

# STUDENT VOICE

A Publication for and by Students of The READ Center

Winter 2018

## My Dog Spud

by Calvin

Spud was a Jack Russell. He was born on 1/28/2003. My wife purchased him from a breeder at 3 months old. When I came home from work she had just finished bathing him. I wrapped him in a big towel, laid back with Spud on my chest, and we both fell asleep. He was a happy dog and very faithful to us. He let us know when someone was in the driveway. He loved music. He would try to sing along with my wife when she played her gospel songs. He kept us always laughing. He loved carrots. He would do tumble jumps to get a carrot. He had a good sense when one of us was out. He would lay by the door knowing I was close to home. Sadly, we are missing him every day since he went to doggie heaven 1/2/2018. Spud was a big part of our family. It is very true a dog helps seniors to live longer and be happier and healthier.

Spud, you are gone but not forgotten.



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## Love Doesn't Cost Anything

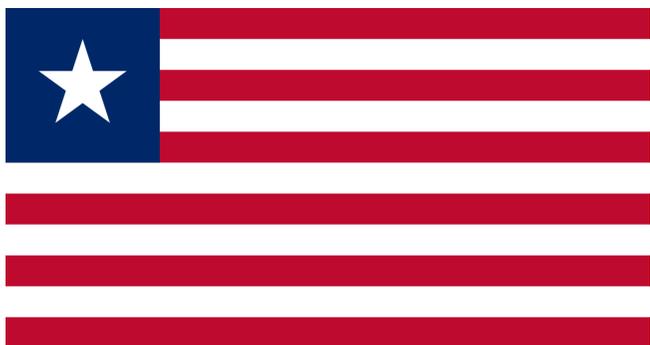
by Kent

If we love each other we will respect one another. It's important to love one another and that is a commandment from God. I need to love you and you need to love me. When we do that we are fulfilling one of the commandments of God, so I will love everyone.

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## 2017 Was a Year of a Good Start

by Janet



2017 was a good year for me. I traveled to West Africa, Liberia to visit my family, and I was blessed with a wonderful husband. I got married, and he is a pastor. My daughter graduated from high school, she was among the top 10, and she is now in college, and I am blessed to be a wife and a mother. I bless God for his faithfulness.

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## 2017 Was.....2018 Will Be....

by Shawna

2017 was stressful and a good year at the same time. I had a chance to move out of my sister's back room, to get my own place so I was so excited to have my own place until the middle of the year stress happened. I was always hurting, my back and legs, so much pain, and on top of that I was going through money issues.

2018 will be a better year. My new year resolution is to organize my life, like dealing with my health issues, finance issues, and relationship issues. It's a lot of issues to deal with.

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## Better Organization

by Dempsey



I need to be organized so that I can do things much better and be on time. Things like work, school, appointments and all the things I need to do.

When I am late for class I disrupt the class and that is embarrassing to me. However, I know that I cannot give up. Also on my job I am late but not to the point that I will lose my job. I know this is not right because it is making me lose out.

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## The Year 2017 Was A Blessing

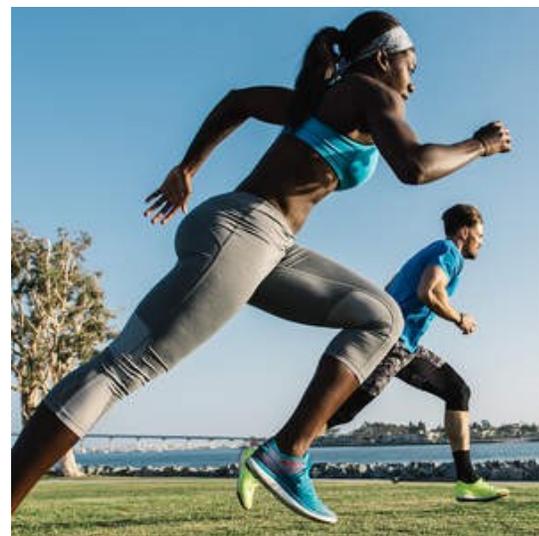
by Marie

The year 2017 was a year of blessing for me. The year could have been better. There were so many things I prayed and believed in God for. I don't want to deal in the negative. God is always good, in the good or in the bad times.

