



### *About the Author*

Samuel Boyd is a Senior in High School. He wanted to write this book so you could have insight into a person who stutters. He hopes you will take away an understanding about a person who stutters.

*I Have Something to Say (My Voice Matters) By Samuel Boyd*

# *I Have Something to Say*

*(My Voice Matters)*

*By Samuel Boyd*



***I have something to say  
(My Voice Matters)***

***Courageous, Brave, Bold, Advocate and Amazing***

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***Samuel Boyd***

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**Published by:** SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young

**Cover and Interior Illustration Design by:** Francisco Borges

**Distributed by:**

SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young  
247 West 37th Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10018

Printed and Bound by BookBaby



**DEDICATION**

***Mrs. Mable Dicks and Mr. Samuel Dicks.***

*They were two people who taught me manners and right  
from wrong. They also taught me always to put God First.*





A person is standing on the peak of a large, dark rock formation. The rock is partially covered with snow or light-colored patches. To the right of the person, there is a small, dark evergreen tree. The background is a vast, cloudy sky with soft, white clouds against a pale blue backdrop. The overall scene conveys a sense of solitude and achievement.

*For with GOD  
nothing  
will be impossible.*

*- Luke 1:37*

*Spectacular*

*Tough*

*Universal*

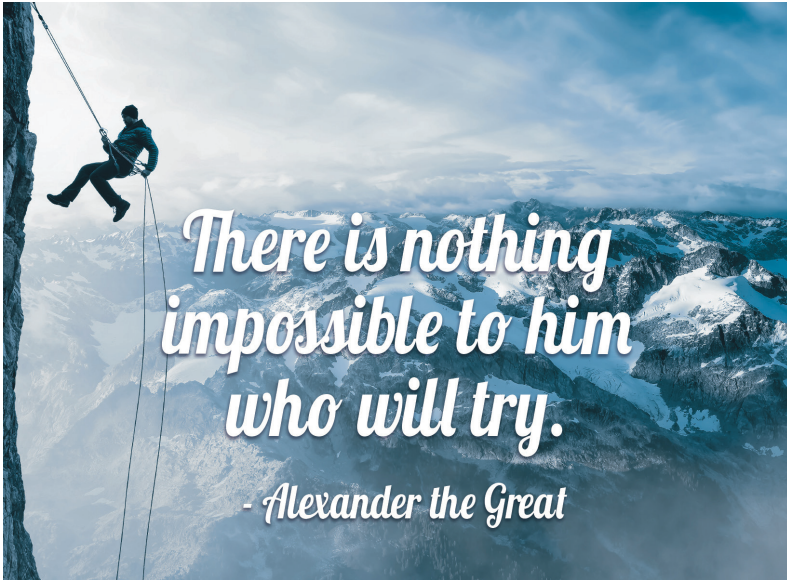
*Together*

*Tranquil*

*Everyday*

*Relentless*





*There is nothing  
impossible to him  
who will try.*

*- Alexander the Great*



## contents

Chapter 1	
Stuttering makes me feel and Message to people who stutter	19
Chapter 2	
Growing Up and Family	21
Chapter 3	
School	27
Chapter 4	
Friendship and Bowling	29
Chapter 5	
Failure and Success	33
Chapter 6	
Fear and Bravery	35
Chapter 7	
Faith and Change	37
Chapter 8	
Past and Future	41
Chapter 9	
Love and Hate	43
Chapter 10	
Heart and Giving	45
Chapter 11	
Children and Community	49
Chapter 12	
Sorrow and Bullying	53
Chapter 13	
Dancing and Expression	57



Chapter 14	
Marriage and Blessings	61
Chapter 15	
Homelessness and Pandemic	63
Chapter 16	
Gospel Music	67
Chapter 17	
CampSAY and SAY	69
Chapter 18	
Graduation and Workplace and Getting a Job	73
Fictional Stories: Overcomer and Hope	77
Acknowledgements	85
Also by this Author	91
Praise for the Author	113
About the Author	117







## **PREFACE**

In my book I will discuss my experiences and how it shaped my life. I hope my stories will be an inspiration and touch your heart to understand me. After reading my book, I want you to come out knowing that you are wonderfully made.



# *I Have Something to Say*

*(My Voice Matters)*

*By Samuel Boyd*







## CHAPTER 1

# STUTTERING MAKES ME FEEL AND MESSAGE TO PEOPLE WHO STUTTER

## Stuttering makes me feel

Whenever I think about stuttering, I feel my stomach turning inside out, and my palms are sweaty. I want to keep my thoughts to myself and move on to the next thing. Stuttering brings out my anxiety at times. When I wake up sometimes, I wonder why I can't talk normally. Stuttering is my kryptonite, like superman. I feel like people don't understand that sometimes it's hard for me to get my words out. I want people to know how it feels not to be able to answer a question quickly.

When I am talking, it's like my tongue is stuck, and the words can't come out. People are waiting and looking at me to say something. I am trying to get the words out, but the words won't come out. People get impatient and say, "You know what I'm out goodbye Sam." This makes me feel empty inside. I am so embarrassed and ashamed that I was not able to get the words out.

I did not want to be a quitter, so I put my best foot forward and answered the question. I had a smile on my face and a confidence to deal with challenges.

My desire is to be a role model and to help other children who stutter and are struggling.



## Message to people who stutter

I just want to let you know that you are bold and outstanding. Please don't let stuttering stand in your way of success. Stuttering can be a stepping stone into your future. Stuttering is a part of you but don't let it control you. You will face challenges along the way. There will be times when you want to give up but please don't.

There are times when you feel like crying but put a smile on your face. Sometimes you will be picked on and laughed at but stand up for yourself and let people know it's hurtful. There will be times when people want to finish your sentences but tell them you got this. Have people wait and not rush you when you're talking. Let them know you don't feel respected. If people don't want to be my friend, it's their loss and my gain.



Let people know you're not strange because you stutter. Please let people know that stuttering is not contagious. People need to realize this is reality and they will run into people who stutter. Educate your schools, police department, grocery stores and community about people who stutter. I think once you educate people, they will learn to accept people who stutter. I want you to look in the mirror and tell yourself I am amazing. People who stutter want to be part of social activities and games. Please don't let people shut you out of being part of what you want to do.





CHAPTER 2  
GROWING UP AND FAMILY

## Growing Up

When I was growing up my life was great at home but in school it was hard sometimes. I could remember when I was a young boy, I started stuttering. Stuttering made me feel not normal and unattractive. The children would tell me to stop talking because you sound funny. They used to say I was a joke and would laugh at him. I felt hurt and isolated by my peers. I would run away and find a place to hide and cry. I would cry and cry because I just wanted to be accepted. When I arrived home and looked in the mirror, I would ask myself am I a joke and unattractive. I did not tell my parents about what was happening at school. Looking back, I should have told them

but I did not want to worry them. I know now that my parents always had my back.

My grandparents had a feeling when I was feeling down, and they would hug me and kiss me. They asked me did I want to talk about it, and I said no with a smile. They would say you're



unique and wonderful. They used to say that I would be great someday and people will not judge me.

