



PERSONAL NARRATIVES

**FROM THE SEVENTH GRADE
Ms. Uter & Ms. Inzana's ELA Class**

MARY M. BETHUNE SCHOOL - CLEVELAND, OHIO

2019-2020

These personal narratives were written and revised by the seventh graders at Mary M. Bethune School. During the 2019-2020 school year, teaching artist, Cynthia Larsen from Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth, taught the sixth grade how to write personal narratives.

She was assisted in this by college students from John Carroll University's Center for Service and Social Action.

The creative work of these students and their teachers was funded by a TeachArtsOhio grant from the Ohio Arts Council. We would like to thank the OAC for supporting the arts and creative expression at Mary M. Bethune School. We also want to thank the students, teachers, volunteers from JCU and from Lake Erie ink, and the principal for supporting creative expression in the classroom.



The Gamer Club

Antwaun J.

One day I was standing outside of the school and my friend Mark came up to me and said, "Come and join this gaming and animating club."

I said, "OK, I'll try." So I went to go try it out.

I went to try it out when Mark and I finished talking. Mark ran down the street and back to the building leaping with excitement. I walked down the street and was surprised to see the decorations on the building. I walked through the door and my heart was beating. It felt like it was telling me not to do anything stupid.

Just as soon as I walked through the door Mark stood there with a gaming controller in his hand with a grin on his face saying, "Welcome to Gamer Heaven."

Then a big man came up to me and said, "Hi my name is Robert, and welcome to Gamer Heaven, the gaming and animating club."

I couldn't believe my eyes, and then something got my nose's attention. It smelled like pizza and popcorn. Then right when I was looking at the tv's kids were playing Fortnite, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, Mortal Kombat, MineCraft, Roblox, and computer games.

My heart was filled with excitement.

Then Robert said, "You can join. The cost is \$5 for 2 hours, \$7 for all day, \$20 for 2 months."

Luckily I still had \$500 for mowing people's lawns last summer.

Then I said, "I'll take the \$20 for a month."

Then he said, "Then you have to have a parent with you," which was fine by me. I decided to do \$7 all day and he gave me a tour around the building.

First he took me to the snack bar.

He said, "You can have 2 snacks and 2 drinks."

After I got my drink and chips I set it next to Mark and told him he could watch it.

"Sure," he said, really concentrated into the game.

Then he took me to the back of the building. Then I saw melted cheese with sausage, and my mouth got watery.

He said, "You can have 3 slices of pizza, and some popcorn." I was crying with joy.

"Yes," I said, excitedly.

"Can you animate?" he said.

"Yes" I nodded.

"Well have fun," he said.

I couldn't believe it--the first 3 hours was fun! Then I thought that I should call my mom. I told my mom about the gamer place and she seemed really pleased about it.

Ten minutes later I told her that I wanted to do 2 months for \$20, but she had to sign it for me. Robert gave her all the details and then she signed it. I was so happy I was able to have my time.

Then she said, "How much is a year?"

My heart stopped with surprise.

Robert said, "\$120."

Then she paid it. She said, "Whatever makes my boy happy, I'm happy."

"I love you," she said.

"I love you too." Then I knew at that moment that this was the best day ever..

A few hours later the gamer club was closed. I was exhausted from playing games almost all day. That's when Mark came up to me and said, "I told you! Isn't this fun?"

"YES!" I yelled, "but I kinda feel bad."

"Bad for what?" he said. "I didn't even tell my mom where I was going."

"I made a wise choice."

"Yeah I guess you're right."

BEEP! BEEP! I looked over across the street. My mother was waving at me like she was telling me to come to her. I looked both ways then saw no cars. Then I was running like a dog chasing a cat.

"Ready to go?" she said.

"Yup."

I turned back to see if Mark was still there, but before I knew it he was back down the street jumping like earlier that day. I got in my mom's car and then looked back to the back seats. My little sister was asleep like she was at a party. Then her eyes peeled open slowly.

She looked like she saw a ghost then I realized she had been away at her dad's. Then she screamed, "Antwaun!"

"Hi Naudia," I smiled at her. I looked back to the front of the windshield. Then I said, "Sorry mom for not telling you first before I left the school."

"Yah," she said. "You made a wise choice to call me when you got there. So now I know where you are now 'cause now you told me. Just make sure you call someone right away 'cause what happens if I didn't know where you were at. But it's ok."

I look down feeling sorry about what I did.

"Hey, did you have fun though?"

I looked back up. "Yes, it was actually pretty good." I took a deep breath looking at the sunset over the horizon. As we drove away, I asked my mom if I could go back tomorrow. She was pleased but said that I have to remember to call soon as I get there.

The next day my mom dropped me off to school. "Thanks Mom," I said. "I will call you, ok?" Then I shut the door and she drove off.

I looked at the sky and saw birds soaring through the sky and I knew I had made a wrong choice, but still I learned to always inform parents where you are at. Even when you're in there for a few minutes, it's good to let your parents, guardians, or anybody that takes care of you know. Just so you can be safe.

aj signing off....

The story of when someone tries to bully me

Chanse H.

When I was eight, my mom moved us down to Georgia with our grandparents. Since we moved, my mom had to find us a new school. We went to a school called Clyattville Elementary School. When I was in fifth grade, there was this kid named Zamarion. He was a tiny bit shorter than me, but he was older than me, and for some reason he smelled like urine almost all the time. He always tried to bully me ever since I first got there.

Since I was the new kid I didn't want to cause any trouble, but this went on for days. One day when we just got our lunch, he took my milk and threw it to the nearest wall. Then I said, "Bruh what the fu-" then I stopped and threw his milk right next to mine. I had had enough.

On the way to class he was constantly pulling on my lunch bag so he pulled it once more before he walked away.

Then I snapped! I mugged him and he fell over the desk. He didn't put up much of a fight. He just had tears forming in his eyes probably from embarrassment. I was angry but I felt better for standing up for myself.

When he told on me, the teacher called us outside of the class. She said, "Chanse, I know how it is down in Ohio. I used to be a sub there."

Then I was baffled. I asked her, "Umm what are you talking about?"

She said, "When I used to be a sub there were a lot of bad kids, but they're not like that here."

Then I saw what was going on. She was trying to take up for him. I was furious, so I tried to tell her the truth "But he-"

"I don't want to hear it."

"But in the cla-"

"Whatever he did, you shouldn't put your hands on other students."

I just stopped trying after that because she kept cutting me off. She didn't even want to hear my side of the story. When I got into the class, everyone started to laugh at him. Later on in the year he started to talk to me. At first I didn't want to talk to him, but then I got over it. We weren't necessarily friends, but sometimes we talked.

So the lesson I learned is that you should never take anything from anyone, and stand up for yourself no matter what. It doesn't matter what the situation is.

My 2019 Year

Samara T.

Samara woke up this morning happy she got up on her own. Normally her mom wakes her up in the morning, but today she wanted to go to school for some reason.

Samara: Duhh, it's the first day of school.

Samara looked at herself and said: Rule 1—no fighting this year. 2—no friends. 3—just worry about your school work. I hope I pass, I hope I pass.

Mom said: Hurry up we gotta get you to school baby girl.

Samara said: A'ight, let me grab my book bag.

Samara just arrived at Case Elementary School: Here we go, another year.

Mom: You not gone give me a hug?

Samara: Nope.

Mom: Girl u better give me a hug.

Samara gave her mom a hug.

Her sister Aniyah said: Bye sissy.

Samara walked in and sat at the 7th grade breakfast table, thinking, Why is everybody looking at me?

Then Samara went to the bathroom and looked at herself.

Samara: Let me look at myself in the mirror. Nah, nothing on me.

Samara went back. Then she saw her new teacher Ms. Sherf.

Ms. Sherf: Get in line, class.

The whole class walked in the hallway. Everybody was loud but Samara was silent. Ms. Sherf stopped at the end of the stairs. All Samara heard was the principal coming. Everybody got dead silent.

Principal Mcdol: WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO LOUD!

Serina: Why are you loud?

Ms. Mcdol: Ms. Collins, step out of class. You may go, Ms. Sherf's class. You may pass.

