

Vines

of

TRUTH

A Creative Writing Anthology
Volume Five



Literacy KC
Changing lives beyond words



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Vines of Truth

A Creative Writing Anthology
from Literacy KC

previously Writers for Readers Anthology

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Literacy KC
Volume Five, 2023

Vines of Truth, previously known as Writers for Readers, is an annual print and online publication that features the work of Literacy KC students. Print issues are available for free in limited numbers.

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An Introduction to *Vines of Truth* at Literacy KC

We are happy to introduce the fifth volume of our creative writing anthology. This year's volume serves as the first iteration of our new title, *Vines of Truth*, which was drawn from our prime locations—our ELL headquarters on Vine St. and our main office on Troost Ave.

Inspired by the efforts of Kansas City activist Chris Goode and other community members to rename Troost Ave. as Truth Ave., we felt that *Vines of Truth* was a fitting title for this celebration of our students. This title also represents how, through telling their stories, our students spread their truths to readers across Kansas City.

This volume includes the work of nearly fifty Literacy KC students. It was made possible by the dedicated efforts of our visiting writers and instructors, who led our students on their creative journeys. Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy it.

—Chloe Chun Seim, Anthology Editor

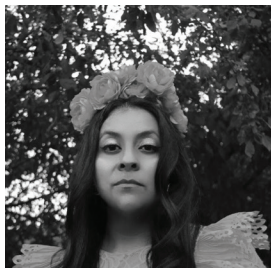
About the Editor



Chloe Chun Seim (she/her) serves as Development Specialist at Literacy KC. She is the author of the George Garrett Fiction Prize-winning novel, *Churn* (Texas Review Press, 2023). Her work has appeared in *LitMag*, *Potomac Review*, *Timothy McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and others. She received her MFA from UMKC and edits the print literary journal, *Snarl*.

2023 Visiting Writers *Creative Writing Series*

Literacy KC was delighted to invite local writers to lead creative writing lessons with our students. Each writer provided their own writing prompts to our students. These prompts, from creating word webs to writing recipe poems, inspired the work of our students created. Many thanks to our 2023 visiting writers!



Jessica Ayala is an Indigenous Colombian Two-Spirit multi discipline artist. Miss Ayala is a spoken word poet, published author, musician, and writer-in-residence alumni of Charlotte Street Foundation. Their work is a fusion of her heritage merging oral tradition, poetry, song, and Native percussion.

Ayala immigrated to the United States at the age of three, publishing her first series of poems for the Young Authors Conference at the age of eight. Her current poetry has been published in two anthologies winning an Honorable Medal in the 2017 International Latino Book Awards. Miss Ayala is the recipient of the 2018 Best Kansas City Spoken Word Artist Award.

Vines of Truth



Waleska Font (she/her) is a Venezuelan multidisciplinary artist, poet, cultural promoter, copyeditor, and educator. She has performed in Mexico, Venezuela, and Kansas City. She is the board president of No Divide KC and the founder of The Bilingual Poetry Program in partnership with UMKC. Her work explores the limitations of bilingualism, sexuality, culture, identity, and occultism.



John Moessner is the author of *Harmonia* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2023). He received his MFA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His work has appeared in *New Letters*, *North American Review*, and *Poet Lore*. Having taught English and writing for several years, he is now part of the editorial team for a medical journal in Kansas City and an editorial board member for *Nimrod International Journal*. www.johnmoessnerpoetry.com



Glenn North is the Director of Inclusive Learning and Creative Impact at the Kansas City Museum. He received an MFA in Creative Writing from UMKC and is the author of *City of Song*, a collection of poems inspired by Kansas City's rich jazz tradition and the triumphs and tragedies of the African American experience. He is a Cave Canem fellow, a Callaloo creative writing fellow and a recipient of the Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Award. His ekphrastic and visual poems have appeared in art exhibitions at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the American Jazz Museum, and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. Glenn is also an adjunct English professor at Rockhurst University and is currently the Poet Laureate of the 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District.



Dylan Pyles is an organizer and writer from Kansas City, Missouri. He's a co-founder of Liberation Lit, an organization that sends books to incarcerated people in Missouri and Kansas prisons.

Participating Literacy KC Instructors



Jodi Garbison
ELL Instructor



Monique Gilmore-Bell
HiSET Instructor



Jennifer Reeve
HiSET Instructor



Dylan Straughn
ELL Instructor



Emily Spradling
ELL Instructor



Renee VanZandt-Priolo
IELCE Instructor



Heather Mecham
HiSET Instructor

Notes on This Year's Creative Writing Class Visits & Anthology

Expressing oneself in a new language can be daunting, with pieces of communication falling into place at different times. There are moments of frustration when words rest on the tip of one's tongue or pen just out of reach. There are also those wonderful moments when things click into place as the recipient's eyes light up in understanding. The anthology is an opportunity for students to stretch their communication creatively.

In class, we often focus on life skills, which, though important, sometimes leave out the sparks of creativity. The truly special thing about this year's anthology was the visiting writers, some of whom are bilingual and write in multiple languages. They were able to communicate to our students about the beauty of their own languages and the empowerment that comes with expressing oneself in English as well as their native languages. I'm impressed with all of the student contributors and grateful to the writers and editor for their work in making this opportunity happen.

**—Emily Spradling, returning
participating instructor at Literacy KC**

**Notes on This Year's Creative Writing
Class Visits & Anthology**
(continued)

'I don't know how to write!'

'I don't know what to say!'

'I don't have anything important to write.'

'I'm not a writer!'

These were a few of the comments I heard when I first mentioned the idea of our class contributing to the school anthology. Students were skeptical whether they had something important to share and doubted their ability to express it if they did. We started each class with a writing prompt to get people thinking and imagining. Students soon realized their stories are so important and can only be told by them. Their stories matter and shape our understanding. Their stories address misconceptions about the refugee experience in the United States.

Our students are the most courageous, resilient, dedicated people I have ever worked with. It's an honor to journey alongside my students. What a joy to see them trust themselves, write for the anthology, and celebrate their growth not only in English but in their lives.

**—Jodi Garbison, returning
participating instructor at Literacy KC**

Hiding Places

by Samantha Stanton

Hiding is much easier than being exposed.

Being exposed means being seen.

Being seen means being vulnerable.

Being vulnerable means being susceptible to emotional attack or harm.

And, although showing up as our authentic selves for any and everybody to see is gut-wrenching and nerve-wracking...

it's also necessary. Vulnerability is such a beautiful thing.

It takes courage. It's unpleasant. Sometimes it hurts.

But without it there would be no connection, and isn't that the meaning of life?

It allows us to feel less alone and isolated.

It brings us closer with others.

It allows us to be authentic, open, honest, raw, and it in turn helps us build trust

And create strong connections with others.

