



The Reader

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**Publish your work in
The Reader**

**We are now
accepting student
submissions
including, but not
limited to,
personal stories,
fictional writing, and
recipes.**

Submit your writing to
Katy by
January 15, 2016

kpayne@literacycenterwm.org

Exploring Northern Michigan

by: Hanna Kim, Learner

This summer my mother-in-law from Korea visited. She loves to travel and so does her son. As soon as she arrived we made a plan to visit Northern Michigan. My mother-in-law likes Michigan summers because Korean summers are very hot and humid.

Our first destination was Petoskey. Petoskey is a harbor city and beach resort community. Petoskey is famous because Ernest Hemingway spent his childhood summers there. As we arrived in Petoskey we saw a beautiful view of Little Traverse Bay. We strolled around Petoskey's downtown. There are many shops and it was lots of fun.

We went to Indian River to see The National Shrine of the Cross in the Woods. It is a Catholic shrine and has become one of the most famous and frequently visited shrines in Michigan. It has the largest crucifix in the world. The crucifix was much bigger than I expected and the huge figure of Christ inspired me with its majesty.

We headed for Mackinac Island. The island can be reached by private boat or by ferry. We took a ferry from St. Ignace. It was a

forty minute trip. We were greeted by the sight of many bicycles and horses. Motorized vehicles have been prohibited on the island since 1898, so travel is either by foot, bicycle, or horse drawn carriage. My

mother-in-law has arthritis so we decided to walk instead of riding bikes. It was a very beautiful day and the island looked gorgeous. It reminded me of a village in the Middle Ages in Europe. A popular item in Mackinac is the locally produced fudge. Many shops sell a variety of fudge. We couldn't resist having fudge with a cup of coffee.

The next day we went to Tahquamenon Falls State Park. It was our first trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The temperature was a little cold even in July. We wore long sleeve shirts. Tahquamenon Falls State Park is popular and we saw lots of tourists. It is also called "Rootbeer Falls" because of the golden brown color, caused by tannins from cedar swamps that drain into the river. The falls were surrounded by many trees and I imagined how



Hanna and her tutor, Maria Walsh, have been meeting together since April 2014.

wonderful it would look in the fall.

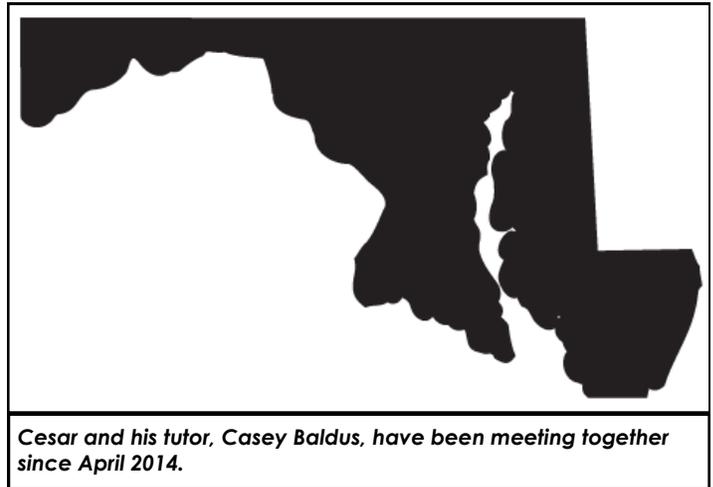
Our next stop was Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, located on the shore of Lake Superior. I was looking forward to seeing Pictured Rocks, I was so excited. We took a ferry boat and had a tour of the colorful sandstone cliffs. We saw many natural formations that have been naturally sculpted into caves, arches, and formations resemble human profiles and castle turrets. The large amount of minerals in the rock create wonderful colors in the cliff. I was impressed with the rainbow colors in the rock and the beauty of nature. I wouldn't forget the beauty of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

We enjoyed showing my mother-in-law such beautiful locations in northern Michigan.