## Family

I could talk with my grandfather for hours and he had no problem with me stuttering. We became really close when he had kidney disease and had to go to dialysis. He would come home and ask me about my day. We would laugh and laugh. He would encourage me to speak my mind.

My grandmother was a great support and made me feel on top of the world. She would always give me hugs and kisses after school.

My grandmother told me she loved me and would not change anything about me. She told me about how my uncle used to stutter in school. She stated she would give hugs and kisses when he came home from school. My uncle still stutters some-

times but he does not let anything hold him back. He is always encouraging me to live my dreams. He is a poet, a basketball coach and minister. Children and adults love him because he listens and cares.

Both of my maternal grandparents are deceased, but their spirit lives on in me. I sometimes wear a chain around my neck because it reminds me of them and the positive words they would say to me.

My Aunts, Uncles and Cousins were always there to be my cheerleaders and that made me feel good inside.

My Parents are my heroes. They are always providing positive words. They are always encouraging me to be in activities. They are my role models for success. My mother used to stutter and was picked on. Children used to throw spitballs at her. She told my grandparents and they notified the school and the children were suspended. My mother realizes that she was so much more than her stutter. She was a woman with grace, integrity, intelligence and spirituality. She has seen some of the people who used to throw spitballs at her and she greets them with a smile. My mother is an overcomer.







### CHAPTER 3 SCHOOL

# School

I could remember a time when I went to the cafeteria for lunch and it was good until I started stuttering. I noticed my peers did not want to sit and eat lunch with me. After a couple of weeks, a boy came to my table and asked if he could sit next to me and I responded, yes. I told him that I stuttered and he stated he did not care. We ate lunch everyday together and became best friends. We started hanging out together on the weekend and facetimeing each other.

I was bullied in elementary school because I stuttered. I was hit and punched. But I still attended school every day. I wanted to receive my education, and I was not going to let bullies stop me. I had perfect attendance. I won awards in school for my kindness and academics.

High School was difficult because people look at how I spoke. Some high schoolers did not care about how I spoke and just wanted to be my friend. I remembered being in school and raising my hand to answer a question, and my mouth was open, but nothing was coming out. My peers would laugh and talk about me. I felt embarrassed.

My teachers were understanding and supported me. They would give me time to answer questions. They would go out of their way to meet with me to see how they could help.

I did have good times in high school, where I received the student of the month several times. I always received the award for kindness.

I also was on the bowling and tennis team in high school. I always felt like part of a family on the bowling and tennis team.

I wanted to be with the popular kids in school because they seem to have the most fun. I realize now that popularity does not mean quality. I realize that I was born to be a leader and to stand out. I may not be the popular kid now but one day I am going to be the person that everyone wants to know.

I think educating children in preschool about stuttering is a good idea. When they reach elementary and high school, they will have an understanding. I feel they would not laugh at other students because they stuttered.

I think schools should have a stuttering awareness day. Schools have a day where you were pink for cancer and purple for epilepsy. I notice most children in my school are not aware of people who stutter. People don't realize that they are missing out on being with some amazing people.



#### CHAPTER 4

### FRIENDSHIP AND BOWLING

## Friendship

A friend is a person you can trust and who is honest. He or she will be with you through the good and bad times. Sometimes you have to compromise in doing what your friend wants to do. A friend can be by your side closer than a brother or sister at times. A friend is a person who you can tell your innermost secrets. A friend will tell you the truth for your own good. A friend is not someone who will guide you into danger. A true friend will always have your best interest at heart.

I could remember a challenging time in my life when it was difficult to make friends. I was lonesome and unhappy because my peers did not want to be associated with a person who stuttered. They would not participate in activities with me and push me aside. This went on for weeks at a time.

Then these two boys came up to me and said hello my name is Mark and this is my brother Lucas. I responded and said hello my name is Sam. They asked me if I wanted to play basketball with them and I said yes. I told them I stuttered and they responded It's cool. After we did activities together, we laughed and joked.

My grandparents started having health problems, and I didn't stay in contact. Also, we went to different middle and high schools. Looking back, I don't know why I didn't stay in contact. I guess that I had my grandparents on mind because they were dying. I wanted to spend all my time with them. They became my best friends. We did everything together. We went to church on Sundays, played board games, and watched funny movies.

After my grandparent's death I saw Mark and Lucas at their home and stayed in contact. We started going to the mall, playing games, bowling, and taking walks.

I met Michael from high school who does not care if I stutter or not. He just wants to have a friend that he can trust. I am glad that God has sent me friends that I could count on and trust.



## Bowling

Bowling makes me happy. I started bowling when I was

fifteen years old in ninth grade. I heard my school had a bowling team and thought I would give it a try. I didn't know anyone on the team, but it sounded like fun, so I signed up. I wanted to be an outstanding bowler.

I had been bowling before joining the team, once at a birthday party when I was still in elementary school. I wasn't very good at all, but I had a lot of fun. So, when I went to the first bowling team meeting at the alley, it was only my second time bowling. I didn't have my own bowling ball, shoes, or bag at that time. I had to rent shoes for a while, until I knew I liked bowling.

When I was bowling at first, I wasn't bowling correctly. I had a lot of gutter balls and zeros, and was a mess. I was so embarrassed of myself at the time, and a few people laughed and made faces. I wanted to quit the team over that, but I didn't. Instead, I kept on practicing and I watched bowling videos to get the feeling of the ball and to learn how to stand.

I gave bowling everything I got. I was not scared anymore. I was not going to let all that humiliation get to me. I stood up and took it like a man, and learned to bowl my best, and I became a better bowler. I started making friends with the coaches and some of the other players. My mom helped me, too. She found this bowling thing online, a junior league, and I joined that, too.

Bowling helped me to grow because I always practice. When I bowl now, I feel different. Every time I bowl now, I don't feel pressured or scared. I feel like I'm the only person out there bowling, and I feel incredible. I feel vital and part of a team. I feel happy when I bowl because it gives me a great feeling. I went from scoring zeros to scoring in the 140s. Last weekend, I bowled four strikes in a row. My mother was proud of me, and she bragged to everybody about it.





CHAPTER 5  
FAILURE AND SUCCESS

# Failure

Failure is lacking and not complete. Failure means not fulfilling your goals and dreams. Failure is not learning from mistakes. I turn failure around into a positive by learning and doing better. I don't let something that I fail at stand in my way of me becoming successful. I learn to dust myself off and keep going even if I don't succeed. Failure is not an option even if I have to do things over and over again.



# Success

Success is me having a relationship with God. Success is me accomplishing and achieving my goals in life. Success is me graduating from high school and attending college. Success is me advocating for myself. Success is me having good friends who I can trust. Success is me having a stable job with benefits. Success is me owning a car where I don't have to depend on others for transportation. Success is me owning a house in a nice neighborhood. Success is me doing things that I love in life. Success is me staying positive through the happy and sad times. Success is me giving my time and energy to the less fortunate. Success is me traveling the world. Success is me having a million dollars in the bank. Success is me completing the paperback book. Success is me getting married and having a family.





