

Who are you?

How as a person are you connected to me?

Can you share a significant turning point in your life and how it impacted you?

Was there a specific person or mentor who played a role in this turning point in your life?

If you could go back and change this turning point or any others in your life would you? If so, why?

*all poems written using chatgpt

Nyah Maree

1. Who are you?

I am a graduating senior Cinema and TV arts B.A. and filmmaker who is now living in Los Angeles.

2. How as a person are you connected to me?

I know Nyah from a major turning point in my life; moving to Chicago for college. I was excited to live away from home and having good roommates like Nyah made the experience worthwhile and unforgettable.

3. Can you share a significant turning point in your life and how it impacted you?

In 2020 Nyah left North Carolina to go to Chicago and pursue a career in film. She decided that she wanted more from her quaint life in her small town than what was being offered.

4. Was there a specific person or mentor who played a role in this turning point in your life?

Nyah's grandmother was what impacted his decision as well as many others in her life. My grandma was a go-getter. If she wanted to do something she would and if she didn't have the resources then she would find a way to get it.

5. If you could go back and change this turning point or any others in your life would you? If so, why?

She views her life as content and flowing. When confronted with this question she answers, "I don't think I would change anything since my experiences both good and bad influenced my current morals or thought process when making decisions."

Nyah Maree

A small town life was all she knew

But dreams and ambitions started to brew

Her grandma's spirit was strong and true

And soon Nyah knew what she had to do

She packed her bags and left her home

In search of a life that she could own
Chicago was where she wanted to roam
To pursue a career in film, she was grown

Her college years were filled with delight
Good roommates and memories that were bright
She found her passion, her creative might
And knew that this was her guiding light

When asked if she would change a thing
Nyah replied with a humble ring
Her experiences both good and bad bring
Her current morals and thoughts that sing

Moving forward, she'll pave her way
With her camera, she'll capture each day
Her dreams and ambitions will never sway
For Nyah knows she'll make it one day.

Daniela Castro

1. Who are you?

I am a 21 year old female Latina of Mexican descent who was born and raised in the United States. I also know Dani as a visual artist and phenomenal dancer.

2. How as a person are you connected to me?

Dani is one of my closest and best friends. I had met her through another close friend who left her home in Vietnam. I consider Dani someone who has given me a lot of advice and makes Chicago a place I could see myself staying.

3. Can you share a significant turning point in your life and how it impacted you?

My junior year of high school I realized that I did not want to be a teacher. I instead chose a career path that would allow me to do the things I enjoy such as dance and art.

4. Was there a specific person or mentor who played a role in this turning point in your life?

I would say the biggest influence was myself. As self-centered as it may sound I give myself credit for listening to myself and creating a community of friends and family that support me. If I was stuck being a teacher and following those expectations, I would not be happy nor would I have met and evolved as the person I have become today.

5. If you could go back and change this turning point or any others in your life would you? If so, why?

I would go back not to “change” anything. I live by this motto “everything happens for a reason” and that applies to everything and anything even if we do not end up knowing that reason. I believe that the things that happen to us and the decisions that we make are what builds the people and individuals that we are today. I would go back to observe those events from a different perspective to better understand.

Daniela Castro

From Mexico to the States I came,
A Latina with a unique name,
Raised in a land so far away,
But here I found my place to stay.

My dreams were once to teach the young,
But dance and art soon took the tongue,
I followed my heart, not others' voices,
And found a life filled with choices.

In Chicago, I found a friend,
Whose talent never seems to end,
Dani, an artist and dancer too,
Who makes this city feel brand new.

With family and friends by my side,
I found the strength to take my stride,
To live my life the way I choose,
And never let others dim my hues.

I live by a motto that rings true,
"Everything happens for a reason," too,
And though I may not always see,
I trust in fate and destiny.

So, if I could go back in time,
I wouldn't change a thing in my rhyme,
But observe those moments with a new eye,
To better understand how and why.

Edward Perez

1. Who are you?

My name is Edward ,I'm a down-to-earth individual who wants to live more rather than constantly dream of things. - I enjoy spending time and sharing positive moments with the people that matter most to me even when life can take a detour. I won't allow it to shake my vision, although it is hard to stay true to ourselves at times. I want to create more positive moments like these with people I know in my life, I feel it would help me go further. - I am someone who strongly believes that all good deeds you do will be rewarded, like karma where our intent decides one's future. The fragments or experiences left by other people are easy to react to. I want to observe more and then share my kindness in my own quiet way. No matter how many times we start again we already know its worth. I want to live the way I want and nourish what's broken. If we realize a gentle rhythm, we'll be happier. - It is a belief of mine that we must live with compassion. It's important to put into practice so that we can continuously improve ourselves, no matter how hard it is to develop or make time for, it is ours to get close to and get lost in. - Everyday there is a struggle to accept ourselves. It's important to have people who can remind us of our strengths. We are all blessed, driven by weakness but out there ,there are people who need us as much as we need them. It's up to us to find or choose the people we want to live for. To choose a path for ourselves that rectifies the state of our own truth. We can only bring a commitment of forgiveness to the storm. We have each other and we create the storm.

