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WHO AM I?

by

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An independent study submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science in Speech and Hearing

Emphasis in Education of the Hearing Impaired

Washington University
Department of Speech and Hearing

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Approved by: Nancy Murray, Ph.D., Independent Study Advisor

INTRODUCTION

Establishing identity is one of the more perplexing issues facing individuals with hearing loss. Individuals with hearing loss often feel that they aren't really connected to the hearing world or the deaf world. Their hearing loss isolates them from the hearing world and their lack of knowledge of sign language isolates them from being part of the Deaf Culture. (Table 1.1) Most individuals with hearing impairment acquire their hearing loss in their adult life and are categorized as hard of hearing. They were born into the hearing world, grew up in the hearing world and established their set of social contacts within the hearing world. "People, for example, may define themselves by their employment, where they live, the activities they like to do and the people they share their lives with" (Hogan, 2001). Once individuals lose their hearing their hearing loss also plays a role in defining themselves. Many deafened people do in fact withdraw from society as much as they can because life has suddenly become quite unpredictable and this loss of predictability is coupled with a loss of self-confidence and a blurring of identity (Giddens 1991).

There are several groups included within the broad "deaf and hard of hearing" category: hard of hearing, late deafened, as well as Culturally Deaf people. Following are the common characteristics shared within the categories.

TABLE 1.1 Different Categories

Hard of Hearing	-have some degree of audiological hearing loss
Thurs of Housing	-may benefit from hearing aids and assistive listening devices to
	some extent
	-primarily rely on spoken English for communication
	-generally don't know sign language
	-function in the hearing world
	-uninvolved in the culturally Deaf
	-may or may not have taken steps to deal with their hearing loss
	-would not benefit from a cochlear implant
Late deafened	-become deafened after they acquire language
	-have a severe to profound hearing loss
	-usually derive minimal benefit from hearing aids and assistive
	listening devices
	-may benefit from a cochlear implant
	-generally depend on visual representation of English for
	communication
	-function in the hearing world
	-generally are not associate with the Deaf Culture
	-most have taken steps to deal with their hearing loss
Culturally Deaf	-have a severe to profound hearing loss
	-may have poor reading and writing skills
	-American Sign Language is their primary means of
	communication
	-function in the Deaf world
	-don't consider their deafness to be a handicap or an impairment,
	but rather a cultural difference
	out fauler a custular difference
<u> </u>	1

Adapted from http://www.hearinglossweb.com/Issues/Identity/identity.htm

Currently western society is in social transition in regards to disability.

Disabilities are both recognized and avoided by society. There tends to be a preconceived notion that deafened adults are stupid. This stems from the term "deaf and dumb." An identity crisis often arises amongst these deafened adults due to this preconceived notion. "Identity then is a social phenomenon, a product of social engagement" (Hogan, 2000).

One whom becomes deafened encounters a disruption in his or her personal identities. They must again compose who they are in relation to their surroundings as well as how they plan to live the rest of their lives. Due to hearing loss one may be faced with loss of employment or even possibly life partners. It is thought that prior to hearing loss, most deafened people had a perception of themselves as 'normal' the same way a non-deafened person would. "Getting on with life is not about denying one's disability, but living as a citizen with equal rights and social responsibilities, irrespective of how these roles come to be expressed" (Hogan, 2000). Deafness may drastically reshape one's identity. More times than not it affects individuals both inside and out as they are not able to communicate with their surroundings as they once had. Others also treat them differently as they take upon these new preconceived notions placed upon them. Previous literature has revealed that focus has not been on how hard of hearing individuals perceive themselves relative to hearing and deaf identity constructs.

An interview is a conversation with an individual conducted by someone who is collecting specific information about one person. Interviews are usually done with a small sample and do not use random methods to select participants. As a result, the results may not generalize to people who were not interviewed. A benefit of interviewing is that one has the ability to follow-up on questions and probe meaning (Gilchrist, 1992). Interviews offer distinct advantages in regards to collecting data in that the presence of an interviewer can increase cooperation rates and make it possible for respondents to get immediate clarification if needed.

When you analyze the transcripts of interviews, you place less emphasis on statistics than you would when analyzing the results from a quantitative survey. One also

looks for patterns or themes among participants. The objective of these interviews is not to generate descriptive statistics but to understand and interpret significant factors of the individual's experiences and reactions (Riessman, 1993).

