



HOME RED HILL



ATAYLE



HOME
RED HILL
Writing May 2012

For Liz Danks, who made this workshop work.



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About Ourselves

We were asked to write about ourselves.

Here are some of our responses.



Who am I?

I am person who is classical and self-motivated.

I am a person who is caring and kind.

I'm a person who has emotions as well.

Most of the time I like reading and to play soccer with my friends and family. I do believe that I have made a difference in the lives of other people in my area and that I have learned about who I am.

I have come a long way. If you love people it becomes easy for you to live in that community.

I learn because I have learned to upgrade old people in my life.

Abongile Kalman

ATTITUDE



Who am I?

I am ATHULE I was born in Eastern Cape and I am the loving person. I am living in RED-HILL.

I love sharing things with people and I value everyone and I respect any one and I am a guy who believes that I have potential and I will do anything to help a friend when he is in a difficult situation.

I live my life to the fullest. I don't care what people think about me any more. I am what I am.

I am very shy in front of many people. I came here to Red Hill in 2004 where I was on the holiday. The next year, which was 2005, I studied school in Ukhanyo Primary.

I have been in Red Hill for seven years now and many things happen in my life in the sad way, but I have managed to pick myself up and move on with my life.

There is a quote says 'what doesn't kill you it makes you stronger.' I have big dreams about my future living in a big house with my wife and my children. I want the best for my success in my future. My favourite hope is to be a professional player in my career. I love soccer with my whole life.

Athule Rasi

ALICIA



MARINUS

Who am I?

I'm a girl 15 years of age. I live with my parents in a small community where everyone knows everyone. I describe myself as a caring person always looking out for my fellow neighbours when they are in time of need.

I never back down from a challenge that's coming my way. As my English teacher always says, if you do something you should get it right the first time.

As teenagers we go through a lot of things. Sometime we feel like there's nobody looking out for us but as a believer in Christ I know that there is someone up there looking out for me. Even when days are dark, when friends are few and I feel like giving up on life – when you feel like everyone is against you even your family you love so dearly. I know God is always there for me.

I'm always open to try new things and I end up having a great time. Friends are very important to me they are like a backbone they there to hold your hand, pick you up when you fall, be with you through the stormy rain not leaving you in the freezing cold. That's who I am.

Alicia Marinus

ALICIA



MARINUS

My story

My name is Alicia Marinus I'm sixteen years old. I live in South Africa in the place called Simon's Town. There are so many things you can do and so many things to see in South Africa. In many places you don't have what we have here. This is a wonderful place I'm so glad and thankful for where I live. I could not ask for better.

I'm a very friendly person and I make friends easier than you know. I'm a hard working person. I love what I do and how I do it. I like getting things right the first time just like my school teacher taught me to be and I am a disciplined learner. I'm very concerned over my health I don't like being sick because I don't like to be at home and miss out on my school work.

I do spiritual dancing and I belong to a youth group and I sing in my church worship group. I can do hair and I'm a person you can depend on. I love little babies because they are so cute and loving and I care about little children.

Alicia Marinus



Who am I?

I'm Nosiphiwo Xatshi I am fifteen years old, living in Red Hill and I am doing Grade Ten this year in Masiphumelele High School.

At home I am living with my aunt, two cousins and my older sister. I am a person who doesn't like the wrong things. I am a girl who is having high self-esteem about who I am.

I like to hang out with my friends but not so much because I'm always having work to do, like my schoolwork. I am the person who is always giving advice to those who need it. My career dream is to become a chartered accountant.

On my schoolwork I work hard because I want to be a person who is successful in life. I work hard because my parents are both uneducated so I learn for them so that one day they can be proud of me.

Xatshi Nosiphiwo



Who am I?

I am a girl who lives in Red-Hill and I am still a young teenager. I live with my mother, brother and sister. I live in a community that has few people but is a very peaceful and safe place. I live in a shack and it's a three-room home.

It leaks when the weather is not right but it's still a home because I have a place to sleep and feel comfortable in it, so that's a home for me.

