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Mini Mag to Inspire Today's Urban Girl

WORD SEARCH ETIQUETTE 101

Zoey's Affirmations

DEVOS

MARCH/APRIL

2021

MARCH IS... National Women's History Month

Interview Ciera Hodges: Class of 2021: "I'm All Done!" Egypt Ano **Do Not Worry!** She Speaks: Words In Poetry!

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PEARLS & GEMS MINI-MAGAZINE

Mar/Apr 2021

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PEARLS & GEMS

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You are God's Exceptionally Made (GEM) Girl! Designed for destiny, empowered with purpose. Encouraged to dream as we inspire you to soar!



From the Editor



Ok, the pandemic is still here. But the best news is that **SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!** It's time to take a Spring Break. We hope you get the chance to enjoy it now that you

can do a little traveling. But please be careful and stay safe. We are truly excited about this issue because March is **National Women's History Month** and April is of course all about **Spring Break.** Read *"England's Black Queen"* and *"The Ambassador of Beauty."* Both are great articles honoring women in our history. We want to acknowledge our contributing authors for this **AWESOME** issue.

Congratulations to the class of 2021 this has not been an easy year, but you made it. Looking forward to celebrating with you this May/June. Thank you, Ms. Ciera Hodges for allowing us to interview you **"Class of 2021: I'm All Done!"** We are excited to bring to you, Ms. Nasheema Dixon, and Ms. Jada Smith as they share their love for writing poetry. I thought I would add a little something myself. Check out **She Speaks: Words in Poetry**. Little Ms. Zoey Robinson is back to share **Zoey's Affirmations.** You will also enjoy Ms. Egypt Ano's **Do Not Worry**, as she gives words encouragement to her GEM sisters in these challenging times.

Of course, we still have the "other stuff". This issue's DEVO is entitled **Teen's Pray!** There is also a Word Search: **Etiquette 101** and we have added some exciting new books to the **PBG Book Club.** Enjoy!! Until next time, GEMS!

Celena

When the pandemic first hit the nation in March of 2020, we experience something we have never seen before. The pandemic turned our normal everyday life upside down. Especially for our children who went from face-to-face interaction with teachers and classmates in school, to learning virtually from home. Not getting the chance to see their friends. It was especially hard for the senior class of 2020 who never got the change to have a real graduation or attend their first day on a college campus.

It's been a year and now it the class of 2021 turn. How has the pandemic changed their lives I've had the opportunity to interview one of our graduating seniors, Ms. Ciera Hodges and she shared with Pure Beauty GEM the challenges of her senior year as well as words giving words of encouragement to the incoming class of 2022.

PBG: Hello Ciera, Congratulations to you and the class of 2021! I'm sure this year has been a real challenge. Thank you for your time and granting Pure Beauty GEM the opportunity for to do this interview.

Ciera Hodges Class Of

I'm All Done

First Question: What do you want girls to know about Ciera?

CH: I would want girls to know that I am a hard worker and I always try to do my best. I also would want girls to know that I made the best out of my school year while being online.

Class of 2021: I'm All Done/Ciera Hodges

PBG: We have been dealing with the pandemic since March of 2020. What has been the most challenging for you this year?

CH: Since the pandemic has started, my biggest challenge was encouraging myself to keep doing my work. Another big challenge that I have during the pandemic is balancing my school and social life.

PBG: Who is your biggest supporter?

CH: My biggest supporters have and will always be my parents. No matter what happens in my life my parents are always encouraging me throughout it all.

PBG: Are you going to College? If so, where"

CH: In the upcoming fall, I am planning on going to college and the college that I am planning to attend is North Carolina A&T University.

PBG: What will be your major?

CH: At North Carolina A&T, I am planning to major in marketing.

PBG: What does the future look like for Ciera?

CH: In the future I am hoping that my small business (Ciera's Haircare) turns into an empire and I hope in the future to inspire a lot of black girls to love and appreciate their natural hair

PBG: What encouraging words would you offer the incoming class of 2022?

CH: For the incoming class of 2022, keep your head high, focus on your goals, and start filing out your college



applications (scholarships, fafsa, etc.) now because the earlier you do them the more money will get from the colleges.

Wow, thank you Ciera for speaking with us. You are such an awesome young lady with a bright future ahead of you. It is time for you to soar. We wish you all the best in college and much success for the future.



