

## What I Dream About

If I could be anything, I would be a major league baseball player. That's because I love to play the game. I wouldn't really care about how much money I made because I'd only play for fun. If I couldn't be a ball player,

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by Ké Hué Han

# Points of View

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# DREAMS

## Fernley Edmund

If I could be anything I wanted, I would be the wind.

The wind goes everywhere without being seen, even in some very strange, forbidden places. It keeps everyone cool, has no enemies, cannot be hurt and cannot die. If I had a choice in the matter, I would be the wind.

## Raul Vasquez

If I could be anything I wanted, I would be a recording engineer. I know this sounds "cheesy," but I love music. I love performing and listening; but to be able to capture the sound, the emotion, and the live intensity is an art. You can create so much in a studio. You can enhance sound or change it to what suits you best. You also get the recognition of creating the sound and music that a mass of people will hear.

If I could do anything I wanted, I would have my band play at Madison Square Garden in front of an audience of 12,000 people. To just be able to hear the crowd cheer and like the music would be reward enough. No money necessary. I'd also like to have a 20 minute drum solo (I play drums) and incorporate the crowd with claps and stomps and such. All I'd want is about 2 hours worth of time.

My dream job would be to play drums for my favorite jazz, latin, rock fusion guitarist, Al Dimeola. He plays all around the world, and his band contains some of the best musicians in the business. I would die for an opportunity to perform on stage with him and play all my favorite songs.

## Kevin Van Manen

If I could be anything I wanted I would be a major league baseball player, because I really enjoy playing the game. I wouldn't really care about how much money I made because I'd only play for fun.

### Jaqueline Newman

If I could be anything I wanted I would be a bird. A jay bird, not too big or small. Just the right size to be.

I would fly around, breathe clean air, look for my nest, and watch my little tiny eggs. I would also sing a beautiful tune to wake the little kids in the morning -- early in the morning.

I would go and fly high, as high as I could; go to the next tree to see my way around the woods; look forward to the sun and those hot summer days; wait for the rain so I could take a small break in my wild free life.

And if I could become a bird, I would. I would be able to move my nest anywhere I think is safe for my tiny little eggs. So my little birds would be ready to live.

### Walter Heaney

If I could be anything I wanted to be, I would be a woman. It seems like they have so many problems. They have P.M.S., give birth, constantly worry about what to wear and how they look. I would really like to experience it and see if it's that hard.

### Gonxhe Balanca

If I could be anything I wanted to be, I would not be any different. I just want to be myself. Most people say they want to be like a movie star or a rich person. Not me. Being myself is what I want to be, because there is only one of me. All the fame or riches would not make me change.

### Yusuf Muhammed

If I could be anything I wanted I would be a very successful businessman, owning many grocery stores, shopping malls, gas stations and many more. I would have over a hundred employees working for me. I would never have to go shopping anywhere else because I would have everything I need. Hopefully, I would never have to ask anyone for anything because I have my own.

I would have a very big family so when I get old they can take over. I think that it would be a nice gift and a head start in life for them. I would do everything I could to make sure that they would have all the things I wish I had when I was their age.

### *Bernadette Kovacs*

If I could be anything I would be a sonogram technician. Well, at least that is what I plan to be simply because I want to be the one there with the parents who are expecting and be able to give them the joy of listening to the baby's heartbeat and to let them see their little miracle. I love children and I am fascinated by watching them develop from something that was once an egg. I also wish to be the one who is able to see whether their child is a boy or a girl.

### *Ronald Thomas*

If I could be anything I wanted I would be an auto mechanic, because this has been a dream and a goal of mine for quite some time now. I always wanted to be able to open my own shop and be able to work on cars. I want to be able to get into the engines and repair them; know how to redo the rusty body of a car and make it look like new.

Secondly, being an auto mechanic pays very well. You will make good money; be able to save some and take care of your family.

In conclusion, being an auto mechanic is having a good skill under your belt. It is something you will never forget. You can take it anywhere with you in the country and open a business.

### *Jamal Butter*

If I could be anything, I would be myself. I had a negative life. I grew up to be a troublesome kid. I threw bottles at people. I cursed at anybody. I started trouble for no reason at all. I also was in and out of jail. Now that I'm more mature, I bring positive messages to kids. I would tell them when I see them doing something bad, "You don't have to prove anything to anybody but yourself." I'm happy for the change I made from negative to positive.