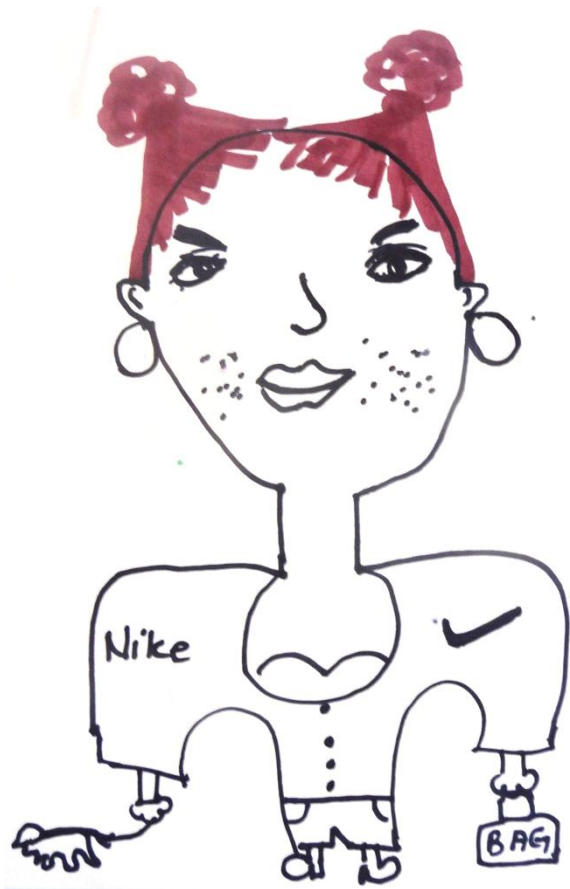
I'm a very passionate, caring and loving girl who just loves to do new things and meet new people. I'm a person with lots of dreams and I love challenges. I love sports and love education because it's a best thing in life. If you are not educated you won't succeed.

I love sharing things with people and knowing things about them too, because it's great knowing about other people's lives and how they grow up and what they want in life.

Being a teenager at this point of life is a great challenge I think because there are so many opportunities that we have. Nothing is holding us back. It doesn't matter where you live or what or what kind of house you live in, If you want your life to be successful you will be. You just have to work hard and be yourself.

You're the one that knows what you want in life. I'm a person that loves advice and I have faced a lot of things in life but I've learnt not to give up and just be myself. So that's who I am.

Sive Nongogo



My Story

My name is Cynthia Marinus I'm sixteen years old. I live in South Africa in the place called Simon's Town. There are so many things you can do and so many things to see in south Africa. In many places you don't have what we have here in South Africa. This is a wonderful place I'm so glad and thankful for where I live. I could not ask for better.

I'm a very friendly person and I make friends easier than you know. I'm a hard working person. I love what I do and how I do it. I like getting things right the first time just like my school teacher taught me to be and I am a disciplined learner. I'm very concerned over my health I don't like being sick because I don't like to be at home and miss out on my school work.

I can do spiritual dancing and I belong to a youth group and I sing in my church worship group. I can do hair and I'm a person you can depend on. I love little babies because they are so cute and loving and I care about little children.

Cynthia Marinus

ASAKHE



Who am I?

I am Asakhe, born in Eastern Cape. I am fourth child. I passed my Matric in 1993 and I came to Cape Town the same year and 1994 was my gap year and in 1995 I did a secretarial course and after that I looked for a job but I couldn't find one. I worked for contract jobs most of the time and in 1996 I got my first child.

I came in Simonstown in 2003 still looking for job and I still found contract jobs, until I heard about an interview for the person to work at the library in Red Hill. I got the job and I am happy because the library has improved a lot. When I started, there was nothing to help the kids and now they can do their research projects.

Since I came to Cape Town I have been living in a shack. I first lived with my brother and when I got my first child I moved in with my boyfriend who is now my husband. If my school results were good, university could have accepted me and study to get better job. I didn't take school seriously that is why I am warning the kids today not to make the same mistake.

Asakhe Bakajana



A short story: 'I am Stepho'

Itsepho was a young boy who grew up in a small village. He lived with his aunt and granny and siblings in their village. They were all very happy although they were poor.

Once, when he was playing with his friends in a playing park, they heard a loud sound. It was a grey and unfamiliar sound. They were all shocked.

A big fat man got out of a truck. He walked towards them. Then another guy, the driver, got out after him. They spoke a strange language. We just stood where we were until they came to stand in front of us. The fat, big man pointed at me.

Phumie



A short story: 'J am Zintle'

I am Zintle. I was born in Durban in 1990. I was schooling in Masiphumelele High when this story happened.

It was 6.00 am. I saw a man standing in the middle of the road and when I got there he told to me come here. I didn't listen to him because I was very afraid of him. Because of that, the man got angry and he came over to me very fast. He grabbed my arm and shouted: 'Hey little piece of shit, I am talking to you!'

