Introduction

This book is a compilation of essays written by thirteen ninth-grade students of the Elmira N. Elyman High School, located in the Berkeley section of Boston. The essays express the individual aspirations of all, an integrated class also participating in Phase II of the Educational Alternatives during the 1969-70 school year.

The undertaking took form as a result when some senior students so to speak of it as a practical and an enjoyable class project. Some students had by the nature of this project a realized interest number of book reports completed and submitted their research paper and had incited the novice and even the able student were stimulated for their grade level. Hence, reading and writing are an understandable foreign to them as criticism of Roland's Public Schools could quickly vanish.

In short into these, Boston, Inc. of Maryland, Connecticut, initiated a comprehensive 1970-71 school year in their fifth academic section, one of which was the Elmira N. Elyman. In addition to the previous mentioned reading teaching in varied ways of meeting the needs of more students, this program featured a Wholemoth approach to language and reading skills development, it was in cooperation with Boston, Inc. that we proceeded this book.

Something written within the following comprehension will be presented for identification here. Fortunately enough, the children's these essays include a wide variety of opinion based upon their personal experiences during the school year. These essays are clear reflections almost of their experiences with others.

For those of you who will seek answers about psychology, sociologists, or philosophers reactions, there are a few. But it is worthy to note that we are the present progressive field with untapped classroom potential housing the final project and dimension discarded to important, while most of their instructional and justification may soon disintegrate to the existing reality, they are more-than-halved education by those more closely bonded by education: the $10.00.

I would like to acknowledge with Undine Wu. Joseph Fundoro who took upon interest in the indispensable share of private those essays, and to Elisa Howard who first the time to type these pages. I am sincerely indebted, to our parents.
An essay by

My first day of school I had to go to the gym to find out what teacher I was going to have. I was called and went to 6A. That day my teacher showed me where to sit. It was a noisy class so I didn’t hear the call for the bus, but I ran out and just made it. On the 3rd day of school I was transferred to 6B for Spanish. I had Mr. Mulkern for a homeroom teacher; it was a good class and I made new friends. A few days after that we saw movies, then we went home and were stoned. Three months after that we had a Christmas party and movies; later we also went roller skating. Everyone had a fun time. Mr. Mulkern said he didn’t have too much fun. We’ve had more movies and more fun and work. This month we are going roller skating again and nobody knows if Mr. Mulkern will have fun this time or not.

Before I came to the Holmes School I felt a little afraid. I was not sure I would be going to school because my mother was in the hospital. The day before school we called and she said we were going. The next day I got on the bus and when I got to the school I felt a little scared because it was an integrated school.

Before school started I thought I was going to stay at the Murphy School. Then I heard the 6th grade was in the middle school and that I was going to the Holmes. I felt a little scared. Then I came to school and found it was not bad at all and made friends that day.

I am looking forward to coming to this school next year because now I know what it is like and I am used to this school. If I go to another school, I still hope I do better than I did this year.
An essay by Richard Belmont

Last year I thought I would be going to the Grover Cleveland for the sixth-grade. But I discovered I might be going to the O.W. Holmes. I had hoped to go to the Grover, but it would not matter if I went to the Holmes. Busing was just a rumor, and already people were going on television and radio saying they would not be submissive if busing was forced.

When I first heard the word integration, I wasn't sure what it meant. But when I discovered the meaning I didn't care about being integrated because I had experienced it in the John Marshall. I thought the Holmes would be an old school. It is old, but it is not as bad as I thought.

When I came to the O.W. Holmes this year I knew a few kids, and one in my class. I didn't know what the kids in my class would be like. My first new friend was [REDACTED], whose essay is also in this book. I met him on the bus.

This year our class went on a lot of trips. The first trip was to the zoo, which we go to every week. Then we went roller skating in February and we are going again soon. I've been told we're to go to the Prudential Center this month. And, on April 6 we went to the Hale Reservation. These were the most fun times in school.

There was a lot of fighting this year. In S. Boston a man got beaten. And in Hyde Park a person was stabbed in their school. And there was more fighting than that!

In January we took the Latin test. Then it was in the papers that there might not be a seventh grade in Latin School. Finally, five days ago Judge Garrity said there would be a seventh grade.

This year was also special because President Ford came to see the re-enactment of the revolution.

I think this year was one of the best school years I ever had.

Next year I am looking forward to being able to take Spanish so I can learn more of it. I am also looking forward to going to school here in the Holmes, but if I pass the Latin Test I'll probably go to Latin School. If I do go to the Holmes next year I hope that it's as good as this year.
An essay by

I felt really bad that I did not go to the school I wanted. I
didn't and I was separated from my best friend whom I miss. I like
that school better than this one because I had a lot of friends. I
really miss my teacher and my friends. I am not being bused this
year, and I think I would be afraid if I were.

I think that integration is a great idea. I said to myself that
there will be too many fights between blacks and whites. In this
school some blacks pull hair, some whites never talk to anyone. So
I don't think there will be much trouble if everyone minds his own
business.

This year is alright, I have a lot of friends and a lot of
enemies. I am doing good in school. I made the honor roll twice in
this grade an I'm trying my best to make it again. School is fine,
we go on a lot of field trips to the zoo, roller skating and now we
are going to the Prudential building. I have a best friend, she is
really good to me. One day in the cafeteria I was playing with my
friend and I was caught. The teacher thought that we were fighting
and he told us to stand outside. We told him that we were playing
but he didn't believe us. He told us to write on both sides of the
paper. When I got home I was in trouble.

Sometimes I get really mad at my friends because they pass notes
around about me. When I tell them something they won't keep it a
secret. They tell everybody and that's not right. Sometimes I get
really mad at the teachers because they yell at us for nothing. When
the teacher is made she tells a student to keep his mouth shut. He
keeps on talking, then the teacher gets mad at the whole class and
she makes us write.

This year I hope my school vacation is good like last year. I
want to go to the beach with my parents, my brother, and my sister.
I want to take my bike outside and ride it with my friends, go out-
side and play, swimming, have picnics and get new summer clothes.

I hope that school next year will be better than this year.
I hope I have a lot of friends and good teachers. I hope the
school is nice and bright, and I'll be smarter and a straight
honor roll student. I want to go on a lot of field trips. I
hope I can walk to school.
An essay by

As far as being bused goes, we might have been escorted by
the police. I thought that the whites might have guns, and maybe
shoot at the tires and the police would help and we would get on
the floor of the bus. And then came school integration. I
thought that the blacks and the whites would sit on opposite sides
and if nobody was there to mind us we would start to fight and
then the other classes would hear us and start a riot throughout
the school. Then the night before school I heard about some trou-
gle on the news and I was afraid.

From the beginning of school I was getting into trouble,
probably because I hoped if I would be bad I would be put out of
this school and into another. I remember I couldn't wait to go
home, and watch TV because that would make me feel safer. At
school, just when I was getting used to my seat, the teacher moved
me up in front next to [redacted] and he acted real bad. When
we had the Christmas Party we talked and found out we had a lot in
common, so he came over my house to watch TV, which started getting
boring so he met some of my friends. Then we were best of friends.
One day the class went roller skating and me and [redacted] had lots
of fun, [redacted] and I were trouble makers and had people chasing
us. Then one day this kid started trouble with just [redacted], so
I helped. Then we had Hale's trip, but [redacted] couldn't go be-
cause he had punishment to do for a teacher. And I wanted to stay
because [redacted] had to, but he made me go. All that day I was
hoping [redacted] could have been there. Then I started thinking,
his whole day was ruined because of me. At school Mr. Mul Kern

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moved [redacted] to the back, but that didn't stop us from fooling
around. Then we had groups about premonitions, like I'm telling
about my first best friend now. I hope [redacted] is in my class
next year, but I doubt it. In the future in this class, there
will be good times and bad times and better than ever times.

Next year I hope that I'm in this school so I can see some of
my friends, especially [redacted]. And if I'm lucky, the teacher I
have will be as funny looking as Mr. Mul Kern, to make the year
funny. He knows how to cap back at people. I also hope I can get
Math better next year at the Holmes.
I thought I was going to be bused to an all-black school or an all-white school. But I received my card to where I was going, and it said the Holmes. "I'm not going there!" But my mother said that I have to. So on the first day of school I was a little bit scared. Hardly any of the bus students were there, and they never came for about two or three weeks; and the first days were fun! We didn't do much work at the beginning of the year.

When Judge Garrity said that all schools would be integrated, I thought I would be bused out of my district. But I wasn't. I came to the Holmes and it's right up the street from my house, so all I have to do is go up the street to school, and if there's any trouble, I just have to go back down the street. I've met a lot of new friends and a lot of old friends, but the Holmes kids are the best kids. Also, this year of school was the best and the fastest of my whole school life.

When I first came to the school it was different. I met new friends and new teachers. But some of the bus people didn't come until about two or three weeks. The police had to guard the bus, students so no one would get hurt, and they had police guarding the front of schools because fights were starting. Then they left the schools when the action cooled down. But there still was a little bit of roughness and there were a couple of stabbings down by Ashmont Station, or some place like that. Kids get jumped because of their color. The Woodrow Wilson is still having trouble with kids. A girl was stabbed yesterday because she called a boy a nape about his color. I heard she was stabbed with a pencil and it sliced her face up, and punctured her over the eye and she was rushed to the hospital. I don't know what happened to the person who stabbed her.

Next year I hope that I come back to this school because I like some of the kids here and I like the teachers. I hope I don't get bused to the Woodrow Wilson or the Grover Cleveland or the Thompson because I'll have to meet some new friends and teachers. But I like the Holmes because it's a fun school and I live right down the street and it takes me about three minutes to get to school and come home from school. I've met a lot of new friends and I've met my old friends from last year. I joined the softball team and it's great! It's fun and exciting and easy. But this year of nineteen seventy five was the best year and it went by the fastest of all my school years.
An essay by

To begin with, I never thought that I was going to be bused because the school I would be going to was right up the street from my house. If I ever thought of being bused, I would probably think about it all the time. The idea never came to my mind. I thought that busing would be a bad problem because all the blacks and whites in one school would be a problem. I thought integration would also be a problem, because of all the busing. But things have turned out alright. I really thought it would be hard for those kids being bused to school in the Boston area.

My first impression of my new friends was that they were funny people. They liked to start trouble, but sooner or later things turned out alright. As we got into our subjects things got heavy. In English I was always talking. The other classes were alright. Gym times are fun in this school. School is important especially the things we learn like Math because we learn important things. It is worth the work. I plan to join a swimming team this summer because I love to swim. My anticipations for next year are to get good marks in the seventh grade and to get on the swimming team after school. This year was a pretty good year because we went on trips and had fun.

I'm looking forward to go to Girls' Latin because I don't want to go to South Boston because there might be trouble there like there was before. But I still want to get my education so I can to go college and become an airline stewardess.
An essay by

At first I thought I would be bused to an all black school like the Timility or an all white school like those in South Boston. When I heard I was going to the Holmes I wasn't sure whether it would work out. When I came to the Holmes for the first time I liked it and I think busing will work out. I take the bus and I don't mind because it's fun.

And I've been going to an integrated school for two years. Integration works well at the Holmes. Integration works better at the Holmes than at the Lee. I like school here.

The most interesting thing that happened was when we went to the Hale Reservation. When we went roller skating it was fun. But the most fun time was when we had our Christmas Party.

The teacher at Hale Reservation was nice. We saw the bear cave. But the most of all interesting trip was the zoo. We are going to the zoo for twelve weeks. The worst thing was when we didn't go to the zoo. I hope we can go roller skating again this year, because then we won't have to do anything! We will have had a good year and a fun one too. I hope I have him again next year because he is a good teacher and I will have not been hearing the banging and the yelling. But I will not know some of the teachers next year, but I hope that the ones I have are like Mr. Mulkern, and the good teachers I had this year.

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I'm looking toward a good year like I had this year. It was fun and I hope that I will have some fun like this year. But I will always say HI to Mr. Mulkern when I see him.
I first heard that I might be bused to school I was scared to go. I thought the people would be mean and would be mean and would call me names and all sorts of things. I thought people would be breaking the bus windows and beating the people who were in it. I am not being bused because I live within the walking distance.

When I received the letter in the mail saying that I was going to an integrated school I didn’t know what they were talking about, then I found out that the initials was an integrated school. I wasn’t worried. I knew I wouldn’t be bused, and I didn’t want to be bused with a lot of people I didn’t know. I thought people would be starting trouble on the bus.

During my school year I had lots of fun. I went on trips. I only got into trouble two times in April. From the beginning of the year I didn’t know anybody except for a boy in the seventh grade named ____. He lives right up the street from me and I sometimes walk to school with him, but he is never ready when I pick him up for school. He is a good friend. I didn’t have any fights this year and I hope I won’t have any next year. The best time I had in school was when we had the party and saw movies. I had fun when I went to the Hali Reservation. We had to split up into different groups and there were only three boys in my group. We had lots of fun there too. We went through the woods, climbed rocks, and ate lunch there. I hope we go there again sometime next year because I had a lot of fun out there.

I hope that I pass in all my subjects this year, especially English. English is not that bad, but we shouldn’t do the same page almost every day. I am doing pretty well in all of my subjects, but I have to bring up my marks this year. If I go to summer school this year I will try my best to listen to what the teacher tells me. I know I will have to work pretty hard to bring up my marks this year. Sometimes I walk with ____ and his friends. They walk with me to the bus to see that I get on alright. ____’s sister is always telling me not to worry about him all the time when he goes to change his clothes. I got to know ____ through his cousins. His cousins live right next door to me. They always ring my bell and ask me if I am coming outside to play soccer with them. It would take a while to make the buses not too close to each other so we would have some space to run in between.

I’m looking forward to going to a good school next year. I hope I do good in my subjects next year or else I might have to go to summer school. I do not want to stay back in the sixth grade, and I hope that I go to this school next year because I do not want to be bused because the bus might break down on the way to school and we wouldn’t get to school on time.
When having first come up I didn’t care because I was going to the college for my third year anyway. So when we received our letters telling us where to go I was uncertain. My mother visited the school. Her visit was not shown around. The day when I came home, my mother told me she went up. I was so anxious to hear what she had to say. She told me she thought the students and teachers were. Then I was happy I was going and couldn’t wait. Then all the big kids starting saying how bad it was. I was just a little scared.

In some ways having was good and in some ways bad. It is nice to see that some of the two moons can get along. I’m sorry for those who can’t. I think that when they brought up integration, they picked the wrong place. Perhaps South Boston ruined the whole life. But here at Yorktown, both races get along fine. I’ve never seen a fight between a white and a black, and for that matter, hardly a fight at all. Where my little brother goes to school, there is one fight after another. Integration is a good idea except for those who can’t face it up.