Shelly Malka

If I could be anything I wanted I would be rich. Many people say that money is not everything, but I think it is. I think money can buy everything, especially happiness. It sounds absurd, but it's true. When you have a lot of money you can buy anything you want, go anywhere you please, have everything and more. I think that would make me very happy. A lot of married couples get into fights because of financial matters; but if you have money everyone is content. You may think, "Well, there's love and health. Money can't buy those!" But, it can! When you have a disease, you need money to get proper treatment: the best doctors and the best hospitals. The same holds true for love. Let's say you meet a guy or a girl who is well off. You will learn to love the person for the sake of the money. Who wouldn't rather live in luxury than in the poor house? As sad as it may sound, that is the way life is.

# MAGICAL AGE

## Raul Vasquez

The best age for me to be is about a year old. Life for a one year old is more complex than one may think. Firstly, an infant has to grasp the concept of walking and balance. No easy task for someone who has never done it. The infant also has to learn about its environment. For an infant the world is so big and interesting and dangerous. None of that will stop an infant, though. Its too bad that we can't go back to that and really understand what makes us human.

## Gabriel G. Pino

I really could say between 13 and 16 are the best ages, because in my own experience I had the most wonderful, delightful times; and I don't know if they could happen again.

For example:

I was 14 years old when I attended school in Mexico City. For some reason the teacher chose to sit me (the whole complete year!!) with the most sympathetic, prettiest and popular girl in the class; I should say in the entire school. Both of us got along pretty well, always with a lot of respect, but no more than that.

We used to join the chorus group at school together. We played the same type of instruments in the class. On one of those unexpected days at school the sun smiled on me and the skies looked more blue than usual. The clouds were dancing to the rhythm of my walk. It was a day I'll never forget. She smiled at me all the time during our first classes. That was very unusual for me!

Well, any way, after our lunch break both of us had to go to the chorus classes. We went together after the bell rang. We were sitting in the back of the crowded class, playing and singing like any other day, but she kept smiling and pinching my leg with her hand (with no malicious thoughts, of course). I told her several times to stop otherwise I was going to kiss her if she kept bothering me. But, she kept doing it. Finally, the class



was over and we all got up, ready to leave. She did her final pinch of my cheek while I was standing up. I grabbed her hands in a nonforcible way and I KISSED HER! Then, I happily said to her, "Mercedes, you were resistless to my kiss!!"

### Patrick Rusalleda

I don't know the exact age that would be the best age to be, but I think it would be any time after sixty-five. I chose that age because you are already finished with school and your career. You can retire and take it easy at that point. How about that? No more worries at that age. What more could anyone ask for?

### Manuel A. Peraza

The best age to be? I believe all ages have their own rewards or specialities. It is up to the individual mind and heart to achieve the feeling of well being at any age. As far as I am concerned, I am "ageless."

### Dhammika Navinna

I think the best age to be is 4 years old. It is younger than I am now. At that age children do not have any responsibilities. They do not have jealousy or hatred. They are very innocent. They can play all the time. If they want something they get it -- mostly toys. They don't have to study. And they do not have to remember things. They can live freely. Because of those reasons, I would like to be 4.

### Kevin Gonzalez

I guess the age I would like to be again is about 4 years old. I would like to start all my years of school from the beginning. I think it is really easy to live when you have a mother and father to take care of you. You don't have to worry about anything. You depend totally on your parents.

### Barbara Meinero

The best age to be is definitely thirty years old. By now you have at least one child. My future seems more clear, and my goals are within my reach.

People often say, "How old are you? Twenty one? Twenty two?" I laugh and feel great inside. You can be older, but just don't look it.

### Jeffry Allen

If I were allowed to go back in time or age, it would be to about age six or seven -- hoping that I could keep the insight that I have now. I would know not to fool with drugs or be around people that fool with it.

### Bernadette Kovacs

If I were able to stay a certain age forever, I would have to say I think the best age to be is seventeen. I really cannot say I'd want to be older. I don't know what the future holds. I also can say that I have already had my share of responsibilities. I want to be seventeen again, because I missed out on my childhood. It was taken away from me. I had to support myself. I had no guardians to look after me. So I would love to be able to hang out with my friends and do all that I couldn't do because I had to work forty plus hours a week just to stay alive.