CHAPTER 6  
FEAR AND BRAVERY

# Fear

My fear is talking and people not being able to understand me. My fear is doing a presentation in front of the class and classmates rolling their eyes. My fear is going to a restaurant and ordering food. My fear is making new friends and worrying will I stutter. My fear is going to a store and asking for help. My fear is being put on the spot to answer a question quickly. My fear is being rejected by people. My fear is being lonely in life. My fear is being judged by the way I speak. My fear is being taken advantage of by people because I am kind. My fear is asking questions. My fear is a change in life. My fear is my parents dying, and I don't know what to do. My fear is the future and what it holds.



## Bravery

I remembered when my grandfather had fallen in the snow outside, and I had to help him. I went back in the house and explained what happened outside to my grandmother. My grandmother was so grateful I was outside with my grandfather. She told me if I was not outside with him, he could have frozen in the snow. My grandmother told me I was brave. My grandfather told me I saved his life.



CHAPTER 7  
FAITH AND CHANGE

# Faith

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is me having faith in God and not seeing him. Faith is me believing God is the father, son, and the holy spirit. Faith is me having a strong belief in my religion. Faith is me waking up every morning and taking steps. Faith is me believing God will heal my body. Faith is when other people don't believe in my goals and dreams, but I do. Faith knows that God will work out any situation. Faith is me believing God is protecting me from hurt, harm, and danger. Faith is when the doctors told my grandfather he would never walk again, and he did. My grandfather walked, cooked his meals, and drove his car. Faith is when my grandfather received a Kidney after waiting five years.

Faith is me believing God gives me courage and determination daily. Faith is me believing God will meet all my needs. Faith is me believing there is a heaven and a hell. Faith is me believing I can do all things through God, who strengths me every day. Faith is me believing God gives me the ability to walk, talk and hear. Faith is me believing in love.



## Change

Change is truly scary for me. I act like it's not, but it truly is. Change is unpredictable. I worry sometimes when I open my mouth that my words won't come out. I know that change can be good but I'm worried. I have my parents who support me, but they can't speak for me. I must learn to speak out and be heard. When I go into stores and need help, will I receive it or will people walk away. Change is going into places and not knowing the outcome. Change is wondering what's on the other side of the door. I'm nervous because I want to make good impressions and not make a fool out of myself.

I know with Change I need to adapt to my environment. Change also can be positive. Change is a shift in the atmosphere.

Change can be breathtaking and amazing. Change is going to be significant in my life. Change is something I need to learn to accept in life.

I know that I said change was scary, but I am going to take it head on. I will have a positive attitude. I will embrace change with a smile and praise. Change will be beautiful instead of something I will dread. Change is part of my success. My God, please help me with change.





CHAPTER 8  
PAST AND FUTURE

## Past

The past has brought gladness and sorrow. The past makes me understand weeping comes in the night but joy will be in the morning. The past makes me realize death is real and I will lose people I love.

The past is a stepping stone for me. The past is where I was a boy then became a man. The past is meant to guide me into my next assignment. The past is where I left people behind that meant me harm. My past was a test for me to seek God.

The past has made me stronger and bolder. The past has made me advocate for myself when others are taking advantage of me. The past has made me accept certain things in life.

The past makes me want to be a leader. The past makes me want to speak out. The past makes me realize my voice matters and don't let anyone take that away from me.



## Future

When I think of the future I think of the possibilities. I think about what I could be and become. I think the future is bright and shining. The future can be a place where you imagine doing great things in life. The future is always looking forward and not backward. The future is where you make your plans. Future is a place where you dream of amazing places where you want to travel.

My future is me living in a nice condo or house. My future is me having a fantastic wife and beautiful children. My future is me having money to buy what I want in life. My future is me taking care of myself, my wife, and my children. My future is giving back to Say. My future is taking care of my parents and being there for them.

My future is me having a nice car. My future is me not having to depend on my parents for everything. My future is me paying my bills on time. My future is being a terrific bowler. My future is me graduating from college with a degree. My future is me helping the homeless people. My future is me helping children through their struggles. My future is in my hands.





CHAPTER 9  
LOVE AND HATE

# Love

Love is everything to me. Love is loving yourself. Love is learning to be patient with myself about my stutter. Love is something you seek from your parents, family, and friends. Love is a sense of security that I received from my grandparents because they were always there for me. Love means cherishing the moments of being with people I genuinely love. Love can be scary at times because people can take advantage of you. For example, you can love someone but that does not mean they will love you back. Love is being in a healthy relationship. Love is the way you look at people without saying anything. Love is being able to accept other people's mistakes. Love is working through struggles and still being able to smile. Love is being respectful of others. Love is communicating at all times. Love is not love until you give it away.



# Hate

Hate is a strong word and makes people do things they would not normally do. I think back when my great grandparents were growing up and they had to deal with hate. They would tell me how they walk for miles and the white children would ride by and say ugly things to them. My grandmother also talked about how she had white friends and their parents did not want them to play with each other. They did not like my grandparents because of the color of their skin.

Hate is when I start stuttering, and people don't want to be around me. People would say they hate when I stutter because that gets on their nerves.

Hate has destroyed lives of people for no reason.

Hate is when they went into the capitol to destroy the capital. Hate is when they kill Asian people for no reason. It hurts because we need each other in this world to survive.

My family taught me about love and that hate will destroy me. I have different cultures in my family and it's a good feeling.

My best friends are white and we have so much in common. We appreciate each other's culture. We respect and rely on each other.



CHAPTER 10  
HEART AND GIVING

# Heart

*Above all else, guard your heart,  
for everything you do flows from it.*  
Proverbs 4:23

The heart is what keeps us alive. The heart can be kind and happy. The heart can also be full of love. The heart can be beautiful. I hear people say I have a good heart. I guess because I truly care about other people and their feelings. I remember helping an elderly man reach for a can of soup in a store. I told him I would get the item. He was in a wheelchair and was not able to reach it. I told him I would help bag his groceries and help him to the car. He said, you have a kind heart.

I also remember helping children in bible study. I would be patient with them and understand how they felt. My pastor would say I have a big heart.

I learn to guard my heart against evil things in this world.

I also know the heart can be evil. A person that tries to destroy other people can't have a kind heart. A person that tries to get over other people doesn't have a good heart.

I remember at school when these two boys acted they were my friends but wanted my money. They were always trying to get me to buy their lunch. I felt sorry for them and brought them lunch. My parents explained they were using me.

I realize that you can't see a person's heart but you can see their actions. If the actions are good the heart is good. If the actions are bad the heart is not good.

I also know that there is a bible verse of the word giving. In the bible verse it says that we should be giving in both time and money, We should be generous and willing to give anything we can if we don't have money we should serve, and if we have two shirts we should give one.

*We should be giving in both time and money. We should be generous and willing to give anything we can if we don't have money we should serve, and if we have two shirts we should give one.*

Hebrews 13: 16



## Giving

Giving is having a strong sense of life purpose. I am a person who loves giving. I like giving to people who are in need of help. I give my time by sitting and talking with people. I love giving out meals to people in need. I like giving my time to children who need help. I like seeing the smiles and laughter on the children's faces.

