

In Our Words

A Collection of Student Writing from Project Second Chance,
Contra Costa County Library's Adult Literacy Program



VOLUME SEVEN



I am on a journey right now embarking upon enlarging my territory. I am so excited about my new journey. Learning to read is the most amazing thing in my life, being able to achieve such a great task in my life at the age of 63 brings joy and happiness to my very soul. I am so elated for the teacher that God has blessed me with. This ride that I'm on right now is one of the best rides that I have been on in all my life



— **Harriet R.**

About This Book

There is a famous saying:

It is the journey, not the destination, that matters.

For much of 2020, we did not go much farther than our homes. Yet as these In Our Words stories show, our Project Second Chance authors still had plenty of adventure. Sharing their unique cultures, personal thoughts, and challenges shows all of us readers a new world.



We thank our PSC authors for letting us travel with them this year through these writings and arrive at a place where their voice got to be heard. We also thank their co-pilots, our wonderful tutors, for guiding their hard work and love of literacy.

We hope that the entire PSC community gets to go to new places and reach new heights in the next year.

Many thanks to the PSC tutors who supported the student authors in this book:

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Table of Contents

In Our Words – Volume Seven

Ahmad A.

Six Word Story on COVID-19.....7

Alicia F.

The Sandwich Generation.....16

Anonymous

Introduce Yourself.....35

Brenda I.

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

Cendy B.

An Important Lesson.....22

Chiwon S.

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

Diana S.

Trip to Lake Tahoe!.....11

Ehte A.

My Scary Walk Over the Grand Canyon....26

Emilia I.

Life.....15

My Family.....20

My Ladder.....21

Emir K.

The Small Stripe to
Great Opportunities.....23

Eunjoo K.

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

My Journey.....9

Flavio D.

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

Pandemic.....8

Helen G.

What Happening to the World.....9

When My Dad’s Dream Came True.....33

Ike E.

Old Lady in the Park.....14

Old.....20

The Raven.....25

Jihyun L.

Language We Use.....24

Ju C.

My Husband’s Grandfather.....25

Judy H.

A Touchy Subject.....13

A Story with Many Idioms.....18

Feet Firmly Planted on the Ground.....34

Lisa G.

My Tutor.....17

My Christmas with My Family.....30

Lisa J.

Dear Mom.....30

Maria A.

Family Together.....25

Mayra V.

Never Give Up.....6

Mirae P.

The Army Stew.....19

The Witness.....29

My Journey to Motherhood.....33

Nataliya P.

Autumn is My Favorite Season!.....22

What is the Mushroom?.....31

Onesha E.

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

Parvin M.

The Story of My Braids.....16

Ryae L.

Every Vote Counts.....17

Sandra P.

Tepoztlán.....32

Selina G.

My Family's Long Travel.....12

Teresa

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

Chinese New Year.....27

Tseten D.

Christmas Surprise.....34

Velia R.

Thank You.....19

Veronica G.

Learning English at McDonald's.....14

Veronica M.

Celebration of La Virgen de la Soledad.....28

Vicky D.

Trip to Naples, Florida.....36

Wenman L.

Project Second Chance,
My Tutor, and Me.....38

Ying Q.

Inspiration.....37

Yulia K.

Six-Word Story on COVID-19.....7

My COVID-19

Shelter-in-Place Experience.....10

Never Give Up

by Mayra V.

Hello, my name is Mayra. I am a single mother. I have 2 children. In life, everything requires effort and a lot of dedication. When you have goals to meet, especially during difficult moments like that one we are facing now. With the pandemic, many people have lost their jobs and that makes it harder to provide for all our needs. Our lives have dramatically changed in a certain way. Nothing is the same as before.

I want to share a little bit of my story during these last months since the pandemic. Even in moments of emotional, economic, and physical crisis, it has not been easy for me to reach my goals, but here I am again. I made the decision to continue my PSC classes on Zoom with my tutor Sandy, an excellent person and teacher who has helped me every step I have taken in my life related to my studies. Last year, I achieved one of my biggest goals: I got my GED.

I am still working on some more goals that I have yet to meet. I stay positive even though the situation is difficult. I don't want to stop until I achieve what I promised to myself. I'm taking another

online course. I would like to share this: no matter what the situation is, we are the ones who decide if we surrender or continue fighting for what we want in life. Don't give up, don't give up, don't give up on any situation that life puts you in. Success for me is not luck, it's a process, but for those who strive and stay strong even with ups and downs in life, they have their reward. I'm just unstoppable.



Challenge: Six-Word Story on COVID-19

A journey with twists and turns.

by Brenda I.

Shopping like astronauts at the supermarket.

by Chiwon S.

I'm overwhelmed and need a break.

by Onesha E.

I watered the plants this week.

by Flavio D.

lonely

boring

quiet time for herself

by Teresa

One day, one book, one writing!

by Eunjoo K.

Is this a blessing in disguise?

by Brenda I.

I taught and I was happy.

by Flavio D.

Gone the graduation ceremony
with COVID-19.

by Chiwon S.

Virus

How long

Bored

Supporter

Supported

Nervous

by Ahmad A.

reading

more time with God

good technology

by Teresa

Very hot Tuesday, I drank water.

by Flavio D.

Cooking and taking care of my sons.

by Yulia K.

I am so into the books.

by Eunjoo K.

We played, we learned, had fun.

by Flavio D.

We are all in this together.

by Brenda I.

Pandemic

by Flavio D.



My name is Flavio, also Frangolino Clown. I am from Brazil. I'm a clown, actor, and teacher of physical education. I've done shows in many places in Brazil and in other countries. I have been living in California for three years with my beautiful family (wife, son, and daughter).

I have been working as a professional artist for 18 years and during this period, I developed several circus skills, such as juggling, unicycle, mime, stilts, and balance of objects.

During shelter-in-place, I am taking the opportunity to stay with my family, playing with my son, arranging and creating new acts for my performances, giving circus classes via Zoom, shows and interviews via Live on Facebook and Instagram,

and taking the opportunity to connect with my friends around the world. Also, I am reading plays with other actors and actresses. I am praying more and I am spending more time with God and my family, too.

The pandemic has changed my routine a lot. It prevents me from contacting the audience, preventing me from working.

This has also impacted me positively and made me think differently about the ways I could spread my work to other people, which I had not thought about before. Such as making videos, writing my book, and rewriting my Gira Circo Project (traveling by bicycle, taking the circus to many cities, as I did a few years ago in Brazil and I would like to do here in America).

When all this is over, I believe that some concepts of space will be changed. And many will adopt these meetings by computer and have more time with the family. New businesses will be created.

Everything will work out. After the storm there is always calm. "We will persevere."

What Happening to the World

by Helen G.

The Coronavirus killed too many people. I am confused where the virus came from. People say it came because some people ate something that was not supposed to be eaten by human being. They broke the nature balance. I am thinking about virus because it filled our community with distrust. No one trust each other.

