

It was five years ago when I first started out
Quickly the years have gone, but I've learned so much throughout
For me it started out in 8th and 9th grade with Ms. Tammy
"Um excuse me become instilled in me", and my friends became like family
I was a young mind thirsting for knowledge and whatever was to be given
As I continued with camp, I realized my maturity had risen
Opportunities have been given, love shown, and experienced gained
Friendships and special bonds causing my life to not be the same
Unforgettable images embedded deep within my mind
So much I will miss about leaving, but I know it is my time
Meditating back on all the things that I have done
Camp was not just serious, but it also was a lot of fun
Trips to New York, New Orleans, how I wish I could rewind
Spending all our money on clothes, but money for food we could not find
Completing community service, I'll admit at first we did complain
But soon we stopped after realizing how some people barely had a thing
College trips were pretty hot, I mean we really felt the heat
But at the end of the day I knew I was one step closer to my goals being reached
I can remember doing step shows, girls competing against the guys
Closing ceremonies were filled with joy, but also bittersweet goodbyes
Uncle Busta was always the host, and I realize we all call him that
In reality he isn't our uncle, but we love him as if he's just that
In all serious though, I've been exposed to more than most people my age
Things that I will value and take with me when I am up in age
With all that we were shown, I was able to make a career choice
Because of how much I've grown, I have been able to find my voice
I haven't always been a person to step out of my shell
But camp Zion has set me a cut above the rest, and lead me to excel
Had I not been involved, I could have been hanging in the streets
Involved in wrong relations and participating in wrong activities
Now to think that all the good times have come to an end
How does one say goodbye, this feeling is so hard to comprehend
Everyone has meant so much and surely impacted my life
I've been here so long, final goodbyes doesn't feel right
To the staff of Camp Zion, I thank you for dedication and your time
You didn't have to be so devoted, but you were and that's hard to find
Mrs. Keshia, in my eyes you are a woman of standard and my role model
You carry yourself in such a way that I really want to follow
You've always wanted the best for camp and have never steered me wrong
You're beautiful inside and out, and mentally so strong
To Mr. Parker Thank you, for always having a smile on your face
Just your cheerfulness brought joy to the whole place
I know there's a lot you do that camp as a whole may not know
So thank you for your time and all the love you've showed
To Mrs. Tobbie I know the job club we may have drove you almost insane
With all of our talking, and sometimes with how much we complained

But you helped us make it through, though it was at times complicated
So for all your hard work seen and unseen, you are truly appreciated
Camp was my support, if I needed someone to lean on, it was my shoulder
It is so hard to realized the program for me is really over
However I believe I am ready for all, I am not scared
Camp Zion has done its job in having me prepared
I will live by what you have taught me work hard, study continuously, make healthy
choices, set goals and value education
The life skills I have learned has me ready for any situation
Words can not fully express what this experience has been for me
I hope to go out into the world, and make you all proud of me

Precious Holston: Camp Zion Graduate 2010