

# Meet Sama

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KATHRYN YORK (PRODUCER): Hello, and welcome to the Big and Little podcast.

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KATHRYN (PRODUCER): My name is Kathryn, Digital Content Manager at Boston Children's Museum. And I'm so excited to introduce today's episode. Although we are a Children's Museum, we don't often hear directly from our youth. In this episode, we're changing it up and welcoming our very first little to the Big and Little podcast.

Don't let that word deceive you. Today's guest has a powerful voice and some keen insights on what it's like to be a kid in this day and age. Meet Sama, goddaughter of Boston Children's Museum's president and CEO Carole Charnow.

SAMA: My name is Sama Nadianzelma Prince, and I'm nine years old.

KATHRYN (PRODUCER): She's joining us today all the way from London, England. We ask Sama about learning in school, fun pastimes around London, and navigating life during the pandemic. Without further ado, let's hear her conversation with Carole.

CAROLE: Welcome to the Big and Little podcast, Sama.

SAMA: Thank you.

CAROLE: We're so happy to have you here today.

SAMA: I'm so happy to be here.

CAROLE: Can you tell us how old you are?

SAMA: I'm nine years old.

CAROLE: And what grade are you in in school?

SAMA: I'm in year five.

CAROLE: And what's the name of your school?

SAMA: My school is called Zakoun Preparatory.

CAROLE: And is it a big school, or is it a little school?

SAMA: It's a private school, which means that there's a pre-prep and a prep. A prep is that all the children above you are free, and prep is below. There's about 450 children in the preparatory and in the whole school.

CAROLE: Can you tell me, what is your day like? What do you do? You get up in the morning, and you get ready for school. And how do you get to school? Do you walk?

SAMA: So I sometimes-- I'm planning to cycle, but never got to that yet.

CAROLE: OK.

SAMA: But normally, I go in the car. But sometimes I go into the train, in the train.

CAROLE: Oh, on the train.

SAMA: Or sometimes on the bus.

CAROLE: Wow, that's exciting that you get to go to school on the train.

SAMA: Yes, sometimes.

CAROLE: And when you get to school, do you have one classroom teacher or lots of different teachers?

SAMA: So I have a different classroom teacher for each subject. They don't come to our classroom. Only in lockdown did they come to our classroom. Now we go to their classroom, and then they make us come in. And then we sit down in our seats, and then that's what--

CAROLE: Oh.

SAMA: And the sit down, yeah.

CAROLE: And what subjects are you studying in school?

SAMA: In school, I do English, maths, philosophy, history, geography, reasoning, verbal reasoning, PE, French, Spanish, and games.

CAROLE: Ha, you have a good memory that you can remember all those classes. And which of those are your most favorite?

SAMA: PE, history, and English.

CAROLE: Now, I don't know if our American listeners are going to know what PE is. Is that physical education?

SAMA: Yeah.

CAROLE: Oh, and what do you do in that class?

SAMA: So in that class, we do stuff like octopus.

CAROLE: Oh.

SAMA: So there are two people in the middle, and the rest of the class lines up. And then the people in the middle will shout out octopus, and then we all have to try to get past them. But if they touch you, you become seaweed, and you can only wiggle out.

CAROLE: [LAUGHS] That sounds fun. So I'm sure a lot of our listeners are going to really love hearing your accents. What kind of accent would you say that you have?

SAMA: An English accent.

CAROLE: An English accent.

SAMA: A south England accent.

CAROLE: South England accent. Does American accent sound funny to you?

SAMA: No.

CAROLE: No? It doesn't sound a little strange?

SAMA: No, because some of my friends are American.

CAROLE: Oh, they are, yes. So you told us a little bit about your school and about your classes and how you got to school. Now, what a strange time it was during the COVID pandemic because that started when you were just 6 and 1/2 or 7 years old. What was it like for you being in England during a pandemic?

SAMA: It was very hard. Sometimes, you've just got to put up with it. And it was really exciting because what's going to happen next? It's sort of like a cliffhanger, like one day, it's good, and the next day it's

bad. What's going to happen next? So it's hard, except it was really sad because loads of people passed away. And it's basically like being in a cage.

CAROLE: Wow, because you couldn't go a lot of places?

SAMA: No.

CAROLE: That was hard. And what was school like? Did you actually go to school?

SAMA PRINCE: No, there was a key worker scheme, which if you had a parent who was working in the hospital or something--

CAROLE: Like your mom.

SAMA: Yeah, like my mom. And then NHS or something, then you could go into school, and you'd have your lessons. So we have a computer, and you would be doing your classes online, but you'd be in school. And you'd have school dinners, and so on, basically the same as being at home, but you're just in school. You get playtime and so on.

CAROLE: Wow. But it's different now. Does it feel like it's more like the usual school?

SAMA: Yeah. It's really annoying because when you were on the computer, you could just pause your screen and then go off somewhere.

CAROLE: [LAUGHS]

SAMA: But now you have to go to school, and you can't just pause your screen.

CAROLE: No, you have to stay there and really do your lessons, right? Right, right. Well, I'm glad, though, that the pandemic is going away. It feels like it, doesn't it?

