

PICTURE YOURSELF THERE

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING April 2011 Vol. 23 No. 5

For these stories, the students looked at pictures from UNICEF calendars. Most of the pictures showed children from around the world. The students pictured themselves in the scenes and wrote about them.

My family and I saw a girl and a donkey. We smell cherries and apples. It was a very hot day. I heard birds singing, while I was hugging the donkey.

I hugged the donkey because he was cute, soft, and friendly. On this day I felt happy and loved.

This was at the petting zoo. The donkey I love to pet him. My mom was excited that I pet the donkey.

By Judit L. (3rd gr.)

We see that two boats are about to shoot at each other or fight each other like pirates, so we rescued them. This river was the Mississippi River. The people described what happened, that they were scared, so we helped them, and we felt happy we helped them.

By Tomas (5th gr.) and his tutor Joey

Me and my family were walking through the mountains. I feel the wind on my face and smell the fresh air. We came to some girls that are taking care of their animals. They were not expecting us. My mom had an idea to take a picture for our family album. The setting was perfect because the wind was blowing through the trees. After the picture, they invited us for a meal.

By Myreanna S. (5th gr.)

BLUEBERRY FARM

When we were at Blueberry Farm we read the dictionary on hay. Around us there were pigs. The pigs were pink, fat, old, and fun to play with. We can smell all the animals in the barn. The hay felt hard and pointy. I heard a cow mooing.

A bus brought me to Blueberry Farm. The bus was hot and crowded. When I got to Blueberry Farm, I was tired.

Bob brought us to the hay stack. He read us the dictionary. There were many difficult words I didn't know.

After we read the dictionary we took a nap.

When we woke we ate pizza.

By Guadalupe (6th gr.)

WORKING ON WOOD

I am in this place where it is so hot and warm. I see a boy learning how to carve wood into the shape of a human. His father is helping him. They look like they have been working for a long time, because the man looks like he is sweating. I can hear the pattern knock of wood going tap, tap, tap, tap. The only reason I am really here is because my family is taking a vacation around the world. We happened to stop in Africa. The boy looked like he was finished after an hour. I asked him if I can see it. He let me. This thing was really neat. Finally we have to leave this place. It was really interesting to see this.

By Bsrat (6th gr.)

CAMEL STORY

I am Devion and I am so happy to see my camel. A few days ago I lost my camel, and by the way, my camel's name is Gathalupe and it's a girl. When she ran away she was following a camel man. I looked all over the farm as she was not there. So I asked my mom if she saw my camel, and we found our camel in the neighborhood and with the camel man.

By Edgar R. (5th gr.)

Once my family and I went to Africa in a plane. When I got to Africa I met two siblings. The siblings were taking their goats for a walk. They invited me to go with them. I took my brother with me and together we walked the goats with the two siblings. On our walk, one goat ran away. We started running after the goat after we tied the other goats to a tree. The goat that ran away hid behind the tree but my brother saw it. We made a plan. We approached the goat from both sides so we could catch it. And we caught it. And then we got a rope and put it around his neck. Then we went back to the other goats and untied them from the tree. Then we all walked home.

By Anahi M. (6th gr.)

The boy's dad is teaching him how to roller skate. They are in the parking lot. The dad is helping him stand up. I would laugh because he fell. It will smell like some one farted. The weather is hot and sunny. There are cars driving by. I got there by driving. I am teaching the boy how to skate.

By Darryl Y. (3rd gr.)

BRAVE JOURNEY

This place I've never been in before is a very beautiful sight. This place where I've never been is so disorganized I think because it has all different kinds of plants and animals all over the place. Perhaps some people wouldn't call this place safe.

I wonder how did I get to this place, but I know. This might sound a little funny, but I jumped out of an airplane that was 1,280 ft. from the ground. This is my journey I am trying to achieve, a little "scared," but I still have to achieve it.

