

Adult Learner Writings

Volume #7

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Introduction

We are pleased to present the writings of eighteen Adult Learners in this seventh booklet of Adult Learner's writings. Each year more literary works are prepared and published in this booklet.

Our Adult Learners have Great Expectations. This volume represents the accomplishment of some of the expectations and goals achieved during the past year. We hope you find enjoyment and thought-provoking ideas in this year's edition.

Literacy Action Center
Salt Lake City, UT
[April 2004](#)

(Please note that all of the stories in this collection were reported by the authors to be original works when submitted to the Literacy Action Center by the adult learners.)

My Story

by Joseph

I missed a lot of school because I had lots of surgeries on my face. The school didn't send anyone to help me to catch up. When I went back to school I did not learn much. The teacher would leave the classroom to chat with other teachers, or she would talk about how white and perfect her teeth were or about how her husband was a dentist. I wanted to be an electrician but I didn't have enough schooling. By the time I was 13 I knew that I wouldn't accomplish my goals. After finishing grade school, junior high and high school I graduated. I bought a cap and gown and had my picture taken. I still couldn't read or write.

I tried 3 times to go back to school but every time I stopped going because of family problems. I felt that I needed to take care of other people's problems and I didn't have time for myself. I still have family problems but I am not going to let them interrupt my learning. I'm now learning to read and write again. At the moment I am enjoying reading *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

April 2004

The Happy Reunion

By Dexter

One spring day there was some snow on a mountaintop. The snow was melting away to water. The water was running down from the mountaintop. The water was going to the river below. The river was going by the walls of the canyon to the valley floor. Then it went by a bank of green grass.

The grassy area was a park and there was a road beside it. Just off the road was a big Flying J truck stop. Two men came into the café to eat. They saw a waitress who had blonde hair. She was five foot ten. Her name was Shannon. The two men were looking at her when a hostess came up to them and asked, "Would the two of you like a table?" Then she said it again.

One man, named David, said, "Bill, we are here, but where are you?" David hit Bill on his arm and said, "We have a table now. Do you think you can eat now?"

Bill said, "David, yes I can. I could eat a cow. How about you?"

David said, "No, but I could eat ham and eggs."

The hostess said, "First we will get a table for the two of you."

Bill asked if they could have a table in the blonde's area. The hostess said, "Yes, it's ok to have one in her area."

Then Shannon came to their table and asked, "What will you have today?" The two ordered some ham and eggs and coffee.

David said, "I would like to come here more often. We truck for the farmers. We would like for you to be our only waitress." He looked out the window and said, "The river looks good from here." There was an island in the middle of the river that had three trees on it and there was also a big branch that crossed the river from the island to the bank.

About ten minutes later Shannon looked out the window at the island and saw a little boy falling into the river. She screamed out, "There is a boy who just fell into the river!"

The two men yelled, "Let's go!"

The three ran outside to the river. Shannon jumped into the river and swam out to the boy. Then she brought him back to the bank. The two men helped her with him. The boy was coughing up water.

One of the men asked, "Are you all right?"

The boy said, "I am better now."

Shannon asked him, “Would you come with us to the Flying J to get some dry clothes on?”

The boy said, “ I would like that.”

As the four were walking back to the Flying J, another waitress named Candy was running up to them and said, “He is my son Ray.”

Ray’s mother asked him, “Where are the rest of the boys?”

“They are in the Flying J eating some ice cream and cake,” said Ray.

The mother said, “Why aren’t you in there with them?”

Ray said, “I saw a rabbit so I went to get it. It went to a dead tree lying on the ground and hopped up on a branch going over to the island. I followed him on the branch over the island.

Then the branch broke and went down the river. I found myself alone and I saw a tall tree and I climbed up it and fell in the water.”

Ray’s mother said, “I don’t think you should be running after rabbits. I don’t like when you scare me like that. Come over here to me.”

Ray went to her slowly. She knelt down and hugged him and said, “I’ll always have you on my mind and you have my heart forever.”

Then she looked at Bill, who she recognized as her brother. She said, “What are you doing here? It is so good to see you again.” She gave him a hug.

Bill said, “I was inside eating when we saw a boy fall into the water. The three of us came running out to help him. It is so good to see the two of you again after ten years. I didn’t recognize Ray. He was only two when I went into the army.”

Ray asked Bill, “Are you my uncle?”

Bill laughed and said, “Yes, I am.” Ray ran up to him and hugged him. The family went into the café and had a good time with their happy reunion.

April 2004

Holiday Parties

By Pam

I like to have Parties. I want to have an Easter party this year. I would like to invite twelve people. I will have to make invitations. I will have to mail the invitations. I will have the party at my house in Bountiful. There will be a real bunny rabbit at the party. There will be low-fat food, diet soda, and special colored eggs in a basket. There will be games to play at the party. We will have an Easter egg hunt.

I like to have parties. I like to plan them and make them special. I enjoy being the hostess. Having a party is the best way to celebrate a Holiday.

