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Voices Across Generations

Volume Two

A Collaboration Between
Black Elk Elementary Third Grade and
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Educational Leadership
Graduate Program

Voices Across Generations: Volume Two

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We would like to acknowledge the support and enthusiasm of all partners including the UNO Service Learning Academy and staff, Royale Oaks Assisted Living residents and staff, Millard Public Schools students and leadership, and UNO College of Education Leadership Department students and staff.

We enjoyed our time together and we hope you enjoy this collection of our shared lessons.

Sincerely,

Danielle Elsasser, Tami Williams, & Amy Zeller

Spring 2019 Participants:

Annie	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Brice	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Eloise	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Eula	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Eugene	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Kay	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Kip	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Ollie	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Patti	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Trudy	Royale Oaks Senior Resident
Amy	UNO Ed Leadership Grad Student
Angela	UNO Ed Leadership Grad Student
Eric	UNO Ed Leadership Grad Student
Abby	Black Elk Elementary Student
Aliah	Black Elk Elementary Student
Anthony	Black Elk Elementary Student
Cale	Black Elk Elementary Student
Dominic	Black Elk Elementary Student
Eli	Black Elk Elementary Student
Ellie	Black Elk Elementary Student
Gary	Black Elk Elementary Student
Grant	Black Elk Elementary Student

Hudson	Black Elk Elementary Student
Ireland	Black Elk Elementary Student
Karlie	Black Elk Elementary Student
Lennon	Black Elk Elementary Student
Lilah	Black Elk Elementary Student
Logan	Black Elk Elementary Student
Malachi	Black Elk Elementary Student
Marco	Black Elk Elementary Student
Olivia	Black Elk Elementary Student
Rylan	Black Elk Elementary Student
Spencer	Black Elk Elementary Student
Sydney	Black Elk Elementary Student
Zain	Black Elk Elementary Student

Preface

Dear Reader,

From whom do you seek wisdom? Who do you share your insights with? In activities with multiple generations, new perspectives of information and insight can be shared through conversation and activity. This is exactly what we learned this spring in our 2019 collaborative activity with senior residents, graduate students, and 3rd graders.

In the following pages, you will read advice acrostic and “I Am” poems from the senior residents at Royale Oaks Assisted Living near 50th and Ames Street. You will read “I am” poems from the Black Elk Elementary 3rd grade students, near 180th and Harrison Street. Lastly, the graduate students in University of Nebraska at Omaha Educational Leadership Department connected with the seniors and served as scribes for the seniors’ letters back and forth with the Black Elk students. Sprinkled throughout the text, you will see their reflection and insight. Age does not define wisdom as you will read.

I am Grant

By Grant, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am 8 years old
I wonder does everybody work together?
I hear birds tweeting
I see the world
I want world peace
I am a boy
I pretend to be a miner
I feel my hand touch my face
I touch this paper
I worry about my house
I cry when I am hurt
I am a person I understand other people
I say be brave
I dream my dream
I try to get a trophy
I hope to achieve my dream
I am a Bilka



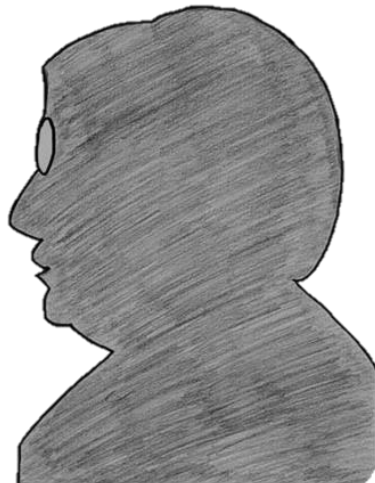
I am Eula

By Eula, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a Christian
I wonder what school
I hear boys talking
I see pictures on the wall
I want to live with my children
I am eighty-one years old

I pretend to be a preacher
I feel O.K.
I touch a hand
I worry about friends
I cry when I am happy
I am baptized

I understand children's needs and wants to learn
I say Amen
I dream about God and Jesus
I try to treat everyone equal
I hope to go to heaven
I am proud of children



I am Me

By Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a believer in Christ
I wonder if I will go to heaven
I hear gospel
I see a new church
I want my sons
I am blessed

I feel good
I touch a new testament in my blood
I worry about where I live
I cry when I am sad