So when I came to the ground there was a little bridge, but I still had to watch out for my surroundings, because I didn't know what to expect. But when I stayed there just standing there like a statue, it was a smell that I couldn't get rid of, and it smelled like blossoms and palm trees and red roses.

But then finally facing my fears of the bridge so high up in the air, brave and courageous climbing up the ladder of the bridge, stepping one at a time, running but terrified, luckily I made it to the other side with nobody there with me, so "brave" and proud. I know it seems like a boring journey, but I loved it and I would want to try it again.

By Andre T. (11th gr.)

When I was taking my brother's baby girl to my house, then I left her with my grandma and did judo with my friends. After that I bought food for my family. I found shoes, but they were in my closet. Once I lost my brother's baby girl in my home, but I found her in my sister's closet. Then I carried her to my brother's house.

By Aman B. (5th gr.)

My family is very important to me, especially my parents. They work in a super spy agency.

It was a normal day, when out of nowhere some guys in black kidnapped me, my brothers, and sisters. We tried to scream for help, but it was too late. They had given us a shot of unknown liquids so we wouldn't wake up. By the time I woke up I was pushed out of a plane.

My brothers, sisters, and I were all separated. I was running like crazy trying to find out what had happened and where my brothers and sisters were. It was hot. It looked like it was about to rain. My feet hurt because I was wearing sandals on the rocks. I was sweaty and thirsty. When I saw a sign, I saw one of my brothers standing there. I ran to him. I was so glad I saw him. I asked him where the others were, but he had no clue. I told him that it would be best if we just stood there waiting for them to see us. We were looking around and the only thing we saw were rocks, a reddish mountain, and an abandoned building. Me and my brother could hear some screaming for help, so my brother and I were yelling, "Over here! Over here!" We saw that it was both of our two brothers. We and reunited with each other except one of my sisters. We couldn't find her so we just stood there until she found us.

We had waited and waited and waited a long time until my sister saw us. She was crying -- of happiness, happiness that she had found us. At last we were all reunited.

Now we needed to find a way out of there. So we made some "Help" signs with rocks we found. We were waiting for someone to find us. We had heard

some kind of strange noise. We heard it get louder and louder. It was a helicopter. We were all happy. When the helicopter got down we saw both our parents. We were all happy to see each other again. We were happy to get back home again. My parents wanted to look for the persons that did this to us. Five days later they had found them. My parents had put them in jail for kidnapping. After they went to jail our lives were semi-normal for us, since our parents are spies.

By Ambar A. (10th gr.)

When I was 6 years old, my cousins and I wanted to go fishing. We started to get ready, so we got the poles from the room where all the fishing supplies were. Then we got the two buckets and then we went to ask our parents for permission and they said "yes." So our parents gave us money to buy worms at the fishing store. We all walked down the street to get to the lake. It was a sunny Sunday morning. It was a nice day to be by the lake. We put the worms on the hooks and cast into the water. In 16 minutes my cousins and I caught 26 fish. Then we took the fish home and my mom cooked us a nice delicious dinner.

By Jaime F. (7th gr.)

One day, I went on a field trip to a nature preserve. We saw white-tailed deer, so close that we could almost touch them! One of the deer walked up to me and nodded hello.

It was hot outside. I put on my pink hat to block the sun. I was scared at first, but then I wasn't. I had a great time. By Ariana T (4th gr.) and her tutor, Sarah 3

When I was in this country I felt happy because I saw a lot of things. I also saw a little baby and his dad. His dad was teaching the baby how to walk, and his dad was happy, and the little baby was wearing a kind of hat. The dad was sitting in a chair. There are two chairs in the grass. The baby is happy. The baby's name is Sammy. They live in Mexico. The weather is hot and it smells like candy, and it was fun in the country. The baby's hat looks funny and it looks red. The baby's T-shirt is blue and white, and the baby's shoes are white, just like the socks. The baby's mouth is closed. The dad was wearing two rings, one on his right hand and one on the left hand. He was talking to the baby and said, "You are good."

By Josephine A. (3rd gr.)

