

CHICAGO: My Neighborhood

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING

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Ambar A. (10th gr.) Fun Things in My Neighborhood.

The neighborhood I live in is called Albany Park. I really like my neighborhood. I've lived there almost 4 years.

The parks and playgrounds in my neighborhood are really not that far from my house. The park that I go to is called Eugene Field Park. It is the best park in the block. It is located on Foster and Avers. This park is like a second house for me because I meet with my friends and have fun all day. I play soccer with my family and friends. We usually play in the big field. It's really fun.

The people from my neighborhood are very different from each other. There are a variety of people from all over the world. People have different cultures. They also have different traditions. I'm glad that there are different people so that way we can learn something new from each other.

The after school programs are really fun. You get to meet new friends and tutors. I just met my tutor Kate. She is really fun. She helps me with my homework. I like coming to tutoring.

Kalip T. (3rd gr.)

I live on Winthrop. 20 cars live on my block. There is a Chase Bank on my block. The snow cone man lives on my block. The Aragon Theater is on my block. 20 houses are on my block. A day care is down the street. There are trees on my block. There are lots of people on my block.

Nathaniel B. (2nd gr.)

The beach has sand and water. We swim in the water. You can build a sand castle. I like the beach.

Hirut N. (11th gr.)

I live in Uptown near Lake Michigan. My neighborhood is densely populated. To serve those people we have lots of parks and playgrounds. My neighborhood has lots of people, so we have a place for students to stay when school lets out until their parents return from work.

Most people that I know in my neighborhood are helpful to each other and caring people. There are some people that are homeless and there are people that look like criminals, but most people are hard-working and law-abiding. The people in my neighborhood are very diverse. There are rich and poor people, there are people from many countries, and there are people who are young and old. If you come to my neighborhood you can find every kind of person you want.

I can name 5 parks and playgrounds in my neighborhood but there are many more. I love having parks and playgrounds near my house, which I could play in at any time. There is a new playground in my building complex. They built the playground so that their kids could play safely.

In my neighborhood there are lots of after school programs. For instance, there is a tutoring program at the library. Some kids in my building are in a program where they do activities and homework. Other kids in the neighborhood play sports after school. It is a great idea to have after school programs.

Judit (3rd gr.)

I go to Goudy School. The school is very easy. I walk to school because it is close to my house. I read in school. I read about the Little Mermaid and Snow White. In school I do math and adding. I like school because we do math, reading, and science.

Jaime F. (6th gr.) My Neighborhood

My neighborhood has different kinds of parks and lakes and different kinds of people. All these things make my neighborhood fun and interesting.

My neighborhood has six parks, and a lot of people go there to have fun, and sometimes they have a party in the park.

My neighborhood has a lake where people go to have fun and swim. They all have fun playing in the water.

My neighborhood has a lot of different kinds of people, like Africans, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Mexicans, and they all have fun in my neighborhood.

Leslie A. (8th gr.)

My friends live next to me. We hang out. We go to each other's house. I like to be with my friends because we were friends since fifth grade, and now we have more fun. My friends are Beatriz, Lucceor, and Jackie.

Beatriz, we call her Peaches. Beatriz has a lot of pictures. She likes to play with Jackie. We remember about last year, how much fun we had.

Jackie, we call her Jack. She has flowers. She likes to hang out with us. Sometimes she can't hang out with us because she hangs out with her boyfriend. Jackie likes the same things we like.

We call Luccero Yoshi. She has puzzles. She always wants to hang around. Sometimes she is annoying. It is fun being with her.

Lizbeth V. (2nd gr.)

In my neighborhood there is a program. First we do our homework. Then I do my math. Last I read my book.

Bsrat N. (6th gr.)

I live in Chicago, on a street called Lakeside. This street is called Lakeside because it is next to a lake. In addition to living next to a wonderful lake, I have other things to tell you about my neighborhood.

The people in my building are really helpful. They are helpful because they give people who don't have that much food, a meal once in a while. These people are really friendly too, because they always say hi to people who pass. Another reason these people are helpful is that they have tutoring sessions for young kids who need help with their homework.

The beach near my neighborhood is also special. There are some really cute dogs always swimming in the summer. You can see people playing volleyball or swimming. The water is cool.

Lamarr S. (5th gr.)

I live in the Uptown neighborhood. In my neighborhood we have lots of stores, restaurants, after school programs, and libraries.

The stores and restaurants are fun to explore. The restaurants have good dishes and great desserts. They all have different smells.

After school programs are very helpful with all things in school. They help children such as myself to get good grades and to improve. The computers help students do research and to understand an answer or give information.

Libraries are a good place to study and do homework. I like books that are funny and sometimes ones about history that I check out.

Ariana T. (4th gr.)

My neighborhood is a fun neighborhood. We have a park next to my building. It's called Margate Park. It is a great place to have a birthday party. It has two swing sets, one for babies and kids. It has a section for babies too. They have monkey bars. This is how my neighborhood is.

Anahi M. (6th gr.)

I like my neighborhood in Chicago because there are many after school programs. I also like it because my friends and cousins live there. And I like my neighborhood school.

One of the after school programs is volleyball. I play volleyball. I like it because I can throw the ball to other people. And I also like it because I can spend time with my friends. Another after school activity is soccer. My brother plays soccer. He likes to play soccer with his friends. I like to go watch him play soccer. A third after school program is track. I like it because everyone has to run and I could do exercise.

Another part of my neighborhood is the families. My family is very big. I live with my brother, mom, dad, and my uncle. My cousins live close to us. I spend a lot of time with them. My friends also live close to us. We could play around my house.

In conclusion, my neighborhood is very good. I get to live near my cousins and friends. Also I like that there are after school activities.

Jaely E. (2nd gr.)

I like the park because the children in the neighborhood in Chicago can play in the park. I like to go to school to learn how to write.

Isaac R. (1st. gr.)

When you walk in McDonalds we find a table to set on. Our mom gets food for us.

Valeria S. (2nd gr.) Playgrounds

I like the swings. I like the slides. We play tag in the playground. I go with my friends to the playground. It is fun in the playground.

Luiz L. (10th grade)

I live in Edgewater. We have a couple of parks where I live in my neighborhood. The cool part about the park is that we can hang out with my friends and play around and sometimes meet people from the past.

The good part about the stores is that you can eat food but then if you want the food you will need to buy it. Now about the restaurants is that they give you real food that is cooked and the Mexican restaurants are awesome!!! You can eat a lot and buy a lot of food.

Now the after school programs are good because there are a lot of programs you can be at because people are there to help you in your grades. The afterschool programs are good because you meet a lot of new people and make friends.

When it's summer I go to the beach and swim and have fun with my friends or family. The fun part about the beach is you can eat, too, because people are walking around selling good food. When you're at the beach you spend time with people and families.

Jaritize E. (2nd gr.) The Beach

I like the beach. I swim in the water. The sand is hot. It is hot on the beach. I swim with my cousin.

Edgar A. (11th gr.)

The neighborhood I live in is Albany Park. The great thing about living in Albany Park is the stores and restaurants, parks and playgrounds, and the people in my neighborhood.

One great thing about living around there is that it has a lot of stores and restaurants to go to. There are plenty of restaurants to choose from; for example, if you're hungry and don't really feel like cooking you could just go down the street and eat at a local restaurant. There are also plenty of good stores, like clothing stores, dollar stores, and some electronic stores.

Another great thing about my neighborhood is that they have just remodeled the playground and it looks safer for children to play on. The park in which the playground is in is pretty nice because you could go for walks, have picnics, or just relax.

The people in my neighborhood, around where I live in, are pretty generous and are polite and greet you every time they see you. There are times when we have a block party one time a month because there are so many children that live around where I live.

Everardo L. (3rd gr.) Lake

My favorite lake and beach are Lake Michigan and Beach Michigan. The beach is really big, and you can play in the sand. You could swim in the lake. There's also a place where they sell junk food and a water fountain.

Parks and Playgrounds

My favorite park is Michigan Park because it is big. You can play soccer, and it is next to Michigan Playground. The Michigan Playground is really big too and it has lots of swings to swing on.

Omega N. (4th gr.) My Neighborhood

I go to an afterschool program, and it is called Inspired Youth. It is really helpful. You can have fun too, while you learn. First, you have to work hard. If you are at home, you have to finish your homework. Then you can watch television. That's why I like Inspired Youth because it is fun, and you can learn a lot.

Omega N. (4th gr.) Classmates and Friends

I have a lot of classmates in my building. I almost have about 3 or 4 classmates. They are really nice because they can be helpful sometimes.

Jaely E. (2nd gr.)

I like the park because the children in the neighborhood in Chicago can play in the park. I like to go to school to learn how to write.

Amaire P. (2nd gr.)

I live in Uptown. I like to go to the parks in my neighborhood. I like it when my brothers come with me. We play on the monkey bars and the slide. After I leave the park I like to eat lunch at my grandmother's house.

Fernando B. (2nd gr.)

I like my neighborhood because I like to play soccer because I win the game.

Jovanny S. (2nd gr.)

I like to go to the park with my family. I see a mailman, a policeman, a street repairman, bus drivers in my neighborhood. I also see tutors and librarians.

Yulissa L. (2nd gr.) I live in Edgewater and I like to go to the library, park, and the beach. I like to go the library to read books. I like to go to the park to play tag with my friends. And I like to go to the beach to build a sand castle.

Estafany V. (1st gr.) I am 6 years old. My favorite color is red. My favorite food is a sundae. I like to come here to learn.

Summone S. (4th gr.) One day I went to a restaurant that's named Giordano's. What I like there is the pizza and the soda. The pizza is very crispy there. The melted cheese is "mmm" up top of the crispy pizza. We watch the Bears game when we eat and sometimes after Giordano's me and my family go to the pool. At the pool they have slides and after the pool we go home.

Rickiah J. (1st gr.) My favorite restaurant in my neighborhood is Golden Gate. I order beef fried rice.
I like to go to the park and play.

Beth Palmer, Tutoring Director The Big Oak Tree Behind the Yellow Farmhouse on Argyle

We used to live on Argyle St., two blocks west of Bezazian Library and one block west of the Essanay Film Studio where Charlie Chaplin made silent movies in the 1920's.

The building we lived in looked like an old, yellow wooden farmhouse. In the 1910's it had been moved there from the near north side. It was raised up, apparently because of flooding, and it had steep steps on the outside going up to our landlord's apartment. We lived underneath, on the ground level. Our first landlady was Ida Olson, who had come from Sweden as a young girl. Our second landlords were the Garcias from Guatemala. A friend visiting in our back yard commented, "What say! Very quiet neighbors." (Behind the fence was a cemetery.)

But we were gentrified out in 2000. The Garcias sold the building and the new owners tore it down to build condos. After the building was torn down and everything was removed, I stopped by to take a look. Underneath where the building had been was a foot of black topsoil, and underneath that was pure, clean, white sand. Maybe the beach had once come up past Bezazian Library, past Glenwood, and up to Clark St. Now Lake Michigan is a mile away. The saddest thing about the move was the huge oak tree in the back yard. We loved that tree. I sat under the tree and read. Squirrels scampered up and down and ate the acorns. Our landlord said it was a "thirteen-bag tree" because it took 13 huge garbage bags to hold all the leaves from the tree every fall. The new owners cut down the big oak tree to make room for condominiums. Everyone from the whole block was watching when the tree was cut down. Afterwards, someone counted the rings: 150! The tree was a sapling in the 1850's when Abraham Lincoln-was a lawyer! What a history.