The year 2017 was a blessed year for me because I sailed through the year with good health. There are many people who started the year with us but they never made it through to the end, not to mention those who are in the hospital. I am grateful I have good health and no major illness. I started eating well and drinking water and I have started some exercising too. I started trying to take care of my body.

Now how can I not mention my good friends? I have been blessed with such an amazing group of people that I call friends. They are my backbone. They help me in tough times. They support and encourage me. I am truly grateful that they are in my life.

Goodbye 2017!!! And hello 2018, here we go!!!



## I Hope Good Luck for Everyone in 2018

by Hung

I have several wishes for 2018. I try to support them financially and emotionally. I worry most about my daughter. I hope works less and enjoys life more. I hope there is peace in the world. Then I also hope my husband and I keep our good health. I hope my husband and I stay employed because I need my job. I'm very thankful for what I have. I hope my life stays the same in 2018 and also I hope everyone has good health and good luck in 2018.



## 2018

by Bik

1. For the 2018, I hope America will be peaceful and no war with other countries.
2. I hope the weather will be good and we do not have a bad hurricane.
3. I wish to learn more English in Reading class.
4. I hope my grandchildren make the right decision for their futures.

## 2017 A Good Year Because of God

by Alice



I have a good year because of God. He is good to me. He blessed me so much. I learned so much. I was blessed to be with people

around me, my friends and family. God was good to me. I learned how to do math. I enjoy going to class. I learned a lot and I been blessed.

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## 2017 - 2018

by Dewin

2017 was a year of change. My children are working and could not come home til late on new year and I was at home alone. It felt strange to me. I will likely continue to do well. I know change will come. My children are growing.

I know this year I will be by myself. This year I will do something different. I am going to improve myself and my reading.

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## Giving God the Glory

by Barbara F.

Thank  
you

Since I have been attending the Read Center under the direction of Kay McCall and Vickie Seymour, I read what I see and not what I think should be in what I read.

I also have improved my comprehension and pronunciation. I would like to thank Janet Sodell for telling me about this program. And I want to thank the entire staff.

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## 2017 Was A Year

by Lauren

2017 was a year I read Tree House books. I improved in reading. I think I will do better on tests. I wrote stories about a holiday.

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## 2017 Was a Year of....

by H. M.W.

It was a year of things happening all over the world good and bad. Donald Trump became the 45th president of the United States.

People's sins in the entertainment business became known. People in our city government kept coming up with more reasons to get citizens to pay more money for things they knew we would need. "Greedy"!



2017 was a year of Godless people doing Godless things, lying, stealing, and killing. All the things God's word say we should not be doing. They have no regard for what God's words have to say and wouldn't know the truth if it jumped up and slapped them in their face.

Because most people don't regard the instruction for life which come from the Bible.

If people continue to do the things they're doing, 2018 will be.... There has already been a number of killings and this is only January. God loves people, but they don't seem to love him back. Come on, get real, believe it or not, He'll have the last word.

## 2018 Will Be a Year

by Ebony



2018 will be a year of more work at my church. Right now we are fasting, no coffee, no meat.

I will have a job working with the children. I will be fabulous!

## 2017

by J.B.

2017 was a depressing year for personal reasons. I'm glad that it's over.

It is now 2018 and it is time for me to live my life and stop worrying so much about everybody else's.

I wish for good health, happiness, peace, love and more money!!



## I want to help people

by Priscilla Gibson



This year I want to help people. There are so many people in need of homes, food and money. I can help people by prayer and working as hard as I can this year.

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## Free as a Bird

by Lloyd C.



If I could be any animal, what would I be? I would like to be a bird because birds can fly anywhere. I would like to be a bird so I could fly south for the winter. I would be on my way to Mexico. Birds can leave anytime they want to.

## My Dream for 2018

by Olivia Newkirk



My dream for 2018 is for it to be a very good year for me. I have so much going on in my life right now. I just moved so I am much closer to the Northside Partnership for families where I attend the READ Center classes. I have also applied to take training courses so I can get a good job. I am also in a driver education program. My days are very full and I am blessed to have so many good things going on in my life right now.

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## My Job at School

by Carnelia

I am a cafeteria monitor. I help children that are four and five years old. I teach them to open their milk and help them with their food. I have nine classes that I take care of every day. I love working with the kids.

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## How I Met My Husband

by B. D.J.



I met my husband by catching the same bus to work. We lived in different areas of the city. We worked at different jobs. We sat in the same seat everyday and we do not know one another.

One day he sat in my seat on the bus. I asked him can I have my seat that I always sit in everyday. He said I liked what say anything to me. I thought this may be the way to make you talk to me and it worked. I smile at him and sat beside him. We engage by communicating.

A week later after more talks and laughter I found that I was attracted to him. I invited him to my house. I introduced him to my grandparents. He asked me to marry him to get me out of my grandparent's house. I told him that he can married me today and divorce me tomorrow as long as I am out of my grandparents house. We feel in love, had four children, and we stayed together until the good Lord called him home. He was my friend, husband and the father at of my kids.

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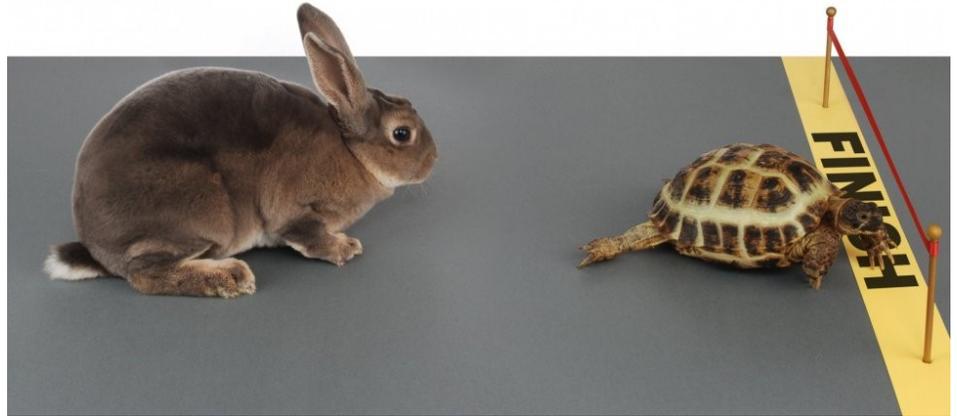
## Don't Rush

by V.P.

Rushing is good sometimes, but sometimes it is not good. When you are rushing a lot you could make a mistake. Because it happened to me, that is why I say don't rush. Let me tell you

why. A couple of months ago, I was planning to go back to my country to see my sister, who has cancer and needs to have surgery. I went directly to my boss's office to ask for a vacation. After we talked my boss gave me six weeks off. I was so excited because I was going to see my sister, my family members in my country, and I would have time to relax.

After taking my vacation and returning to work, I didn't receive any paychecks. I went to my boss's office to figure out why I didn't receive any paychecks. I found out what happened. It was because I didn't tell my boss that I wanted to use all my vacation with pay. I was unable to pay any bills after that happened. Now I know that if I do something I need to be specific or double check, and not rush anymore.



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## The Ups and Downs of Life

by George M.

I am in the same situation as the person in a story our class is reading about. I had a nice job, nice truck, health and life insurance and everything. But I lost my job which meant I lost my health insurance. Then the engine in my truck gave out. I don't have the money to get another one. You never know in this world what may happen to you. You just have to take things day by day and minute by minute.

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## 2018 is the Year for ...

by H.M.W.

This is the year for government to take responsibility for the violence that is happening in our entertainment industry. Those people are out of control. If a child can learn from “Sesame Street“, then an adult can learn from “How to Get Away with Murder”.



It's the leader's job of the country to protect us from violence at all costs. They all could learn a lesson from Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:7-24). Everyone can learn from someone else, that's why we have history to learn from. There are those who sit around all day watching TV. They need to renew their mind. “Renew the mind, stop the crime”.

God loves you (John 3:16). He is here for us all. We can find Him in His words, which is the BIBLE. Don't hate the messenger just receive the message, believe it or not. GOD ALMIGHTY will have the last word.

## People Be Stressing

by C.W.



People are stressed out because of their problems!

Their jobs, cars, homes, bill, money, spouses and many other things can trigger stress.

When you're in love with your husband or wife, it can be stressful or it can be beautiful.

Whether it is stressful or beautiful depends on how much work people are willing to put in.

## Why I Like TV

by Viola

TV can be educational because it has things to teach about ABCs. It can also teach you how to sound out letters and how to live everyday life. I can learn more about the Bible by watching TV.

TV tells you about people you do not know, such as movie stars. You can also learn about different people and your president and government. It can tell you about people around the world.

