



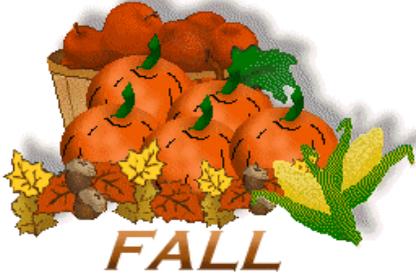
Read All About It!

Craven Literacy Council's Student Newsletter 2015

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No. 46

September 2015



Student Stories

**Send us your stories or poems
for the December newsletter**

My Granddaughter's College Graduation, by Fannie T

On May 13, 2015, my granddaughter graduated from college. I took a train from Wilson to Philadelphia all by myself. The train left Wilson at 2:45. I met a lot of nice people on the train. The train was bumpy and noisy, but it was OK. On the train I tried to sleep but I couldn't. There was too much noise and too much bumpy, so I listened to music on my DVD player.



The train ride was supposed to be eight hours long. We were an hour behind. I got to Philadelphia at 11:55. When we got there, the conductor told everyone to remain seated. He told us about the train wreck on the same track. The train couldn't go any farther. Philadelphia was my stop, but everyone on the train had to get off there too. The other people had to call family or friends to come to pick them up. Some of them had to catch a bus home to New Jersey, New York, etc. It was very sad.



The next day was graduation day. Almost 2,000 people graduated and everyone's name was read. It was a long and tiresome morning. After the graduation, my son-in-law took us all out to lunch. And, on Thursday and Friday, the last days in New Jersey, my daughter showed me some sights and we went shopping. I really had a good time.

My Life In New Bern, by Lah Hsay

My name is Lah Hsay. I came from Burma. I live in New Bern. When I came to the United States, I didn't know how to speak English.

We were here only four months when my husband was in a car accident and he passed away. I had to take care of my four children. Now we have all become United States citizens. I like everything in the United States. I have lived in the USA for 9 years.

A few months ago I went back to Burma to visit my family. I was really happy when I got to see my family. Everything was different because I have been out of the country for 18 years. Everything in Burma has changed and I don't want to go back to live there. I just visit to see my family.

Now I am learning English by going to ESL class. I love my teacher.



My Citizenship Interview, by Gloria Aranda

On Wednesday evening, July 23rd, I went to Raleigh for my citizenship interview appointment on Thursday. Wednesday night I was nervous, and I talked to God and prayed for help and peace. I read the scripture and God gave me a special scripture in His word from Isaiah 41:10, 13. His word gave me peace, and I was able to sleep comfortably.

On Thursday morning I got up at 8:00 am, took a shower, and got ready to go. I took a light breakfast. When I finished, I went to the immigration office 30 minutes before my appointment. At 11:00 am the receptionist called me to give me a number and explained to me where to go to wait to be called by an interviewer.

When an immigration officer called me, he introduced himself and helped me feel comfortable. I followed him into the office to start the interview. He started with my writing test, and I passed it. He continued with the reading test, and I passed it too. After this he started with the civics questions. He asked me 6 questions of the 10, and I passed it. He told me, "You passed your civics test. Now you are a citizen."



After this part, he continued with the questions in my application. He verified the name, address and all information in it. When I finished my interview, first, I said thank you to God for helping me. Then I thanked the interviewer, and I felt really happy and excited for passing it.

On Friday, August 7th, I had a very special day because on this day I received my citizenship certificate. I was happy when I heard my name and received my certificate. I was happy to be part of the celebration and to sing the national anthem and take the Oath of Allegiance and Pledge of Allegiance. It was nice when I saw a video of the President of the United States saying, "Congratulations all new Citizens of the United States of America."

We Celebrate Another Group of New Citizens



- ◆ **Deborah Par** —*tutor, Teresa Bailey*
- ◆ **Gloria Aranda** —*tutor, Lora Lebo*
- ◆ **San Oo** — *tutor, Connie Whitney*
- ◆ **Naw Wia Ree Htoo** — *tutor Ramon Arends*
- ◆ **Eh Lay** — *tutors Gloria Schraud and Geoff Wood*
- ◆ **Thet Mon San** — *tutor Dale Petrangelo*

Learning English, by Aurelia Amaya



Hello, my name is Aurelia. I am pleased with the Literacy Council because they give me the opportunity to learn English which is necessary for me. I like to know people. Many times I cannot communicate with them. It is very difficult to learn a new language but I will try to learn the best I can. I like the person who is helping me. I thank her. She has patience with me.

This Year My Daughter, Sharon, was a Croaker Princess, by Maria Jacome

Sharon had to choose her hair style. She was riding standing in her brother Luis' car. Sharon was happy and confident of herself. She loved and enjoyed that time. Sharon was ready to go and get her hair done. We went to Mrs. Rosa's house who fixed her hair. Sharon's hair took about 2 hours to be done.

Saturday came. Sharon was so excited and thankful. The car that Sharon rode in was her brother's convertible. The parade was not too long, but was very colorful and crowded. It was a most exciting day for her. She had a new hair style, a pretty dress, and was sitting on the convertible at the parade. She was very fortunate to have this opportunity.