It's a must if you want to grow. Showing vulnerability is a reminder that you are human.

Be Kind

by Veronica Alvarez

I want to start with a question. How are we doing as a society? I see that values are being lost and we lack empathy and respect. What will happen to new generations? What is our responsibility to change it?

I don't have an answer, but I can say, I think that each person's change is an individual choice, and I think it's the best idea for each one.

Life is very beautiful, so let's take care of our world. It is the only one we have. Let's leave hope to the next generations. Treat people the way you would like them to treat you. Be kind.

Raices Cubanas

by Laritza Beatriz Perez Rignack

I was born and raised in Cuba
When I came to a new land
I left my Raices Cubanas there.
But I like the new challenge
that God put in my way.
I bring the aroma of Cuban Coffee
to mix it with American Coffee.
I thank my husband and my family
for being my support in this step,
and to my grandfather who is in heaven
and guides my steps.
Thank you, US, for hosting me.

Children are the Future

by Talina G. Rodriguez Sanchez

Remember to live again.

I was born in a small town called San Juan Tepa Hgo in Mexico.

In this town I spent all my childhood. I went to school, then I came home. The rule was to do my homework and help my mom with chores.

In the afternoon my neighbors would knock on my window to invite me to play. Our favorite games were hide and seek, enchanted, baseball, jump rope, and the best was hopscotch. In the street you could hear the screams and laughter of children having fun. We could play until night and nothing happened. It was a very safe place.

When I remember, it makes me very sad because my daughter's childhood has not been the same. I don't know if it is a different country or because everything has changed over time. They prefer to play video games, watch TV, or talk with their friends by video call.

Parents work long hours to cover the requirements of today's life and stop spending time with their family. I think humanity is going backwards. Our children are the future and we have neglected them. We believe that giving them what they want is giving them love. Parents, this is a sincere hug, and love is not something that has a price. The time we spend with our children will help them to be good citizens.

School is not the only educational institution. The education of the house is vital for their formation. It's never too late to make a change. Let's take our children as the most important project of our lives and make them our best achievement.



Photo Credit: "Niños jugando en Parque Central de Miraflores," by Jacinto Espinoza, 2010.

My Lovely Dog Zeuz!

by Tetyana Kashyna

When we had a pretty puppy, my life in the USA changed. I started to go to the parks every morning and evening to walk and play with my dog. My husband goes with us in the evening too. Nice weather and fresh air make me feel very good. Sometimes the weather changes from nice to cold and rainy, but this does not stop us from going outside. Sometimes my puppy looks at me and does not want to go outside. Usually this happens when there is very cold weather or rain outside.

This was my idea to buy a dog. My husband agreed with me.

Before I had another dog. His name was Volcano! He was traveling with me and my son to America from the city Kerch. He was a lovely dog too, but he died from poison in the city Kerch. This was a long time ago, and I do not like to remember such things.

Our dog Zuez likes to eat tasty food, play a lot, walk a lot. He likes people and other dogs.

When he is sick we go to the veterinarian and pay for medicine and help from the doctor.



Travel to a New Country

By Imelda (Mely) Pozos De Szymaszek

Arriving in a new country is a great life experience. Immigrants come to the United States for various reasons.

The biggest surprise for me personally was seeing snow for the first time in the city of Chicago. I stood in front of the window for several minutes while the snow fell. The beautiful sight of how the snow covered the streets, turning them white. The abundance of public parks, the impressive architecture, and the famously clean streets, plus close proximity to the sparkling shores of Lake Michigan. "This is wonderful," I thought.

The first months or years are a great challenge of learning, goals, overcoming obstacles, learning a new culture, and adapting to climate change, and learning to eat American food.

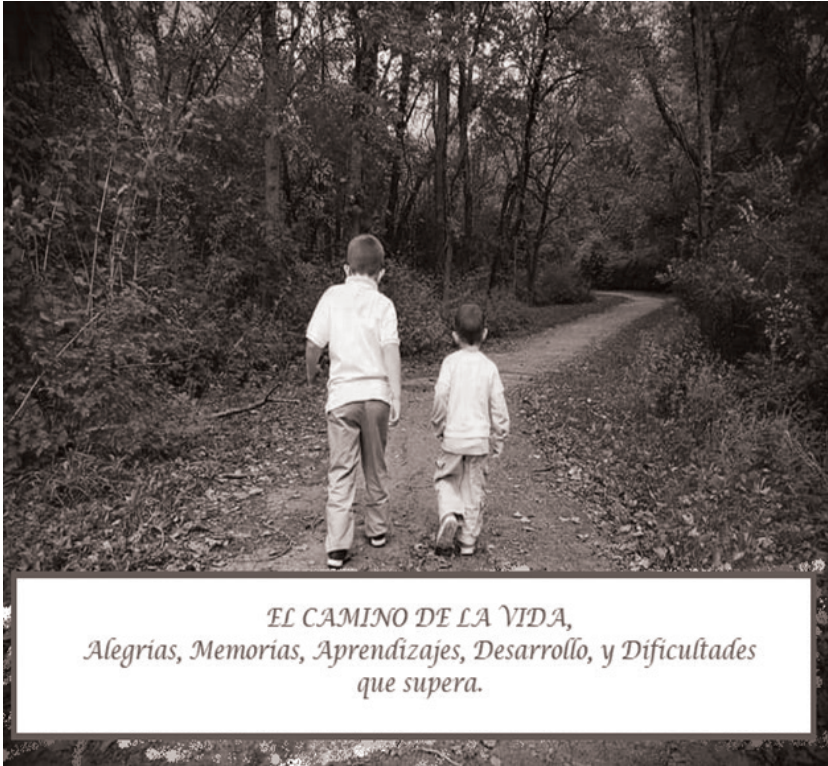
These are emotional experiences that we must overcome. For example: loneliness. Loneliness is when you don't know anyone, you don't have friends, you don't have family, or you don't have a job yet. We know it's time to be brave and overcome all fears like learning a new language and a new way of life.

Speaking the English language takes time to understand and hold a conversation. Sometimes there is fear of pronouncing words incorrectly or fear that another person will not understand what you mean. Brave is the person who overcomes all fears and dares to try and adapt to a new country.

Learn step by step. With dedication you will find that you are making progress in communicating in English. It only takes time and will. Friends are made with a positive attitude and will. I learned that there are always kind people, kind-hearted people willing to help immigrants grow in the language. Here is a great opportunity such as Literacy KC.

The positive side of living in the United States is finding opportunities to progress. Organizations like Literacy KC help communities with educational plans to learn the English language. I am a dedicated student and I feel gratitude. If you are an immigrant, I want to encourage you to not lose faith and hope that you will achieve what you set as goals in your personal life.