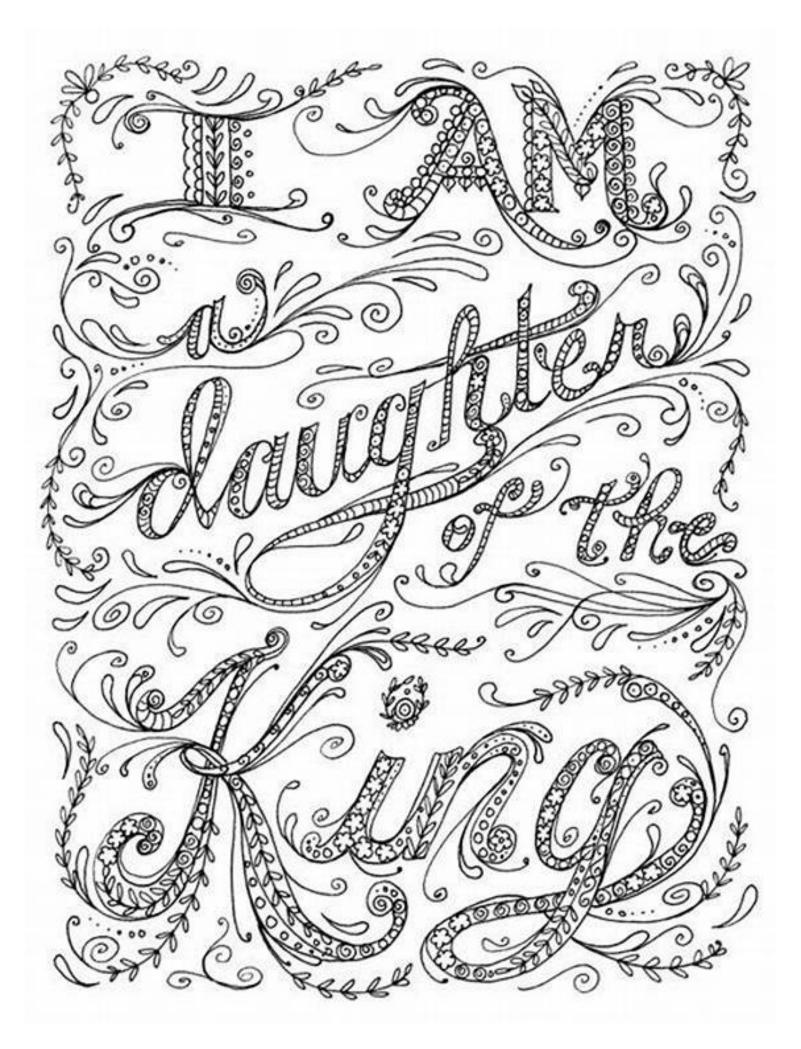
She Speaks: Encouragement

A beautiful being A young queen. That is what you are.One of a kind A light that shines Never let anyone dim your light .To you, always stay true. Always surround yourself with things that will bring out the best in you. What you aspire, your hearts desires all of it is possible.A poem written simply to encourage you. To always bring out the best in you. -Nasheema S. Dixon ©



A Moment of Reflection

Spring Time is ... Tea Party Time! Pure Beauty GEM Exceptional Lady's Tea Party The Year of the Lady! 2019





Dear GEM Sisters,

Do not worry, instead pray i Worry means to give way to anxiety or unease and allowing one's mind to dwell on difficulty or troubles. Instead of allowing our minds to dwell on difficulties, God wants His

daughters to pray. Instead of letting things trouble your mind or bother your heart, try talking to God about it. It's better to think about positive things instead of negative. It's better to think about good instead of evil. Instead of worrying, rest in knowing that no matter what you are going through, God will work everything out for your good because He loves you.

My name is Egypt Ano, and I am 15 years old. Some of the things that I've worried about over the last year were failing in school, parents arguing and disloyal friends . My mom gave me Philippians 4:6 to read and it helped me to understand that I did not have to worry because God could and would help me to deal with all these concerns . Now, instead of worrying, I find



things to do to help me feel better like listening to music and playing with my dogs. I try to focus on more positive things and after a while I feel much better. So, I encourage all my GEM sisters that when you start to worry or feel sad, find something that you enjoy, talk to someone, relax, and pray!

> Sincerely, *Egypt* A



Hey **Beautiful.** You **Shine**. You are **Magic.** You walk with **Pride.** You hold your head up **High.** You remember, You are the **Light.**

The comments that you <u>"are not enough".</u> Put them to hush.I'm here to say to you, <u>"You are enough."</u> What people can't take away, is **YOU**. Watch how others interfere and try to interrupt your flow. **You're One of a kind**. Look in the mirror, that's **You**. Now <u>Glow</u>.

Beautiful

My brownskin shines. It glows within. **It holds a story**. My teeth gives a smile that defines my greatest curve. My eyes, small, but enough to make you want to give a double look.

I'll always have eye to eye contact, just to gaze you in, that is one of my favoritethings.