I understand experience
I say thank you
I dream about freedom
I try the New Testament Church
I hope I go to heaven
I am a believer in Christ

“This connection they are building, builds our community. With care and kindness, we see a community that is strong and dedicated to one another.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Aliah

By Aliah, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a daughter
I wonder how many people are in the world
I hear birds singing
I see my friends
I want a rainbow mermaid tail
I am a sister
I pretend to like math
I feel happy
I touch slime
I worry about my sister
I cry when my sister is mean to me
I am the oldest
I understand how to light a light bulb
I say I'm sorry a lot
I dream of going to Paris someday
I try to do good in math
I hope to be a teacher someday
I am me



I am Gary

By Gary, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a 3rd-grade student
I wonder why does the earth spin
I hear a lot on the news
I see things in the dark
I want to go to Disney Land
I am an eight-year-old

I pretend to like soccer
I feel happy when I write
I touch Sharpies because of there smell
I worry that Grant will move
I cry at very good books
I am a brother

I understand electricity
I say ok a lot
I dream that I am seeing a waterfall
I try to play the violin
I hope to be a good violinist
I am me



I am Logan

By Logan, Black Elk Elementary Student

I'm a brother.
I wonder how many stars there are.
I hear my sister screaming my sister.
I see school when I get out the house
I want my dads knee to get better
I am 9 years old
I pretend I can fly
I feel at home
I touch my gecko
I worry about max he is important to me
I cry at sad movies
I am happy it's my birthday
I understand reading
I say hi to neighbors
I dream about Christmas
I try my best in math
I hope I get what I want
I am not allergic to anything



I am Eli

By Eli, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a brother
I wonder about the future
I hear my dog barking
I see my friends
I am a student
I pretend me and my brother are ninja turtles
I feel happy
I touch my dogs fur
I worry about my family
I cry when someone dies
I am a good basketball player
I understand basketball
I say good stuff
I dream about my dog
I try to be kind
I hope to be good in basketball
I am me



Your Senior Buddy

By Royale Oaks Senior Residents

Your Senior Buddy
Entertaining, joyful, and fearful
Who grew up in Omaha
Who loves happiness, games, and smiles
Who feels joy about others
Who gives happiness, love, and kindness
Who fears anger, depression, and death
Who'd like to see other people
Who dreams of happiness
Your Senior Buddy

Your Senior Buddy
Helpful, joyous, and happy
Who grew up in Omaha
Who loves going to the store for shoes, and dresses
Who feels happiness about children
Who gives my service to others in the kitchen
Who makes sure others are happy
Who'd like to see the people around you doing well
Who dreams of my grandma
Your Senior Buddy

Your Senior Buddy
Happy, outgoing, and kind
Who grew up in Omaha
Who loves grandma, helping kids, and being remembered
Who feels respect about your history
Who gives advice, love, and kind words
Who dislikes California, Florida, and Texas
Who'd like to see my parents
Your Senior Buddy

Your Senior Buddy
Short, thin, funny
Who grew up in Omaha
Who loves cats, people, and shopping
Who feels chilly and cold
Who gives fun, happiness, and story
Who fears police, security, and fire
Who'd like to see the Mall of America
Who dreams of family
Your Senior Buddy

Your Senior Buddy
Honest, determined, and successful
Who grew up in Iowa
Who loves kids, self, and life
Who feels caring about everything
Your Senior Buddy

“It is important to remember that every interaction matters when dealing with parents, families and the greater community.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

Study

By Royale Oaks Senior Resident

S - stay in school

T - try hard to pass tests

U -understand what you're reading

D - discipline yourself

Y - yes to all opportunities

“I think anytime you work with others it is a worthwhile exchange. We learn and grow as people throughout these type of experiences. The seniors get to interact with young students and older students and seem to enjoy the opportunity and the attention. Young students get to have an experience within the community that they may not have ever had on their own time. Graduate students get to experience a service learning opportunity within the community.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Spencer

By Spencer, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a kid.
I wonder if math is really hard when i get older?
I hear silence.
I see kids.
I want to be at the sea.
I am a brother.
I pretend i am a knight.
I feel happy.
I touch a soft bed.
I worry when people get hurt
I cry when i get hurt.
I am a happy kid.
I understand when animals die.
I say sorry
I dream i am at the beach
I try to not to be hurt.
I hope for I live for a long time
I am a wonderful kid



Security

By Royale Oaks Senior Resident

S - sacrifice

E - economic planning

C - count on yourself and your skills

U - us is stronger than I (work with each other)

R - reach for your goals and resist temptations

I - I will stick to my project

T - teamwork!

