.
Dad and I brought the vegetables home.
We brought apples and plums from the trees.
I had fun working in the garden.

Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Ebony E.

I think it helps people from getting sick. I will get my Covid 19 vaccine shot tomorrow.



Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Olivia N.



Well, I might get the COVID 19 vaccine because it saves lives. Some people I know got the COVID 19 vaccine all ready. I just feel the ones who got the vaccines will be ok at the end of the day.

Anywhere in the World—Caribbean Islands

By Shawna L.

I would love to take a cruise to the Caribbean Islands to visit, and also learn about their culture. I need to get a passport for a few of the islands, but for some of the islands, I do not need a passport.



This trip is going to be a girl trip!!! We will go this summer. When we get on the ship we will see all the different types of activities like shopping, dancing, playing in the pool, sliding into the pool, and other fun stuff!!! We will go to our room to drop our bags off and we put on something comfortable and go exploring the ship some more. We'll get some drinks, play some games, dance and a little bit of everything!!!!

Our first Island is going to be St. Lucia. It has chalk-colored beaches. We will do some shopping, listen to music, watch people dancing on the street. We will take a trip for a day and see the Dolphin and whale watching and Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens. We will have a fun day at St Lucia.

When we go back on the ship and on to the next island which is Barbados. We will arrive and it is so beautiful. We might tour the Harrison Cave that people first mentioned in 1795. The tourists can see the underground cave by train. It looks amazing. We also walk the Garden of Hunte's. The gardens were created in the 1950s in a sink hole. We will travel the beach for the rest of the day until it time to go back to the ship.

My summer on the cruise will be amazing and we will see a lot of different things and bring a lot of things back home. I will want to go back!!!!!!!

Covid 19 Vaccine—My Opinion

By Hung

Before I got the COVID- 19 vaccine I felt nervous about getting the virus. I knew it was the safest thing to do. My company offered the vaccine to all of us. We could choose which one we wanted. I chose Johnson and Johnson because it was just one dose. So right now I am feeling fine about my decision. I wish everyone would get vaccinated. In my country, they want the vaccine, but they can't get it.



Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Harry T.

I feel good about the shot. I wish everyone would do the same thing. The vaccine is the best thing that could have happened. Without the vaccine we all will still be in our home. Some people don't take the virus seriously because they think it is not real. I think people who think like that must be crazy. As for myself, I think we all should start listening to our great scientists and leaders, because they would like for all of us to get back to our normal lives.

Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Adrian S.

I got the J and J vaccine on April 18, 2021. I feel fine after I got it but my arm was a little sore. I never was afraid to get it. I think everyone should get it. I drive Uber and I ask riders to wear a mask for everyone's safety.



Diff'rent Strokes

By Carlos S.

Diff'rent Strokes is a home entertainment TV show. Mr. Drummond is a rich man. Mrs. Garrett is a housekeeper. Kimberly is the daughter. Willis and Arnold are brothers.

Mr. Drummond walked behind Mrs. Garrett and she jumped up. He said, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Garrett, I didn't mean to startle you." Mrs. Garrett said, "Oh Mr. Drummond, it's very dangerous to sneak up behind me. I'm going to a karate class. I just got an A in kicking where it hurts." Mr. Drummond said, "The boys will be here any minute. Is their room ready yet?" Mrs. Garrett said, "Oh yes sir. There's just one thing left to do." He said, "What's that?" Mrs. Garrett said, "I quit." He said, "I promise I'll never scare you again. I'll wear a bell around my neck."

Mrs. Garrett replied, "When you hired me yesterday, you said you had one 13 year old daughter. You didn't say anything about two boys coming here. I don't do windows and I don't do boys." Mr. Drummond said, "Well what do you have against boys?" Mrs. Garrett said, "They bite." Mr. Drummond said, "I'll buy you a tender shot, ok? So, I did overlook something about two boys, Mrs. Garrett. They're orphans. Please help me feel like they're home here. I hardly know them. They are from Harlem." Mrs. Garrett said, "Harlem?" Mr. Drummond said, "Yes, their mother was my housekeeper for many years- a sweet, wonderful woman. She was like a member of the family. On her deathbed, she asked me to look after her two boys. They have no relatives that can take them in." Mrs. Garrett asks, "Are you trying to make me feel rotten?" Mr. Drummond replied, "Yes, I am. They are two, sweet, helpless, innocent little

boys." Mrs. Garrett said, "Alright, alright, I've been sucked in."

