



Baltimore, I Love You!

A collection of poems and pictures about the people of Baltimore
and the places they love.

by The Youth Dreamers "Oh the Places You'll Go" Summer Arts
Program, 2010

This book is part of **In Our Global Village** (IOGV), a global service learning program. Initiated in response to *In Our Village, Kambi ya Simba through the Eyes of Its Youth*, a book written by students of Awet Secondary School in Kambi ya Simba, Tanzania, IOGV was founded as a partnership between Cathryn Berger Kaye, **CBK Associates**, and Barbara Cervone, **What Kids Can Do**. IOGV invites students around the world to write a book about their “village,” their community in whatever form that is—and contribute both tangible books to be shared near and far, along with a virtual copy that could be viewed on the program website.

For more information and to join **In Our Global Village**, please visit www.inourvillage.org. Click on the **See In Our Global Village Project** box. There you will also find copies of student-authored IOGV books.

We also invite you to learn more about each partner:

- CBK Associates, www.abcdbooks.org
- What Kids Can Do and Next Generation Press, www.whatkidscando.org and www.nextgenerationpress.org

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Baltimore, I Love You

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*Dedicated to Mrs. Angela Mitchell (1951-2009),
who was a tremendous aid to The Youth Dreamers in
their humble beginnings. Mrs. Angela, you are gone,
but you are truly not forgotten. We love you, we
thank you, and we celebrate your life.*



A Little Bit About The Youth Dreamers



“The Youth Dreamers are like a dream. I always wanted to be part of something to change the world.” –Keyani Kenny, high school Youth Dreamer

“Today it seems as though our youth are to blame or being blamed for the ills of the world. I am pleased to see a place and a space that is all their own, a place to call home, a place to create and a place to be nothing more than themselves.” –Regina T. Boyce, Community Outreach Liaison for Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young

**THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING THIS
BOOK AND HELPING TO KEEP THE
DREAM HOUSE ALIVE!**

For more information: www.youthdreamers.org,

The Youth Dreamers is a youth-run 501(c)3, non-profit organization whose goal is to decrease the amount of violence among youth in Baltimore City. The organization was founded by nine students in an elective course at the Stadium School in 2001. These students had witnessed violent acts among youth after school, so they decided to create a youth-run youth center where teenagers could be employed to mentor and teach younger children and programs could exist for the whole community. Since 2001, the students have formed their nonprofit organization with a board of youth and adults, purchased an old, vacant house from a church in the neighborhood, presented at the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, and worked with a pro-bono architect and a pro-bono general contractor to design and

A Little Bit About The Youth Dreamers

construct the house. They raised over \$800,000 towards construction and programming costs and mobilized a community to support them. They have partnerships with the University Of Maryland School Of Law, Stevenson University, Maryland Institute College of Art, the Shepherd's Clinic, and more.

Thirty middle school students in the Youth Dreamers' Project Class at the Stadium School basically manage the nonprofit-- writing grants, organizing fundraisers, planning afterschool programs, organizing community events, etc. Additional middle school students are employed to work in their after school programs, such as Homework Club, Health Club and Community Art, and high school students are employed to

supervise these programs, as well as run our annual five-week summer program. The Youth Dreamers also have an Advisory Board, which comes up with creative ideas to keep the Dream House open.

In 2010, the Dream House had its Grand Opening!

Even though the dream has come true, the Youth Dreamers find it hard to keep it alive. They have to pay bills they've never paid before and they need additional funding to provide more programs. More determined than ever, they continue to work hard to keep their dream alive.

Oh, The Places You Will Go! Summer Arts Program 2010

The Youth Dreamers “Oh the Places You’ll Go” Summer Program took place from June 28th to July 28th 2010 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Dream House. We had 19 students from grades 5-9. This year we based the morning on creating this book about Baltimore—*Baltimore, I Love You!* Participants were taught different skills such as poetry writing, interviewing, journalism, and fundraising by peer high school students. Each participant wrote an identity poem and poetry about Baltimore, in addition to working in teams to interview people from the community and writing their narratives. This book will give readers an inside view of the city we live in along with some facts about us. Participants worked with Maryland Institute College of Art graduate students and three high school interns in the afternoon to do Community Art. During Community Art, the participants sewed three reusable bags out of donated tee shirts—one to sell, one for themselves, and another for the community. They also created their own



sketchbooks/journals and t-shirts to wear at Artscape. They painted window screens for the house as well as for the Shepherd’s Clinic, the free health clinic next door. Every Friday was considered Ice Cream Friday. We ended each Friday eating ice cream cones, sucking on popsicles or biting into ice cream sandwiches. Based on evaluations, we will continue next year having the Summer Program. Attendance was great! The children seem to really like it—especially being in The Dream House.

About The Baltimore Love Project

The Baltimore Love Project expresses love by connecting people and communities across Baltimore City through love themed murals. (www.baltimoreloveproject.com)

A few years ago, local artist Michael Owen developed a design of four hands spelling out the word love. Now this image will be painted on 20 walls, spread evenly across the communities of Baltimore City. The murals will be identical in regards to content, only ranging in size.

This project is not intended to change the world. However, we know that these murals have the power to inspire change, if just through small, tangible acts of love from one to another. We hope a man is moved to pick up flowers for his girlfriend or a mother reconsiders hitting her child for a night. In order to assist in these expressions, the Baltimore Love Project remains an open ended project where we look to individuals and communities for their responses.

What does the image say to you, as one in relationships with others, as



one concerned for your city?

As part of the Youth Dreamers summer art program, all participants visited a mural and wrote their responses...

You will find them throughout this book....

And introducing...Victor VonCardiac

(as told to Miriam Harris and Dominique Davis!)

Victor VonCardiac is a Baltimore native who graduated from Baltimore City College and then went on to pursue a master's degree in cardiology from Johns Hopkins University. Now, VonCardiac volunteers at the Shepherd's Clinic along with various non-profits throughout the city like the Youth Dreamers.

His hobbies include seeing shows in the theater district at venues such as Everyman Theater, Centre Stage, and the Hippodrome. He also loves to see a good show at the Sonar, Rams Head Live, the Ottober, or the Hexagon. He loves to tailgate at Raven's games and cheer for the O's at Camden Yards. He also enjoys eating crabs on the Fourth of July. VonCardiac tries to eat healthy, but he still admits that he can't resist a good chicken box.

Victor VonCardiac has lived in Fells, Canton, and Park Heights, but he recently settled down in Hampden, where he leads a healthy life with his wife, Regina Respiratory-VonCardiac, and two kids, Carpal To'nell, and



Mettah-Tarsal VonCardiac.

VonCardiac loves Baltimore just as much as we do, and he does a lot of traveling. He can be spotted anywhere around town. In fact, VonCardiac can be spotted in some of the pictures throughout this book!

How many times can you spot Victor VonCardiac?

We know that Baltimore isn't perfect....

Baltimore is filled with
criminals
Drug dealers, killers, rapist
AND more.

I hate the gangs,
The violence,
The ignorance.

People act so childish.
Grown women and grown
men are out here making
childish mistakes

What ever happened to
being a role model ?
I guess you just smoked
that up in your crack pipe
too!

I hate what this place has
become

But after spending my
whole life here at the end
of the day all I can say is...

Baltimore, I Still Love
You³

By Keyani Kenny

What are things I don't
like about Baltimore are
the gang violence and

drug dealers. If you want
to change, don't say I can
change it, say we can
change it. We can
change by stopping it.
Don't sell it and don't
fight. What's the point?
We are fighting because
some- else stole your
spot light. Let it shine on
you for a change. We can
all change ourselves.

Change what is
happening on the streets
in the neighborhoods
and in the WORLD! And
when we are all
changing ourselves, at
the end of the day I want
everyone to say...

Baltimore, I still love
you!!!

By Tyrese Solomon

Baltimore, there can be
several things wrong with
you.

From having some of the
junkiest streets,
To being the home of

some drug dealers.
But that's not all of it.
Crazy people roam the
sidewalks. And gambling
illegally.
People selling drugs and
even hiding them.
And people who don't
know how to drive, but
drive anyway.
Some schools need work,
too.

The media can be one of
the biggest problems,
Only showing the bad
things.

But, you know what?
Baltimore, I still love you.