For example, when I went to market one day, I coughed because of dry throat. Nearby, everyone just looked at me with fear and stepped away. The same thing happened in school. Chinese children were shunned in school and blamed for the virus. Many such things are happening everywhere.

I wish that the situation becomes better and all the bad things will go away. The world can come back to having a good time.

My Journey

by Eunjoo K.

My slogan is "Read 10,000 books and walk 4,000 km."

It is a Chinese proverb.

I really wonder how I live well. I always question how I live. After giving birth to my kids, I've been thinking about it.

I want to coach my kids in their lives. And I want to show how I have a happy life to them. I want to be a life model for them.

So, I realize that there is a road in books. And I've traveled around the world. I could think what is a life. When I leave my house, I could think who I am, where I am in my life, and not think about routine life.

I think that both reading and traveling are really important. After COVID-19, I should be a shelter-in-home mother for several months.

I have a lot of time. I can focus on my inner mind. I enjoy reading when I have time. I have read 100 Korean books from start to finish.

One of my bucket lists is to read English books not translated into Korean.

My dream will come true.

My COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place Experience

by Yulia K.

Our 2020 year began with big plans. First, we waited for my mom, who was coming from Russia to meet us in March. I hadn't seen her for almost two years (except for Skype calls). We were going to travel to Southern California with her.

In February, I heard a lot of news about the Corona virus and that it was spreading around the whole world very fast. Also, there was a lot of gossip that all schools would be closed.

In one week after my mom arrived to the USA, my son's school was closed due to the quarantine. First, I felt scared about my family, my parents, and grandmother. We worried that my mom couldn't return to Russia because many air companies cancelled their flights and many countries started to close their borders.

Despite everything, we had a great time with my mom. My sons were happy to meet her. We enjoyed spending time together and were happy that she visited us in this crazy time.

When my mom returned to Russia, we started to change our life, our habits, and our schedule because we were required to shelter in place. At first it was difficult

to arrange our schedule to learn and work. Also, I was very sad because our summer plans were ruined. We were going to travel to Russia. We wanted to visit our families and friends. We haven't seen them for three years. I hope we will be able to do it next summer. But despite everything, I have some positive points in this situation. I had time to realize some of my ideas and my husband took some useful courses online that we didn't have time for before. And of course, I like to spend more time with my family.



Trip to Lake Tahoe!

by Diana S.

I would like to tell you about my vacation in Lake Tahoe. It is beautiful and there are a lot of different things to do. This was a great vacation and I'm glad we did it even with all our thoughts about COVID-19.

We stayed at my friends' house in Carnelian, close to Kings Beach. This house had a deck all around so we could enjoy the sunshine at any part of the day. Next to the house there was a cottage, and it had a room called "The Cub House." This room was the favorite room for my kids because it was big, had a tv, pool table, and three bunk beds.

This house was walking distance to a rocky beach. It was relaxing because it wasn't crowded. Tahoe Lake is beautiful but cold, so I am glad that I brought wetsuits for my kids. We did three hikes that I recommend.

1. Eagle Lake Trail – This is one of the most beautiful hikes, about two miles. Half is downhill and half up hill, not too bad! On the way, you can see chipmunks and bluebirds. There are a lot of rocks and beaches that you can get to by crossing the stream. You can't beat the feeling when you get there and see the island, bay, all the beautiful rocks and the mountains. Eagle Lake Trail is one of my favorite hikes.



2. Brockway Summit – This hike is great for exercising and had good views of the lake, one and a half miles each way. When you get to the top you can stand on rocks and see the panoramic view. The hike was hard for the kids going up, but once you get there you can take photos and relax a bit. Going down was super easy; no complaints!
3. Emerald Bay State Park – This is a nice hike, three miles. My kids enjoyed going downhill. On your way down, you can see a lot of different waterfalls, boats, and deep dark blue crystalline water. The camping sites are closed and it's like a museum. We enjoyed the hike, and then we went to see a waterfall. Going back to the car was another story because it was a hill going up...of course, that is when the complaints started, but in general my kids did very good. I'm proud of them because I was tired too!

My Family's Long Travel

by Selina G.

Eleven years ago, my family decided to immigrate to the United States. It was a big decision for all of us. We felt excited about living in a new country. But we were still scared about the challenges we would face such as the No. 1 problem, language.

I remember the first time I came to the USA. I took a 14-hour flight here. I never flew so long by plane; my feet were puffed up. My only feeling was dizzy when I arrived because the traffic was too fast for me. And I didn't know what the people said, even though I've learned English before. It's not like my textbook at all.

The next few months, I finally got my ID and driver's license. I still remember my embarrassment when I spoke to the staff members with my poor English and excellent body language. I had some trouble in my life. It's hard for me ordering food from the menu without a picture. I left home with my ID, money, and phone all the time because these ensure my safety.

During the next few years, I learned how to pay my bills and wrote checks in English. I followed the GPS to any new places and got gas for myself (the staff helps in other countries). I get to use the schedule to throw out the garbage. I've learned how

to register or make an appointment with teachers, doctors, and staff. I am so proud of myself, even though I still have some problems with my English. But I can survive here.

After eleven years, my family is settled down in America now. My family and I love it here. This country is like our home. This year is difficult for everyone and politics has changed. I hope we will be fine, and each family will be fine. Hope, peace, health, and happiness to every human being. God blessed America.



A Touchy Subject

by Judy H.

The first time I heard the phrase “a touchy subject” was from the BBC English Learning Program during my sort-of everyday morning walk. It caught my attention immediately. I think it could be quite a big and pretty interesting topic since we live in a multicultural society.

In the past decades, via my own experiences, as I learned about the Eastern cultures and the Western culture, I understand that for sure they have some differences. However nowadays, it seems more like people of my generation and the younger people are living on different planets because often I don't even understand many newly created words used by the younger generation.

Here are a few examples about the cultural differences. People who live in the Western culture like to joyfully share their personal excitement with friends and even persons they just met. This happens in situations such as baby showers, an engagement, pregnancy, or house-warming parties, and home-coming parties. This happened to me. I was happily surprised when a person whom I had just met showed me her engagement ring. I was truly happy for her, and she received my congratulations.

In the Eastern cultures, these cheerful

pieces of news are most likely shared only with family members and relatives. However, if some day you wear a new, upscale coat to a party or work, after you are praised by people, the next question may be “Where did you buy it?” Or “How much did you pay for it?” Also, people seem to feel free to ask about others' weights, their jobs, their incomes, and perhaps, progress in their love affairs.

Before I arrived in the US, I had already mentally prepared myself to face some cultural differences. To me, language study is a top priority and second is cultural study. The culture is invisible, however. It is part of anywhere you go, anything you do. You must deal with people.

I try not to touch on “touchy subjects” because I would like to avoid offending others. In order to do this, I study local conditions and customs so that I am well-prepared before visiting other countries.