SELF IMAGE

Self-image is the attitudes people have toward themselves. Many people adapt to significant hearing loss with withdrawal, loneliness, anxiety, denial, and long difficult adjustments (Hetu, Jones & Getty, 1993; Jennings, 1995; Knutson & Lansing, 1990). They are constructed as deviant in family, work, and social situations (Hallberg & Carlsson, 1991a, 1991b; Hetu, Lalonde & Getty, 1987; Hetu, Riverin, Getty, Lalande & St-Cyr, 1988; Weinberger & Radelet, 1983; Wood, 1987). Those with hearing impairment often say, "I feel stupid," and "I feel inadequate and people condescend to me, " (Hetu, Riverin, Getty, Lalande, & St-Cyr, 1990). There tends to be less intimate talk, joking, friendliness, and ability to participate in ordinary daily activities like answering telephones and doorbells. Hearing loss often forces people to withdraw from social life. Sadly, the perceptual disability of hearing loss is made into a grueling handicap by social misunderstanding, prejudice, and stigmatization (Hetu et al., 1990). Hearing-impaired individuals often isolate themselves rather than have an abnormal identity imposed on them by others (Cowie & Stewart, 1987).

SATISFACTION

Satisfaction is the degree to which one is content with their cochlear implant. Satisfaction is not always directly related to audiological benefit. Typical hearing evaluation tests are based on what patients can hear. Just because one scores

high on auditory tests doesn't mean his or her satisfaction is high. There is not a correlation here amongst audiological tests and self-image and satisfaction.

There are several different approaches to measuring satisfaction. One of the most commonly used approaches is the use of standardized questionnaires. For example, some rehabilitative audiologists use a standardized self-assessment instrument, the Communication Profile for the Hearing Impaired (CPHI) (Demorest & Erdman, 1987, 1989) since many communicate more freely through the CPHI than through spoken interviews. Those who score significantly on the CPHI Denial scale appear to be suffering. A typical statement from the CPHI Denial scale is "I sometimes get annoyed when I have trouble hearing." Clients who deny such typical problems are often troubled by humiliation and sadness (Erdman & Demorest, 1990).

Previous research has shown that more than half of cochlear implant recipients have shown significant improvements at 3-months post-initial stimulation on all five Communication Performance scales. Differences were seen for most of the CPHI scales, with the largest difference noted for the Communication Performance scales (Social, Work, Home, Average Conditions, and Adverse Conditions) and the Personal Adjustment scale (Withdrawal) (Binzer, 2000). A significant improvement was reported on the Social scale. However, the Work scale remained lower than the Social and Home scale means postoperatively. This indicated that the most difficulty existed here with cochlear implant recipients. The CPHI is used as a self-assessment measure and is often used as an evaluation tool for demonstrating improved communication and psychosocial benefits after implantation. "The results of this study support the CPHI's validity as a

tool for assessing coping and adjustment to hearing impairment for cochlear implant candidates and recipients" (Binzer, 2000).

PURPOSE

Most of the research in the area of identity has targeted individuals with deafness and hearing loss, but not individuals with cochlear implants. The purpose of this study was to investigate the self-image and satisfaction of cochlear implant users. Qualitative information was gathered through interviews and narratives to examine the identities of cochlear implant users. In addition, I asked the subjects to relay one of their most memorable experiences with their cochlear implant.

SUBJECTS

The subjects in this study consisted of two males and eight females, seven whom were deafened before the age of thirty. All but one was late deafened. Their age of implantation varied from thirty years old to seventy-one years old. The average age was fifty-five. One female was implanted twice; at first she was implanted with a single channel implant "All Hear." The participants do not display any other disabilities. The average age of testing was sixty-five. Seven out of the ten were retired. See Table 1.2

