A Day in the Life:
Kids and Seniors Share Stories
A Day in the Life:
Kids and Seniors Share Stories

Carbondale Public Library

Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale and Senior Adult Services participants:
Orabelle Allison, Mason Bell, Dorothy Branch, Josie Cobb, Naomi Daniel,
Amarion Durham, Melvin Ehlers, Dorothy Erickson, Knowledge Gayles, Krysten
Hood, Leon Johnson, Sally Keene, Shawn Kelly, David Koine, Rose Laster, Dwayne
Lazenby, Twona Liddell, Alice Limpus, Truth Marsh, Marquis Neeley, Chidi Nsofor,
Haley Ousley, Destiny Qasim, Saniyah Ross, Miles Showalter, Tasiah Smith,
Alexandria Spence, Gladys Terry, Lillian Tucker, Joe Vance, J’Vian Welch,
Louvenia Williams

Carbondale Public Library
2014
Dedication & Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to our community. We each play many roles in creating a healthy, vibrant community for our residents and children.

Thank you to the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation for giving us an opportunity to create something very special together, beyond what any of us could have authored alone.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale, Senior Adult Services and the Carbondale Public Library, with special appreciation for Sean McGahan, Diana Brawley Sussman, Pat Luebke, Mary Stoner and Tina Carpenter for their leadership on this project.

This project was funded by the Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant Program for Public Libraries & Public Schools.
One day kids and seniors in our community came together to tell stories and listen to one another.
Their goal was to make a book and an art exhibit using their stories and illustrations.
That day, Naomi and Louvenia leaned in to listen.
Saniyah and Sally swapped stories.
Alexandria and Orabelle shared a snack and fashion sense.
Dorothy told Tasiah about a day when she watched TV.
She ate tuna fish and crackers.
David told Chidi and Miles that he went to SIU because he wanted to be taught how to teach.
David brushed his teeth, because he wants to keep it clean.

David has been a teacher, because it was fun.
Welcome to kindergarten

Rose told Truth about the day she became a kindergarten teacher.
She enjoyed singing with the class. She taught kindergarten for three years.
Joe told Knowledge that he has six brothers. They live on a farm. They ride horses.

Joe and I were chasing a horse.
Dorothy and I are looking at the country.
David told Chidi about his farm in Africa where he raised horses, goats, and sheep and grew coffee.
Ms. Josephine told DJ about picking cotton.

She picked two bags of six feet of cotton each day.

The bags were taller than her!
Mr. Melvin told Amarion and Mason about the day he met his wife at twelve years old at the hospital in January.
They lived a block apart. They have been married for forty-seven years.
Leon told Marquis, Shawn and Amarion about the time he was in the ER because he had bronchitis and pneumonia. He stayed in the hospital for two months. He was released from the hospital and went home.
Gladys told Krysten about the time she had TB and she got healed.
She prayed and she got healed.

I am healed!

She prayed and she got healed.
Orabelle told J’Vian about the day she won $5 at a bingo game.
She used to babysit.

She had two cats.
Alice told Haley how one day she ran out and got married. She got married in 1941. Alice is ninety-four years old and enjoys the piano.
Alice recited a poem for Lillian:
96 I need to fix.

98 what’s my faith?

99 I’m right on time.
Twona and Destiny imagined together.
“My name is Leon. I’m so proud to work with this young man. He is very talented. He is a beautiful person. I’m so glad that God sent him from above to me. They are blessed to have great teachers like you all. I love working with him.”
This book was inspired by the stories of Ezra Jack Keats.
Authors & Illustrators

Orabelle Allison  Mason Bell  Dorothy Branch  Josie Cobb
Naomi Daniel  Amarion Durham  Melvin Ehlers  Dorothy Erickson
Authors & Illustrators

Twona Liddell  Alice Limpus  Truth Marsh  Marquis Neeley

Chidi Nsofor  Haley Ousley  Destiny Qasim  Saniyah Ross