I like giving my time to my parents who need help with cooking and housework. I enjoy sharing my time with my family and showing them how much I care. I remember when my uncle Tom came up from South Carolina, I would watch television with him and have great talks. He was not feeling well sometimes, and I put a smile on his face.

When my friends are feeling down, I provide them with emotional support. I would try to make my friends laugh instead of feeling depressed. I like sending my family messages saying, I love you.

I just like making others happy.





CHAPTER 11  
CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY

# Children

I am a person who loves and cares about children. I like helping children who need my help. I like playing games with children. I like to keep children active and occupied. I like to keep children safe from harm and danger. I want to be a role model for children.

I am patient, kind, responsible, and a good listener. I am the type of person who puts children's needs first. I volunteered at my church to help the children, and it was a great experience. I taught the children the ten commandments and bible verses. I want children to know that I am here to help them.

When I get married and have children, I am going to be a great father. I want my children to be able to depend on me no

matter what. I want to be their hero and not someone on television or sports. I want to provide guidance and love for them.



## Community

My community is made up of all cultures. My neighborhood is where we laugh and sing. We truly enjoy each other's company. We have block parties and picnics. Sometimes we sit on the grass and play board games. My community helps people who are hungry or need someone to talk to when they are lonely.

My community came together when my grandparents died. They prayed, brought food, and spent time with me. In my neighborhood, people are pushing their babies in a carriage and walking their dogs. People help the elderly by mowing the lawns or taking out the trash.

You can hear the sound of children laughing and joking with each other. Children feel happiness and spread it around. The police in my community ride by and say hello. The police provide fun activities for the children. I know that I see many police riots on television but that does not go on in my community. I know there are good and bad police in all communities.

On my 18th birthday, the police officers surprised me with a Parade. I was overjoyed because they took time out of their



busy schedule to wish me a happy birthday. My neighbors along with my parents made me a banner and decorated the yard. It was a fun time because people were riding by and honking their horns and saying happy birthday.





CHAPTER 12  
SORROW AND BULLYING

# Sorrow

When I think of sorrow, I think of pain. I think of people hurting inside and feeling empathy. Sorrow is a word that does not bring joy to me. Sorrow reminds me of the death of my loved ones. Sorrow is an empty and dreadful place.

Sorrow is a family that has died in a car crash. Sorrow is when a mother is told that her child will never walk or see. Sorrow is when a family is told their loved one was killed in the war.

Sorrow is when someone robs you of all your money and you have no money to pay the bills.

Sorrow is when you are laid off from your dream job. Sorrow is a person being shot and killed for no reason. Sorrow is when

a person is hit by a car and is paralyzed. Sorrow is when you are no longer able to take care of yourself.

I remember my uncle talking to me about a person who was feeling sorry for themselves because they could no longer walk. The person felt they had no purpose in life. My uncle encouraged the person to talk with others about being paralyzed. The person started talking with people and now the person stated they have a purpose in life.

My perspective now about sorrow is to face it head-on. Even though there will be sorrow in life, I realize it can strengthen me by dealing with the pain.



## Bullying

Bullying is when you hurt or frighten someone. When I was growing up, I used to get bullied a lot. The children would tease me and physically abuse me. I would try to fight them but there were too many of them. I did not tell the teachers because I was threatened. I was scared and I kept everything to myself.

I finally told my parents when I was older. They were understanding and supportive. I only wish that I would have told them back then. I told them I will stand up and speak against bullying. I read stories about children getting bullied and I

wonder what type of home they resided in. Sometimes children only do what is done to them at home. If you're getting bullied then you may want to bully someone else.

I think a solution may be to sit all parties down and talk out the problem. I think role-playing could be helpful. I think they should be made to eat together and talk out the problem.

I am so happy there are laws on bullying. Everyone needs to be treated with dignity and respect.





CHAPTER 13  
DANCING AND EXPRESSION

# Dancing

I remember when two summers ago when the family came together to celebrate my cousin's birthday. We all went outside in the backyard, and everyone took a turn dancing. We were hugging and slapping each other high fives. We also joked about how people were dancing, but it was so much fun. I was on top of the world. I think about those moments and can't wait until we can do that again.

Many people, young and old, love hip-hop dancing. It's a way of bringing everyone together. I like other dancing besides hip hop, and that's tap dancing. One day I am going to learn how to tap dance.

At my family gatherings we dance and sing. Dancing has no age limit and everyone participates.



# Expression

When I wake up in the morning my expression is jolly. I play music and dance.

When I am at my tennis match, I tell my teammates to break a leg.

When bowling, I tell my teammates it's a piece of cake.

Expression comes in many ways. Expression could be the way you paint a picture with smooth strokes. It could be painting a picture with black paint represents darkness and anger.

I show my expressions on my face by lifting up my eyebrows or looking up at the ceiling. Sometimes I don't want to show my expressions, I rather keep them inside. I don't want to give people the wrong impression of me. When I am hurt, my expression is sadness.

I could remember when my parents surprised me with a new bike. My expression was gladness by jumping up and down.

Expression is a way of me letting my feelings out. I show my expressions by speaking out loudly and boldly. When I see a picture from my family, I put an emoji with two hearts expressing my love.









## CHAPTER 14 MARRIAGE AND BLESSINGS

# Marriage

Marriage is going before God and people professing their love. Marriage is taking a vow for better or worst. Marriage is two people in love. Marriage is giving each other rings and showing love.

Marriage is compromising and showing love. Marriage is letting everyone know this is the person I want to be with for the rest of my life.

My grandparents were married for many years before they died. They told me the key to marriage is communication and honesty. Marriage needs to be built on a solid foundation. Marriage is not listening to others who are not married because this can ruin a marriage. Marriage is beautiful and everlasting.

My parents have been married for over 20 years and are always professing their love for one another. My parents are great role models for me.



## Blessings

Blessings is the day I was born and came into the world. I am blessed because I get up every morning and no one has to wash me up or put on my clothes. I am blessed because I can make my own food at home. I can go outside and enjoy a sunny day. People don't realize the blessings they have and take it for granted.

I am blessed because I am able to go to school and learn. I am blessed to have Say in my life.

My family is a blessing. My grandparents were blessings as they taught me manners. My grandparents taught me about God and his blessings.

I am blessed because I can pray and read my bible. There are people in other countries who cannot pray and read the bible.

I am happy for my blessings because it could be ten times worse.



## CHAPTER 15 HOMELESSNESS AND PANDEMIC

# Homelessness

Homelessness is where people don't have a home. Homelessness is me making a difference in someone else's life. When I go downtown, I see people lying on the streets.

I volunteer by giving out meals and clothes. I also give out fresh fruits and vegetables. My uncle's church provides the homeless a hot breakfast on Sundays. The people were thankful.

One Christmas my family provided the homeless with money, clothing and products to keep them clean.

I always think to myself if I was rich, I would open up a shelter that would provide education, mental health services and job employment.



