



Stars

A newsletter written by and written for
Washtenaw Literacy learners



WASHTENAW
LITERACY

OPENS WORLDS.

Summer 2014



www.washtenawliteracy.org

The Stars Newsletter contains unedited, original work written by and for Washtenaw Literacy learners. The opinions printed here do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or of Washtenaw Literacy.

The Life Of A Young Black Man Hanging Downtown Ann Arbor By: Willie Simmons

It was a hot summer day on the campus. Me and my friends went downtown to have some fun. But, soon as we got there we figured it out that it wasn't that fun. Soon as we came out of Pinball Pete's we were targeted by the police. In their eyes, it meant "Watch the young black males."

We started to walk towards the Union. We didn't even get one block before someone said, "Hey, you!" We turned around. It was two police officers. I said, "Is there a problem, officer?" One officer said, "Where are you going?" The other officer said, "You got some ID?" I said again, "What is the problem?" The first officer said, "We ask the questions. Are you students?" I said, "Does it matter? What's going on? We haven't done anything wrong." He responded back, "You got a smart mouth. The way you are dressed, you know you're not a student." "Where are the going?" the officer said. I said, "We're just walking around." He said, "Not on my watch." I said, "Look at all the people just walking around." He said, "Those people are students." So I said, "When do you have to be a student to walk around downtown?" Then the police officer made all of us show out ID and he called and checked to see if any of us had a record. So, finally they let us go.

ESL Community Group Schedule Fall 2014

The Fall 2014 ESL Community Group schedule is effective from 9/1 - 12/31/14, unless otherwise noted.

[Click here](#) for the Fall schedule.

[Click here](#) for the Summer schedule (through August 31st)

If you are interested in reading books, consider joining the historical fiction book group that meets on Tuesday afternoons. [Click here for more information.](#)

Pinterest Resources for Learners

Check out all of the online learning resources available on [Pinterest!](#)

An older black man came over. "Hey, are you alright?" I said, "No, they had us standing here for 40 minutes for nothing." He said, "Young man, I am going to give you the best advice. If you want to stay around, stay away from downtown." I asked, "What do you mean?" The old man said, "They don't want you kind down here; you're lucky they didn't hurt you." At first I looked at him funny, but he was so serious. I knew he was right. They don't want us down here!

That night all I could think about was what the police told me. "We know you are not students." That stuck in my head. So, by me being who I am, I came up with an idea. I called my friends and told them, "They don't want us down there because we're not students. Well, if we dress like students, we can talk to the girls and won't get harassed by the police." So, we went to our local mall and bought the preppy Polo shirts with the alligator emblem, Polo shoes and cargo shorts.

The following week we went downtown to see if we would blend in. First we went to the Union and played some pool. Then we walked around. The police didn't even pay us any attention. For some reason I felt upset because I had to hide who I am, a young black man just wanting to hang downtown. We weren't looking for trouble. We just wanted to be around cool people and beautiful women.

So I just want to say, sometimes you have to step in different people's shoes to see what they go through dealing with racial profiling. I'm not saying all police are bad. It just takes one or two to spoil the barrel of apples.

Bank Account
By: Carol A. Jones

I have just Deposited
Love and Blessings
Into You Bank Account
And the Best Part is That

Idiom

An expression that doesn't exactly mean what the words say.



Example:
She spilled the beans.

(she talked too much and told the secret)

If you need help learning how to navigate Pinterest or have resource suggestions, please email [Melissa Towle](mailto:Melissa.Towle).

Learning Labs

We have begun offering goal-centered workshops specifically designed to help learners achieve a goal.

Space is still available for the **ESL - American English, Conversation, and Culture Learning Lab (Saturday mornings from September 13th - December 13th)**

To register, email [Melissa Towle](mailto:Melissa.Towle). Please include your full name, email address, and phone number.

Learning Labs are different from regular groups in a few very important ways:

it will Cost You Nothing
Your Pin Number is Jesus
if You Lose Your pin, you
Lose EVERYTHING
Pray About EveThing
Worry About Nothing
JESUS PAID IT ALL ISAIAh 53:5

When You Reach Me By: Dafang

When you reach me, by Rebecca Stead, takes place in New York City during 1978 and 1979. The story is about a twelve-year-old girl named Miranda. A latchkey kid whose single mother is a law school dropout. She keeps receiving mysterious notes suggest that someone is watching her and that they know things about her life that have not yet happened. At first she is nervous about those notes, and then she eagers to know who wrote the notes and why the note said that "I am coming to save your friend's life, and my own" etc.