My Trip To Maryland

by: Cesar Augusto Romero-Vasquez, Learner

On July 3rd my whole family decided to visit my brothers in Maryland. We decided to go that day, because it was a holiday weekend to celebrate the Independence Day of the United States together. We left at 7 pm from Grand Rapids to Maryland. I drove about 12 hours! When we arrived in Maryland, my brothers were waiting for us. That day I will never forget because it has been 5 years without seeing each other. Then we went to my brother's house to talk and rest. After that, we went to the lake. We brought food for the family to eat. Next, we went to see the fireworks. Then, we went into the downtown and stopped at a Hispanic restaurant to eat. Maryland is a beautiful state. It has different kinds of food: Mexican, Chinese, American, and Italian. That day we had fun. It was a great trip. I hope we will visit Maryland again someday soon.



Cesar and his tutor, Casey Baldus, have been meeting together since April 2014.

My Recipe for Wild Duck

by: Jerry White, Learner

When I was about 18, my dad got me into duck hunting. Soon after that I got my three younger brothers into duck hunting and we hunted together for many years.

Then two of my brothers moved to North Dakota. That is "duck heaven" for hunting ducks. I have been going there for the last 4 years to hunt. I also get to spend some time with my nieces.

I never really liked the taste of duck. I needed to come up with a good recipe, so this is what I came up with.

You will need:

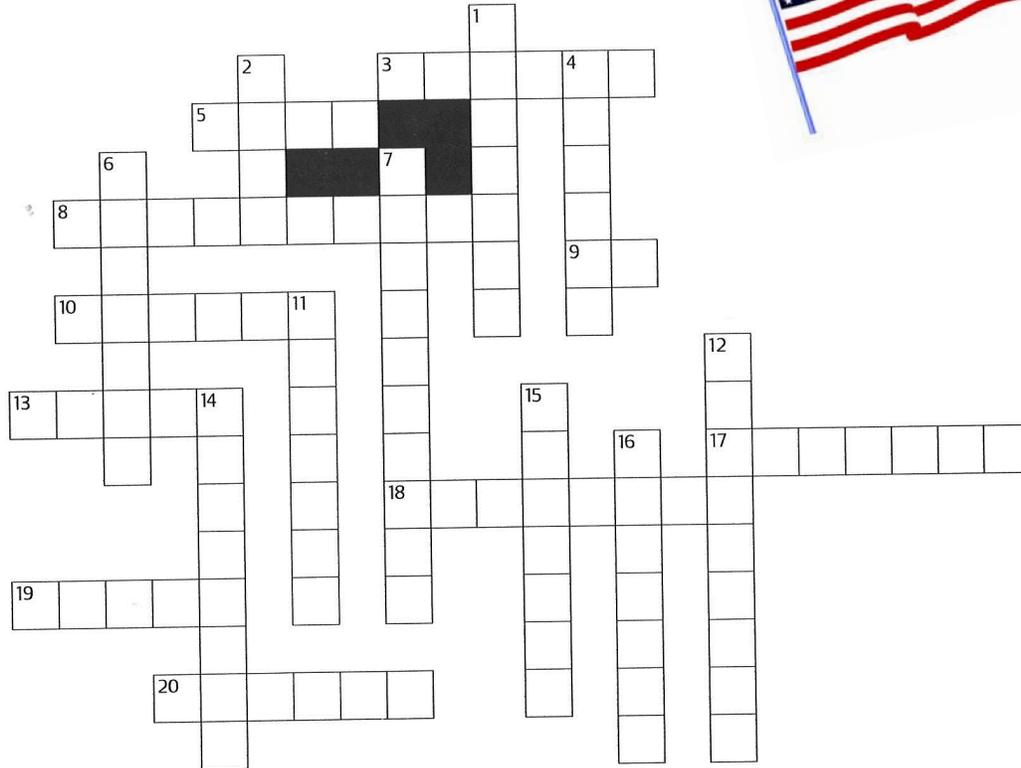
- 6 Butterfly Duck Breasts
- 1 packet of McCormick mix (I use Garlic and Herb rub)
- 2 Tablespoons of Olive Oil
- 8 ounce package of Cream Cheese
- 1 package of Bacon
- Toothpicks.

Marinate the duck breasts in the McCormick mix and olive oil for 24 hours in the refrigerator. cut slices from the cream cheese and roll it up in the duck breasts. Then wrap bacon around the duck breasts and hold it with tooth picks. Then grill on the rack of your grill until bacon is crisp.