### Kathleen Casiano

The age that I would like to be is what I am now, 35 going on 36 in July. I had a pretty bad childhood, so I wouldn't want to repeat it. As a teenager, it was difficult because my home life was not good. After I turned 18, I had gotten married and that turned out to be a disaster. Over the years I've had a very hard life and I have learned a lot from those experiences. Yes, I am having a difficult time adjusting to the death of my husband, but it has also made me strong. I see life differently and I have a whole new world opened to me. It's like I can enjoy life in a different way. I don't have a big responsibility of the family unit. Now my children help out with the house, the bills, the responsibilities of keeping the family unit in tact. So I do enjoy being my age. I am not the one being responsible for everyone. It is a shared effort.

# WORK EXPERIENCE

## Norma Patterson

The best job I ever had was actually a summer job. That was my dream job. I was a secretary in charge of the rest of the youth working there. I had so many responsibilities that I really felt like I was somebody. My duties were to answer phones, type memos, make sure that workers signed in and out, make meetings with some of the top people. If I could turn the clock back, it would have to be to this job.

## Gina Hopper

The best job I ever had was working at a veterinary clinic. I worked in the kennel-operating area. I loved it because I love animals.

At work, I would bathe the dogs, clip their nails and brush them. I would also assist in minor operations or dental work. I would also bring the animals, when finished, upstairs to their owners. I also would walk them, which was the best part because I would walk four at a time, which was really funny looking.

But my favorite day was when a woman brought in three stray puppies and we didn't have room for them, so I took one home and the other two went with someone else. I never brought the puppy back because we decided to keep her. I still have the monster of a dog a year later.

## Jeffry Allen

The best job I ever had was working in a homeless family shelter. It was a great feeling being able to help others that were in need. Even just being there to give an ear or word to help comfort another brother or sister. We are all brothers and sisters. No matter what color we are.

### Ki Hui Han

The best job I ever had was being a volunteer waitress for one summer for a camp. I went to Grant Lake, which is located upstate. It was so beautiful up there. The people were friendly. The scenery was wonderful and I found tranquility there. Even though I worked hard (breakfast, lunch and dinner shifts). I can never regret the experience I had up there.

### Fernley Edmund

The best job I ever had was being a fireman. I worked as a fireman for ten years. During which time, I was able to save a few lives and help hundreds of people.

My job was rewarding in many ways. I had the honor of getting people out of burning buildings, of doing three years of regular ambulance emergency service which was very rewarding. I would say one could hardly have better job satisfaction in life than to save lives.

The men I worked with became like family because of the number of hours we spent together and because most of the work we did was team work. The salary was decent and I was always in excellent physical condition. I felt stronger and more accomplished than I did at any other time of my life.

### Patric Buttermark

My dream job would be to do nothing all day and get paid for it. Don't call me lazy. I don't mind working, but I'm sure if you could get paid for doing nothing you wouldn't mind. I don't really mean doing nothing, I mean working "smart" not hard.

What I mean by that is I don't want to work for someone else all my life; just until I'm - oh, say, maybe - twenty one. Then I take my money and make it work for me, instead of me working for my money. You see, I'd invest it. Not stupidly! I know all about real estate, stock market, tax free municipal bonds and I'm always looking for a new way to make money.

You see, I need to keep track of my investments. I could do that with a telephone from the side of the inground pool I'll have, or from any where there's a phone. If you work for someone else, you and all the other employees are working to make the boss millions, and he's only paying you peanuts. Employers pay you maybe forty thousand a year and they're making millions. I could write a book on the whole concept when I think about it. Maybe I will.

# WISHES

## Kevin Van Manen

If I could do anything I wanted, I would help the many people who are less fortunate than I am. I would give them food, water, and a place to live. Also, I would try to get them jobs. This way they could get their lives back on track.

## Eric Boamah

If I could do anything I wanted, I would be a teacher in college. Being a teacher in college can be as exciting as anything and will also make you remember your childhood days when you used to fool around instead of studying.

College teachers have also the chance of refreshing their memories as they teach, because growth stimulates the mind. Being a teacher is one of the jobs which I am proud of. As a teacher you impart knowledge to your students. So that, as they grow up, they will be able to stand on their legs and face the world. A teacher can also be a student in that he goes to school every day; and students are always proud of teachers who are smart.