By Devin Johnson

Some things I
don't like in Baltimore
are that the schools and
the streets are dirty. Too
much cursing... little
kids are cursing from
age 3 and up. Too many
people are having sex
and there is too much
city crime in Baltimore.
There are too many
prostitutes selling

...but Baltimore, I Still Love You.

their bodies. There are too many gangs and violence. There are too many killings going on. There is too much dumb stuff. **BUT BALTIMORE, I STILL LOVE YOU**
By Kimberly Ricks

At my cousin's house 2 ladies were fighting over a man with not so good dreadlocks. The man was not very wise because the lady he chose was not very attractive. The police had to come, and the man tried to fight the police officer. The officer pulled out a metal stick and hit the man in the head with the metal stick. The girls were in the background crying their eyes out while the man was unconscious lying on the ground. The police officer picked him up and put him in the van while the girls were still crying. This made me feel very disordered and annoyed because stuff like this always happens.

But Baltimore, I still love you.

By Destiny Harrison

B-more hey I still love you I just DON'T LIKE how you're being abused Oh no, but I still love you.

How can I help this old city out with the city crimes and the drug abuse, oh nooooo!

Baltimore why you? Would it help if I clean up the streets and even plant a tree or two? oooooo you know I love you, yes I love you, know I LOVE YOU!

By Sagirah Perkins

Why are they doing this? Does it make them feel good?

Drug addicts everywhere On the corner, in the alley Even in the front of my house.

We see them every day But we still act surprised. We could help, but we choose not to. People walk by and say,

"It's not my issue Leave it alone and let them do this,"

But I say to myself I would need help.

How can we change this? We can have programs Or show them we care. Even with all of this, Baltimore, I still love you.
By Shardell Robinson

In Baltimore, everything isn't perfect, but I still love it here.

So much killing, raping, and cursing And most people don't even care.

They have sex at an early age (14-18)

And the only other thing they care about is texting.

But don't get me wrong, Baltimore is still a wonderful place!

Not only are they breaking the law, but they are also are going against God's word! Some don't even believe in Him.

They go to clubs, wear

...but Baltimore, I Still Love You.

raunchy clothes, and
cheat on their
boyfriends/girlfriends,
and expect nothing to
happen to them.

Despite your cruel
people, Baltimore I still
love you!

By Kyla Roberts

Why is that there? Is
someone going to pick
that up? Uggghh! I hate
when I see this, TRASH
outside everywhere, but
yet, I Still Love Baltimore.

Violence in the streets,
fights simply over
someone not watching
their feet.

it's like a horror movie
put on repeat.

Trash causes back-ups in
the streams, Oh

Baltimore, cleanness is my
only dream. Powww! What
was that? Oh nothing, just
the local drug dealer being
shot down.

Blood on the ground, tears
on my feet, The gunman

just screams DEFEAT!

Drugs hidden everywhere,
nosey neighbors turn their
heads and try not to stare.

I mean what's wrong with
speaking up?

Or are you just afraid that
you will get cut?

All every teen wants to do
is text, but trust me it's
cool to not act like the
next.

Baltimore, you have your
problems,

But I Still Love You!

By Jessica White

Baltimore I still love you
but I don't love your heat
stroke summers and
your high crime sprees.

Also at times I do love
you, this is the place
where I was born and I
can't turn my back on
you. You do have flaws
like people on the streets
selling drugs and women
on the streets selling
their bodies for money. I

think that the women
don't have to do that.
There is no reason in the
world where you should
have to sell your body
for money. But I love
Baltimore because you
have great Maryland
Style Crabs and I always
have fun whenever I'm
with my family. But after
all of that Baltimore, I
still love!!!!

BY: DAYANNA SIMON

Dear Baltimore,
I dislike the way some
women carry themselves.

They call themselves
women but yet they still
insist on acting so low
down, degrading, and
disgusting. And these
women are called
"PROSTITUTES", they sell
themselves for no more
than \$15 ! How sad it is the
way they behave. They are
supposed to be the
mothers of our generation.
How can they sell their

...but Baltimore, I Still Love You.

bodies to men (dogs) that don't have enough money to even buy their own house, but yet they call themselves women? I believe these types of women are the reasons why the young girls of my generation see these types of examples and follow them. These girls consider these women as role models because they don't know about the moral imbalance in society. I am writing this letter of disgust to you Baltimore because I care and want my generation to actually have a future for the next generation... I still have hope that one day the women of the last generation will realize their mistakes and change their ways for better future.

"But Baltimore I still love you!"

Sincerely,
Lelah Ballah

Baltimore is wonderful a place, do not get me wrong. But one thing that I DON'T like is how people abuse their lives. When God gave us life, He meant for us to take care of it and the Earth. Our body doesn't belong to us. When I say people abuse their life I mean with selling drugs and when people sell themselves short. Another thing I don't like is how the media focuses on the bad things and not the good... like someone told me not to go down to the Harbor on the 4th of July because the media SAID, "You're likely to die." Anyways, with all this said I have one more thing to say, BALTIMORE, I STILL LOVE YOU
By Nichkole Johnson

I hate the criminal activities in Baltimore because I don't like seeing drama. For example, my cousin and his neighbor got locked up for no reason. And I hate drama because one day my cousins and my aunts were fighting some ladies down the street. They wanted to run their mouths and things like that. That's what I hate about Baltimore, but mainly my neighborhood. But Baltimore, I Still Love You!!

-Shiheeda Williams

Ohhh ! Baltimore, I hate this!
I hate when you look disgustin'
I hate seeing people cussing and fussin'
All this trash and mess, People who just cannot dress.
I hate the fact that you're being destroyed. Seeing

...but Baltimore, I Still Love You.

you like this, makes
me annoyed.
I hate when people
do this to you,
But for some reason
Baltimore, I still love
you.

By Katiara Harper

Why are these politicians
wasting our money? It's
not theirs-- it's
the taxpayers' money.

They say they live
here but they don't, they
live who knows where.
But Baltimore, I still love
you.

The baggy pants and the
loud music in the cars, the
abandoned homes and the
homeless on the streets
and yet Baltimore, I still
love you!

By Pamela Jackson

**BUT I STILL LOVE YOU
BALTIMORE.....**

Cans, paper, food, even
personal items, not
disposed in the trash?
Oh my gosh!!I hate when

that happens. But I love
you Baltimore.
Aahhh!!! Who was that,
someone innocent got
shot.

Ices in my veins, blood
in my eyes, please tell
me no more lies.

Everyone wants to blog
something, but it's ok to
blog nothing.

That's how big problems
happen,

It's better to lead them
like a captain.

Drugs are everywhere;
people say it's not fair.

Just tell the police,
c'mon not even my
niece.

**BUT BALTIMORE, I
STILL LOVE YOU
BY:JAMAL FIELDS**

Baltimore, I Still Love You...

I was walking down an alley
taking my trash out
I saw a big possum.

I ran in the house.

Then I saw a possum
family.

Then I poured bleach in
My trash can.

I was like

this was not working.

Then I turned my trash can

over.

Then the possum went away

I was so happy

I was like oh yes I'm so glad.

But Baltimore, I Still Love

You!

by Chrissy Harrison

Highlandtown Love Mural



Sagirah

Love in Highlandtown! Wow, it's cool. I think that love should be spread throughout the world!

Shiheeda

*I see love and hard work in this mural.
I love it.*

Shardell

This mural tells me that the city is a very important place, and just because other people may feel that it's not safe, we should still love it.

Katiara

*I see love. I think of my passion for art.
I see creativity. I also see hard work. I think this mural is pretty.*

I Love Me!



THIS SECTION WILL TELL MORE ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF THIS BOOK.
IT WILL GIVE YOU A VIEW ON
WHY THEY LOVE THEMSELVES.

I Love Me!



I am From
By: Kyla Roberts

I am from a world of fantasy
But also everyday life,
Dolls that actually seem to talk
And little kids that scream all night.

I am from fried chicken
And carrots with dip,
Pretty nail polish
And classical guitars.

I am from Mom, Aunt Wendy, and Grandma
A family full of girls and only two boys,
Although they seem nice
They don't get along.

I am from, "Hook, line and sinker,"
And saying, "Yay!" all the time.
Daydreaming about Anime characters
And saying, "Come here sweetie,"
To a cat who surely won't come.

I am from games from GameStop
And Wal*Mart, too
Ordering Italian subs
And a trinket box holding the past...
That's where I'm from!



