



THE OG UPDATE

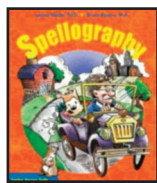
JANUARY 2023

RESOURCES TO TRY OUT IN THE NEW YEAR

(submitted by Kaitlyn Beleckas, OG Tutor)

No matter where in the world, what culture, and when it occurs on the calendar, the beginning of the new year is always celebrated in a similar way. Festivities always seem to include elements of jubilation, introspection, anticipation, and recognition of the completion of another year. Whether you are singing and dancing, eating fancy foods, wearing new clothes, reexamining your life, making resolutions, or reminiscing about last year, enjoy your celebration.

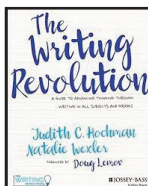
Here at Literacy Nassau, we have a great deal to celebrate as well. We are excited to do our part to move students closer to being literate one phoneme at a time. The versatility of the Orton-Gillingham approach allows us to tailor our instruction to meet the specific needs of each of our students, regardless of their ages and backgrounds. On this journey with each of my students, I have found different tools and resources to be very helpful. For instance, I



recently purchased **Spellinggrapher** by Louisa Moats and Bruce Rosow for supplemental activities. These books provide complementary activities to the Orton-Gillingham lessons that I teach with some of my beginning students. Itchy's Alphabet is my favorite handwriting program for my students who need practice in handwriting, specifically with b and d reversals. Itchy's Alphabet uses mnemonic devices and picture cues to help students remember proper formation of letters.

With my students who have moved along in the Orton-Gillingham approach and have developed decoding and encoding skills, I focus on advanced fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Once prefixes and suffixes have been mastered, I move on to Latin and Greek roots and try to group words based on common roots. For example, I may teach words that all include the root word ped (meaning foot). Together we discuss why a group of words all have similar meanings and how they are all loosely related to a root word such as ped.

Additionally, fluency and comprehension are included throughout my lessons. With my older students we have picked books of interest to them, and I have brought in vocabulary and comprehension questions based around the books. With one of my students, we just completed reading the book **Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen. Throughout these lessons, we discussed the outdoor survival tactics that the main character needed throughout the book. When we finished reading the novel, we completed a graphic organizer that discussed seven strategies for surviving in the wilderness. Using approaches from **The Writing Revolution** by Judith Hochman and Natalie Wexler, we put together a well-thought-out paragraph.



The best part of employing student choice novels is witnessing the emergence of the joy of reading. There have been times that we have read up until the bell rings in school and are disappointed that we had to cut the reading short. It has been a pleasure to work with my students throughout the school day and watch them grow as readers, no matter what level they are starting at.

I wish all the Literacy Nassau friends, family and supporters, a very Happy New Year! Here's to a great 2023, full of the wonders and joys of reading!



January 3 - Literacy Nassau Office reopens
January 7 - Training for OG Associate trainees
January 16 - Office closed- MLK Day
January 22 - Training for OG Associate trainees

SNOWMAN SCAVENGER HUNT



During the month of January, students will combine their scavenger hunting abilities with their knowledge of syllable types in the following fun activity:

Students will be asked to:

1. Search for a hidden snowman.
2. Read the word on your snowman.
3. Tell what syllable type your word is.
4. Tape your snowman on the window under the correct syllable type.
5. Have fun!

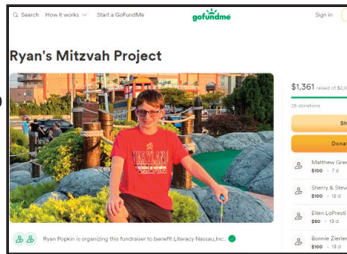


RYAN'S BAR MITZVAH PROJECT

(submitted by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

Every now and again, someone will do something that really floors me. This past month, it was Ryan Popkin, a participant in our OG program. He is preparing for his Bar Mitzvah and decided to take on a project to raise funds for Literacy Nassau. This is what he wrote on his Go Fund Me page:

Thank you for visiting my Bar Mitzvah fundraising page. Did you know that 1 in 5 children have dyslexia? That is 20% of the population. I am one of the 20% with both dyslexia and dysgraphia. I learn differently than other kids and require much needed literacy support.



For my Mitzvah project I have decided to raise money for Literacy Nassau. Literacy Nassau is a Long Island based not-for-profit organization that makes literacy available to kids and adults. I have been fortunate enough to be tutored by an Orton-Gillingham certified tutor for the past three years. In that time, my tutor, Melissa, was able to bridge the gap in both my reading and writing skills. She taught me the origin of words, how to break them down into smaller pieces promoting spelling, and how to organize ideas to create cohesive paragraphs. I was able to get this excellent training because I am fortunate enough to have parents who can afford such an intervention. However, many kids are not as lucky as I am.

I would like to raise \$2,000 for Literacy Nassau to be used to support tutoring for kids who would otherwise not be able to afford it. Please help me in reaching my goal. I would not be as successful as I am without the help of this wonderful organization.

If you would like to donate to Ryan's project, you may do so by visiting www.gofundme.com and looking up "Ryan's Bar Mitzvah" in the search bar.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MAXIMUS

(submitted by Jenilee, OG Trainee)

It is a pleasure to work with Max this school year. Max is an amazing student. Max is hard working, determined, and a confident young man. He aims to please and is always up for a challenge. Max loves sports; especially soccer. I enjoy hearing about his day in school and what he has practiced during his after school sports. He has made tremendous progress during our time together. Max just finished soccer season and continues to fill his time with more soccer (indoors of course). I hope you enjoy getting to know Max!



What is your favorite book?

Frog and Toad

Why do you like this book?

They have more than one story in the book.

What do you like to do after school?

I like to play sports (soccer, baseball, and football) and play with my dogs Tinkerbelle and Dina.

What is your favorite subject in school?

Geography and History

Least favorite? Math

How do you feel about our reading sessions together? Good

Why? They are fun. I like reading the story at the end of the lesson. I challenge myself to get less words wrong while I read it.

What are your reading goals?

I would like to improve on reading nonsense words.

What did you do during the the holidays?

I saw my family and friends. I will also played with my cousins.



Thank you for participating in our Secret Snowflake exchange. We know the notes and crafts made all the students smile!

