

EVERY CHILD HAS A STORY PRESENTS



Youth Talk

The Writers Vibe magazine

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PHOTOS BY PEXELS

Welcome!

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EDITORIAL

BEVERLY JONES-DURR

Editor-In-Chief

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Creative Editor



I'd like to welcome you all to the fourth issue of Youth Talk magazine. This magazine serves as an extension of our non profit organization, Every Child Has a Story, Each issue is filled with articles and features written by some of the great youth authors and writers I've come to know working with our community youth. All of the articles have been written exclusively for the magazine.

Beverly Jones-Durr
Editor-In-Chief

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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meet
Lady Eloise Pedoto



A Christmas tale

By Lady Eloise Pedoto

Long ago on a dark starry night, a train was chugging through the night headed to the North Pole. On the train was a little girl with her parents, brothers, and her new little puppy. The little brother was bored so he asked for his Christmas coloring book. Then it started to get cold and the little girl asked her mom for her coat and some hot chocolate. All of a sudden the train stopped. When they looked out the window they were amazed to see that they were at the North Pole. The kids ran out towards the Grand Mistletoe Hotel to check in to the hotel and get settled in their room. Suddenly, an alarm went off and they heard a large crash as an avalanche of snow hit the hotel blocking all exits. The little boy started to cry in fear as he thought they were going to die, however, the brave little girl calmed him by singing his favorite Christmas song. The mommy reminded the kids that the hotel had plenty of food for them as they just needed to see this as a great adventure. After a quick snack the kids and mommy set off to explore the hotel. Off of one of the grand ballrooms was a balcony full of snow. The perfect spot for a family snowball fight. Then, to the delight of their ears, they heard a loud "Hurray" ring throughout the hotel. Expectantly, they went to the front door of the hotel to see that the snow had been cleared miraculously. Relieved the snow had been cleared, the whole family went to sleep excited about what the following day would hold for their family Christmas adventure. The children woke up to a wonderful sight. During the night, a Christmas tree had been set up complete with a working train which delivered the presents to each of the children's beds. Once all the presents were opened, the family packed everything up and headed home on the train after a grand adventure in the mountains.

meet
Lady Sophia Pedoto



A Christmas Cookie tale

By Lady Sophia Pedoto

Once upon a table set a cookie, a Christmas tree cookie if you please and a Christmas tree cookie if you don't please.

Sitting in the dark set the cookie feeling all delicious and sticky; just waiting to be devoured and in someone's tummy.

Three sets of eyes eyed the cookie, however only the dog came sniffing the countertop for a snack.

He hit the jackpot, a Christmas cookie, but just as he was about to take his long tongue to get the cookie he heard a sound.

Little footsteps echoing in a ball coming down the stairs. Dr. Indiana Jones, the dog, Joe for short, turned around to see spud the hamster.

The two of them, who were the best of buddies each stared at each other and then battled for the cookie. In the end they gave up all but bugs bunny.

meet
Kiah O. Warner



I would like to share this piece of artwork that I recently painted entitled "African Woman."

This piece could represent Kwanzaa, an annual celebration of African-American culture held from December 26th to January 1st. (Source: Wikipedia).

*ARTWORK IN THE NEXT PAGE

African Woman

By Kiah O. Warner



meet
Ayanna Williams



CHECK THE NEXT PAGES FOR
HER RECIPE!

Christmas for Ayanna!

By Ayanna Williams

The most important part of my family's Christmas. The most important part is on Christmas day when we sit downstairs and pick someone to pass out the gifts and open them all together. This is the best part because we tell jokes and stories and laugh together while we do this and also it's funny when people get frustrated because the person is moving too slow. We also usually go to my great grandma's house and eat and socialize with other people in our family, but unfortunately this year we're not going to be able to do that, but we will get to keep the best dessert ever all to ourselves. My family loves to eat my grandma's blackberry cobbler during the holidays. It has always been one of my favorite desserts and I always get excited when she tells us she's going to make it. Everybody else in my family loves it too. Now, usually I'd keep something so delicious and wonderful to myself, but I think everyone deserves to know how to make this dessert just like grandma and prepare for their taste buds to be elevated to a whole new level of flavorful enlightenment.