I am From
By Lelah Ballah

**I am from Internet chatting
on a Saturday night,
The yelling of my mother saying, "Clean up!"
My harmonic singing along to my favorite hip
hop song**

**The booming of the base
From boom to bang and a big old clang!
I am from a red hot pepper soup or nice
chilly soup**

**To a creamy Alfredo and a nice pot of soup,
A working mother and a hard core father
Always yelling, "Clean up, clean up!"
I am from my sewing a quilt
for my favorite pup.**

**My annoying brothers who love to chill out.
I am from the stress of being a little sister
Askin, "Lord why me? Why me?"**

**Why must I pay for
having such annoying brothers!"
But there's one thing I know
when that day comes
I'll be shining like a star!**

I know about me, but what about you?

I Love Me!



I Am From **by Shiheeda Williams**

I am from loud people
Yelling across and down the street
Violence and trouble sometimes.

I am from crazy and funny
nicknames
Fast and soul food but mostly fast
food

Except most holidays.
I am from lovable, caring people
Who show their love most of the
time

Like my Nana, Mamma, Uncle
Rocky, and Grandpa.

I am from memorable things
Like pictures, clothes, jewelry.

I am from country people like my
cousins, aunts and uncles
who love North Carolina, Ohio, and
Delaware,

And love anything to do with diners
And who can be loud and ignorant
sometimes.

I Love Me!

I AM FROM BY RASHOD JOHNSON

I AM FROM GRANDMA'S HOTDOGS ON
SUNDAY
AND STEAK ON FUNDAYS.
RUNNING 40 YARD TOUCHDOWNS
BUT I AM FROM THE GREATEST BRAND
AROUND.

I AM FROM FOOTBALL, BASEBALL
TAKING OUT THE TRASH.
BUT ALWAYS WEAR A SEATBELT IN
CASE OF A CRASH.
WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY IS ONE OF THE
PLACES I LOVE
OF ALL THE OTHER TRIPS I HAVE BEEN
ON,
THE CRUISE BEAT WILDWOOD BY A
MILE!

I AM FROM A TIME CAPSULE
THAT I CAN'T OPEN UNTIL 2020.
I CAN'T WAIT BECAUSE THE SHOES I HAD
IN THE SHOE BOX COST A LOT OF
MONEY.
OLD PICTURES OF MOM AND DAD
FAMILY MEMBERS, TOO.

I AM FROM CAMERAS FLASHING EVERY
SECOND
THAT HURT MY EYES
BUT EVERYTIME I GET MAD, I DON'T
CRY.



I AM FROM NBA 2K10 BECAUSE I
ALWAYS BEAT MY FRIENDS.
THE CAVS ARE MY TEAM ON THE GAME
BUT IN REAL LIFE THE LAKERS ARE THE
MOST SUPREME.
MR. CLUTCH IS THE BEST
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HIM HE'S THE ONE
WITH RINGS ON ALL FIVE OF HIS
FINGERS.

I Love Me!



When I Look in the Mirror
By: Kimberly Ricks

When I look in the mirror,
I see me
I am a young lady, I take care
of myself
I am a cute lady, a loving girl, a
nice lady
I love myself for who I am.

When they look at me, they see
Someone very, very strong
Someone very confident and
smart
Loud, but funny,
Nice and kind.

I Love Me!

I am From by Shardell Robinson

I am from a house on Belair Rd.
Walking in my room and out the door
Up and down the wooden stairs
“Girl you need to sit your little self down.”

I am from cookouts at my grandparent’s house
Chicken and rice, turkey and greens,
I ate and enjoyed while Manne looked at me.
Mama said, “Why are you eating so fast?”
So I looked up and said, “These are my favorite
foods!”

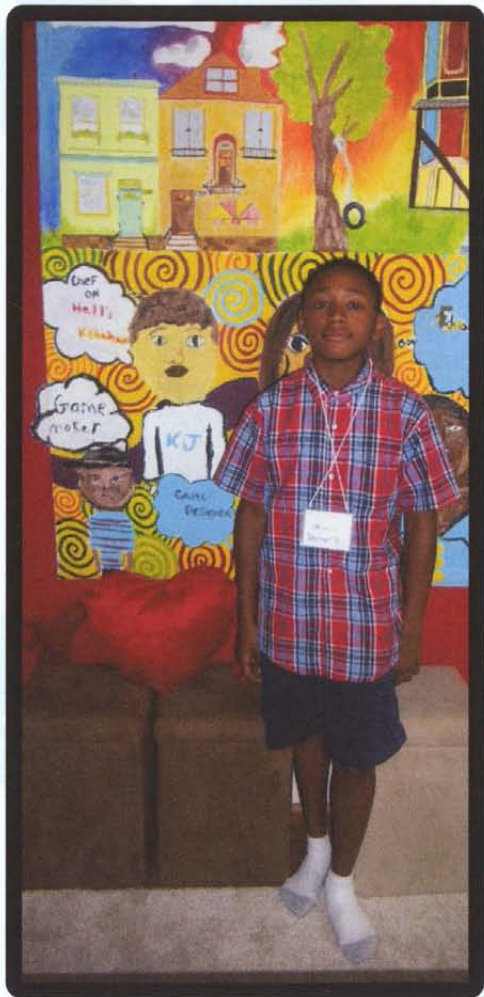
I am from sitting on the porch
Looking at the little kids race,
I see the mailperson filling our mailboxes
The house stands still as the wind blows the trees.

I am from the box in my room
With cards and toys that jog my memory
of when I was younger
Dresses and photos also come out of the box.

I am from love and care
Family and friends
Just alike
Love them, too.



I Love Me!



I Am From
By: Derman Davis, Jr.

I am from a noisy home,
"Child be quiet,"
Rice would be nice if I ever go on a diet.
I am from family members,
That live deep in my heart,
How could my family ever come apart?
From mom, to uncle, grandma, and dad,
They are the best I ever had.
I am from childhood memories,
I sit back and laugh at my crazy past,
By how it went by so fast.
From graduate to athlete,
I saw how quickly I jumped off my feet.
I am from big places and big lights,
Playing games and having fun,
Until the day was done.
From Chuck E Cheese to go kart racing,
I wonder who I was facing.
I am from a nice neighborhood,
Where there is little trash, but lots of good,
As if I saw animals, and how humans are the
same as mammals
I AM FROM.

I Love Me!



I Am From

By Jasmine Jacobs

I am from annoying alarm clocks
Eating fried chicken with the family,
Poppop saying, "Come give me some suga!"
And running through sprinklers during the
summer.

I am from, "Boy I ain't playin with you!"
2 dogs that like to chew
And butterflies taking rides in everyone's hair,
Big red bunk bed with toys on them
The TV blasting and people laughing.

I am from Baltimore

Sitting at the Inner Harbor eating ice-cream
Hush and Locomotion both written by Jacqueline
Woodson.

Cheeseburgers and yummy BBQ ribs,
And cats and dogs crossing the street.

I am from tall trees that are too spiky to climb
My 12th birthday is when I learned about myself,
Birds flying too close to my face

And Ma saying, "Gurl, this ain't the place."
Marlon, "You play too much!" and Tammi, "Shut
up!"

I am from Maya is weird
Daddy always at work,
Nana watching us on the playground
My 5th grade prom was cool,
This is where I'm from.



"I Am From"

by Katiara Harper

I am from, "Shut Up" and "Listen,"
Nice, hot noodles boiling in the kitchen.
From stuffed animals and home-cooked meals,
From meats outside grilling on the grill.

I am from the mall
From the next class down the hall,
Lots of kids and made-up beds
Vacations in Virginia with nice big, pools,
From best friends who are very cool.

I am from hip-hop and rap
And girls that talk a lot of crap.
From people with good advice
And big-headed kids who aren't that nice.

That's exactly where I'm from,
Just in case you wanna' come!

I Love Me!



When I look in the mirror,
I See...

By Sagirah Perkins

There's a person in the mirror
I know quite well.
A loving girl to all,
a sweet face as well.
A big smile on her face to tell you
she is happy.
She has a habit of hers that
makes her amazing.
She's joyful and sweet
a great artist as well.
And that's because that girl is
ME.



When I Look in the Mirror, I See
By Dayanna Simon

When I look in the mirror, I see
someone who isn't perfect, just
right.
I see someone who is loved.
I see someone who is intelligent
and smart.
Someone who doesn't care what
people think.
Someone who is me!
When they look at me, they see
A good friend
A kind and quiet person.

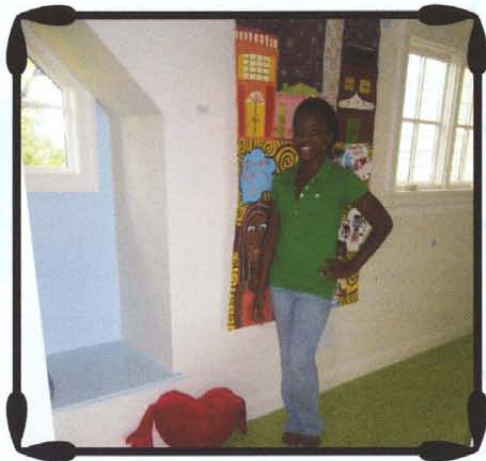
I Love Me!

When I Look into the Mirror
By Tyrese Solomon

When I look into the mirror, I see myself.
A 13 year old young lady
I am a talkative girl
And I'm always smiling.

When I look into the mirror, I see a girl
With dark brown eyes
With dark makeup
A colored shirt and jeans.

When they look at me, they see my cool style
A nice person
My pretty nails
And a fun friend.



I Am From...

By Pamela Jackson

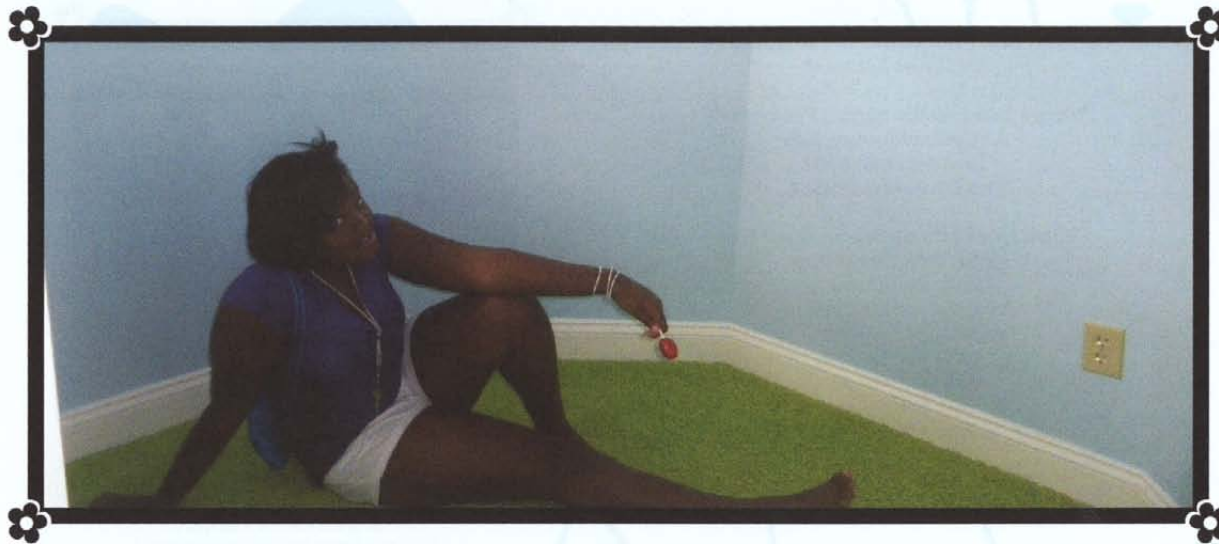
I am from love and support,
"You tried your best to pass the test."
My mom always says that's all that matters.
I see photo albums and family trees and everything that makes
up me.

I talk with my grandma
and when she thinks that I traded on her,
she says, "I'm going to call up my other granddaughter!"
I walk into the house and something smells good
there's greens, fried chicken, and mashed potatoes too!
But when I walk outside there's little trash on the ground
and kids outside playing around.
There's trees and my grandma's family tree
and these are little things that make up me!
"Good luck!" they say almost everyday
there's people who care about me all around,
and that's never going to change no matter what
there's loud laughs and cookouts for almost all of the holidays.
There's family all around and they have your back and that's a
fact.

They make sure you're ok and when you go out of town
they make sure that you had a grand stay!

This is who I am and this is me,
Next time we can talk about you!

I Love Me!



I Am From...By Nickkole Johnson

I am from the saying, "Where they do that at?"
To hitting the ball out of the field with a baseball bat.

I am from

Going to the beach for family get togethers,
To telling mommy of what I wrote in my diary,
To going to church on Sunday mornings,
To telling Auntie Anne how Winchester was back then.

I am from

Captain D's to Mickey D's to Labronks to Queens,
Virginia to Norfolk,
Quiet to never clean.

I am from

"Dat Ain't It" to collard greens,
and my verses that used to be clean.

I am from

Kaylan to Jada to Grandma Lee,
To Cami to the mall,
To my room, that's all!

So when someone asks where I'm from, now you have a brief description of what to give back!

I Love Me!

I Am From
By Iman Cuffie

I am from a sister, a brother, a mom and a dad, a neighborhood with no kids and everything I ever wanted I had. I am from organic foods, warm breakfasts, and sometimes noodles and peas, and drifting off reading while other kids drifted off watching TV.

I am from being in the car with mom and dad singin' along to Motown music, then darting to the swing at the new playground that was just beggin' for someone to use it.

I am from going to grandma's house lyin' on the carpet with my teddy bear listening to the chimes of the grandfather clock, lulled to sleep by the enchanting "tick tock."

I am from, "Would you help me?" and "Could I stay up a bit longer?" Sure enough the answer was no.

I would go to bed where my thoughts in my head would wander.

I am from where I'm from and I would never change a thing,

I will stay in my nest until I finish growing my wings.



I Love Me!

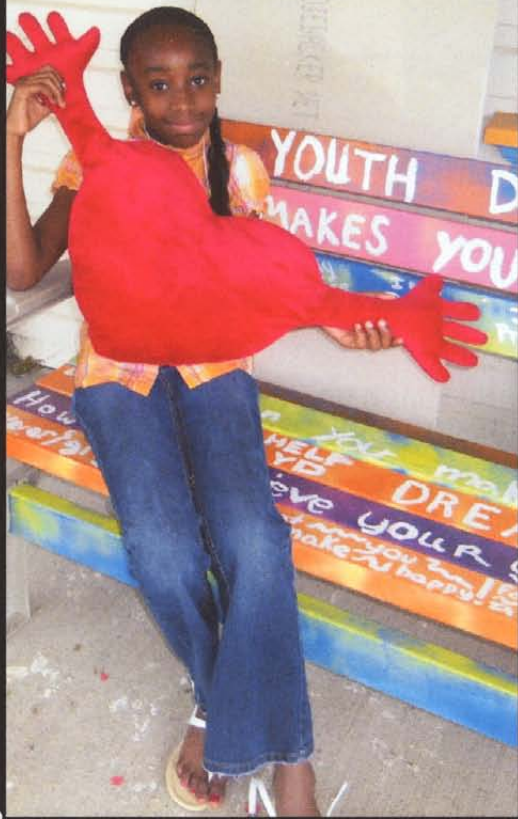


I Am From...by Chrissy Harrison

I am from a good neighborhood
Planting gardens and helping my family
Even though I am a good child,
I still make mistakes.
I am a caring child
That takes care of my big sister,
When my mother is sad
I come up with something to cheer her up.
I am a good girl to help my nana
Since her husband died.
I help around the house
Clean and take out the trash
Because I love my nana, I will keep helping her.
I am a lover of food.
I don't care what my sister and my mom cook for me
I still love them.
My mom, my sister and Nana
Make my favorite food for me,
Like crab cakes, chicken, and pizza.

I Love Me!

I Am from
By Destiny Harrison



I am from, "Be a big girl and say it in my face,"
I said my first words at my nana's house.
The harbor is where my family and I chill,
But I'm afraid of the water- it gives me the
chillz.

I am from eating food all day,
Eating collard greens
and grandma's baked biscuits.

I am from mom's cold turkey sandwiches,
Burnt spaghetti noodles, well-seasoned steaks
Even though it gives me tummy aches.

I am from saying, "Ducez," it means bye,
I am from momma's sweet potato pie.

I am from Tina, who cleans and cooks for us,
She is very funny and sensitive,
but when she gets to talking,
you don't know what to do.

I am from big pools, balls in the backyard.

I am from fried chicken all day.

I am from licking fingers, bumping cups.
If you come around me and my family
you'll be grinning on food all day.

I Love Me!

I AM FROM BY JAMAL FIELDS

I AM FROM MAKIN' DECISIONS,
CHILLIN' AND WATCHIN'
TELEVISION,
I CHOOSE TO ROCKOUT AND HAVE
FUN,
AT HOME IN THE MALL
AND PUT MY COUSIN'S HAIR IN A
BUN.