## Ki Hui Han

If I could do anything I wanted, I would find a tropical island that is abundant with fresh food, pure water and has a cove full of dolphins. I adore dolphins and I love to swim. What a perfect dream that would be. I would also have a white stallion to take me around the island and a beautiful crystal mansion that I design for myself to live in. When I do make it to the top, I will do exactly what I dream about. Even if I am fifty at that time. As you know, dolphins and horses don't judge.

## Fran Piriano

If I could do anything I wanted, I would sky dive. All my life I've wanted to do that. The feeling of jumping out of a plane must be fantastic. You're actually flying, but without any wings. The feeling of being thousands of feet above the earth must be a great feeling. Someday, I will do it; I know I will.

### Anne Leone

There is one thing that I would love to do and that is jump out of an airplane. Just imagine the feeling you would have going through your entire body. Feeling free and relaxed, just floating through the air. It must be great.

### Barbara Meinero

If I could do anything I wanted, I would start my life back to when I was sixteen, knowing what I know now would give me a direct understanding about my life.

Dropping out of school and ruining my life was really stupid. I never realized until now how important my education really is. So if I would do anything, that would be what I would want to do.

### Walter Heaney

If I could do anything I wanted, I would trade places with a homeless person. I want to see what they get through during the middle of the night in the middle of winter. I think everyone in the world should take this experience. Maybe one point of view will change and they will be helped.

### Jessica Eadicicco

If I could have done anything I wanted to do,  
I never would have fallen in love with you.  
You broke my heart with the things you said.  
I felt that a part of me was dead.  
Crying, when I remember you,  
Is something I thought I would always do;  
But as time goes by, I think less of you.  
Maybe someday my heart will heal  
And I will find a love that's real.

# WHAT MAKES ME ME

## Louis Bauza

When I was about five years old, I would take my mother's cooking pots and bang on them to make the sound of music. I would bang on her pots. I mean bang really loud! After a while, my mother got tired of cooking with dents in her pots. She went out and purchased a drum set for me. As I got older, I started to take lessons and became the ninth grade drummer in the school jazz band. By the time I was in the eighth grade, I was in a rock band playing with grown men in their thirties and playing in many nightclubs in the New York City area. As a matter of fact, many of my school teachers would come to the night clubs and watch me play the drums. It felt really good to see and watch people enjoy my playing the drums.

## Ki Hui Han

Why do I think I'm special? Let me count the ways! But, in all seriousness, I am special because I do stand out in a crowd. That may be because of my weight! I'm probably one of the biggest Asian women people have ever seen. I can't say people don't think I'm pretty, because some people do. That is when I decide not to look a bum. I am also a very outgoing person, unlike my Asian counterparts. So people tend to get along with me. I can also be witty, which comes with intelligence; but when I'm tired, I seldom use my wit. Well, all in all, I know I'm special because I am like no other, and that in itself is special.

## Adam Thompsen

I am different from other people because all the teens I know hang out on the corner doing nothing. I don't like to hang out on the corner because it's boring. I like to do things such as racing dirt bikes and playing sports while everybody else is hanging out doing nothing.

### Theresa Randolph

I keep trying to think of something that makes me different from everybody else in the world. I can't think of anything. I don't believe it will be that way forever. I know in time I will have my own life. It is hard for me to feel that way right now. I have two children and they occupy most of my time. That is why I can only come to school two days a week. Eventually the world will be in the palm of my hand.

### Atanacia Maldonado

There are a lot of qualities that make me special. I am a very giving person. I like to help people in need. I'm a "shoulder to cry on." I am special to a lot of people. I am very outgoing when it comes to doing things with other people. My friends enjoy going out with me because I show a lot of excitement. I'm not boring or snobby like some people. That's what sets me apart from others. I am different because I'm special and I'm me.

### Nat Insumran

Most of us enjoy being different as individuals. There is no one of us exactly the same. Of course, we may have a lot of things in common, but personally, emotionally and psychologically we are unique in our own way. The difference that makes me feel like an individual in a physical sense is my appearance. People only know me as different from others from my oriental background. My personality is also different. I feel I can make a person I meet feel very comfortable and make him or her feel that he or she has known me for years. My hobbies are very extensive and my dedication sets me apart from the usual.