One day there was a windy day. It was so hot. It looks like I was sweating and it was early in the morning, and they was so dirty and ashy and it was a plant growing even if it was hot. It smelled like dirt, and I was with my family planting dead plants, even though it was hot.

By Summone (4th gr.)

I see deer, trees, grass, leaves. I could smell nature. I could feel wind. I hear the deer, birds. I am going camping or going on a trip. I would feed the deer. I would be watching the deer. Before the scene she was feeding the deer and after the scene she was going home.

By Jamileth D. (5th gr.)

TWO KIDS ON A FARM

One day a girl and boy, Michael and Stefany, both like to take care of animals. In the morning all of a sudden they heard a screaming animal. They got up and ran to the animal and saw the animal was hurt. It was sad because there was no hospital around their home. They got the animal's leash and took it home to take care of. When it was fixed, Michael and Stefany were very happy. They promised each other to take care of their animals.

By Salina (3rd gr.)

When I went out to the ocean I saw a pretty sight. I smelled the fresh ocean breeze going to my face. As we were going I feel a chill going down my back. It felt like someone's hot, hot breath was going down my neck. When I looked up, it was my brother Cortez.

It was hot with no moisture. I heard the wave hitting my yacht. I had won the lottery and bought a yacht. I wanted to test drive my new boat.

We are all sleeping because it was a long ride, and everyone was tired. We were going to go home to go to sleep.

By Cordell (7th gr.)

When I was four I had fond memories about playing with Dad. I loved his colorful shirt. He always made me smile, and he goes to work to get money for the family. And we would always sit on the sofa, playing and having fun for hours. Now that I am older I have too much homework and spend less time with my dad.

By Kedus K. (4th gr.) (*edited*)

LION ISLAND

One day a kid went house to house asking kids, "Hey, you want to go to an island?" The other person said, "OK." Ten kids want to go. "Are you ready to go?" "Yes!!!" "OK, let's go."

They went to a plane. That's his plane. The kid was so excited for the trip. Then they are on the plane. They started to fly. They fly and fly and fly away! They went up and up. Then ---AHHHH--they got crashed on an island.

"Ouch, ouch," said the kids. The man said, "Are you OK?" "Oh, my gosh! We landed on an island." They looked. There is an animal right next to a tree. "On no," the man said. "Do not come right next to it." "Oh, it's a lion." "Be careful." "OK." "Oh, no!" "Rooaaar," said a lion.

They ran and ran, faster and faster, to a tree. "Wow! That was close," and they rested for a little minute.

The man said, "Let's go. We need to find the way out, OK?" The kids said, "Let's run." "Why?" "There is a lion." "Not again!" "Run!"

"Oh wait. The lion got hurt." "Oh no. Let's go for help." "Oh, he just got a nail." "Oh no." "There it is." "OK."

The lion said, "Hello!" "What! You could talk?" "Yes," said the lion. Then they find the way out. They saw the water by the nice island. "Oh, no," said the lion. "What happened?" "The war is today." "Hello, King Lion. What do you want?" "I want to have a war." The man said, "Wow! Kids, let's go." We found the plane. "Can I see you again?" "Yes," said the lion.

By Brayant S. (5th gr.) (*punctuation added*)

I see children jumping up and down at a beach. I smell fresh air. I feel the dirt on my feet. There is nice weather at the beach.

I hear people talking and playing around. I walked to the beach from my house. I went to the beach because I didn't want to go to tutoring. I was playing volleyball and football with some friends. My friends said, "Good job," when I was playing volleyball. My friend scored the final point to win the game. Then we went somewhere and we talked for a little while. I told my friends that I had to go. Then I went to tutoring.

By Andrew T.

I saw the kids jumping and two kids holding the rope. The jumping girl was having fun because she likes to jump. Because it's hot outside the girl is wearing shorts. She doesn't need shoes. Two girls have the same hair. It looks like the jump rope is a Chinese jump rope. I used to play that kind of Chinese jump rope.

