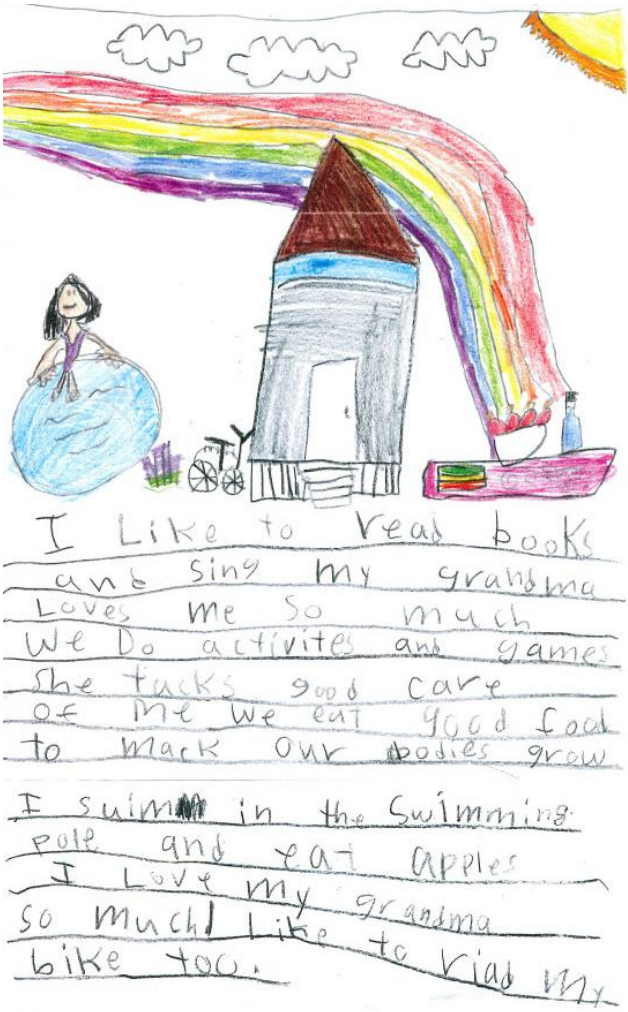
My Family. My Story.

Idaho KinCare Project 2017

Expressions of children raised by relatives or other significant adults



Audrina, Age: 7

My Family. My Story.

Art Contest
2017

Organized by the
Idaho KinCare Project

This booklet can be found online at

www.211.idaho.gov

My Family. My Story.

Our best hope is for parents to love and care for their children and to raise them in a happy, healthy home. However, family crisis sometimes requires children to be placed with relatives or other meaningful adults in their lives. This type of custody arrangements is commonly referred to as "KinCare."

In Idaho, over 29,000 children under the age of 18 live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives (6.8% of children in the state).

The My Family. My Story. Art Contest's purpose is twofold: to recognize the contributions of KinCare providers and to provide the children who participate an opportunity to feel connected with other children in similar situations.

The following poems, essays and drawings are the expressions of children who were placed in difficult circumstances and yet have the resiliency to share their experiences with others.

These are their families and their stories.

The Idaho KinCare Project, 2017
For more information about KinCare in Idaho visit: www.211.idaho.gov

My Family. My Story.