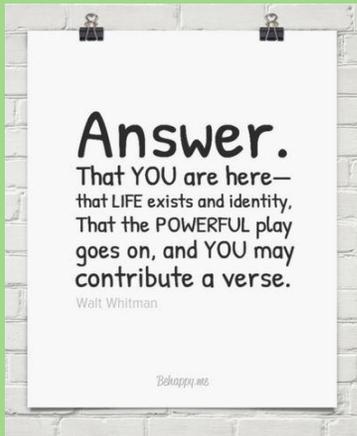
This is the first time I read the story about time travel. I can't stop reading to try to figure out why many mystery things happen around Miranda, the main character in the story. Plot confused me a lot until having discussion with tutor and other students. Marcus, a boy in the same school as Miranda hit Miranda's friend Sal without any reason and a few month later he saw himself as laughing man save Sal's life and die in the car accident. I understand this is a mystery, science fiction story, but if human being really had this skill, we might have avoided any disaster in the future.

⇒ Advance registration is required; drop in is not allowed.

⇒ Attendance at all sessions of the specific learning lab are expected; again, these are not drop-in.

⇒ Learning Labs have a specific start and end date and have limited space to ensure maximum learning for participants.

If you are interested in a particular topic and hope to see it for a Learning Lab, please email Melissa Towle: towle@washtenawliteracy.org



I Love Ann Arbor **By: Snow**

I love Ann Arbor

I love Ann Arbo so flowers in spring and full hope of life.

I love Ann Arbor when fruit is innumerable, Autumn.

I love Ann Arbor when winter is coming everywhere white snow covers.

I love Ann Arbor so there are English teachers who are clever and nice.

I love Ann Arbor so sky is blue and water is cleaner.

I love Ann Arbor so there are the forest everywhere.

I love Ann Arbor so grand very quiet and full of mysterious.

I love Ann Arbor so my daughter an mu son-in-low live in this city. And my favourite grandson.

I love Ann Arbor so there here suitablest live.

Theres People That Need You **By: Marquise McDaniel AKA Qupid**

more than you Know

People that depend on youfor them to grow.

how would you Know these things?

by looking at the people you have affected.

in you they found Security and Protection

not Knowing they thrive on your love and affection

there diseased and your there infection

as 1 needs 1 to make 2 you must realize

(Theres people that need you)

Stars Submissions

If you are interested in having your original story or article printed in an upcoming Stars edition, please contact Washtenaw Literacy either via:

Email:

communications@washtenawliteracy.org

or

Postal Mail:

Washtenaw Literacy
Attention: Stars Editor
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Note: space is limited for each issue. We will do our best to include all submitted stories. But, if space fills up, stories not included will be first in the next issue!

Articles due October 24th for publication in November.

My Wonderful Teacher

By: Adrian Balint

My English tutor is Robin Brooks since 2009. I was very lucky because from the moment we start to know each other it was like a “click” between us.

Every thursday afternoon for 2 hours is a very special time for me because I always have much fun with her. I learn a lot of interesting things and she loves answering all my questions. We are writing many sentences, we read a lot of interesting books and I wrote some short stories (I never believed this can be possible when I started E.S.L.) Also we solve the exercises from the work book.

I enjoy and like learning with my teacher because she is very special. I am very happy to be her students, and I improved in English very much. She make me feel better about myself and more confident.

I like very much the class talking: about the special events of every week, the activities of our neighborhoods, the current news and weather. We talk about the important festivals of both Romania and America, their customs and traditions, the differences of languages and cultures. For example in Romanian language our words are spelled and written exactly the way they sound.

Robin is a wonderful and dedicated teacher, fun and very kind, also she is very patient, conscientious and careful.

Because of my teacher I am now more comfortable speaking and writing English and I am so grateful to her understanding, consideration and effort.

I want to say “thanks very much” to my tutor Robin for volunteering her time to help me learn and improve my English because “the beautiful thing about learning is no one can take it away from you”. Thank you Robin!

What is Love

By: Marquise McDaniel AKA Qupid

Love is caring for another person
even if they dont care back
Love is true forgiveness
it doesnt know payback

Love is calling a longtime Friend
Just to say hi
Love is see you later
rather than goodbye

Loving is painful
it hurts deep inside
to love a person
who dosent realize

Somtime love means to hold still
to allow that person to go thru life
And maybe someday they'll look back
And Realize you were right

Love is taking a chance
even if you dont Know
when people tell you otherwise
your response is so?

