Adam says
He wanna be Jay-Z
Young Joc
Young Jeezy
Rick Ross
The Boss
T.I.
Or B.I.G.
As long as he's Somebody
If it takes block hugging
Or rock bottom.
Like his daddy.
Ishah says
Jenny thought she was from the block
Until Jenny met me.

Ishah is three.

Got a dream to be
Discovered
On living color
Harlem Puerto Rican Princess
And Senegalese.
Khadim.
A milli mister
But misses math
Misses minus and class
Gotta daddy don't do
A daddy don't dad
Got ten fingers and toes
A nose that looks like his,
It don't add.
But he don't sweat it of course
He just sweat
For the courts
Or a quiz
On a course.
Quick to raise his hand in class
Not raise his hand like dad
He gonna get an edumacation like his mama had asked.
Baby boy,
I ask that you weigh your options.
They are waiting for you to fall regardless.
Let's see how high we can get
How far we can play
How hard we can scheme-
Khadim.
Not like Pun
Or Pac
Ball bouncing
Or hugging the block
But
President pops off the lips quite nice.
2035.
President pops off the lips just fine.

Zora Howard
NYC Youth Poet Laureate
—2009–2010

NYC Voter Assistance Commission
and Urban Word NYC *present*:

NYC Voter Slam Program

To name the NYC Youth Poet Laureate

October 29, 2010

Enter for a chance to represent NYC as the Youth Poet Laureate of 2010–2011

Poet Laureate (noun)
A poet recognized or acclaimed as the most eminent or representative of a particular region.

Youth Poet Laureates exhibit a commitment to writing as well as a dedication to community service and civic engagement. Teens ages 13-19 interested in participating should stay tuned at www.urbanwordnyc.org & www.nyc.gov/voter and start volunteering at www.nyc.gov/service

Sign-up begins August 2, 2010

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