

“Putting in the Work to Capture My Dreams”

Director's Desktop



Geraldine E. Graham, Director

I extend greetings to both returning and new readers. It's been a while since we published. Last year went by like a whirlwind; and I won't try to cover it all in this issue. But here are some highlights.

At the beginning of the Program Year, we welcomed Mrs. Jones as the new Project Advisor, and before the end of the year, we had to say goodbye. The good news is that her family's relocation to the Chicago area was due to a promotion for her husband! We wish them the best and wish much success to their son, Taiwan Jones, who continues as a second-year student and football player at MSU this fall.

Uncertainty surrounding the Upward Bound grant competition kept us in a quandary all year; but we still moved forward. As in previous years, we

partnered with Lighthouse of Oakland County on the Thanksgiving Program – donating, packing and delivering food baskets. We also donated hundreds of hats, scarves, and gloves to Grace Centers of Hope. At Valentine's Day we distributed cards and lap blankets to the residents of Golden Oaks and sung a song for them. In addition, our College Clubs, PUB Clubs, and Saturday Academies went on as usual; and a parent and graduating senior accompanied me to COE's Annual Policy Seminar in March.

By the time we finished the Annual Performance Report and submitted the grant application, there was only a short time left in the Academic Year Program. But in that short time, we were able to facilitate 5 major events: We sent a delegation to the MI-CAPP Student Leadership Conference, hosted the Annual College & Career Day, attended a major College Fair at Wayne-Westland Schools, enjoyed a cultural outing with graduating seniors, and were rewarded with the fruits of our labor at the Annual Graduation & Recognition Banquet. Graduates' names and their postsecondary choices are listed on the inside back cover.

After closing out the Academic Year Program, we concentrated on preparing for the 2012 Summer Academy and

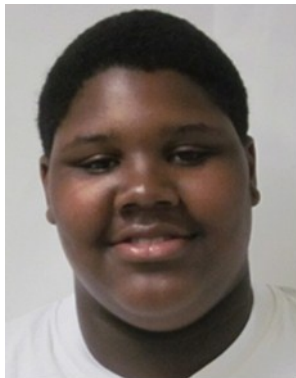
hiring a new Project Advisor. On Monday, June 4, Mrs. Nicole Clements joined the PUB Team; and, from training the Residential Team to arranging activities, to supervising the dorm, she has done a phenomenal job. There is no doubt that she is the right person at the right time to get the job done!

Part of our summer planning process is to select a new theme for the year. This year, we believe that our program theme really reflects what PUB is all about – if you put in the work, you reap the rewards.

In the summer 2012 newsletter, we will share the successes of the 2012 Summer Academy with you. But **this is a special *In Focus* edition that is the result of our summer English Language Arts Class. *The Gazette* contains original works by PUB's Summer Residential Scholars under the leadership of teacher Virginia Mann.** This is a fitting tribute to Ms. Mann since, after 4 summers with PUB, we congratulate her on obtaining a full-time permanent position.

Geri Graham

Project Director

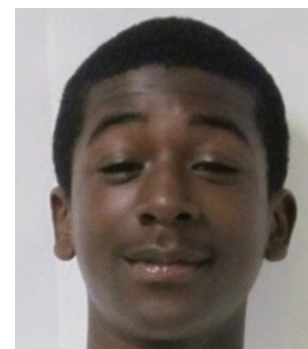


Christopher Modest
Page 4



Sabrina Eaton
Page 4

**2012 PUB
Residential
Scholars
And
Gazette Writers**



Raykuwan Vining
Page 4



Janae Chunn
Page 5



Kasianique Green
Page 6 & 15



Taylor Harney
Page 6



Jessica Shelton
Page 6



Roderick Davidson
Page 7

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(www.oakland.edu/upwardbound),
click on "Newsletters," and select
"Summer 2012 Student Edition."**



Stephenson Kent Jr.
Page 7



Torrey Cofield
Page 7



John Barents
Page 8



Ciara Brown
Page 8



Dawaun Johnson
Page 8



Zasmyne Grandberry
Page 9



Kiah Hamlett
Page 9



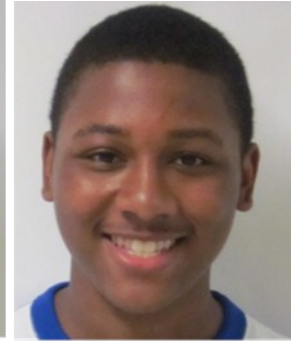
Hope Williams
Page 9



Breanna Hortson
Page 9



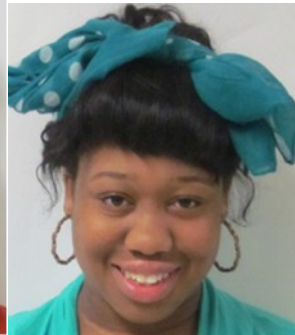
Quinton Hawkins
Page 10



Paul Hall
Page 10



Shu'Ara Jackson
Page 10



Karli White
Page 10



Ciara Hartman
Page 11



Larry'Shea Davis
Page 11 & 14



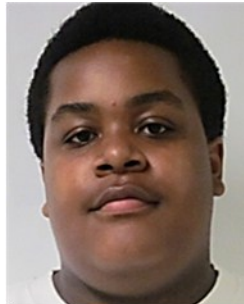
Juan Reyes-Marcucci
Page 11



Sylmaira Brooks
Page 11



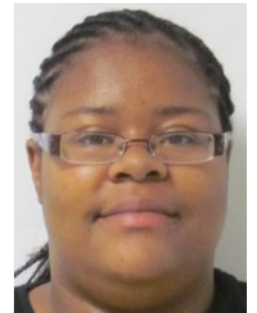
Jordan Cowser
Page 12 & 16



Brandon Burton
Page 12



Stephanie Bell
Page 12 & 17



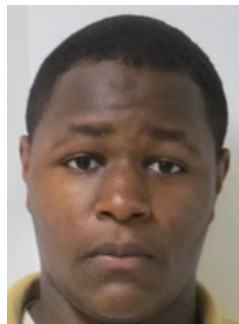
Cameron Dowell
Page 12



Shane Pfeiffer
Page 13



Dajanae Douglas
Page 13



Christopher Davis
Page 13

2012 Summer Academy
English Language Arts class
Writings are based on the
book "Forged by Fire."



Virginia Mann
ELA Teacher

In the Project Upward Bound (PUB) 2012 Summer Academy, the students in English Language Arts read Forged by Fire by Sharon M. Draper. This story conveys the realistic view that love and strength of family and friends can overcome the degradation of poverty and child abuse. "*The Gazette*" is dedicated to the analysis of characters and events in Forged by Fire as portrayed by the thoughts and perspectives of PUB scholars.

The theme for this summer was "Putting in the Work to Capture My Dreams." While reading Forged by Fire, PUB scholars learned how some people have many obstacles on the way to obtaining their dreams. But, like Gerald, we learned that through perseverance those dreams can be realized. I hope you enjoy the work students put into making "*The Gazette*" a reality.

CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

Hi readers; my story today is about Aunt Queen. Aunt Queen is a loving, caring, and fair auntie (pg. 16). Although she's in a wheelchair, she still doesn't let anything get in her way. When Gerald was in the house fire, she took him in. She fed him, clothed him, and let him live in her house for free (pg. 14). She is fair to everyone. Aunt Queen acts like my auntie Audrey Michael. Aunt Queen and my auntie have a lot in common. They both took in their nephews. My auntie loves also. Aunt Queen just came out of nowhere and took care of Gerald. She was important to Gerald and changed his whole life. But in the middle of the story she died from a heart attack (pg. 48).

~ **Chris Modest**

BREAKING NEWS!

On Thursday afternoon a fire broke out in the eastern apartment building on North Street. The fire forged over 130

people out of their homes, half of which were women and children. The flame was first thought to be started on the middle floor in an apartment filled with heroin and marijuana. But residents from the sixth floor attested that smoke first emerged from the apartment belonging to Monique and Jordan Sparks. The couple just rejoined each other a few months prior after the release of Mr. Sparks from the Lungfill County Correction facility.

It was said that Jordan and daughter Angel Sparks were in the apartment at the time the first flame was spotted. Then after five minutes of inhaling noxious fumes, Gerald ran into the smoke-filled building, up the stairs, and inadvertently into a battle. Gerald stated that he witnessed yet another molestation attempt from Mr. Sparks against Angel wherein Jordan then tried to dispose of Gerald. "The hot dogs must have been on too long," a disoriented Angel said. Only one body was found, belonging to the sexually and physically abusive Jordan Sparks. "It would have been two more." A sullen and just newly ambulatory Monique Sparks spoke. "What has been a terrible ordeal turned out to be a huge relief. Again my life has been forged by fire." (Gerald)

Reporter ~ **Sabrina Eaton**

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW OF ROBBIE WASHINGTON

Hello. This is Channel 8 News here in Hazelwood, and today I'm here with teenager Robbie Washington.

Ch. 8: So Robbie tell us about yourself.

