

I want to be...

Skin visits Jordan's Orphan Care Charity Centre

Some of children in the the orphanage are not actually orphaned. They have families, mothers or fathers that they visit once a week. Even though, most of their lives are spent in this home, where they study for a better life. Here, five of the sweetest girls there draw (and write) their future dreams.



Lara Fares, 7 years old

How are you feeling?

Not so good. I have a problem with my stomach; I keep going to the bathroom. But otherwise I'm not bad.

What would you do with \$100?

I'd buy my brother and sisters everything they need. I have one brother and two sisters and I love them all so much. I'd get them candy, chocolate... everything!

Do you like it here?

Yes. I get to play on the swings with my friends.

What did you dream of last night?

There was this big bug, but it wasn't scary. It was sort of happy and dancing.

A dancing bug?

Yes, I can't remember what it was wearing, but it was definitely pink. Pink makes everyone feel happy!

What makes a woman beautiful?

Make-up. If she wants to be pretty she has to wear lipstick and kohl.

What do you want to be when you grow-up?

A famous doctor. I want to give everyone a shot. >



Rahaf Farid, 9

Where are your parents?

My mom is dead but my dad is here. I get to see him once a week. He always takes me somewhere nice.

What's your favourite colour?

Red. I think it's the best colour for a girl because it makes you look older and prettier.

So then what makes a girl pretty?

She has to be elegant and well groomed. And wear red lipstick.

Does that mean you want to be an actress?

I want to be a dentist. A woman's smile is also important and I want to fix everyone's teeth so they have perfect smiles.

Speaking of which, there's something in your teeth...

[Laughs] I had za'tar for breakfast.



Hijran Jaber, 11 years old

What did you do today?

Woke up, ate, studied, played and ate. There's a playroom where I can play with all my friends.

What's your favourite toy?

Fulla. I think she's pretty.

You know, Fulla came with us to London in our last issue; see?

She was with a lot of weird people. But she still looks pretty.

What did you get for Eid?

A pair of really nice pajamas. I wear them every night.

What makes a woman beautiful?

Her hopes and dreams. She's beautiful because she wants to do something wonderful with her life.

What are your hopes for the future?

I want to be an artist. I want to paint my feelings and thoughts with lots of different colours.



Salsabeel Mohammed, 12

Did you sleep well yesterday?

I dreamt that a headmistress hit one of my friends. It was kind of scary, so I didn't sleep so well.

Where are your parents?

My dad died, but I get to see my mom in Salt once a week. We go to the park with my brothers and then we eat in a nice restaurant.

Do you like your life?

It's impossible not to because my mom is in it and I love her the most.

Do you like sports?

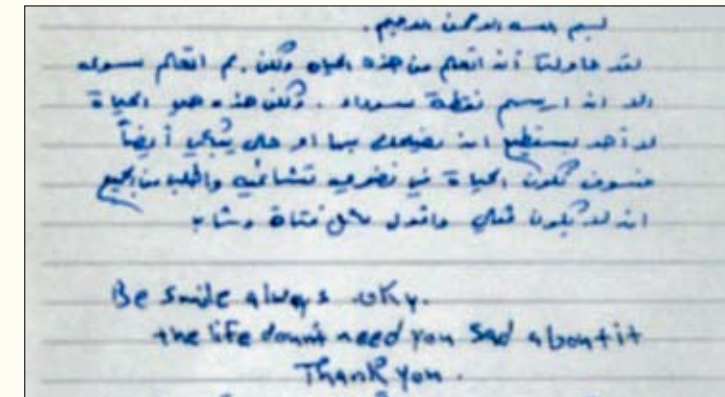
I love basketball, I'm really good at it. I like other sports too, but basketball is the best.

What makes a woman beautiful?

Her actions, the way she treats others. She has to be a good person.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be in the army. I want to be an officer.



Kawthar Yemeni, 14 years old

What did you have for breakfast?

I hate breakfast. I only eat at night.

Well, then, what do you eat?

Not meat or chicken, I can't stand them either. I just eat a lot of fruits and vegetables. That's why I'm so thin.

Are you from Jordan?

No, I'm actually from Yemen, but I've been here since I was a little baby.

Where are your parents?

Both of them are dead. My mom died when I was two months old and my dad when I was a year. Both were killed in a fire. That makes me kind of angry.

Are you happy here?

I'm happy because I've been here almost all my life. I'm not so happy because I was expelled from school. I had a fight with a caretaker there and she broke her arm. But all I did was push her.

Of course... so what do you want to be when you grow-up?

A writer. I love to tell stories.

What makes a woman beautiful?

Her eyes. ●

Kawthar's poem

I have tried to learn from this life but I only learned to draw a black dot That is life. No one can smile or even cry Pessimistic, I know, and I ask everyone not to think or be like me Smile always Don't make life bring you sadness It's not worth it to be sad about life I learnt from life to eat bitter apples But I won't forget my life in the orphanage Here I learned the language of life