SAMA: Mm-mm.

CAROLE: Yeah.

SAMA: Now when we go to school, we use our laptops a bit more. Because now we know how to use them and do lessons on how to learn stuff on the computer. We do stuff like programming. That's what we do in ICT. I forgot to say ICT.

CAROLE: ICT, is that--

SAMA: Independent learning.

CAROLE: Technology?

SAMA: Yeah. Anyway, it's really fun in those lessons, but most of them teach you how to learn on the computer, how to do stuff on the computer. And in ICT at the moment, we learn about upstanders and people who try to be mean to you online and how you can stop that from happening.

CAROLE: That's really good. So they're teaching you about how to not be bullied online?

SAMA: Mm-hmm.

CAROLE: Wow, that's really important. Now, let me just ask you this. So you've just arrived in America for the very first time yesterday. What do you think of it so far?

SAMA: I think it's very exciting because in England, there aren't as much buildings, and so on, as America. And there's so much different things, it really makes me really crazy. I take a photo of everything, even American tea.

CAROLE: [LAUGHING] American tea-- and what do you think of the Children's Museum? You had a look around that today.

SAMA: It's really cool, and it's really exciting. I can't wait to do it again.

CAROLE: Yeah, that's great. I think the children listening to this podcast might be interested. What do you do for fun in London?

SAMA: I go swimming, which I want to do. But there isn't enough time most of the time. Or we just can't get bookings. I do football, my main hobby. Gymnastics is a pastime. I do it myself, not in the gym anymore. I do debating club.

I also love reading. My parents have to tell me sometimes, put that book down, because I love reading. And my favorite hobby of all, TV.

CAROLE: TV. [LAUGHS] Well, you know what? That sounds very, very like what an American young person would say. But the one thing is, when you say football, we think of American football. And I think you mean soccer, right?

SAMA: Mm-hmm.

CAROLE: You play soccer with your schoolmates, or do you play it with the local team?

SAMA: I play it with my local team and in matches sometimes. It used to be a past stuff I do. Gymnastics used to be my main hobby, and then football was on the sidelines. I didn't do anything then. I was just playing football in school with my schoolmates. But now I was scouted, and I got into a team. So I put gymnastics behind me because I'm really good at that.

CAROLE: [LAUGHS]

SAMA: I do football now. And it's really fun, and it's more exciting. I have to work much harder than gymnastics.

CAROLE: I noticed that you brought with you a book about Simone Biles.

SAMA: Mm-hmm.

CAROLE: So you were talking about gymnastics. So she's one of your heroines?

SAMA: Yeah. She's really fun and all about her life. She wanted a dog, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to use all her skills to persuade my parents to get me a dog.

CAROLE: [LAUGHS] OK, that really makes sense. When you think about the word "imagination," what does that make you think about?

SAMA: It makes me think about what I think in my head, why I come up with, say, imagination. I took over the moon, or I took over the Earth. Or my new one, I'm an evil genius.

CAROLE: Oh, an evil genius. OK, that sounds like a good television show. And what about the word "creativity?"

SAMA: Creativity, to me, is just something that you do, that is bold, is unique, is something that normally, wouldn't happen, like creating a head out of plastic or metal, or something, like doing something that other people wouldn't have thought of, but also, what you want to do, what you think of.

CAROLE: Do you like to create things at home? Do you do art?

SAMA: I write some songs sometimes. When I think of a good tune, I just write it down. And then, because I have a really bad memory, I just lose it. And then the next day, it comes to my head. But I don't have a pencil on me, or it's in the middle of a lesson. And then when I start writing it down, my teacher is like, oh, let me see your notes. And I'm like--

CAROLE: No, because they may think you're not paying attention.

SAMA: Yeah.

CAROLE: I think you have a really good memory. It's the fall season here in Boston, and a lot of the trees are changing. Does this look different to you, this neighborhood, than where you live?

SAMA: Yes. There are a lot more trees. Because in England, most of the trees have been cut down. But I have quite a nice park next to my house. And when you look out at the park-- I can see it from the bathroom window-- it's so nice to see the leaves changing color. And it's really nice. It's really nice colors.

CAROLE: Now, before we go, let me just ask you this. Is there any message that you would like to give to the children in America who are listening to your podcast?

SAMA: So I would say to everyone else out there listening, be yourself, and do what you want to do. And don't let anyone else tell you what you want to do. Because it's your mind. It's your brain. So don't let anyone else tell you what to do.

CAROLE: OK. And hopefully, they will be able to go and visit London one day.

SAMA: And don't let anyone bully you.

CAROLE: No.

SAMA: It just saddens.

CAROLE: Yeah, that's true. Well, thank you so much, Sama, for being on the Big and Little podcast today. And I hope you'll come back and visit us again soon.

SAMA: OK.

CAROLE: Bye-bye.

SAMA: Bye.

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KATHRYN (PRODUCER): Thanks for listening to today's episode of Big and Little. If you liked this episode, leave us a review, and share it with a friend. Stay tuned for more conversations with big and little guests.