2. How as a person are you connected to me?

To me you are special and dear, you are family but I can call you someone more than family, you are someone I want to take care of. I completely desire to have you in my life and I feel it will be for a while. - You help me feel at peace whenever you're smiling and it gives me butterflies. Having you around is like those blues you get after a very long trip. In other words I feel like I'm home with your warm and sweet aura. - I enjoy every moment we have together ,the world the two of us are building is something I never could have expected, I'm willing to endure anything with you. - You always believed in me and filled me with faith. I want to grow together with you and see how far we can go.

3. Can you share a significant turning point in your life and how it impacted you?

In elementary school I met some people I couldn't really ever forget. They were people I could always hang out with if I ever felt like I was in a dark place. - These people always made me feel welcomed and encouraged me to stay in school. I was fortunate enough to still have the majority of them attend the same high school. - I was always distant and never shared anything of my personal life but they still tried to understand and I am sincerely grateful. - During that time I wasn't really mature enough to realize all the things they did for me. They helped me become more in touch with myself and encouraged my dreams of becoming a musician. I get nostalgic memories often and I wish I could have shown my appreciation more. This experience definitely helped me

become more grateful for my close ones and really caused me to reflect more with my own actions as well as others.

4. Was there a specific person or mentor who played a role in this turning point in your life?

There was no specific mentor who contributed to this turning point. - I would say they were all equal in their support of me. I believe highschool was a difficult environment to stay together, especially staying connected with the teachers. It was hard to always have support from them because of the large number of other students, size of the classrooms, and the fact it was so different from a secondary school. - In my experience I felt there were people who wanted to help me more, we often choose to silence ourselves but if you search I'm certain you can find them. It is entirely up to us whether or not we want to be helped and whether or not we allow those people to be a part of it.

5. If you could go back and change this turning point or any others in your life would you? If so, why?

If I could go back, I wouldn't change these turning points. Even if they are meaningful changes that could change the course of my life now. - I can't say that I am happy with my life now, there are definitely many things I want to prove to myself and my family. Things I'd like to accomplish for them. - I feel like I owe them for every moment we've made and I carry that every day. Like most people I want to give them the world. I believe even with changing these turning points, family will always remain as family, they are always worth fighting for. - We are always in control of ourselves, if we have a worthy goal such as family, we become a channel of emotions that we can divine with observing. Then can we design our perceived life to be filled with lucid light for our own desire rather than erroneous drives like jealousy or envy which only narrows our paths. - Naturally as humans our emotions are our instincts. Emotions help us fight for what matters most to us ,for these physiological effects help us survive. - I believe that if we apply an altruistic mindset to our every thought, we will be content with our own, our past, turning points, and decisions. Rather than accepting our fear of having our goals stolen and blaming people.

Edward Perez

I am Edward, a man of heart,
Living in the present, playing my part.
I cherish the moments with loved ones dear,
Even when life throws me a curve ball here.

I hold on to my vision, through thick and thin,
Knowing that good deeds lead to reward within.
I observe and spread kindness in my own way,

Living with compassion each and every day.

It's not always easy to accept ourselves,
But with supportive people, we find our strengths and delve.
We are all blessed, and driven by weakness too,
Choosing our own path, and making our own truth.

You, my dear, bring peace with your smile,
And with you, I feel like I'm home after a long mile.
We've built our own world, and endure everything,
Growing together, and seeing what the future will bring.

In elementary school, I met people I could never forget,
Who welcomed me and encouraged me when I was upset.
Though I wasn't mature enough to show appreciation,
Reflecting on those moments has given me inspiration.

High school was difficult, but I found people who helped me through,
Even though it was hard to stay connected with the teachers too.
It's up to us to seek and accept help,
And choose to be a part of that life-changing step.

Though there are things I want to accomplish,
I carry my family's love and every moment cherished.
They are worth fighting for, and always will be,
And with an altruistic mindset, I know I can see,

A lucid light shining bright for my desire,
Without fear of having my goals stolen, no matter how dire.
For emotions are our instincts, and they help us survive,
With an altruistic mindset, our goals come alive.