TABLE 1.2 Subjects

Gender	Age of onset	Age of CI receipt	Other disabilities	Age of testing	Employment
Male	6	30	None	72	retired
Male	16	61	None	74	retired
Female	28	68	None	78	retired
Female	25	61	Vision	67	retired
Female	71	71	None	75	retired
Female	birth	54 & 57	None	60	nun
Female	13	48	None	53	retired
Female	44	48	None	54	factory
Female	5	39	None	47	secretary
Female	60	69	None	71	retired
	Male Female Female Female Female Female Female Female	Genderof onsetMale6Male16Female28Female25Female71FemalebirthFemale13Female44Female5	Gender of onset CI receipt Male 6 30 Male 16 61 Female 28 68 Female 25 61 Female 71 71 Female birth 54 & 57 Female 13 48 Female 44 48 Female 5 39	Genderof onsetCI receiptdisabilitiesMale630NoneMale1661NoneFemale2868NoneFemale2561VisionFemale7171NoneFemalebirth54 & 57NoneFemale1348NoneFemale4448NoneFemale539None	Gender of onset CI receipt disabilities testing Male 6 30 None 72 Male 16 61 None 74 Female 28 68 None 78 Female 25 61 Vision 67 Female 71 71 None 75 Female birth 54 & 57 None 60 Female 13 48 None 53 Female 44 48 None 54 Female 5 39 None 47

METHODS

A set of semi-structured questions were developed to provide a start for our conversations. The interview process took place at Tilles Park during a cochlear implant club social event as well as in private conference rooms at Central Institute for the Deaf. Each interview was approximately twenty-five minutes with each of our ten participants. A Sony video camera was used to conduct the interviews by asking questions or the interviewees reading the questions. Brief statements were selected that seemed to hint at each individual's identity of self. The following five questions were asked during the interview process:

1. How do you identify yourself before vs. after you received your

- cochlear implant? Have there been any changes?
- 2. Who do you identify yourself as? Do you feel as though you fit in the hearing world or the deaf world?
- 3. What were your expectations of your cochlear implant? Has your cochlear implant lived up to them?
- 4. Are you glad you received a cochlear implant? Would you do it again?
- 5. Tell me about some experiences you have encountered with your cochlear implant.

RESULTS

SELF-IMAGE

The results to questions one and two appear in Table 1.3. Self-image appears to have changed dramatically as a result of cochlear implant receipt. After implantation, eighty percent of the subjects said they feel as if they are part of the hearing world with regard to friends and family. Both subjects who work (only two do so) expressed satisfaction with their ability to communicate in the work place. The common feelings afterwards were: variations of joy, satisfaction, and blessedness. One person said she was a part of the deaf world and one said he was a part of both the hearing and the deaf world.

Before implantation common themes of shyness, dependency, and a need to withdraw from social interactions were expressed throughout the interviews. Even though the majority of subjects expressed a change of self-image as a result of implantation, this experience was not universal. Two subjects said there was no difference before vs. after implantation and they are content with the deaf world. (Table 1.3)

A sample of direct quotations is compiled in Table 1.4 in order to illustrate the types of comments elicited during the interviews. For instance, note that F2 referred to her implant as: "a blessing in my life."

TABLE 1.3 Self-Image: Before vs After

SUBJECT	BEFORE	AFTER
F1	Frustrated; difficulty	Independent; hearing world
	communicating	
F2	Hampered in	Hearing world; fortunate;
	communication; not	blessed; miraculous
	connected to the	
	environment thru hearing	
F3	unable to communicate with	Capable of communicating
	anyone	in optimal listening
		environments; hearing
	27 1100	world
F4	No difference before vs.	hearing world
TE.	after	77 110
F5	Depressed; withdrawn,	New life; new beginning;
	angry	able to carry on
		conversation; hearing world
F6	frustrated	
TO .	nusnated	Less frustrated; misfit
F7	shy; dependent on spouse	living; deaf world Still hard-of-hearing; more
1,	sny, dependent on spouse	confident; part of hearing
		world
F8	Deaf, unable to hear	Live in hearing world
M1	Content with the deaf world	More independent; both
1411	Content with the dear world	world (deaf and hearing)
M2	Unable to hear, withdrawn,	Miraculous; complete life
1712	not part of deaf world	change; social, hearing
	not part of ucar world	world
		WOILD

