

Student Name: Nylah V.

February 14, 2008

## The Great Convention

My name is Maddison Ima (pronounced "eye-ma"). I am fourteen years old. I live in Houston, Texas with my mom, my dad and my annoying brother. His name is Matthew, and he is seven years old. He always tries to prank me, but I get him first. One Friday night before my first dance convention, I put a bucket of slime on top of his door and when he closed the door, the slime fell on his head. It was so funny, I almost laughed my head off! Then my mom told me I had to go to bed early and pack because I have the dance convention tomorrow. I packed four shirts, four pants, two dresses and six socks in my Shopkins luggage.

The next morning at 5:30 am I got up and put on my leotard and leggings. We stopped at McDonald's to pick up some breakfast. We were attending the Jump Convention at the Galleria Mall and the Welcome committee sang a few songs and introduced the teachers. The teachers for my group were Eva, Misty Copeland, Les Twins, and Mia Michaels. They ran across the hall and gave random people a high five. My best friend, Catrina, and I were screaming super loud with excitement. Then we were given green bands labeled "JUMP", and our dance teacher Mrs. Ragan said, "If you have a green band, you are a junior dancer." I asked Mrs. Ragan, "Where is the Junior Room?" and she said, "The junior room is upstairs to your right." All the junior dancers raced upstairs. Catrina screamed, "Oh my goodness, it's a stampede."

Once we were in the room, there was a small stage in the front. There were signs with our dance schools' names posted around the room. When we found the Woodlands Champions Dance Forcesign, we put our bags down under the sign. Then Catrina and I saw our other best friend, Emma, waving to us, so we went over to her. Emma, Catrina, and I go to the same school and dance studio. We talked about school crushes and fashion while we waited. I couldn't believe my eyes, the Les Twins, winners of the World of Dance reality TV show competition, went on stage and started leading us in stretching. After stretching, the Les Twins split us into groups of four and taught us a hip-hop combo. Catrina, Emma, Claire, and I were in the same group. After hip-hop we went to our bags to get a drink of water. Then Megan, the biggest bully in Texas, said "You guys dance like frogs, and I dance like a dancer." Megan goes to our school and dance studio. We ignored her and went back to the floor for our next dance.

In ballet, we did a combo with Misty Copeland, the first African American principal ballerina in New York City. After the ballet combo, Emma said, "I am so hungry." "We are all hungry and you guys are such crybabies", I said jokingly. "We only have one more class", said Megan in a very mean voice. "Stay out of this Megan", said Emma. "Ok Miss boss pants", said Megan and she walked away. I said, "Let's put on our jazz shoes". Once we had our jazz shoes on we walked to the wood floor. Eva was teaching us jazz, I remember her from watching World of Dance as well. She came in second place just behind the Les Twins and she's only 15! We learned an upbeat jazz combo. When jazz was over, we sat down on the floor to listen to Eva's comments. "Good job in class today, now you can break for lunch", said Eva. We all rushed to our bags to get lunch. Emma and Catrina brought lunch boxes. "Where is your lunch, Madison?", asked Catrina. I said, "My mom is bringing me McDonald's". Then my mom walked over to me, gave me my food and said, "Here is your food. Your Nana and brother will pick you up later". Then my mom kissed me on the cheek and left the room. I ate my nuggets and French fries and didn't offer any to my friends.

After lunch, we had a tap class. We earned a tap combo with Mia Michaels, judge and choreographer from another one of my favorite shows "So You Think You Can Dance". Mia dismissed us for the day and told us to wait for our parents. Then we saw Claire wave us over, and she asked, "Are you guys staying to

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the end tomorrow?" "Maybe, why?" said Emma. "They are giving away certificates for a seven-day pass to dance with all of the World of Dance famous dancers in San Antonio," explained Claire. "That is so cool how do you get one?", I asked. "If you work really hard they will give you one at the end of the day tomorrow," said Claire. Then my mom walked into the room and said "It's time to go." I said goodbye to my friends, picked up my bag and left with my mom.

"Mom, I thought you said that Nana and Matthew were going to pick me up?", I asked confused. "Let's stay right over there for a moment", I suggested. We walked to a wall and I sat down, "Boo!" said Matthew and Nana. "Ok, ok, you guys got me", I said. Then we went shopping at Justice, Claire's and Crazy Eights. For dinner, we had HOP with Catrina and her mom. Then we all went back to the hotel. Before I went to sleep I prayed

*Dear God, thank you for letting me have a fun day at the convention. Thank you for my family and friends. Help me do a good job tomorrow and win a certificate. In Your Name, Amen.*

"I can't wait until tomorrow", I said closing my eyes and drifting off to sleep after a long day of dance.