RW: Hey I'm Robbie. I am a skinny, tall, smart boy who attends Hazelwood High School. People in Hazelwood like me because I'm nice and sharing.

Ch. 8: How so sir?

RW: Well one day I just took the liberty to give a guy a ten-dollar tip.

Ch. 8: Wow, that's nice of you. Bet he was happy.

RW: Ha-ha yeah; they also see that I'm good with the girls and I agree. The reason I agree is because you have to show girls lots of respect and just know how to talk to them that's all.

Ch. 8: Well that's interesting. What sports do you play at school?

RW: Oh yeah, how can I forget that I am real good at playing basketball.

Ch. 8: That's real cool Robbie; do you and the team get along?

RW: Of course; we show lots of respect to each other all the time. And when we do get mad at each other, we try to overcome it by working it out off the court with a few drills. That always seems to work.

Ch. 8: When was a situation when you and the team or a teammate got mad at each other?

RW: Well, it was a situation when one of my teammates named Gerald was kind of mad. I scored more points than him in a hard-fought game.

Ch. 8: How did you and Gerald work it out?

RW: Well, I had a chat with Gerald after we got out of the Locker room and explained to him why I scored more points than him.

Ch. 8: What was the reason sir? Not trying to be nosey.

RW: Well the reason I scored more points was to get our team to the win. And honestly, I think I'm better, that's all.

Ch. 8: That is very good of you to do that. Do you stay on the positive side of life?

RW: Yes, somewhat; if I don't continue with my drinking habits.

Ch. 8: When you see yourself, what do you think you will become?

RW: Honestly, I think I'm going to be a well-educated young man with a good family and nice job.

Ch. 8: Interesting, who do you remind you of?

RW: This one boy named Raykuwan Vining see's me as his brother because he is real athletic and good with girls except he doesn't drink. But I remind myself of my dad because he messes up sometimes and he was very athletic.

Ch. 8: That is honestly real cool to know.

RW: Thank you sir.

Ch. 8: No problem. Well it was nice meeting you and thank you for giving us your time. Hopefully we will see you again.

RW: No problem sir, and it was nice meeting you.

Ch. 8: Now Jamie, back to you.

~ **Raykuwan Vining**

THE STORY BEHIND THE BURNING APARTMENT BUILDING

The event that took place was when 13 year-old Angel came home from school and Miss Martin wasn't home. Angel decided to go home instead of waiting. She was dancing and cooking hot dogs when Jordan walked in. She smelled that he had been drinking and tried to run out of the room, but he swung her to the ground. He told her he wanted some female companionship. Then he raped her.

If Miss Martin would have been home, then this might not have happened. Her door was locked, so either way, Angel wouldn't be able to get in. This event took place a few days after Gerald's friend, Rob's, funeral and lasted until Gerald, Angel's 17 year-old brother, came through the doors of the room.

There were many people involved. The main characters were Angel, Jordan and Gerald. Then more got involved such as Monique and the police. Gerald got involved with the event because he walked in when the house was burning and Jordan was raping Angel. He helped Angel and the police were called during that time. When the police got there, Monique (Angel & Gerald's mom) walked up to the situation.

Because of this event, Angel was hurt mentally and physically. A part of her was taken without her permission. Gerald got hurt by Jordan and Jordan slipped and fell while trying to leave the burning house. He eventually died from the fall. Angel and Gerald ended up in the hospital.

This event was important because all of the hurt that Gerald, Angel and Monique suffered was finally gone. They didn't have to go through that anymore. It seemed like they were finally happy again. This made Monique realize that she could have done better. It changed Gerald because it made him stronger; but I feel it made him feel like he couldn't trust anybody. It also changed Angel because she got molested by someone that she called her father.

This reminds me of the song by Ludacris and Mary J. Blige, "Run Away Love." In a part of the song, a girl was getting molested and beaten by her dad. This song reminded me of Gerald and Angel. Even though Jordan wasn't her father, she called him that. And even though Jordan wasn't Gerald's dad, he was still the father figure in his life.

~ **Janae Chunn**

GERALD AND BRYAN

Gerald reminds me of my older cousin Bryan. Bryan was taken away from his mother at age 4. Gerald was taken away from his mother at 3 (Page 18). Gerald and Bryan didn't get put in foster care; instead they were taken in by one of their family members. Gerald was placed in the care of his Aunt Queen (Page 20) and Bryan was put in the care of his older cousin Chelsea. Both of their lives were going great until Gerald had to go back with his mother (Page 49) and his new abusive stepfather, and when Chelsea hooked up with her new girlfriend.

Gerald's stepfather, Jordan, was a mean, abusive, alcoholic. Jordan beat on Gerald every chance he got (Page 53). For Bryan, Chelsea's girlfriend, Tameka, was a rude, abusive alcoholic. Tameka would beat on Bryan until Chelsea told her to stop. Even when Chelsea tried to tell her to stop, Tameka would beat Chelsea as well.

One day Gerald found that Jordan was hurting his sister, Angel, while they were in a burning apartment building (Page 150). Jordan and Gerald started fighting in the burning apartment. They all were trying to hurry up and get out of the apartment; Gerald and Angel made it out alive. Jordan was trying to make his way out; but since he was drunk, he tripped over the rug and fell and wasn't able to make it out alive. Now life was going to be better for Gerald and his sister Angel.

One day Bryan said that Tameka was beating Chelsea real badly, so he jumped in to help Chelsea. Tameka got a hold of him and started to beat him badly. She beat him so bad that he was unconscious. Bryan was rushed to the ER. Chelsea went to the Police Station and told what Tameka had done to her and Bryan. Chelsea gave them enough evidence to send Tameka to prison. Tameka was charged with "Domestic Violence" and "Child Abuse." She was sent to prison for 8 years. Chelsea went back to the ER to make sure Bryan was OK, to let him know that she was very sorry for all her mistakes, and to let him know everything will be fine. As for Tameka, she got shot and killed by the prison officers because she tried to escape from prison.

~ **Kasianique Greene**

THE TAYLOR PRESS

Everyone in Rochester Hills be on the lookout! If you travel to Cincinnati, Ohio or if you have family there, please warn them about a man on the loose named Jordan Sparks. He's a very tall African American male with big muscles under his shirt usually worn with crisp blue jeans and shiny



Black steel-toed boots (pg. 35). Jordan is a very abusive man. He physically and sexually abused his own daughter, Angel (chp 8). This is all caused by his drinking and anger issues. Last year, he was put in jail for molesting his daughter. But he's back out on probation. If Jordan didn't exist, then people's lives wouldn't be in danger and there wouldn't be any conflict.

~ **Taylor Harney**

News update on Jordan Sparks! He recently died because the apartment he and his children were living in caught fire and burned down. The children are now in a stable condition. They all tried to run out of the house, but Jordan didn't make it because he tripped over his steel-toed boots.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GERALD!

It was that time of the year when most people are excited and have been waiting for months. It was someone's birthday! That special someone was Gerald. It seemed as though he was happy for his birthday because all he wanted was a red bike. In chapter 5 on pg.35 it basically discussed how the morning of Gerald's birthday was a wreck.

As Gerald lay in his bed, Aunt Queen came into his room telling him to get up and come eat breakfast with her and Monique. Of course Gerald didn't want to go out there because he hadn't seen her in a while and he didn't want to see her, definitely not on his birthday. As he lay in his bed he kept telling Aunt Queen "No" up until the point where he was like "Whatever, I'm only coming out for you Aunt Queen." On pg. 36 it talks about how when Gerald walked out of his room he was even more shocked to see his bad mother Monique.

There standing by Monique was a little girl and a big tall guy with very nice clothes on. That little girl just so happened to be his little sister. Gerald was even more surprised and somewhat hurt. The family went on and ate breakfast, but it was very awkward. Later on the same day, Aunt Queen had some type of stroke or heart attack instantly out of nowhere. Of course Gerald was extremely hurt because not only did he lose his best friend, he lost her on his birthday giving him no choice but to go live with Monique and Jordan. Gerald had been affected in a huge way.

Aunt Queen dying reminds me of a song called "Far Away" because the song talks about how she lost her best friend so soon and there's no chance of him coming back. Gerald had lost someone that was his best friend and he knew that Aunt Queen wasn't going to come back. He was so surprised by the fact she left so soon.

~ **Jessica Shelton**

ONE GIRL'S STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

Hi there, I am about to tell you about this very sanguine young lady named, "Angel." So sit back and relax as I tell you about this lady.

This mysterious girl started off as a very despondent young lady. She started off being nervous and shy when being introduced to a very audacious man named Gerald. They really didn't bond like that at first; but when Aunt Queen wasn't ambulatory any more, Gerald and Angel bonded very well.

She grew up in a good family while Gerald was around, but it quickly changed when Jordan quit caring about Gerald and Angel. The abuse soon came along with a lot of trouble. Angel tried to be a great person around Jordan, he was just insatiable at all times.