Samara and the whole class entered the classroom.

Ms. Sherf: Hi class, my name is Ms. Sherf. I will be your 6th grade teacher. I am gonna allow you to sit where you like. Oh, can everybody say their names?

Samara: Hi, my name is Samara.

Ms. Sherf: That's a pretty name.

Then the rest of the class said their names. This girl came and sat next to her.

Lyric: Hey, my name is Lyric. I'm new at this school, what about you?

Samara: I'm not. I been here since 2nd grade

Lyric: You wanna be my bestie?

Ny: Hey, can I stay at this table.

Both: Sure.

Lyric: Ok, we all can be homegirls, y'all.

Ny: You know it.

Samara: Yeah I'm in, just don't switch up on me.

So Samara, Ny and Lyric was just talking for so long.

Lyric: Guys, let's run the halls.

Ny: Okay.

Samara: If I see Officer James I'm dippin'.

Lyric: We all gone be out.

Samara and Lyric and Ny sneaked out of the classroom.

They knocked on the teacher's door and ran.

Samara: I'm out of breath.

Ny and Lyric: For real.

Ny: I think we switching class.

Samara: Let's go back to class.

So they all went to class and they met Ms. Simpson.

Lyric: I love this class.

Samara: Girl, you just like this class because she a ratchet teacher.

Lyric: ANYWAYS, y'all seen that tall chocolate boy in 8th grade?

Ny and Samara: GIRL

Samara: First off, he too old for you; second he too tall and third, he ugly like girl.

Ny: I'm dead. She got bad taste.

Lyric : Ok, what's y'all type?

Samara: Puerto Rican boys and them light skinned boys.

Ny: Dem Mexicans, baby and China boys.

Samara and Lyric : CHINA

Lyric : Samara, shut up. Don't listen to her.

Samara: don't tell me to shut up. you shut up

Ny: the shut don't go up

both: be quiet

ny: y'all big mad

ms.simpson: Samatha your dad is here to pick you up. go down to the office

Samatha: ny and lyric what's your number? ny and lyric gave Samatha their numbers
and Samatha went to ms.sherf class and she saw somebody that is always fake to her-serena

serena: hey Samatha

Samara looked her up and down and grabbed her stuff and said: bye ms.sherf.

Then Samatha went down stairs and Samatha saw her dad and ran to him

Samatha: DAD

Dad: hey shay

Samara: hey

Dad: we finna go pick your sisters.

Samatha and her dad hop in his truck and went to go get her baby sister, aniyah

aniyah : sissy

Samatha: you talk too much

aniyah: shut up

Samara and Aniyah and her dad went to go get Serirah and Samatha. Serirah was the oldest . Samatha was the second oldest. and I was the last oldest.

Samatha: HEYYYY SHAY SHAY

Samara: Girl, why are you so loud?

Samatha: You wanna fight?

Samatha: Wassup sis, i been ready

Serirah: y'all fried on god, y'all is.

After that they all started laughing and they pulled up in the projects.

Aniyah: Daddy, whose house is this?

Samatha: Right, whose house is this?

Dad: Y'all gone see you all walk up the stairs

Samatha: This is exactly why i don't like projects

Samatha: Same. It stank on baby

Dad: shut up

Samatha: if my brother don't talk to me like that you can't either PERIOD

Samatha: PERIOD

Serirah : y'all**** funny on bruh

Samatha: girl stop tryna be me cause you know i been saying hmm 1 on baby 2 on god
3 on bruh so shut up right now

Serirah: i will beat yo *** right now

Samatha: do it. i want you to cause i'll drop yo ****

Aniyah: ooo daddy sissy and Serirah saying bad words

Samatha: he know he right. (they're both right so they went in)

Samatha: bruh this 30th all my homegirls be around here

Samatha: me too.

Samatha phone went ding ding

Samatha: hold up my homegirl lyric callin me

Lyric: girl we out of school in i'm bored

Samatha: I'll talk to you later

Lyric: aight

Stepmom: hey guys

Samatha: i'm dead on baby anyways who is you?

Stepmom: Tasha

Samatha: tasha who ?

Stepmom: your stepmom

Samatha felt bad for making fun of a fat person but she did not care at that point

Samatha: dad i'm finna catch a bus

Dad: if you not back before dark, you locked out the house

Samatha: ok.

Samatha mean-mugged him and mumbled: stop talking to me. Samatha caught the bus
to her ex boyfriend's house

Kory: Gimme a hug

Kory was a cute Puerto Rican boy

Samatha: sooo

kory: i miss you

Samatha laughed at him but she missed him a lot. Samatha stayed until 10:00

Weeks later Samatha goes back to school and a group of 8th graders and 6th and 7th was looking at her and her homegirls

Samatha: is there a problem?

Tiyniyah: yup there is

Samara: spill the tea then

Lyric: right

Ny: what's the problem?

Tiyniyah: girl post up

Ny: I'm ready

Samatha: you corny. you messin with us cause my auntie not here no more and fyi yo shoes busted and i look better than you in every way. I'll drop your tall *** like my auntie did last year period **** off. Samatha was feeling herself and her and her walked away

A few months later Samatha and her friends was so close

Samatha: i got sum to tell y'all

Both: what? I'm not gonna be here next year

Both: what do you mean

Samatha: i'm GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL ****

Both: bruh

Ny: let's listen to justin bieber

ALL: MY MOMMA DON'T LIKE YOU AND SHE LIKES EVERYONE.

Samatha had a good school year. It was the summer time.

Samara: I'm happy it's summer break.

Samatha: Right.

Samara and Samatha both stayed at camp together and they met a lot of mean ugly cute nice people. The summer was cool for them and then school started. Samatha showed up at school one week late and when she walked in everyone was just looking.

Samatha/thinking: why everybody looking. Months later it was october she broke up with her boyfriend and was living her best life. The end.

IX-Center Day 17

Dariyon B.

One day my family was at my mom's house and it had been two weeks since we ever did anything. There was just me finishing doing things with my objects. And my natural human in an odd way sister Shylah. She would always like to stay in the cocoon of red darkness, music, and privacy that is her room, while doing her own thing all the time. My little cousin Dizzy was there too, everyone thinks he can be too much. He tries to get everyone's attention and is very small, adorable, fun and rude. And then there is his (brotherly) partner in house crimes, Diggy who is a six year old part maniac but with a high squeaky voice and loves gaming. They both just like and are followers of each other. And there is also my Mother who gave me my life. I am eternally grateful for that, and her hard work to make me happy.

We all were at the house doing no-things. Except for my Mom who is very hard working. She was planning what to do for the day. She wanted to do what we had not done for a while. She was finished thinking and told us that we were going to the IX-Center.

The little ones Dizzy and Diggy were excited. They said, "YAY WE GOING TO THE IX-CENTER." Nothing ever mattered to Shylah. All she said was " Oh okay, I might try to ride the ferris wheel." And me, well I was just blank. I always thought of myself as blank when I was unexpressional and silent. I said, ".....cool....." In the car Shylah wanted to have me ride different rides this year. "Are you ready?" she creepily said to me. After a sightful ride in the car, we arrived. Mommy told us "You guys go up to the doors, I gotta find somewhere to park."

When we got up to the doors, the little ones were complete DOOFS. Diggy was loud and Dizzy ACTUALLY climbed a statue. "Well I'm not watching. They with you—you always watching them aren't you?" said Shylah. I pretended not to know any of them, (in public). I said "Hi.....who are you, **unattractive** lady?" But then Mommy finally showed up and we all went in. It felt as any other time we entered the IX-Center.

At first we walked around looking for rides. Then we found an excellent ride, but we rode it last year. Then there was this green ride that spins around crazily and turns sideways. "Dariyon, come on this ride with me," the girl who was born two years and nine months before me said. It was scary to get on at first. But while I was actually riding it, it was magical for me.

Shylah wanted to force me to ride every ride she wanted to ride. But after a second disorienting ride I took a break. And I went to buy a wet, not worth it ball that I spent my own money on. And it was not worth it because... it exploded.... in my face... Shylah said, "YA see ya Just sho darn STUPID."

Then I said, "But THIS was never meant to happen."

"What does that MEAN," she said back.

Then the whole family came back from the rides and then got something to eat. After eating delicious pizza, I was done with riding. "You know you can still ride," Shylah told me, "Come on and ride."

But, “No thank you S-H-Y-L-A-H I would not like to right now,” I told her.

Shylah is stranger than she was in her past in many ways. At times she wants me to be GONE. But most of the time we are somewhat good siblings. But sometimes I have my own things to do, or I just need some time alone.

I do feel like we should spend more time together. I want to have more good memories, and that is what I did at the IX-Center. We did have random little talks there. I like to be a part of Shylah's life. At least 10% a part of her life. She wanted to ride some rides. But I didn't really want to ride anymore.

Shylah tried to convince me to ride a few more. Shylah wanted me to ride with her. Shylah pretended to be sad. I told Shylah she sucks. Shylah slapped me on the back of my head. I said no to one and said yes to two other rides. The other two were fun, but I am glad I said no to the first one.

The one I said no to—Shylah and the little ones went on it. They had a picture of them riding. Mom liked it but it looked like their barbers hated them. But the other two I got on. One was a roller coaster we rode with other cool people I did not know. The second one was very fast and kind bumpy. I was really done. When I was walking, I walked past the place where I won Shylah a rainbow poop emoji. I was proud of what I did last year. Then we were all finished and heading out. And overall it was another fun day of the year at the IX-Center.

The Day I Was Ungrateful!

DayShawn G.

One week when I was in third grade, I was staying over at my dad's house. My dad's house was light brown, two stories with three bedrooms. My dad is very buff and stocky with a stomach. His skin tone was light brown with a big beard. I was ten years old when this situation happened. I was chubby with a tapered fro.

During that week, he bought me some shoes that I had no idea that he was gonna buy me. The shoes were some dark blue, high top Filas. The shoes had a zipper on the back of the shoes so it's so much easier to put your feet in. He bought me some shoes and he showed me them, but I told him I did not want them because they were not my style.

He responded quickly and said, "You are ungrateful!"

I walked away and shrugged my shoulders.

My dad said, "Don't turn your back on me and shrug your shoulders."

Later the same day, we were on our way to drop me off to my mom. My mom was over my Aunt Kissy's house.

When we got there, my dad got out of the car, and my mom started telling my dad all the bad things I was doing in school. "HE ALWAYS GETTING IN TROUBLE," she said, "And he's always getting in a lot of fights."

My dad said, "Why do you keep playing in school? What did I tell you about that?" My dad's tone of voice was angry. "Dayshawn, I'm not playing stop, playin at f***** school!" He looked at me with a mad grin, and he punched me in my chest so quick. I reacted a couple seconds later, and I huffed and puffed and dropped a couple tears!

I said, "Ok," with tears of anger and embarrassment running down my face. My dad was very serious about being disrespectful to him, so I didn't say anything else. Later, I decided not to get in trouble for playing too much.

From this experience, I learned not to be disrespectful to my dad, and not to be bad in school anymore. Another thing I learned is to not to follow my friend, and I began to learn to start focusing on school.

Why I fell asleep in school

Janiya M.

Back when my family was staying with my auntie Shakara, I got in a lot of trouble with my cousins. We decided to take a walk and go to the park.

So we all got home from school and the first thing we did when we got in the house was change our clothes, watch a little bit of tv, and then we left and went to the store.

“My mom said we have to be back at the house no later than 5 o’clock,” said Miracle.

“Oh my gosh that’s too freaking early!” shouted Adrianna.

“She only said that because we have school in the morning,” explained Zarriah. So we finally got to the store and we all got our own snacks to take on our walk.

We left the store at 4:20. “Where do y’all want to go?” asked Makiya.

“Collenstone Park!” responded Zarriah.

“Nooo that’s too far,” said Miracle.

“And we have to get back to the house. It’s about to be 5 and I don’t want to get in trouble,” said Miracle.

“Girl it’s only 4 something we got time, you doing too much,” said Adrianna. So Miracle and Adrianna went back and forth about what time we should go back to the house.

“How about we take Miracle back to the house and we can just continue our trip,” I said.

“Yeah I like that idea let’s do that Adrianna,” said Zarriah. So we ended up taking Miracle home and we finished our walk.

Now it was 5 something and we were just now noticing, but we didn’t care, we just kept walking. But then Adrianna got a call from her mother.

“Hey mom,” Adrianna said, answering the phone.

“Are y’all in the house?” asked Adrianna mom.

“Yeah why wouldn’t we be. Where you at—why you not here?” asked Adrianna.

“I’m running a little bit late because I had to do some extra work, so when I get in the house y’all should be sleep,” said Adrianna’s mom.

“Okay mom,” said Adrianna. Even though my auntie said to be asleep when she got home we just kept walking anyways. Okay so now we were farther away from home but we still didn’t care. Now it was 6 and we got another call, but this time it was from my mom. I guess my auntie got home before us and when she found out we weren’t there it wasn’t a good look.

“HELLO!” my mom yelled through the phone.

“Hello mother,” I said.

“WHY IS Y’ALL AUNTIE CALLING ME AND TELLING ME THAT Y’ALL NOT IN THE HOUSE!” my mom yelled again through the phone.

“Dang, Ma, why you yelling, and we’re on our way back. We just stopped and got us some food,” I said, making up excuses to my mom.

“How far are y’all from the house?” my mom asked.

“Oh we not that far.”

“Okay, but get yall selves in the house. Bye,” she said. And before I could say bye back, she hung up the phone. And I'm not gonna lie—when my momma name popped up on my screen, my heart started beating so fast.

So we're walking and Adrianna says, “Dang my momma done opped on us. That's bloody man. Just for that we gone take longer to get to the house.” So Adrianna had us walking longer. We were still walking to the house, but we were taking a longer way. And so we stopped at McDonalds, Wendys, Taco Bell, and Rainbows, so Adrianna could get her some more clothes. We all had our own money and we didn't really need that much. We all needed about like 10 dollars. We looked at the time and it was 8.

“Oh we really have to get back to the house,” said Makiya.

“Yeah cause it's about to get dark,” said Zariah. So we got down the street from the house and we could see my Uncle Dez and my Auntie Daisy standing on the porch.

“Y'all we have to sneak in from the back so they won't say nothing to us,” Adrianna said, whispering. So we walked back around the corner, and we went through the side door, so that they didn't see us walking in, and so that they didn't say nothing to us.

“Dang, the door locked. Somebody call, wait, no, text Miracle, and tell her to come unlock the door,” said Zariah. So Miracle came and unlocked the door and we all ran in the house and ran straight upstairs. Adrianna and Makiya went in Adrianna's room and Zariah, Breyonna, and I went in Zariah and Miracle room.

We thought that their mom wasn't gonna say nothing to us but we all thought wrong because a few seconds after we got in the room here she came yelling, “Where was y'all at? What took y'all so long? Why are y'all just now getting in the house?”

“Mom, we just went to the park, and we went to get some food, and I bought me some clothes from Rainbow. They cute aren't they? Look, you wanna see them?” laughed Adrianna.

“HeHeHaHa. Adrianna, does it look like I'm laughing?”

“Yeah,” giggled Adrianna.

“Look this not gonna happen again, y'all hear me?” she asked.

“Yessss,” All five of us responded.

“Now do whatever y'all need to do to go to sleep. Don't take forever, y'all got school in the morning,” said their mother. So we all did what we needed to do, but we didn't go to sleep. We all were on our phones all the way until 2 something. The only one that was asleep was Miracle. And so we all just chilling and here comes their mom again. “Why are y'all still woke? Take y'all butts to sleep. Why is Miracle the only one sleep?” asked their mother. When we first heard her voice we all jumped, and I was scared.

So we all pretended to go to sleep but that didn't work because she came back upstairs, and this time she didn't say nothing. She just took all of our phones. So we all were bored so we decided to just go to sleep. When she took our phones I was mad because I like to watch Netflix on my phone to help me go to sleep. But I ended up going to sleep. But right when we fell asleep it was 6 AM, so we all had to wake up and get ready for school.

As I was getting ready for school I just kept dozing off. I was finally ready for school, but now I just had to wait for my dad to come get me and my sisters. So while I was waiting, I decided to take a nap, but that didn't work because I got a phone call from my dad saying that he was outside. So I got up and I walked outside to the car.

Fast forward some hours and I was at school, but I was still sleepy. I wasn't that sleepy in math, but I got to ELA class and then I started to get sleepy. When I was doing my independent work I fell asleep for that whole time.

"Janiya, pick your head up," said Mrs. Uter. But after that class I wasn't sleepy anymore, so in science I was wide awake. For lunch and recess I was okay and for social studies and special. But then when I got home I went and took a long nap.

From this I learned to never stay out late when I have school in the morning.

Going to the hospital day

Jonathan G.

When I was twelve years old me and dad went to this laundromat. My dad was washing clothes and I was outside running around. He told me to throw this trash away so I went to the dumpster. After I got done throwing away the trash I was walking. Then, all I know is that I tripped. I cut my leg open. It was blood dripping everywhere—on my leg and also my sock.

After we was done washing, we loaded the clothes up in the car. Then we pulled off. It was a ten minute drive. We were almost at the house. We had to make a couple stops at the store. Then we was at the house.

When I got in the house I was on my phone. It was 8:00, so I was just texting and calling people and I went downstairs to eat. Next thing I knew it was 10:00. Then I went back on my phone.

After I got done being on the phone, I went into my dad's room to get something. He looked at my leg and he said "What is that?"

I replied, "I cut my leg behind the dumpster when we was at the laundromat earlier."

He said to me, "Why you ain't saying nothing? We could've went to the emergency while it was still earlier." Meanwhile, we put on our jackets and went downstairs and we went outside.

We unlocked the doors to the car, and we got in it, and we pulled out the driveway and left.

The hospital was a ten to fifteen minute drive from the house. Soon as we got in there we sat down for a little bit.

They asked, what was my name and date of birth, but everything was saved in the system. We had to wait until a doctor called my name, so we could go into the room. Then we had to wait for another doctor to come in. He put a mask on his face and some gloves on his hands, and he looked at the cut and said, "Oh boy, that's a big cut. What did you do?"

I said, "I was walking and I wasn't paying attention then I tripped"

He also said, "Wow, but I be back." He came back with scissors.

My Brothers Wedding

Jordan K.

I had to practice walking down the aisle. My sister Ronnie was just on the bench watching. I was light way confused; I did not know what to do. They just said to walk normal, but when I walked normal they said faster, so I walked faster. Then they said slower. It was the day before my brother's wedding.

When I finally got to the front, I had to stand for a long time behind my Dad with my arms behind my back. Then I finally went home. I was on my phone for that whole entire day, until the next day, when the wedding started.

When I first got to the wedding, I got a little bit of free time at a pool table. I was the best at pool, but little kids was interfering with a game, so I said forget it. So I went walking around the place, checking it out. The wedding was inside. The place only had one floor, but it was kinda big at the same time. I found some weird looking cheese. I took a bite and almost threw up after. It was nasty..

That's when the wedding started. I was walking down the aisle after my sisters and brothers. My brother JL, whose wedding it was, was crying as I was walking down. I was standing for the longest, waiting for them to say, "I do." Finally, it was over. They gave us food. It was very nasty, so I ate candy.

Everyone was doing line dances. I only knew 3 line dances. I still did not dance that whole time. I was still sitting there eating candy. People kept on asking to dance with me, but I was still eating my candy.

We were finally going to leave. I fell asleep in the car instantly, and when I got home, I ate, then went back asleep.

The Anti Semitic

Kameron N.

One day me and my friend were killing some dude on a game. This game is called Dragon Ball Z: Final Stand. It's based off a series called Dragon Ball Z. It's a nice series. It mainly involves these people called Super Saiyans. The other races are called Acroians, Namekians, Majins, Androids and Hybrids. It's pretty cool and interesting.

So this person I am going to talk about was very rude. He didn't like Jewish people, and I'm guessing that he was against their religion because he was just disgusted with every one of them. When I tried to ask what's wrong, he just kept spamming really long words. He was saying how he wanted to do this and that to them, and something about bombing them like the Nazi army did back in World War II. What happened back then was this extremely delusional person named Adolf Hitler. Adolf Hitler was a person who controlled an army that involved these soldiers called Nazis that killed 6 million Jews.

Me and my friend went over to him and I'm guessing he was zoned out because we were saying stuff to him like, "Hey, what the heck is wrong with you? Are you dumb or something?" and he was just spamming sentences with words like Kill, Obliterate, Destroy, and so on.

Then he said he wanted to blow them all up and do terrible things to people. And we were so angry about the fact that he's probably a little kid who just knows about all this stuff. So after that we just started to spawn kill him.

So he left to join a different server and we teleported to him and we killed him again. The guy had on a blue and black coat and I think his name was something like BigSnitchie69 or something like that. And he spammed an extremely long word. But then he got his friends on us, but I was not really worried because me and my friend are both high levels—I'm level 857 and he is level 1067.

My friend's name was Charles, but we called him Genji because his username was OniGenji597. Mine was TSC_Nazamaki, but the rest of my friends call me Naza. It was rare if one of them called me Maki. So I was surprised when my other friends joined. I was a little happy because they were not all high levels, except for one named YuriNamiKaze720, but I still helped them when they needed me. They were levels 578, 601, 598 and 803. They all had names—their names were Divine, Namikaze and Crystal. I had a former friend named Jack. He was a little rude but I dealt with it until I helped him with his work 'n' stuff. But until I asked him to help me but he didn't say anything so then I guessed he was too busy. So then I asked him the next day, and he just snapped.

"Why don't you just help yourself? You're a high level right??"

And then I said, "Well no, I only got to this level because my friends helped me when I asked." (I was level 436 at the time, but now I'm level 768)

So I was like wow. Then I just had to unfriend him because he yelled at me. But I realized a couple months later that this is just a video game and he's literally a high schooler so i understood.

After that I told my other friends, "If you need help with someone, just talk to me or Yuri, and we will help you." So after that they said, "Ok," and we just carried on with our lives.

Then the next morning I woke up to them grinding and I was like, wow you guys boosted your levels. One of them had like \$2.5 Million. Then after I prestiged, they helped me because I pretty much helped them hit level 600.

The lesson I learned was to not to lose my temper with people who I can clearly ignore by just Flying Away and don't talk to them, or just walk away. I reset my character because I was glitched. I was glitched because it was a thing called Heaven. But everyone else called it Hell because it was a cage for hard core grinders, in which you can never escape. And I was one of those people. Until I reset my character. But it was worth it because my friend Dino helped me level up.

One Regret

Kayla T.-P.

One day last year me, my sister Kyla, who is 12, and my friend Uriah, who is also 12, were coming from school (ab heart school). I called my dad to see if we could go to the recreation center (the Rec). My dad said, "Yes if Uriah's mother takes you," because we weren't allowed to walk.

So we called her mother. She said, "Yes," sounding tired, but she never showed up, so we walked anyways. When we were on our way to the Rec, I was ducking and hiding to make sure I didn't see my dad because he always be around that side of the neighborhood.

When we got to the Rec, we were having a good time for about two hours. When we were done we tried to call Uriah's mother to see if she could drop us off at home. My dad was across the street, not knowing we were across from him, during the time we were trying to hurry up and call her, but the mom didn't answer. Then my dad who was at the gas station just then noticed that we were across the street from him. I guess he was wondering why we were just staring into space, knowing that she didn't drop us off because if she did, he knew she would've picked us up as usual.

My dad asked us, "Who dropped y'all off to the Rec?," sounding frightening.

Me and my sister said, "Her mother."

And he said, "So if I ask her mother, she gone say yes?"

So we agreed. Kyla glared at me and Uriah's eyes just got bigger and bigger. When we got to Uriah's house, Uriah went inside the house so fast, before her mom came out because she knew if her mama came out we would've got into a lot of trouble. My dad didn't see her so he pulled out the driveway, but it was too late—she had already came out. So my dad pulled back into the driveway and asked her if she dropped us off to rec. She looked at us in the back and she looked mad and nodded her head. At first we thought she said yes because she was like "Yep," but that wasn't the case. She was saying yep as if she knew what game we were trying to pull.