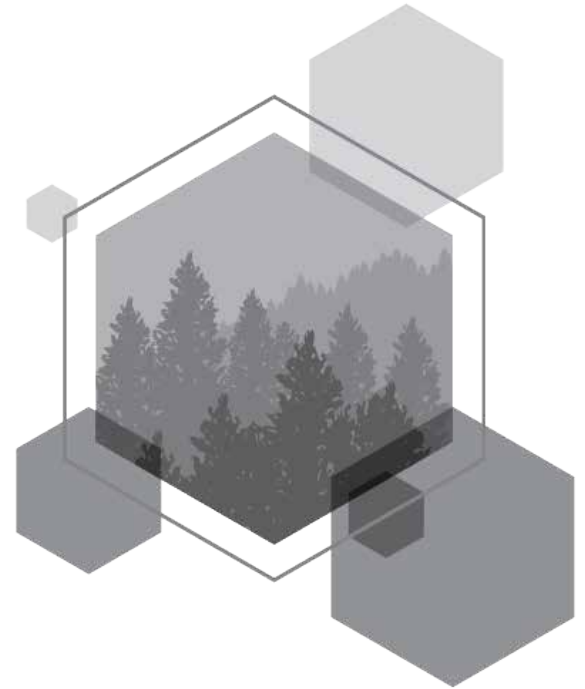


Learning English at McDonald's

by Veronica G.

When I came from Mexico, I was 19 and I had no English. I worked at my first job at McDonald's in Walnut Creek. I started at the dishwasher. Usually, people in the back made sandwiches and talked in Spanish. After dishwashing, I was given a sandwich book that helped me to say words in English. I learned how to say lettuce by looking at a picture of it and saying the word. I used the pictures to learn how to say many words in English.

After a few years, I was interested in how things were done, such as weights and measures and how to order supplies. I also learned how to put all of that in a computer. They train that to workers who are interested. I learned a lot about how a business works. You can see an opportunity to grow by asking questions, and my supervisor was helpful and encouraging. I worked there 15 years and it made a difference.



Old Lady in the Park

by Ike E.

An old lady walking unsteadily,
a faraway look in her eyes.
She stops and starts to tap
her foot.

A smile comes to her lips.
Her eyes sparkle with joy
and she hears music from
long ago.

Then the pain of today comes back,
the sparkle vanishes,
a tear appears.

The faraway look returns and
she walks away unsteadily to
a faraway place.

Life

by Emilia I.

Life is a vibrating energy on Earth, which we radiate in our own way. It breathes in us and builds us with thought, word, spirit. That's how I met Kate in the library of Pleasant Hill. Finest, ethics, patience, love, she radiated. I watched her and spoke to her in my Bulgarian, Russian, English dialect. She smiled. At that moment, I wished I could learn proper English so that I could be worthy to talk to this dignified woman. I looked at her with affection and thanked God that He met me with her. I shone. Kate promised to get me a tutor.

It wasn't long before our shared energy sent Sally to us. We met at the Walnut Creek Library. A woman with silver hair like me, walking quietly, approaching me with a steady step, always coming in time for her lectures with me. I am always in a hurry, late with excuses for disorganization or taking on too many tasks at the same time.

I came to her with reverence, desire, pleasure. I told her everything. She listened to me patiently and found a moment to interrupt me delicately and deliver her planned lesson. She managed to balance me, and I felt that I lived in an oasis where people supported you. I saw that we were the same bodies, but we perceived the

energy of life around us differently. She—calm, patient. I—fast, scattered. I poured out my wishes for success.

Sally gave me my strongest spiritual experience in the state of California. Strength of kindness, warmth, cordiality, empathy. I compare her to the Eiffel Tower, climbing up, carrying its enthusiasm in a wonderful objective environment in which it develops. I was one of the last on the ladder in the tower, but I still went to follow her.

Your life is wonderful if you charge yourself with wonderful energy.

Thank you, Kate and Sally, for briefly living my most productive days with you in California. You put in me warmth in the relationship, patience in communication, love in the deeds that I will continue.

To me you are Angels, earthly teachers in human form. Thank you.

The Story of My Braids

by Parvin M.

As a child I used to have long curly hair. When I was in second grade of elementary school, my hair was almost down to my waist. In the mornings, my mom would part my hair in two equal sections and braid each section and then put bow ties at the bottom of each braid.

I was the third child of four in my family, so my mom was very busy in the morning preparing everything for us, and I would get tired waiting for her to braid my hair.

In the school, grades one to six had to make lines in the schoolyard and sing the National Anthem before going to their classes. Sometimes I would be late joining the line. I was so afraid because the principal was a strict disciplinarian and, in the morning, she would pace in the schoolyard with a long ruler in her hand. She would ask the students their reason for being late. The last time I was late to join the line, she told me that I was a good student so she didn't want to punish me, but I could not be late anymore.

I had to do something seriously now. I thought about a short hairstyle, but I knew my mom wouldn't let me have a haircut. As I returned home, I told my mom a lie. I told her that the principal said so that I wouldn't be late anymore I should cut my hair. At first my mom didn't want to do

that, but with my insistence she agreed. After getting my hair cut, I told her that I lied to her about what the principal said, and she got angry with me. The next day in class, my teacher was surprised to see me with short hair. She called my name with a displeased voice and said, "How could you do this to your beautiful hair?"

But I was happy because I was able to comb and brush my hair myself and be on time for school in the mornings.

The Sandwich Generation

by Alicia F.

Lesson 3 in Endeavor Book 7 is called "The Sandwich Generation." I am part of a sandwich generation. Being part of it isn't easy, but you may have to take care of your parents and your kids. Parents and kids have different needs. It can make you feel frustrated at times, because you have to deal with two different kinds of life. Kids are always more active, but also, they need to remember how to behave around their grandparents. You have to be careful how you say things to your kids because you can make your parents uncomfortable about how you talk to your kids. You have to make sure your parents are feeling comfortable and your kids also. It is complicated and there are many other needs with sandwich families.

My Tutor

by Lisa G.

I have a great tutor that worked with me for six years. Her name is Cathy. She helped me with my reading, writing, and taught me about using the dictionary. We became friends. I would see her walking at the park, so sometimes we would walk a little.

I feel that Cathy taught me a lot about the class and always hearing her voice in my head, saying "You can do all you can. Remember to practicing reading thirty minutes a day."

I'm trying to read a little more. I feel happy that I have learned so much from my tutor.

Thank you.

Every Vote Counts

by Ryae L.

I think voting is one of the best systems in democratic countries. Voting will decide who will have power to govern and the best way to guide for the country and each state and district. Before you vote, you should consider carefully and choose the right people and issues. They should have a clear vision for the country and be able to work together on many issues with different parties. Sometimes very important issues could fail by a small amount of voting counts.