Jerry and his tutor, Don Williams met together from January 2014 to August 2015.

Activity: US Citizenship



Word List
 Branch
 Canada
 capital
 Congress
 D.C.
 eighteen
 elected
 First
 four
 government
 highest
 holiday
 members
 people
 president
 Republican
 Rights
 state
 stripes
 vote

Across

- 3. The President is in charge of the Executive _____ of the US Government.
- 5. Only US citizens have the right to _____ in elections in the US.
- 8. The Constitution is a document that sets the laws for the US _____.
- 9. The President lives and works in the White House, which is in Washington, _____.
- 10. The Bill of _____ includes the first ten amendments to the US Constitution.
- 13. The governor is the elected leader of the _____ government.
- 17. The US House of Representatives has 435 members. They are _____ every two years.
- 18. The Legislative Branch of the government is the US _____.
- 19. The _____ Amendment gives everyone who lives in the US freedom of speech.
- 20. Memorial Day is a national holiday to remember the _____ who died in military service.

Down

- 1. Each of the 50 states has a state government that is located in the _____ city.
- 2. Every _____ years in November, US citizens vote to elect a president.
- 4. Two countries that border the US are _____ and Mexico.
- 6. On July 4, Americans celebrate a national _____ called Independence Day.
- 7. There are two main political parties in the US: the _____ Party and the Democratic Party.
- 11. The US flag has thirteen _____ for the original states, and fifty stars for the states we have now.
- 12. The first _____ of the US was George Washington.
- 14. US citizens can vote when they are at least _____ years old.
- 15. The Supreme Court is the _____ court in the US. It has nine justices.
- 16. The US Senate has 100 _____. They are elected every six years.

The Lost Ring

by: **Mirna Lopez, Learner**

One day I heard a story from the radio.
The story attracted my attention.

It's about a man who worked at a hospital. One day he washed his hands and he lost his wedding ring. He looked around and he never found it.

Sometime later a plumber came to fix something and he found the ring. He gave it to the hospital staff and they put it in the lost and found. Maybe someone would claim it. When no one claimed it, they gave it back to the plumber. He took it home and gave it to his wife to wear. She wore the ring for twenty five years.

One day she met with friends. One man in the group asked about her ring because the ring looked just like a ring his father had, which he lost years ago. She asked if it had a name in it and he said, "yes." He told the name and she said that the same name is in my ring. Then she knew that's the ring his father lost.

Mirna and her tutor, Evelyn Fitch, have been meeting together since May 2015.



Save The Date



"After the Santa Claus Parade, stop by the library to warm up with some holiday cheer! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by after the parade to meet all the good little girls and boys in Grand Rapids. Listen to stories with Mrs. Claus while you warm up with a cup of hot chocolate. Tell Santa what you want for Christmas and participate in the first annual lighting of the Library Tree! Holiday crafts and hands-on fun for all ages."



When: **Saturday, November 21**

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Where: **Ryerson Auditorium-Level 3**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Main Branch

111 Library St NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

This event is free and open to the public!



Activity: Citizenship Discussion

Following our recent **Naturalization In-Service, Immigration 101**, we wanted to share a review of the material covered. Read the following passage together and answer the discussion questions based on the information on immigration.

Immigration Status

There are many different statuses associated with citizenship. US Citizens receive all the rights and responsibilities afforded by the US government. "Noncitizens" are grouped together by varying statuses: Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs), Non-Immigrants with temporary visas, Other temporary status, or No Status/Undocumented Immigrants. Regardless of status, every person in the US is protected under the same laws.

The US Government and Immigration

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) supervises Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) hears court cases of people trying to immigrate to the US and makes sure they are following immigration law. The Department of State issues visas to non-immigrants.

How To Immigrate

There are three main ways to immigrate: Employment-based Immigration and Student Visas, Family-based Immigration, and Humanitarian Remedies.