So we were pulling off and it just got so quiet. He didn't say a word, we didn't say a word, it was silent. When we got home me and Kyla tried to hurry up and put on some extra pants and shirts. But he came up the stairs quicker than we thought, and my dad had whooped us, took our phones, and put us on punishment. I knew when I was gonna be on punishment, and it was gonna be so exhausting. We couldn't come downstairs unless we had to use the bathroom, or if we were hungry. I was so mad. My sister Kyla was just mad at me and she didn't speak to me. I started shaking. I didn't know what to do. My dad was out of breath.

I had made my friend Uriah lie for me and Kyla. My dad told us, "She can't come to any of our family events." This was all because of me when I was the one in the wrong. I felt so bad—it was my fault. I apologized to Kyla because she didn't have anything to do with it and I also apologized to Uriah because I made her do something that she wasn't comfortable with

doing. I learned not to lie, I learned not to lie on other people and to not get anybody involved in my situation.

I will never do something that terrible again.

The Runaway

Kristina S.

On a nice August day, I got home from school. I went upstairs on my phone to see what my ex-friend Tae was texting me. Tae is short for his age. Tae is seventeen years old. I knew him since I was a baby and we grew up together ever since this day.

Tae texted me, asking why me and him wasn't friends no more. I told Tae, "Your friend Arionna keep texting me, and it has nothing to do with her, and your mom is always talking about me. Like that's childish, she too old to be talking about a fourteen year old, and she in her sixties or seventies. Arionna is Tae's friend since kindergarten. Arionna is seventeen years old and short, but taller than me, and she big.

A few minutes later Arionna texted me and asked me, "Do we have a problem?"

I told Arionna if I had a problem with her, I would fix it.

Arionna said, "Tae is right next to me, so I can see what you and Tae talking about."

I said, "I don't care."

Arionna said, "Keep that same energy in 30 more mins."

I said, "Okay."

20 min later, my mom called me downstairs. I went downstairs and my mom took my phone. I seen Tae and Arionna. I walked into the kitchen. Tae showed my mom my Instagram and dance videos I wasn't supposed to be doing.

My mom said, "Go upstairs and think about what you did."

I ran upstairs crying and saying, "I'm telling your mom that you have been doing something that you weren't supposed to be doing." I ran to my room and was walking back and forth. I was looking at the wall, and I kicked the wall. I tried to jump off the cliff, but I was too scared to jump. I tried to do it three or four times. I broke the curtains and broke other stuff.

I put on my shoes and started to go downstairs. I saw my mom walking out the back door. So I started to leave out in the front. Lillianna said, "I wanna come with you." Lillianna is six years old, and she lives with me. I told her no. I opened the front door, and when I ran I left the front door open. My mom walked in the front which made it worse and the man across the street saw me. I ran and cried all the way, until I got to Mary Bethune School. I walked and cried for a few mins.

When I turned the corner I saw my best friend Savion on the porch. Savion is fourteen years old. I knew him for four years. He ran to me, and I told him I had to go. I started running some more because he wanted me to stay at his house. He stopped me and gave me a hug. I gave him a hug back. We walked and talked about what happened and why I ran away.

My mom came out of the truck and said, "GET IN THIS TRUCK RIGHT NOW!"

I said, "No, I don't want to live with you anymore."

I started running some more. Savion tried to help me run, but I told him no. My mom got back into the truck and drove where I was running at.

My mom said, "You don't have to live with me anymore."

I said, "Okay."

Savion was being disrespectful to mom. "She can live with me," Savion said.

My mom said, "I don't think so, until she turns 18 she can live with you if she wants to, because she is out of my house."

I told Savion to stop, because that's my mom.

After she left me and Savion went to Elyse house. Elyse is my friend since we was four or five years old. When we got to Elyse's house she wasn't there.

So me and Savion left Elyse's house and went to Tae's house, and they were sitting on the porch. Me and Savion walked up on the porch.

I said hey to Tae's mom. She said hello back. I told Tae's mom that he was doing something that he wasn't supposed to be doing. His mom said okay. Tae's mom said, "A teacher told me that you were doing something in the back of the school."

I said, "WHY ARE YOU LYING? I DON'T EVEN BE IN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL, AND NO TEACHER WOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AND I WOULD'VE GOT IN TROUBLE FOR IT."

Savion wanted to fight Tae because he made me cry. So Savion asked me, "Should I do it, should I do it?" I told him no.

We left and went to Marshawn's house, so we could get some water. Marshawn is Savion best friend. We saw Sadie and I told her what happened.

She said, "I had a feeling that you would run away and pack you some clothes and water."

I said, "Okay, well I didn't bring any clothes or water."

Me and Savion went to Marshawn house and had some water. Then we talked for a little bit. After we left Marshawn's house, we sat on the bench at Mary M. Bethune School. Sadie screamed my name. I looked at her. When Sadie came by me and Savion, she sat down next to me. She walked to the park with us. We were talking about fighting Tae.

After we left the park we walked to Tae house. Elyse screamed my name. I turned around and she said, "THE POLICE LOOKING FOR YOU!"

"I said, "I know." Me, Sadie and Savion had to hide behind the building because Elyse's mom was looking for her. After her mom left she said, "Y'all can come out now she gone."

After we came out, we went to Tae house and started banging on his door. Nobody answered. So as we left Tae dad started pulling up their driveway really fast. And Tae dad, Tae brother and mom came out they truck and started yelling at us. Sadie and Elyse walked off and they was yelling at me and Savion. Tae mom thought Savion had a gun. But it was his phone rap around his shirt.

We all went to my house because my mom was on the front porch. When we walked up there, Tae mom called. She started calling me, Sadie and Elyse some words that she shouldn't have been saying to kids. Then my mom hung up and called the police to let them know that I was at home. Me, Elyse, Sadie and my mom went inside the house until the police came in.

When the police came I panicked.

Elyse said, "Calm down. If you be disrespectful to the police you will go to jail."

I said, "Okay." I started crying. The police said to stop crying and take 3 deep breaths. I took 3 deep breaths. He asked me what happened. I told him what had happened.

Then the police said, "Tae's mom could put charges on you and you can go to jail if she does. What you did today was not good. She could've put a bullet to you, and we would've allowed her to because you were on her property. Don't do it again or you could go to jail." The police left.

Another police car came. I started crying some more, but they were just here to see if I was here and then left. I lay down on the couch so I could rest my head because I had a huge headache. I fell asleep.

The next day I went to school. I thought about what happened and I said to myself that I would never run away again because that's a lot of work.

The next month I was doing better than I did last month in August. I been going places and getting off punishment and going to see my friend. Now I know that was a big mistake.

The Creek

Lamaree W.

One hot sunny day, in the summer of 2016, I was with my sister Lora and our two friends, Davita and Danielle. Lora was a little tall. She had braids in her hair with beads hanging off of them. Danielle was really tall with short hair, and her sister Davita was short with short brown hair. We were sitting on my grandmother's front porch, trying to come up with different ideas for stuff we could do on such a hot, windless day.

A little bit later, we saw a few kids riding their bikes, but earlier that day we had been riding up and down a steep bike trail on the west side of Cleveland, Ohio for hours. We were tired and our feet were sore, so we chose to not ride our bikes for a while. Eventually we decided to go inside my grandmother's house and watch tv for about an hour. But after about 30 minutes, the four of us had fallen asleep. Suddenly, I was awoken by the loud stomping I heard, coming from the top of the staircase. I assumed that it was my two cousins Jason and ChaeSarra and that they had just got into an argument, but I soon realized that it was just Jason playing loud music, dancing around and stomping on the floor. Eventually Jason and ChaeSarra came downstairs.

Jason is mixed with curly hair. ChaeSarra was his sister and she had shoulder length hair. They were dressed lightly—Jason had on a white T-shirt with black basketball shorts on, and ChaeSarra also had on a white tee-shirt with pink athletic shorts on.