Then, the bell rings. "Aw, they came! You're here! Welcome, gentlemen!" said Mr. Drummond. Willis asked, "You're talking to us?" Mr. Drummond replied, "Of course!" Then Arnold said, "How about that, Willis? Downtown for only two minutes and already we're gentlemen!" Arnold went in the house and said, "Um... um... this is some place!" Mr. Drummond said, "Let's shake hands like a brother! I've been practicing, Willis!" He tries but does not get it. Willis said, "No wonder they can't play basketball!" *Continued on next page.*



Diff'rent Strokes (*Continued*)

By Carlos S.

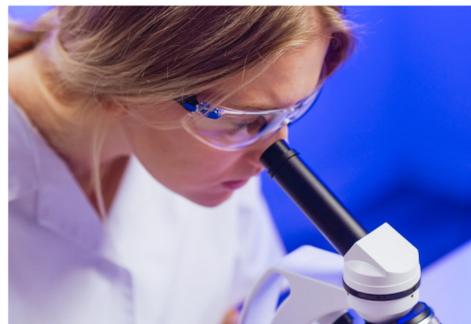
Mr. Drummond replied, "You have a sense of humor, just like your mother! I loved her very much. Without a sense of humor people are dull and boring." Then Mrs. Garrett comes in and asks, "Oh, Mr. Drummond, can I give you a hand with the boys?" Mr. Drummond then introduces them. He said, "This is Mrs. Garrett, our housekeeper. This is Willis and Arnold Jackson." When she meets Willis, she does the handshake right. Then Mr. Drummond said, "Mrs. Garrett, why don't you take the boys' things up to their room while I show them around." Arnold said, "Be careful with my goldfish. His name is Abraham." "I have never seen a black goldfish before."

"That's ok. He never saw a rich white man before either. If Abraham looks like he's dead, don't worry he's just sleeping." "My ex-husband had the same problem." Then the doorbell rang again, and Kimberly says "Hello Daddy," then she looks in, "Oh Daddy, just look at them. Aren't they gorgeous? Real boys! Welcome, little brother. Welcome, big brother." Arnold asks, "What's she smoking?" Mr. Drummond said, "Guys, this hurricane that just blew in is my daughter Kimberly. This is Arnold and Wills." "Hi." Then Arnold says, "Hi metal mouth." "Oh Daddy, isn't this delicious? We just met, now he's insulting me like a real brother. By the way guys, stay out of my room or I'll punch you out." He tells them that when she was 6 months old, she gave the kid in the next crib a fat lip. Then Willis didn't give his new family a chance, but he thinks about his mother and his little brother. He says, "Just remember Mr. Drummond, that front door is always open anytime I want to leave." They became a happy family.

Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Brenda S.

I think that everybody should get the shot because it is better for everyone. If it is good for everyone, it might stop the spread of the virus.



My Walk

By Tim Walker

My walk makes me stand out. I walk fast. Some people say I walk stiff. And my smile makes me stand out too.

Camels

By Rehab

Camels are a desert animal. It is matching the desert climate and nature by its features. It has a split upper lip. Its eyes look bugged out. It has a small face that looks sad and stupid. In order to see a camel, you'd probably have to visit Africa or Asia.



Kamala Harris

By Shawna L.

She was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California. Her parents met in the University of California. Kamala's parents were involved in Civil Rights. When she was a young girl, her parents had another baby girl. Then her parents got a divorce.

Her mother got a job in Canada. Kamala spent some her school years in Montreal. While in Montreal, they learned a different language - French. For her college years, she moved back to the USA to study law. After Kamala graduated, she failed the law test. She took the exam again and then she passed. She became a prosecutor to fight her own cases.



Kamala moved up in her career. She tried to help the community while she was DA in San Francisco. And later became Senator of California.

Two major events also happened in her life. Her mom passed away and she got married. The last exciting event was running for president. She didn't become the president, but she became the vice-president!! She is the first women to become vice-president and woman of color.

Covid 19 Vaccine—An Opinion

By Marie G.

Covid 19 was a virus that devastated the human race around the world. The virus came with a vengeance, but as people learned about it, it was easier to manage by wearing masks for our protection from the disease.