Employment-based Immigration

For employment-based immigration, the employer of the immigrant usually petitions for their immigrant status. High levels of education are typically required. Investor Visas allow an immigrant to petition for themselves if they plan to open a commercial business in the US. Seasonal guest

workers are eligible for temporary status. Employment-based immigrants are not eligible for special tax breaks.

Student Visas

Student visas are always temporary. Generally, the student or their country must show resources to pay for their expenses while in the US. The visa process begins with admission to a school or university.

Family-based Immigration

Immediate family members of US citizens living outside of the US can be granted status. Each country has a different number of visas available each year. Based on the level of demand for visas, people may wait many years before being able to immigrate to the US and reunite with their family.

Humanitarian Immigration

Refugees or Asylees are those people placed in the US that are unable or unwilling to return to their home country because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, membership in a social group, political opinion, or national origin.

Public Benefits Eligibility

Most noncitizens are not eligible for the majority of federally funded public benefit programs until they have held Legal Permanent Residence status for five years. An exception is made for refugees and asylees. Undocumented Immigrants and other noncitizens are only eligible for Emergency Services Only (ESO) Medicaid.

Discussion:

1. Draw a chart of immigration statuses, from short-term to long-term residency.
2. For family-based immigration, who qualifies as Immediate family?
3. What kinds of problems in a person's home country could justify filing for refugee/asylee status?
4. What kind of jobs are the US granting employment visas for?
5. Together, role-play the naturalization interview, which is the final step to citizenship.



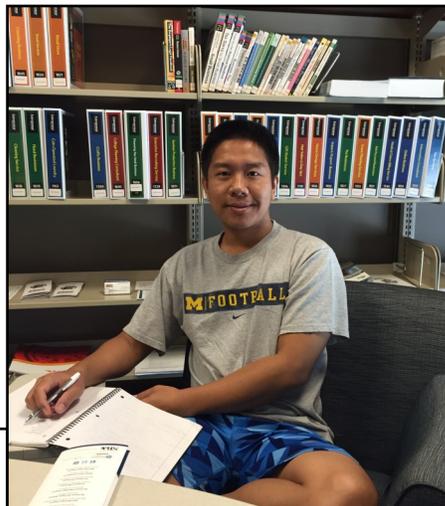
Ellen

by: Thian "OB" Thang, Learner

Having kids is fun and tiring as well as a blessing. I have a beautiful daughter named Ellen. She is lively and curious. She has a hobby. Her hobby is to make PaPa and MaMa busy all day! As her parents, we have taught her how to behave, greet others, and integrate with society.

One lesson was reading signs separating boys bathrooms and girls bathrooms. Not long ago I went to church with Ellen and attended the service. After a while she came to me and asked me to use the bathroom. I took her to the boys bathroom and she kept refusing to go in saying, "they are for a boy, not a girl." I couldn't manage to convince her. In the end,

looking around, we went into a girls bathroom in a hurry. The problem was that time was the longest time using the bathroom ever! I was totally lost in that girls bathroom.



OB and his tutor, Dan Mayhew, have been meeting together since May 2015.

My Story

by: Sandra Martinez-Cruz, Learner



Sandra and her tutor, Joseph Oettinger, met together for three years!

I'm Sandra Martinez-Cruz. I was born in Misantla, Veracruz, Mexico. I have been living in Grand Rapids for 11 years. I am married and have three daughters. Two of them are in elementary school, and the small one is 20 months old, so she is going to a preschool.

I am a volunteer at Cesar Chavez school where my girls attend. I help at Cook Library sometimes because they greatly help the neighborhood children with their programs during the school year and in the summer.

I have 2 years in the Literacy Center program. My progress with the English language has not been easy, but perseverance and hard work in this time is making a difference in my life. I have the opportunity to work as a volunteer, and I can help my children learn. I can say that I have a tutor who is the best.

Tutor Highlight: Alice Apol

by: Katy Payne, AmeriCorps VISTA
Volunteer Recruiter

Every Fall the Adult Tutoring Program likes to recognize one outstanding tutor who has gone above and beyond the call as a volunteer tutor. This year, we are thrilled to interview Alice Apol about her life and experiences as a tutor!

KP: "Alice, thank you so much for agreeing to meet with us. To get started, in your time with all of your different learners, what have been your favorite parts of tutoring?"