There are still many countries that have a fake election. In my home country of South Korea, first election started 1963, after 1961 May coup, even though we have a thousand years of history. On other hand, the USA voting system started in 1789, only 230 years ago, by choosing George Washington as first president. I'm very lucky to live in the USA and have a right to vote. We know we should vote, but why voting decide by electoral vote over popular vote? It seems like we are losing our vote not counting everyone's vote. Hopefully, it would change to the popular vote in the near future.

We can't waste our vote. We must respect our voting system and show our ideas and opinions to the system by voting. If you don't vote, you don't have a right to complain about our government and issues. You can make difference by voting for the right people and issues. Every vote is very important and effects government and society. You can make the best government by voting.

Vote! Vote! Vote!

A Story with Many Idioms

by Judy H.

Mary and Tom announced their engagement to their families and their friends. The next day, Mary got *jaw-dropping* news: she had received a promotion to become the Vice President of her company. Everyone *went bananas*. Wow! Seems like this may be *ground-breaking* for Mary.

Mary was *itching to start* her new job. She said to herself, "Mary, let's *get the ball rolling!*" She had always been *tied up* in her work, but it seemed to her that *day by day* her workload was getting to be *over her head*.

Tom wasn't able to see her as much as previously. He once made her favorite dish to surprise her for her birthday. But she was delayed for three hours. When she got home, Tom was waiting for her.

It made Tom *pull his hair out*. For the first time, he started to consider their relationship. He didn't want to put his anger and worries on the *back burner*. He realized that up until now he had done nothing about it. The relationship was as *dead as a doornail*.

"Can we have a talk?" he said after breakfast the next morning. "I used to have strong confidence in our relationship,

but since you took the new job, I haven't been sure *which way the wind is blowing*. I hate to be a *wet blanket*. Other people know only that you are a vice president and making *tons of money*, but I'm the one who sees what it is really like *behind the scenes*. I even *heard through the grapevine* that you are planning on becoming the next President, moving on the *fast track*. What I really care about is our future. We need to make some time to be together. I wish we could sit down to have dinner together or watch a movie sometime..."

To Mary, this seemed as if it came *totally out of the blue*. "Tom, you should know that I have had to *learn everything from scratch*. My job is not *as easy as falling off a log*."

"It really *beats me* why you are so upset. I have *no clue*," said Tom. "You are my fiancé. All I want to say is, I love you still, and will forever."

A happy ending: Tom and Mary *buried the hatchet* and got *back on their feet*.

The Army Stew

by Mirae P.

I think food has a great power to connect people from generation to generation and also share cultural background. Since I moved to America four years ago, I always miss South Korean foods very much. It probably doesn't mean only food but also my home country and family. I want to talk about one popular South Korean stew which I miss so much.

There are many kinds of stew in South Korea but this one, called "Budae jigae," has a unique meaning and background. Budae jigae, it literally means "army stew" and it is like a Korean fusion stew that incorporates American-style processed food such as spam, sausages, canned baked beans, and sliced cheese. This stew contains kimchi and gochujang, which represent Korean tastes. Soon after the Korean war (in the early 1950's), food was extremely scarce in Korea; those surplus processed foods from the U.S. military bases were a great supplement for Koreans.

The war ended more than 60 years ago, but this army stew is still very popular and became comfort food from older generation to younger generation. The army stew, this name sounds like it was for military people, but it's not. It was created by regular people and used as a good source for food shortage.

I enjoyed having the army stew when I was young, but I didn't know the meaning or the history of this stew. One day, I watched a short documentary about the army stew and finally understood why it was named after the army. And also, I was able to think about the Korean war, which is a very important history, even though I am not part of the generation who has been through the war. I felt some connection with the older generation and was amazed what they created.

Thank You

by Velia R.

Thank You, Project Second Chance, for help me to reach my goals. You found me a good teacher. Without you, I do not know where I would be. You make a major difference in my life. All of those times that you have gone the extra miles for me, I really did notice. The notes and kind words helped give me a sense of help. You believed in me, make me believe in myself. I give you a hard time, but you put up with me, that's matter. Thank you, really thank you. You have awesome programs.

My Family

by Emilia I.

As a child, I lived in the countryside. Everyone was happy and loved me. I grew up in the field where my mother worked. I crossed the field as I did in my childhood. The other children had families, I had grandparents and a mom. My father had died. I didn't know what a family was. Maybe that's why I lost mine. I grew up free as a very good child and person.

I got married. My husband was my magnet, honest, handsome, well-meaning. He grew up just like I did in the tension and stress of moving his family.

We created two children, happiness and joy in our days shone, a short rise with a long fall. He went young to the afterlife. I was left alone with two children and parents. Grief suffocated the mind, my kindness settled, I felt fear, anger, disappointment, tension.

I wandered, I fell, I got up, I fell into despair again. I passed this tension on to my children and my mother. They worked hard. Together we built sustainable characters. Life hardens us. We are ready to return the old happy days into our new ones now. We are strong together. I can feel how everything turns into warmth in our relationship, meekness in behavior. Wishes become reality, thanks to the time and place we are.

There is always a second chance. Ours is here and now. Together we will build our dream life.



Old

by Ike E.

I am 81 $\frac{3}{4}$

You know it is HELL
When things start to go wrong
Well, they are for me
My left knee is bad
My right hand is gone
My back is hurting all the time
So you see what I am saying
Sometimes I wonder how
I can go through all this
So I grin bear it
With a smile.

My Ladder

by Emilia I.

When I was little, my grandmother told that God is in Heaven and he can do anything. After my grandmother died, I stayed with my mom. She was the most prepared mom, but she worked. I grew up lonely.

I decided to look for God. I wanted to ask him to help me be happy. I imagined I had a ladder on which I was climbing up to God for help.

“Please God, give me a hand to climb the second step.”

He answered me, “Throw away envy and keep climbing.” I did.

“I can’t be tired, please lend me a hand.”

God said, “Cast out discontent.” I discarded it, but the backpack was still heavy, and it was difficult to climb the steps. I decided to go back. It was hard for me to continue.

And again, I heard the voice of God, “Cast out the fear.”

I reached deep into my backpack and ejected with joy my stinging fear. I had forgotten I left it there deeply. I walked with the belief that I was close to God, but

something else was weighing heavily in my backpack again.

I heard God again, “You forgot the condemnation. Throw it way too.” The backpack became light. I was free. I felt I could fly up the stairs. I thanked God.

I searched everywhere, but then I saw only myself. “Where are you?”

“What you see is me,” I heard his voice again.

“How so?” I asked excitedly.

“I am you, because in your backpack is only love.”

That is my story. So, I came here to the ESL office room. Later, I found Kate. Then she sent me to Sally, my tutor. She helped me to improve my English, but I still need more help.

My lovely ESL students, throw all what you don’t need from your backpack. Leave there just love. This will open every door when you decide to go.

Autumn is My Favorite Season!

by Nataliya P.

I like autumn for a few special reasons.

First of all, autumn is a kind of spiritual time when all nature prepares to sleep and waits for a new awakening during spring.