TABLE 1.4 Self-image quotations

,		
F1	"As for my identity is I've been very independent. I don't depend on anybody."	
F2	"This has been a blessing in my life. I feel I have been very blessed. I	
	just can't explain the feeling that I have. I don't even look at myself as	
	having a disability whether it be deaf or blind. I look at myself more	
	with the normal world because I'm amongst the people who do not	
	have disabilities most of the time."	
F3	"Well yes, there has been a lot of changes. Well I know I'm deaf but I	
	think I'm considered in the hearing group now."	
F4	"I don't think I really saw myself differently pre-cochlear implant or	
	afterwards. I am aware that I feel more connected to the hearing world.	
	My association has really been with the hearing world, rather than the	
	deaf community."	
F5	"Before I received my implant I was depressed, withdrawn, and	
	somewhat angry. And since I've had my implant I feel that I have a	
	new life. I have a new beginning. I really feel like I'm part of the	
	world again. I definitely feel that I belong to the hearing world."	
F6	"Before I received the CI I was living in a frustrated world. I identify	
	myself as a person who lost their hearing and live in a deaf world. I	
	think I do fit in the deaf world because when you're deaf things are not	
	like they used to be."	
F7	"I think before I was more shy, but then after the CI it builds my	
	confidence. I guess before the implant I was very dependent on my	
	husband. I identify with the hearing world because I wasn't exposed to	
	sign language."	
F8	"I get along with people a whole lot better. I identify myself in the	
	hearing world a lot better."	
M1	"I feel more independent now because I don't have so many lights	
	flashing around the house. I feel I fit in both worlds; the hearing and the	
	deaf world because I could speak to other people who understand me.	
	The deaf world is my world because I know how to communicate with	
	deaf people; sign language."	
M2	"It changed my whole life really. For me it was just like my own	
	personal miracle. Well, I never felt comfortable in the deaf world	
	frankly."	

SATISFACTION

Results to questions number three and four speak to subject satisfaction with the cochlear implant and appear in Table 1.5. All of the participants in the study said they would do it again. All but one person said they would do it again with enthusiasm. Some of the most compelling reasons they would do it again were: enhances lip-reading skills, able to hear environmental sounds and better understand communication, as well as a few feel as though it was a personal miracle for them. Out off all of the subjects who said they would do it again, half said that they were more than fulfilled and were very pleased. One person did not comment. (Table 1.5)

A sample of direct quotations is compiled in Table 1.6 in order to illustrate the types of comments elicited during the interviews. For instance, note that F5 said: "My expectations were that I would be able to hear somewhat better than I did before I had it. It's lived up to be more than what I've ever expected. Yes, I'd definitely do it again. I wouldn't have a second thought and I've always tried to encourage people that have asked me about it that no matter how much good they get out of it, it's better than what you had before you started."

TABLE 1.5 Satisfaction

MOST COMPELLING

		COMPELLING	
	WOULD THEY	REASON TO	MET
SUBJECT	DO IT AGAIN?	DO IT AGAIN	EXPECTATIONS
F1	Yes, wants to implant other ear	Enhances lip- reading skills	yes
F2	Absolutely, Yes	Unable to identify reason	yes
F3	Oh yes, I wouldn't go back	Unable to identify reason	yes
F4	yes	Experiences not hearing and then to hear; feels blessed	More than fulfilled
F5	Yes, definitely	Hears environmental sounds	Lived up to be more than what ever expected
F6	Yes, most definitely	I can understand	Yes
F7	yes	Unable to identify reason	Yes, very pleased
F8	Oh yes, I'd even have the other ear implanted	Unable to identify reason	Yes- it just takes time and each day it gets better
M1	sure	Unable to identify reason	
M2	Yes, without question	Personal miracle	Everything and even more