The news tells you everything about people whether it is good or bad. Bad news tells about people killing each other. Good news tells about rescuing animals and people.

**February is:**

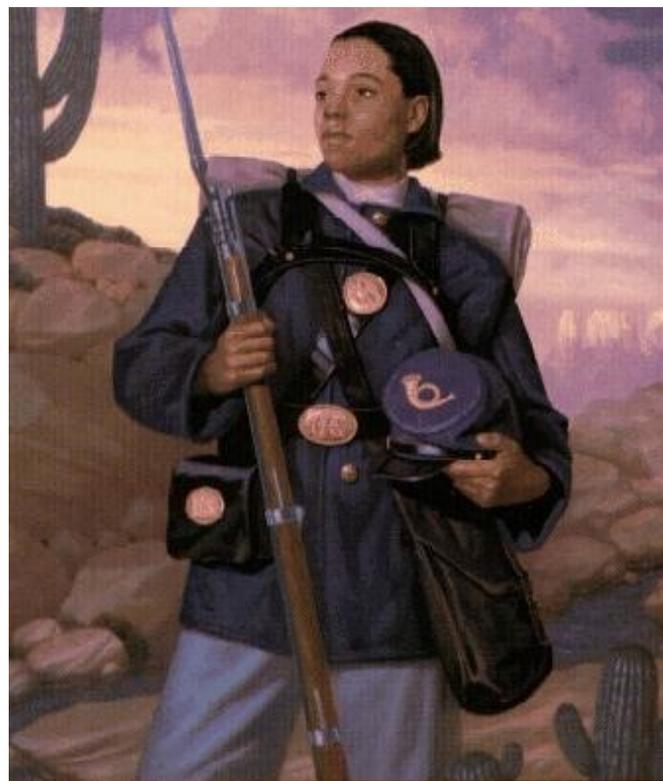


## **The Buffalo Woman**

*by C.P.*

Cathay Williams was the only known female African American Buffalo Soldier. She was the first black woman to be documented for her service in the U.S. Army before women were officially allowed to enlist. She was born in September of 1844 Independence, Missouri.

Williams herself was born into slavery. As a child, Williams was moved to Johnsons home, in Jefferson City where she worked as a domestic servant. At the onset of the Civil War, Union soldiers seized the farm, and the 16-year-old Williams was absorbed into the migrations of the Union Army.



## **The Black Museum**

*by Nettie B*

I went to the Black Museum in Washington, DC. It is an amazing place to see. It has a lot of good history all about old stuff. Chuck Berry's red convertible is in the museum and there are also beautiful pictures, records and costumes.

## My First Day

by Tamara M.



On my first day in class I didn't want to say anything because I was shy. When my tutor sat beside me I felt better. My teacher is very nice because you can ask her anything. My classmates are very friendly. I am going home to Jamaica and I will miss my class.

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## The Joy of Cigarettes

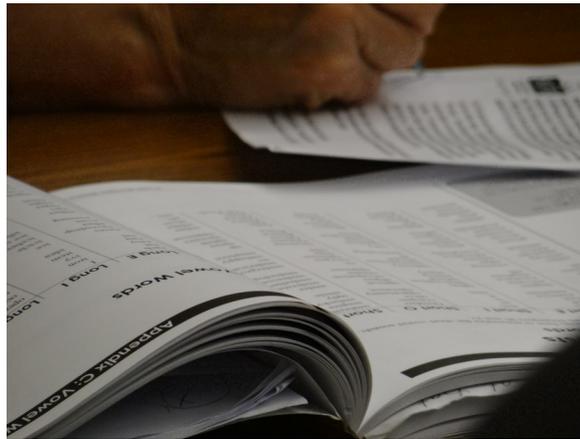
by Lanee



I love to smoke cigarettes. Cigarettes are very addictive. A pack of cigarettes cost \$5.50. I like the smooth taste. When I don't have cigarettes I feel Bi-polar. Cigarettes are an important part of my life.

## A Bad Day

by E.V.



Some days I'm happy, and others mad. Because of my own problems, I like to come to class to see smiles. A good vibe and to work on my reading.

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## I Like Fishing

by Lloyd Callahan



I like riding with my friend Jeremiah's big brown horse. We ride to the pond to go fishing. On hot summer days it is a lot of fun. Fishing on the pond can be hard work but we have a good time together, me, Jeremiah and his horse.