I AM FROM LOVING AND CARING,
BUT I DON'T LIKE SHARIN',
NO ONE OTHER THAN MY FRIEND
WHO LIKES TO BEND.

I AM FROM FIGHTING BAD GUYS,
BUT WHEN I'M DONE,
I GO SWAT SOME FLIES.
AMONG MYSELF, I AM NO HERO,
OR VILLAIN,
YET I HAVE THE GREATEST FOE.
I AM FROM RESPECT AND CHEERFUL,
GOOD TO RESPECT,
AND IT'S OK TO BE TEARFUL.
FROM SHOWING ACTIONS
THAT ARE FANTASTIC,
BUT MY MOM TELLS ME TO KNOW
MY FRACTIONS.

I AM FROM TRIP GOIN' AND FAMILY



TIME,
PACK UP AND SHACK UP.
GUESS WHO'S NOT FIGHTING CRIME?

WORDS FROM MY MOTHER,
HER RHYMES ARE CORNY,
OH BROTHER.

I Love Me!

I Am From
by Devin Johnson

I am from where crazy people roam
They always know someone else.

And always yelling.....
“Hey, how’s it going?”

Where the cars are always making
noise.

I am from where my mother would
cook

chicken, rice, and BBQ chicken.

Where we would stay up until
midnight on Fridays and Saturdays

And play UNO all night,
Laughing and having fun.

I am from where roaches roamed the
house, everywhere,

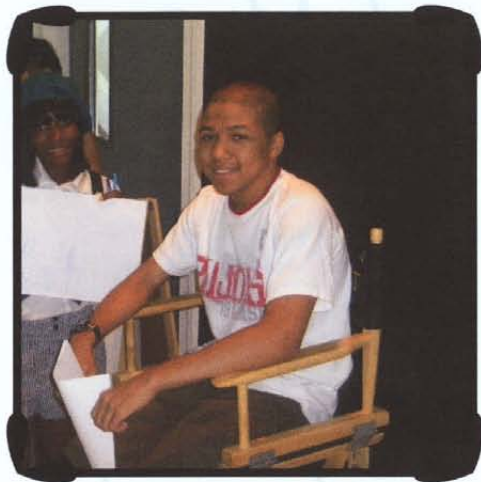
Hiding in my always junky floor,

Looking for anything to eat,
or a place to hide.

But there is one thing I don’t
understand,

They would come, no matter if the
floor was dirty or clean.

I am from where my best friends
lived.



They lived next door, and would
play everyday, whether it was snow
or rain.

All six of us.

Until one day...

Me and my family moved away.

I am from where there was always
something going on

whether the cat brought in a rat.

Or something happened at my
parents’ job.

But I do admit....

I miss all of it.

I Love Me!

I Am From

I am from decorating places,
Breaking CDs and painting faces,
Cutting up pictures on a Saturday night
And Sharpie-on-Converse
Which used to be white.
I am from lamb chop lovers
And stuffed pepper eaters,
working mothers
And family theaters.
To wise Grandma,
and every lecture's a speech
To Teddy P., "Practice What You Preach."
I am from "La Vie Boheme"
And She and Him
Florence and the Machine, and Matt & Kim
17 soundtracks, 30 songs per
"Ooh, Child, things are gonna get easier."
I am from chillin' out and gallivanting
And long conversations with lots of ranting.
Play practices, and board meetings,
to "I can't, I have rehearsal,"
And napping to do.
I am from walking shoes,



and bumpin' iTunes,
St. Paul Street, and the 9block blues.
Thrift store hopping, and homework
shopping,
"Yeauss, you betta,"
and "What can ya do?"
Cool kids, trendsetters –
There's me, there's you.

Written By Miriam L. Harris, 29 June
2010

I Love Me!

I Am From...

I am from the breath of Baltimore
With the, "Hey shawty's"
And the, "How yew doin's"
And even the, "Excuse me miss, how old are yous?"

I am from the cul-de-sac
The unknown but noticed neighborhood,
Under the plum trees and across the lawn
In my grandma's sanctuary
A haven from the world.

I am from the depths of my bedroom
Where the computer whirls
And where my creativity has wings
Which take flight over paper,
Where constant criticism and yelling penetrates my
walls
Then my ears
And my thoughts
And then me.

I am from the love of my grandma
Who cares for me
From she who took me in,
When I can sometimes be very mean
And yeah she can be mean, too
But that's how we love each other.

I am from the Chipotle leftovers
And those 5 min walks to the Chinese place.
From the home cooked meals
To the junk food I eat.
And the food I don't eat



I am from Mrs. Caldwell's memory
At Cecil Elementary
"Yep that's my grandma, Mrs. Caldwell"
Is what I tell people when they ask.
I am from Bonaparte Street
And the old diner where I used to play
Across the street from the MTA.

I am from my own place, my own world, my own day.

By: Dominique Davis

I Love Me!

I AM FROM... By Keyani Kenny

I am from 3929 Greenmount Ave, Baltimore MD.
21218

As I look back in time, many memories come forth.
I remember when my whole family would get together
and watch old home movies.

When me and my cousins played outside for hours and
hours.

I remember how close we were
But also the day we grew apart.

I am from a family of love and affection.
I have a mommy and a daddy who love me so well,
3 siblings that I love so dear

I have aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas
They all do the same

They love me to death and keep me very sane.

I am from a place of tradition
A place of soul food Sunday and big holiday parties.
From going to see Christmas lights and 4th of July
fireworks

From family trips and reunions.

I am from my mother saying, "You can't out slick the
slicker," and "Oh that's a mess."
From my father saying, "Girl because I am your father,"
and "Ya'll spend all my money."

Even though we don't always see eye to eye

I love them with all my heart.

I am from a learning experience
I have learned that family is very important
And so are friends.



But you can always get new friends
You have only one family
So don't take them for granted.

I Love Me!

When I Look in the Mirror

By Jessica White

When I look in the mirror, I see
A set of eyes staring back at
me.

Along with a sense of direction
leading me.

Beautiful skin, a pretty smile,
eyes that bright up
every mile.

Mistakes shatter the glass
But brilliance makes up for the
past.

When they look at me, they
see...

A BIG smile,
That is full of life.

Never frowns or is full of strife.
Nice and cool.

Mr. Mirror, I think I'm just that
dude.



I Love Me!



When I Look in the Mirror, I See...

By Ms. Kristina

When I look in the mirror, I see...
Bill the Bump who everyone thinks is a zit,
Gray hair that is too prolific to pluck
And teeth that suffered
through six years of braces.

When I look in the mirror, I see...
Ears that took 36 years to pierce,
Determination in my eyes
And wrinkles caused by my big smile.

When I look in the mirror, I see...
Hair that is too long to dry,

Mascara that never works,
And a life that has been full and joyful.

When I look in the mirror, I see...
The many students, friends and family
smiling back at me,
People who support and inspire me
And contribute to those smile wrinkles.

When they look at me, they see
Someone who is sweet and cool,
A fun loving, kind, second mommy
Cheerful.

When they look at me, they see...
Someone who is cool and energetic,
Fun to be around
Awesome.

Mt. Washington Love Mural



Tyrese

The Love mural makes me think about my family and community, and it inspires me. It makes me think that the communities the artist did them for are special. These murals mean a lot to people, and they are painted on twenty walls.

Kyla

It makes me think of a waterfall of color. The hands spelling love look like sign language. There are also birds, foxes, and words spray painted on the wall. There is a waterfall where water flows down the rocks.

Dayanna

The mural inspires me because I use the word “love” for a lot of different things, and I really love the mural because it makes me think more about my actions.

Devin

The mural shows that you should love everyone around you, and stop all the hate. The way it shows this message is with the hands – the hands belong to four different people. They used teamwork to make this mural, and in order to have teamwork, you must love your team members, and not hate them.



THIS SECTION WILL TELL ABOUT THE PLACES IN
BALTIMORE OUR AUTHORS LOVE.

I Love Baltimore

I Went Looking for Baltimore

By: Shardell Robinson

I went looking for Baltimore
in the downtown area
And I saw a huge building
Heavy doors and a noisy street
in front of it
And people walking inside.

I went looking for Baltimore in the
First Mariner Arena
And I found a big crowded building.
Once I got there I felt welcomed
by everyone there
I also felt a little rushed,
Being pushed around by people I
didn't know,
And I was surprised by
how many people I saw.

I went looking for Baltimore
in the Arena
And I found a circus



Big colorful lights shining on me.