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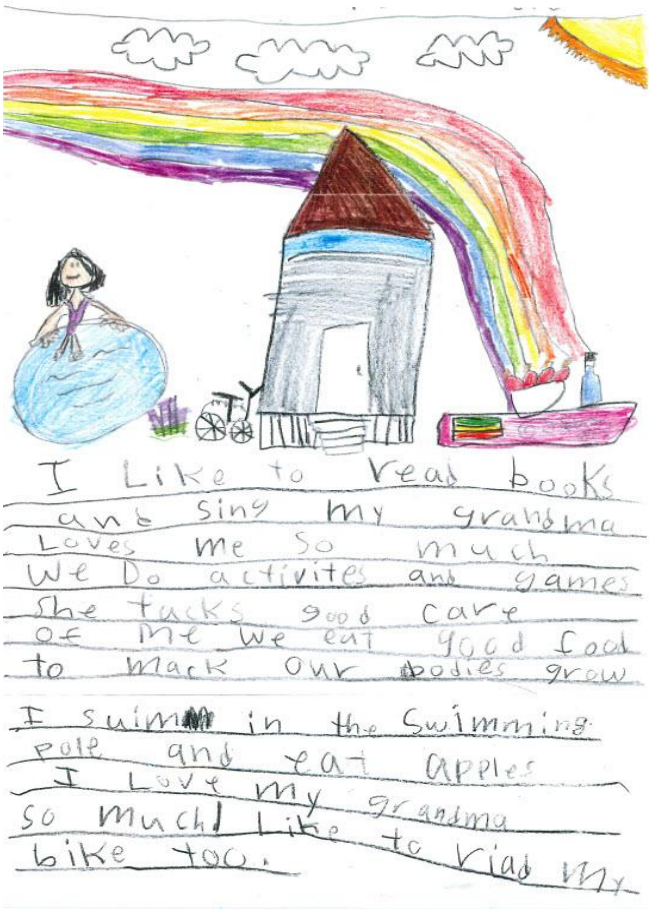
Winning Entry
Age 0-8

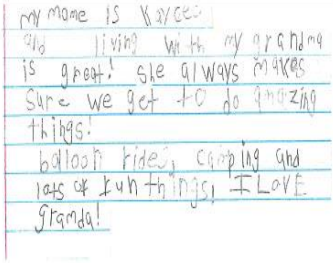
Audrina, Age7



My Family. My Story.

Winning Entry
Age 0-8

Kaycee, Age7


my name is Kaycee
and living with my grandma
is great! she always makes
sure we get to do amazing
things!
balloon rides, camping and
lots of fun things, I LOVE
Gramda!

My Family. My Story.

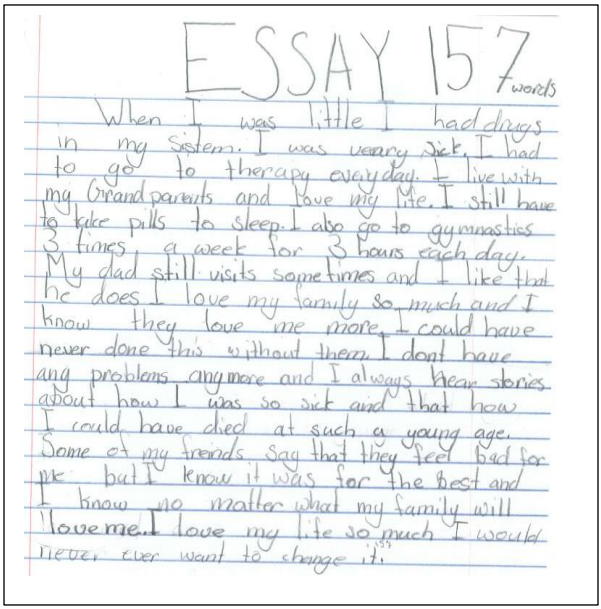
Winning Entry
Age 9-12

Gabbriella, Age 10

My Family. My Story.

Winning Entry
Age 9-12

Annika, Age10



ESSAY 157 words

When I was little I had drugs in my sistem. I was veary sick. I had to go to therapy everyday. I live with my Grandparents and love my life. I still have to take pills to sleep. I also go to gymnastics 3 times a week for 3 hours each day. My dad still visits sometimes and I like that he does. I love my family so much and I know they love me more. I could have never done this without them. I dont have any problems anymore and I always hear stories about how I was so sick and that how I could have died at such a young age. Some of my friends say that they feel bad for me but I know it was for the best and I know no matter what my family will love me. I love my life so much I would never, ever want to change it.

My Family. My Story.