Sometimes we even catch fish!

## Cleaning My Room

by Andretta Long

I stopped and looked at my room. I decided that it was time for a change!

It seemed that cleaning the room was going to be easy and fast until I started.

At times, I felt overwhelmed.

My eyes widened and I started getting hot!

All I'm thinking about is, "why did I decide to clean my room today?"

I'm trying to figure out how my room get like this!

Cleaning my room is going to be a challenge.

The first thing I decided to do was to get very large trash bags to put my things in.

While I was bagging everything, I realized I have a lot of stuff. I have things since middle school. I'm now in my 30's. I threw away 20 or more bags of clothes, old pictures, and papers. The rest of the bags were put in the hallway to get some space in the room. The things in the hallway, I looked through them and put them back in my room.

Now, I am finished cleaning my room!

Like I said, at first, I was overwhelmed, but I feel like it was worth it.

All of my old things I did not need are gone.

When it's time for me to pack my room up and move out, it will be easy.

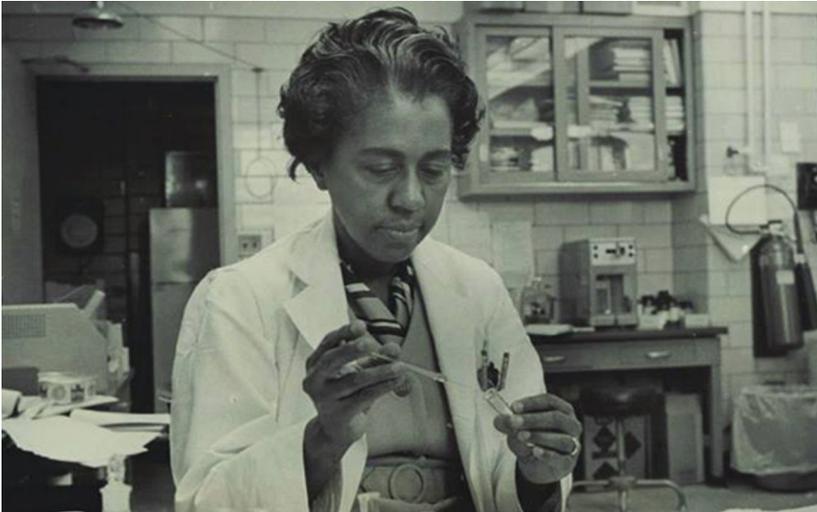
Thank God I'm done!!



### What is a Blog?

A blog is an online journal that can be used to share news, ideas, thoughts, photos, artwork, and much more.

READ Center students are invited to write for READ's blog. Would you like to share something on The READ Center blog? Let your teacher know!



*A famous Marie! Marie M. Daly was the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in chemistry in the United States.*

## What's in a Name?

*by Marie*

The name Marie means exulted of God, but when you google it now, it has a different meaning.

My middle name is Therese. I do not know the meaning of it. There are not a lot of people who know me by my middle name. When someone calls me by my middle name, they really do know me.

My last name is Gomez. This is my

father's last name and my father's father's last name, so I don't know where it came from. I came from the Gomez family.

I really don't know anything about my name. The only thing I know about it is that I was named after my grandmother on my mom's side and that's all.

## What's In a Name?

*by Dewin*

My name is Dewin. My parents choose that name for me after my dad won argument. My middle name is Doris. My sister name me that because she like the name Doris. My last name is Tailey which means, to mean what you say.

*if you say it*  
**MEAN IT**

## Life in Africa vs. Life in America

by Isatu Bangura



Life in America is so much better than life in Africa. Jobs are plentiful if you are educated. There are more opportunities in America. Several grocery stores and car dealerships are all around the U.S.A.

In Africa, jobs are hard to find even if you finish high school. To get an education in Africa you have to pay your school fees, but in America public education is free. America has so many different jobs to offer and opportunities for employment.

In Africa, if you did not have money to buy a car, you cannot drive. In America, even if you do not have money, you can go to dealerships if your credit is good and purchase a new car.

In Africa, you have to go to the market place to buy food. In America, there are lots of grocery stores where you can buy food without walking long distances. There are lots of opportunities to work and less manual labor in America compared to Africa where people work under sun and rain to make sure they have their crops watered without using machinery.