They like to play basketball because they have a basket hoop. They ride the motorcycle.

The clothes were drying outside. The wires on the building provide apartment electricity. I used to live in a similar building.

LilyAnn B. (7th gr.)

People like to play jump rope with people, and they like to hop over the rope. The girls play together. The girls and their neighbors did their laundry together.

By Shkreara P. (4th gr.)

THE WAY HOME

There is a girl chasing another girl down the road. I see houses, kids, cables, poles, birds, and clothes lines. Outside it's sunny and windy. I watch as two girls chase each other down the street. There are two kids. One of them is looking at the sky and one of them is looking at the girls run. I see the girls and I want to run with them. We run down the street where people are watching. I run until I can run no more. I stop and I don't know where I am. I would remember the way that I ran. I got to find my way home because it's getting dark. I find my way back home. I see the two babies, the clothes line, and the boards. I know now that I am home.

By Arturo P. (5th gr.)

Last year, I went to India with my family. It was a festival. There were flying lions! And giant pigs! Horses with two legs! And a camel with two heads.

Then I saw a pig that was giant, and had four heads. He could fly, with giant wings, and fire out of his mouth. He burned a lot of people but they became super heroes.

And the horse built a city, and saved people. They gave their powers to kids. I got a power, it was fire breathing.

That was my trip to India.

By Diego M. (3rd gr.)

I see a horse on a farm. I hear all the animals. I smell the pigs. Outside it is hot. My family is on vacation. We are petting the horse. *By Sheila M. (3rd gr.)

When I went to Africa I went to a part with a lot of mountains and rocks. I was riding my bike. I saw a lot of rocks. It smelled humid. It was really hot. I heard a lot of birds. I came here on a trip. I went back home to sleep.

By Everado L. (3rd gr.)

The clowns look like circus clowns, and they look funny. The clown on the left looks like 5 years old. And the guy on the right looks like 18 years old.

By Awat G. (4th gr.)

Once there were three girls. They loved chickens. Their father worked at a farm full of chickens. They begged to have a chicken and they bought one with their allowance. Sophie and Tori bought one for each of themselves. They have chickens as pets and they take care of all the chickens.

By Senite B. (3rd gr.)

In my country it is very hot, and the camel is really slow, and I had to ride on it. My mom was way behind trying to catch up, and my dad was leading us and the camel!! I was sitting on our house, or building materials, as you would say. I can't speak very much English, but I like to learn different languages. We move a lot, so we meet a lot of new people, and I am definitely used to building a new house. We have a camel that we always use to put our things on. We don't have enough money to buy shoes. We are kind of poor, but when we move somewhere we always have a nice environment surrounding us.

By Karah P. (5th gr.)

FISHING

Families are going on a fishing trip. I know they are going on a trip with the tent and a net. They are fixing the net so they can get some fish. The father is with his kids. The father has a knife to kill animals for supper.

By Yaheim S. (4th gr.)

Me and my family were riding on our horses. My horse was cute and brown. My horse was so fast. It was a cold and cloudy day. It was quiet outside. My little brother was riding on a horse with my dad.

By Keily F. (5th gr.)

When we went to visit our family, we went to see them on horses. It was 7 o'clock and it was chilly. We felt the fresh air on our faces. We were traveling by a dirt road surrounded by mountains and grass. We only heard the horses' hooves. The father and his son were on a brown horse, while I was on a white horse. We were coming from our house down the road.

By Leslie A. (8th gr.)

When I was little I used to play in the snow. I saw snow angels. I smelled wood burning because my dad started the fire place. It was a very cold day. I heard children's voices. On this day I felt sad because a snow ball hit me. I was at my friend's house in the front yard. I was playing with my friends. We had a snow ball fight. Before this happened I was sleeping. After that, I was so tired, and I went to sleep.

By Leoncio M. (3rd gr.)

I was spending a day outside in my home of South America. Everywhere I look I see farm animals. It is a hot day outside, and I am going to feed my sheep.