In the year 2022 I felt inspired, and I wrote a personal book addressed to my children, Samuel, 7, and Salem, 10. I want this book to remain for the rest of their lives. In this book, I explain my values in life and the relevant topics that I want my children to learn at an early age, such as self-esteem, the different human temperaments, the power of thoughts, how our brain works, and how to have resilience through difficult seasons of life. I want my children to be able to understand the importance of a good character and a positive attitude in every situation that arises in life.



A Note from Imelda:

Thank you very much for your support. I want to give infinite thanks to my favorite teacher from 2022 to 2023, Ms. Jodi Garbison. She is an excellent person, wonderful teacher, kind, smiling, funny, dynamic and creative. All my life I will be grateful for the opportunity they gave me to learn the English language.

My History

by Noe Flores

Hello, my name is Noe Flores. I'm from Mexico. I have been here since 1999. I came here with the hope of a better life, but over time I forgot my culture, customs, and friends. But the good thing about being kind and friendly is that you can meet new friends, new families, because time doesn't forgive.

The only thing that is a big problem is not being able to communicate with other people in English. However, right when you think that everything is over, a window always opens. My wife found this school that helps us get out from the bottom. Strength of the student is always needed because the teacher and staff will only speak English. There are always kind people who help us understand. This is not only an English school. There are job opportunities too. Another great thing is, the school does not charge. It is totally free!

Today I am very happy with Literacy KC because today I understand the English language a little more and I thank the teachers for their dedication and kindness towards the students. Thank you!

Experience of Moving From My Country

by Nataly Morales

My experience in the United States has been very interesting from the moment I arrived. From the moment we made the decision to move to another country, it was very difficult to leave everything we knew—family, friends, work and everything—to have a better quality of life.

From the beginning we had many problems, starting with the arrival of my brother and my father in the United States. My father's entire family did not want to receive him. He asked a friend for help so that he would be stabilized, but twelve days after arriving in this country, my father suffered cardiac arrest. This brought forward my time to arrive in this country.

The death of my father and my early arrival in this country was very difficult, starting with the language, which I knew absolutely nothing about.

When we found stable jobs, my brother and I began to have better stability, enough to be able to rent an apartment and be able to bring my mother, so that the three of us could be together again.

Once my mother came to this country, everything got better for my brother and me because we became a family again. But like everything in life, plans change and so do people.

Because my plans before arriving in the USA were to look for a job and study to be able to validate my degree, as time progressed, I stopped caring about

studying, met a person, and started a family with him.

Sometime later, with the help of the person with whom I decided to start a family, I went back to school to learn English, but for family reasons and time, I made the decision to leave school until a few years later. I returned determined to study and have a completely different career from the one I had in my country, and I am grateful to life and to my teachers for helping me and understanding that now my life is different from what I would have imagined.

My Surprise in America

by Ahmad Hamandosh

In your life or in the world, where do you see signs of life and hope?

As long as there is life there must be hope, because without hope there is no life.

Hope always pushes us to self development and overcoming the difficulties of life and helping others to overcome it.

No, I did not expect to live in the United States of America.

Yes, life is somewhat identical.

Yes, there are things that surprise me, such as the great human diversity, some customs, traditions, and different foods.

In fact, I did not sacrifice anything because I lost everything because of the war in my country.

Of course, here there are many things that I can benefit from,

because here life is more beautiful

and the labor market is better,

and there are all the ingredients

for development and success here.

All people have their own culture and customs.

That must be preserved.

For example, I do this by

continuing to watch TV

and continuing to communicate

with friends and relatives,

preparing the dishes I grew up on,

and making my children
communicate with their relatives
and talk to them always so that they
do not forget the culture of their country
in which we grew up.

*

I was living in a big family in Syria, my parents, five brothers and one sister.

I had a small clothing company, but because of the war in my country, my family was separated between Turkey, Lebanon, and Belgium. After this, we lost everything we owned and we no longer saw each other except through video calls.

When I got the chance to go to America, I was very excited because I thought life would be very easy here. I made plans for my new life to master the English language quickly.

I continued to study until I graduated from the university, but surprisingly, mastering the language was not easy for me. I have to work hard because living is very expensive here so I work for two companies. This reflects negatively on everything I had planned in advance, but the good thing about my coming here is that the job market is very good right now. There are a lot of opportunities available as well. So I hope to learn the English Language quickly to integrate well in this beautiful society and seize any opportunity to develop everything in my future life.

Another Life

by Sandra Petronio Bentivengo

If I could return back to that night
when, decided and feverish, I packed my bags,
what things would I put in this time?
Maybe things that I think are not important.
Maybe I'd pack the MATE, my constant friend.
I'd pack the TANGO, but dancing tango,
And I'd take my lover's hand,
and in my suitcase, this winged heart.
I would carry just one book, the one I like,
and something about theater I'd bring here.
I'd change the flowers to red cherries,
And the barbecue I'd trade to my ASADO,
and the coleslaw instead of my grandma's German salad.
I'd just take 3 letters I could bring : A.R.T.
A as in AMOR
R, RENOVACION
And T as in TRABAJO.
I'd pack my feet so I can walk.
And last, I'd pack my wings, like the ones Mercury has,
So I can fly around the world.

My Earth

by DioVionne Moore

Green the Earth beauty
Blue the Earth sky
water the Earth, Sea the Ocean
beauty deep within my Eyez
Earth beauty full sculpture
the planet round surface I call The Earth
Love is real like the Earth
Now I see why.

The Depths are Closing In

By Kyle Robinson

Nowhere to go
My heart
is coming in, I feel so alone
The light is fading away
 It feels so cold
my hopes, my dreams
are struggling down
 This road
until a ball of light flickered.
She appeared, she made my dreams,
My hopes real
 No longer alone
 No longer heading down the road
 No longer the person I was
 When I met the one, I
 fell in love.

All Dreams Come True

by Tatiana Zamsha

My name is Tatiana Zamsha. I'm thirty-three years old and I'm starting a new life again.

I know like no one else that all your dreams can come true if you want them to. Your desires, aspirations, patience, and actions are enough.

I was born in a very small town in the south of Russia. I went to school and dreamed that one day I would find myself in a big city. I studied at an art school, danced, and performed on stage—all this for the sake of my dreams.

I graduated from school at the age of sixteen, went to St. Petersburg, and entered the university. Even though I dreamed of going to a big city, it was difficult to move. I left my family, friends, and the usual life. It's a big city, and very beautiful. I was happy to be there because my dream had come true.

After a while, I moved to Moscow. I was very happy to move, but I had to leave everything in the previous city again, like my friends from the university and my familiar life. I started a new life again.