# Pandemic

The pandemic took me and everyone by surprise. No one ever heard of Covid-19. Many nations were blaming each other or the virus. No one ever thought the world would be shut down. Many lives were lost during the pandemic. I lost my uncle during the pandemic, and we could not have a normal funeral. We had to do it virtually, and I could not console my relatives in person. My cousin was working in a nursing home and caught Covid-19. She told me that she felt like she was going to die. My cousin made it through the Covid-19, and now she is doing well. Everyone had to wear masks and gloves, and that was the new normal. People had to stay six feet away from each other.

I was feeling anxious because I did not know what to expect. I was unable to go outside with my family and friends. I missed going to family gatherings. Places of worship were closed. Schools and Colleges had to be closed. My parents were not able to go to work. My father was worried about income. The supermarkets were out of food at times. You were not able to go to the doctor's unless you were very ill. The hospital was not a safe place to go because people had Covid-19. I was wondering how long Covid-19 was going to last.

Covid-19 brought my family closer together. We learned to appreciate each other. We learned not to take each other for granted. We watched television shows and played board games. We were grateful for each day that we are alive. We prayed that we did not get Covid-19.

We learned to cope during the pandemic by calling our loved ones and checking on them. We prayed and read the bible. We gave each other hugs every day. We listen to music and dance. We wrote down why we were thankful.

We were able to go to school virtually and that was different. The teachers and students had to get used to doing lessons on the Chromebook. Then we started going into school twice a week and the rest virtual.

I liked virtual learning because I feel free to ask and answer questions. I don't have to worry about anyone looking at my facial expressions and my stuttering. I have come out of my shell, and my teachers are giving me praise.

My heart went out to the elderly. I was praying for a miracle and vaccine. My God answered my prayer, and now we have a vaccine.







## CHAPTER 16 GOSPEL MUSIC

# Gospel Music

Gospel Music has been in my family for generations. My grandmother and grandfather used to play gospel music around the house. They stated gospel music was good for your soul. When they were feeling up or down, they would sing and play gospel music. They were truly an inspiration to me. This is how I fell in love with gospel music. I started going to gospel concerts with my grandparents. This was an exciting time in my life that I would never forget.

I love Gospel music. Whenever I'm happy or depressed about something, I just turn on some gospel music and sing and dance. I start giving God praise for everything that he has done for me. Gospel music gives me strength and power every day when I wake up in the morning.

I experienced my first live gospel concert with Grammy Award Artist Kirk Franklin at the Beacon Theatre in New York. My parents and I had tickets to see him live. The theatre was amazing, the food was off the chain, and the music was outstanding. When the music started playing, I felt a sense of peace in my soul. Kirk Franklin is my favorite artist of all time because he sings of the goodness of God.

Gospel music is where I sing praises to God for all he has done for me. Gospel music makes me want to dance and sing.



CHAPTER 17  
CAMP SAY AND SAY

## Camp SAY

My mother was feeling heartbroken because she wanted a camp that would embrace and accept me. My mother was determined to find a camp and she started looking on websites. My mother found Camp SAY a sleep away camp. She said, Samuel with a smile, I found a camp where other youths stutter. I replied, no way. My mother stated the camp is a two-week camp and they have many activities. She said the camp is located in North Carolina. My mother stated that was too far so I didn't go. My mother looked on the website a year later and found Camp SAY had moved to Pennsylvania. I was overjoyed inside. I still was nervous because I didn't know how the campers would treat me. This would be my first vacation away because my grandparents were sick.

When I first went to Camp SAY I felt nervous and scared. It was my first time being away from home. I did not know anyone there and I did not know what to say. I think Camp SAY helped me make friends and realize stuttering is okay.

I started hanging out with different cultures and learning what stuttering means to them. We had similar experiences and were different and it was cool. Camp SAY is a place where you feel safe and respected.

I have attended Camp SAY for three years. This is going to be my last year, and I will be melancholy. I will take the special moments at Camp SAY with me for the rest of my life. I feel so lucky and honored to have attended Camp SAY. I thank God for allowing me to meet so many wonderful people at Camp SAY.



## SAY

The SAY programs have always made me feel like I am part of a family. Say has changed my outlook on stuttering. I feel my voice needs to be heard. SAY has brought me out of my shell and I am truly grateful. Say is a place of love, respect and safety. SAY is a place where I met different people around the world who stutter. SAY is a place where I was involved in meaningful activities to share my feelings. SAY is a place where you are given the time for your voice to be heard. SAY is a place where

I get to express my feelings about how stuttering makes me feel. SAY is a place where you get to meet famous people and they share their journey. SAY made me realize I am strong, bold and courageous. SAY made me feel more comfortable to express my emotions by speaking out. SAY made me realize that I am not alone, I am seen, I am heard, and loved.





CHAPTER 18  
GRADUATION AND WORKPLACE  
AND GETTING A JOB

# Graduation

I am nervous about graduation because I realize I will be going out into a new adventure. I will be advocating for myself. I will have to be more independent and not depend on my parents. I will need to speak out when challenges come my way. Some of the challenges are not letting people take advantage of me because I stutter. I worry about people being a true friend and not a fake one. I worry about going into stores and explaining to the sales people what I am looking for. I worry about explaining myself fully to doctors without them trying to tell me what I mean and how I feel. The road may seem lonely at first but it will get better with practice. I know there is light at the end of the road.

I also think the workplace needs to be educated about people who stutter. When I go for interviews, I worry about stuttering.

I explain to the interviewer that I stutter sometimes. In the back of my mind, I think he or she may not hire me because I stutter. Many people think because you stutter that you will not be qualified for the job. I hope my employer will be understanding of my stutter.

I will be going for my driving license one day and hope if I am ever stopped by the police, they will give me time to speak when they stop me. I hope they will be patient and respectful of the way I speak. I feel the police department needs to be aware



they have people who stutter in their town. I hope the police will get training on stuttering.

## Workplace

I also think the workplace needs to be educated about people who stutter. When I go for interviews, I worry about stuttering. I explain to the interviewer that I stutter sometimes. In the back of my mind, I think he may not hire me because I stutter. Many people think because you stutter that you will not be qualified for the job. I hope my employer will be understanding of my stutter.







The author wanted to include two  
fictional stories about a young boy who  
stutters and a teenage girl.

The author wants you to put yourself in  
their shoes.



## Overcomer

This is a story about a 9-year-old black male named John Banks who stutters. John lives in Los Angeles, California with his parents, David Banks and Brenda Banks in a one-bedroom apartment. The apartment is hot and they have no air conditioning. John's parents are struggling to keep food on the table and clothes on their backs. Mr. and Mrs. Bank don't have steady employment.

One day John was getting ready to go to school and overheard his parents talking about his stuttering problem. Mr. Banks stated my son is always getting teased by children and staff at school. John's head dropped and he started crying. Mr. & Mrs. Banks stated they hope he can be accepted one day and not be teased. Mr. & Mrs. Banks told John it's getting late and he needs to get ready for school.

John told his parents he was ready, and he left the house. As John was walking to school; he was hoping for a good day. John worried about children and teachers not understanding his stuttering and his facial expressions. The children and teachers ignored John. After school, John walked home alone in silence as the children walked ahead.