I chose to wake up Lora and our two friends because they had been sleeping for almost an hour. After I woke them up, Jason and ChaeSarra went out the back door where all of our bikes were. I decided to ask them if they were going somewhere and they said, "Yes," but when I asked them where they were going they did not respond.

After the short conversation we had they got on their bikes and rode away. That day I really wanted to know where they were going, so I chose to hurry and tell Lora, Davita and Danielle what was going on. I told them that Jason and ChaeSarra left and that we should follow them because they seemed to be doing something suspicious. They agreed to go with me, so we got on our bikes and followed them.

Luckily Jason and ChaeSarra did not get very far, so we were able to catch up with them. We tried our very best to follow them slowly, so that they would not notice us. We were used to riding our bikes around town. Eventually, after a 10 minute bike ride, we arrived at a nearby park. Since it was a big park, Jason and ChaeSarra hadn't noticed us yet and neither could we see them. But it did not take very long for us to find them. They were sitting on the swings on their phones. It almost seemed like they were waiting for someone. When they noticed us, Jason aggressively said, "Why did you guys follow us?!"

We responded by asking them why they were there and if they were going anywhere else.

Jason said, "You guys shouldn't be worried about where we're going or why we're here because all of you guys are too young to go anyways."...And maybe Jason was right because at

the time I was nine, Lora was twelve, Davita was eleven and Danielle was twelve. Jason was thirteen and ChaeSarra was fourteen. But I still really wanted to know what they were up to.

We decided that we'd threaten them by telling our parents that they had been sneaking around. They finally budged into telling us where they planned to go. They said, "We're going to the creek, we have a few friends waiting there." So we went to the creek. It wasn't scary riding our bikes down the hill, since it wasn't anything he hadn't done before...

When we got there we saw one of Jason's friends. Her name was Yardiysol. Yardiysol was Puerto Rican with long black hair. She was a little tall and at the time she was 11. After a while Yardiysol said that we should all go into the creek. The creek had a ton of huge rocks in it, so I said no because I didn't want any of us to get hurt, but Yardiysol eventually convinced us all that it was okay, so we all got in.

Everyone was playing in the water having fun, and the water didn't have a lot of depth in it, so we could stand up and run around in the water. But suddenly, as we were playing, Davita started to run around the whole creek, and it was really long and fairly wide, so she had room. But then, as she was running around, she fell and hurt her leg badly on one of the rocks.

We asked her if she was okay, and she said no, she couldn't move her leg. We didn't know what to do, because in order for us to get back to my grandmother's house, we had to ride our bikes up a huge hill. We decided that two of us would walk with Davita to help her get up the stairs, since she could only move on one leg. The other four of us would try to get all of our bikes up the hill.

It was really hard to get all the bikes up the hill, since it was so steep. But eventually we did. After we got back to my grandmother's, we told her what had happened, and luckily she wasn't really mad, so we didn't get into much trouble. Davita's leg was fine after a few days.

Now that I'm older I realized that we made a very dumb decision by following after my cousins. I learned that even if you're tempted to do something that you know might get you or one of your friends hurt, you shouldn't do it.

Only Have One Life Take The Risks!!!

Lar'ryn G.

Spring was coming to an end--saying our final goodbyes for the school year, making our last laughs, and rewinding all of our past memories. As time slipped away, we began getting more and more excited to leave school for the whole summer! I said, "I will really miss you guys. We had lots of memories that can last a lifetime. Just wanted to leave on a great note with everyone, just in case we never meet again."

As I finished up telling everyone how I've felt, one of our literary teachers, Ms. Larsen, stopped by the class room to give us our personal narratives. Ms. Larsen had many other announcements and one included her husband Mr. Joe's camp. My friends were all so excited to go and stuff, but the only thing that I worried about was that I had never been there before. It was all brand new so I was cautious to say for sure if I'd be able to go or not. It brought a lot of pressure on me.

As Ms. Larsen informed my class about the camp, and I listened, I gave her my undivided attention, as she explained where, the details, and the amount it was going to cost to go to camp. I was thinking nervously about if my grandma was going to allow me and my older brother, Christian, to go to camp for the summer. So we got home and I talked with my grandma. She liked the idea of me and Christian wanting to go to camp. She wanted us to enjoy ourselves. Me and Christian were both excited that we actually were getting an opportunity to go, and plus one of my best friends—Lamaree White—was planning on going back to camp with me!!!

My grandma was on the phone with Mr. Joe, and after they were done my grandma called me and Christian into her room to tell us what Mr. Joe had said. We were excited to go, but my grandma told us that he said that the camp was filled. I was about to cry, then that's when my grandma told us that she was just playing, and we started jumping. My heart started racing, and the very next day we went shopping and stuff. I still was shocked as ever to be able to get to go!!! Me and Christian both swore that we were going to be on our best behavior until we got to camp. As the days passed on, we started getting more and more anxious to go. A few more days passed by, and we only had one more day until the wait was over. I think that emotionally I wasn't prepared to go to camp for such a long time, but mentally I was prepared. I tried to be happy the majority of the time, and I spent as much time with my family as possible.

On June 10, 2019 we woke up at 6:00 a.m., and we were just filled with nothing but joy and excitement. I couldn't have been happier to go. Even though I said I wasn't prepared for camp, the excitement rush took over my mind, and I couldn't even notice it!! We were all packed up ready to go by 7:30 a.m. My grandma was having a bit of a difficult time with getting the directions together. Me and my family were just having fun anyways, so we didn't pay it any attention.

I went off to talk to my older sister Pink, so that we could have a conversation. Before we left she told me, "Don't get to camp and try to be fast, it's okay if you have crushes, but don't you have anything more than a crush."

I replied with a smirk on my face, "I'm not going to act fast or have a boyfriend," I said to her. We started talking about how long me and Christian was going to be staying at camp. I just started to burst out with tears running down my face, and my sister quickly hugged me and assured me that I'll be alright.

My sister said, "It's okay to be scared to experience new things in life, it's normal, but it's whether you push yourself to let life take its course." Then I wiped my face and just let the words settle in my head.

Christian then brought out my luggage and stuff, and I placed our luggage in the trunk. My grandma, brothers, sisters, aunties and uncles all gave us hugs and kisses goodbye. As we got into my grandma's car I started to cry, but I knew it was going to be a blast. Me and Christian looked back as my grandma pulled out the driveway and waved at our family. They screamed, "SEE YOU SOON!" and that meant so much to me.

The ride lasted about two and a half hours. Finally, we were there, looking around to all the nature, birds flying around, the sunny but windy breeze into the air, and the beautiful lake view. As I glazed over this very massive camp I was in, it just automatically felt like home!!! Then I put my luggage down and Christian did too and I looked up for a swift second and I had seen Lamaree. I ran up to her and gave her a big hug. I was so excited to see her. Me and Lamaree started talking about how excited we was to be at camp with each other. Then we went to go and play around and I introduced myself to lots of new people. I remember saying, "I LOVE IT," to my grandma because I felt like I knew this place for years. As my grandma, and uncle gave us kisses and hugged us for the last time, it felt like my soul was ripped out of my body. I cried so much it was unbelievable.

I had an amazing time at camp the first time, and I went back a second time!!! These are the amazing consequences I had from being able to go to camp, and I learned a valuable lesson: it was to take the risks even if you might be worried. We only have one life, so let's make the best out of it.

The Car Chasing Us

Logan G.

Last year, when it was winter, me and my friend, Makhi, decided to walk to the library because we did this every day after school.

On our way to the library, I noticed a car parked behind us so I told Makhi, and he said, "Walk faster." So we did. All of a sudden the car started chasing us, and that's when we ran... I don't know if one of us dropped something and the person saw it, but we were so freaked out. Anyway, we ran down the street, and Makhi spotted the car right next to us, so we ran even faster. The car was dark brown, and it was small. We made it to the library but I was still freaked out. I couldn't even play games. So many questions ran through my head. I thought, What if the person from the car comes into the library and tries to start something?

When we left the library I decided to take the safer way home. I thought to myself, What if the car catches and kidnaps us?' I couldn't think. I couldn't breathe!! When I finally got home, I told my parents everything .