TABLE 1.6 Satisfaction quotations

	and the second of the second o	
F1	"Yes, I'm glad I received the CI and now I'm going to find out about the newer ones if they can help me on my right ear. I would really consider a bilateral implant, even at my ancient age of 78."	
F2	"Well I really didn't intend, didn't think I would hear as well as I do	
1	now. I have an advantage over a normal person to the fact that if I	
	don't want to listen to the outside world or whatever it is I can shut my	
	processor off. Absolutely, I would do it again. It's a shame that more	
	people aren't aware of this wonderful technology."	
F3	"I didn't really know what to expect. I'm able to hear and I'm really	
	proud of myself. Yeah, I wouldn't go back. It's not like normal	
	hearing all together, but I wouldn't go back to the way it was. I'm	
	really happy I've got it."	
F4	"My expectations of the CI were more than fulfilled and I am so glad I	
	went ahead with this surgery. I put on the processor just after I get up	
	in the morning and leave it in until I go to bed at night. My advice for	
	anyone contemplating a CI is go for it! Don't let anyone stop you;	
	there is so much you can gain. I have felt blessed to have the privilege	
	of a CI to hear as well as to meet people who have experienced not	
	hearing and then to hear."	
F5	"My expectations were that I would be able to hear somewhat better	
	than I did before I had it. It's lived up to be more than what I've ever	
	expected. Yes, I'd definitely do it again. I wouldn't have a second	
	thought and I've always tried to encourage people that have asked me	
	about it that no matter how much good they get out of it, it's better than	
	what you had before you started."	
F6	"I was expecting to hear. I was expected to hear as well as I was before	
	I lost my hearing, but it wasn't like that. You still hear, but they are not	
	the same hearing. It's a different hearing then it was before I got the	
	implant. I am very proud I received the CI. I don't know what would	
	have happened to me if I had not received it. I would most definitely	
177	do it again."	
F7	"I did at first thought it would be like normal hearing, but I realized it's	
TO	not normal hearing. I'm very pleased with it. I would do it again."	
F8	"It just takes time and every day it gets better. I don't think I could	
N 61	have survived without it. I'd even have the other ear implanted."	
M1	"Sure I would do it again."	
M2	"Well I didn't really know when I went into this what to expect with	
	the CI. The CI has lived up to everything that I had ever expected and	
	maybe more. I've been very glad. It's changed my whole life. I would	
	yes, without question do it again. I would recommend to anyone who	
	considers a CI to go ahead. You are not going to loose anything and I	
	think you're gonna gain a whole lot.	

EXPERIENCES/ANECDOTES

In addition to probing subjects' perceived changes in self-image and device satisfaction, the interviews also were designed to sample memorable experiences resulting from cochlear implant use. All of the subjects answered this question, but some did not mention both speech and non-speech examples. The results are summarized in Table 1.7. For example, F7 said: "My husband can't talk about me anymore cause I recognize his voice. I know what he's saying behind my back, which is kind of neat. I remember I was surprised that you could hear gasoline running through the pump.

Whoa! I didn't know you could hear that. Surprised me!"

TABLE 1.7 EXPERIENCES *TABLE OF NARRATIVE TRANSCRIPTS

SUBJECTS	SPEECH	NON-SPEECH
F1	"I hear my own voice, which	Unable to identify
	means I don't talk so loud	_
	anymore and my speech has been	
	way down and I understand my	
	speech has gone up because of	
	this. I believe your CI can help	
	you with you speech as well."	
F2	"I can speak over the telephone	"I can hear birds, the wind and the
	like a normal person. When I first	crickets. I enjoy music, classical,
	got my hook-up everybody	easy, country music, and yes I can
	sounded like Donald Duck. I	handle opera music. When I first got
	wasn't sure if I was going to be	hooked-up, the music was horrible.
	able to handle the implant because	Screatchin and hollerin I told my
}	of the Donald Duck sound.	husband I can't take this music. For a
į	Everything sounded scratchy at	while, the cars going down the road
	first, like a scratchy record and it	sounded like a bunch of motorcycles.
	took awhile for that to level out.	It doesn't anymore."
F3	"I have a little problem in groups,	Unable to identify
	but I can talk to people. I can hear	
	good really when I do hear."	
F4	"Initially the voices sounded	"Now I can hear sounds around me."
	something like chipmunks; which	

	then became interpreted into meaningful words."	
F5	"One thing that comes to mind is something that just happened last week and I was in the dentist office and writing a check and the receptionist asked me a question and I answered it and then it dawned on me that I hadn't even looked at her and I understood what she said without looking at her. So it was a real wonderful feeling. I am able to talk to my grandchildren without any trouble. I'm able to carry on a conversation with people and understand what they're saying."	I'm able to hear environmental sounds, wind chimes, water running in the sink; which is wonderful cause sometimes it would overflow before."
F6	Unable to identify	"Some of my experiences before I got the implant, I could not identify running water, I could not identify a person blowing their horn behind me, I could not hear a doorbell ring, I could not hear the phone ring; which now I can hear those things with no problem."
F7	"My husband can't talk about me anymore cause I recognize his voice. I know what he's saying behind my back which is kind of neat."	"I remember I was surprised that you could hear gasoline running through the pump. Whoa! I didn't know you could hear that. Surprised me! I went to my mom's and I was in the living room. I know kept hearing something come and go, come and go. I didn't know what it was. Mom, what's that noise? She said it's the traffic from outside. I go no way. We're inside, you can't hear outdoors. She said yes you can. I was so surprised I can hear that. I thought WOW! And then I hear the birds for the first time. I took a walk and you can't shut them off. They're noisy and there is all different kinds. The crickets really noisy. I still don't think I have gotten use to that. I used to think flushing the toilet was really loud. Now I am used to it."