When John arrived home, he did his homework and chores. His parents ran into the house with a big smile on their faces. His parents said, "We're moving to a brand-new house in Connecticut." His father explained he has a job and the family no longer has to worry about housing, food and clothes. John told his parents he was nervous about moving to a new place and a new school with children who may judge him. His parents told him, "It will be a great experience and to just give it a chance." He responded, "Okay."

A month later he arrived at his new home and loved it. John finally had a nice backyard where he could run and swim in the pool. John walked to his new school the next day and prayed that people would like him. John walked into his class and saw children talking but none of the children asked him to join in.

As John was leaving the class, he saw four boys named Bob, Adam, Xavier, and Kevin. They started asking him questions about where he was from and he replied, "Los Angeles California." John and the four boys started hanging out in school and on the weekends. John's friends did not care that he stuttered.

On the weekends all of the boys went to the movies, the mall, and the arcade. John felt happy that he finally had friends that he could count on. John explained to his friends that stuttering is a complex and often misunderstood communication disorder that can cause interruptions in a person's speech.

In the end, John was relieved and happy that he was accepted by his friends after telling them about his stutter.



# Hope

Amy is a 15-year-old Hispanic female. Amy resides with her parents, Robert Martinez and Natalia Martinez. Amy stuttered and found it hard to make friends. Amy was a girl who wanted to be accepted by people. Amy got involved with the wrong group of girls. These girls wanted to use Amy for her money.

These girls talked Amy into having a party at her home. Amy explained to the girls that her parents did not allow anyone to be unattended at the home. Amy finally caved in and decided to have the party at her home when her parents went to work. Amy told her friends not to bring liquor. Her friends agreed they would not bring liquor to the house. Amy told everyone to be at her home at 9:00pm. Everyone arrived at the party and some of the youth was drunk and she was upset. A young man named Peter told Amy to chill out and enjoy the party. Amy decided to listen and let them bring in liquor.

The youth was making a lot of noise, and the neighbors called the police. The police arrived and called her parents. When her parents arrived at the home, they were shocked and disappointed in Amy. Amy's parents received a fine. Amy's parents told her she was grounded for a month.

Peter called Amy to see if she could go for a ride. Amy told him she was grounded. Peter told Amy if she did not come out with him, he would not speak to her again. Amy snuck out of the house and got in the car with Peter. Peter was driving and not paying attention to the road, and a truck hit the car. Both were rushed to the hospital. The hospital called Mr. & Mrs. Martinez and told them to come to the hospital because their daughter was in an accident.

Amy's parents were devastated as they drove to the hospital. Her parents kept saying they hope she is alright. They arrived at the hospital, and the nurse told them to take a seat, and the doctor would be out to speak to them. The doctor came out and told them Amy would never walk again. Amy's parents broke down in tears. They asked the doctor who else was in the car with Amy. The doctor reported another male, and he did not make it. Amy's mother collapsed to the floor. The hospital staff helped her up off the floor and sat her on a chair. Her parents asked the doctors if they could see Amy, and the doctor replied, just for a few moments. Amy's parents went into the room and started praying for her.

Amy stayed in the I.C.U. for months. When Amy woke up, she apologized to her mother. Amy's parents told her they love her very much. Amy asked about Peter, and they told her he died. Amy was crying and became depressed.

While Amy was in the hospital, she met a girl named Mary who had complications with her heart. Mary invited Amy into her room and told her she was dying. Amy started crying, and Mary told her don't cry because she will live life to the fullest. Amy told Mary why she was in the hospital. Mary told her look at the bright side; you're still alive. Amy told Mary she stutters, and Mary told her, who cares. I like you for you. Amy told her about her friends and how they had a party.

Amy also told her about Peter, who passed away. Mary told her that was sad and she would be praying for his parents.

In the end, Amy and Mary became the best of friends in the hospital. Amy would do wheelies on her wheelchair, and Mary would crack jokes. Amy and Mary started a prayer group for teens at the hospital.







# *Acknowledgements*

*My parents are loving, kind, patient, understanding, and dedicated. God blessed me with the best parents, and I am truly honored and grateful.*

*My deceased grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dicks, thank you for giving sound advice. I love and miss you with all my heart.*

*My grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Guilford Boyd, Sr. have shown me love all my life. They are fantastic grandparents.*

*My Sister, Iq Shonda who is the best sister anyone could ask for in the world. She is kind, understanding and she truly loves me.*

*My Brother, Guilford (Gill) he is such a fun brother to be around, and he is my protector. I love you.*

*My Brother, Alikeem, I look up to you in so many ways. When I need something, you are always there. I love you.*

*My Aunt, Buelah (Boot) Toney, calls and lets me know that she cares and loves me. She reminds me of my grandmother.*

*I want to thank my Auntie, Brenda, who always provided me love, support, and understanding. She is a second mother to Mom.*

*I want to thank my uncle, Godfather, Reverend Aaron, who has inspired me to follow my dreams. He always has positive feedback. I love you so much.*

*My Aunt Lisa, who I love with all my heart. She makes me laugh and smile all the time.*

*Uncle Boris is always looking out for my best interest. I love you.*

*Uncle Dennis makes me laugh all the time.*

*Uncle Ronnie has a smile that would light up the world.*

*Uncle Bernard is a positive role model to me.*

*My Aunt, Charlena, is always praying for me and wants the best for me.*

*My deceased Uncle Thomas provided me with wisdom, love, and understanding.*

*My deceased Uncle Harry played games with me and brought smiles to my face.*

*My deceased Aunt Retha (Liz) provided me with love, pray, and lots of hugs.*

*My deceased Uncle Anthony is always praying*

*My deceased Auntie Pam always took time to take me out and show me love. She had high hopes for me.*

*My Aunt, Reverend Louise Jackson, and Uncle Jimmy Jackson stepped up when my grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dicks died. They constantly check on me and provided me with love and support.*

*My Aunt, Charlene, provides wisdom, understanding, and love.*

*All my cousins in Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, California, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, thank you for believing in me. I love you all with all my heart.*

*Janet and Darcel (Kitten) are my cousins and an Auntie figure to me who always accepted me and loved me with all their heart.*

*My cousins and aunties, Deborah, Carolyn, Vicky, Teasha, and Erica, would I do without you cheering me on.*

*My Godmother, Corell who provides me love and wisdom. She is spiritual, supportive, and a caring person. I thank God for her.*

*My Godsister, Kalihah, I love you because you call me, and we have great conversations.*

*A special thanks to my five cousins, Demarco, Pat, Roy, Tom, and little Aaron, who are indeed role models. You always have my back, and I thank God for all of you.*

*Ms. Emma and family, I love you because I know if I ever need anything, you will be there for me. I love you.*

*Mrs. Vanessa is there when I need help with my studies and provides excellent advice. She is an incredible person.*

*Mr. Nick and Mrs. Iris, thank you for making sure I get to my activities on time and showing support. Mr. Nick is a father figure to me.*

*The Reed Family checks on me and provides me with hugs.*

*Ms. Jamie has a special place in my heart.  
I can always count on her.*

*I want to thank Taro because, without you, there is no SAY  
or Camp SAY. You have truly changed my life for the better.*