Y - you are responsible for your own self

“While investing parts of my class time at Royal Oaks Assisted Living Center and spending time with the residents there, I can see the impact that schools have on them. Seniors and elementary students are pen pals. The residents can see the care that these students put into the project and the joy and excitement the children have with writing these letters and spending time with them.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

“Education leaders must build and sustain productive relationships with families and other community partners in the government, non-profit, and private sectors. Effective leaders recognize and appreciate the community’s diverse cultural, social, and intellectual resources.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Hudson

By Hudson, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a brother
I wonder how big the sun is?
I hear Mrs. Elsasser talking
I see my dog when I get home from school
I want 100\$
I am a younger brother

I pretend to like soccer
I feel happy at basketball
I touch a controller
I worry about my family
I cry when a dog dies
I am a YouTuber

I understand Mrs. Elsasser
I say got him a lot
I dream about winning 1,000,000,000,000\$
I try to get better at basketball
I hope to get better at basketball
I am myself!



I am Rylan

By Rylan, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a little sister
I wonder how many mountains are in the world
I hear crickets chirping
I see the sun
I want to be a mom when I grow up
I am a kid
I pretend to be a teacher at home
I feel happy
I touch the grass
I worry about my dog
I cry when I get hurt
I am a friend
I understand when people are sad
I say I love you to my mom
I dream about unicorns in meadows
I try my best at math
I hope I get better at math
I am me



I am Trudy

By Trudy, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a little sister
I wonder how many stars are in the galaxy
I hear birds singing
I see people
I want a lot of money
I am happy

I feel excited
I touch a soft blanket
I cry when I am sad
I am pretty

I understand how to read
I say I love you
I dream about nothing
I try harder on things
I hope something bad doesn't happen
I am me

“As a potential future leader, I need to understand this role and embrace the opportunity to develop these relationships for the betterment of my school and future of my students.”
- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Ellie

By Ellie, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a basketball player
I wonder if there will ever be a flying car
I hear the wind and birds tweeting
I see the beautiful sun rise
I want to be a in home daycare person
I am a good student
I pretend that i like to go to my grandmas and grandpas
I feel free when i am outside
I touch the soft blanket
I worry that Emma is lonely at school
I cry when i get hurt
I am a big sister
I understand when i can't do things
I say have a good day
I dream i will play basketball for the patriots
I try to do my best
I hope to be a good person
I am ME!



I am Karlie

By Karlie, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a kid
I wonder why the world spins
I hear the fireplace crackle
I see trees outside
I want more time to wright
I am a sister
I pretend to like my brother's baseball games
I feel happiness at school
I touch my dog's soft fur
I worry about my brother
I cry when I am sad
I am kind
I understand my brother
I say "like" a lot
I dream of me flying
I try to get better at sports
I hope for lots more friends
I am myself!



I am Brice

By Brice, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am an old man
I wonder if I will live a long time
I hear life is pretty good
I see happy, joy, fear, crying
I want life to be a challenge
I am one man trying in this big ole world

I pretend to dance
I feel happy
I touch pickles
I worry it not coming
I cry when I am not on time
I am a poor black man

I understand failing
I say sure is beautiful coming down
I am trying to stay on top

“We are learning how to cultivate authentic relationships and putting into practice engagement strategies at the Royale Oaks Assisted Living. We are getting a chance to also recognize implicit biases within age, disabilities, and cultures.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Zain

By Zain, Black Elk Elementary Student

I Am 9 Years Old

I Wonder How The Electricity Goes Throw Wiers

I Hear Birds

I See My Teacher

I Want To Go To Hawaii

I Am Nice

I Pretend I Have imaginary Friend

I Feel Worried

I Touch My Table

I Worry When I Am Home Aloown

I cry When My Mom Gets Hurt

I Am A Good Freind

I UnderStand Math

I Say Hi a lot

I Dream That I Am Falling

I Try To Do A Slam dunk

I Hope I Don't Get Hurt

I Am A Realy Funny Person



I am Kip

By Kip, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a father
I wonder how many people live in Omaha
I hear a lot of people
I see some beautiful people
I want a lot of money
I am a good father

