**COURAGE TRANSCRIPT – ARMADALE ART STORIES**

**COURAGE**: My name's Courage Ray. I'm 17 years old and I go to Kelmscott Senior High School. I look scary at first, but it's like, I'm actually a soft guy at heart. Yeah. I'm really nice. I would say I’m always smiling, always willing to be enthusiastic about things that I'm not really familiar with. And quite brave, I would say. Like if I don't get over my fears and all that, I feel like it's going to have repercussions for me in the future. There was one instance where we all had to go in front of the class and read out our stories and all that. And everybody was really scared, [and] I was scared, but I was like, if I don't get this done in the future, I'm not going to be brave while going in front of people and talking. So, I just got it over with.

I've got two sisters, one's older, one's younger. Yes. I'm the middle child. I stand out a lot. Yeah. I'm the favorite I guess. We're a pretty quiet people. Yeah. We keep to ourselves a lot.

My dad's still in Africa. I don't really know him, like growing up that much. I'm not close with him, yeah. More close to my mum's side than my dad’s. My mum's here. She does nursing. She was very strong I would say. Yeah. I would say that she's very strong. But I also help her out myself. Like, when I get paid I give her something.

They migrated from Africa, Nigeria. I was two when we left. So, I didn't remember Africa that much. I was born Nigerian but my whole family is Liberian. But we speak the Nigerian language though. Yeah. I don’t really claim to be Nigerian that much, I would say I'm a bit of both. Like more Liberian though, because that's just how I talk when I'm at home. I don't really speak it. I forgot it when I was a kid. I just never learned it again. I feel kind of left out when my aunties are communicating. Like I can understand what they're saying but I can't fully understand it like I used to as a kid.

At a young age, coming to this school, I felt the need to, you know, like what's it called – fit in. So, I would do outlandish things to get attention from other people. Because I came in Year 8, I didn't come in Year 7. So, I felt I needed to show people like, “Oh, I'm Courage, look at me,” and all that. But it's like, when you get older, nobody really cares about what you do. It's like, why am I trying to impress other people? The only person I should try to impress is me. Doing that, I felt like I was somebody else, you know? It wasn't me. I was just doing that to make people like me.

It's nerve-wracking to think that I'm in Year 12 this year. I would like to be an entrepreneur or something. I feel like I have a lot of potential… like even if me being an entrepreneur doesn't work, at least I got to try it. Get to see how it is.

[In] clothing I would say. Fashion and art. The art came first. I've been into drawing since I was a kid, but it kind of flatlined when I went into Year 9, ‘cause I didn't get any art classes and Year 10 as well. So, Year 11, Year 12, I was like, let me get back into art, might as well. Save a lot of money up. And then probably fund an idea that I have or something. Get into clothing with my friends or something.

I feel like people have this perception that if they do well in school, they go to university, they'll be instantly successful. And it's like, that isn't always the case. There's a difference between being book-smart and street-smart, I feel like.

On Instagram one time there was this reel and it was like, if you can't wait to get off work and you say, oh, it's Friday, finally I can get off work, then that isn't your passion. You should just quit while you are ahead, just do something that you generally excel at and that you are good at, because that's the thing you'll succeed in most.

There's a difference between living to work and working to live. You know, I don't necessarily think success is measured by how much money you make, but it's how you live your life.