With food in my hand, I enter the barn and see that my baby sheep is gone! I hear all of the other farm animals around me, but not my sheep!

I walk outside of the farm to look for my sheep. I had the food in my hand to try and find him. I ask my mom, "Have you seen my sheep?" But my mom did not know.

Then I walk upstairs in my bedroom, and I find my sheep lying in my bed! I laugh, and am so glad I found him!

By Jennifer S. (6th gr.) and her tutor Gillian

When I was little my parents had little money, and we were living in a hay kinda house, on the streets. Once me and my family, such as my sister and dad, were making objects to make money for food. In my country, we were very poor. I was in my father's love and protection. There's much heat out here, and I hear birds singing. Before we were eating what was left in our food storage. Now we're working for more food. Everyone is saying, "The king is coming," and everyone is joyous, including myself, here in Africa.

By Lamarr S. (5th gr.)

There are lots of kids, moms, and dads in a pool. There is a boy named Bob jumping off the diving board. It is very sunny and nice. Bob is jumping into the pool where there are a lot of kids. Bob looks happy. Dictated to his tutor by Isaac R. (1st gr.) 7

When I was fighting the Americans, I saw gun powder all over the places where they were shooting at us. And I heard guns booming and people screaming, and I was trying to protect my fellow Indians. This was our last stand against the Americans. And we can't let Chief Black Hawk down because when Chief Pyesa died we had to make it up to him, because he means a lot to us. I duck my head to avoid the Americans' gun powder, but I felt kind of dizzy. My troops had been fighting for months and months, but we got over it.

The village or land had been ours for five years, and we really loved it. We loved our people, houses, foods, and rituals. But the Americans were trying to take it from us and we had to stop them before they took it. If we were going to lose, we weren't going to lose without a fight. So I ran up the hill trying to protect my land and my people, but that was the last image I saw.

By Tomas T. (5th gr.)

I saw a kid named Doug who lived in Papua/New Guinea. Every year he and his family had a celebration to celebrate their culture. He waited all year for it. They play games, eat a lot of food, dance, have a big fire, sing songs, and spin sticks of fire. It's finally time for the celebration, and Doug and his father painted their faces and put on traditional clothes and head pieces. And Doug and his father danced, and the father got to sing a song that Doug likes.

By Kevin A. (5th gr.)

They are sitting on the sand. They are teaching the children how to build a tent and how to start over again if the tent falls down. They finish building the tent. They are happy that they finished with the tent. It was hot when I was sitting down on the sand. I hear the wind when I was sitting down. I was at my friend's place learning how to make a tent, if I ever want to make one.

By David R. (6th gr.) 39

In India they are very intelligent because they do jars that are very pretty and decorative. If I was there I will draw animals and will give it to the people that are poor and will give it with water because a lot of people can't walk so other people have to help. I will love to donate things so that they don't have to be like everyone else.

By Marleny R. (4th gr.)

Once when I was walking down the street I got hit by a car. Then I woke up and I was inside a small hut. Outside the hut there were three people. Two were kids and one was a man. They were about to go fishing because they had a net with them and they were sitting in the sand weaving the net. I tried to talk to them in English, and they understood me. I asked them where I was and how I got there. They told me I was dreaming and once I went to sleep and I woke up, I would be back home. And guess what? I woke up and I was back home.

By Gerardo G. (7th gr.)

MY TRIP TO AFRICA

When I was in Africa with my two cousins, they lived on a goat farm. It was really hot and dry. I could barely breathe. Some winds occurred, but only by the hut. The hut was very old-fashioned and had sticks for a structure and cloth over it at night when it got cool. While I was there I heard many sounds, like lions roaring so loud from the mountain peak.

My cousins and I woke up the next day after my arrival when my aunt told us to go walk the goats, which was really weird, since I was from the United States of America. After a while the goats had eaten all of the leaves off of all the trees. We stood in the shade while they steadily ate.

We took the leaf-eating goats home to the hut and tied them up to a tree close by. It was a long day, so I went to bed, and the next morning I went home.