Winning Entry
Age 13-18

Star, Age14

Let me Start off by introducing you to my life Story and how its incredibly made a huge impact to this day. Not everyone has Parents that Care for them, yah it could be true but listen to this. I grew up with a really harsh life. Even though no one Should have to worry about being unloved, sad or alone. Some people don't really Know how big Someone Can Change there life. Well, I moved in with my aunt exactly a year ago. I Know how it feels to be Scared, try new things but I don't regret it at all. After moving in, I noticed She helped me understand things way better and it made me feel more comfortable. I feel so blessed, loved, more happy and words cant explain how more happy I am. This has impacted my life by so much. Instead of living with either of my parents, the positive change my aunt has made in my life means everything to me.

My Family. My Story.

Winning Entry
Age 13-18

Fabian, Age15

How has living with my grandparents impacted me positively? Well it would be an understatement to say my Mom has been in and out of life more times than I can count. If it hadn't been for my Grandma, I'm not certain I would be alive today. Instead of being on the streets or in dangerous homes, I have a warm safe house with food and family. Instead of being hungry every night when I go to sleep, I sleep contently knowing that I will never sleep on an empty stomache. I could go on and on about the wonderful things they have done for me, but none of it could give them justice. To anyone out there living with someone other than their parents, just know that they probably care for you more than you can possibly imagine.

Distinguished Entries

Conner, Age 13

Living with my uncle

Around last year my uncle had finished college and had stayed with us until he could find a job somewhere. I had always liked him because we were always there for me as a kid. I was in 7th grade and it was during the summer and some of the year. I started staying up late to talk to him and just watch TV with him because I loved being around him. Eventually we started talking about my future and just stuff I needed to get off my chest. It felt great to have someone to talk to finally, I was never one to talk to family about problems. Some nights we would even go outside to talk, it was something that I really needed. It changed me. I felt better knowing there was someone that I could really talk to. We even did campfires out in the backyard and talked until 2:00 A.M. Even now in my 8th grade year I still call him and text him to talk about stuff. He really changed the way I talk to people and I open up. I'll never forget what he has done for me and how many times he has been there for me.

My Family My Story.

Sitka, Age 9

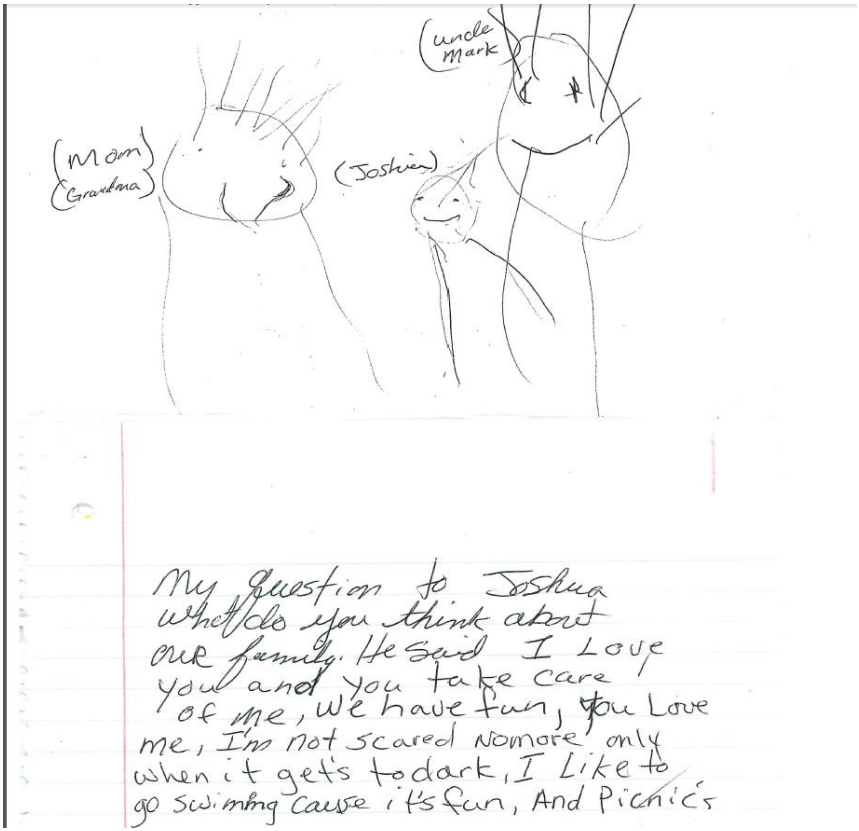
My Family My Story.