When I walk into a room, **it draws the attention**. When I speak it demands the attention of the room. **Independent**, **Phenomenal Women**, **that's who I am**.

Strong

I never let my obstacles define me.

I serve a God who gives me strength throughout the fight.

It's not what happens to you, it's how you get through and react to it.

I can do all things through Christ who strengths me, so even in my storm I'll eventually walk into my testimony.

Uniquely, A Feminist...

I stand by rights for women.

I believe we need each other. To build each other. I'm counting on

that little girl, counting on me

I'll lead the way, just make sure you stand with me.

Follow me through the journey, for change, for more young women.

Who am I?... Who are you?

Ask yourself.

Her is Me. Her is You.

Babygirl, You are Beautiful-Strong-Unique.That is what makes you.

A woman of faith.

God is within me, I will not fail.

The strength of his love is who I am. The power of prayer is what I lean on whether I am up or down.The relationship with my Lord is my everything.

Understand that everything I am, is because of him.

So I'm his work of art.I'm his beautiful

girl.

I'm his imperfectly perfect daughter. Understand that when you look in the mirror Because **Babygirl** that's You.

Her is Me. Her is You.



By Ms. Jada Smith

By Zoey Robinson

20ENS 20ENS AFFIRMATIONS

> I am special I am loved One of a kind Created from above

I am impotant I am smart an incredible work of art

I will run and follow my dreams because my future is up to me

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ACKNOLOWLEGING OUR LADIES OF COLOR IN HISTORY



England's Black Queen: Queen (Sophia) Charlotte Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Charlotte, North Carolina is a beautiful city to visit. But did you know that the city of Charlotte (also known as Queen City) ;was named after an African American queen in England named Queen Charlotte? Here are a few facts about England's Black Queen.

- She was the second Queen of African descent in England.
- Married King George III when she was 17 years old.
- Her ancestry came into question as her African

features began to show more in portraits, She was described as "mulatto", which is a people of mixed-race of African ancestry.

- Though Queen Charlotte was a queen and came from a royal background, she did not learn about princely duties and court life until her brother became a Duke. It was his exposure that helped her learn how to carry herself in the royal court.
- Queen Charlotte is buried at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in England. Many monuments have been erected in her honor. One of the more famous ones in located in downtown Charlotte, that pictures her walking her dogs and captures her free spirit.



The Ambassador of Beauty: Eunice Johnson, Co-founder of Ebony Magazine and Founder of Ebony Fashion Fair Fashion Show and Cosmetics. You may have to ask your mom or your grandmother if they remember this beautiful lady! Many of them (myself included) grew up reading Ebony magazine, purchasing Fashion Fair makeup, and watching the Ebony Fashion Fair Fashion Show. The woman at the helm was Eunice Johnson. Here are a few facts about this trailblazer of beauty.

- Mrs. Johnson is a wife, mother, and fashion icon in the world of publishing, fashion, and cosmetics.
- Her husband was John H. Johnson, publisher of Ebony and Jet magazines.
- She forged a path in the fashion and cosmetic industry in a time when "black beauty" was not celebrated.
- The Ebony Fashion Fair Fashion show began when the president of Dillon University asked her to coordinate a charity fashion show to raise money for a local hospital.
- Although the Fashion Fair shows ended in 2009; the Fashion Fair cosmetics are still being distributed.



• Mrs. Johnson passed in 2010 at the age of 93, but not before raising millions of dollars for charities and changing the image of the Black race in the world of fashion and beauty.

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The world is currently in such turmoil with over 500k lives being lost due to covid 19 and racism and hatred are at an all-time high. If the world never needed prayer before, we need it now more than ever. It is super important that we learn to pray daily. I must remind my teen *GEMS* that you are never too young to pray. Prayer is necessary for your growth and success in life. Let's first take a look at "What is prayer?"

The English word "**pray**" means to make a humble request to God. Prayer is a way to communicate with God. The best way to describe it is that prayer is a conversation with God. Prayer is communicating what is on your heart and mind and allowing God to share His heart and mind with you. So often we go into prayer with a checklist of things we want to say to Him. After a few minutes we are done and go to the next. We never sit and wait for a response from Him. It is unnatural to have a one-sided conversation. Those conversations are not beneficial. Prayer is a two-sided conversation between you and God. It is a time specifically set aside just for a conversation with Him. It can be done anywhere! The Bible says; *"Here's what I want you to do. Find a quiet, secluded place so you will not be tempted to role play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace."* Matthew 6:6 (Message Bible) This scripture makes it clear that prayer should be done in a private, secluded location. We need time away from everything, just us and God. Prayer can be natural. It does not have to be dramatic. God is not concerned about how you pray. The question remains, Do you pray? He prefers time with you. He wants your undivided attention, which we give Him by going to a quiet place. Talk to God like you would talk to a close friend because He desires to be your friend. He already knows everything that you need, but desires to simply hear your voice and spend time with you. He desires for us to release the stress and anxiety of the day and focus on Him. You can relax in prayer. You can take your time. Don't be in a hurry when praying.