Everything is peaceful, calm and brooding, and is endowed with a special spirit of mystery and enigma.

The second reason why autumn has a special vibe for me, because I was born in October. I associate this time with the birth of a new life, birthday celebrations, parties, and receiving gifts.

The third reason, I like the whole atmosphere of autumn and especially the smells autumn brings with it.

It smells like fresh fallen leaves after rain, ripened fruits and vegetables, mushrooms that have grown abundantly in the autumn forest.

Autumn is an amazing time when you can be in several attitudes at the same time: nostalgia for the past summer, pacification and gratitude for the harvest that nature has rewarded us, and the anticipation of the birth of a new life and new events in life that next spring will bring.

An Important Lesson

by Cendy B.

I recently got a carpool ticket while I was driving my mother to a very important event, her citizenship ceremony. The carpool lane is for three or more people, but in my car, there were only the two of us. My mother was nervous because she wanted to be on time for the ceremony. There was a lot of traffic, so my mother wanted to be in the carpool lane.

I knew we shouldn't be in the carpool lane. I made a bad decision in response to my mother's worry and got into the carpool lane. Almost immediately, I saw the red light flashing in my rearview mirror. I was very surprised when I heard the loud voice of the policeman telling me to pull over. I was afraid to drive across so many lanes of traffic, but I did it. This was my first time being stopped by a policeman. He sounded angry with me and gave me a ticket after telling me I should have known better since I'd been driving here for fifteen years. I did know better, but I didn't listen to myself. Instead, I let my mother's nervousness influence me.

This situation made a big impression on me. I learned that I must trust myself and not be negatively influenced by others, even by my mother. In spite of our bad start, my mother and I got to the ceremony on time and I saw her become a U.S. citizen.

The Small Stripe to Great Opportunities

by Emir K.

Roads are very significant systems in our life. Today's roads have a role in human life. Our life depends on roads. Imagine: get into a car and the whole world is open for you. Go anywhere you like.

We use roads so congested today. Traffic jams are increasing every year. Today the solution to the traffic congestion problem is big. It affects us mentally, physically, and economically. Imagine: driving to work in the morning or home in the evening in traffic jams. It remains only to wish for the best, doesn't it? Everyone uses the road for their own purposes, like for business, education, or for family and traveling. Some people ride quietly, some quickly, some ride fast and violate the rules of the road and some people don't. No matter the driving style, we use our roads to achieve our goals in our life. Our driving style, conditions of roads, and traffic signs and signals affect road congestion.

By correcting traffic signs, traffic markings, and adjusting the signal time of certain traffic lights we can reduce our traffic jams. For example, some traffic lights work independent of the density of cars. Some traffic lights work for the same amount of time for traffic in both directions. When in one direction the traffic density is much higher at peak times than in the other

direction, the light time is still the same. We need to adjust the light time to match the traffic density.

In another case, by changing or adding marking lines on roads, traffic density can be improved in any direction. In my case, I would like my county to add one extra lane at the intersection of Appian Way and San Pablo Dam Road in El Sobrante, specifically to turn right from Appian Way to San Pablo Dam Road. Here, there is only one lane with one dividing stripe to turn right and another lane to turn left and straight. In this section of roads, there is the opportunity to add an additional lane to turn right and reduce morning traffic jams by half. Most drivers in the morning use the right turn lane and there are always big traffic jams on weekdays. Just adding the small stripe on one of the lanes, we can make traffic flow. By making these changes, most drivers may reach their destination on time. Today time is money.



How the Language We Use Can Mediate Our Interactions and Relationships with Others

by Jihyun L.

Korean has various forms of honorifics. If you speak to another who is older than you in Korean, you should use various honorific forms of Korean. Not only should you use some honorific names or titles for elders, you should choose different verbs or put special suffixes to common verbs when you refer to the actions of elders. On the other hand, if you talk with someone who is younger than or equal to you in Korean, it is natural and okay to talk down to the other person.

When two Koreans meet for the first time, they have to decide whether they use some honorific forms or talk down to the other in their conversation. Accordingly, they would be curious about how old the other is and try to identify directly or indirectly which one is older.

When I chat with people who are older than me in Korean, it seems quite natural and also obligatory for me to use honorifics. So, while I am chatting with people who are older than me in English, I have some inner pressure in my mind to use honorifics or lower myself as I would do in Korean. However, I found that in English, there is no strong obligation to speak to elders using honorifics. At

first, I felt somewhat awkward about that, but I could observe young and old people can make friendly relationships by communicating in more equal terms in English than in Korean.

I think honorifics in the Korean language reflect one of the important ideas in Confucian cultures, which is we have to respect elders and their opinions. It is not a bad ideology itself since elders usually have more wisdom, experiences and knowledge from their lives than young people. But I think it is problematic because it often actually implies and functions as the converse of it; if someone is younger than you, you don't need to respect their thinking or opinions.

I did not feel this side effect or dark side of using honorifics in everyday conversation until I observed how people who have a big age or status difference build their relationship in English. Comparing the two languages, I realized that the language we use can mediate and shape our interactions and relationships with others!

Family Together

by Maria A.

It had been four years since I had seen my family in Peru. My trip in December 2019 had many objectives. The first objective was to be at home for my dad's birthday. He was turning 80 and is always happy and excited to have another birthday. The second objective was cleaning and organizing my parents' house. For that, I asked my brothers and sister-in-law for help. My family is very careful about moving things from one place to another, especially since my father is suffering with advanced-stage glaucoma and legally blind. My mom is my father's eyes all the time. She is his caretaker and under some level of stress. I asked my parents to let me clean and reorganize their bedrooms. I promised not to throw anything away without their consent.

It was fun working in a team with my brothers and sister-in-law. We finished fast cleaning windows, wiping floors, washing drapes, and many other things. The most cautious task is when I had to eliminate some papers, old notes, and some expired medication that I found there. I sat down close to my father and started to read to him every single paper or note that he had not used in a long time and also put documents in files and labeled them. I was very happy to work with him and see how precise he was remembering

documents that he had put away a long time ago. Those files were made for him when he was losing his sight. He said to me, "On the second shelf on the left side there is a blue folder with tax documents. Put those papers in the same place." His handwriting was always tidy and precise. It was very sad for me to find some notes written with difficulty, not as he used to do. I could see on those papers the effort he made to write those notes due to his poor vision. At this point, my father doesn't write anymore.

Mom and I organized the closets and selected some clothes they don't use anymore to donate. My mom is a pretty healthy, energetic, and active person. She makes her own decisions and checks twice when it comes to throwing things away. My mom had a lot of expired medications everywhere and some were discontinued. I nicely explained to her that those meds needed to be destroyed, or they could create confusion in addition to occupying space. My mom was very happy while we were organizing things. I think it was because we haven't done things together for a long time. I hope to return home soon and spend more time with my parents.

My Scary Walk Over the Grand Canyon

by Ehte A.