The year is the best year I’ve ever had. Raising is the big issue this year. Really in South Boston. South Boston is where the action is. Almost getting started, and those crews around the school yelling and screaming, police cars being turned over, people being attacked by rocks, lines being posted by students, then people saying they’re not integrated. That’s alright! But during January things quieted down. I like this school a lot better than the Lee, because the teachers are better and demand more of you. The classrooms are closed, you can get a lot more done and it’s quieter. The kids don’t bother me at all. Outside this year. This is the first year I took Spanish, and for the English Studies, and for English. It is because I thought it was interesting. But the best thing is I like the Wildlife Management Program. I should know that would help me when I’m in my career as a zoologist or a marine biologist or something like that. I think it’s fun too. We’re going to go all over the zoo, we go every Thursday for the last semester, which will end in June. By the last day we’re going to have a big party. I think it’s going to be fun. In April we had a nice day at the Reservation. I was running around a lot, walking through the edge of the pond up to my ankles, and hopping through every little stream, brook, and puddle I could find. But it was nice, warm sunny day and I had a real good time. We’re going to the Fraternal Center next Tuesday. I’m looking forward to a good time. Then Friday we’re going roller skating. We went once already in March and had a great time. There is one other thing I really enjoy and that is writing this book. I like to write stories and things like that. Usually I try to write funny or horror stories. They never seem to come out right, but I’m still trying. This is the best school year I ever had.

Next year I really hope I can go to girls’ Latin. My father will be proud, and I’ll get a much better education, and I can probably go into the college of my choice. Because if I get to college and get my degrees and all, I’ll be what I want to be. I have a few things I want to be, but they all have to do with animals. But then, if I don’t make it, I want to stay at this school. I like most of the teachers.
When I discovered I was going to be bused, I felt anxiety. I didn’t know who I would meet or how I would act; who would be my teacher or if my teacher would be nice. I didn’t know if I would make friends. Busing is a new ‘weird’ word. They say they want to balance the schools. I would have been satisfied if I could have walked up the street with my friends to school.

I really never gave integration much thought. Some of the kids are nice and some are not. Some of the black kids are good and some are bad. The same is true with the white kids. Last year I went to the Joseph E. Lee School. There were mostly black kids there but I would have rather been in an evenly balanced school.

I think busing is dumb. People should be able to go to any school they wish. It seems like kids are being pushed from one place to another.

When I came to this school in September I was quiet for the first three days. Then, after a while, I got used to everyone and talked more. In November we had a party. It was fun. In December we had a big party. It was more fun. We had everything you could imagine. Then in February we had vacation and that was fun. In March we started going to the zoo every Thursday to learn more about animals in their surroundings. The ladies there were _____, _____, and _____.

We’ll be going there until June 5th. We are going roller skating with our cluster. It’s going to be a blast! Then, before we go roller skating some of the kids in our class are going to the Prudential Center on Tuesday. Then on Wednesday the rest of the class will go.

My best friends in this school are _____, _____, and ____. Now that it’s the end of the school year I realize I’ve made a lot of friends. My most memorable times are when we go to the zoo and our parties and I will never forget any whole school year.

The things I am looking forward to next year is I hope to pass the Latin test and to go to that school. I hope to become a better working student. But I don’t want to be bused. I don’t wish to come to this school, because the Woodrow Wilson is closer.
I was not worried about being bored because when I received that letter in the mail saying that I was going to the Holmes School I knew that I was close enough to walk. What I did not know was that those letters could be changed and I could be bored somewhere else.

I thought going to an integrated school was not going to be too bad. It was going to be OK, because there was going to be about the same number of black and white people in the school.

Last year, when I was in the fifth grade, I had one of the best teachers in the world. His name is Mr. Golden. I remember when I first came in there we got along just fine. As the months passed I got to know him better. He used to take me on trips to his house, and over this year we have kept in touch with each other.

Some of the things that happened this year were good. First, I got transferred from 6B to 6A. I took Spanish. I made friends. I started writing book reports and reading the newspaper. I studied poetry and made poetry books and we read short stories.

The book reports were the hardest of all. You had to read the whole book and write a report on it. The newspaper was free and it was not that hard, but you had to read certain things first and then you could read anything you wanted. We had to do a research report on a poet. Mine was D.H. Lawrence. We had to do things like write when he was born, when he died, where he died and write about his childhood and some things about his adulthood.