AA: "To see the progress they make. My first learner was Jerold Bont, who graduated from Saranac High School and didn't know how to read. When I first met him at the Kentwood Library, I told him to meet me by the reading room. I walked in the library and I'm looking for a gentleman and finally I see this very puzzled looking man, standing there and looking around. I go up to him and say, 'Are you looking for someone?' He said, 'Yes, I'm looking for the reading room.' He could not read the signs. We got acquainted, and over a two-year period he went from not a non-reader to reading at a 4th grade level. He was able to get a better job where he could use his new reading skills.

'The next learner that I worked with for a long period of time was Margaret Ortega. She still calls me now and we go out for lunch every once in a while. She became very proficient. In fact, when she took the last test, she tested right out of the program! She said, 'I wish I had known that, I would have answered more questions wrong!'

'My last learner, Marlin, was cognitively impaired, but over a two year period of time he went from being unable to read the alphabet, to reading books at the first and second grade level.'

'I think the great thing about tutoring for me has been the relationship-building that goes along with it. It has encouraged my learners to hone their skills.'

KP: "What do you find most

challenging when working with a learner?"

AA: "For me, it's sometimes just finding out what they're comfortable learning, or what doesn't frustrate them. During that two hour period, I want them to have some joy in discovering learning. So for me, I think it's being careful not to get them too frustrated or discouraged."

KP: "During tutoring, is there one area of instruction that you enjoy the most?"

AA: "I really enjoy it all, because I try to do a variety of things. We start with a conversation, and then we work on writing and reading. I don't think any of it became overwhelming, because we did a variety of things during our tutoring time."

KP: "Outside of tutoring, what do you enjoy doing? What are some of your hobbies?"

AA: "Well, I'm a quilter. I love to read. I just now started reading *1944*, a book on the Franklin Roosevelt era. I was reading it until 2 o'clock this morning and I thought, "I better go to bed." I enjoy watching old movies, and I do a lot of volunteer work. I cashier two shifts a week at a thrift shop, and I'm a member of a social justice group called The Micah Center. Just last week we were in court with a family who needed support when they lost a son in a terrible accident. I'm also a children's worship leader in my church, I sit on the floor with 22 children. Those kind of things I like to do. I also work at Measurement, I actually just came from there. It's a company that scores essays for high school students in different states, and I like that as well."

KP: "You keep pretty busy!"

AA: "I try to!"



Alice with her most recent learner, Marlin Tower. Alice and Marlin worked together for over two years.

KP: "So what are some of your favorite books?"

AA: "I think my favorite is *The Brothers Karamazov*, it's a really good book. Right now, I think I prefer non-fiction to fiction, some fiction for me is not real challenging. And of course, right now I'm reading *1944* by Jay Wink. I just happened to pick it up off the shelf at the Kentwood Library."

KP: "From your experience tutoring, is there any advice or lesson that you would like to share?"

AA: "I think relationship-building is very important, especially in the beginning. Asking them a little bit about their lives, so they feel comfortable knowing that you're interested in them as a person. And then each week we have a quick conversation about our weeks."

Alice has been a tutor since February 1997, has worked with 10 different learners, and has devoted nearly 1,100 volunteer hours to tutoring and proctoring!

Thank you so much, Alice!

-The Adult Tutoring Program

Literacy Center of West Michigan

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*Bringing about a
just and vibrant
West Michigan
through the power
of literacy.*



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Upcoming Tutor Orientations for prospective tutors

We are always in need of new tutors! Please invite your friends and family to our 1-hr information session to learn about becoming a tutor. All orientations are at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, with time slots to fit any schedule. Call 459-5151 to RSVP.

December 3rd, Thur. @10:00 am
December 8th, Tues. @ 2:00 pm
December 10th, Thur. @ 6:00 pm
January 6th, Wed. @10:00 am
January 11th, Mon. @ 2:00 pm
January 13th, Wed. @6:00 pm
February 4th, Thur. @ 10:00 am
February 9th, Tues. @ 2:00 pm
February 11th, Thur. @ 6:00 pm



Pictured: Ludi Trevino and Ann Sun