December 19th, 1987; St Louis, Missouri

This is new, this is all so very new. The trees, the streets, the social norms, even the culture is very different from what I’m used to in Jamaica. I’m only 8 years old and this is a little too different. I’m used to being able to pick mangoes from the trees that grew in our garden when I got hungry. Now we have to buy everything. Even the weather is different. It’s currently December and I’m so used to it being temperate this time of year back in Jamaica. It rarely dipped below 70-65 degrees, but here in the USA, it’s freezing! Everything is changing so fast and I don’t even know if I can keep up with it. My siblings don’t seem too intrigued by this change in geography and culture either. Ironically, even though I hate the cold, I’m really looking forward to the snow! From what I hear, snowball fights seem to be a lot of fun. Our house is a little small and cramped but mom says that this is only temporary so I’ll just go with it for now.

This is Renee Graham’s diary and I’ll keep you updated.