Let me give you some simple steps to assist you with prayer.

- Identify a place for you and God (home, park, car, bedroom).
- Thank God for everything that he has done for you. (Thanksgiving)
- Tell God how much you love him. (Praise & Worship)
- Ask God to forgive you for anything that you have done that is not pleasing to him.
 (Repentance)
- Ask God for what you need.(Supplication)
- Release all of your worries (ask Holy Spirit to help you clear your mind).(Faith)
- Pray for your family, friends, and the world. (Intercession)
- Replace the worries by thinking on the goodness of God and all He has done for you and your family. Fill your mind with His goodness!
- When you finish prayer, trust that God has heard your prayer. (Rest)

As you begin to implement prayer daily, you will start to feel God near and this is how you build relationship with God. He delights in answering our prayers and giving us the desires of our hearts.

I challenge you, my **GEMS**, to pray daily and watch your relationship with God grow. Trust Him to answer your prayers for both you and others.

"There Is Nothing More Powerful Than A Praying Teen!"

A SPRINGTIME RECEIPE

MINI BURGERS WITH THE WORKS

Ingredients

- 1/4-pound ground beef
- 3 slices American cheese
- 4 slices white bread (heels of loaf recommended)
- 2 tablespoons prepared Thousand Island salad dressing.
- 2 pearl onions thinly sliced.
- 4 baby dill pickles thinly sliced.
- 3 cherry tomatoes thinly sliced.

Directions

- Shape beef into twelve 1-in. patties.
 Place on a microwave-safe plate lined with paper towels. Cover with another paper towel; microwave on high for 1 minute until meat is no longer pink. Cut each slice of cheese into fourths; set aside.
- Using a 1-in. round cookie cutter, cut out 6 circles from each slice of bread.
 Spread half the bread circles with dressing. Layer with burgers, cheese, onions, pickles, and tomatoes. Top with remaining bread circles; secure with toothpicks.



SHE SPEAKS: WORDS IN POETRY

Embrace

By Celena Pillow

What do you think about when you think about the word Embrace?

I think about warm, loving, welcoming. The feel of peace when I'm within this embrace.

Looking at this, I say to myself,

Wow!

This is beautiful, to experience.

Regularly.

But why wasn't I???

Was and Is the question.

Because I only embraced parts of me And not all of me.

Where once being cute and beautiful was something I love to here as a little girl,

To getting older, and hating the word, because I thought pretty was a curse.

I was not experiencing the full embrace on a regular,

Because I did not love all of me, but parts of me.

I didn't like my body, I didn't like my hairs on my chin, I didn't like being short, didn't like that when I eat, I gain instead of loose.

I didn't like that the word that I I use love hearing

To a word I couldn't say to myself when I looked in the mirror.

I didn't like the struggle of trying on clothes, and sitting in a dressing room crying,

Because my chest was too big.

It was an emotional roller with my body, and still is at times.

For 25 years I did not love all of me,

I did not love what God created. Now, I had a moment of truth, And realize God made me just fine. That what I did and do to my body, was on and is on me. and not God. And the only one that has the power to change it, was and is me. But also, in that moment of truth It Showed me, That I still did not love all of me. Still thinking what I was thinking when I was teen Beautiful is curse. In this moment of truth, Healing begin to take place. And now, I'm at a place where I am truly. Loving me, all of me. Even the areas I don't like. I have a ways to go; but I am making the steps in the right direction, Even when I have a setback. I am learning to say You are awesome, You are beautiful, You are great, I love me some me. I am starting to feel the full embrace, Because now I am starting to see, What my Father in Heaven has always seen in me--Beauty.

Etiquette 101

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- Napkin You Are Welcome Rules Respect Pardon Me Help Greetings Don't Stare First Impression Etiquette
- Hello Manners RSVP Please Introduce Handshake Good Sport Consideration Kindness Courteous

Ι

Pure Beauty GEM LLC

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Self Esteem, Etiquette & Social Graces

12 June 2021 1pm - 2:30pm Virtual Workshop



Meeting ID 889 410 8532 Passcode 93361

> **Special Guest** Lady Renita Jackson Jackson Etiquette

Host Lady Cynthia Pillow Founder/CEO





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Summer Empowerment - Virtually

Girls Ages 12 - 17

> For more information contact Cynthia Pillow, 301.213.2470 or email purbeautytgif1@aol.com