After all the abuse, even Monique couldn't talk to Jordan because he would just truncate the conversation. Even if Angel did something inadvertently, Jordan would get angry. Gerald was very lucid about the fact that he would always be there for Angel and she loved it. He always did something to ameliorate the situation, but Jordan castigated him a lot. Angel loved to dance, so she would always wear a colorful guise and black stockings to cover up her abuse marks. Nobody could truthfully attest that she was a bad person. Although people still aspired to put her down, she was very cognizant of that fact.

Angel very likely abhorred Jordan. Since Gerald was very benign, he would make sure that Angel wouldn't suffer by emboldening her. At the end, she never had to beseech Jordan because she had Gerald to look up to.

In conclusion, even though Jordan was very noxious to Angel, she never let it get to her. This makes her a very, very strong person with good character. She reminds me of the character in X-Men who was abused constantly. Finally, the most significant thing that's "good" that she contributed throughout the story was love and happiness.

~ Roderick Davidson

END CHARACTER INTERVIEW

Stephenson Kent here to give you a report on a house that burned down and how the young boy's aunt came to rescue him at the hospital. Aunt Queen is what they call her. She looks like an older woman in a wheel chair dressed in bright red with eyes that command immediate respect. Most importantly, the way she acts towards people is polite. She is

very inspiring and open minded. People treat her very respectfully and love her. Aunt Queen has character traits that a lot of people could be inspired by. She is caring, loving, responsible, and she has faith in her nephew. Aunt Queen took on a huge responsibility for her nephew after his mother left him alone at home. She put him in a better position than he had ever been in (Pg. 16).

The best thing you would hear about Aunt Queen is that she's taking care of Gerald. She is very important to Gerald because without her, Gerald would be in foster care and with someone he didn't know. He would be a lost child that doesn't know where his mother is, growing up in a devastating way (Pg. 18-28).

At this point, I think that this reminds me of when my mom passed away. My sister was the first one to come take the responsibility for my brothers and sister and me. They're similar to each other because, like Aunt Queen, my sister took responsibility for me and my mom wasn't there.

Finally, this character can be compared to the actor Tyler Perry. Tyler Perry has the ability to make his character Madea be the good person she is when given someone to take care of. Aunt Queen takes care of Gerald and has the responsibility to take care of her family. ~ Stephenson Kent

WHAT A LIFE?!

Monique Sparks is a very pretty, classy, always-dressed-to-impress lady on the outside; but on the inside, she is an angry, abusive, drug abusing mother of two. Now when you hear that, you think those kids didn't have a good chance of surviving.... I'm afraid not. Monique's 17 year-old son, Gerald, and 13 year-old daughter, Angel, didn't have the best of lives, but they made it through. Gerald lost his mother to the jail cell at the age of 5 because she left him at home and he set the house on fire. However, Monique gave birth to Angel in jail, and she couldn't keep her. So she gave her to the father, Jordan Sparks. When Monique got out of jail, she married Jordan. During this time, Gerald was living with Aunt Queen.

Monique treated Jordan like he was royalty, but he treated her very poorly. After all of the abuse from Jordan, he (Jordan) died, and Monique and her children were reunited.

In conclusion, this character reminds me of Monique in the movie "Precious." They both abused their children and didn't care about them and let their daughters get raped. ~ Torrey Cofield

INTERVIEW OF AUNT QUEEN

JB: "I am here at Baltic Avenue where our guest, Ms. Queen, lives. Ms. Queen tell us what happened."

AQ: "My 9-year-old nephew was driving down through the neighborhood when he went a little too fast on his little go-cart. Then he drove into the street. He tried to stop, but his rudder broke. His worried little soul must have been frightened to death at the speed he was going which reminds me of a book called "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

JB: "More of the story please."

AQ: "Oh, right. You reporter people are always on a schedule. Sorry 'bout that. Okay, when he approached the intersection he saw a Cadillac and a Ford. That's when he jumped off the go-cart. Thank God he did; but his little go-cart was crushed. The nice Ford lady got out of the car and checked on him, God bless her soul, and she brought him back to me. You can bet that I'm going to slap some sense into him so he will be better behaved in the future"

JB: "Thank you, Ms. Queen that was a great story."

~ **John Barents**

DANGER WITHERED AWAY IN A FIRE

A few years ago, I reported the trial of the State of Ohio vs. Jordan Sparks, convicted on 2 counts of child abuse and 2 counts of child endangerment. After being released, Sparks was back to his old tricks again. But the abuse and mistreatment have forever come to an end, not with the promises of jail or rehabilitation, but with a tragic fire. This tragic event occurred Wednesday in the Greeneville apartment buildings on the south side of Cincinnati. According to the children's account, Sparks seemed to have changed. But just when they thought the storm was over, this would prove not to be the case. Around 3'oclock Angel, the victim's daughter, arrived at the apartment from school and proceeded to boil hot dogs on the stove. Later, Sparks arrived appearing to be heavily intoxicated. Shortly after, Sparks began dragging the child and began to abuse her leaving the hot dogs unattended on the stove.

According to the fire department, the hot dogs being left on the stove unattended for a plethora of time contributed to the fire. The hot dogs seeped out of the pot which helped ignite the fire. The main source of fuel was old grease stains present on the stove. Since the apartment had no smoke alarm, neither Sparks nor Angel smelled or noticed the fire. A

short time after the fire was ignited, Angel's brother, Gerald, arrived at the apartment building. Upon realizing that it was his apartment on fire, he raced up the stairs hoping that his sister had not perished in the fire. Struggling to gain entrance into the apartment, he finally was able to open the door thereby giving an additional fuel source (oxygen) to the ferocious fire. Entering the apartment, he didn't know what to expect; but what he found was the unconscious body in the hands of Sparks.

This sight infuriated Gerald resulting in he and Sparks being involved in an altercation. After becoming aware of the fire, Sparks ran out, only being concerned for his own life but not the life of the little girl he helped create nor the life of the young man he helped raise. Through the sweltering heat and a blazing fire, Gerald and Angel struggled to make it out alive. As they were exiting the apartment, they stumbled on an unidentified object which pointed to the path that saved their lives.

A short time after escaping the fire, they discovered what the unidentified object was: Spark's dead body. According to the coroner's report, Sparks was intoxicated with an alcohol level of .09, eight times the legal limit. As a result of his intoxication, he slipped and his steel pointed cowboy boots contributed to his death. The monster that tried to take their lives ended up saving them. That day a monster withered away in the fire.

~ **Ciara Brown**

ELA FINAL

Gerald looks tough and stocky with the muscles of a young man. Gerald dresses in basketball shorts and a basketball shirt, and he is brave, sad, good, and happy. Gerald is known for caring for his own and his family and also for playing basketball. Gerald acts protective over his little sister from Jordan hitting her down the stairs; and he also took the hit for Angel telling Jordan not to hit her again.

Jordan is mean and always drunk. His punches hurt Gerald, so could have killed Angel if she got hit with them. They took the breath out of Gerald.

The most significant thing about Gerald is that he is very brave, very protective, and is like a hero in this book. Gerald is very important because he is the main character of the story "Forged by Fire." I compare Gerald to the "Twilight" movie's celebrity, Jacob the werewolf. Jacob had to protect the brand new baby from the other wolves; and I think that compares to Gerald when he had to protect his sister, Angel, from Jordan.

~ **Dawaun Johnson**

THE INSIDE SCOOP OF ONE FAMILY'S STRUGGLES

Gerald went to pick up his little sister, Angel, from her dance class one afternoon and they walked home together. She was filled with so much excitement because she had gotten a chance to dance all over and would get to dance in shows. She was so happy that she wanted to tell her mother about her great and exciting news. But when she got home, all of her fears and fearfulness came back when she saw Jordan Sparks (supposed to be father), sitting on the couch. She ran and locked her bedroom door while Gerald was disgusted and wanted him to leave immediately.

When they both saw Jordan sitting on the couch, Angel had her bad feelings she had when she was a little girl. On the other hand, Gerald really didn't like Jordan at all, and he hated Jordan for what he did to Angel when they were younger. Monique had gained her careless ways and attitude towards her kids when Jordan came back home from jail. She ignored the signs that her children were giving her about Jordan Sparks because she felt that Jordan would and could change his ways and be the man that she knew he could be. Their attitudes towards Monique were very displeasing because her kids were very uncomfortable and sad, and she just ignored them all and tried to be happy with a man that had no interest in children.

Jordan, Monique, Angel, and Gerald were involved in the incident between Jordan and Angel because he would always touch and feel on Angel when nobody was around them. Since this event happened, Gerald always wanted Angel to go to Miss Martin's house after she came home from school and wanted her to wait for him to come home and he would come and get her. He kept an eye on Angel every day and every time she was around him he never let her leave his sight. It's important because the people or readers can see and visualize how the characters feel about Jordan Sparks and how they hated their mother for not protecting them from people like him.

~ **Zasmyne Grandberry**

IN LOVING MEMORY

Ms. Queen Marie Antoinette Lincoln,
the aunt that made Gerald who he is today.