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### I want to travel in 2018

by Lloyd Haughton

I have decided that I am going to travel and see my family this year. I am very fortunate. I have family in New York City, Florida and Jamaica. It is good to have so many places to go.

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**Janine**  
*by J.B.*



I am that girl who used to think about how people would look at me because I couldn't read or write. In school, I was that kid that would get in trouble when the teacher would call on me to read in front of the class. I must have done the 10th grade for two years before I decided to drop out.

Most of my life I was ashamed and embarrassed because I couldn't read or write. I was a little discouraged because I couldn't get the jobs that I wanted, so "I just gave up."

I was in my late 40's when I came across a program called the READ Center and I'm so glad that I found it. I've been here for about 2 years now. The tutors and the students are wonderful. We have one-on-one sessions with the tutors and the students help each other out at times. Nobody judges anybody.

I just want to thank the READ Center and the tutors for helping people like me out. I just wish I came across the READ Center 30 years ago. I could have been a tutor helping somebody like me out.

Who knows? Maybe one day I'll be able to give back like I am being given.

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## 2017 Was a Year

by Samuel

In 2017 we had dinner for Christmas Day for our family. It was good for all the family to be together. It is important to me that my whole family get together once a year. I am thankful for my health and I hope it stays the same in 2018.



## My First Christmas with my Wife

by Lloyd B.

To know what I wanted to give my wife for Christmas I had to learn things about her. I learned the things she likes and dislikes. As we did things together I would watch her when we went shopping. I would notice her as we walked around the store. She would look at certain things that she liked one thing would always catch her eyes that I would notice. She would always look at a stand mixer so I would ask her to buy it but she would say she don't have the money. So I decided I would get it for a Christmas present for her. On the day of Christmas she was opening up her presents When she got to the mixer her eyes open up she was so happy when she saw the blue mixer and she gave me a big hug.

## My Friend and I Went Shopping

by Reginald Grant

My friend and I went to the store to buy more things. We bought a TV and a DVD player. The TV was a 40inch flat screen. It was a good price.

I wanted it for a long time. I put it in our family room because it was a family gift. We enjoy watching the TV.

The family watch more movies, and they spend more time together.





## My Family

by Floyd A.

I grew up in a big family. There were eleven of us. Eight boys and three girls. Three brothers and one sister have passed.

When we get together with all of my family, there are close to 75 kids and adults. So, it takes a lot of planning.

The planning starts when brothers and sisters get together to decide what food, drinks, music and other things we need. We always get together at the home place in the country. We always have a good time when we gather.

Before everyone goes home, we say a prayer to make sure everyone gets home safely. We will see you next year!

## My Brother, My Best Friend

by Harry

My name is Harry. I have three sisters and nine brothers. Out of my siblings, my brother, William Ellis, was my best friend. He and I were very close and we stayed in contact with each other all the time. William was a very nice guy and a wonderful person. He would do anything for anyone at any time. That's how nice he really was. My brother, William would loan you or give you anything he had if he thought it would help you.



We lost him from a blood clot to his heart on December 17th, 2017. The family is still having a hard time dealing with his death. When he was sick, my wife and I would go and visit him every day. Even though William was two years younger than me, I could always depend on my favorite brother. I will always miss him.

## Saving For a Rainy Day Means....

**by Alice**

Saving for a rainy day means saving for bus tickets and medicine. It means putting money a side for the future. Also thinking ahead about what you are going to need instead of what I want right now.



**by Ebony**

Saving for a rainy day means being ready for an emergency. I need food because I ran out of food. Somebody ate all the food. I'm saving money for care van tickets.

**by J.B.**

Rainy days are unexpected so you will never know when they will come. So my Nana used to say "you will never know when you are going to need extra money, so you have to put a little money to the side."

You can't count on your job. You never know when you're going to be let go. You never know when your car may break down. You just never know what can go wrong.

So I came up with an idea. To start you will need a wine bottle or a liquor bottle, because it's hard to get into. You are to put \$5.00 in the bottle or more, every time you have a little extra money, and let that build up for a year. So let's say you started Feb 1st, you cannot touch that bottle until the next year on Feb 1st. You count the money and see how much you save for that year, then you can restart it for the next year.

Besides your savings account, I think everybody should have a stash somewhere. You never know when you're going to need it.

