



LITERACY MATTERS

APRIL 2022



Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.

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APPLY FOR OUR 22-23 OG COHORT!

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

Applications are now available for our 2022-2023 Orton-Gillingham Training Cohort. If you've ever tried tutoring an adult with learning disabilities and felt like your progress was slow or unsteady, this might be the training for you.

This year-long program will introduce you to rules of the English language by providing a deep dive into the world of phonics. Trainees will study the neuroscience of the brain and how it functions, learning about ways to myelinate new neural pathways through repetition drills. After an initial training week (August 15th-19th), trainees will be matched with a child who exhibits symptoms of dyslexia, and the pair will work together at our center or online for 100 sessions, which is the equivalent of a school year. During that time, trainees will undergo ten (10) observations from our training Fellow and the teaching team, and will also receive an additional 30 hours of training over several weekends throughout the year. By the

conclusion of the program, trainees will prepare an application consisting of a student profile and three consecutive lesson plans, which will be submitted to the Orton-Gillingham Academy for certification at the Associate level.

Once certified, trainees will be invited to work at Literacy Nassau as OG tutors. This is a fabulous opportunity for retired teachers who would like to re-enter the workforce part time. It's also perfect for teachers who feel that professional development opportunities in their districts are sorely lacking when it comes to learning disabilities, or for recent college grads who want to have a lasting impact on a child's life through non-traditional teaching.

Learn more on our website at:
www.literacynassau.org/whatisog



THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

When was the last time you tried something new? My 8-year-old daughter, Julie, recently took up horseback riding. She has always had a strong love of animals and has been demonstrating her growing interest in horses specifically by taking out "horse books" and finding "horse shows" to watch. When she started begging for riding lessons, we had to take her seriously.

Kids are not scared of anything! At her first lesson, Julie fearlessly stuck her hand out to the enormous mouths of these giant horses and happily fed them all treats. Then, she hopped on her horse for the day, Tonka, and listened carefully to her instructor about how to maneuver Tonka around the ring. I stood by the ring, nervous as anything, while she stoically paid attention and learned new skills.

As an adult, I am terrified of trying new things. I am happy in my little comfort zone, doing things I'm capable of or used to. So I have to hand it to our learners, especially the adults. Many of them have moved their whole families here and now they face the challenge of learning a new language. Their courage is inspiring. Challenge yourself this spring to a new activity. It's exhilarating to see what can happen when we push ourselves.

Karen 😊



Julie bravely steers her horse, Tonka, around the riding ring all by herself by the end of her very first lesson. Now she is learning to trot and canter.





RESOURCE CORNER: COLLECTEDNY

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

I would like to recommend the following website: www.collectedny.org. This site was specifically developed for New York State educators serving adult students. It has a myriad of lessons and materials available to choose from.

One of the goals of this site is to collect lessons that are ready for remote instruction. Teachers are able to post their lessons to the site and view lessons from other teachers. Are you tutoring remotely? Do you have a topic you would like to teach your students, but aren't quite sure how? You can get ideas from other teachers who have already planned how to go about teaching it remotely. Do you have a great lesson that you would like to share with others? You can have it included on this site.

For any of your students who are looking for a new job or planning their dream career, CUNY Career Kits are available with valuable information on a number of different careers. These kits can be downloaded as PDFs directly from the site. This could make for an interesting assignment, conversation group topic, or even as part of a "Career Day" activity.

While Literacy Nassau does not have HSE (GED) prep classes, many of our students have this as a future goal. This site includes a lot of information on HSE curriculum which will help you to know where students are headed and what type of prerequisites you can help them with. Finally, for those students who wish that Literacy Nassau also provided math tutoring, there is an abundance of math materials available as well.

There seems to be something for everyone here. I hope you have a chance to check it out and incorporate some new ideas into your sessions with your students.



Welcome to the NYSED/CUNY CareerKit Project!
 The NYSED/CUNY CareerKit project is a comprehensive career preparation resource for teachers and counselors in New York State. Its goal is to equip students with the skills necessary to make informed choices about their career paths. CareerKit activities are written at the HSE/Upper ESL level, with adaptations possible for Pre-HSE and Intermediate ESL levels. Each of the CareerKits addresses one of ten industry sectors and integrates reading, writing, research and math skills. The sectors are:

- Healthcare
- Technology

Download the NYSED/CUNY CareerKits
 The NYSED/CUNY CareerKits are available below in PDF format. Click for adaptation instructions for New York State regions.

Have you used the CareerKits in your program?

CollectEdNY
 The CUNY HSE Curriculum Framework

In this section of CollectEdNY you will find materials to extend and deepen the lessons in the CUNY HSE Curriculum Framework. Teachers can also find lessons, problems, readings, and teaching materials for topics that aren't covered in the CUNY HSE Curriculum Framework. The materials below are organized by HSE and HSE 12-12 subjects, domains and subdomains.