Eloise's (Meme) Fresh Blackberry Pie

Ayanna Williams



Eloise's (Meme) Fresh Blackberry Pie

Recipe submitted by Ayanna Williams

Ingredients

- 1 Cup of granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons of cornstarch (or all-purpose flour)
- ½ cup water
- 4 Cups of blackberries
- ½ stick of butter (4 tablespoons)
- ½ tsp of Vanilla Flavor
- 1 tsp of Vanilla Flavor
- 2 frozen pie crust (One for the bottom layer of the pan and one for the top)

Procedure

In a saucepan, dissolve 2 tablespoons of flour or cornstarch into ½ cup of water

Add 1 cup of sugar

Add 4 cups of blackberries and heat until sugar dissolves.

Add ½ stick of butter

Stir in ½ teaspoon of vanilla and 1 teaspoon of lemon flavor

Place mixture in bottom pie crust (Note: bake bottom crust until firm before adding filling)

Place top crust and lattice as desired

Bake at 375 degrees until the crust is golden brown. Butter top crust and serve with vanilla ice cream!

*Note: Substitute or mix in equal amounts of Blueberries as desired.

meet
Cornel and Tiara





meet Cornel and Tiana

Cornel is 13 years old and has been a contributor to youth Magazine. He is an active member in the young marines and the Huntsville Community Drumline. He has started his own business, Survive-n-style, selling paracord bracelets and t-shirts. Cornel also owns another business, Frozen Lemonade, along with his younger sister Tiana.

Tiana is 9 years old and also a contributor to Youth Magazine. She is a dancer and she is learning to play the Piano. She is also a spokesperson and the face for Driven2Read.org as Lil Tia characterized after Tia Norfleet the first American woman racecar driver in Nascar. She also has her own business, Miss Tea, that sells mugs, and water bottles.

Interview with Cornel & Tiana

What do you like most about the Holidays?

Cornel: My favorite part of the holidays is presents and helping people who don't have as much as me have a good Christmas too. I also like having family coming over for Christmas.

Tiana: I like seeing family for Christmas. It is when my sister comes up from Florida. Sometimes grandma and grandpa came to see us.

How long have you been crafting?

Cornel: I craft in different activities I participate in. So, it's been awhile. My mom and Miss Kenesha keep us busy. I also taught myself how to make my bracelets.

Tiana: I craft all the time in my business. My Aunt buys me kits like lip gloss and bath bombs to make all the time for Christmas.

The background is a solid yellow color with a repeating pattern of pink snowflakes. The snowflakes are stylized and vary in size and orientation, creating a festive, winter-themed border around the central text.

Fun Facts!

This edition also includes a few fun facts about how this festive season is celebrated around the world! Dive into a world of interesting facts! The last fact will leave you the most surprised!

Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

France

Merry Christmas in French: Joyeux Noël

Christmas celebrations begin with St Nicholas day on the 6th of December. The children enjoy it with little gifts and sweets. Many regions in France are decorated during the weeks and children love opening the little windows of their 24-day Advent Calendars. On Christmas Eve, children put their polished shoes out near the chimney hoping that "Père Noël" or Father Christmas fills their shoes with sweets. Christmas on the 25th of December is celebrated with their families in a big feast.



Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

Italy

Merry Christmas in Italian: “Buon Natale”

In Italy, the nativity scene, or “Presepe” is put up in churches, town squares, and often in homes. This is the most important element of Christmas decoration in that locality. The nativity scene display has a crib filled with straw as shown, and originally comes from Italy. On Christmas day, “Babbo Natale” or Father Christmas, hands out presents to children. But, the traditional [practice of gifting is on the 6th of January, which is the Day of Epiphany.



Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

Norway

Merry Christmas in Norwegian: God Jul or Gledelig Jul!

The children wait for “Julenissen”, the Norwegian Santa Claus. On Christmas eve, he brings the children gifts along with the small gnomes called “Nisse”. Adventsgaver or Kalendergaver are very common practices where smaller gifts are given each day of December leading up to Christmas. Children also go carol singing, and dress up as characters from the Christmas Story such as the Wise men or the Shepherds. Traditional Norwegian Christmas Tree decor includes small paper baskets called “Julekurver” which are heart shaped containers. They bake a special bread called Julekake, which has raisins, candied peel and cardamom in it. Rice Porridge is also eaten on Christmas Eve at lunchtime.



Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

Philippines

Merry Christmas in Filipino: Maligayang Pasko

In the Philippines, there is a special tradition of having a Christmas Lantern called "Paról". It is a star shaped lantern made from bamboo and paper which reminds the Filipino children of the star of Bethlehem. Filipino children spend their whole Christmas time with their families as it is a family tied holiday. On Christmas Eve, the children along with their families go to church to hear the last "Simbang Gabi" or the Christmas Eve mass. On the 25th or Christmas Day, there are several masses that families attend, but one notable Mass is the "Misa de Gallo". In the Philippines, the Christmas spirit and season actually starts on 1st of September! Christmas music starts playing on the radio, and the departmental stores start filling up their Christmas adventure almost overnight! It is a magical festival in the Philippines!



Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

Brazil

Merry Christmas in Portuguese (Yes! The most popular language in Brazil is Portuguese!): "Feliz Natal!" Or "Bom Natal!" Or "Boas Festes"

Christmas plays called "Os Pastores" or the Shepherds and the Nativity Scenes called Presépio are very popular amongst the Brazil Christmas celebrations. Children are also very excited for "Papai Noel" or Father Christmas to travel all the way from Greenland to Brazil to give them gifts. Many children also decorate Christmas trees during the month and the end of the year is celebrated with fireworks. The floating Christmas tree of Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, is said to be the largest Christmas tree in the world, was lit up in 2019!.



Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

South Africa

South Africa has many official languages.

Afrikaans: Geseënde Kersfees

Zulu: Ukhisimusi Omuhle

Xhosa: Krismesi Emnandi

Sesotho: Le Be Le Keresemese e Monate

In South Africa, the families gather on Christmas day for a Barbeque night called "braai". In South Africa, which is in the Southern Hemisphere, it is Summer in December. But, nevertheless, the South Africans don't let the lack of snow stop their festive spirits. Many people visit the Christmas Mass on Christmas day as well! There are actually a few natural Christmas trees in the country, but some people put up decorated artificial trees in their homes. Many shopping centers are transformed with Christmas decorations. But, the decorations also honor the indigenous groups in South Africa. In 2019, the shopping centers were decorated with African Crafts of the Zulu people such as woven baskets. Leading up to Christmas, many festive concerts as well as craft markets are held.



Christmas Around the World!

A facts section showing how children celebrate Christmas around the world!

Japan

Merry Christmas in Japanese:

Japan is all about spreading happiness and vitality during the Christmas time. It is celebrated regardless of religion, as very few in Japan consider themselves Christians. Christmas in Japan is all about illuminations and decorations. All Japanese children are equally as excited for opening Santa's gifts on Christmas morning. The most unique thing about Christmas in Japan is their festive dinner. The tradition for every Christmas feasts in Japan is eating fried chicken! The KFC fried chicken has such high demand during the winter season that the franchise takes pre-orders for their popular fried chicken buckets! This is not the only varied tradition from the west. For dessert, instead of freshly-baked cookies or a warm pie, the Japanese prefer cake! Precisely, a sponge cake-based strawberry shortcake called "Kurisumasu Keeki".



The background is a solid yellow color with a repeating pattern of stylized pink snowflakes. The snowflakes are of various sizes and orientations, scattered across the page. The text is centered and written in a white, cursive font.

Activity Section!

For this edition, we at the editorial team have planned a small activity section for you enthusiastic and energetic readers!

So, grab your pen or pencil and let's zoom ahead through a world of festive activities!

For the answers, check the bottom of the page or the next page! Don't peek before attempting though!

A Festive Bucket List!

What are a few activities that you would absolutely love to scratch off that bucket list during this break from school?

Do you have a gifting wish list that you have been brainstorming for a while?

List all your thoughts here!

Christmas Word Scramble!



Christmas Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find words which have to do with Christmas.
Some of the words have religious meanings, others are secular in nature.

1. Groceos _____
2. Naclorig _____
3. Rats _____
4. Scunttshe _____
5. Porduhl _____
6. Naast _____
7. Skagceap _____
8. Dressephh _____
9. Gramen _____
10. Galen _____
11. Limesotte _____
12. Vaniyitt _____
13. Gotscink _____
14. Virasou _____
15. Traweh _____
16. Gisehl _____
17. Wamsonn _____
18. Ejuss _____
19. Stranneom _____
20. Scamsthir _____

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Answers for the previous activity!



Christmas Word Scramble Solutions

Unscramble the letters to find words which have to do with Christmas.
No peeking at this answer key until you've given it the good college try!