Our Christmas party took a lot of planning, and on the day certain things in each of the rooms. After the Christmas party then we went home. I invited me over to his house to watch TV. I was just going to stay for a little while, but I stayed until 7:30, then I went home.

The next few days I spent over Billy's house. We would mostly stay in and watch TV, or go outside and play tag. He would come over my house or I would go over his house. Then school started and one of us would call over the other one's house and say, 'Are you going to pick me up?' We would take turns in picking each other up before school.

I can't remember what happened in January but then came the February vacation. It was the same as the Christmas vacation. We would go over each other's house. I think in February I got to know the people around his house better. Then it was time to go back to school again. In March we started going to the zoo. We had twelve trips. Once to the St. Louis Zoo and the rest to Franklin Park.

I'm looking forward to the seventh grade next year because I want to hurry up and get to college. I want to be in the same room with my friends. I want someone to talk to while I make new friends. I want to stay on the top floor because I'm used to waking up early every day. I'm also looking forward to meeting my new friends. I'm looking forward to making more friends in school and to get better marks in the seventh grade. I want to learn to play an instrument. I'm not sure which one yet, and to get on the basketball team if I'm good enough.
To begin with, I didn't want to be bused anywhere. I was afraid I would be all alone. Because sometimes it is hard to make friends with strangers. But I found a few friends. I was a little bit happier. Sometimes I'm happy, but most of the time I'm scared I might get into trouble.

I knew I was going to a mixed school. I knew last year the Holmes was going to be mixed. I did not want to leave my old school. I don't know exactly why, but I did not want to go to this school. I wanted to stay in the fifth grade. I knew all the kids were going to be bigger than me, and I was kind of afraid in the beginning.

My first impressions of my classmates were that they were okay to make friends with. But with new people, it is hard. To me my classmates were like strangers, I don't know why. Some of them I knew from last year, like [redacted] and [redacted]. Some more of them are downstairs in the 6th grade and in the seventh grade.

I had some happy times in school this year. I had fun in school with some of the teachers this year. I had the most fun in gym. I had fun doing our project at the zoo and going to the Reservation and watching movies and the trip to the Stonehenge too.

I haven't had any sad times this year. I don't plan to have any either. I've learned a lot of things. I've learned Health and Science from Mr. Fields and I've learned about music. I enjoy music. I like to sing. We always sing on Thursdays. I like the kind of work we do here at the Holmes. I don't like changing classrooms every period, and the year went by too quickly.

I'm looking forward to new friends, new teachers, new things, and a bright school with nice teachers. What I'm looking forward to most is new happenings. I hope I go to Latin School, but I think I'll be here again next year. I hope we go on many trips next year. I hope everything that happened this year will happen next year. I'm hoping for a happy, peaceful year, and I think I'll have one in the seventh grade but in high schools like Roxbury, English, Hyde Park, and South Boston, they won't.
When I heard that I might be housed in another school with a lot of boys in it, I didn't want to go. I never spent a whole year with blacks that some blacks were mean and I didn't want to get hit or anything like mother said that the Holmes School was old, I said that I didn't want to go before. Once I went to school with blacks for about three months. I knew that. I thought that there wouldn't be anybody that I knew there. When my to another old, broken down school.

When I heard that I was going to an integrated school, I didn't know how old it was. Then I found out that it meant blacks and whites going to the same school, right away, I didn't want to go. I had always gone to an all white school before except once. That school after a while, wasn't bad, but I didn't want to go to another school just like it.

When I came into my classroom I looked around and I saw a few people I knew. My first day at school I didn't really talk to anybody. I didn't think anyone would talk to me and I didn't think I would talk either. My first friendship came when I was seated in the back row of the class. He was sitting in front of me. I think I was working when he started talking to me.