I felt scared but also excited.
I searched high and low
for a fun time
And I found Baltimore.

I went looking for Baltimore in Timonium

By Tyrese Solomon

I went looking Baltimore
in Timonium.

And I saw big rides, food spots,
families,

I also saw children and people
playing music.

I went looking for Baltimore in
The Maryland State Fair.
And I found a lot of people.
Once I got there, I felt excited.
And I was surprised by,
"The World's Smallest Lady".

I went looking for Baltimore
in the Fair.
And I went there
to have family day.
I felt happy to be there,
and sad when I had to leave.



I searched high and low for people,
friends or others that I knew,
And I found Baltimore.

**I Went Looking for
Baltimore in Waverly**

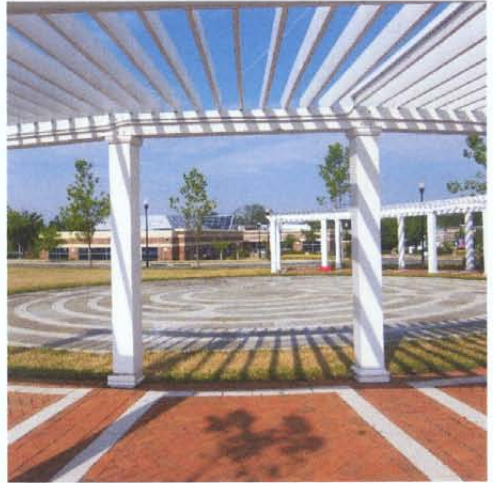
By Dayanna Simon

I went looking for Baltimore
in Waverly,
And I saw people
walking in and out.

I saw a big desk
where people worked
and answered the phone
on the inside.

On the outside of the building
it had lots of flowers.

I went looking for Baltimore
in the YMCA
and I get in the pool
and go to the basketball court.
I feel free whenever I'm in the Y.
I searched high and low
for opportunities



where I can be me
and no can stop my creativity,

And I found Baltimore.

I Love Baltimore

I Went Looking for Baltimore by Nichkole Johnson

I went looking for Baltimore
on 33rd
And I saw the best place
to work out at
and lots of people.

I went looking for Baltimore
at Lake Montebello
And I found a wonderful, clean
place to be.
Once I got there,
I felt energetic
and ready to lose some
weight.
And I was surprised by
how many people were there.
And how they were really
into what they were doing.



I went looking for Baltimore
in sunny side up
and a fit body.
I felt exhausted when I left.

I searched high and low for
shade and enthusiasm,
And I found Baltimore.

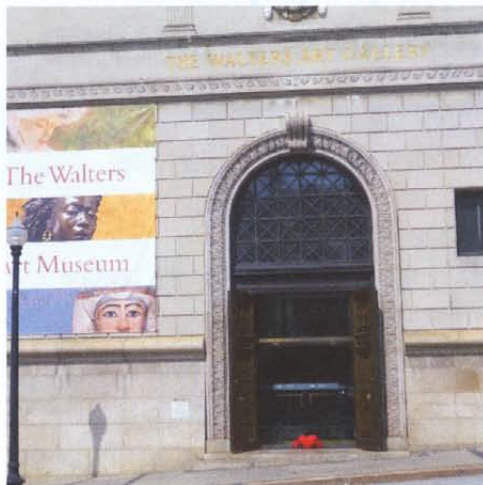
I Love Baltimore

I Went Looking for Baltimore by Sagirah Perkins

*I went looking for Baltimore
down town
and I saw many places
that excited me.
Then I saw this one place
that popped out
and caught my eye,
It was called the Walter's Art Museum.*

*I went looking for Baltimore
at the front door of the museum.
I found categories
that could help me explode
at the museum .
Greek and Egyptian
and other things to see.
This place was more than just
a museum to me,
this place was a big experience-
a site to see!*

*I went look for Baltimore
at the Walter's,
and I went there
to see all the new things
they have in store for me .
When I go there,
I feel smart and mighty,*



*to see and hear about the people
who came before me.*

*I searched high and low for
knowledge, fun and art,
and I found Baltimore.*

ALL ABOUT AQUARIUM TIMES

By CHRISTIAN HARRISON

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
DOWNTOWN,
AND I SAW A FOREST OF
LOTS OF ANIMALS
LIKE FISH, SHARKS, AND TURTLES
I SAW A GLASS BUILDING.

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
AT THE AQUARIUM,
AND I FOUND LOTS OF ANIMALS
ONCE I GOT THERE,
I FELT HAPPY
AND I WAS SURPRISED ABOUT THE
DOLPHIN SHOW.



I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
AT THE AQUARIUM,
AND I SAW A DOLPHIN SHOW
AND I BOUGHT A LOT OF TOYS.
I FELT SURPRISED WHEN I WENT TO THE
AQUARIUM
I SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR FUN,
PEOPLE, AND HAPPINESS
AND I FOUND BALTIMORE

I went Looking for Baltimore

By Dermar Davis, Jr.

I went looking for Baltimore,
and I found the Inner Harbor.

I saw a building
that had science and white sides,
And if it had color,
it would be tie-dye.

I went looking for Baltimore
in the Science Center,
And I found the positivity.
Once I got there, I felt alive,
Until I saw a big beehive.

I went looking for Baltimore
in the Science Center,
And when I got there,
I did see the cells of a grizzly.
I felt excited about animals.

And I searched up and down,
and all around
For other mammals,



And I found my hometown.

I Found Baltimore.

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE

BY DEVIN JOHNSON

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
IN DOWNTOWN.

AND I SAW A GIANT, LOUD STADIUM
JAM PACKED WITH EXCITED PEOPLE
WHO WERE WAITING TO SEE
AN AMAZING BALLGAME
FULL OF BALL HITTING ACTION.

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
IN THE ORIOLE STADIUM,
AND I FOUND OUT HOW BIG IT IS INSIDE.
ONCE I GOT THERE, I FELT EXCITED.

AND I WAS SURPRISED
BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE.

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
IN THE ORIOLE NEST,
AND THE EXCITING BALLGAME.



I FELT EXCITED, AND AMAZED.

I SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW
FOR ANYONE WHO WAS CRAZY, YELLING,
LOOKING WEIRD, OR ANYONE I MIGHT KNOW.

AND I FOUND BALTIMORE.

I Went Looking for Baltimore

Downtown

By Iman Cuffie

I went looking for Baltimore

downtown,

And saw skyscrapers touching the sky

Some people friendly and some mean

And sights so pretty

that it would make you cry.

I went looking for Baltimore

at the Enoch Pratt Free Library,

With technology galore, busy librarians,

And shelves, over which I could not see.

I went looking for Baltimore

in that timeless library,

And expanded my knowledge

and learned many new things.

I felt the learning and knowledge,

joy brings then and there



I searched high and low for experience,

wisdom, and fun galore,

And I found Baltimore.

**I WENT LOOKING
FOR BALTIMORE IN
CHARLES VILLAGE
BY PAMELA JACKSON**

I went looking for Baltimore
in Charles Village,
And I found fancy restaurants
and high-achieving schools
Then, there was a building
that had a mind of its own
It was filled with sculptures, mosaics,
and lots of other art, too!

I went looking for Baltimore
at the Baltimore Museum of Art,
And I found two big lion sculptures.

Once I got there,
I was filled with tons of joy;
this place was for me!
And then, I was surprised
,by the details in the art,
and the different types of art
I just knew that these artists
were filled with pride.



I went looking for Baltimore
at the BMA,
And this place was the place
where I learned about different art
And time periods that I have
never heard of before.
I felt as if I was going back in time
and learning about different
countries in history.
I searched high and low in many exhibits,
and then when I left,
I knew I had found Baltimore.

I went Looking for Baltimore in The Harbor

By Kyla Roberts

I went looking for Baltimore
downtown,
And I saw a crowded place
full of people.
Tall buildings,
And a large body of water.

I went looking for Baltimore
in the Inner Harbor,
And I found a historical place.
Once I got there,
I felt scared
of the black-colored water.
I was surprised by
how big the place was
And how many places



were inside of it.

