



# We See

## What We See Changes Who We Are

WITNESS Project Youth Page is made possible by the Margaret Clemons Foundation and The Ministry of Education



### Kaieteur

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Going to a place unknown to most of the world,  
Meeting special people who seem to only smile seeing their life  
Go through nature like moving in a plane, comforting and exciting  
Hearing about their rich culture.  
Seeing these new and different things, I never really have seen before.  
It's truly an honour and a gift  
I will always carry in my heart.

Moving slow through the rich rain forest, looking at all the amazing views  
of the blue sky,  
This amazing place has it all...pain killers etc.

Thoughts like "Am I really here?"... it felt like I was dreaming!

I have only seen pictures of this place in my dreams, outstanding beauty.

And for the first time I felt proud, excited and happy for my Country.  
I asked the question, "Why do people leave Guyana?" Guyana has such  
beautiful places!

### What I look for in a boy

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I look for a boy who is respectful, one who would not touch a girl without her permission. A boy who is polite, who says "Please" and "Thank you." He should be kind and show it by opening the car door for a girl. He should be friendly and not a bully: one who is funny, happy and smiles, and most of all, one who is caring to all.

### Corruption

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Children are some of the most mysterious and magnificent beings among us. They fight with their best friends and minutes later they are all happy and jolly with each other. Why do they fight? No one knows. Where do they get the ability to love each other the way they do? It's simple; they are built that way.

We often wonder where the loving inner child in us went, now that we are either teenagers or adults. For me it's not hard to find, because I often reach for the child I was. But parents expect all children growing up to behave like children, and act like adults; this is where a lot of things become very "contradictory" for a teenager. So basically there is a three-way war going on within our minds: Our parents want us to be children and adults at the same time, our mind tries to learn and put into practice all that we have learnt and witnessed, and our inner child tries to continue its loving ways in our lives. Parents tend to forget that no

### The Person who Inspires me

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Growing up as a child, my mom was never really around much. She was always working and dealing with other things so my big sister played the role of "mom" in my life. She was only nine years older than me. Even though she went to school she always took care of me without complaining. I knew I was not a well-behaved child, but even with all the responsibilities in her life she always worked hard for something when she really wanted it. She would always say to me, "Dreams are for sleeping; when you

matter how much they teach a child to grow up, their inner child is trying to let them mature naturally and the child is trying to learn and obtain new qualities and virtues. This would baffle any individual, much less a child.

Along with the development of the mind, school work is packed into the brains, leaving the children with very little time to think about who they really are and then they start trying to behave like adults and following the actions of their idols.

I'm not an expert on the way a child grows, but I'm an expert on my life. I'm a teenager who grew up surrounded by kids older than myself. Being the youngest in the class made me realize I needed to mature faster and be more responsible to fit into the older age group I am around. Nobody has taken the time out to notice I am still a child at heart, trying to catch up on the one year of my life that I missed out on. They always think I need to take more time in whatever I am

want or need something, work for it, work hard!"

Today she is married and has a family of her own, but still finds time to go through the things in life she has missed out on. She didn't get a chance to finish her Secondary Education, but now nothing has stopped her; she has completed it and with amazing grades. Today she and her husband own a very successful business and now she says, "Little sis, work hard, success comes to those who work for it!"

doing and show more interest now that I am big (which I'm not). I have tried engaging myself in activities that are of interest to me and then I get angry for missing out on the opportunity to assist my parents. It's as though trying to live a smart life is now something wrong. Things like these are what make children like myself begin to lose hope, go into depression and start rebelling in some of the most outrageous ways. Luckily I was saved from the jaws of depression by the amazing friends I have.

All in all, the passions and hopes we have should be embraced rather than destroyed. A child grows angry and violent because there is no channel to let out the anger of being denied something that our minds long for. Our feelings are much more powerful than that of any adult, no matter how smart he or she may be. We are much more than what we appear to be.

### Bullying at School

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I have always been a victim of constant bullying, in and out of school, by children my age and older. When I'm bullied I feel sad, inferior and almost worthless. When I was in school, the children there would tell me horrible things like, "You're an airhead" etc. and beat me. Due to this, at times I believed what they said of me, even when I was not in their presence. I had a best friend but after some time she began to conform to what they expected of her and we are no longer friends. This hurts because I expected so much from her.

After they were finished making fun of me, I'd feel really sad. I wanted to say something to them or to hit them back, but I couldn't because it would be stooping to their standards. Whenever I tell my relatives about the bullying, they advise me to stay away or be by myself, which only causes me to be lonely. If my schoolmates fight amongst themselves and are sent home by the Head Teacher, I feel sorry for them because I just want us to be friends. I wish people wouldn't have to go through these feelings and everyone would know how hurtful it is.

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### "What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.