# FLEETING MOMENTS

## Gabriel G. Pino

I work in a Spanish restaurant doing all different types of tasks. One day I was working as a runner (we call a runner the person that brings the food out of the kitchen to the dining room). I was serving a lot of different main courses at a Russian party. I was just about to finish serving and I asked the person in charge of the party if he could tell me in his language how to say, "Enjoy your dinner." He said, "Guerr my rrisse." Memorizing it quickly, I said it loudly to all the people in the party. "Guerr my rrisse." Interrupting me at the end of the sentence, the person in charge of the party said, "No!! I said, 'Where is my rice!!!"

## Ryan Robbins

I may be asked  
to complete a task,  
but do I have the right to refuse?  
It may get rough  
when they get tough  
or resort to subterfuge  
by asking if I'd like to pass.  
While sitting here in my class.  
I still insist that I have my own views  
and I say  
on such a day  
that such actions  
separate teacher/student factions  
and that what should arise  
is nothing short of compromise.  
When I've been asked  
to complete my new task  
I know I have the right to refuse.

## Peter Guagenti

You  
came into my life  
unexpectedly.  
You,  
something fresh and new  
and happy.  
Love,  
you bring something I do not have  
and you give it freely, love . . .  
For this I return your feelings.  
For this you are my one love.  
I love you Cassandra.

## Venus Dennis

Her continent is beautiful. You can see the beauty of her trees at sunrise and sunset from the top of her high mountains. Her lakes are worth seeing. Her rivers are flowing with fresh water day after day. Her waterfall is breathtaking. The lily of the valley greets her guest with beautiful colors and fragrance. She is blessed with various kinds of animals, both the wild animals and tame ones. Her plants and animals are more obedient to her than her children.

She appeals to them to become united. She taught them to love one another and to behave as children from one mother. But as they grew up, each one decided to go his or her own way. They left their mother and divided themselves into many nations. They began to hate one another. That is why they don't have peace among themselves anymore. She prays that her children will come back to her. She is always waiting.

### Floyd Bailey

A romantic dinner on the beach and a blanket and a bottle of wine and us. No one is watching but the moon and the stars.

Just sitting there, holding each other and rubbing our feet through the sand. Watching the waves come together like me and you feels so beautiful. Thinkng of no problems but our own. The problem we have is being in love. It's so great. It's a wonderful problem we have.

Then I will take you softly and lay you down; look up into the sky; take two stars; put them into your eyes and kiss you in a soft and gentle way. You wouldn't ever know it. After I finished kissing you I would pick you up and walk through the sand holding your hand. In the other hand is love for you always.

As we walk back to the car, I'll blow in your ear and tell you how much I love you and mean it, because I want you to be part of my life now. Love comes only once a lifetime in New York.

As I pull out, I'll turn on the radio to some slow jams so you can feel the love in your heart and tell me that you love me.

### Brenda M. Phelps

You are sweet and being married to you is  
a dream come true.

I try to show you how much I love you  
by the things I say and do.

I remember our first date wondering  
if there would be a second, third, fourth.

I remember the day that I fell in love with you.

It happens over and over again.

Our life together has been a wonderful experience.

I love your strength, your help, your gentleness.

You make me so very happy.

I feel safe and secure in your love.

James, you are my friend, my confident,  
my lover, my husband.

You are my life.

You are my love.

M.A.

One day I discovered the glow in his eyes was gone. I noticed that the touch of his hands was false. The laugh we shared had become a sad, loud cry. I one day discovered that his lips did not touch mine, but those of another.

I lie in an empty, cold bed with only a pillow to warm the side of my body. All because of the release of one whom I love. Why, why keep him when all the might, all the passion, all the force of love has only the pain of mistrust?

Richard Jefferson

They came and passed through the years  
These neglected and timeless fears.  
I didn't want to say good-bye to yesterday.  
A dream died, one evening would fade.  
Daydreaming's worth a price,  
I realize time isn't so nice.  
I wanted to be anything, I believed I could  
Clear images of adulthood,  
Each day will slip away.  
Tomorrow is a hope that is a dream for today  
I played in December frost  
My world in a day was lost  
I remember spring melting winter's fallen snow  
I wish I thought like I did a year ago  
My dreams of yesterday are all gone now.  
People have grown; their voices are loud  
I saw the sun born again; tonight it will die  
Today is here for now, slowly moving by  
I worked, laughed and played, yesterday  
It just left and slipped away.