F8	"I can hear a regular movie. It	Unable to identify
	would have to have open	Chaole to identify
	captioning and it works real fine."	
M1	"Also, I am able to identify speech	"I feel more independent because I
****	better. With lip-reading and the	
	sounds I hear I'm able to	don't have to have so many lights
		flashing around the house. I hear the
	understand better than I did before	very slightest sounds around the
	the implant."	house. For example, before I had the
		implant I was driving my car and a
		fire truck was behind me and I didn't
	}	know it was there. I had my mind on
	1	something else. The fire truck was
		right behind my car. The lights were
		flashing and the fireman told me to
		get out of the way; get out of the way.
		When I finally looked in my rearview
		mirror, I saw him and I moved over.
		My heart was beating like heck. And
		then since I've had the CI that doesn't
	·	happen to me any more because I'm
		able to identify traffic around me. I
		can hear the fire truck."
M2	"I am able to talk to strangers now.	Unable to identify
	I am able to understand a sermon	
	at church, which I would not be	
	able to do without this."	

DISCUSSION

The interviews of the cochlear implant users can be described as phenomenal. In the interviews we found that in everyday interactions these individuals prior to implantation felt differing degrees of fear, guilt, anxiety, worry, sadness, grief, anger, frustration, and a loss of intimacy. Each deafened adult to some degree engaged into a journey as they reveal a loss of sense of self.

Once these ten adults received their cochlear implants, it was fascinating how they developed their identities and worked through the adjustment process. They all turned to cochlear implants and hearing rehabilitation as part of their overall creation of

solutions to the suffering and shame of deafness. Majority of the recipients embraced the implant as an opportunity, a mercy from God.

The results for the first two questions in our interviews are as follows: Before, most of the subjects felt frustration and were unable to communicate. For example, some felt dependent and frustrated. Example, F7 said: "Before the cochlear implant I kind of depend on him [husband] to hear for me. He gets tired of that repeating.

After receipt of the cochlear implant majority felt as though they were a part of the hearing world. F5 said: "I definitely feel that I belong to the hearing world. I'm able to communicate with people at the grocery store, doctor's office, and various places without much trouble. So I really feel I'm part of the hearing world. Only two believed they belonged to the deaf world. F6 said: "I identify myself as a person who lost their hearing and I live in a deaf world. I think I do fit in deaf world because when you're deaf things are not like they used to be. That's a big change to us losing our hearing. So I feel I do fit in with the deaf world." M1 said: "I feel I fit in both worlds; the hearing and the deaf world because I could speak to other people who understand me. The deaf world is my world because I know how to communicate with deaf people; sign language. As noted by Hallberg (2000), other hearing impaired individuals learned persistence and strength of mind through coping with hearing and other kinds of losses, and by having the opportunity to interpret their losses in terms of some larger perspective that enabled them to understand loss as something to overcome, rather than seeing hearing loss as something that would overcome them.

Due to the small number in sample, it is impossible to determine if their level of self-image and satisfaction is different from that of those who become involved in the

signing Deaf community. Future research will need to examine demographic, psychological, and contextual factors that affect deaf identities as well as change in identity (Bat-Chava, 2000).

FUTURE RESEARCH

This is a good start at looking at qualitative data. In the future it would be extremely beneficial for someone to produce a video for perspective implant recipients based on psychological issues. I was involved in a psychosocial workshop group in which we looked at identities with the use of collages. These collages had a lot of correlation to my qualitative analysis. Example, several inserted a picture of a church on their collage and said that is resembled 'hope.' "We are loving people who have dreams. We think people see us as unhappy. We are looking for new hope each and every day." A picture of a bird represents freedom in spite of handicap, garden signifies peace, and the man with his arm on piano exhibits confidence. Overall, the common feeling displayed throughout all six of the collages were nurturing, loving, innocent, creative, friendly, walked on, alone, pity, and different.

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