



THE OG UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024

OG IN THE MEDIA: MY FAVORITE PODCASTS

(submitted by Melissa Sansobrinno, OG Tutor)

There is nothing I love more than reading but as a busy wife, mother, and OG tutor, I don't always have the time to cuddle up with a good book. In the past few years, I have started listening to many audiobooks and podcasts so I can keep informed while still being active. In the past two years, as awareness and interest in the science of reading has been on the rise, the number of podcasts concerned with this topic have risen, too. Below are some of the podcasts that have been consistently on my playlists. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do!

•**Sold a Story Podcast**- Emily Hanford first made headlines with her 2018 podcast entitled "Hard Words: Why Aren't Kids Being Taught to Read?" That podcast revealed to the masses what many in education had already known: current practices in reading education weren't working. Millions of kids were being set up for failure because schools were not using evidence-based practices to teach reading. Last year, Hanford released a 6-episode podcast as a follow-up to Hard Words entitled Sold A Story. Sold a Story exposed the origins of the whole language/balanced literacy approach to instruction rooted in the Reading Recovery program. This program was developed in the 1960s and promoted a three-cueing approach to reading instruction over phonics. Sold A Story highlights how these ineffective methods turned into big business as publishing companies, such as Heinemann, sold boxed guided reading and writing programs to school districts around the country. Two of the most popular programs, *Fountas and Pinnell Literacy* and *Units of Study* (by the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project), have made millions of dollars for their publisher and authors. Teachers and Administrators all over the country were, literally, "sold a story" on how to teach reading, and millions of school children paid the price.



•**The Literacy View: Real Teachers Letting Loose**- Co-hosts Faith Borkowsky and Judy Boksner truly live up to the subtitle in their podcast title: they ARE real teachers and, boy, do they let loose! Faith and Judy have had a "trial by fire" as classroom teachers in New York, and they have been tutors, literacy coaches, and professional development gurus. On the podcast, they tackle every topic in the "science of reading" with honesty, expertise, and humor! Their guests run the gamut--they have interviewed world-renowned literacy experts like Tim Rasinski, parents fighting for their children with grass-roots advocacy, and everyone in between. The Literacy View is an entertaining, informative, "no-holds-barred" commentary on the state of literacy instruction today.

SWEET ON SPELLING



February's tutoring center activity will be "Sweet on Spelling!"

Are you sweet on spelling? Students will put all their new phonemic awareness, segmenting, and spelling skills to the test as they build words on our candy-box themed spelling board. Build a word each time you come in and take a photo to show off your sweet spelling skills.

Have fun!



February 17	Office Closed
February 19 - 23	Daytime Hours Only
February 24	Office Closed


Literacy Nassau's OG Summer Intensive Program

OPEN HOUSE

Learn all about our OG Summer Intensive program and tour our center.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 7:30-8:30PM
 TUESDAY, MARCH 12 6-7PM
 SATURDAY, MARCH 23 10-11AM
 TUESDAY, APRIL 2 7-8PM

Email Kate at kquijano@literacynassau.org to sign up

 Literacy Nassau
 1 Ivy Lane in Wantagh
 (516) 867-3580

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ADDELYN

(submitted by Jacqueline, OG Trainee)

Addelyn is a 7 year old girl who is in the second grade. She is a sweet, friendly girly girl who comes to the center wearing her twinkle toes sneakers and pink ensembles. She loves all things pink, purple and with sparkles. Her favorite animal is a unicorn. Addelyn loves art and is very creative, especially when she is coloring or drawing pictures. She is also a good rollerblader and recently learned how to ice skate which she took to very naturally.



Addelyn typically comes to the center ready and willing to work hard. When we work together she never gives up, often displaying her grit by sticking with difficult tasks. She does really well blending words and utilizing many of the strategies we use during tutoring and has an expansive vocabulary for a 7 year old. Addelyn comes from an Italian heritage, and is learning Italian in a class and travels to Italy in the summer with her family.

It has been my honor to be a part of Addelyn's educational journey and watch her grow. I have been blessed to have made a wonderful connection with Addelyn and her family which helps us with our tutoring work.

What is your favorite food? I love making tomato and cucumber salad. (Addie explains how she makes her favorite food to me.) I cut up the cucumber and tomatoes and sprinkled some salt and oregano with a drizzle of olive oil.

What is your favorite activity to do with your family? I love going to the beach with all my cousins, and my brother Oliver and sister Valentina.

What is your favorite thing to do with your friends after school? I really like to play on the playground and run around with all my friends.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: GIANNI

(submitted by Terri, OG Trainee)

It is a joy seeing Gianni grow as a reader. Gianni is a second grader who is about to celebrate his 8th birthday. In the short time since we've been working together, he has made such tremendous progress. He is the master of reading red words and loves to guess what the new word of the day will be. He is a very curious boy who always asks really smart questions. Gianni has beautiful handwriting and is currently working on his cursive letters. He has a great sense of humor and loves to make me laugh. He has also been known to pull a prank or two so he keeps me on my toes!

Gianni loves to play games on our breaks and is the undefeated champion of Spot It! He is also an excellent artist. He is meticulous with his artwork and draws an amazing Spider-Man.

He loves anything Grinch related and he enjoys building Legos in his spare time. In fact, Gianni is the proud creator of a recently completed Lego Pirate Ship! A true chocoholic—Gianni favors Hershey's Milk Chocolate and Tootsie Rolls. I am so proud of Gianni's reading successes, and I can't wait to see what else he accomplishes as the year progresses. Great work, Gianni!



Literacy Nassau's OG Summer Intensive Program

Very Limited Spots!

JULY 8 - AUGUST 1
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:15-12:00
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 1-6

Building literacy skills for students with dyslexia, or other language-based learning disabilities.

\$1,950 (cash/check)
\$1,990 (credit)

TO HOLD YOUR PLACE A \$200 DEPOSIT (CHECK/CASH) IS REQUIRED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL OFFER \$1,710!
PAID IN FULL BY APRIL 15TH.
NON-REFUNDABLE (CHECK/CASH ONLY)

For more information email
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