If you're looking for materials students can work on in class or independently, check out our

For more information on this resource go to:
www.collectedny.org

A Peek At Our Saturday English Immersion Class



The children are enjoying their time in class with Ms. Perper and Ms. Sanchez. Thanks to the Guru Krupa Foundation for providing this opportunity to them.



Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

Kami-Leigh Agard – Mary Alibrandi – Zeba Ansari
 Nancy Benchimol – Nancy Bob – Judy Caputo
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 Stephen Salyk – Carol Schrafel – Vasu Shah – Linda Shine
 Ann Silverberg – James Tenney – Margaret Tigue
 Debbie Uckele – Virginia Walsh – Fran Weiss
 Joan Whiteside – Jessica Zamora



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MIYUKI

(submitted by Bob Palleschi, Tutor)

I first met Miyuki last winter when she attended my virtual Level 3 class. The class was small, however, the other four (4) students had been together previously. She mixed nicely with the group, was not shy to participate and was one of the students that progressed to Level 4 quickly.

Soft spoken, smart and gracious Miyuki is an asset to any group in which she participates. She has absorbed the American culture and her language skills have improved noticeably. She works hard, is not reluctant to speak up, she has a solid vocabulary, likes to laugh and is always happy. I enjoy working with her and I hope she enjoys working with me.

We asked Miyuki some interview questions to get to know her better:

1. **Where were you born?** I was born in Tokyo, Japan.
2. **When did you come to the United States?** I came to the United States on October 27, 2020.
3. **Tell us a little about your family.** My family members are my husband, daughter, son and a dog. My daughter is a high school student and my son is a middle school student. We all love to play tennis!
4. **How did you hear about Literacy Nassau and how long have you taken classes with us?** When I was looking for ESL class, my friend told me about Literacy Nassau. I've been taking classes for about a year.
5. **Describe some of your experiences learning English.** When I was a college student, I went to study abroad to Boston for about half a year. It was a great experience for me not only studying English but also learning American culture.
6. **What are your goals for the future?** I want to be able to speak English as the same as I speak Japanese. I know it will take long time to be like that. I think this is the last chance for me living in America so I want to try my best!
7. **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?** I really appreciate Literacy Nassau because they provide us such great opportunities to study English, even though during the pandemic. Thank you so much!



Pictured: Miyuki with her class is seated to Bob's right side.

national poetry month

Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month reminds the public that poets have an integral role to play in our culture and that poetry matters.

Did you know?

In 1985, New York established a state poet laureate position, which is currently held by Willie Perdomo who was elected in 2021. The state poet laureate promotes and encourages poetry writing throughout New York by giving public readings and talks within the state.

Make poetry part of your everyday.

Sign up at <https://poets.org/poem-a-day> to receive a poem from more than 250 new, previously unpublished poems on weekdays and 100 classic poems on the weekends. Thank you tutors for your submissions.

Janice shared her favorite poem (below):

The Peace of Wild Things

By [Wendell Berry](#)

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

A Nation Still

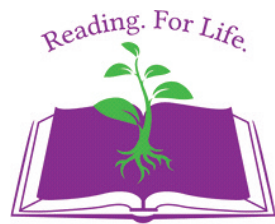
A cheerful morning
Adoring and exuberant crowds
Beaming faces cheer the handsome young leader
His spouse, radiant and smiling, clad in bright pink
Cradling scarlet-colored roses

The motorcade moves slowly
The assassin methodically tracks his prey
Shots ring out
The young leader is gone in an instant
The cheering stops
Tears, horror, and blank stares follow
A brave and stoic widow covered in blood
Never leaving her husband's side
The nation and the world stand still

Cloudless cold days follow
Dignitaries and world leaders paying homage
The flag draped coffin placed on a gun carriage
The clanking of the horse's hooves
An anxious riderless horse
The staccato rhythm of drums
Once adoring and exuberant crowds now silent and forlorn
A little boy salutes

Eternal Father, Strong to Save echoes
The guns reverberate twenty-one times
Jets roar above
The bugle plays Taps
The colors methodically folded and presented
The young widow lights the eternal flame and disappears into the night
A nation still

Tutor, Neil submitted an original piece *A Nation Still* based on his recollections as a 13-year-old, the day of and those that followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.



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REMAP STANDS FOR REGISTER, EDUCATE, MOBILIZE,
ADVOCATE AND PROTECT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING
WITH THEM TO PROVIDE OUR COMMUNITIES WITH VOTING
RESOURCES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING WORKSHOPS EMAIL
APOLIVIOU@LITERACYNASSAU.ORG

Instagram: @literacyNassau
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT :)