**2009**

 **8-10 Years**

**Joint 3rd Place**

**Trevonette Johnson**

***Why is it important to respect our elders?***

***How do you show respect to your elders?***

My mummy always told me to respect my elders. I only thought my elders were my Grandma, Grandad, Mummy and Daddy, but I know now that my elders are all the people older than me around me. People who are my elders are wiser than me, this means they know more about lots of things and I learn from them every day, so it is important for me to show respect to these people. If I don’t show respect these people would say I am a rude child.

Elders give me guidance when I sometimes have no direction of my own. My elders are there to discipline me when I am disobedient. I should respect my elders because even when I step out of line, they still love and care about me. I respect my elders because they know much about everything, and teach me lots of things about life, God, school and friends.

The bible says that when we respect and obey our elders our days will be long, so I want to obey the bible and live long; therefore it is important for us to respect our elders.

I show respect to my elders by being careful of my thoughts, my actions, my words and my character. I open doors for people and help complete strangers, for example, in town I helped an old woman to find her purse. I always say please, thank you, excuse me and you are welcome. I talk to my elders and always smile and say hello even to people that I do not know. I never refer to my elders by their Christian names, I say Mister, Miss, Sir or madam. I like to help my elders by carrying things for them, listen to them when they need somebody to listen to. I also like to read to older people who cannot see, or cannot read. I read to my grandmother who is ninety four years old and she enjoys me reading to her. Being respectful also means being patient with my elders when they cannot remember and they are confused.

Treating elders with respect makes your world a nicer place to live in, whether it’s at home, at school, or out in your community. And it’s easy – all you have to do is treat elder people they way you like to have them treat you because we will be an elder person one day.