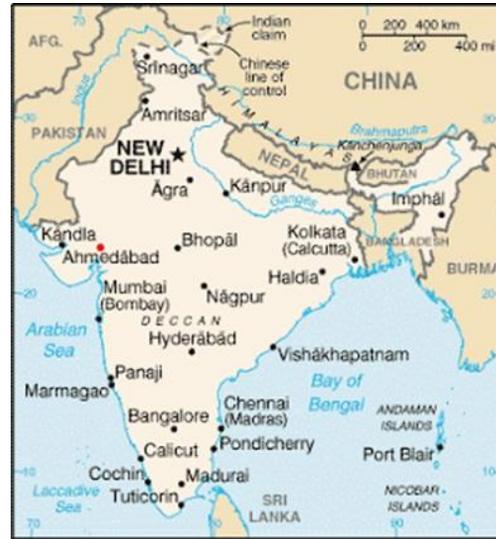
Love is what everyhuman needs
to survive on planet earth
Love is living with purpose
because someone seen your worth

My City, My Pride!

By: Shaivi Divatia

Hello Friends,

I am Shaivi from Ahmedabad, India. Ahmedabad is a city with a population of about 6 million people and is located in the western part of India. Ahmedabad city is located in the state of Gujarat. My city is a diverse city. It consists of people speaking different languages, following different customs and cultures and relishing different cuisines. Few of the languages spoken in my city are Gujarati, Hindi, English, Tamil, Telegu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Marwari, Bengali, Marathi, Oriya, Malayam, Sanskrit, Urdu, Nepali. However, the national language of my state is Gujarati which is spoken by most of the people. Ethnic Gujarati cuisine consists of vegetarian items such as rotli (bread), dal (curry), rice, shaak (vegetables). Many gujarati dishes are sweet and not too spicy.



Many festivals are celebrated in my city. I will provide a description of few major festivals. From the month of January the festivity begins.

On 14th January, we celebrate Uttarayan/Makarsankranti (Festival of kites). This festival lasts for 2 days. During this festival, we get on the top of the terrace since morning and fly lots of kites/balloons and also conduct kite-cutting wars (Oh! it is so much fun). We also eat special cuisine on that day known as Undhiyu (a special kind of vegetable curry) and Puri (a different kind of bread). We also eat Chikki (Sweet made from Jaggery, peanut, sesame seeds, puffed rice) and Jalebi. My city also conducts International kite flying festival that attracts tons of visitor from around the world.





26th January is celebrated as Indian republic day.

The next festival takes place in March. This festival is known as Holi. Holi is the festivals of colors. We apply colored powder to friends and family members. We also use water and throw water with colors on friends and family. This festival is celebrated as a symbol of good over evil. Special food is also prepared during this festival.



Next major festival that is celebrated is Rakshabandhan. This festival is celebrated in the month of August and it signifies the strong bond between brothers and sisters. Sisters/cousins tie a thread (it is called Rakhi) on the brother's hand and in return brother has to give a gift or money to his sister.

The next festival comes in the month of August is Janmashtmi. This festival celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna.

We also celebrate Indian Independence day on 15th August every year.

The festival of Navratri arrives in the month of October. This festival is the festival of dance. We conduct national folk dance called (garba and raas) for 9 nights. Women and men get ready in beautiful traditional dresses known as Chaniya choli and kurta pyjama/dhoti.





In the month of October end/November first week, the festival of light, Diwali is celebrated. During this festival, people buy new clothes, lit up their houses with Diya's and lights, meet their family members, light up fireworks, eat special cuisine. People also make Rangoli (designs with dry colors/oil paints/grains). This is a five day Hindu festival. On the last day of the Diwali festival is the New year (This new year is celebrated only by the Gujarati people).



This was a brief description of few of the festivals celebrated in my city. We also celebrate festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Shivratri, Ramnavmi, Rath Yatra, Guru Purnima, Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, Dusshera, Durga puja, Karwa chauth, Nagpanchmi, Savirti puja, Eid, Mahavir jayanti, Onam, Pongal Good Friday, Christmas and New year. People from different culture in India celebrate New year on a different day.

Thus, India is a country of festivals. Each festivals are celebrated differently according to different regions. All the festivals

have a story/history behind it. The spirit of Indian festivity remains the same in all the states in India and even Indians abroad celebrate these festivals with fervor and joy.



Look On Back

By: Carol A. Jones

This is about a New God Mothe and my God sis That is There for me aLL The Time and Not put me Down They tell me Thing To make me Happy, Thats wahT I Love About Them

I still count on You for so many Things for your words That for you hugs That comfort. for your gifts of time and Help That make Life so much easier and most of ALL for your Heat That has spent a Lifetime Loving and giving you a such a special womaning and you on mothers always, for everything That makes you who you tow arE.

Thank You for everything you do and for Just being you

Relax enjoy it's your special day! I love you so Much I Dont Know How To Tell You You have been There for me so so much some Mothes miss out on been a Mother to There Kisd you laway Tell you Mothe you Love Her so much and That What you To are To me Thak you for been in My Life I am happy I Did Not miss out oN Knowing you Tow I am for Keep iN You Tow Life for me and You To

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