And that's what you call saving for a rainy day....

**by Shawna**

That can mean a lot of different things. The meaning to me is to be prepared with different things. For example, put some money in saving account when you are having a rough year to fall back on. Also the weather, keep a eye on the weather to see if you need a umbrella or not. You don't know what to expect.

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**by Lauren**

I wear a raincoat, umbrella and snow boots. I will save money for emergency. We need light and some foods.

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**by Samuel**

Saving for a rainy day means insurance co-payment, mechanical issues, home appliance issues, children's needs, and many unexpected issues. Therefore, saving for a rainy day is critical, especially with the economy the way it is today.

**by Hung**

If I am saving for future, I would like to save some money in the bank in case I need it if I am laid off so I have money to take care of my bills. First is house payment and utilities and money for the food and car insurance. Also, if my car breaks down I would need money to fix it.

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**by Janet**

It is good to save because things happen unexpectedly. If the unexpected comes then you know where to run and get money to solve that problem and you wouldn't worry about nothing.

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**by Mary**

Saving for a rainy day means saving money for a day when you cannot go to work or something happens that you did not expect or plan on.



## Moffee Moth

by Stephen Solomon

This story is called “Moffee Moth.” Moffee was born in the forest. He is a silk worm.

But one day the wind starts to blow. The wind blew the leaf and he flew to the other side.

Now, he lives in a tree.

Moffee found a pile of leaves and it was good to eat a lot. Then he became full and he started to make a cocoon. But suddenly a bird came to make a nest. The bird thought, it’s an egg.

The bird said, “Whose egg is this?” Nobody came, so the bird began keeping the egg warm.

One day, the cocoon came out and he saw Moffee Moth. The bird gasped and flew around to circle. Moffee said, “What are you doing in the bird’s nest?”

The bird said, “this is a tree, home of the birds, where all birds live!”

## Living in Virginia

by Lance F. Smith

I lived in New Jersey a long time. I needed a change in my life so after fifty years I decided to move south with my wife.

My dream place to live is Virginia. Why? Some people are laid back. I love coming to the READ

Center, my tutor Rich works with

me in reading and math. People are friendly in Virginia, in church, in school in stores and on the street.

I have to laugh when it snows in Virginia, things close over nothing. People get worried when they hear the word snow.

I stay home where I am safe.



## Cold Weather

by A.C.B.



I did not like the cold weather during the holiday. It was so cold and all I wanted to do was to stay inside the house. Finally I went to the gym to exercise. I stayed as long as I wanted to stay and talked with people. They were doing the same things I was doing. I am looking forward to the change of weather to come and pray it is much better soon.

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## What Weather We Are Having!

by Asheeda Solomon

Different weather effect people across the United States. Part of the country suffered with fire. Then came the rain, followed by mudslides! Rescuers are trying to locate missing people to take them to safe ground. People have been left with no water, no electricity, or homes.

A bomb cyclone caused a blizzard on the other side of the country. The cold temperatures caused pipes to burst. People were left without water. Half of the country was in a deep freeze.

Even with all the bad weather and suffering, people still came together to help each other.

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## Bad Weather and Missing Class

by Karl L.



With the snow and cold, wet wind blowing I've been set back some. The weather is becoming the pain in my butt and I'm tired of it making me sick! Missing class because of the snow is a big pain. It sets you back and makes you fall behind with both class and work. The snow and cold weather is what causes this to happen. It makes me mad and I've had enough of it all!

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## My New Truck

by Floyd

I just bought a new truck. It is a Ford 2001 model Windstar and it is black. It has a back seat and has an automatic transmission with 4 wheel drive.

I am going to haul cardboard in it.

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## Shopping for a Car

by Andres

My friend and I went shopping for a car, but I didn't like any of the cars.

I went to a different dealer and I saw the car I liked, but it was too expensive!

So, I went to a third dealer. I saw the car I liked and I bought it.

Now I have a car!

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## My 1987 Chevy Lowrider

by Shorty

I am building a 1987 Chevy pickup from the ground up. I have pulled it all the way down to the chassis and restored it. I modified the engine. I am now in the process of doing the following things:

1. Lowering the suspension,
  2. Restoring the interior,
  3. Completing exterior body work.
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## The Playoff Game

by C.B.



It was a good game! The New England Patriots came from behind to win the game.