1. Groceos Scrooge
2. Naclorig Caroling
3. Rats Star
4. Scunttshe Chestnuts
5. Porduhl Rudolph
6. Naast Santa
7. Skagceap Packages
8. Dresseph Shepherd
9. Gramen Manger
10. Galen Angel
11. Limesotte Mistletoe
12. Vaniyitt Nativity
13. Gotscink Stocking
14. Virasou Saviour
15. Traweh Wreath
16. Gisehl Sleigh
17. Wamsonn Snowman
18. Ejuss Jesus
19. Stranneom Ornaments
20. Scamsthir Christmas

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Colour in the scene!

COLOUR IN THE SCENE

Finish this image off by adding some colour to Santa and his reindeer!

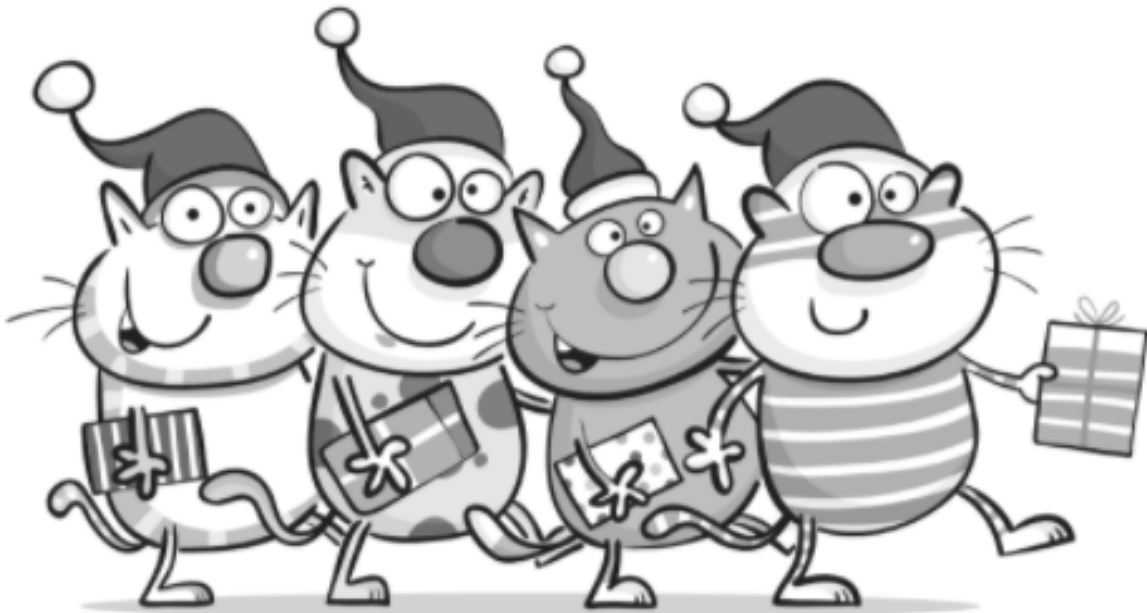


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Spot the differences!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find all 8 differences between the top and bottom images?



Answers:
(Cats numbered left to right.) 1st Cat: Long middle whisker.
2nd Cat: Mouth closed. Shine on nose missing. Tail spot missing.
3rd Cat: Polka Dot on present missing. White tummy patch missing.
4th Cat: Right eye facing forward. Stripe missing from present.

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Christmas Word Find!



CHRISTMAS WORD FIND



Can you find all the words listed? They appear horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

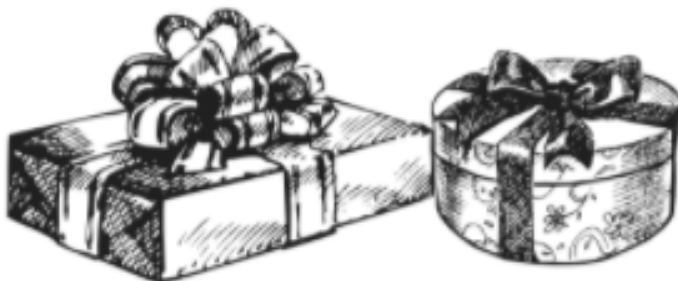
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| A | D | E | C | O | R | A | T | I | O | N | S | E | E | N | S | I | O |
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CHRISTMAS
ELF
REINDEER
PRESENT
SANTA

SLEIGH
STAR
TREE
PUDDING
TINSEL

SNOWMAN
CAROLS
WREATH
HOLLY
ANGEL

STOCKING
SACK
CANDYCANE
NUTCRACKER
DECORATIONS



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Christmas Trivia!