April 2004

In the Moonlight
By James

Walking in the moonlight
hand in hand together
And thinking about our future
And how we live it today
And the light from the moon
makes our faces glow like a light
from a flashlight
And it feels like we are in a
universe together
We are having a quiet conversation
about our life together
And we feel complete
When the light of the moon shines down
we see our shadows on the grass
We feel our love
And you feel mine
And I feel yours
together

[April 2004](#)

At the Duck Park
By Cliff

My tutor and I were at the duck park. We were sitting on a bench. I was reading. The South Salt Lake police drove up in a car. He came from 5th East through the parking lot on to the lawn right up to us. He ran at us. My first thought was “I am in trouble again.” I was scared and nervous.

He said, “Have you seen anyone in the creek?”

“No, we did not see anyone in the creek,” I told him. Then the paramedics showed up on the lawn and they ran across the lawn to help. Then my tutor and I got up and looked around and found out that things were fine. We were relieved and also relieved that they weren’t after us.

We went and sat down for a minute to read. A lady with her dog rode her bike by us and looked at us with a big smile that said “good job for learning!”

April 2004

My Feelings
By Tiffany

I have a good friend
After I go to see my friend
 She makes me feel better about myself
She is a good listener
She has me walk in my mind
She has me walk to my guardian angel
When I escape out of my body
When I go in my mind
I go to my favorite place

April 2004

The Camp Skunk

By Arnold

Last July, I took two boys to the Boy Scout Camp in Millcreek Canyon. Both boys were eleven years old. One was my son, Blaine, and the other one was Jordan. This was the summer camp for eleven-year-old Scouts.

At Tracy Camp, we saw a skunk. He was about 100 yards from our campsite. He was walking along the hillside. Some boys were throwing cookies at him just before dark.

That night the skunk took a zip lock bag out of the side of the tent. It had had Kentucky Fried Chicken in it. Other campers watched him try to open it. It was empty. So he dropped it.

We saw him many times but he never sprayed. He lives there because there is a lot of food from the campers. Many people have seen him. He really is the Tracy Camp pet! I wonder if we will see him next July.

April 2004

The Girl and the Birds
By Alvin

The girl loves birds.
She loves to hold the birds.
The girl talks to the birds.
The girl talks to the birds in the trees.

The birds chirp at her.
The birds enjoy the girl's visit.
The girl likes to hear them sing.

April 2004

My Trip
By John

Let me tell you about my vacation to the North Pole. I saw Santa Claus' house there. I took some pictures. The town North Pole is a suburb of Fairbanks, Alaska. They have a place to visit called *Santa Claus' House*. My daughter lives near there.

April 2004

Mason Meets a Moose

By Anonymous

My family and my friends, Jim and Jill and their kids, went camping up in the Uintas. We camped at Smith and Moorehouse campground. We got there in the evening.

The next morning Jim went down to the river to fish. Mason and I went to find Jim. We had to cross a small stream to get to the river. Mason wanted me to cross the stream to see if Jim was there. Mason stayed on the trail while I crossed the stream.

A few minutes later I heard Mason yell for me. I ran back to the stream. Mason was standing on the trail staring at a massive moose. Mason's eyes were as big as softballs. The moose looked at him and stared back.

I had Mason cross the stream very quickly but quietly. We hid behind a tree. The moose finally left. We went back to the camp and told the story. They all laughed.

[April 2004](#)

I'm Still Surprising People

By Julie

I was born in 1963. When I was born, my Mother wasn't expecting two babies at once. She was so tiny you could hardly tell she was pregnant. They did a test to see if they could hear two heartbeats. But there was only one. Albeit to everybody's surprise, after I was born they found out why there was only one heartbeat that showed up. It was because my twin sister Joyce was on top of me. And I wasn't given enough oxygen to make my cerebellum work properly. We were both born two and one half months early. We weighed one and one half pounds each.

The Doctor said we probably wouldn't make it 48 hours. Then when we did, he told my mother something was wrong with me and she should put me in an institution because I wouldn't ever amount to anything. But it so happened that she decided she was going to keep both of us and it also happened that the Doctor who delivered us ended up in our Stake at Church. When he was appointed the title of Stake President, he ran into my Mother while she was getting me out of the car. She introduced us as the Cox twins he delivered in 1963. He thought I wasn't able to talk and when I did he landed on his face in the road. It so happened that he spent all of his talk during the conference apologizing to my Mother for telling her to put me in an institution. I showed him a thing or two!!!

And he would be amazed at what I am still learning because my teacher in school thought the same thing he did. But we all know different. There is a brain in my body. My cerebellum, the part of my brain that sends messages to my muscles and limbs to tell them to move, doesn't work properly. The messages have to go through my brain twice before I can move any of my body. But thanks to the Literacy Action Center and a bunch of wonderful tutors who have been willing to help me exercise my brain, I am able to study lessons and words on my own and also work with a computer. I have a computer of my own but I can only type with one finger. So far I have been able to do up to one lesson a week doing my homework on the computer.

