

Mentor Texts: Grades 2-5

Iman Abdullah, Grade 2, 826NYC

Iman Abdullah is a seven-year-old who attends PS 39 in Brooklyn, New York. She loves to read, write nonfiction, and spend time with her family and friends.

Marvin, Grade 5, 826CHI

Marvin lives in Chicago. Marvin likes to play video games and is really good at soccer. He wishes for money and if he could have any superpower, it would be teleportation. When Marvin grows up, he wants to be a lawyer or a YouTuber.

Alexa, Age 9, 826michigan

Alexa, age nine, lives in a green house in Detroit. Her talent is that she can dribble the ball and make a goal. She lives with one sister, one brother, and three dogs. Their names are Lucy, Princes, and Jager. Her writing process is: she first writes her ideas, then she just writes them in a story.

Keila, Age 9, 826michigan

Keila is a brilliant nine-year-old girl who was born in Honduras. Now she lives in Detroit, Michigan with her mom, dad, and a playful sister, and an awesome brother. Keila gets inspired when someone says “friendship” because she has a lot of friends. She is grateful for her hobbies and talents such as gymnastics, writing in a three-hundred-page notebook, and arts and crafts. Three words that describe Keila are talented, 100 percent rebel, and 99 percent flexible. Last of all, she likes to talk about Honduras.

Mentor Texts: Grades 6-8

Jabari Stephen, Grade 7, 826NYC

Jabari Stephen is a twelve-year-old boy who likes basketball and silly things. He has two brothers and a dog he loves very much.

Fernanda Zarazua Enriquez, Grade 6, 826 MSP

Fernanda Zarazua Enriquez is a sixth-grader who goes to Sandburg Middle School. She lives in a house with her family in the city of New Hope. She loves *Lilo & Stitch*, and her favorite color is pink. If she goes to college, she would like to pursue the arts or be a reporter. She enjoys writing because it has the power to calm people down and relax them. In her free time, she likes to spend it with friends and family. She likes to ice skate or play soccer. Her favorite food is steak and her mom's cooking.

Markiya Abrams, Grade 6, 826 MSP

Markiya Abrams is a sixth grader from Minneapolis. She loves a good romantic anime or K-drama—and she's watched them all! Markiya prefers Skittles over chocolate and likes to write stories where the characters have complex relationships.

Brian Michael Leiva, Grade 8, 826michigan

Brian Michael Leiva likes playing chess and also playing the violin. He wants to be a coder, an engineer, and an astronomer, so he spends his free time trying to figure out which one he will go for.

Mentor Texts: Grades 9-12

Rowan Yordy, Grade 9, 826michigan

When they aren't writing, Rowan likes reading and doing aerial arts. They hope that their poem inspires people to see the strength, freedom, and beauty in everything. They believe with great passion that freedom is a human right that everyone should be granted.

Salma Khalif, Grade 12, 826 MSP

Salma Khalif is a graduate of South High School and is now a freshman at the University of Minnesota majoring in computer science. She's been writing short stories on the side since she was a child with a huge passion for literature. In the next few years, Salma hopes to publish more. She has a huge interest in Multicultural Black Diaspora Literature, which has led to her minoring in Black/African Studies.

Rayne Clark, Grade 11, 826 New Orleans

Rayne Clark was born in Tampa, Florida, and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She loves art, deep conversation, and plants/animals. Her favorite part of writing is being able to say/express what she normally couldn't. When she attends college, they're going to major in literature arts. One interesting fact about her is that she loves *American Horror Story*.

Carlos Ramirez, Grade 9, 826 Valencia

Carlos Ramirez was born in San Francisco. He is 15 years old. He likes to play sports and listen to music. He is also a hard worker. Someday, he hopes to be a successful entrepreneur and own his own business or home. Carlos is on the Youth Leadership Advisory Board and loves to write. Tacos and quesadillas are his favorite kind of food, and he can't get enough of them.

Brainstorming Questions

Choose at least 5 of the questions below to answer—you don't have to answer all of them! Only choose the questions that are relevant or important to you.

1. **Describe your pets.** What kind of pet(s) do you have? What is their name? What makes them special to you?
2. **Tell your readers a little about where you live.** Do you live in a house, an apartment? Do you live next to a park? (Don't share your address though!)
3. **Who do you live with?** Aunts, uncles, grandparents, siblings?
4. **What is your favorite food and why?** Describe using sensory language.
5. **What are your favorite sports or activities?** Soccer, dancing, singing, martial arts?
6. **What is your favorite way to spend a Saturday?**
7. **What community or communities are you a part of?**
8. **What do you enjoy OR find hard about writing?**
9. **What high school, college, or career do you hope to pursue?**
10. **Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that you haven't already been asked about.**

Your Bio

Choose 3-4 facts about yourself from page 4 and write your bio below. Remember to use third-person pronouns (she, he, they, your first name). Try to keep your bio to 5 sentences.

How would you like your name to appear with your piece of writing? Circle one option below and then write out your name in that format. (Example: Your name is Magdalena Sanchez, but you'd like your name to appear as M. Sanchez. You would circle option c and write "M. Sanchez" in the space below option c.)

- A. Full first and last name (Example: Magdalena Sanchez)
- B. Shortened first name with full last name (Example: Magda Sanchez)
- C. First initial with full last name (Example: M. Sanchez)
- D. First name with last initial (Example: Magdalena or Magda S.)
- E. First name only (Magdalena or Magda)
- F. Anonymous (your name is not included at all.)