I graduated from university and became an organizer of big city holidays. It was the best job ever. I organized events for the whole city of Moscow. Many people envied my work. I was very happy, because it seemed that all my dreams had come true. But at some point, I realized that since childhood I had dreamed of being on TV. I wanted to

study to be a TV presenter, but I thought it was too late, so I continued to work at my job. I was afraid to start all over. After all, this was a new life.

When I turned thirty, I realized that I could no longer wait and postpone, and I should go to study to be a TV presenter. I took courses and went for interviews. I was rejected a zillion times. But one day I was hired at the TV station. My dream had come true again. I went out and did reports and talked about the news in Moscow. People were watching me on TV.

When I turned thirty-three, I had to move to America. I left behind everything once again. But now it was not moving to another city but moving to another country located across the ocean. To come, I spent twenty hours on the flight and made several transfers. I left my family, my relatives, my friends, my home, and my favorite job. But I have not given up my hope and aspirations, because they are always with me.

And I started a new life again. Now I am here, I do not know the language, and I have few friends, but my belief that all dreams can come true is always with me.

I have been studying at Literacy KC for several months now. I have found friends here who speak the same language as me, and I have also found American friends. I arranged my life, I have an apartment and a car and I continue to live. I am sure that in America I will be able to get a job on TV and be a TV presenter. I think you will be able to see me on American TV. I hope that anyone who doubts themselves, or worries it's too late to start a new life, will read my story and realize that no matter what difficulties we face, all

dreams can become reality. To do this, you only need desire, aspiration, and action!

Thanks Mom, Thanks Dad

April 26, 2023

by Wen He

I stood on the corner by the YongJiang River
watching the planes that flew through the sky.

"When do I get to be one of those people?"

I asked myself.

Then one day, I said goodbye to my dad,

"Stay healthy, I will come back to see you soon,"

I whispered.

I was one of them, crossing a million oceans
to the USA.

I stood on the corner by the Missouri River
looking at the stars shining in the sky.

"Grandma and Grandpa are protecting us, like a
bright and shining star," I whispered to my daughter.

Dad was getting weaker and weaker,

I was worried, so worried,

Until one day, I lost you forever.

Sadly, it was Mother's Day in 2020.

I have never said how much I love both of you,

but I can say it in my heart,

the special place you hold there and

how much you mean to me.

Without you, I would never be the person I am today.

Thanks Mom, Thanks Dad,

I Miss You Both Deeply.

Time is Gold

by Emma Avila

When I was a child, I never imagined that there were different types of races and languages in this world. But now that I see it and live daily, I realize how blessed are the people who can stay and enjoy their native country. But even so, many of us decided to change our course for different reasons, some people for a better life, work, or love.

For eight years, I have been one of those millions of people who migrated to another country without knowing how difficult it is to adapt and be able to communicate and learn a language that is not the one you grew up with.

In 2022, I decided that I needed to learn to speak English. With many doubts about whether I could find a school that would help me, I found Literacy KC. It has been two very important years of my life and full of a lot of learning.

I want to say thank you, because I still have a lot to learn and do, but now I feel very happy to be able to do many things by myself, especially because I have a six-year-old daughter. I am able to read stories with her, study, and understand what she needs to learn at her age; in the same way, I can manage my own business, understand my clients, and be able to talk with them.

If your goal is to learn English, you should not wait a long time to do it, since time is worth gold. I lost five years without being able to understand

and communicate. Now, I regret it so much! But it's never too late to do it. And here I am, really looking to learn a little more every day and be better.

Dobrogo ranku, my dear Ukraine

by Tetiana Siedina

Good morning, my dear Ukraine!
Dobrogo ranku, your forests and fields!
Good morning, my native places!
I wish a good peaceful morning to all Ukrainians
and all the people on the planet.
Some people love morning coffee,
some prefer hot tea.
But it doesn't make us very different and unsociable.
I wish you pleasant conversations
over a cup of tea or coffee
under the clear, blue, peaceful sky.
When I think about my beautiful Ukraine,
it's about blue and yellow.
These are the colors of the Ukrainian flag.
Blue is the color of the sky,
and yellow is the color of wheat fields.
I love my Ukraine!
I wish her a speedy win.
I wish every morning to be kind and happy!
Good morning, my dear Ukraine!
Dobrogo ta schastlivogo ranku to you!

My Little Town

by Maria (Prieta) Ayala

Each morning when I see the sun rise I think of you.
With every step I take I remember you.
I still remember your fields dressed with grass in green,
Where every morning the song of the birds
Says good morning to you.
I remember the smell of your lilies that grew
On the banks of your rivers,
Where the breeze bathes them and makes it shine.
How nice it was to look at so many beautiful flowers
That each spring dressed you in different colors.
I miss your narrow, dimly-lit streets
That fall silent at sunset.
In my thoughts, I see your square
Where the birds, tired of flying, come to rest on you.
In my mind you continue,
In my heart you live,
And in my memories you always are.
I miss you so much, my little town.

My Name is

by Curtis W. McNeal III

My name is Curtis: It's beautiful when you see it in pen
My Aunt Velma named me after a long-ago boyfriend
My name is Curtis: meaning courteous and kind
Like nature, it bloomed on me over time
My name is Curtis: sister Hilda taught me a thing or two
Never say I can't, because American ends in "I can"
Life is an adventure, forever something new
It's your name, to it always be true

Vines of Truth



Photo Credit: Florian Schneider, 2017.

El Cantar

by Cecilio García

*Yo nací. Con la Luna de plata.
Y nací. Con alma de pirata
He nacido rumbero y Jarocho
Trovador de Veras
Y me fui. Lejos de Veracruz.¹*

El cantar sentimiento que sale del alma cuando estamos felices o no podemos llorar. Expresión única. Que los humanos adoptamos para dibujar sentimientos a la vida. ¿O persona muy especial?

*Veracruz, son tus noches
diluvio de estrellas palmeras y mujer
Veracruz. Vibra en mi ser
Algún día estás tus playas lejanas
tendré que volver.¹*

Cantar alivia el dolor. Y alegra el alma. Expresando el motivo. En el cual nos hace. ¿O hiso A alguien? Algún día muy feliz. ¿O el motivo de cuál estamos felices? El cantar. Es como un juego de ajedrez. Pensar mucho y movimientos cortos para tomar el extracto en palabras. Y plasmarlo en poemas. ¿O canciones? El cantar te hace sentir sentimientos. Los cual es a la persona. Amada. Tú puedes expresar.

*Cruzaré los montes, los ríos, los valles por irte a encontrar.
Salvaría tormentas, ciclones, dragones,
sin exagerar ²*

¿Cantar es? ¿Conjugar la realidad? ¿Y la ficción? ¿Inventar?

Componer textos diversos para elogiar. ¿A alguien? ¿O su Tierra Natal? También a sus padres. ¿O A la persona amada? Cantar. Es expresar las cosas. Que piensas en forma clara y sin rodeos. Y en ocasiones pueda molestar. ¿O recibir elogios?

*Ódiame por piedad yo te lo pido.
Ódiame sin medida ni Clemencia
Odio quiero más que indiferencia.
¿Porque el rencor? Quiere menos. Que el olvido.*

*Que vale más. ¿Yo humilde, y tu orgullosa?
O vale más tu débil hermosura.
¿Piensa que en el fondo de la fosa?
Llevaremos la misma vestidura³*

El cantar es como. ¿Un ave? Que sale a volar al cielo. Y su vuelo dura lo mismo. Que una canción. Que al final vuelve a su nido. Dentro del cuerpo.

*Ayer se fue. Tomó sus cosas y se puso a navegar.
¿Una camisa? Un pantalón vaquero y una canción.
¿A dónde irá? ¿A dónde irá?*

*Y se marchó. Y a su barco le llamó. Libertad.
Y en el cielo descubrió Gaviotas
Y pintó estelas en el mar.⁴*

Cantar. Mis padres lo hicieron. Cuando dormir no podía. Y necesitaba conciliar el sueño. Canciones de cuna y expresiones suaves. Que te hacen sentirte amado. ¿De quién te canta?

*Arroró mi niño.
Arroró mi sol.
Arroró pedazo
De mi corazón.*

*Este niño lindo.
Ya quiere dormir.
Hágale su cuna.
De rosa y Jasmín.*⁴

El cantar. Es una hermosa expresión. De comunicar sentimientos y amor. En el presente y en el pasado. Queda plasmado en una canción.

*En los ríos de Babilonia
Al descansar, lloramos.
Si recordamos a Sion
Y el tirano vino a África Y con cadenas
Nos llevó en cautividad.
¿Los tiranos? ¿Los tiranos?*⁵

¿Cantar plasma? Lo sucedido en el pasado y el presente. Por eso. Yo les comparto mis pensamientos. Que ustedes. Algún día en el futuro lo comprobarán. Les comparto esta hermosa canción. Como su título lo dice. Y bien nombrado.

References

1. "Veracruz," written by Agustín Lara, Márcio Borges, and Milton Nascimento.
2. "Eso y Más," written by José Manuel Figueroa.
3. "Odíame," written by Rafael Otero López.
4. "Arrorró Mi Niño," a Spanish lullaby.
5. Psalm 137, "By the Rivers of Babylon."

Vines of Truth



Photo Credit: by Terra, 2020.

Las maravillas de la naturaleza

by Cecilio Garcia

Yo voy a compartir este pensamiento. Que yo le he llamado. Maravillas de la naturaleza. Un día sentado. De un día. Muy pesado laboral. ¿Cansado por él? Por el caminar. ¿En la selva de concreto? Y el ruido. El tráfico. Por el estrés de la ciudad. El ir. Y venir de la gente a prisa. Sin poner atención. A lo que nos rodea. Y el entorno que nos acompaña. Encontré un área verde. En medio de la selva de concreto y en el cual. Me acosté. En el césped. Mirando al cielo. Y me imaginé como si estuviera. Admirando una obra de teatro. Alcancé a mirar a la a la Luna. Como si fuera un artista. Y una que otra estrella, sus bailarinas. En el cual. Se contemplaba. En el cielo a cierta hora. Se alcanzaban a ver unas y otras.

¿Más estrellas? Me imaginé como si estuviera yo presenciando. Una gran obra de teatro y. Como si fuera dar inicio. Una gran función. La cual. Al empezar a hacerse de noche. Se empezó a. Iniciar el espectáculo. Un suave viento. El cual. En el entorno. Movía las hojas de los árboles, los cual. Simulaban como un aplaudir. A un gran evento. En el transcurso que oscurecía él. Cielos empezaban. ¿Aparecer más? estrellas. El cual. La Luna empezaba a entonar su brillo. Y de igual manera, las estrellas. Que parecían danzar, parpadear. En el transcurso que la Luna. Pasaba. Por mi vista. De repentinamente paso. Estrella fugaz, la cual dejó una. Estela de luz. Lo cual se simulaba con. Un. Acto. ¿Espontáneo? El cual no estaba proyectado en una obra. Que a veces lo podemos llamar como. Improviso. Y transcurría el tiempo transcurría. Y yo

acostado en el césped. Miré a mi entorno y vi que.

Ya las hojas. Habían perdido su. Sonido del cual empezaron a. Entonar su Música. Simulando a una orquesta. Los. Insectos nocturnos, los cuales daban. ¿Un aparente sonido? Como de una orquesta en el transcurso de la noche. En el que se coordinaba con la noche que oscurecía. Más y más. Fuerte. Escuchaba. El sonido. Como si estuvieran coordinados uno con otro. En el transcurso de la noche. También pasaban. Diferentes aves. Las cuales es. Se sentían más cómodas volar. En la hora nocturna. ¿Que en el transcurso del día? Los cuales. Para ellos eran empezar de un nuevo día. Cuando. Para nosotros los humanos. era. El finalizar. De una jornada.

Y un día. Como transcurría el tiempo. Muchas veces. Se escuchaban sonidos. Sonidos que interrumpían. La tranquilidad. Y el curso. De la noche. El sonido de ambulancias. El sonido de un carro. Sonidos. De gente conversando. El cual. A veces te distraía. De presenciar ese espectáculo que acontecía. ¿A la vista? En el cielo. Muchas veces nos olvidamos. Los frágiles que somos. Ante la naturaleza. Los cuales. Nunca. Se han. Aprovechado del ser humano en. Demostrarnos que son. Más poderosas de lo que nosotros creemos. Eventualmente. Los cambios. De la naturaleza. A veces somos culpables los mismos humanos. La naturaleza. Es infinita. Es muy coordinada. Muy exacto. Pero el ser humano. Nuestra intervención. Hace que se altere. El curso. De toda naturaleza. En el transcurso de la noche sigue transcurriendo la obra de teatro. El cual tu. ¿Te podrías imaginar que es una? Fracción de una película que estás admirando. Las constelaciones en su lugar. Cada estrella tiene su propia luz.

La Luna tiene su mismo curso. En diferentes casos

tiene su. Diferente. Fase. Pero son tan exacto. Que a veces del ser humano no lo entiende. En el transcurso de la noche, las aves. Surcan el cielo y. Tal vez emigren a otros. Países. Por Cambios. De estaciones del año. engan que emigrar por. Clima frío. ¿Entonces? Ahí vemos. A diferencia de la naturaleza y el ser humano.