Almost two years ago I went to Las Vegas with my daughter and my grandson. It was a perfect trip. We went to a few very good shows. It was lots of fun. We also went to the Grand Canyon with the tour bus. We stopped by Hoover Dam and took some pictures.

When we arrived at the Grand Canyon I was amazed at how big and beautiful that place was. We bought a ticket to walk on the skywalk. The skywalk is a bridge that is made of glass, and when you walk on it you can look down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I was really scared and didn't want to go. My daughter talked me into going with them. But I am so glad I decided to go. It was a great experience.

My Husband's Grandfather

by Ju C.

I met my husband's grandmother when I started to live in this country. She was old but she was a kind person. She always said to me, "Ju, you should bring your family here. You need to bring your family. Your mother, father need to live with you together." I thought she knew how difficult it is to be an immigrant. So, she wanted me to have a happy life here. Sometimes, I felt she was homesick even though she has many children here. I had a feeling that she missed her mother and her hometown. Yesterday, she passed away. I cannot see her anymore, but she is always next to me from my inside heart.

The Raven

by Ike E.

When night comes
And the moon is high
The Raven casts its
Shadow and calls
The dying close
Their eyes
Their spirits rise
To fly with the Raven



Chinese New Year

by Teresa

This is my story of Chinese New Year from when I was young.

In Chinese culture, the most important day in the lunar calendar is Chinese New Year. Before the New Year, every family has to clean up the house. This means you sweep away past bad luck for new prosperity.

Every family purchases and prepares food for New Year's Eve and New Year. Every Chinese family traditional dinner must include fish dishes. We have leftovers to symbolize we have more every year. We also eat sticky rice cake, to symbolize sweetness and to go higher—better and prosperity. All the family member's come home to have the reunion dinner.

In the New Year's early morning, we heard the sounds of firecrackers. People expelled the evil through the sound of firecrackers.

After 10 days in the New Year, employees go back to work, and some of the nice bosses give a red envelope to each employee, for blessing.

The elders bless the children and give them red envelopes, for luck. In old times, we wore brand new clothes and shoes on the first day of New Year. We put red paper on the upper and two sides of the

front door and use a brush to write in calligraphy on the red paper, "Red Fu" and "Chun," which means good luck and happiness is here. In Chinese culture, the color red is a symbol and represents wealth and luck.



Celebration of La Virgen de la Soledad

by Veronica M.

On December 18th, there is another big celebration in my country, at least for the Catholic people. This day we celebrate "La Virgen de la Soledad." Since there is a coast, many people work as fishermen. There are two kinds: sporting fishermen and commercial fishermen.

Going back to the history about "La Virgen de la Soledad," Catholic people have the belief that she takes care of the fishermen when they are on the sea.

That's why on her day, they do a big celebration for her. Her celebration begins one day before, on December 17th at night. In the patio of the church, which is really big, they burn a big structure made of carrizo. We call it "Castillo Pirotécnico." This event is free, and many people come to celebrate because before the Castillo, there's music, games. It is an event that all families can enjoy.

As the castle is really tall, it burns in parts. When one part finishes burning, a message or image appears on the top of the castle. At the end, the virgin's image appears. This celebration ends at midnight. The virgin is usually in a special place called Nicho. It is high, so on December 18th at around 2 or 3 p.m., the people who

manage the event bring her down. Many people carry her, switching times until they get to the beach. On the beach, many people are waiting for her and a special boat is also waiting for her. The people who are carrying her in that moment put her into the boat with a lot of care, then they go into the sea.

After this ride in the sea, the same way they go back to the church, and the celebration ends with a mass.

Many years ago, the ride was in a big ship that came specially for this event, but one time the virgin almost fell down into the deep, because they needed to transfer the virgin from the boat to the ship. They could catch her, but in her hands, she has a flower called Azucena made with gold, which fell into the deep.

That was the last time when they rode her in a ship. Now they do the procession in a small boat.

The Witness

by Mirae P.

This happened four years ago around this season. I parked my car at the shopping mall. Later, when I came back to the parking lot, I was shocked to find out a large dent at the rear end of my car. I didn't really know what to do, but I just looked for the security man. I waited for the security man for a half an hour and he finally came. I asked him if there were any security cameras in the parking lot, but he said that there were no cameras.

He looked around my car and found a note on the front window. Someone left a note! On the note, it said, "I just saw someone hit your car and run away. And the one who hit your car parked his Lexus (number XXX) 10 cars away from your car."

The security man and I started to count the cars and found the Lexus car with the same number on the note. I couldn't believe what I was seeing! How could someone who did a nasty crime be so brave? He or she parked their car just a few feet away from my car. If I was the one who hits someone's car and decided to run away, I would not stay in this shopping mall. The security man also checked the front of the car and found a large dent. The dent might have been from when he hit my car.

The security man called a police officer for me. When the police officer came after an hour, I explained what happened and showed him the note which was from the witness. The police officer said to me that he would call or send me an email after he contacted the suspect (offender). He also gave me his business card.

On the way home, I had mixed feeling; I was upset that my new car had a large dent, but I was so lucky to have a witness who was really kind and thoughtful. It would have been really frustrating if I didn't find the note from the witness.

It took a while to solve all the problems to fix, but through this incident I experienced that justice is still alive and most of people are kindhearted.

I really want to thank the witness.



My Christmas with the Family

by Lisa G.

Last Christmas, I was with my family. We had Christmas at my cousin's house in Vacaville, California. We had a great time with everyone talking, laughing, and singing some songs. I had so much fun with the family.

I have a cousin named Ashton. He is away at school, so he come home for a week. So, we try to do a little bit to hang out and have fun, walking and talking about school. He asked me, "Are you practicing reading and writing?"

So, I'm glad to have a great family to have in my life. Now I'm glad to work on helping myself in reading and writing. I'm glad to have my family on my side.

Thank you.



Dear Mom

by Lisa J.

That you open your eyes to the beauty in each day,
Are able to enjoy life more after
We go through hard times.
To love yourself so you can love others,
To thank God each new day and to dream of each new tomorrow,
To learn from your mistakes and to grow.
My mother was best friend.
I love you and I will miss.
About a person who always makes you feel good without even trying
To live life to its fullest
Before we can be strong in life.
I make things better.
Wishing nothing but good things
That you will find strength and you have to believe yourself.
Time cannot heal her touch or stop a silent tear.
To state your goal and work for them.
Don't ever stop dreaming your dream.
I cook for the family on Christmas and Thanksgiving.
My son has a job and he live with me.
Possibilities that life has just offered us.
That there are things to hold and thing to let go.

What is the Mushroom?

by Nataliya P.

The mushrooms are one of the species of edible fungi that have a specific structure.

Mushrooms are not vegetables or fruits or even plants, and they occupy a special position in the system of organic world. They are neither plants nor animals, but they have some similarities with both of them. At the moment, scientists isolate fungi into a separate independent kingdom of wildlife.