After this experience, Makhi and I were a lot more careful when walking to the library. And I definitely walked a different way to the library. Every time we saw someone behind us we would walk faster, and of course we never talk to strangers. We normally avoid cars just because we don't want to be seen. Sometimes we even sneak around buildings so cars won't see us and we can get to the library safely. I guess I'm mainly paranoid just because of this one experience, but it was really scary.

Camp

Londyn P.

When I was in the 6th grade, I did something that got me in a lot of trouble, not only with my mother, but with my teacher too.

When I was in the 6th grade I went to Cuyahoga Valley Camp with the 7th and 8th graders, and also my 6th grade class too. We stayed at the camp for three days. On the second day, it was dark and the middle school was going on a night hike with one of our teachers. His name was Mr. Hrabak. He is tall, he has gray and brown hair, and he is a 7th grade homeroom teacher. On our hike there were a lot of frogs and crickets.

After our hike Mr. Hraback said, "Alright guys, we're gonna take a break and sit by the campfire."

The fire wasn't made so we had flashlights. There was a bench going all around the campfire so there was enough space for everybody to sit. When we got there, I was talking to four of my friends. Their names were Sadie, Madicyn, Robeiro, and A'Nilah. Sadie was tall, really skinny and had blue long braids at the time. Madicyn was short and had long hair at the time too. Robeiro was skinny and had dreads in his hair. A'Nilah was skinny and had orange and yellow braids in her hair at the time also.

Then Madicyn and Robeiro were play-hitting each other. That's when I said, "Can I hit him next?"

Madicyn said, "Yeah."

After Madicyn said that, Robeiro looked at me like I was crazy. Then after that all you could hear was..... SLAP. After a few seconds, I realized that I had hit him too hard. Madicyn then left for a bit to go get a flashlight from the teacher to see if his face was okay. While she went to go get the flashlight, Robeiro asked, "Why would you slap me!"

He looked like he was very mad at me for slapping him. He looked very sad and mad at the same time.

When Madicyn came back from getting the flashlight she said, "Oh my god, Londyn. Why did you slap him so hard?"

After that happened, I got mad because everybody kept saying things to me like, "Londyn, why would you do that to him?" Or they would also say, "He didn't even do anything to you."

On our walk back to our dorms, one of my other teachers named Ms. McCorvy was walking next to me. Ms. McCorvy is kind of short and has kind of curly hair.

Then she said to me, "What's wrong with you, Londyn."

I said, "Nothing."

Then she said, "You don't have to tell me Londyn, but I know that something is wrong."

The next day A'Nilah said, "Oh my god look at his face." His face looked kind of big, and he didn't look very happy.

I also was kind of in a bad mood the whole entire day. Most of the teachers were wondering what was going on, but nobody told them. The teachers were asking me what was wrong most of the day too.

When I got home from camp I was happy because I could finally be all by myself. A couple of weeks later, it was one day before field day, and I was so happy. Field day is when we play outside almost all day at school, and I was so happy because I thought that I was going. BUT I WAS VERY WRONG!!!! My teacher found out that I slapped Robeiro, and then I got in trouble. I had to sit in a classroom all day and read books and do work. At the end they let me participate though. I also wasn't allowed to go on the next camping trip either. I was very mad too because I was really looking forward to participating in the next camping trip.

From this lesson I learned to stop hitting people and to start being nice to people. I always used to hit people all the time, and now that I have gotten in trouble for it, I have decided to stop, because hitting people doesn't make you a nice person at all. Now I have changed. This has changed me because ever since this has happened, I have made more friends. But now that I have changed, I am more nice to people.

THE FORTNITE TROUBLE

Makhi J. C. M.

One day when I was in six grade I got in trouble. I was at my house. It was 11:30 at night I could not go to sleep so I decided to get on my Xbox. When I got on my Xbox I called my friends Dayshawn, Chanse and Jordan.

I asked Dayshawn, "Hey, Dayshawn, can you get on the game right now?"

"Yeah," Dayshawn said.

Then I called Chanse and I asked him can he get on the game and he said yes. Chanse said that he was going to call Jordan.

Then Jordan got on the game. So we decided to play Fortnite. I had my microphone on. I told them, "Glide down to salty springs." Salty springs is a place where you drop and get guns. We killed the squad. When we killed them I was happy because I thought that we were not going to kill the squad.

So after that we went to go get Dayshawn and Chanse reboot cards. We got their cards and rebooted them, and we gave them two guns each.

Then my mom came out of her room and came upstairs to see if me and my sister Maicey was asleep. First she checked Maicey's room and she was asleep. Then she checked my room and I was awake. It was 3 o'clock in the morning.

She said, "Makhi, go to sleep right now!"

I said, "Ok."

She said to give her my Xbox and my phone. I was grounded for two weeks. I was very mad. But she did not take my controller, so I threw it, and you could hear a bang into the wall. Then she screamed at me and said I was grounded for a month.

Then I got my Xbox back after a month and I did it again. She said I had to do chores, I had to clean my room everyday and had to wash dishes and take out the trash for a month. Ever since that day I never did it again. I don't want to get in trouble again, and that is why I would never do it again.

I Had and I Lost

Mariah H.

When I was two years old I was in a family of six. I had two brothers and two sisters. My brother's names was J'quan and David and my two sisters' names was Madison and Alexandria. And I also had one mom.

When I grew up, me and my family was in and out of houses, so one day my mom said to my older brother J'quan, "Look, my friend said we can stay in her house. You know that is an opportunity for me to get a job, so we can get a house or an apartment."

Ja'quan said, "That's cool because I don't like to be in a room full of kids."

My mom said, "I know you don't but it's better than being homeless or living in a car."

My brother sucked it up and so we moved.

My second oldest brother David said, "That cool," and my mom said, "Do you even know what we are talking about?"

He said, "No," but my mom laughed. A couple days later we moved to my mom's friend's house. The house was like an old lady lived there, but no old lady lived there. The house had curtains everywhere and the house had lamps everywhere. My mom's friend was tall. Her hair was short and curly. She had two kids. I don't remember their names, but what I can tell you is one was the same age as my brother, which was four, and the other one was eighteen years old. She was nice to me, but the boy—all he wanted to do was play with my brother David.

The game we used to play was when you have to put yourself in a cover and the other people who was playing in the game had to roll down the stairs. I can't lie, it was pretty fun to play. After a while, we went to sleep. A couple hours later I heard a lot of commotion. I went to go downstairs. My mom was screaming, "My baby! Get help!"

I looked down and my baby sister was on the floor. She was pale as snow. I could see my brother J'quan walking back and forward. He also had tears running down his face and I saw my brother J'quan coming towards me. And what he said to me was that everything would be ok. I just nodded my head, but I asked a question before he walked away.

I said, "Everything is going to be ok?"

"Yes," he said, "Just go upstairs."

As soon as you know, I was at my sister's funeral. I asked my mom why was my Lexi in a box (aka a coffin)?

My mom said she was going to go to sleep for a long time.

I said, "Why?"

My mom said, "Because she ate a bad apple."

I said, "Ok." A couple days later, I was In a foster home. I lived there for two months. Then, out of nowhere, this lady came to get me and David and Madison. We got in her car. She

said, "I'm your auntie." She took us to her house. The house was so pretty on the outside. It was yellow and brown, but on the inside the house was sky blue, and there were two pretty girls. They were my cousins. Their names were Chnoea and Nia. When I would go to sleep and ask Madison, "Where is Lexi?"

She would say, "You don't remember, she died," and I would say, "No she not, don't say that," and Madison would say, "It's true, so what is there to say about it."

Three months later me and my family moved to a new home, and I loved it, but it still did not get my mind off my baby sister. After I would come home from school, I would sit at the door waiting for my mom and my sister to come home, but you know I had to realize the fact that my mom and my sister was not coming home any time soon.

I Finally Snapped

Nia M.

Once, on a sunny afternoon, I had just got out of school, and I was so happy because it was summer break, so I decided I would make everyone lunch. I wanted to make sandwiches, muffins and some other things. I put out the lettuce, cheese, mayonnaise and meat, and toasted the bread. I got some juice and muffins. Then I remembered that I needed chips. I looked everywhere for them but couldn't find them. Then I remembered that my sister put up all the snacks when we came back from the store, so she must know where they are. So I went to ask my sister. When I went to her room, I said, "Naima where are the chips?"