El ser humano pone fronteras, pone límites. Pone restricciones. Cuando todo es lo contrario. Nunca la naturaleza ha negado sus recursos. O que se haga estéril no hay Puentes. Restricciones fronteras. Simplemente el ser humano es el que se ha ambicionado. Hacerse. Y Adueñarse. De lo que realmente le pertenece a la naturaleza. Está ocurriendo en la noche. Todo. Va haciendo. Una obra de teatro. Que al finalizar. La orquesta de insectos. ¿Que canta en la noche? Da la despedida, Al llegar la mañana. Actores, espectáculo. ¿Que aconteció en el transcurso de la noche? El cual nos hace reflexionar. ¿Qué tan pequeños son? Pero qué tan ¿vanidosos? Nos sentimos. Los humanos en ocasiones con honrosas excepciones. Un fragmento. De la obra Llamada.

A Poem

by Antonio Romero

I'm proud of my kids. Before, they spoke little Spanish. But after we visited the rest of our family in Mexico for two months and came back, they spoke Spanish. I can almost say they are bilingual in Ingles and Spanish. Camping—we go and have fun and forget everything, ordinary life, and enjoy the whole day swimming, fishing, playing with our pets making a fire. I always wanted to have fun and be happy with my family and leave a good legacy for my kids. My kids, they inspire me to be a leader.

Immigration

by Martha Aldana

My first word is *separation*, because I was three years old when my father decided to come to the USA.

Family: A lot of families live in the same situation.

Process: Takes time for these families to be together again.

Money: The reason people decide to come to this country is to make more money and have a better life.

New country: Living in a different country is not easy. Everything is different.

New Language: For me it was too hard, because it was not my language. Not easy, take years and years to be legal in this country. For me, it took twenty-one years.

Finally, I Found You

by Sonia Bouhini

I knew you by chance.
We sat at the same table.
We looked at each other.
We exchanged conversation without saying words.
I don't know how you took my heart at that moment.
You opened the door of my heart
without my permission.
You managed to live inside me with all kindness.
You are different than everyone I meet.
You became the focus of my happiness.
I wish to talk to you every minute and second.
Your absence makes me search
for your face everywhere.
What if I told you that my love for you is like water
and air? The more I drink, the more thirsty I become.
The air I breathe, the only thing I need for life.
I looked for you and finally found you.
I hope I never lose you—my love for you
is the first and the last.
I can't live without you.
My love, you are every reason, every hope,
and every dream I had.
Yes, I adore you in every meaning of the word.

Alienation

by Amal Hammad

Oh my God... how difficult is the alienation?
Oh my God... how hard is leaving your tradition?
I feel no happiness on holidays
without family... it passes, a normal day.
I'm afraid to answer the phone
from family members or friends at all...
*Hello... get on the first plane and come... buddy
your mom will die... you have to hurry*
People envy you for your estrangement,
think it is an opportunity for improvement.
They don't see what is hiding in the other hand,
how much an immigrant feels down and sad.
I feel alienated in the country where I live
and had the same sensation in the country I left.
Every time I go back to my home country,
I cry when I see my dad and mom,
big differences in their facial features.
I hope I can see them again in the future.
Whoever said the immigrant is half dead wasn't wrong.
To be an immigrant you have to be strong.

Aviation Mechanic

by Laura Cedillo

Hi, my name is Laura Cedillo.

I am Mexican and an aircraft mechanic. I love my profession. My love for aviation was for my Dad. He is a mechanic too, and my mom, my sister, and I, when we were girls, often went with him to his job, and we thought that would help him. It was a wonderful time in my family, and the time that I remember I always wanted to be an aviation mechanic. Every Christmas I asked Santa Claus for tools as toys, and when I grew up, I asked for real tools.

My work is very interesting. I work with big airplanes, Boeing 747 or Boeing 777 particularly. I love to change landing gears, engines, wheels and brakes. When I use my tools, really, I am very happy. In my profession it is not common that there are women, and I am proud to represent my gender in aviation. I obtained my aircraft license in my country when I was 18 years old, and I obtained an aircraft and engine license here in USA one year ago. It was necessary to do three computer tests, three oral tests, and three practice tests. I studied very hard but for me it was really difficult because everything was in English. But if I could, everybody can. The language is our challenge here, but it is not impossible; it's only a matter of working hard and having a good attitude.

I Don't Know What Is Love

by Laura Cedillo

I don't know what is the love
But I smile when I see you
I enjoy when you talk non-stop
I feel protected when I am in your arms.

I don't know what is the love
but love getting lost in your gaze
I enjoy caressing your face with my cheek
with you I have realized that age is only a number
And that important thing is to feel how you speed
up my heart with your smile.

I don't know what is the love
but I'm captivated by the way you look at me
when you are close to me I forgot the time
I know that today I'll see but the time passes
too slow when you are not next to me, maybe in a
few days I will see you again and I will be able to
enjoy you again.

I don't know what is the love
but I think about you all day
my hands delight browse your body
and breathing your scent has become my favorite
liking

I don't know what is the love but...
or you tell me what is this madness
That I feel for you?

Maybe it is love?

Memory Play Soccer

by Kathia GM

Two gallon team
Two cup coach
One ball
Goalkeeper pinch running
One tablespoon referee
One cup sun
Mix emotion

First, put two gallons of team on a soccer field.
Second, a soccer ball and one tablespoon referee.
Next, play soccer for 25 minutes the first time,
because it is divided into two times.
The second time is the same: 25 minutes.
The game has a different emotion. Sometimes it is
happy, sad, or angry
because one team is the winner.

New York City

by Jose

One kilogram of train
One cup eats
One ounce people
One quart culture
One pinch of beach
One ton of money

Many people different cultures
THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS
The richest place is Southampton
The best place for me is the lighthouse
because it is in the center of the water and
it is the end of the island

My Life in the United States

by Nelson R

I got here just for one reason, and that reason is my family; I want to help them. I want to learn all I can learn. I have two brothers and a sister living here in Kansas City. I need to learn English because it is very important. I have been trying to talk with coworkers, but I think studying is better. I like this city because the traffic is not hard.

When I got here, we only had one car to work, and its owner was my friend. One day, he turned it on and came into the house again. Only five minutes later, the car was stolen, so we lost the car and all the tools in there. We had to buy new tools and a new car too. It was so sad.

OMOA BEACH

by Nelson R

One cup of sunset.
One tablespoon of waves.
One kilogram of happiness.
One pound of fun.
One gallon of tranquility.
One pinch of wind.
One liter of good time.

And a life to enjoy.

Watch Anime

by Kathia MG

One gallon of excitement
One pinch of sad
One gallon of long time
One cup of computer or phone and tv
One glass of antisocial
Mix anime
thousands of tons of happiness.

When you watch anime you forget the world or what happens, and sometimes you can learn words in other languages.

Once Upon a Time

by Elias Villanueva

I am from Chiapas, Mexico. Last year, I wrote about myself and what I was doing for my life. Now, my dream of learning the English language is going better, because today I can write and speak and understand English. I happily study with my classmates.

I remember how funny my first class was. All the time in class I was nervous, but from the first class to today, I have had the best teacher in my classroom. This is because all the time he has a better way to help me.

I think my life today is going better here in the United States because speaking English really helps in this country. I remember when my coworker was trying to explain to me how to do the work, I didn't understand what he told me. And now I can understand and speak with them. The thing here is, it's very important to learn English to make things better, and it is the best communication with people here. In case you didn't know, you can take class at Literacy KC. This place usually helps everyone for free. It's here where I am learning English. Now I can do what I need to do.

Four Pieces

by Hugo

Summer

Summer is this:

One pound the hot time, one ton of good moments, one pinch of the bad moments, one cup going to the beach, one more cup going to the lake, a little piece of the fireworks. One gallon the family and special people, two gallons the sunsets and beautiful landscapes and mix in a bowl of the extreme good experiences.

sky and hell

Sand to kiss you, I had to go to hell, it would do, so later I could boast to the demons of having been in it. Paradise without ever having entered.

minimalist life

The minimalist life is part of my life in every way, it is a lifestyle which is one of the most beautiful lifestyles that can exist in life and it is living with the least but at the same time enough and everything. That is to say, finding the beauty of life even in the small moments. It is inexplicable in every way and at the same time explainable in every way, and there are not only material things which make you feel happy, every day, every time, every moment. Because this life is more of a lifestyle that is inexplicable to feel day by day.

Love

Love is a word, because you learn that word is very important to every letter. It is very important when very close with you, you have different feelings. I feel good, nervous, happy, and more feelings which feel very good in me, and it seems that I jump into the void, and at the same time I feel as if I'm in the clouds. You are like drugs and adrenaline in my veins and I want these sensations to never leave me.

Recipe for Shopping

by Walter Mejia

One cup of shopping
One gallon of food
One lobster
Two liters of mall
Twenty kilograms of clothes
Fifteen pairs of shoes
Thirty hats
Mix family and happiness

Education

by Crismaira Navarro

The education is very important,
It opens the doors in whatever location of the world
It is the best gift that life gives us
Age doesn't matter for learning
Learn what you can and
You will make the best impression

Exercise

by Mari Robles

One cup of skinny
One gallon of sit-ups and running
Twenty kilograms of weights
One cup of drink
One glass of energizing
One teaspoon of pain
One tablespoon of tired

Soccer Championship

by David Loy

One pound of team
Five tablespoons of penalties
Two gallons of happy
Two gallons of emotional
Two gallons of tired
One cup of block the goal

The hope of my team was for me to save the last penalties, and I saved the last penalties. It was my first championship: happy, emotional, happiness, tired, move, stop, goal, goalie, block the goal.

Moldova and America

by Lilia Brenici

Moldova is a country of people,
America is a country of freedom.
Moldova is a rabbit in the forest,
America is a whale in the ocean.
Moldova is a bottle of good wine,
America is a cup of Starbucks.
Moldova is about walking,
America is about driving.
Moldova rests a lot,
America works too much.
in Moldova you survive,
in America you live.
in Moldova you dream,
in America you take actions.
in Moldova time goes,
in America time flies.
Moldova is about my family,
America is about my husband.
in Moldova you're a child,
in America you're an adult.
Moldova is about my past,
America is about my future.

Moldova

by Angela Brenici

When I was little, I was reading stories
I always dreamed of a magical land
But now I realized
As Moldova is the country I was looking for
It is the country where magic is real
Where I want to return every time
It is the country where I was born
Where I knew love
And if someone asks me
How far I am from my country
And I will answer him
He is always in my heart

My beautiful Moldova
You are the most valuable
I was born here
I grew up here
I will definitely come back
I adore you, you are my country
And I love you a lot
Everything I look at is beautiful
You also have hills and plains
And children's smiles
I hope that we will see
My amazing homeland again

Memory is My Family

by Darianne Soto Estrenera

Memory is Puerto Rico to Lee's Summit in Missouri

Puerto Rico

My name is Darianne Soto Estrenera. My country is Puerto Rico. My favorite memory of Puerto Rico is when my family went to the beach with sand and smells of sea and salt. We swam and talked, and everyone went to eat and watch movies.

When I went to see my grandparents, we talked and ate Sancocho, Sorullitos, Tostones, and Quesitos. The food has a lot of aromas. It's delicious.

My sister got married and I was a wedding witness. From the park, I took pictures, then went to my grandparents' house party and ate delicious pizza.

Lee's Summit, Missouri

My family consists of seven people and two dogs. Five of us moved to Lee's Summit and two sisters stayed in Puerto Rico. After, one moved to Virginia.

My sisters and her husband come to visit on vacation.

My family went skating and then we went to eat pizza and we talked and had a good time. Then the neighbor went home to drink hot cocoa.

We watched movies and series together, then they went to Puerto Rico.

One of my sisters came to visit. We went to the museum and later to Café Corazón which sells coffee, tamales, iced tea, and tea. Another day we walked to the park.

My sisters, parents, and I went to the zoo. We saw the animals and talked and had a good time. We watched the animals and we took photos.

Later, we went to a shop inside the zoo. We bought coffee after lunch. A place called Macho's sells Mexican food in the store.

I hope you like my memories always in the heart.

Enjoy the Beach with My Family

by Gema

I remember every year I went to the beach with my family for one week. We liked to go to the beach and camping was so exciting. We prepared everything: tents, camping kitchen, cooler, air mattresses, table games, chairs, tables, food, drinks, snacks.

The first day is hard because we have to put everything in, but it is funny. The place has light, restrooms, and security.

Every day we woke up, we prepared breakfast. After that, we went to the beach to play, to swim, enjoy the landscape, and watch people go by and the kids playing. When I was there, I remember the people who sold fruit like mangos, watermelon, and also sold seafood, fish, shrimp, and ceviche, which were so delicious.

It's very relaxing to sunbathe, listen to music, talk with the family by the sea, feeling the heat and the sea breeze.

In the evenings, we liked to play volleyball and soccer with other families. It was so exciting to meet new people and make friends.

At dinnertime, we talked a lot about the day.

At night, we made a campfire near the beach. We sang, danced, played some games, drank some soda, and tequila.

It is so beautiful to remember my family vacation.

My History: Draw

by Yohnny Coello

In my life, I haven't had a father or mother since I was fifteen years old. I dedicated myself to work. I thought about working as a barber because, since I was little, I always liked to draw.

My father wasn't a barber, but he cut my brother's and my hair. After his death, I started working with the barber's things that he left, like hair clippers, scissors and combs etc. etc. etc. I worked as a barber since I was little, then in my free time I drew on paper. For example, I drew letters, figures, lines, and designs on peoples' heads in their hair. That's where my idea of working as a barber began.