Her loving spirit will always be there.

She always showed her family how much she cares.

Holidays were always the best,

especially Christmas,

which was separated from the rest.

The characters from this story treated Aunt Queen with so much respect. She died of a heart attack later on in "Forged by Fire." So everything went back to the way it was. Gerald is now living with his mother again after the accident. If Aunt Queen was here today, I don't think any of the bad things would have happened to Gerald or Angel. Aunt Queen was going to take care of Angel too. Angel would have

never gotten raped by her stepfather, Jordan; and Gerald wouldn't be getting abused.

Aunt Queen was an important person in this story because without her, I don't think that Gerald would have come back from everything he had been through. But he pulled through all the drama and hurt in his life. My GG (Grandma) reminds me of Aunt Queen because they are alike in so many ways that I can't even explain. My GG cares about her family even though they can sometimes irritate her; but she doesn't care. God gave us a big family for a reason. I literally love my GG.

She's my sun to my shine

Her light to my dark

Her love to heart

Her happiness to my sadness

~ **Kiah Hamlett**

PERPETRATOR WARNING!

Attention! Jordan Sparks, a known child molester, has just been released from prison (Ch. 15, pg. 102). Jordan is a very muscular person and can easily overpower small children. He is of the African American race. He wears fancy clothing and cowboy boots (Ch. 5, pg. 35). Jordan is a very mean and rude individual. He can get very violent and abusive, mainly when he's drunk (Ch. 8).

Jordan has repeatedly molested (Ch. 8) and raped (Ch. 22) his daughter Angel. Jordan is known for his drinking and violence. He treats his family with a sense of abhorrence. He abuses the children physically, and he mentally abuses his wife. He treats the people in his life so horribly that they are all afraid of him and they try to stay out of his way (throughout the whole book).

The most important part of this story is that this character keeps readers wanting to know what happens to him in the end for being such a horrible person. If you want to get a better idea of what Jordan Sparks is like, compare him to Joe from "Daddy's Little Girls." They both treat everyone around them horrible, including children.

~ **Hope Williams**

THE GIRL IN THE NEWS

Angel is only 13 years old and is the color of pale caramel. She wore a long sleeved dress with black tights. She always smiles but something is going on. She loves to dance, but never had a bike. She is known for many different things; and she has been abused in her life by her mother and father. Gerald knew that his sister was being sexually abused by her father, Jordan. So he knew he had to do something about it.

THE GIRL IN THE NEWS (Cont.)

Angel is scared of her mother because her mother beats her a lot. She is scared of her father because he sexually abuses her. She loves her brother because he is very nice to her, loves her to death, and is scared for the both of them. When Angel sees Jordan, she feels scared. When she sees Monique, she is terrified; and when she sees her brother, Gerald, she wants to go with him and play. Her brother loves her and no matter what happens to the both of them he will always be there for her.

A good thing about Angel is that she is a very strong little girl and she is trying her best to do what she can. The character is important to this plot because she is loved by her brother and Aunt Queen. It reminds me of a girl in the news who was raped at her mom's house in Florida near where my cousin lives.

~ **Breanna Horston**

BIOGRAPHY OF GERALD NICKLEBY

His name is Gerald. He is tall, black, has this hair, is muscular and has brown eyes. He wears basketball clothes and jeans with stripes on them sometimes. He is smart, funny, serious and he can be kind-hearted. Gerald is known for protecting his family while going through a real tough time. Also, he's known for playing basketball. When people see Gerald, they act mean, funny and defensive.

My role is to show and inform the reader of what Gerald had to go through as a young child and most of his struggles as a teenager. He is very important because he is the main character of the story, so the book revolves around his life story.

Gerald really does not remind me of anyone that I know, but we do have one similarity: We are both really defensive about what happens to us and to the people that we love and care about. He reminds me of Shrek because they both will do anything to protect their families. Gerald was the character who stood out to me the most.

~ **Quinton Hawkins**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A GREAT WOMAN

In today's news we have a little story on a little old lady, Aunt Queen. Now we should let you know that Aunt Queen is not ambulatory; so she sits in a wheelchair like it's her throne. She dresses in bright colors and always has her nails done. She is a 65 year old benign woman, who takes care of her nephew, Gerald. At the age 3, Gerald was caught in a house fire and was rushed to the hospital where Aunt Queen rescued him. Later, Gerald's momma, Monique, was sent to jail for leaving Gerald home alone. In my opinion, Aunt Queen abhorred Monique. Aunt Queen reminds me of

Mrs. Gerwell from "Freedom Writer's" because she cares about the kids. Aunt Queen is important to the story because she raised Gerald before she died. In the story, the most significant thing that Aunt Queen does is make Gerald into the caring man that he grows up to be. So, let's give a moment of silence to Aunt Queen. Thank you and have a good night!

~ **Paul Hall**

FIRE

At the age of 3, Gerald set his mother's, Monique, apartment on fire. They say that the toddler's mother left him home all alone all the time; but, I guess this time she left him for too long. The fire lasted a few hours and all Gerald could do was sit behind the couch and wish for the best because he didn't have anyone to protect him. The fire took place when Gerald was just 3 years old. He was the only one involved in the incident because he was the only one home when he set the house on fire.

The tragic event caused Gerald to end up in the hospital. It was important because when he got to the hospital, he was taken away from his mother and adopted by his Aunt Queen. It changed the characters because there were more people involved in Gerald's life now. This event reminds me of when this house around the corner from my house caught on fire. They say that a mother and her kid(s) were in the house when the fire broke out. We never found out if they survived or not. This event is like that song by Rihanna and Eminem, "Love the Way You Lie." It's like that because in the video they set the house on fire but in the story Gerald set the apartment on fire. They're the same to me because there were fires in both situations.

~ **Shu'Ara Jackson**

PHENOMENAL LITTLE GIRL!

Rampage in Ohio led to the strength of a young girl. Her name is Angel Sparks (Age 13). Long brown fuzzy hair in pigtails, thin figure, and as sweet as she looks! But don't let her face fool you. She has a past, a bad one. Everyone treated Angel bad except for her brother, Gerald. Before he came into her life, Angel was very despondent.

Angel is a very important person to the story; and the things she went through add onto her importance. Angel's worse nightmare was her father (Jordan Sparks). Although "sparks" was his last name, he was not taken away from Angel's life with a spark, but a fire. A large fire! This was all over the news, but at last her nightmare is over. Angel can finally be placid and happy.

~ **Karli White**

AN EVENT TO DIE FOR

An important event in Forged by Fire is the building fire at the end of the story in chapters 22 and 23. It took place when Angel left dance practice then went to Miss Martin's house. No one was there so she just went home. The fire was started by Angel cooking hotdogs with the music turned up so she couldn't hear Jordan. He was drunk and took Angel to the room and started to molest her, so the hotdogs dried up and ignited a flame. The fire lasted until the next morning. Jordan and Angel were the only ones at the house; but when Gerald saw the apartment on fire, he ran up to the apartment and saw Jordan with Angel and they started fighting. Gerald stunned Jordan's legs, got his sister, and got out of the building. The paramedics informed Gerald, Angel, and Monique that Jordan didn't make it out of the fire because he tripped at the doorway.

This story was important to the plot because we find out what their lives would be like after the abuse and how they would live their lives without Jordan. A movie that is similar to Forged by Fire is "Madea Goes to Jail" because the girl, Candi, got raped when she was younger and then she became a prostitute. But she changed her life around.

~ Ciara Hartman

FINAL PROJECT

Forged by Fire by Sharon Draper has a lot of interesting lucid conflicts. The book's main characters are Gerald, Monique, Angel, and Jordan. Jordan is the bad guy, or antagonist, of the book, and the others are searching to leave. Jordan has anger issues and takes it out on anyone.

Jordan is very audacious; Monique, Gerald and Angel fear him. When Jordan gets angry he can't control it. In this book an event happened in chapter 20, a Saturday in October at night when Jordan came home and noticed his air conditioner (a/c) was stolen. He was very hot and already angry about work; so when he noticed his a/c was gone, he was livid. Jordan began to question and yell at Monique saying "WHO STOLE MY AIR CONDITIONER, MONIQUE WHY DIDN'T YOU WATCH IT BETTER". This led to Jordan getting furious and more frustrated, resulting in smacking Monique and Gerald very hard. He hit them to take his anger out on them.

This event opened up a big picture for Monique. On page 128 Monique exclaimed "No, I did not like that at all, I don't think I'm going to let him hit me anymore." It changed Gerald's and Angel's mindset as well because they thought of calling the police on page 130 which they never thought to do all the other times. This event gave them a new outlook on how not to put up with Jordan's frustrations

vides for them; so they let him slide.

This event reminds me of the movie "Matilda." In "Matilda," Ms. Trunchble accused Bruce B of stealing and eating her chocolate cake. It's similar because out of anger, Ms. Trunchble forced Bruce B to eat a whole cake: Just as Gerald, Angel, and Monique are getting abused, anger results in a child suffering an adult's anger.