I pretend to like the food here
I feel good
I touch my warm blanket
I worry about my future
I cry about my family
I am a Veteran

I understand sports
I say thank you a lot
I dream I will be with my family again
I try to get along with people
I am Presbyterian

“We are shaping our world through every interaction whether we see the results or not. We as leaders recognized and appreciated the community’s diverse cultural, social, and intellectual resources through the different activities.”
- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Malachi

By Malachi, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a kid
I wonder if I will ever go back to Virginia?
I hear people at my house
I see my teacher
I want to see my best friend again
I am kind
I pretend to like my food sometimes
I feel happy
I touch a pencil
I worry about my family
I cry when I miss my friends
I am nice
I understand area and perimeter
I say Bye
I dream to visit China
I try new things
I hope to see my best friend
I am caring and smart



I am Sydney

By Sydney, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a daughter
I wonder who created books
I hear birds chirping
I see my teacher
I want Elvis Presley to be alive
I am a sister
I pretend to like football
I feel happy when I go to my friend's house
I touch my soft hair
I worry when I am about to get a shot
I cry at sad movies
I am a niece
I understand parallel and series electricity circuits
I say hi when I see someone I know
I dream about going to Paris
I try to stay positive
I hope we don't go into war again
I am a granddaughter



I am Ollie

By Ollie, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a mother
I hear what you hear
I see people's eyes
I want to see birds at a picnic
I am a grandmother
I went to Tech High School

I pretend I am an aunt
I feel great
I touch the soft chair
I worry so much
I cry at night
I am kind

I understand math
I say nice things
I dream about football
I try everything once
I hope everything is good
I am caring



I am Dominic

By Dominic, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a kid
I wonder if someone made the world's biggest cookie
I hear talking
I see books
I want more cookies
I am Catholic
I pretend to like granola bars
I feel happy
I touch blankets
I worry a lot
I cry in sad movies
I am a daydreamer
I understand books
I say party in the U.S.A.
I dream of dragons
I try to be good
I hope I'll live until 349
I am me!



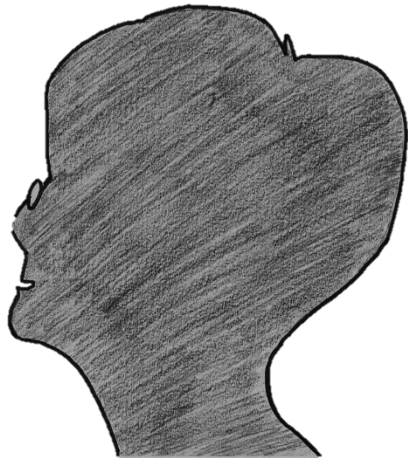
I am Patty

By Patty, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a woman
I wonder about bad things
I hear my cat calling me
I see everybody love one another
I want a lot of money
I am loved

I pretend that I am someone else
I feel happy
I touch my cat
I worry about bad things
I cry about sad things
I am strong

I understand about love
I say good words
I dream about my family
I try to do good things
I hope to see the ocean
I am myself



I am Ireland

By Ireland, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a sister
I wonder what it is like in other places
I hear a lot I see people
I want to draw
I pretend to be sad
I feel happy
I touch my desk
I worry if my dog will pass away
I cry when I am sad
I am kind
I understand art
I say nice things
I dream to go to El Salvador
I try to be good at golf
I try to be a better reader
I am me



I am Olivia

By Olivia, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a Kid
I wonder if I will be a good basketball player when I get older
I hear footsteps in the morning when I get up
I see my guinea pig every day
I want a pet dog
I am a basketball player
I pretend to like watching my sister's basketball games
I feel happy when my family is together
I touch my soft blankets
I worry about my family
I cry when I am sad
I am loved
I understand how to play soccer
I say hi a lot
I dream that one day I will go to Disneyland
I try to get better in school
I hope I will go to new york
I am me!