I went looking for Baltimore
in The Harbor,
And saw water taxis driving around.
I felt excited, yet nervous.
I searched high and low
for extensiveness,
happiness and cool souvenirs
And **I FOUND BALTIMORE.**

I Love Baltimore

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE IN DRUID HILL

BY JASMINE JACOBS

*I went looking for Baltimore
in Druid Hill,*

*And I saw a place for shade
and where people grill,
That had tall trees
and a lot of birds
Children playing dash
Loud music clash.*

*I went looking for Baltimore
in Druid Hill Park,*

*And I found a huge playground
Once I got there,
I felt excited and playful
And was surprised by a squirrel
stealing food and kids being joyful.*



*I went looking for Baltimore
in Druid Hill,*

*And found new friends
and great food.
I felt happy and belonging.
I searched high and low
for fun, excitement, and beauty,
And I found Baltimore.*

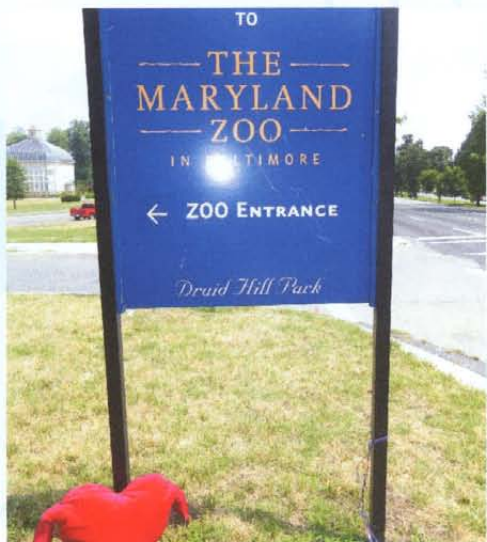
I Went Looking For Baltimore

by Katiara Harper

I went looking for Baltimore
in Druid Hill,
and I saw animals in cages,
people walking around,
and food courts.

I went looking for Baltimore
in The Baltimore Zoo,
and I found education
and excitement.
Once I got there,
I felt happy.
I was surprised
by the huge animals.

I went looking for Baltimore
in The Zoo,



and I saw beautiful animals.
I felt excited.

I searched high and low
for trees and nice buildings,
and I found Baltimore!

I Love Baltimore

I Went Looking For Baltimore

By Lelah Ballah

*I went looking for Baltimore
and guess what I saw!*

*I saw a great Inner Harbor
full of loading docks and fishing shops.*

*When I arrived,
I saw street performers
and smelled sweet, salty air,
The scent of stinky fish,
or the smell of sweet bread baking
made my stomach churn.*

*When I arrived,
I felt revived and redeemed,
I was ready to start my life all over again.
I felt the sweet, breezy air
flowing through my hair as I sped on a boat.
The essence is over whelming
almost like a spell.
It's like I never want to go back,*



*back to a world with no harbor to float!
The Inner Harbor is my home no matter how
far or how close,*

I'll always long to go and be there;

Here my forever home.

I WENT LOOKING FOR
BALTIMORE
BY RASHOD JOHNSON

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
IN THE BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM ON
NORTH AVENUE.
AND I SAW A BROWN, BEATEN UP HOUSE
THAT SEEMED TO BE A MUSEUM.
WHEN YOU WALK IN, YOU BETTER BE READY
TO LEARN ABOUT
YOUR ANCESTORS' HISTORY.

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
IN THE BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM.
AND I FOUND THE HISTORY
OF MY ANCESTORS.
ONCE I GOT THERE, I FELT AMAZED
BECAUSE OF ALL THE KNOWLEDGE I GAINED
FROM JUST THAT ONE MUSEUM.
AND I WAS SURPRISED
BY ALL THE SCULPTURES
THAT WERE PUT TOGETHER
TO MAKE ONE BIG PICTURE.

I WENT LOOKING FOR BALTIMORE
IN A MUSEUM
THAT WAS FILLED WITH HISTORY.
I GOT THERE, PAID ATTENTION,
ASKED QUESTIONS,
AND GOT GOOD ANSWERS.
I FELT CURIOUS
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
MY ANCESTOR'S HISTORY.

I SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW,
AND DID NOT EVEN NOTICE...



BALTIMORE WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

**I Went Looking for
Baltimore**

By Shiheeda Williams

I went looking for Baltimore
in Birdland,
And I saw a big, brown building
With a lot of chairs
from top to bottom,
And a lot of steps.

I went looking for Baltimore
In Ravens Stadium,
And I found great entertainment.
Once I got there, I felt excited
And I was surprised by all the fans
And all the interesting things.

I went looking for Baltimore
and the big, black bird
and the Ravens won a game.
I loved to see the Ravens play.
I felt happy and excited.

I searched high to low for
excitement,



As much as the Ravens give me,
And I found Baltimore.

I Love Baltimore

I Went Looking for Baltimore in Waverly

by Jessica White and Miriam Harris

I went looking for
Baltimore in Waverly,
and I saw a house
that had been abandoned.
That was brown with tall grass,
shattered steps, no walls
no ceilings and no sass.

I went looking for Baltimore
in the YD Youth Center,
and I found creativity.
Once I got there, I felt free
And I was surprised
by all the kids who welcomed me.

I went looking for Baltimore
in The Dream House,
and opened the door to new
possibilities and



accomplishments.
I felt inspired and motivated
through my success.

I searched high and low for
quirkiness, fun and inspiration,

And I found Baltimore.

Hollins Market Love Mural



Rashod

When I look at the love mural, I think about my family and friends. Most of all, I think of the meaning of the word "love"!

Pamela

When I think of this mural I think of sign language because of the usage of hands, and how the artist wants to promote love in the community.

Nichkole

I think the mural means that everyone should be loved.

This can inspire a lot of people to have more sympathy for what they love, and to have strong feelings for something or someone. I really love this mural and I think it is a good way to inspire someone.

Jasmine

The mural makes me think of people coming together and showing how they love their community. Also, it is obvious that the figures in the mural are hands that form the word "Love."

They Love Baltimore



THIS SECTION WILL SHARE HOW SOME MEMBERS OF OUR
COMMUNITY FEEL ABOUT BALTIMORE.

They Love Baltimore



Introducing Mr. Mick of the Whiskey Island Pirate Shop....

Mr. Mick is 48 years old and currently resides in Baltimore, after he moved here on Halloween night, in 1986. Mr. Mick was a stunt man for 18 years before retiring in 2000. He then bought a special effects company here. Baltimore was an ideal spot for him because it's near the water and close to his job.

Mr. Mick would recommend for his friends to move to Baltimore, and he believes that everyone should give the city a chance before they judge it based upon what they are shown on the news and media. He does not approve of the use of government's budget and believes that it is unfair. He also feels that youth in Baltimore are looked down upon because there are not enough positive role models or opportunities in their lives. Despite stereotypes, he still enjoys working with kids.

Mr. Mick enjoys going to many events in Baltimore such as the Patterson Park Lantern Parade, the Waverly Farmer's Market, and, of course, Artscape. He also says that he loves the many different types of restaurants - big and small. One thing that he does not see here in Baltimore is sled riding. His experiences in Baltimore have been wonderful, and he believes that Baltimore is the place to be.

**Written by Iman Cuffie, Sagirah Perkins, and
Pamela Jackson after interviewing Mr. Mick.**

Introducing Jack VandenHengel of The Shepherd's Clinic/Joy Wellness Center...

Hi, I'm Jack VandenHengel and I'm 59 years old. I have lived in Baltimore for 25 years now, and I am the director of The Shepherd's Clinic. I am also a social worker and a minister. Some things that I like about Baltimore are the ethnic festivals. I also like Fells Point and the Inner Harbor. Some memories that I have about Baltimore are working with the clinic, going to the harbor, and raising a family here. My opinion about Baltimore is that it's a lively place. I like the youth here because some of them have positive behavior and it is marvelous to hear their dreams. Also, the youth have a lot of talent and so much potential. I think it's amazing. One thing that amazes me is that all the papers talk about is violence. For example, the papers make you believe things like going down to the Harbor during events could kill you. The media only focuses on the bad things, and it doesn't speak of the positive things that happen in Baltimore. I am a father and a husband. I have a daughter and a son. Baltimore is a great place from my perspective. My son and daughter have learned a lot from Baltimore. The schools are awesome, and I think that Dr. Alonso, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, is doing a great job keeping the schools in shape. To make a long story short, I love being a neighbor to the Youth Dreamers here at Shepherd's Clinic, and I hope they keep up the good work. "THE SKY IS THE LIMIT"

Written by Katiara Harper and Nichkole Johnson after interviewing Mr. Jack.



Introducing Mary Pat Clarke, 14th District Councilperson...