In conclusion, I compared this story to "Matilda" because Ms. Trunchble locked kids away in the "chokee" when she got angry, and took her problems out on Matilda or Ms. Honey especially. The way Ms. Trunchble treated Matilda or Ms. Honey is the same way that Jordan abused Gerald or Monique. He made them suffer and become damaged because of his anger issues and actions. These people are mean, never let yourself be abused. There is a way out!

~ Larry'Shea Davis

SOBERING EVENT - DON'T DRIVE DRUNK

Tonight on June 28, there was a crash on Dimple Street where there was 1 death and 3 injuries. The young Rob Washington, identified by his family, apparently could not get out in time before the explosion. The driver appeared to be drunk, crashed into the wall and in a few seconds, the car exploded in flaming fury killing Rob who was still trapped. His family was despondent. With tears in their eyes they were trying to get over this horrible event. Andy, the driver, was not charged for the damages; but his trust with his friends and family was broken.

This event reminds me of the 17 year old girl who drank with her friends on a December night. Consequently her car sank to the bottom of the lake with them in it. Drunk driving causes nothing but sorrow.

~ Juan Reyes

MONIQUE AND THE TRAGIC INCIDENT

Monique got hit by a taxi 5 months after Jordan Sparks got out of jail. Totally focusing on getting Jordan's cigarettes, she was running across the street to the store and the driver didn't see her. Gerald didn't see her get hit, but he saw her lying on the ground. After getting hit by the taxi cab, Monique was at the hospital in a coma; but she awoke and was released the very next day.

Monique was the victim and the victor in this situation. She was no longer physically or mentally back to her normal self, and the incident caused her to get back on drugs. If she would not have gotten hit, she probably wouldn't have stood up for herself and she probably wouldn't be back on drugs. Her getting hit by that taxi made her a stronger per-

MONIQUE AND THE TRAGIC INCIDENT (Cont.)

son. She realized she didn't like Jordan hitting her.

I once witnessed a situation like this when I was in Las Vegas. We were driving on the highway and, out of nowhere, a car tried to cut us off. Instead of crashing into us, the car ended up flipping over multiple times. It was one of the scariest things I've seen in my life. The two guys were stuck in the car trying to get out. At first they weren't moving, so everyone was getting worried; but then they started to move. We were so close to being involved in this accident because they almost crashed into us. At the end of the day, we were safe and so were the people in the car.

~ Sylmaira Brooks

CHARACTER BIO

Jordan Sparks is a muscular young man who dresses fairly nice. His attire usually consists of blue jeans, a white t-shirt, and black cowboy boots (chapter 5, page 35). Jordan is a confused individual with cruel ways. He has beaten on his wife, daughter and stepchild (chapter 8, page 53). He is also an alcoholic who becomes enraged when he's drunk, verbally abusing the children (chapter 5, page 52). He has even molested his own daughter calling it their "secret game" (chapter 8, page 56). Jordan basically acts like a thug who thinks he is better than everyone else.

The most significant thing that Jordan's character contributed to the plot would be his actions and character as the antagonist of the novel "Forged by Fire." I have no similarities with this character except the same first name. Besides that, our actions are completely different. I am kind-hearted, caring and an all-around good person; and he is cruel, abusive, an alcoholic and a pedophile. A character that I can relate Jordan to would have to be the 3 step-sisters in the Disney film "Cinderella." I state this because both Jordan and the three stepsisters love to make people's lives hard; and they always make the good people suffer and make their lives harder on a daily basis.

~ Jordan Cowser

THE DEATH REPORT

The event that took place was Rob's funeral on a Saturday. His death was from the car accident he suffered. Parents, students, teachers, and friends came out to show respect. This was important to the plot as it was the outcome of a huge incident. This event changed the characters involved because people lost their desire to pursue their

dreams. Also people started to put Andy down and call him a killer (chapter 22). This event reminds me of when my dad was in an accident, but he survived.

~ Brandon Burton

EVERY ANGEL HAS ITS OWN PAIN

Angel Sparks is the daughter of Monique and Jordan Sparks and the little sister of Gerald Nickelby. Angel is a very sanguine little girl except when Jordan is around; then she's miserable and scared (pg. 41). But when he's gone and she's around Gerald, she's very bubbly and happy (pg. 101). Angel has a thin figure and long beautiful hair that she usually wears in pigtails (pg. 89). She also has big hazel eyes. In the beginning of the story she had on a long sleeved dress and black tights (pg. 36) to hide the scars she got from Jordan's abuse.

Angel is very despondent around Jordan. She gets scared and sometimes throws up because of how disgusted she is by him. She knows that he is a noxious person; and no matter how hard she tries, she can't get away from him (pg. 52, 67, 106). Angel is very happy and comfortable around Gerald. Gerald emboldens and protects Angel. He ameliorates her life. She really loves Gerald. She's pretty neutral around Monique. She loves Monique even though she knows she's not being that great of a parent. Monique and Gerald show love and compassion toward Angel while Jordan is violent and abusive.

Angel contributes to the main plot. She is getting raped by her own father. She is important to the story because she is the reason Jordan will eventually go to jail and die. She's one of the main characters; and if she was taken out of Forged by Fire, the whole story would completely change. Gerald would probably just take all the beatings and Jordan would never go to jail. Angel reminds me of the singer Rihanna. Rihanna got beaten by her boyfriend; but, like Angel, she didn't really want to tell anyone. Luckily, both ended up coming out strong.

~ Stephanie Bell

STOLEN AIR CONDITIONER HITS HOME

When Jordan's air conditioner was stolen, he got extremely angry and hit Monique and Gerald. This calamity took place on a scorching Saturday afternoon. And even though this incident only took 10 minutes, Monique finally was cognizant about how Gerald and Angel suffered. Jordan was voracious about mistreating Gerald, Monique, and Angel.

You're probably wondering what made all of this start. Well, it all started when Jordan came home a little too early than he was supposed to. I guess, he was already upset about something; and when he went into his room, he no-

ing TV; so he back-slapped her. Gerald went to go see what was going on, and Jordan hit Gerald then stormed out of the house. Monique was hit, Gerald was hit and Angel was still trying to figure out what had really happened.

Monique finally realized that it was time for a change. It was eventually a wakeup call for Monique. It was a new start for the family. This event reminds me of my grandfather on my dad's side getting beat up with a bat during a teen party at the club that he owns. The rest of the family was extremely angry and ever since then, has not had a teen party.

~ Cameron Dowell

INTERVIEW

AUNT QUEEN: So tell me what happened Gerald?

GERALD: I woke up in the hospital not knowing where I was or who the people were (Page 13).

AUNT QUEEN: How did you end up here?

GERALD: I was rushed to the hospital after I passed out in the apartment fire. I didn't leave the hospital until you came and picked me up (Page 13-19).

AUNT QUEEN: So how did you pass out?

GERALD: I was at home by myself playing with G.I Joe and a lighter. While playing with him, I didn't realize that while G.I. Joe was climbing up the curtain, I lit the curtain on fire. So I got scared and went behind the coach. After 30 minutes of inhaling too much smoke, I passed out. That's when the ambulance took me to the hospital (Page 13-19).

AUNT QUEEN: If you were passed out, then who called the hospital?

GERALD: The neighbors called 911 when they noticed the fire (Page 10-19). I hope it doesn't affect you in any way.

AUNT QUEEN: When I found out that you had passed out from a fire and was rushed to the hospital, I came in a hurry to pick you up. But now you have to live with me. So how does this affect you?

GERALD: I had to move in with you and couldn't see my mother for 6 years because for 5 of them, she was in jail; and the other year, she had another family in Cincinnati (Pages 10-19).

AUNT QUEEN: How does this affect you Monique?

MONIQUE: I was affected because mom lost her son and went to jail for 5 years and had another family in Cincinnati.

MONIQUE: How does this affect you Aunt Queen?

AUNT QUEEN: This affects me because I didn't have any kids before this happened but now I do. And on top of that, I had to lie to Gerald for 6 years about his mother (Pages 10-19). So does this event remind you of anything?

GERALD: It reminds me of the movie John Q. It is similar to me because we were both in the hospital but for different reasons. John Q's son was in the hospital because he needed his heart replaced. I was in the hospital because I had passed out from the fire (Page 10).

~ Shane Pfeiffer

A BEST FRIEND

My character is Gerald. Gerald is strong, tall, and muscular with brown eyes. Gerald is serious, smart, brave, a loner, a good listener, curious, protective and outgoing. Gerald play's basketball, protects his sister and mother, and is known for being strong-willed and doing what's right.

Gerald didn't like Jordan because he molested Angel and beat his mom who lets him (Jordan) do whatever he wants to her or her kids. They help one another, spend time together, tell the truth, and make each other happy

Gerald is important to the story because without him, Jordan probably would still be molesting Angel and beating on the mother and Angel whenever he felt like it. The mom would still be on drugs. Gerald reminds me of myself. We are similar because he protects his sister and I protect my sisters. Also, we both protect our moms and our household. Gerald and I both help out, we're both mature, and we both have almost the same personality. If he was a real person, we would be close as best friends.

~ Dajanae Douglas

JORDAN SPARKS

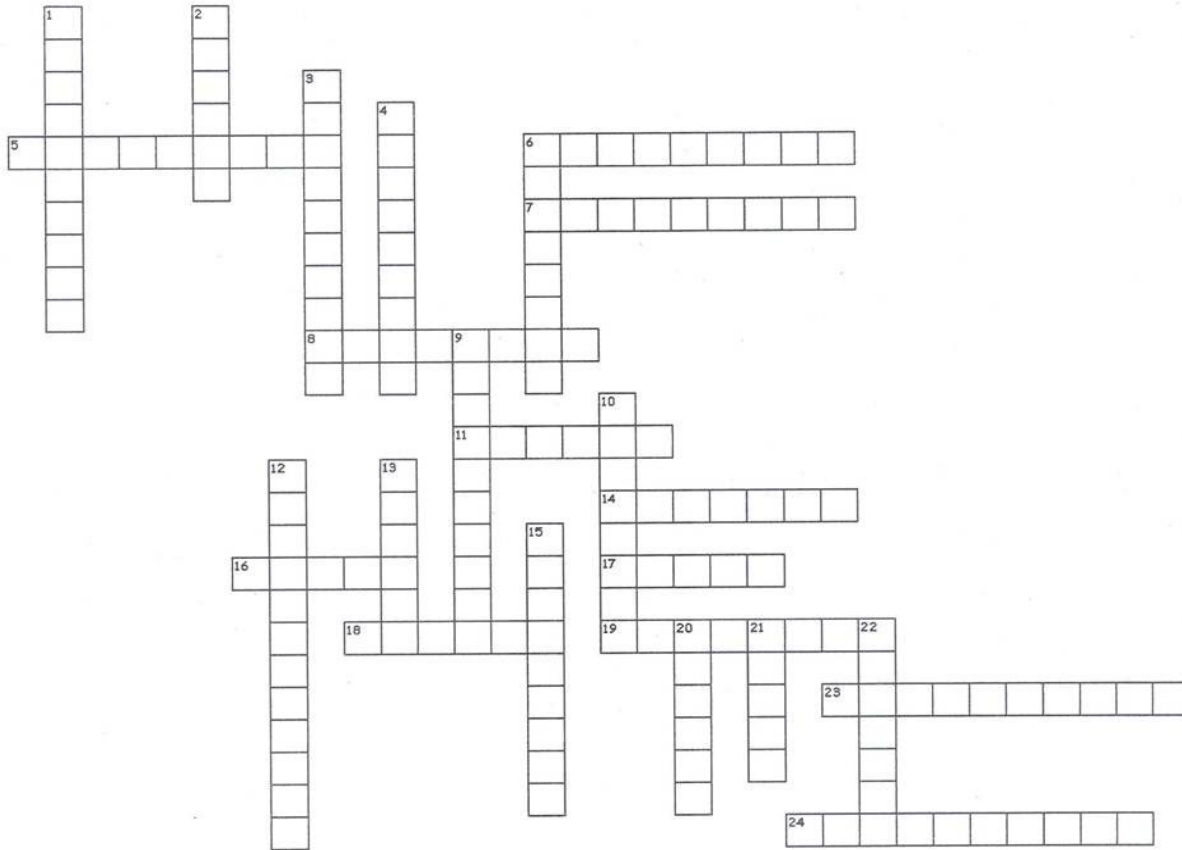
Jordan sparks is a man who is Gerald's stepfather. Jordan is a smoker, drinker and abuser. In chapter 5, pg. 35, Jordan almost lit a cigarette but Aunt Queen stopped him. Jordan also enjoys drinking a lot. He makes his kids and wife get him beers at all hours of the day. Jordan's favorite type of shoe is cowboy boots. Jordan was wearing boots from the first time he appeared to the day that he died. Wearing boots was his downfall. The slippery soles of his new boots caused him to slip and burn in the house fire. Jordan is known for having a short temper and beating people. Towards other characters, Jordan is cruel and won't hesitate to harm them physically or mentally. Other characters try to stay away from Jordan whenever possible, except for Monique who loves Jordan.

The most significant thing Jordan did was molest his daughter, Angel. Jordan is the antagonist; he fights and beats Gerald. This character reminds me of Freddy Kruger because he is Gerald's nightmare. Jordan is also similar to Mel Gibson to me. The reason is that they both have short tempers and can get violent.

~ Christopher Davis

ELA Vocab

Karyshea Davis
7th hour



Across

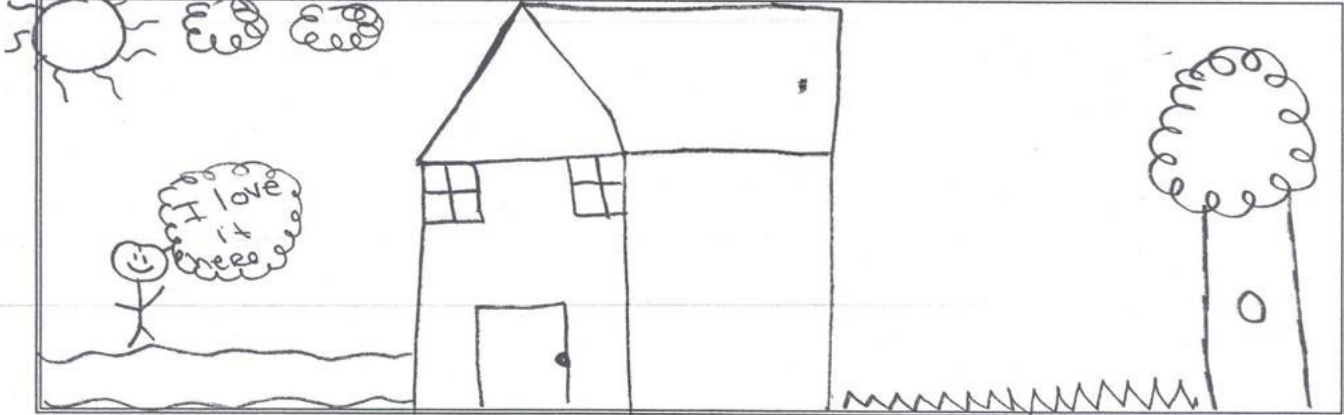
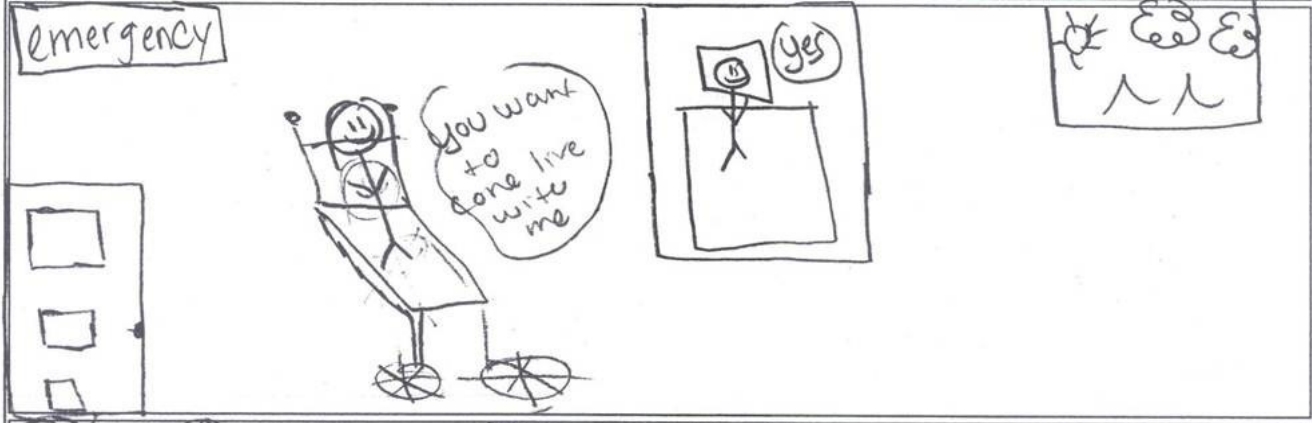
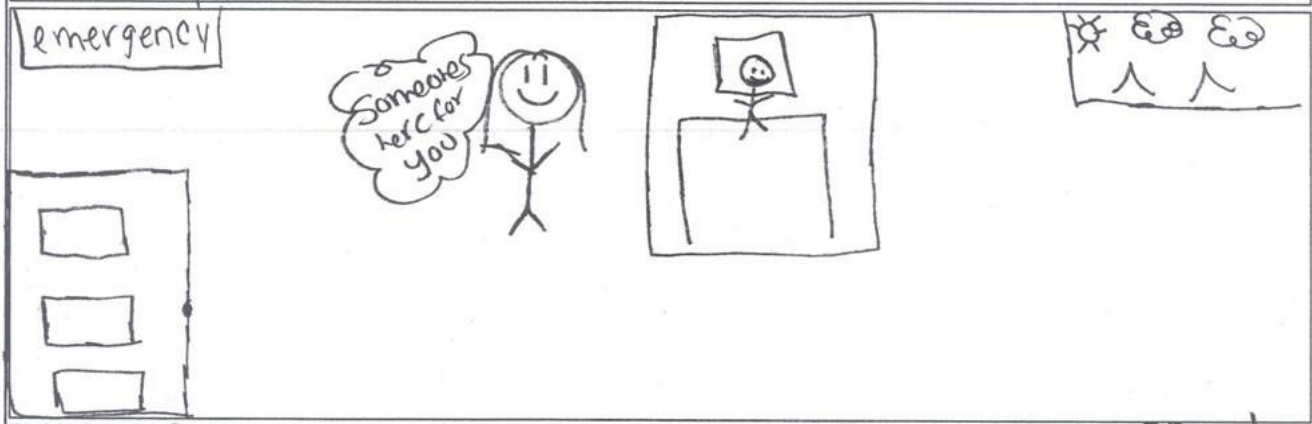
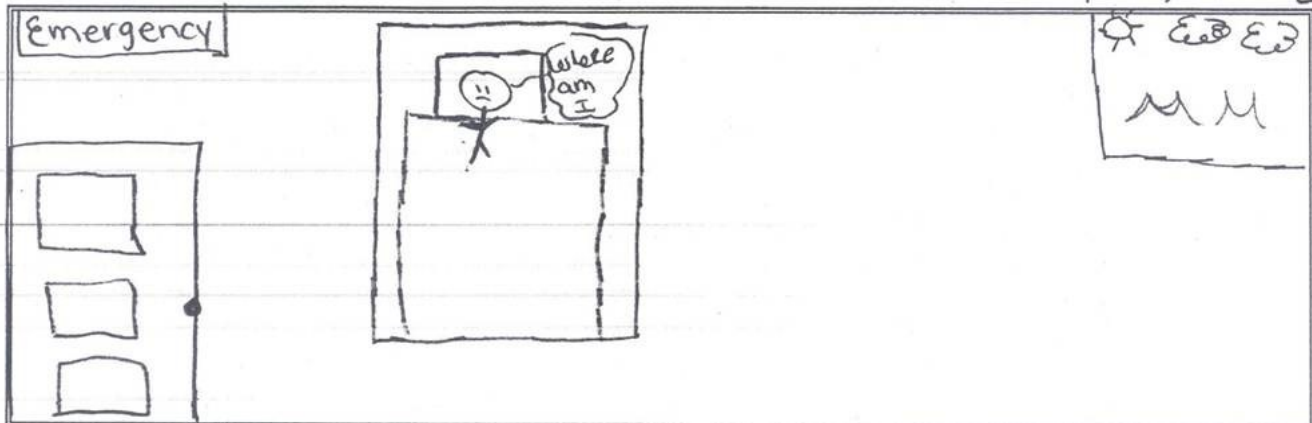
5. reasonable; can be believed
6. taking notice
7. to serve as a good example
8. sense of touch
11. an earnest desire
14. make unimportant
16. the external appearance or costume
17. hate
18. accurate, genuine, or true
19. to give courage to
23. complete and through
24. having no hope, miserable

Down

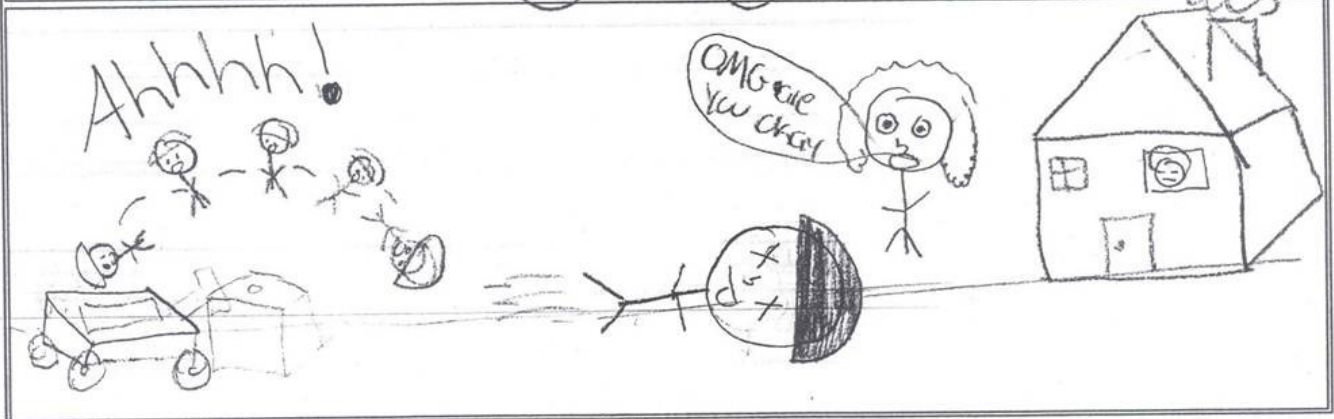
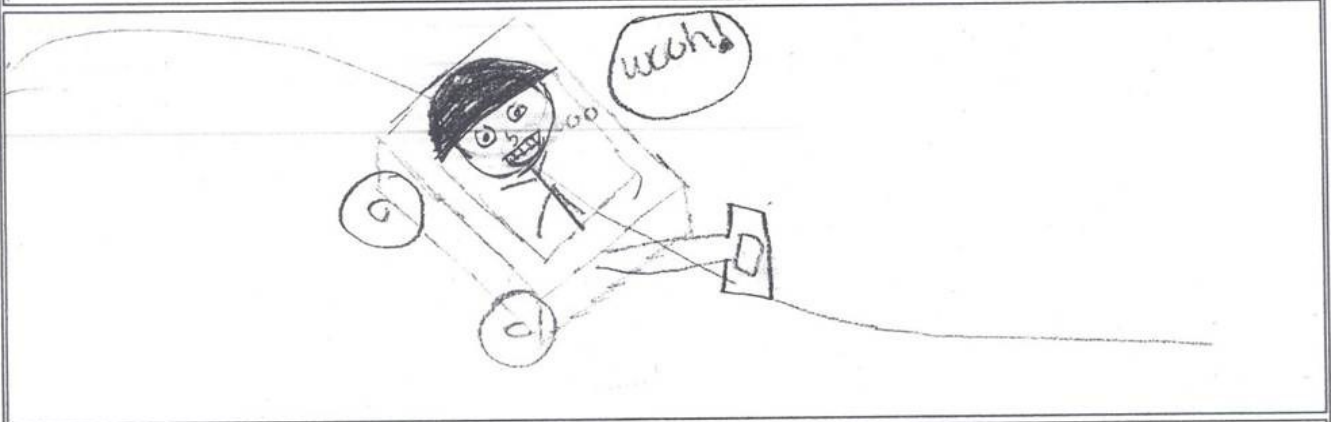
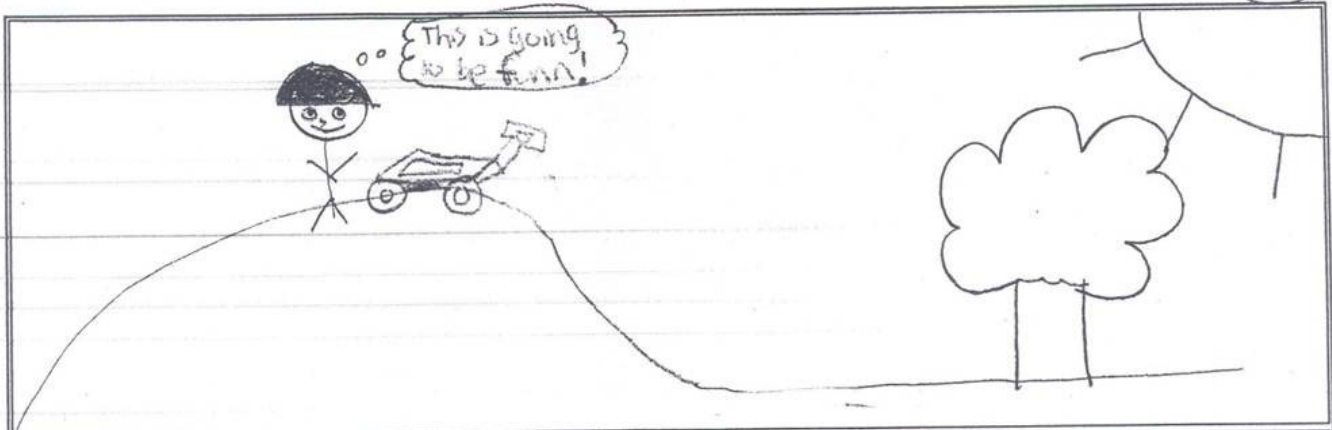
1. able to walk around
2. calm; peaceful
3. to make better
4. humiliation
6. believable
9. impossible to satisfy