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

How well do you know your Christmas facts?

1. Counting Rudolph, How many reindeer did Santa Clause have?
2. During Christmas, people traditionally exchange kisses under what object?
3. What peppermint snack do people use to decorate Christmas trees?
4. Who wrote the famous Christmas book, A Christmas Carol?
5. In How the Grinch Stole Christmas, what was the name of the Grinch's dog?
6. In the song The 12 days of Christmas, what gift was given on the fourth day?
7. What were Frosty the Snowman's eyes made out of?
8. What snack do people generally leave out for Santa?
9. In the book A Christmas Carol, who said "Bah Humbug!"?
10. What type of animal is referred to in the song "Six White Boomers"?
11. In the Elvis Presley song, what colour of Christmas would he have?
12. In England & Australia, what holiday takes place the day after Christmas?
13. What are the 2 most popular objects to go atop Christmas trees?
14. What is the name of the popular ballet performed around Christmas time each year?
15. How many gifts would you receive if you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
16. The 'crown' party hats in crackers are said to symbolise the crowns worn by whom?
17. In what year did Hallmark introduce its first Christmas cards?
18. What is the main course of the Christmas Dinner in The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?
19. The original filling for Christmas pies was spiced game meat, True or false?
20. Which three ghosts visited Scrooge in A Christmas Carol?