He was my first friend, until I started talking to another boy named [name]. Surprisingly enough, both of them were blacks, but as it turned out they were both good friends. I don't like being bossed, but since I made a couple of friends, and I would have to come here anyway, I don't complain. All I know was that my brother was taking a language and I didn't think that I was going to take one. But the first day in school the Spanish teacher came. So when I came home I asked my mother if I was taking a language and she said "yes". So everyday was normal until we had the Christmas Party. It was the most exciting part of this whole year. It started with a couple of sides, and then before and after lunch we had potato chips, pop corn, and a few other things. You got to talk, run around and play a lot of games. I also took the Latin Test in December or January, but I don't know if I made it or not because Judge Garrity had to make a decision on whether or not there would be a seventh grade in the Latin School. Our school got the scores in February, but they couldn't tell us until they got the decision from Judge Garrity. Well on May 10 at 6:00 Judge W. Arthur Garrity made his decision to have a seventh grade in the Latin School. So in a couple of days I should know, if I made it or not.

In March we started going to Franklin Park Zoo for 12 weeks, but the Stoneham Zoo once. While my class has been going to the zoo, I've been the zoo trips started in March and I think they will end the second week of a good time. I went to a bowling alley. It couldn't have been a good time to play, because there's a lot of noise that the Indians chipped dirt at to make arrows. On May 20th our class met on 8th grade classes are going to go to the Prudential Center in Boston. We're going to have lunch there and be able to go on the escalator. I've been on it before and you can see a lot of Boston. I'm really looking forward to this trip.

I'm expecting to be going to the Latin School or a catholic school. But I hope I don't have to come back to the Holmes School again. I want to go to the Latin School because I think I get a good or pretty good score, and it's a good school. I think I'll be going to a catholic school, because I think I'm going to take a test to see if I can get in. But if I get in both the Latin School and the catholic school, I'll go to Latin. I don't want to go to the Holmes School again because I don't really like it at all. I don't like it because it looks cruddy and I think that the Latin School has a better inside than the Holmes.
An essay by
Joseph Kirnon

At first I thought I was going to be bused because busing was just getting started. I also felt secure, since I had some friends who would be coming with me. I also felt relieved but I was worried about what might happen. I heard some kids say there were riots everyday. I was unafraid about getting beat up because I could fight.

I felt worried about integration because last year the white kids threw rocks at the buses that the black kids were riding. I said to myself, if they could do it once, they could do it again. I thought the Holmes would be all black but when I came I was surprised because it was mixed.

The interesting things that I like this year are gym and woodwork because in gym we do some fun activities and in woodwork we make some fantastic things out of wood.

When we went roller skating we had a real good time. When we went to Hale's Reservation, in the woods, we played some fun games.

On May 29, 1975 we went to the Prudential on a tour and it was really interesting. One day in April the school had a banquet and I won a savings bond. Before we had the banquet we had to paint the inside of the Oliver W. Holmes.

I did not think I was going to be bused because there were two schools in my district. I had a good time this year because the kids were friendly and I hope it will be the same next year.

Next year I'm looking forward to more work because in the sixth grade we didn't get that much work so you figure things will get harder when you move up a grade.
before I came to the O.W. Holmes I thought I would be going to the same school I went to the previous year, the Rochambeau. When I heard about busing I was uncertain which school I would attend in September. When I received a letter telling me that I would attend the O.W. Holmes in September, I didn't want to go because I talked to most of my fifth grade friends and some of them weren't going to the same school. Most of them are now in the Grover Cleveland. The note also said that my sister and I had to walk! Some time later we received another letter saying we could ride the bus. We were relieved.

The school I went to last year had mostly White and Spanish-speaking kids. Everyone got along fine.

The school year 1974-75 was okay. The day I came to school I went to the cafeteria to find out which room I would go to. They told me to remember room 19. The lady who was there took me to my room and my homeroom teacher, Mr. Mulkerr, showed me where to sit. On the way to school the kids on the bus were saying, "Oh, that school's lousy." One of my friends said, "There are police all around the school." (I didn't attend school the first day) After a few weeks I didn't mind being bused. On television they were showing buses having rocks thrown at them, kids being stabbed and fights. There were also a lot of protests. During a protest in October, some protesters pulled a man from his car and started to beat him. The police tried to get at him to keep off the protesters. They finally reached him and circled around him and pushed away the protesters and arrested a few.