I said to him, 'I don't know you!' The man said, 'I just want to say I love you that's all'. I asked him: 'Are you not a lot older thn me? The man got angry and said: 'So what? No one is old when it comes to love!'

And then the man tried to kiss me. I screamed and the man put his arm over my mouth and told me to shut up.

I won't.

Nosicelo and Siyasanga

Ordinary Winter Days

We were asked to focus on the start of our ordinary, winter days - what we saw and heard on our way to school.

At the end of May and beginning of June, when the workshop took place, the Cape winter had just got into its stride and the weather was cold and wet.



Winter's Day

When I wake up in the morning, I hear the birds singing different verses. When I open the window, I see the clouds running from side to side and I know that rain is coming.

I quickly wash my face and brush my teeth, then eat my porridge so I can have energy to collect firewood so that I already have something to make me warm when the rain comes.

I walk between the big rocks and footpaths. The trees stand between the houses. I smell a fresh breeze that comes from the ocean and that makes me feel better.

After that I grab my school bag and say goodbye to my family. The rain has started when I open the door again. That's not good. I have a long way to walk before I catch my transport to school.

Xatshi Nosiphiwo

ATZULE



Morning

Every morning when I wake up I hear chickens screaming. That is the signal that I must get up and prepare myself for school. Birds are singing and the wind is blowing very cold, fresh air.

When I wake up, I smell coffee from next door and the smell of *Pap* (mealie porridge) cooking in the other yard. I smell the steam from the fire and the breath of the sea.

When I first wake up, I touch someone next to me, still sleeping. I put my hand outside the bed to see if it is warm or cold.

When I wake up, the first thing I see is the roof. Then I look around at my family. Then I have to get up and get washed and dressed and take my school things to walk to the bus that will take me to school.

Athule Rasi

ALICIA



MARINUS

Where I Live

The place where I live is not what I dream about. I wanted to live somewhere I would feel happy - like America or Europe, but not Africa. Where they placed me, I have to travel to get somewhere I want to be.

I mean, in other places kids just walk to school and if they want something, they just have to buy it. They can walk anywhere - or travel in a car.

I wish I could experience what other kids experience from countries and places outside Red Hill. Sometimes I'm amazed at what other kids tell me about how they live. It sounds great. I feel happy just listening. I want to be there in that happy place.

Sometimes, later, I cry from being unhappy. I can't control it.

Alicia Marinus



Day Begins

I wake up in the morning feeling as if it's going to be a good day, with a cool breeze from outside. I go and brush my teeth. There are dark grey clouds, black trees and dripping rain. I realize that it is a rainy day instead!

My dog, and the chickens outside are all wet. When I go back inside I see that the roof is leaking. I feel sorry for myself, but tell myself that it is going to be all right because I can still go to school and get education so that I can reach my goal and become a better person.

When I am at school, I see my Red Hill as a place covered by a big mountain and trees, a place where the ocean is near and animals are a part of my life because they are all around us and we have been living with them for years.

When it is time to go to school I don't want to go because it is so cold outside. I can't walk fast because my feet are freezing and my hands as cold as ice. When the road is muddy and wet and I want to run to school, I can't because of the mud. I might splash my uniform so I keep on walking.

Simpliwe Lombo

Pumie*



On My Way To School

When I wake up in the morning, I hear the sound of chirping birds. I feel the cold wind from outside through the holes in my house.

I get up and make my bed. I look through the window - the sky is grey. I feel a bit worried about the weather as I get ready for school. I'm shivering and my nose is running. I eat a bowl of porridge. It's time for me to go.

I walk in the cold, unbearable weather. I try to walk faster - my toes and fingers are freezing. I keep in mind that the faster I walk, the faster I walk, the warmer I can get. I reach the bus stop, still a bit early, and sweaty by then.

We all just can't wait for the bus to come. It arrives. We all just flock into the overloaded bus. Some are coughing. The bus is not in a good condition - some windows can't close properly so we are still getting cold. We all panic. In my mind I wish that school was out and I'd be home, sitting around the fire with my family.

Phumla Bakajana



Living in Red Hill

Red Hill is a place where we live with different people who come from different homes. It is a place where we have positive as well as negative things.

In Red Hill we do not have necessary school. Sometimes the electricity or water goes off without notice. If you are a school child you don't have chance to read your book because there are a lot of *shebeens* (illegal bars) and noise. You can't focus when you hear noise - and we have an even bigger population of shacks and toilets. We have a long way to go to the bus stop when we go to school.