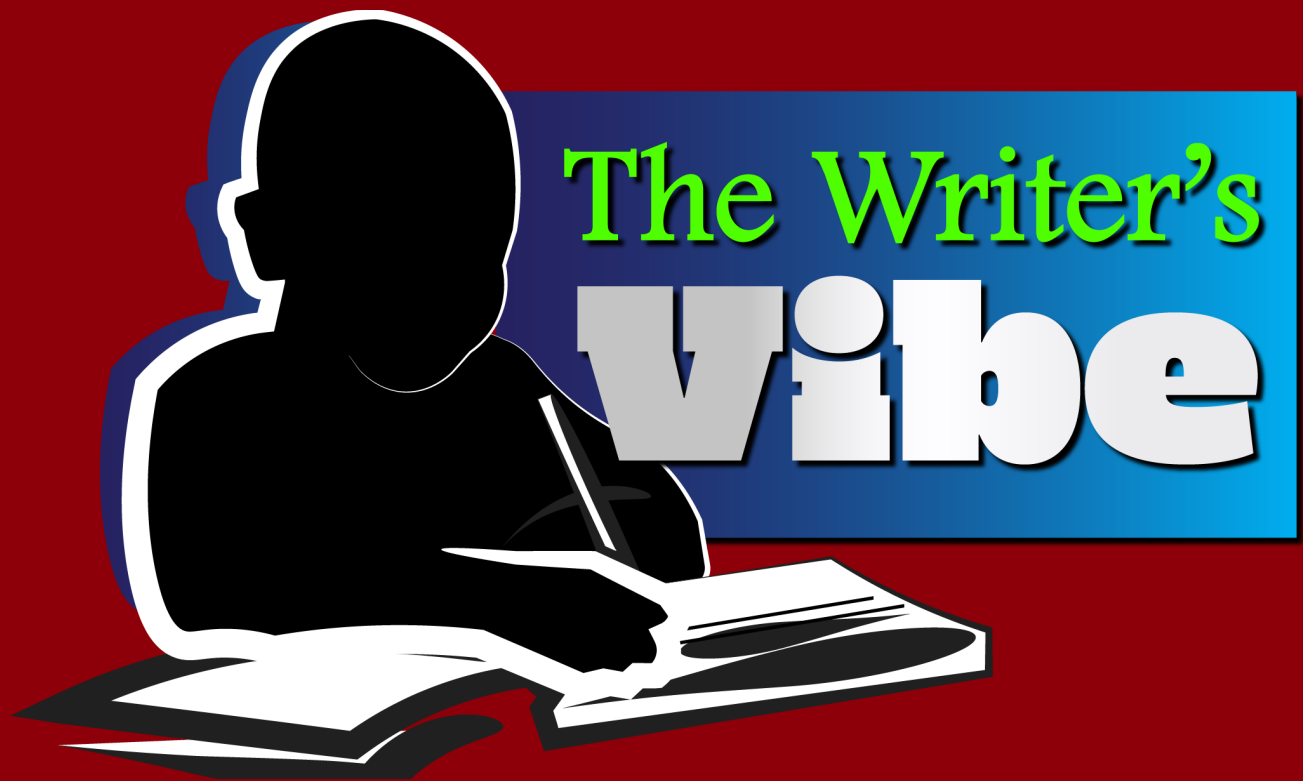


Answers:
1.Nine 2.Mistletoe 3.Candy Canes 4.Charles Dickens 5.Max
6.Four Calling Birds 7.Coal 8.Milk and cookies 9.Ebenezer Scrooge
10.Kangaroos 11.Blue 12.Boxing Day 13.Star and Angel 14.The Nutcracker
15.364 Gifts 16.The three wise men 17.1915 18.Roast Beast 19.True!
20.The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future!

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Our Mission: To support communities by keeping them informed and inspired, by providing the ease and accessibility to stay connected, and by being a supplier of information every day. To help our clients succeed in business through our local to national brands and trust that our proven ability is to provide effective marketing solutions.

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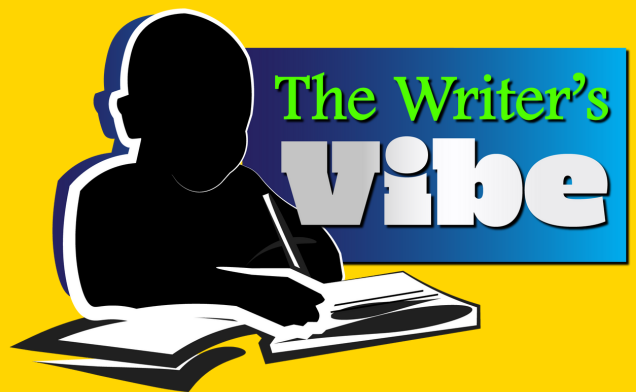
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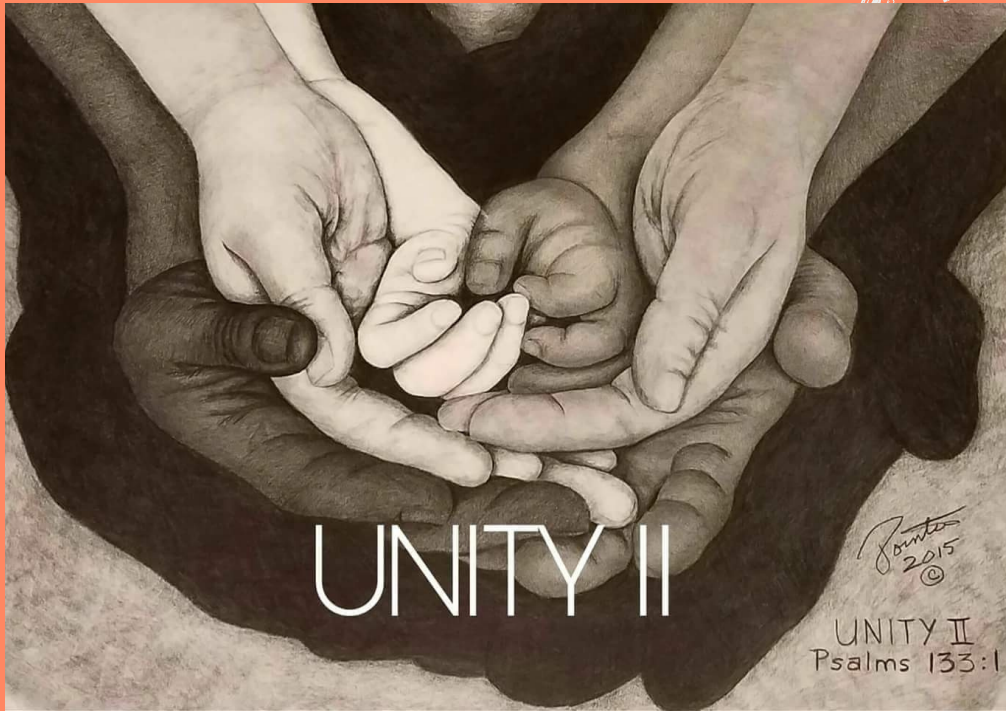
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Youth Talk Magazine



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