By Karah P. (5th gr.)

I took the plane to China. I like to be there because they have animals and people. I wanted to see the bull. Some kids wanted to wash him. I saw this Chinese dude in the water. The Chinese dude wanted to hold the rope. I hear the bull screaming so loud. I'm going to feel scared because they are going to kill him and eat him or sell him.

By Mario D. (5th gr.) *(Sentences re-ordered by tutor.)*

This dude had a bike and his son sit on the bike. They don't have shoes to walk, and he has food. The man has a hat and they are in the forest. I see people in the background. He is bringing food for his family. The child is 4 years old.

By Mario D. (5th gr.)

When I went with my dad, I got to the bike and my dad told me that we were going to the market to sell our white rice. When I got on the back of the bike I felt the cold wind pass by my face. One thing that I don't like is that my dad has to suffer because we are so poor that he can't buy a pair of shoes.

When we got to the market we sold all of our white rice. So I was happy about it, but I really wanted a mango, but I remembered that my dad needed shoes. So then I told my dad instead of buying me a mango why don't you buy a pair of shoes. Then my dad looked at my face. He was so happy! So when he looked at me, I gave him a happy face. I also told my dad that we still have money left to buy food for my mom and brother.

By Fredy F. (7th gr.)

WHEN I WAS IN AFRICA

When I was in Africa I saw lots of animals. But then I met my friends. I had a lot of fun there. We played a lot of things there like soccer and tag. But the most fun was when we used to climb up trees and played a game called "Who can say the longest time." We played in the hot, hot sun. Some of us would be soooo sweaty. But still we had lots of fun there. So right now I'm sending a letter. So bye!

By Jonathan D. (4th gr.)

These two girls are twins. They live in China. They are talking. I think they're having a professional picture taking. I think they are sitting on newspapers so their clothes don't get dirty.

By Ariana T. (4th gr.)

SEEING JOY IN THE EYES OF CHILDREN

It was in the middle of summer. It was really hot. People are trying to cool themselves by fanning and pouring water on themselves. Kids are playing around looking very happy. The ground is very hot and dangerous in which the kids are walking bare foot. Girls are running around playing with their friends. All the houses around are damaged with broken bricks. There are clothes hanging out to dry. The mothers are cooking. It smells very good and makes everyone want to eat, but no one can eat yet because it is not time for lunch. There is not a lot of food, so everyone has to wait until everyone else comes to the lunch room.

I am observing, visiting the town. I can see the kids are very happy jumping around, but the parents don't seem happy. The reason for this is that they are worried. What is going to happen to their kids if they don't have enough food to feed them or enough money to care for them? As they see me they are hoping that I can help them. They greeted and welcomed me with friendly smiles, and I am sitting down trying to listen to their stories so that I may help them with what I can.

By Frehiwet N. (12th gr.)

Mother's Day is here. I was nervous. What if my mom didn't like the shells I was going to give her? All these weeks I was hiding them really carefully, so that she didn't find them. I was trying to find a box or something to wrap it. She was at the river washing our clothes.

Whenever there is a special day, we have to wear special clothes so people know what is going on. Where I live it is pretty hot, and when it rains all the kids go outside and play with the water. My mom is really pretty. She is wearing a white crown on her head. My dad gave it to her.

When flowers grow it smells really good. I heard my mom's voice talking to her friend. I hid her present and when she came in, I gave it to her. She was really happy and started kissing me. I asked her if she liked them. She said she did. I was really happy. She liked the shells I gave her.

By Yulisa R. (8th gr.)

In my country I am small, like 10 years old. I go to school but I have to walk there. I have a mom and dad. They teach me lots of stuff. My dad teaches me how to ride a camel, and my mom teaches me how to cook, clean, and clean the camel.

By MaryAnn Bailey (6th gr.)

For these stories, the students looked at pictures from UNICEF calendars. Most of the pictures showed children from around the world. The students pictured themselves in the scenes and wrote about them.