I am Eloise

By Eloise, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a restaurant girl
I wonder about food
I hear the people
I see a lot of people
I want to see you a good meal
I am a waitress

I pretend to be nice
I feel good when I see you
I touch people when I handshake
I worry about working too late
I cry when I have nobody
I am nice to my patients

I understand what they want to eat
I say thank you
I dream about all my people
I try in the kitchen
I hope to be on time
I am good at my job



I am Anthony

By Anthony, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a student at Black Elk.
I wonder why I'm not smart.
I hear my baby brother.
I see my friends.
I want my biological dad out of jail.
I am a big brother.
I pretend to like my sister sometimes.
I feel happy because my dad is coming home.
I touch my dog.
I worry about my dad, mom, and my stepdad.
I cry when my mom and stepdad fight.
I am artsy.
I understand what my grandma is going through.
I say love you to my family.
I dream of being a WWE wrestler.
I try my best at math.
I hope my grandma doesn't pass away.
I am thankful for life.



I am Eugene

By Eugene, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am funny
I wonder about everything
I hear children
I see Zain and Gary
I want a new car
I am a happy grandpa

I pretend I can't hear
I feel my hand
I touch my leg
I worry about the weather
I cry about nothing
I am a husband

I understand English
I say what
I dream about women
I try to be funny
I hope to have a lot of money
I am Gene!

“Leaders will need to be culturally knowledgeable about the families they are working with so that schools can create an inclusive and culturally responsible setting to reach all students and families.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Lennon

By Lennon, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a sister
I wonder how many people are in the world
I hear people talking
I want to live in a four-story house
I am a daughter
I pretend to be like my parents
I feel happy I touch my warm blankets
I worry about my dog and family
I cry about my older bro having to live in Lincoln
I am getting older
I understand life
I say please and thank you
I dream about mermaids and unicorns
I try my best at learning
I hope I'm in the same class as my friends
I am me



I am Lilah

By Lilah, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a sister
I wonder what it would be like if there was no life on Earth
I hear my friends writing
I see slime
I want less reading time
I am the oldest out of my siblings
I pretend I like dinosaur sets
I feel slime
I touch slime
I worry about my Great Uncle
I cry when I hear something sad happen to a family member
I am a daughter
I understand myself
I say I like fruits better than vegetables
I dream nothing
I try to get my business up and running
I hope to live a long time
I am a niece



I am Annie

By Annie, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a mom
I wonder how many stars are in the galaxy
I hear the birds chirping
I see my son
I want to still go to school
I am smart

I feel happy
I touch a soft blanket
I worry about nothing
I cry when I hit my arm
I am kind

I understand everything
I say I love Annie
I dream about people
I try to help people
I hope to entertain people
I am Annie Davis

“School and community connections are important. All people and systems benefit – directly and indirectly. As leaders, we need to steer our educational system in a positive direction if we are to steer our society in a positive direction.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Marco

By Marco, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a brother
I wonder if my sister will ever move out of our house
I hear a lot of yelling/drama at my house
I see a lot of videos
I want a sketchbook
I am a cousin

I pretend I am bad at video games
I feel a lot of things
I touch water cold as the titanic water
I worry about the red x appearing on my xbox
I cry when someone hurts my FEELINGS!!!!
I am a gamer

I understand a gamer's life
I say some nice stuff
I dream about nothing
I try to wreck people in Fortnite
I hope to be a true gamer
I am me!



I am Abby

By Abby, Black Elk Elementary Student

I am a miracle
I wonder how many galaxies there are?
I hear the birds chirping
I see feelings spread through the air
I want to feel the stars
I am 9 years old
I pretend to like crazyness
I feel my hand touching my fuzzy blanket
I touch my cold sheat
I worry I'm eating healthy
I cry because I'm very emotional
I am a bright student
I understand my sister (older)
I say Im funny
I dream to touch the stars
I try to be nice to my brother
I hope to get a bunny soon
I am Me!



I am Kay

By Kay, Royale Oaks Senior Resident

I am a grandma
I wonder how old I am
I hear a lot of voices
I see children
I want to get along with others
I am happy

I pretend to be nice
I feel happy
I touch those I care about
I worry about my family- sometimes
I cry about sad things
I am happy

I understand love
I say get along
I dream about everything
I try hard to please others
I hope for happiness and peace
I am happy

“We are shaping our world through every interaction whether we see the results or not. We as leaders recognized and appreciated the community’s diverse cultural, social, and intellectual resources through the different activities.”

- UNO Educational Leadership Student

I am Cale

By Cale, Black Elk Elementary Student

I AM A BOY.
I WONDER WHAT IT FEEL TO BE YOU.
I HEAR KIDS LAUGHING.
I SEE BEAUTY.
I WANT PEACE / LOVE.
I AM A BROTHER.