The main difference between plants and mushrooms is that plants contain chlorophyll pigment, which is used to convert sunlight energy into usable chemical energy. This process is named photosynthesis. Mushrooms don't contain chlorophyll. That means they can't photosynthesize and they are not able to produce organic substances on their own.

Mushroom consist of millions of special microscopic spores that are carried by the wind. This pathway is the main and unique way of mushroom's reproduction. The body of the fungus is called mycelium. The mycelium has a large surface that helps absorption of water and nutrients. Some researchers have shown that mushrooms have very nice organization structure and even "brain."

Since ancient times, humanity has been using mushrooms in various fields. At this time, we use mushrooms for food, for medical treatment, and even to achieve expansion of consciousness. I think that last one is not legal but does exist. There are several main types of mushrooms: poisonous mushrooms, medicinal mushrooms, edible mushrooms.

Mushroom picking is a very popular pastime in some countries. Some European countries, such as France, Germany, Poland, as well as Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have ancient traditions associated with harvesting, storage, and conservation of mushrooms. In USA, this type of leisure is not very popular. There is a very limited amount of places where you can pick wild mushrooms. I know only two spots: one of them is near the Russian River, the second one near Carmel by the Sea.

But where exactly such places are located, the mushroom picker will not tell you.

Tepoztlán: Mystical Place Surrounded by Large Mountain

by Sandra P.

Ding, dong, ding, dong. It's Sunday, early in the morning and the sound of the church bells are heard in all of corners of Tepoztlán, one of my favorites places located in the state of Morelos, south of Mexico City.

People who live here know that it's the day of going to church to thank God for the blessing of the week, and they prepare to go mass.

Early seen in the streets and halls of this town are women of brown skin and hair with braids and their Sunday dresses, walking next to their husbands, who mostly wear white shirts and palm hats to cover the sun that feels early in this place, called the eternal spring.

They want to have the best seat in the church. You can see them walking with happy faces. Wherever you turn, you can appreciate nature. Trees with flowers in all colors, but in spring time, Tepoztlán is painted in purple for many flowers that emerge from trees called "Jacarandas" that have purple flowers and when they fall to the ground, it can be seen as a beautiful purple carpet of flowers.

On Sunday, a market is placed on the main street and many people go there to buy

any kind of fresh vegetables and fruit that are grown in hot places such as papaya, mango, guanabana, guava, tamarinds, coconuts, melons, watermelons, etc.

People from the town and tourists also take the opportunity to enjoy all kinds of Mexican food sold in the street market such as tacos, quesadillas, tamales, corn with chili, even micheladas (beer with chili and lemon), Jamaica's water, etc.

What is really special here are Tepozteco's "nieves" (ice cream), located in all corners of the town, made with a specific flavor of the region in flavors such as tequila, rice with milk, mango with chili, lemon with chili, etc.

In Tepoztlán, life is enjoyed. It is a town of customs where almost all the neighbors know each other, help each other and discuss their problems between them. It is a mystical place surrounded by large mountains called Tepozteco that many foreign tourists visit because it is said that on top of them, people are charged with positive energy. I think some of that positive energy is true because it is right there on top of the mountain, in El Tepozteco, where my husband asked me to marry him and since then, our story began.

My Journey to Motherhood

by Mirae P.

I vividly remember the day that I came home from the hospital after I gave birth. I was in charge of a new baby who needed my full-time attention. Before the reality came, I was full of excitement about having a baby in our home.

However, it definitely took a while to get used to my new circumstance. I nursed him, made him burp after feeding him, gave him a bath, and changed diapers and house chores. I felt lost with my new routine. Everything was harder than I expected to be. Besides, my health was not recovered from childbirth. I was exhausted physically being a full time stay-at home mom. But there was more than that; the stress, anxiety, and absolute overwhelm came up to me when I was with my baby alone. My husband came back home late at night. I was staying with my baby nearly all day. My son was very sensitive to sound and noise. He woke up from all of the sounds I made and cried over for an hour. He even woke up by the sound when I flushed a toilet. So I often skipped house chores and my lunch so as not to bother his sleep. The amount of my breast milk was not enough for him under my health condition, and it made him hungry soon. I tried formula milk, but he refused to take a bottle. So, I nursed him for a year since he was born. That was a big challenge to

me. Because I had a breast infection quite often, I got fever, nausea, and breast pain.

I missed my ordinary life as an old me without a baby, but as time went by, I felt a great change in my life in a positive way. I was filled up with a new joy and happiness which were very different kinds. As these new feelings made me secure and confident so I was able to deal with intense feelings and worry.

Looking back over the years now, I've been surprised by my innate motherhood, loving skills, and perseverance. Finding out my unknown strength has led me to the real me without unnecessary fears, anxiety, and pressure. I feel like I am evolving into a new person I intend to be for my son. To this journey, I am still trying hard every day and doing my best as all moms do.

Christmas Surprise

by Tseten D.

As Santa Day approaches, I'm thinking back to last year when I got one of the biggest gifts I've ever received. From my boss: a \$350 gift certificate for the hair salon she goes to in San Francisco.

"Wow!" I thought as I stared at it. That would pay for twenty of my normal haircuts. Then I lost the certificate. Well, misplaced really, before it turned up in a purse I hadn't used in months.

The timing was perfect; my husband was in Mexico. I would surprise him with a complete makeover when he returned. On my way to SF, I imagined "manicure, pedicure, facial, haircut—whatever I want."

Then I arrived at a place that looked like a palace. Wine, cheese, and chocolates were being offered to the clients. Beauty products were so expensively packaged that they could have contained the gifts of the Magi. But putting my worries aside, I chose a picture of Megan Fox, my favorite actress, from a magazine. "That's the look I want," I said.

Since then, I have heard a saying which goes, "If you have to ask the price of something, you probably can't afford it." Too bad I didn't know it then. When I got the bill, it was \$600, with tip.

If my husband thought I looked like Megan Fox, he never mentioned it. On the other hand, I never mentioned the \$250, either. Until now.

When My Dad's Dream Came True

by Helen G.

This is a story of my experience. I want to tell every daughter or son, if you want to do something for your parents, don't wait, just do it. It is never too late.

When I was little, I often heard my dad say he wants to go to Taiwan where my great-grandfather also wanted to go, but he died on the way to Taiwan. I remembered it, but I did not do anything until my dad had a stroke. I regret that I could not make my dad's dream come true when he could walk well. I knew I could not wait anymore. I made plans with my family, then we gave a big surprise to my dad. Our whole family would meet in Taiwan.

We came from USA, my brother brought my dad from China. When we met in Taiwan, I saw my dad sitting in the wheelchair. My kids ran to my dad to hug him. I could feel my dad was very excited. We spent five days in Taiwan. We walked through Taipei Street with my dad. He looked tired but we knew he was happy with our family. Even though he forgot the place he dreamed about, I knew he was happy. Finally, we were together to have a vacation. It didn't matter where we were. We were all here together. We made our dad's dream come true.