Hi, my name is Mary Pat Clarke. I'm a member of the Baltimore City Council. I've been here in Baltimore for 43 years, and I was born in Providence, Rhode Island. I think that because of publicity and television shows like "The Wire," Baltimore has been given a bad name, and people all over the country think negatively about Baltimore. I feel that people don't see enough good news, and that gives everyone a negative outlook on Baltimore.

I think that the youth of Baltimore are great because they all start out with hope. I believe that it is not about how the youth behave, but it is about what is there for the youth to do. I would definitely recommend someone to move to Baltimore. I say that it is a great city where people can get involved, though everyone goes through a time when they need help.

One thing that I wish Baltimore had is Swan Boats, which you can ride in Boston, but they don't exist here. Also, I like the big Christmas tree in New York, and I wish that Baltimore had that, as well. Still, I love what Baltimore has to offer. I love to be involved in things like The Youth Dreamers' Dream House, Artscape, and community meetings. I don't feel I have done enough for Baltimore, or that I could ever do enough, because Baltimore is such an amazing place to be.

Written by Shardell Robinson, Rashod Johnson, and Jasmine Jacobs after interviewing Ms. Mary Pat.





Introducing Sarah McCann, Community Artist...

My name is Ms. Sarah and I am 29 years old. I lived in Long Island, New York for 26 years and then I moved to Baltimore. I have lived in Baltimore for 3 years and I think it is great. I work with the Youth Dreamers and the Community Arts Programs. I like going to museums and parks. I love walking around Druid Hill Park and the youth here are awesome.

My experience in Baltimore is very unique and special. There are great people in Baltimore, and they are so nice. They greet everyone. To me, Baltimore is a city where things and neighborhoods are always changing. My favorite memories in Baltimore are walking Druid Hill Park and drawing art. I think the government is responsible for taking care of the homeless, troubled teens, the less fortunate and teen parents.

To me, Baltimore is a good and a bad place. I think it is a good place to be in and to grow up in. The people of Baltimore are generous and caring. What I think has affected the community are the political issues. They control the consequences after natural disasters or after something bad happens. Also, I feel I have done enough to help Baltimore, and I hope to continue what I am doing. Finally, I think Baltimore is a great city, and I would recommend it to anyone!!

Written by Devin Johnson, Dayanna Simon and Tyrese Solomon after interviewing Ms. Sarah.



Introducing Mildred Abel, Community Activist...

Mildred Abel was born in New York City, and is now in her mid 70's. She is a retired nurse, who has been a wonderful influence on the greater Baltimore area. She helped create a program for Montebello students who don't have grandparents. In this program, the kids would be hugged by volunteer grandparents each morning to show that they were cared about. Mrs. Abel loves to go and see festivals with her children during her free time. She loves to be involved in youthful, active programs that are positive and helpful to the Montebello & Waverly communities.

Ms. Mildred feels that there aren't enough people positively active in Baltimore. She feels that there are more negative people complaining about what we should do in Baltimore than people who are looking around and seeing all the miraculous adventures that are taking place in places in Baltimore like the Inner Harbor.

Ms. Mildred's opinion on youth in Baltimore is that "there is no such thing as a bad child." She believes that it's the parent that influences the child to get away with such disgusting behaviors, like cursing and dressing badly. She also feels that the city's budget is too far gone to retrieve or help, because we spend the money on things we don't really need.

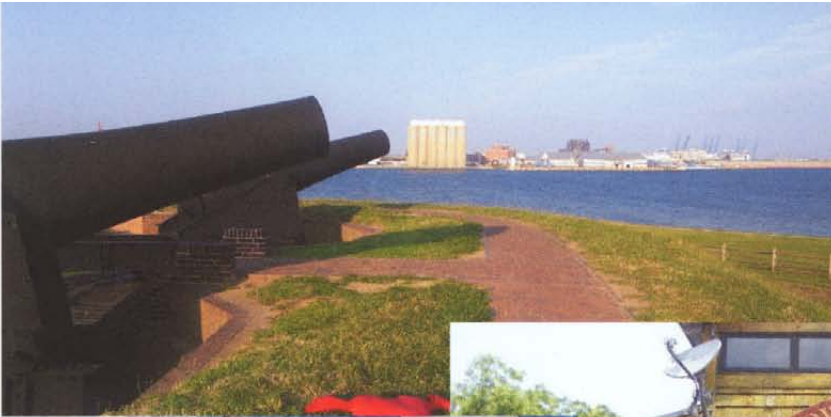
Ms. Mildred has been in & out of Baltimore since the age of 2. She says that she feels a vertical change over the years and thinks that no matter how Baltimore changes, she will always love it. Ms. Mildred feels she always is needed by the community that surrounds her!

Written by Lelah Ballah, Destiny Harrison, and Shiheeda Williams after interviewing Ms. Mildred.









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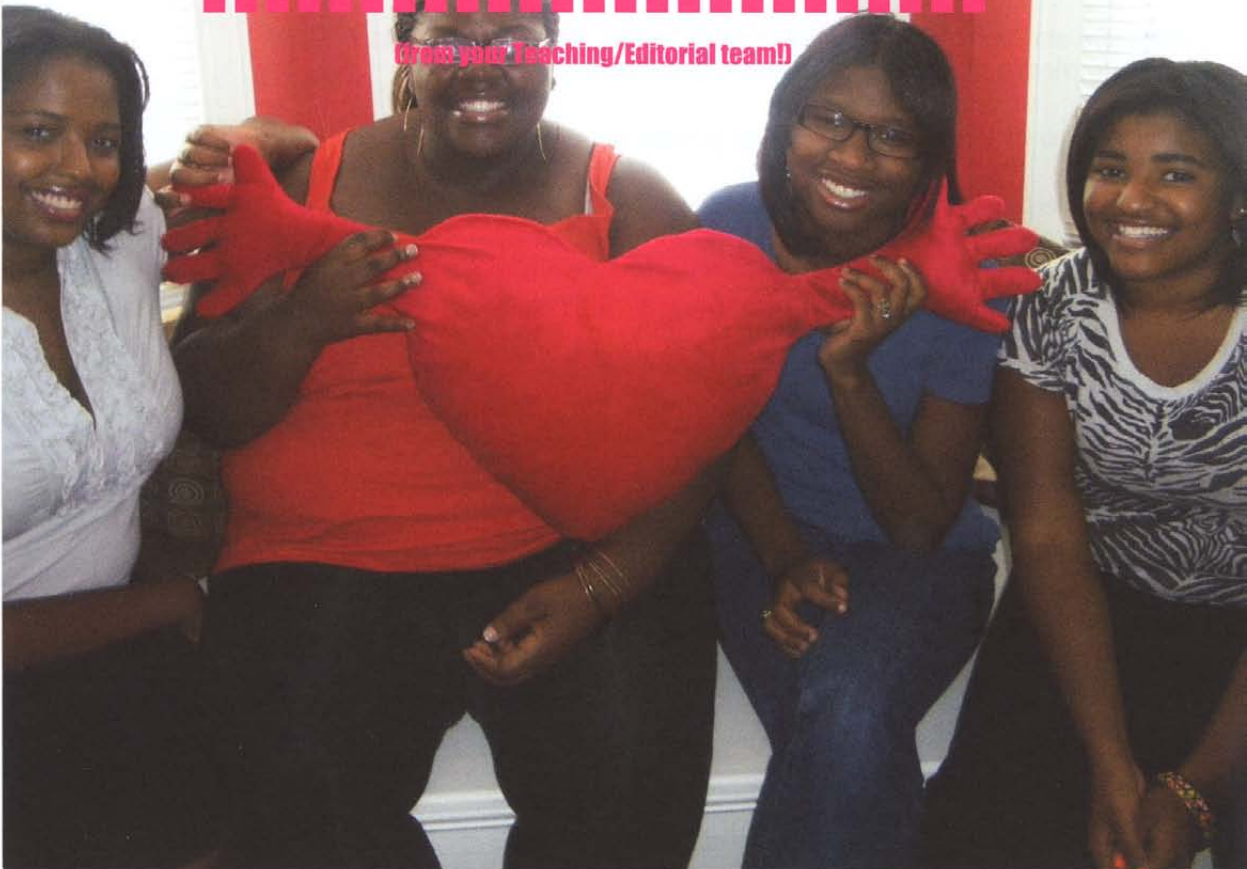
AND All the Youth Dreamers past, present and future who continue to bring joy and life to The Dream House

YOU ARE ALL LOVED!

The End



(from your Teaching/Editorial team!)





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**The Stadium School Youth Dreamers Inc,
Making the community better one step at a time!**



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