By wearing the mask you are protecting yourself and others around you. The covid 19 vaccine was researched immediately after things were getting bad so now we are able to get the vaccine for free.

It was a relief for me when it became available to everyone and that it was my turn.

Some people contract the virus and they feel fine, some people feel bad and some get very sick and die from it. For me, taking the vaccine is a no-brainer, because it's for my protection and my health and it's also protecting my neighbor, meaning everyone around me. Please let's all try and get vaccinated. I know no one can force anybody to do things they don't want to do to themselves, but let's consider the consequences. In my mind it is better to be safe than sorry.



My Summer Vacation

By Reginald Grant

For my summer vacation, I want to go to Virginia Beach, Virginia. I will get my feet wet at the beach. I will spend the night at the hotel. I will have fun with my family. My brother, my mom and I will go together. I will also visit my family at the beach. I am excited about going to the beach.



It's Time for Changes Part 2 (Fiction)

By J.B.

This is Pauline, "Yes I'm Back."

I had to figure something out thanks to my other ego Pam, like my next move in life. I had found a program called the READ CENTER for my reading and writing. I met this lady named Nausha. I think that was her name. She is such a beautiful lady. She explained the program to me. I had to take a test while still waiting for her to call me back. Well in the meantime I found a job in a school still cleaning toilets. Knowing I don't like that, but it's a couple hours a day in the evening five days a week. I have the weekend off, that's a good thing. I can enjoy my weekend now. Well I think my love life is starting to bloom. I met this guy about six months ago. He's always flirting with me. I really wasn't interested because he works at a gas station. And he is always flirting with women who want that, not me at this time. I came in late one night a little tipsy, "Ok more than a little tipsy." Not worrying about seeing him because he usually works in the daytime, but to my surprise there he was looking good. I don't know if it was me or the alcohol. But you do know what they say when you start drinking, things start looking different. *To be continued...*



Reading

By Lavado Green

I keep trying different things like reading. I have been reading the driver's ed book. I am getting better at it. I have learned the road signs and how to use hand signals. I learned Stop signs, Yield signs, School Crossing signs and Slippery Road signs.



I Am Dependable

By Jammal Evans

I shine in a special way because people say that I am dependable. Working at Walmart I am responsible for taking care of the shopping carts. They know that they can depend on me to help customers carry out their groceries. Also I bring back all the empty carts to the store.





RCK

By S. Lewis

When I was a young girl, I played a game called RCK. RCK is similar to the game of tag. First, the boys had to count to ten while the girls would run. Second, the boys had to catch them and then kiss them. Run, Catch and Kiss (RCK) was popular in my neighborhood because the girls outnumbered the boys. Boys always wanted to play RCK so they could kiss lots of girls. RCK was thrilling and fun! It was even more fun when the boy you actually had a crush on ran after you. You wouldn't

run as fast because you wanted to get caught! I remember, I had a big crush on Brian Frazier; he didn't have to chase me long.

Once he caught me, I'd close my eyes, anticipating a soft kiss on the lips; it made my spine tingle. If an ugly boy with the buck-shots on his head or satellite-dish ears or big, soup-cooler lips chased me, I'd run faster and faster, hoping he'd give up. Sometimes that worked and sometimes, it didn't. I'd brace myself and hope that he didn't swallow my whole face with those soup-cooler lips. After the dreadful kiss, I'd quickly wipe my face with my hand, saying, "Yuck!" I was also thinking that I hoped the unattractive boy would chase someone else next time. After the game, the girls would sit around, laughing and joking about who kissed who and how it felt during and after the kisses. We could only imagine what the boys said about us. We swore that when we reached dating age, we wouldn't date this or that boy. Lo and behold, in middle school, it was funny to witness the girls dating the once-upon-a-time ugly boys.

What we learned in life is that boys can grow from a toad into a prince. RCK was fun and enlightening!

I wonder if kids still play RCK today.

Anywhere in the World

By Olivia N.

If I can go anywhere in the world I would go to Puerto Rico. I want to go shopping for clothes, jewelry, shoes, and pocketbooks. I like to go to the beach, play volleyball, enjoy the food, and festivities.



Changing lives through adult literacy is The READ Center's mission.

We believe that everyone needs and deserves a literate life.

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