Our class went on a few trips. We went roller skating in February; to the Hale Reservation in April; and we're going skating again on Friday May 23rd. My marks for the first four marking periods were not too good so I'm trying to improve them. If I do improve them I might not be kept back in the 6th grade. I just might go to summer school. This school year was fast, it seems like yesterday I came to school for the first day.

For next year I think I'm going to attend the O.W. Holmes again for the 7th grade. I don't know why, but I have a feeling I'm going to attend the Holmes. If Judge Garrity changes anything the school system might be different and if he doesn't, it might be the same. But I really don't know what will happen next fall.
I didn't know what school I was going to before June 29th, because I had just moved back to Dorchester on June 29th. When I found out I was full of anxiety for a while. Then after my parents took me up to the school, I was full of anticipation, and couldn't wait until school began.

I was a little scared when I first heard about integration. I was never integrated before. Then after a while, I really didn't think of it as integration. I thought that all the people were alike, and I noticed we were all kind of nervous. I think everything is going good now. Things have cooled off a lot. I'm glad they have!

It started in September. I've had a great year, but parts of it weren't too good. The beginning didn't start out too good. We had a lot of trouble with busing. Kids at other schools were having rights about race and stuff like that. Our school has been getting along well. We've had fun times like when we had our Christmas party, it was the best party I've ever had in school. There was music in one room, games in another, and food in another. We had cakes, some of the kids were shaking their cokes, and they were squirming then all over the place, we didn't even get yelled at, but we calmed down after a while. Then we got elected out of Boston, Brookline, Walpole, and Needham to go to the zoo 12 times, we've gone 8 already. It sure is fun. We go and see all the animals. I even got in the newspaper while feeding a baby goat with a bottle. We also went roller skating. We had a blast! We rented the whole place for our cluster and we brought our own lunches too. It sure was fun, although a few kids got hurt - one sprained her wrist and one sprained her ankle. I had a great time! Then in April our cluster went to the Hale Reservation in Westwood. We went on a nature walk. It was fun playing games and lunch was eaten on a big rock! I had a great time this year!!

Next year I'm looking forward to going into the 7th grade. Even though I don't know where I'm going to school. I guess that's because I'll have more responsibility. I'll have more homework, harder school work, and no more time for fooling around in class. Some people might think that's weird to look forward to, but well that's what I want. If I don't get accepted into Girls' Latin, I'll be looking forward to going to the Holmes School. I guess I'm getting attached to this school and my friends here. If I get accepted, I'll be looking forward to going to Girls' Latin. Hopefully, my friends will be going there too.
Before I started school at the Holmes I thought this year was going to be good. I thought I would meet a lot of new friends, both black and white. But most of all I would be eating hot lunches in school. I also thought that there might be lots of fights. I thought I would have mean teachers at the Holmes.

At first I thought I would be bused out of Dorchester. But I wasn't and I'm glad because none of the black or white children bother me.

My first impressions of my classmates were friendly. I would talk to all of the people and mostly to [REDACTED]. She was the first new friend I had in school. The happy time in school this year was when I had to go roller skating. The most memorable time we had this year was when our cluster went to Hale's Reservation. The most fun was when our cluster had the Christmas party and vacation. Mr. Mulkern is alright, but sometimes he yells too much. I am going fishing and other places this summer.

I kind of liked this year because it went by fast and we had fun. We went on a trip to the Prudential Center, Hale's Reservation, and roller skating. I learned some different things in school like math, sewing, music, and gym. I like to read and write about things. I don't know what's going to happen next year at the Holmes. I think I will be in the seventh grade next year. I think I will like cooking class in the seventh grade.