April 2004

Letter to My Tutor
By Sadia

Dear O. J.,

I will read and write every day.

I want to read books.

Love,

Sadia

April 2004

My Family
By Betty

I have four children. They were born in Arkansas. Nancy Jane is the oldest child. Mary Sue is the second. Peggy Sue is the third. Martha Ann is the fourth child in the family.

They all were born in a trailer house and I had a midwife to help me. My husband was not home while the children were born. He was on the river fishing.

We had no running water, no toilet, no lights, and lived fifteen miles from town. The bus had to drive fifteen miles to pick up the kids to take them to school and back again.

I was really alone when I had my babies.

April 2004

My Butterfly
By Marylee

My butterfly is my daughter. There are times in our lives when we didn't know what to do to make things better with each other. Her father came and got her and she lived with her father and stepmother, then she moved to Texas to her grandparents.

But I had to let my baby go. The grass wasn't so green on the other side. It broke my heart to let her go. But it broke her heart because she didn't understand why, either.

She grew up fast and is a beautiful and wonderful mom and a very special parent. And she has always been my best friend. When my baby came home, my butterfly came home to me.

My grandfather always said when you have a butterfly you have to let it go, and if it comes back it was meant to be. If not, it wasn't. But God knows all of our futures and our pasts. Only he knows how things are going to turn out. So, love and trust in God.

April 2004

Kissy
By Ann

Kissy is a big black cat whose owner lived next door to me. She worked, so Kissy spent most of his time with me. Then the owner moved away and didn't take Kissy, so now he is my shadow.

When I went to the snack bar at the hospital, he followed me. I looked behind me and Kissy was behind me. I grabbed a handful of snow and dumped it on him and told him to go home. He hid by the building, then he looked from side to side and hurried across the street and went back home.

When I go away from home I tell Kissy, "You watch the house! You tell me who comes to the house."

Kissy "meow, meows" in the window. He didn't want to eat his cat food. He likes a little piece of cheese.

April 2004

Oliver's Story
By Oliver

My name is Oliver.
I like to write about everything.

I'm in a wheel chair
and I can't get around.
People like to put
people in wheel chairs down.

Before I came to Salt Lake,
I was a volunteer policeman.
Policemen always help.

I can't drive anymore.
I liked to drive.
I had a little pickup.
I drove big city buses.
I worked for UTA for a lot of years.
I drove buses and even went to Snowbird.

[April 2004](#)

The Lake
By Sandra

The stream is so blue
on a cool early morning.
The stream sets waves
in the water.
The sun sets the birds to chirping.
A little wooden dock
sets over the stream
where a boy and a girl sit
dangling their feet in
the cool, cool water.
Isn't that a beautiful morning?

Night time at the lake
As I sit by my window and
the moon is so bright and
the stars are twinkling and
the moon river and two shadowy figures
The stars are twinkling
Bouncing off of the lake

April 2004

Johnny Angel

By Ramona

Johnny was valedictorian of the senior class and on the high school track and football team. While not playing sports, he was going out with his girlfriend Becky. Even though, Johnny had many friends, he enjoyed spending time with Becky. His parents were kept busy raising their kids on a limited income. Johnny's mother was a nurse who had retired some years before to take care of the family full time. At times, she felt it was overwhelming with all she had to do. Johnny's girlfriend came from a large family of brothers and sisters. Her mother was taking care of the family due to her husband's passing away. Becky was helping out by working two jobs while going to high school. Even though Johnny and Becky's lives were different, he did his best at helping out the family.

Becky's hope for a college scholarship had not come true yet. Johnny was getting ready to take Becky to the early dinner date before taking her to the Junior Prom Dance being held at their high school. The two of them talked about many things over dinner. Then it was time to go to the Prom and Johnny was driving the car on the highway. He noticed a car heading towards them in the same lane they were in. Johnny put on the brakes trying to avoid hitting the other car but lost control and crashed the car. Becky was in her white satin prom dress and, due to the accident, it was covered with blood from her injuries and Johnny's. Sadly, Johnny was killed in the crash.

Johnny and Becky never made it to the prom. After Johnny was laid to rest, his family moved on with their lives. One night while Johnny's mother was sleeping, she heard a voice. When she opened her eyes, she saw Johnny standing at the foot of her bed surrounded by a glow of light around him. He told her everything was going to be all right for the family and that she could move on in their lives. He also said that he would always be with them in spirit.

[April 2004](#)

The Flower Shop
By John

The man fell on the grass.
He got hurt and he had to go to the doctor.
The doctor told him to be more careful.
He will be careful so he will not fall again.

He got better after he fell on the grass.
He went to the flower shop to get a flower for his yard.
He planted it in the ground, and he put the rose in the ground.
The rose bud grew a pretty color.

He went outside to bring the rose bud inside.
He took a picture of the rose bud and put it in a frame.
He will sell the rose to the flower shop.

He got a job with the flower shop.
He sells shells to the customers.

April 2004