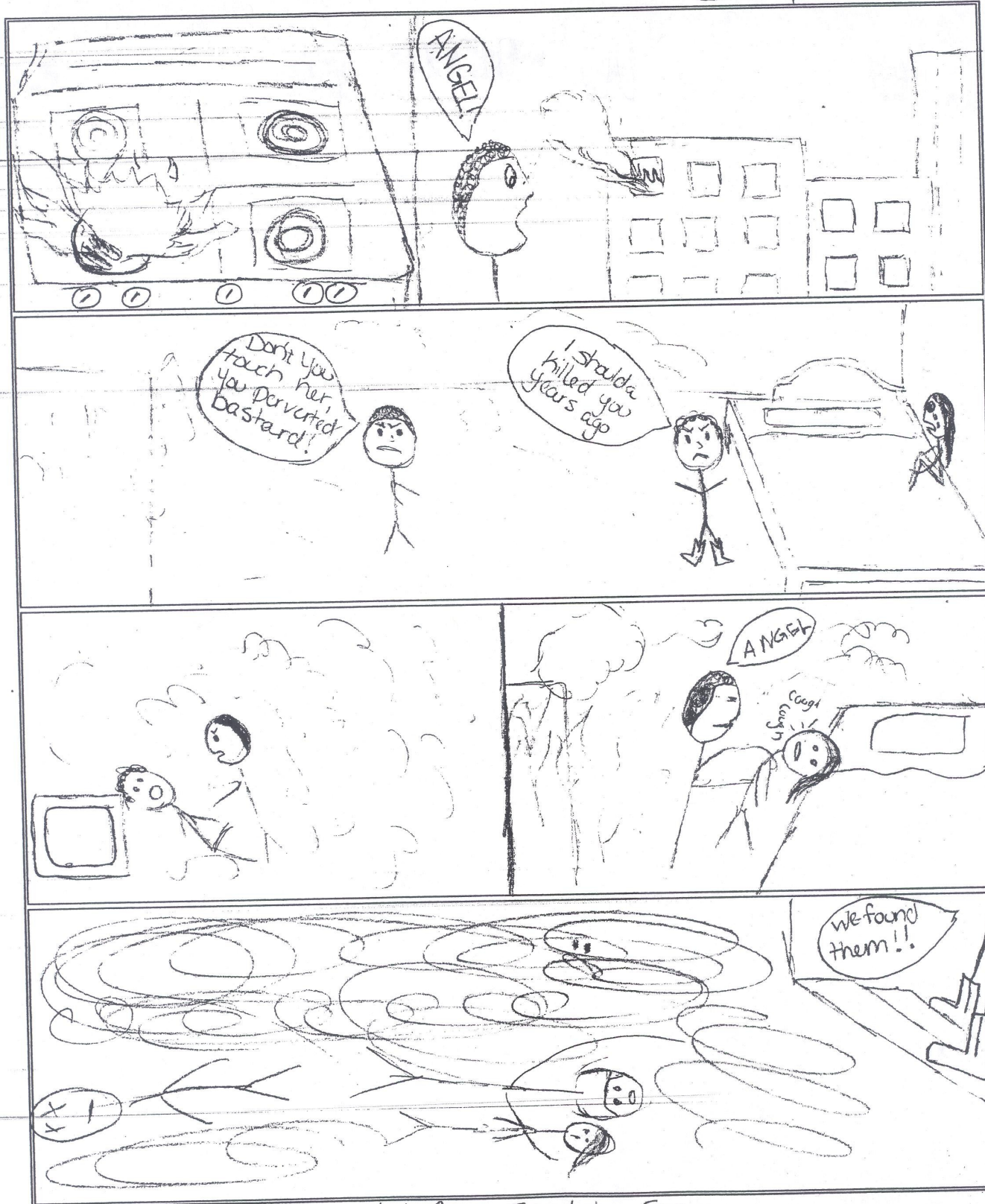
10. to cut short
12. payment for work done
13. hidden or secret place
15. scold strongly
20. kind of heart
21. to make clear
22. harmful; poisonous

Kasiani & Je Gre
July 20, 12 Gt



JORDAN 7-20-12
Cousin 7th





* Dialogue quoted from Forged by Fire



CONGRATULATIONS!

PROJECT UPWARD BOUND

2012 GRADUATING SENIORS

Name

High School

Fall 2012 College

Allen, Eriqye	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Northwood University
Allen, Marlori	Oak Park High School	Wayne State University
Allen-Seay, D'Maea	Pontiac High School	Purdue University
Blunt, Cameron	Pontiac High School	Eastern Michigan University
Bracewell, Timarshay	Pontiac High School	Western Michigan University
Butts, Erica	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Marygrove College
Cage, Angelique	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Saginaw Valley State Univ.
Carter, Darius	Pontiac High School	Western Michigan Univ.
Cope, Denise	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College
Daniels, Ka'Sha	Oak Park High School	Baker College
Dawson, Kyasa	Oak Park High School	Oakland University
Dristy II, Richard	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College
Fleming, Diamond	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College
Guy, Joshua	Pontiac High School	Lakeland College
Heaston, Raphael	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College
Herring, Je'Vaughn	Pontiac High School	Oakland Community College
Johnson, Brandon	Pontiac High School	Oakland Community College
Johnson Jr., Harvey	Pontiac High School	Michigan State University
Ledbetter, Marlana	Oak Park High School	Wayne State University
Lee, Rachel	Pontiac High School	Marygrove College
Melendez Jr., Alberto	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College
Nealy-Whitfield, Victoria	Pontiac High School	Jackson Community College
Quinn, Frederick	Pontiac High School	Oakland Community College
Taylor, Shalanda	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Virginia State University
Teasley, Courtney	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Central State University
Tucker, Timothy	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College
Wiggins, Kineasha	Pontiac Academy for Excellence	Oakland Community College

Project Upward Bound Certificate Recipients for the 2011/12 Academic Year



*Academic Achievement Certificate for
Maintaining a Grade Point Average
above 3.5 for the 2011/12 AY*

*Sereen Abouzahr
Marlori Allen
D'Maea Allen-Seay
Stephanie Bell
Timarshay Bracewell
Erica Butts
JoVontae Butts
Angelique Cage
Catherine Daoud
Larry'Shea Davis*

*Sabrina Eaton
Kiah Hamlett
William McDonald
Vanessa Perkins
Henry Rowe
Daysja Smith
Tiara Thomas
Diasia Turner
Kineasha Wiggins
Talisha Williamson*



*Academic Progress Certificate
for
Meeting or Exceeding the Min.*

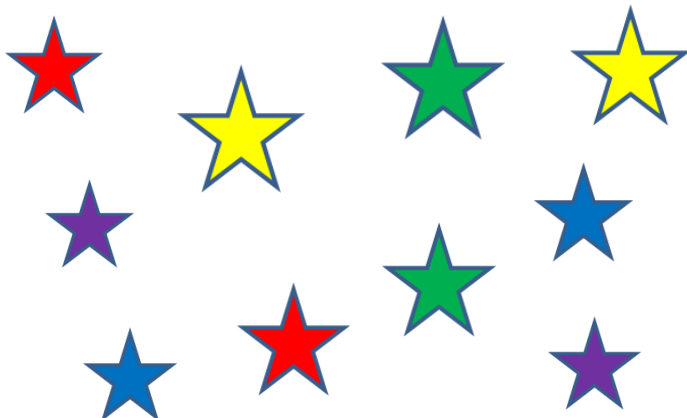
*Ciara Brown
Jordan Cowser
Christopher Davis
Roshae Freeman
T'Andre Hardnett
Breanna Horston
Dawaun Johnson
Lanessa Jones*

*Christopher Morales
Shane Pfeiffer
Juan Reyes-Marcucci
Jessica Shelton
Jaylen Williams
Elise Williamson*



*Saturday Academy
Perfect Attendance*

*Torrey Cofield
Raykuwan Vining
Raymond Vining*





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261 South Foundation Hall
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To PUB Scholars & Parents



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SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI - Tremante D. Williams

Career Goals:

- ◆ To complete second Bachelor's in Philosophy.
- ◆ Become a Ph.D. fellow at a nationally accredited university.
- ◆ Graduate with honors from this university and become a Professor of Psychology (cognitive) or Philosophy of Mind and African American Philosophy and History.

How PUB Influenced My Life:

Taught me early on the importance of dedication and education. Gave me the habits and disposition that warrants success and discourages ineptitude. PUB has made me a believer in the effects of hard work and prayer.

Advice for Current Participants:

Current participants should exemplify the courage to challenge themselves to learn new things and always possess an open mind. Portraying confidence and maintaining integrity as a scholar is foremost. But most importantly staying humble and reverent, giving respect to the precious things in life in order to live it to the fullest is my advice.



Graduated from PUB: 2004

**High School Attended:
Pontiac Northern HS**

College Attended: Michigan State University

**Date of Graduation/Degree:
May 2012 B.S. in Psychology (premed)
May 2013 B.A. Philosophy**