Alexis, Age 13

MY family means the world to me well
whats left of it. All I have left in my family is my
grandmother Michelle, My Older Sister Kaitlyn, and her
daughters. I have lived with my grandmother since I was
10 mounths because my mother and father were always
doing drugs and drinking. My father would always beat my
Older sisters. I haven't seen my father since I was born, and
I haven't seen my mother for over 7 years. I am so thankful
my grandmother took me in and my sisters. She has given me
every thing I have ever wanted. She also given me a great envir-
ment and a fantastic life I dont know what I would do with out
her. Due to my family I am in counseling. my grandmother
will and has always been there for me. I have a shoulder to
cry on when I need to. If it werent for my gandmother I
would have ended up in foster care possibly away from my
sisters and family. I feel very safe, I live in a good enviorme.
nt, get good grades, and I am loved very much.

My Family My Story.

Joshua, Age 4



My Family My Story.

Alakonn, Age 15

Without her I'd be:

A ward of the state

In a group home.

Never able to see my family

Feeling like I'm in prison.

Only getting visits on weekends,

Never given a second chance;

For what I did.

Being called what I am,

By people who don't understand

What it's like to be me

If I'm not there; I'd be in worse places.

Like prison or juvenile detention.

All of this was true,

if not for my grandma,

I'd still be there.

My Family My Story.

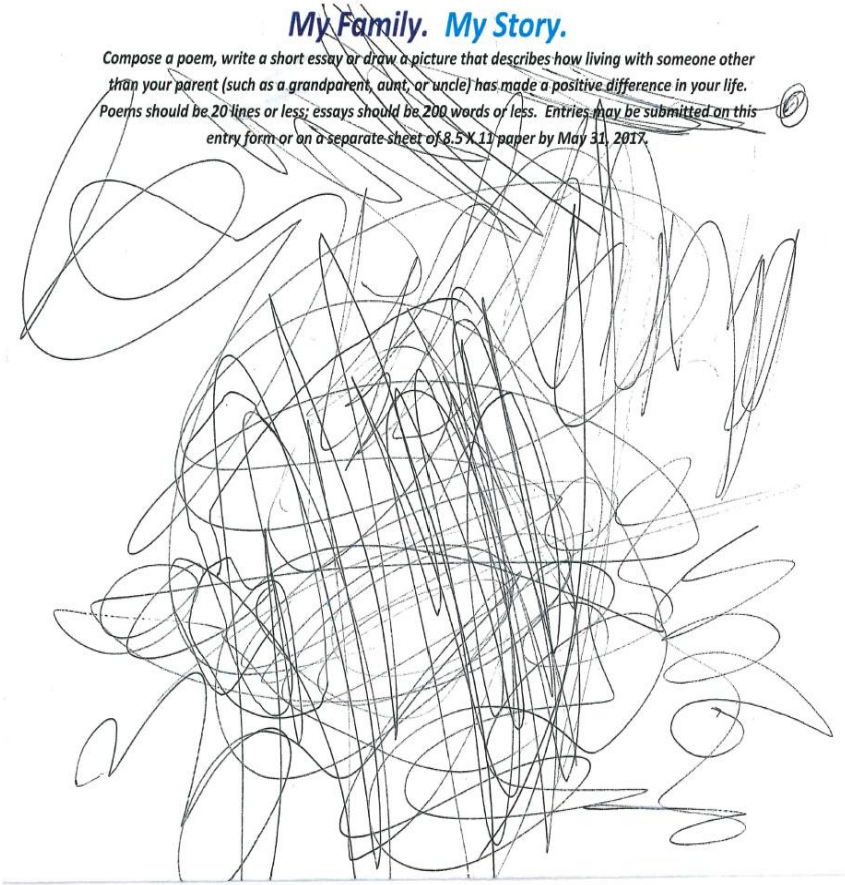
Patience, Age 7

I Love My grandma and grandpa.
I love that they take me
Places special.
I Love Living With My
grandma and grandpa!
I always Want to Liv With
My Gr grandma and My
grandpa!!