*I want to thank Ryan, who worked countless hours  
with me on this book. He is an outstanding person.*

*Kate and Aidan, for your dedication and love. Both of  
you are awesome, thoughtful, patient, and kind. I also  
want to thank you for helping me to value myself.*

*I want to thank Travis and Noah for always  
coming up with great activities for everyone.*

*I want to thank Say for having a Paperback  
Project where I have the chance to share my  
experiences and talk about stuttering.*

*Pastor Fudge, thanks for believing in me  
and showing me the way to God.*

*Mrs. Lucille always knew and believed  
that I would be a success in life.*

*Christian Assembly Church provides  
me hugs, love, and kindness.*

*To Mrs. Amy, who is a mother figure to  
me and wants the best for me.*

*To my friends Mark and Lucas, you are great friends.*

*My Barber, Darren, provides me with knowledge  
and keeps me looking stylish.*

*Speech Teacher Sandy is my inspiration.*

*First Lady Tracy truly cares about my well-being.*

*Pastor Green, who provides me with the word of God.*

*Evangelist, Littleberry prays and provides me with the word God.*

*True Vine of Holiness Church, you accepted me into your family. I thank you for caring and praying for me.*

*My Tennis and Bowling Coach, you both believed in me and wanted me at every game. I am so honored to have met both of you.*

*Bunnell High School Staff, thanks for teaching me and helping me with my journey.*

*Nutmeg Bowling Staff, thanks for your time, patience, and support.*

*My neighbors provide kind words.*





## Also by this Author

The Dough-Getters

A Christmas Blessing

Winter Spoken Word Project 2021



# The Dough-Getters

Sam Boyd & Tyrese  
Mentor: Paul Johansen  
TA: Colleen  
Spring Mentor Project 2020

## ZOOM: 3 PERSON GALLERY THROUGH ENTIRE PIECE

**Paul:**

Welcome everybody to the Zoom Baking Show. I'm the gray haired baker, here to give you a little wisdom and how to keep your peaks firm. I have two special guests presenting Sam B. the master of chocolate chips and Tyrese otherwise known as All Things Asian. Loves that Asian food. Welcome gentlemen!

**Sam:**

Hello! This is Sam Boyd coming to you live from the Chocolate Chip Factory.

**Tyrese:**

Hey this is Tyrese Reed coming to you from General Tso's Kitchen. Welcome to the stream!

**Paul:**

Gentlemen I am very excited to have you both here today. I want to kick it off here today by giving our viewers a little glimpse

into your favorite cake ever. Feel free to use as much detail as you like. We can't taste it!

**Sam:**

My favorite cake is yellow cake with vanilla frosting with chocolate sprinkles and rainbow sprinkles on top.

**Paul:**

Is that a sheet cake or a layer cake?

**Sam:**

That's a layer.

**Paul:**

How many layers

**Sam:**

Three

**Paul:**

Sam I gotta ask do you like it with a glass of milk

**Sam:**

Yes

**Paul:**

Is that whole milk or skim milk

**Sam:**

It's cold milk.

**Paul:**

I'm drooling over that cake. That's tough to beat but I think you can do it. What's your favorite cake Tyrese?

**Tyrese:**

My favorite cake is....oh wait...scratch that...that's my second favorite cake. My first favorite cake is a lemon coconut cake

**Paul:**

What?! You gotta tell me more!

**Tyrese:**

So lemon coconut cake is my favorite because the sweetness from the lemon and the sweetness from the coconut both just go well together. Especially with the frosting and coconut flakes.

**Paul:**

Woah woah woah you just dropped one of my favorite words frosting...Tell me more

**Tyrese:**

Well the type of frosting i am talking about is buttercream frosting.

*Group sigh*

**Paul:**

Classic. Well since it's my show I think we are going to make my favorite cake. But i would love to get both of your inputs and maybe bring it to another level. So I am a chocolate cake guy. Without a doubt, a chocolate cake guy and Tyrese I know you feel me on this buttercream frosting.

**Tyrese:**

What about chocolate buttercream?

**Paul:**

Maybe. occasionally...Tyrese do you maybe have any of the coconut flakes available from your kitchen? Maybe we could use that for on top of the buttercream.

**Tyrese:**

Yeah I got your coconut flakes, man.

*(He passes a measuring cup over his camera and Paul receives it)*

**Paul:**

So Sam classic chocolate buttercream with a little coconut. What do you think will bring it to the next level?

**Sam:**

Maybe a cup of flour or sugar?

**Paul:**

What about spices?

**Sam:**

Spices? Oh Yeah! How about some cinnamon?

*(Sam passes over the cinnamon.)*

**Paul:**

Alright I am gonna mix this up. While I do this Sam why don't you tell me about cooking means to you, how you got introduced to it, what it means to you and your family...just the important parts of what cooking means to you.

**Sam:**

Being in the kitchen with your family could be a good thing. You get to have a conversation to get to know the person and get to the bottom line of what happened or what didn't happen with your day.

**Paul:**

That's perfect, that really is the essence of cooking for so many people. Tyrese what about you? What does it mean to you?

**Tyrese:**

Cooking for me means that I can take this talent and turn it into a lifetime career because it is one of the things that I like to do. It's one of those things you can do for fun and if you have a love for cooking like I do then its great because you can experiment with it. Cooking is about challenges and trying new things.

**Paul:**

Well the wonders of even a Zoom cooking show, we were able to get this cake cooked pretty quickly. I am looking forward to sharing it with you to see if it works. It's a chocolate cinnamon buttercream cake with coconut flakes for a little crunch and sweetness.

**Sam:**

Enough talking let's eat!

*(Paul passes two bowls one to Sam and one to Tyrese and they receive the bowls.)*

**Tyrese:**

It's kinda weird to have cake in a bowl.

**Paul:**

It's covid Tyrese what do you want me to do?

*(The three look down at their bowl)*

**Sam:**

Perfect. It looks perfect.

**Tyrese:**

Good job guys! I am proud of us!

**Paul:**

Gents, I couldn't have done it without ya! Thanks for being here today! I look forward to sharing a chocolate cinnamon buttercream with coconut flakes cake with you face to face soon!



**Sam:**

Be sure to bring the cold glass of milk!

THE END

# A Christmas Blessing

Group Name: The Best Group in the World

Sam Boyd & Jerry

TA: Emily

Fall Storytelling Project 2020-2021

## SCENE 1:

**Richard:**

Today was a long day at work! I'm so tired! (Richard sees Ralph on the street outside his home.) Happy Holidays! Do you need some help or clothes or money that could help you?

**Ralph:**

Yes, and thank you very much. God Bless You and happy holidays to you too.

**Richard:**

God Bless you too. Do you want some dinner or are you hungry?

*(Richard brings him steak with some potatoes and carrots and sweet peas and cake and a coca-cola. Ralph takes it gratefully)*

**Ralph:**

Thank you! You are a blessing to me.

**Richard:**

Thank you.

**Ralph:**

You're welcome.

**Richard:**

It's my pleasure. It was nice to meet you. I'll see you tomorrow.