But in Red Hill we live without paying any rent, the government provides us with free school transport and we don't pay for water and electricity. Because of this we don't have to have loans.

Nosiphelo Bunu



Starting the Day in Winter

When I wake up, I feel fresh air - and wind and rain, and hear the sound of dogs. My mother is doing up the house and the children are trying to wake up and crying to her to help them.

I wash and dress and then dish up the food my mother has made for us. Then I help my little brother get dressed and wash him.

Then I see outside there are cooking fires and the sea and flowers and trees. Chickens are running about all over the hill.

Afterwards I will meet my friends in shops and we will discuss what to do in the holidays.

I like staying in Red Hill because of the voices of the dogs and the birds and the lovely mountains. We don't have to pay rent and we have clean water and transport to school.

But I don't like that there are no roads and every person who needs work must go to a person who tells him or her to get a job!

Siyasanga Vazi



Day Break

I wake up in the morning feeling excited to start my day - seeing my beautiful parents and handsome brothers, smelling the rich smell of coffee boiling in the kettle and hearing birds singing outside and buses picking up people to go to their various places.

I go outside and see the misty clouds and tall black trees with green leaves and beautiful, precious giant stones and our houses facing each other with the beautiful mountain facing down to us.

The road is grey with mist and the Red Hill roads are full of water. There is mud everywhere due to the cold weather conditions. I now see our dogs, wet outside, shivering from cold and chickens going up and down, looking for a warm place to put themselves in.

It is now 7.00 am when I need to go and get my long white school bus - nine kilometres away from my house.

Simbulele Mauteri Saunders



Red Hill

Red Hill is a place where different people live; it is a good place. What I like about it is there is no crime and you can walk about any time you like. For us as teenagers, it is a good place to live. There is fresh air and beautiful green trees.

The negative thing is transport to go shopping or for the children to go to school. There is no clinic or hospital, no good roads, no cleaning of garbage.

Asavela Booi



How I Start My Day

Waking up in Red Hill is a good feeling because you can smell the fire and hear the chickens and the wind blowing. I wake up thinking what the weather is going to be like.

I wake up at six o' clock and in winter it is still dark outside. It feels like it might be a very bad day because it is raining. I have to go to school over muddy, slippery roads - and we have to be at the bus stop on time.

The bus rides down the road and the clock ticks and you think; what will I do first?

That's how I start my day in Red Hill!

Sive Nongogo



Waking up

When I wake up in the morning, I see someone next to me - my little sister. I see the roof and I see my family.

Outside I see the sea and the houses of my community of Red Hill. It is raining and it is very cold. I see the cars on the road that goes past and the trees.

But the important thing is community. I see people.

In my mind-photographs of my place I see trees and rocks and flowers - but I also see some poor people's houses and their fires.

Andisiwe Ganyaza



Winter's Day

Every morning I wake up the first thing that I hear is the wind blowing. Busses going up and down the ocean breezing birds sing. The first things that I smell is the pap that is cooking the sea that is breezing. I open my eyes I see the roof over our house and my cat that is sleeping next to my. I get out of bed and went outside to get some cold and fresh air get back in the house boil some water and take a hot bath get dress clean my room and brush my teeth and then eat some pap pack my books go to my father and mother say goodbye and kiss my 2 year sister and her child. Then I wait until 07.00 o'clock go down and wait for the bus.

Aphelele

And from the community librarian ...

I came to Red Hill when my husband lost his job. Because there was no space for our shack, we built on a wet place with too much vegetation and for that reason there are a lot of snakes, especially in summer.

The first thing I hear in the morning when I wake up is the chickens and birds and squirrels. Red Hill is a place where there are a lot of trees. You see squirrels jumping from one tree to another.

We are using the bucket system and the smell of the toilets is terrible. There are not enough toilets and ten households have to use one. It is a mess in winter.

We are always making fires to keep warm and also to cook to save electricity because it is too expensive. In winter there is always water on the road and if a car passes you by, you get splashed. We also share our shack with a lot of mice and rats that eat everything from clothes to cupboards - they eat everything! Sometimes when they are about to have

babies. They prepare nice warm nests - sometimes in your favourite things!

When there was no water in Red Hill we had to go to the bottom camp to fetch water and it was difficult when we wanted to wash our clothes.

The good thing about Red Hill is that we don't have a school here so the government pays for the transport to take the children to the nearest schools so we don't have to pay transport money.

We love Red Hill because it is our home.

Asakhe Noziphiwo Bakajana

ASAKHE