She didn't say anything, so I asked again, then again, then again.

I was asking for like 5 minutes, and then I got really annoyed. Wouldn't you be annoyed? I mean she does this constantly. It's so irritating! So I was not sorry for what I was about to do.

After asking for like the millionth time I ran into her room. Then when I started running she started chasing me. I ran to the end of the stairs and I said to her, "You're always ignoring me, and it's because of this stupid phone!" Then I dropped it off the edge by our stairs.

Naima started running down the stairs so fast. Once she got down the stairs, she started screaming and crying so hard. Then she started hitting me and screaming, "Why did you do that? You little beaner."

Then my dad came upstairs from the basement, and shouted, "What is the problem?"

Naima said, "She.. she threw my phone off the ledge by the stairs, and she did it for no reason!"

Then I started to argue with her about how she constantly ignores me, and I finally had enough. Then my faTHeR started to LecTuRe me about how I aCt before I think, but at the time I did not know what that meant so I screamed, "What does that even mean?"

He started talking about how naive I was. "How will you pay for her phone? It costs 500 something?" I really wasn't paying any attention, but after five minutes when my dad was done, he said, "Go get me your phone and computer." e said it like he had already said it twice before. I think my dad did. After I got them for him, he told me to go sweep the floor! Literally. This came out of nowhere.

After that I went upstairs to my room and Naima came out of her room. Seriously—my sister be switching up. She was just acting like everything was fine before, and now she started hitting me again.

The only reason I didn't end up in the hospital with a broken arm is because my mom just happened to come upstairs and pulled Naima off of me and went to talk to her.

When she came back she was so mad at me. She was carrying on about the phone. I really didn't see why this was such a big deal. I mean it was just a phone, you can get another one. My mom told me the point was that it was not my phone. She said, "I know if someone broke your phone you would be mad."

I eventually made it up to Naima by buying her some chocolate cheesecake. The only thing that sucked was I was grounded for 4 weeks, and before any of this I had plans to go to the movies with my friends. I couldn't even tell them I wasn't going.

Those weeks were the longest and hardest of my life. I couldn't even go outside to play with my siblings. Nada. I couldn't WATCH TV. I know what you're thinking—who watches TV anymore? Well, I was that bored! So I wanted to watch TV. I felt like my whole world was falling apart, but I guess that's karma. Well maybe I am being over dramatic, but I was so annoyed and bored.

When I got off punishment my phone had exploded—not literally—I forgot to tell my friends that I couldn't go to the movies with them because I got grounded. They were so pissed at me because they almost missed the movie because I didn't go to the movies.

I think what I learned from this, and about myself, is that I react too quickly, and it tends to get me in trouble. All of this happened this year in just the last week of school and into summer break. This isn't the first time I have done something like this before. Anyway, this is the story about how I snapped.

My important decision

Sadie C.

One day, when I was thirteen, I was faced with an important decision. The year before that I was late. It was a lot of people in our business. They were saying they were going to call 696-KIDS on my mother because we were not making it to school on time. And that was stressful, so I took it upon myself to make sure that everybody was up and ready for school. They said we were gonna be taken from our mom. I was feeling happy, but at the same time I was sad because we would have been taken from our mom. My mom worked from 3:00 to 11:00 so she would always be tired. Then they changed my mom's schedule, so now she was going to work at 11:00 p.m. and getting off at 7:00 a.m.. This was worse because now she was going to be really tired. And we always get in trouble with our teachers.

Finally, when I was thirteen, I got tired of it and I got us up, and we did what we had to do. The night before, I got out everybody's things. That Monday morning, early in the fall when the birds were chirping, I got up at six o'clock. I was listening to rap music. My mom was in her room sleeping. She did not say anything to me because I had my music low so I could get myself together. I took a shower, brushed my teeth, got dressed, and I had to do my hair.

Then I had to go and wake up my sisters, which were Kay—she's the one under me who is always on her computer. Then it is Lailah, who is the one who always gets smart with someone. Then comes Sachae, the one who always stays up all night. Last is Khia, she is the baby, who will cry until she gets what she wants. So they had to get themselves together, but they were just talking so I told them, "Hurry up and get ready—NOW!"

And Lailah was like, "Shut up!"

So I said, "Girl bye and hurry up."

They had to get in the shower, they all had to brush their teeth, and they had to get dressed, and I had to do their hair. So I went downstairs to start making lunches. For our lunches we had chicken sandwiches with yogurt, and a banana for them, but I had an apple, and we had cookies.

Then I told them, "Come on, or we are going to be late for school."

So we were walking to school, and we were on our phones doing snapchat videos and playing our music. When we got to Mary M. Bethune school, my sisters went to breakfast and I went into the gym with my friends.

It makes me feel good about myself that I got my sisters up and made lunches for all of us. This was a great choice because we did not get taken from our mother, and we made it to school on time, and I did not have any teachers yelling at me. This is why this is one of my most important choices in life. Making it to school on time is a priority. If you don't get an education, then you are not going to know where life is going to take you. Because I was on time, we got many incentives. I got to be with my friends more. My sisters got gifts from the teachers, and it just made us feel good. It was also so fun telling my story.

The Race

Ta'shyra W.

So it was a Saturday afternoon, and it was me and my cousins, Mook and Tez, chillin 'in my cousin Tez's car. We ate a lot of snacks. And all of a sudden, a guy who says his name is Peter walked up to my cousin Tez car that we were all in.

So the guy, Peter, said, "Let's have a race."

So my cousins Mook and Tez said, "Ok."

The guy said he had seen my cousins' cars. My cousin Tez has a Porsche truck, and it's red and black. Mook got a Hummer, and the guy Peter has a Jeep truck.

So then we decided to race Saturday night at 7:30. We all met up at this big alley. It was dark and cold. So then everybody was ready to race. We got prepared, and I was in the race, but I had to ride with my cousin Mook.

And so we raced. I was so scared. My cousin was going really fast. I was crying, screaming, yelling, laughing. I think I wet my pants.

So then the race was over. My cousin Tez won the race. Peter gave him 2 hundred dollars for racing. We all went home and was crazy happy and excited, so this is the end of the story.

The Scary Basketball Team

Timothy C.

When I was eleven years old, I was practicing every day just to make the basketball team. The team name was AOC.

So a month later I turned twelve years old. The month after that, the team had tryouts.

I was doing everything they wanted. Some people got cut off the team. I was scared I would be next but I was lucky they did not cut me.

Then, at the end of practice, I met this kid name Kamarie. He was one of the best players he said.

Like two days later we linked up at the Rec to play some pick-up games. It was a lot of people there. All you heard was yelling and basketballs bouncing. Then, someone picked us up to be on their team. They did not give us the ball as much.

“Bro, they trash. They not giving us the ball. I’m about to quit,” Kamarie said.

So after we left the Rec, Kamarie said, “Man, ask your mom if you can come over to my house.”

So when I asked my mom she said, “Yes.”

I said, “Ok bye, love you ma.”

She said, “Bye, love you too.”

When I went over we was mainly talking about our basketball team and how the championship was going to be. Then his dad came in and said, “Go to sleep y’all,” so we went to sleep.

In the morning his dad was waking us, talking about, “Y’all go run.” So I was running, but I don’t know where I was running to, I just knew I was running.

Then the next week we had practice. I felt like I was doing good. At the end of practice, a few more people got cut. I got more scared that I was about to get cut.

A couple months later we’d already had two games. Me and coach was talking.

“You need to get your stuff together before you be off the team.”

I was so scared; It didn’t make no sense.

I said, “Watch me next game.”

I played most of the game. I had twenty points and two assists. Everybody was telling me, “Good game.” In my head I was like, Hard work pays off. We got into the locker room, and everybody was screaming.

We had a few more games, and then we went to the championship. So we went to Toledo for the championship. I had the game winning shot and blew it. I was so mad at myself for missing the shot. This was my story of the scary basketball team.