Patience

My Family My Story.

Adelyn, Age 2



My Family. My Story.

Compose a poem, write a short essay or draw a picture that describes how living with someone other than your parent (such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle) has made a positive difference in your life. Poems should be 20 lines or less; essays should be 200 words or less. Entries may be submitted on this entry form or on a separate sheet of 8.5 X 11 paper by May 31, 2017.

My Family. My Story.

Mia, Age 7

My Family. My Story.

Akwa, Age 14

Since coming and living
with my aunt and uncle I have
been able to get to school
and all my grades go up.

Since coming and
living with my aunt and uncle
I don't have to worry about my little
brother and I get to be a teen
and not babysit my little brother
all the time.

Since coming with my aunt and
uncle I am staying in school and not
moving every month I get to see
my friends and thank them I am happy

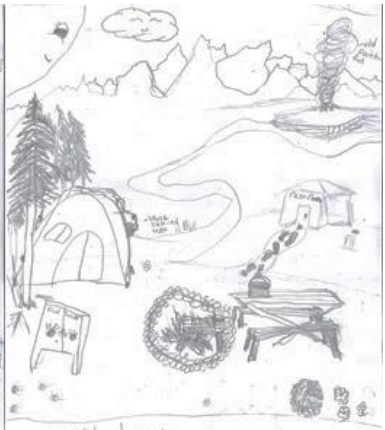
I think that
Coming
Is a fresh start

My Family. My Story.

Elizabeth, Age 10

My story: living with grandma

Some kids just can't live with there parents. And I am one of them. Its made a huge diffrence in my life. It took a lot of time for my brain to adjust to the new rules. At first it made a difference because, I had to get used to the new boundrys. I didn't have chours, or any thing like that. I didn't walk, or ride a bike everywhere. I also wasn't around, my parents, my pets, cigarette smoke And my home town, pocatello, I now live in Idaho falls. I got used to where things were. But when School started and I had to go to Dora Erikson Elamentary, things got harder than it needed to be. kids stared, talked behind my back, but before I new it, 3, 4, and 5 girls were popping out of no where behind me, asking me "will you be my friend" The 3rd day of school I had 12 friends. I was unbelivible to my brother which had only made 3 friends. I had a lot of drama going on. 3 boys liked me and was asking me, if I will go out with them. I had a 3rd grade teacher that seemed to not like me, and I had only one pair of shoes to go until the 1st of the next month And now that I am in 4th grade and have, 14 friends, And a great teacher, I have good grades, And less drama. I now have chours, and other things to do. living up in Id has helped by, making me understand what it is like to have a normal life.



we went to Yellowstone last Summer

Jordan, Age 14

As I walk, I walk with my head held high. Everyone sees a strong happy girl. Nobody would ever suggest anything differnt. But what they dont know is how it all started. From the moment I was born, I was a fighter. I was born a month early. I was gray, the color of the road. Then my parents weren't being good parents. So when I was nine months old, God put two amazing people in my life. They took me in, under their wing. They're my parents now, not my grandparents, my parents. There will always be struggles in life. But I was born a fighter. And I know I can overcome anything that comes my way.

My Family. My Story.

Haylen, Age 4

5/24/2017

Dear Idaho Kincare Project 2017,

I am Haylen's Grandmother, and writing this for Haylen. She is 4 year old.

Haylen's quote: (I love being with you Grandma and Bebop. like staying with you, this is my home. Love to go camping and going to church.)

Haylen's picture is of camping.

sunny-day
red- pick-up
gray- trailer
brown-red-yellow campfire
3 people Haylen-Grandma-Bebop

Haylen calls her Grand father Bebop

Thank you,
Haylen & Grandma Hirredman

Joseph, Age 9

A heartfelt thanks to our participants
and to all our KinCare families,
making a difference in children's lives
around the state of Idaho.

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Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Family and Community Services