**SCENE 2:**

*(The next morning, Richard turns on his TV and sees the Mayor on TV)*

**Ralph:**

(from the TV) I have an announcement - yesterday night I was pretending to be homeless and a nice person said to me, Are you hungry or need clothes? He was so kind to me to give me dinner and clothes and I want to award him for being nice to the homeless.

*(Ralph turns off camera)*

**Richard:**

Oh my God! It's the mayor! I helped him! The guy was really the mayor! I wonder why he came to see me being homeless...

**Mary:**

I don't believe you! You're not the type of person to you that.

**Richard:**

I can prove it! We could call the mayor up.

**Mary:**

You don't have the number of the mayor.

**Richard:**

I do have the mayor's number on my phone.

**Mary:**

Then prove it! Let me see your phone.

*(Richard shows her the number from the website)*

**Richard:**

I told you so.

**Mary:**

Call him right now!

**Richard:**

It's too early, Mary. The mayor could be busy.

**Mary:**

You see! You were lying

**Richard:**

No no no. Ok, fine. I'll call them right now. Listen!

**Mary:**

They will not answer.

**Richard:**

Yes they will, just give it a second.

**Mary:**

They probably won't remember you.

**Richard:**

Mary, they do remember me.

**Mary:**

Stop lying...

**Richard:**

I'm not lying to you, Mary.

*(Richard calls on speaker phone and the Mayor picks up the phone)*

**Ralph:**

Who is this?

**Richard:**

It's Richard!

**Ralph:**

Richard Who?

**Richard:**

It's Richard Brown from the other day. When you were playing homeless.

**Ralph:**

You're the guy who gave me dinner, money, and clothes.

**Richard:**

Yes, it's me. (to Mary) Told you, he remembered me!

**Mary:**

Ok, now I believe you!

**Richard:**

I would never lie to you honey.

**Ralph:**

Tomorrow at 5, meet me in City Hall and bring your family and friends!

**Richard and Mary:**

Thank you and we will see you tomorrow at 5.

**Ralph:**

Bye.

**SCENE 3:**

*Next day. Mary makes excuses why she can't come to city hall because they are going to surprise him. Mayor surprises Richard with one hundred thousand dollars.*

**Mary:**

I'm sorry can't make it to City Hall. I'm not feeling well. You should go by yourself.

**Richard:**

Ok then. I really want you to come but I totally understand. I hope you feel better. Love you.

*(Richard goes to city hall by himself)*

**Ralph:**

Why didn't you bring your wife?

**Richard:**

She's not feeling really well.

**Ralph:**

Oh, ok. Tell her I say to feel better.

**Richard:**

Ok, thank you.

*(Ralph takes Richard to a nearby park and Richard's friends and family are in the park to surprise him.)*

**Mary:**

Surprise!

**Ralph:**

Here is a one hundred thousand dollars award for helping the homeless. We made a party for you.

**Richard:**

Thank you very much (starts having tears)

**Ralph:**

I have an announcement - every thursday you have to help the homeless people to give them food and clothes and money.

**Richard:**

I will do my best. And I won't let you down. I plan to give some of this money back to charity. Thank you!

**THE END**



# **Winter Spoken Word Project 2021**

Sam Boyd, Erikson, & Josh D  
TA: Colleen

**Dear God**

**Dear Comfort**

**Dear Anxiety**

**I am mistreated sometimes but I know you're on my side.  
You have always been on my side.  
It is hard to pin you to one certain feeling.**

**People don't understand me when I stutter.  
But I need to start taking risks.  
It is also hard to pin you to one certain time that you have  
tortured me**

**I feel frustrated.  
I feel empowered.  
I feel exhausted.**

**“Sam, slow down, slow down, why are you talking like that?”**

**“Taking risks, leads to success”**

**“Will I stutter again? Will I stutter again? Will I stutter again?”**

**You see me as unique and wonderful**

**I see myself being comfortable in different situations that  
I’m uncomfortable with now**

**People see me as cool and calm**

**I see myself as a kind and different person**

**I see myself as being too nervous**

**I see myself as frantic and unstable**

**I’m writing to you because I know that you have my best  
interests at heart.**

**I’m writing to you because I’m just starting to go away from you**

**I’m writing to you because I want to know how to work with  
you.**

**You wake me up every morning**

**I will miss doing things I want to do**

**Why try to fight you**

**I feel lucky because some people didn’t wake up.**

**Staying in my own head.**

**Fighting you has been trying to swim up a river.**

**Through your words I am an overcomer.**

**I'm taking more risks.**

**What I'm hoping for when I'm working with you is that maybe I can finally leave my past mistakes behind me. Learning from them but not putting them in front of everything.**

**So, Dear God**

**Dear Comfort**

**Dear Anxiety**

**Thank you. I'm a winner.**

**I may come back to you in the future.**

**Thank you but no thank you.**

**Warm Wishes, Sam**

**Till we meet again, Josh**

**Bon Voyage! Erikson**

## Praise for the Author

“A truly exceptional young man, Samuel Boyd is a person who exceeds superlatives. His heart is one of the truest, goodest things in this world. He understands the role that loving support plays in his own life, and honors its power by articulating it through his own heart-center and spreading it generously. Sam is an incredible actor, an outstanding dancer, and a fierce friend. He is a person who takes responsibility for his actions, and chooses to make the world better and more full of grace. To know Sam is to receive the gift of tender compassion, of insistent support, and of powerful strength of character. Sam says he wants us all to feel “wonderfully made.” Thanks to his impact in our lives, we do.”

– KATE DETRICK, SAY Director of Confident Voices

“Samuel Boyd is one of the most “heart-forward” people I have ever met. Everything that he does is through a lens of kindness, grace, gentleness and joy. He cares deeply about the world and the people in his life, is always quick to smile and is a deep and powerful thinker. Sam carries a wisdom about him that he uses to make other people feel seen and heard, and to advocate for what he needs. This extraordinary book, *I Have Something to Say*, could not be more perfectly titled. Sam does have something to say, and he says it eloquently, simply, truthfully and beautifully. This piece is a meditation on life, stuttering, love, family, faith and courage, and ultimately all the things that make Samuel Boyd exactly who he is: a gentleman.”

– AIDAN SANK, SAY Artistic Director of Confident Voices

“Sam fills the room with joy. He carries with him a strength that can gently change your life. He is a young man who cannot tell a lie. His writing is pure articulation of the soul and should be read as such. To read Sam Boyd’s writing is to make a new best friend.”

– RYAN PATER, SAY Writing Mentor and Teaching Artist

“When I first met Samuel Boyd, I immediately knew he was the kind of person who changes people for the better, even after one interaction. Samuel embodies the definition of a team player. He encourages and supports those around him with such gusto and love. He is a well full of wonderful ideas and inspiring thoughts. His laugh, his heart and his spirit make the world a better place. What a guy!”

– COLLEEN O’CONNOR, SAY Teaching Artist



### About the Author

Samuel Boyd is a Senior in high School.  
He wanted to write this book so you could have insight into a person who stutters. He hopes you will take away an understanding about a person who stutters.