Introduce Yourself

by Anonymous

My Chinese grandparents escaped from the tyrannical Chinese communist regime to Vietnam in 1943. When Vietnam became Communist in 1973, my parents and I had to escape. At this time, millions of boat people died. All generations who had worked with France and America were doomed by the communists to live in oppression: they were brainwashed in concentration camps, their properties were confiscated, they couldn't go to school or take jobs, and they didn't have food. If we knew the communists were so corrupt and cruel to their own people, we would have never let them take over the country and our liberty.

I have been married to my Bulgarian husband for twenty years. We have three children (5th grade, sophomore, and junior). They have been learning online. The situation with the Wuhan COVID lockdown is crazy busy; it is not easy!

This lockdown has made me remember my life in Paris. I love this wonderful city. My favorite days were Cultural Days. On Cinema Days, most people could go to the cinema all day paying only 1 euro. I remember I could see three films in one day. On Music Day, the music had been played in the streets, people dancing, singing. It was so funny! On Museum Day,

entrance was free for all the museums and famous places: Château de Versailles and the Louvre.

Thank you, God. I lived in France and The United States. I hope socialism doesn't own America because we don't know where millions of people could escape to again. This year is a crazy year of the presidential election, the most important in history, which will determine the destiny of America. The USA will either be socialist or a free country for every immigrant looking for the American Dream. I am so sorry to say that the China COVID has prohibited more than 300 million Americans from going to work, schools, and churches. I hope it will be better after November 3rd, and that the vaccine will come soon. Then we will be able to go to rebuild our cities and the world can return to normal life.

Trip to Naples, Florida

by Vicky D.

I took a flight from San Francisco to Miami in early January, 2019. I went to visit my son and his family. He picked me up at the Miami Airport. From there, we went to their house. On the way, I saw alligators around the water. They were lounging over the rocks in beautiful, sunny Florida. My grandchildren were very excited to show me their new home.

The next morning, two of my three granddaughters went to school. One is Allie, who is 10 years old. The other is Aubrey, who is 8 years old. My third granddaughter, Ashley, is 4½ years old and goes to preschool in the afternoon. That morning, we went to the library. She wanted to show me what she likes about the library. There were a lot of games to play with but also, she likes to see her friends and play with them, too. I visited their schools and got to meet some of their teachers. They were very happy to tell their teachers that Grandma Vicky came from California to visit the family.

On the weekend, the family went to the horse stables. I really enjoyed watching the three grandchildren take their horseback riding lesson. Also, I helped them brush their horse. They have to do this before they can ride.

I also enjoyed going to the beach. My son's house is close by and it is very easy to get there. When I was visiting, we would go to the beach to watch the sunset. It is so beautiful!

I was very happy to be with my son and his family and enjoyed every moment.

Feet Firmly Planted on the Ground

by Judy H.

If a person makes sustained efforts, working hard with their feet firmly planted on the ground, certainly that person will have a good return.

If a husband behaves responsibly, educating his children well and taking care of his wife, his feet firmly planted on the ground, certainly he will have a perfect family as a return.

If a child knows good manners and studies hard, with his/her feet firmly planted on the ground, they will have a bright future.

Inspiration

by Ying Q.

Do you believe in spirit? Have you experienced that inspiration might open your mind and help you resolve issues you have been considered?

German composer Gustav Mahler first started his Symphony No.2 in 1888. He tried to restart it several times but didn't complete it until 1894. One day, Mahler was attending the conductor, Hans Bulow's funeral who was Mahler's close friend, when he heard a setting of Friedrich Klopstock's "The Resurrection;" he was inspired at the moment. Mahler wrote, "It struck me like lightning...and everything was revealed to me clear and plain." Mahler completed his symphony No.2 in only seven days. Hungarian composer Franz Liszt had inspired by nature. He travelled many countries in Europe and visited the places consecrated by history and poetry. He says, "having felt that the phenomena of nature stirred deep emotion in my soul...I have tried to portray in music a few of my strongest sensations and most lively impressions." He composed "Years of Pilgrimage," that is now widely considered as the musical style masterwork and summation of Liszt's.

However, inspiration is not only for musicians; we are all under God's creation living with beautiful nature and having

thousand years' history of humanity with a huge treasure trove of inspiration. We might inspired by the people around us, also. I was inspired by reading the book Love Does, written by Bob Goff with my tutor, Ms. Mary. This book is about comprehending God's great activity and living God in daily life. God invites us on an adventure, not a typical business trip, and shapes us with whatever happens in the way. Jesus wants us go with him.

I want to say thank you to my tutor, Ms. Mary. It would have been impossible for me to complete Love Does without your help. Thank you for your huge hours of tutoring, thank you for providing clarifications for many chapters. I really appreciate your hard work and kindness! You are the person that God sent to me! Thank you for "leak" Jesus to me!

Also, thanks to PSC for providing such great program!



Project Second Chance, My Tutor, and Me

by Wenman L.

I got a second job offer in September 2019 in Walnut Creek. It was the holiday season and two jobs both were in retail, and I worked for eight hours a day in two places. I was pretty hands full and felt tired. I decided to take a break from tutoring and get back after the New Year. During the break, I only had a little time reading a book and I missed studying with my tutor and I was worried if my English would go back.

Finally, I met my tutor after a few months. It was happy to walk in the Project Second Chance to see the staff and my tutor. The place is like a home that gives you so much courage, chance, and help. My tutor brought it out that we've been studied together for five years. I was surprised to hear that. He wanted to know if he could really help me the next step, or if I still needed the Project Second Chance program. Regarding my situation, I wanted to work more on writing and comprehension.

In the past five years, I've learned so much in every respect. It is my fortune to find this valuable program and meet a fabulous teacher, and my English has been improved a lot but never enough. I had so much fun studying with my tutor by asking many questions, correct my

writings, and explain the questions from reading books.

What do I like about my tutor? He asked me questions to make sure I understood (I was scared), he encouraged me to read books every day, he got point where I should work on, and he found a way to work on my comprehension.

What do I like about Project Second Chance? The program is very useful, the place restores my self-confidence, the staffs always cheer me up, and I meet so many wonderful people.

Eventually I have to say goodbye to Project Second Chance and I was ready to move on. It is a bitter and sweet to say goodbye to Project Second Chance and my tutor. I am grateful for the wonderful Project Second Chance and generous people who contribute their love, time, and knowledge to help others.



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Project Second Chance Mission Statement

Project Second Chance (PSC), Contra Costa County Library's adult literacy program, provides free, confidential instruction in reading, writing, and spelling to adults struggling with basic literacy skills. PSC recruits, trains, and supports volunteer tutors who work one-on-one with adult learners to help them achieve their individual literacy-related goals and empower them in their work and personal lives.

If you know an adult who speaks English and needs help with basic reading or writing, please tell them about Project Second Chance or suggest they ask for help at their local library.

Project Second Chance

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Adult Literacy Program

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