I like to teach my son how to cut hair in my work. It's necessary for my life, and my son's life to survive because I don't have anyone to help me. I teach my son barber jobs at my work on his days off because he goes to school.

Thank God, first of all, because he gives me the wisdom to learn more every day and to make a living drawing. When people want my services, I am here when they need me.

Now, I'm learning English. Thanks.

History and the Paranormal

by Jean Laguado

My favorite activity is to be sitting across from my computer in my room, drinking coffee, soda, or eating, and watching videos. I like videos about history or horror. I like to relax after I get home from my work. I search videos on internet websites like YouTube and on channels of youtubers.

I want to know the word history of events past. History is important, knowing where we come from and who came before us. I think it is important how past events changed the future.

I also like watching horror or paranormal videos. We need to know that we are not alone, on websites we have plenty of evidence of the paranormal. I like to see that there are witches, ghosts, and supernatural beings.

My Kitchen

by Marce Ramirez

My favorite place is my kitchen because in my kitchen my day begins, and I finish my day there also. The kitchen is the place where I hear “Mom, I’m hungry! Mom, I’m thirsty!” Also, in the kitchen I have many conversations with my family, and each person does something. Some days we share work. I write the chores on pieces of paper and everyone grabs one to see what they have to do. We do this because I don’t want to command them, and I want them to enjoy the chores and smile. Also, I don’t want them to do the same thing all the time.

Florida

by Raquel

I think my favorite place to go is Florida.

Especially Walt Disney World.

I like stores and restaurants.

I really like going to the sea.

I really like going to amusement parks.

I go with my family on vacation.

I'm going to Daytona Beach.

My favorite memory is going to Walt Disney World

With my family.

My favorite park is Animal Kingdom.

Because there are many animals and nature.

The important thing is that we are

Going as a family together.

My favorite people are my children.

I like everything I see in Florida.

My Mom

by Guadalupe

My special person was my mom because she was very sweet and affectionate with me. When I came to the US, she took care of my girl for two months. Later, I could bring her with me. My mom was very sad when that happened because she liked my daughter. My mom called us all the time she could and said she missed us. My mom was sick, and I couldn't go back because I was pregnant, and my baby was about to be born soon.

Palestine

by Rawda

I want to write about Palestine. Most of the people are working in government jobs. The rest of the people are self-employed. Palestine has two religions and two languages. They are famous for their kindness and generosity. The main dishes are mansaf and maqluba. They are famous for their sweet kunafa and qatayef. Palestine's weather is warm in summer and cold in winter. Palestine has two seas, the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Palestine is famous for the cultivation of olives, grapes, and figs or citrus fruits.

Big family and big house. Two of my favorite people in my childhood were my father and mother because they had a big family, brothers and sisters. I remember they were sitting at a table and eating food. They were a nice family. They were speaking and were happy or flirting. My brothers and sisters left Palestine after they got married, some of them are still in Palestine.

I was born in Palestine. Now I live in Kansas City, Missouri. I speak two languages: Arabic and a little English.

Recipe for Playstation

by Mohammad Alswedan

One teaspoon (TV)

One tablespoon (agitation)

One cup (computer)

One pint (sad)

One quart (relax)

One gallon (victory)

My Favorite Place is Honduras' Ruins of Copan

by Edwin Armando Benitez

A place full of natural beauty, with animals and beautiful landscapes.

My experience there and going to that place was a very long trip of seven hours;

A trip that almost did not feel so long because I was with my family with the desire to know that place and what it had to offer.

We arrived at the place where they received us with great kindness and great pleasure. They took us to see Honduras's nature and animals with my family to the ruins of Copan.

At the hotel where we stayed, we left the luggage and started the trip. They showed us the Types of plants and animals as well as the flowers.

The next day the routine that he had prepared for was that we could see the Mayan structures, And we began to see each of the sculptures that the Mayans recreated. After we saw the sculptures we ventured to see each of the natural wealth of Honduras, beautiful and beautiful passages, animals, and that represents my country. And it was a beautiful and a unique experience.

A Piece

by Marouane Bellamlik

I'm Marouane from Morocco. I've been here for four years. I live with my family. I like it here because there are kind people and more opportunities. I miss my country because I have beautiful memories there in my neighborhood and elementary school with friends and my family, my dad and my mom.

In school I was a lazy student because I liked to play soccer and race with friends. I liked to watch movies and soccer games and visit around the world to get the knowledge of different cultures and countries in the world. I also love my family.

Sis

by Sonia

We were five sisters in the home.
We were living together so much.
All the time we laughed, cooked, put makeup on
and went to parties together.
When my sisters got married I sat alone,
sad after my sisters got married.
I traveled to the United States.
One sister traveled to Canada and two sisters
still live in Jordan.
We can't see each other now.
My dream now is to see my sisters again,
because I'm not happy in my life.
I'm really sad and I need them by my side
to bring happiness back into my life.

A Piece

by Zhor Essaidi

My name is Zhor Essaidi. I am from Morocco. I have a family of two girls and one boy. I came to America six months ago. I love reading books and stories and cooking Moroccan food. I like to spend all my time with my family.

Vines of Truth



Literacy KC

Changing lives beyond words

About Literacy KC

Vision

Literacy For All

Mission

To advance literacy within the Kansas City metropolitan area through direct services, advocacy, and collaboration.

History

Literacy KC was founded in 1985 by volunteers to provide one-on-one tutoring to adults wanting to learn how to read and write but who did not have the resources to do so. In 2015, Literacy KC developed an innovative community and classroom-based model to meet the needs of a larger student audience. This new adult-literacy program, Ticket to Read, served as the first expansion of Literacy KC's services that have since only continued to grow.

Literacy KC has since added High School Equivalency, English Language Learning, Workforce Development, Digital Literacy, and Let's Read to our offerings.

As a regional and national leader in adult education, Literacy KC has made waves in our field by providing state-of-the-art curriculum following Federal College and Career Readiness Standards.

Support Literacy KC

Become a Volunteer

Volunteers are part of the fabric of our organization. From tutoring in HiSET or ESL classes and modeling best practices in our family reading program, to making the everyday at our offices go smoothly, volunteers add so much value to our programs.

Sign up for Volunteer Training

Join us to learn about our work and participate in training! Sign up by visiting our website or calling (816) 333-9332.

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To ensure that our programs remain free and high quality, Literacy KC relies on the generous support of community members, businesses, and foundations. Consider supporting our programs by making a gift.

Gifts may be mailed to:

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Kansas City, MO 64109

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Elias Villanueva
Tatiana Zamsha

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Literacy KC

3036 Troost Ave, Kansas City MO 64109
(816) 333-9332 • info@literacykc.org • www.literacykc.org