I really enjoyed watching the game with my friends at Pop's Grill.

I would like to be a better reader, so that I could read the sports section of the Richmond Times Dispatch.

Also, I would like to read Old Car Weekly Magazine.

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## My Birthday Party

by Nick C.

My birthday was January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We decided to celebrate at my friend's house and so I invited a few friends to come over to my friend's apartment for dinner and drinks.

There were four of us at the party which started at four o'clock. The party began by watching a football game. We were laughing and talking and having fun. It was a very good game.

The score went back and forth up to the last minute of the game. It was difficult to tell which team would win. The score was very close.

At the end of the day it was a very good birthday party and I will probably do it again next year.

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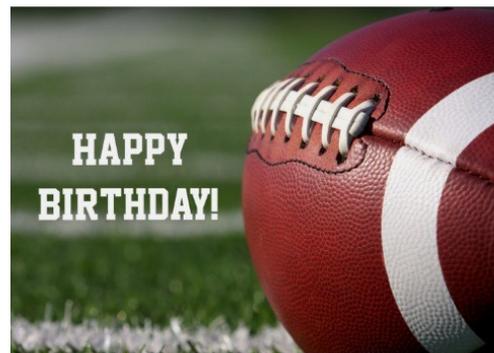
## My Pittsburgh Family

by William



My name is William. I have family in Pittsburgh. We cook dinner together. We have parties with food. We watch the Pittsburgh Steelers. I enjoy my Pittsburgh family!

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## Road Trip

by Shrevon



Last January 2017, my girlfriend and I took a trip out to Atlanta for our two-year anniversary. We were on the road by 4:00am and we both agreed to take turn driving but I ended up driving the whole way there. I am used to driving a lot. When it was her turn I told her I will finish driving. We took breaks here and there so we got there in about nine hours.

I was so excited driving all the way there. As soon as we arrived at the hotel I crashed in our room. Later that night we went to a NBA game to watch Atlanta Hawks vs Chicago Bulls. I am a very big NBA fan; I enjoyed watching the game even though the Hawks were beating the Bulls by 30 points.

The next day we walked through Martin Luther King's old neighborhood and saw the house that he was born at. We also went to his church that had many of his speeches; overall it was a very humble experience. Also, later that day we went to the Coca Cola museum.

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## Life in Colorado

by Marcia Rose



My family and I lived in Colorado from 2012 to 2017 because my husband was in the Army. We moved from Colorado to Virginia.

There were many aspects that I liked about Colorado. I enjoyed hiking in the great outdoors. I visited Pikes Peak and The Garden of the Gods. While I was in Colorado, I also took the time to learn and play. I attended Adult Education classes in the evening and I shopped in the afternoons.

My husband, our daughters and I drove 30 miles to Pikes Peak and The Garden of the Gods. We took sandwiches and water with us. While there, we started hiking, taking pictures and walking.

I decided to attend Adult Education classes because I wanted to be more educated. I wanted to learn how to read and write correctly. Also, to help my daughters with their homework would be a blessing.

Life in Colorado was fun interesting and rewarding!

## A Great Vacation

by S.R.



I visited California for a vacation. I visited many amazing places there. The first place was San Francisco. The Golden Gate Bridge is a popular place. It is a red and orange suspension bridge that raises high above the San Francisco Bay. Travelers can walk, bike or ride the bus across the bridge. You can sail or cruise the water below it. The second amazing place is Yosemite National Park. It is famous for its wild beauty. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it. The third place was Lake Tahoe. Emerald Bay and King Beach at Lake Tahoe are beautiful places because they have to mountains surrounding them. The tops of the mountains were covered with snow, but the people were swimming in the lake. I am so happy to have seen these places. I hope to go back again.

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## Our Trip to Tennessee

by Irving L.



My wife and I drove from Mechanicsville, Virginia to Nashville, Tennessee. On the way we traveled to Salem, Virginia and ate breakfast. We then went on through to West Virginia. From there on to Route 81 to 40 on to Pigeon Forge where we stopped to see Dolly Parton Park. From there we traveled on down to Nashville and checked in at our resort. But we didn't stay there more than one hour before we headed to Memphis, which was about 215 miles away from Nashville. We got there about ten thirty pm we still had fun when we got there. After we spent the night we got up and started our tour of the city. First, we went to get some breakfast at IHOP then to see where Martin L. King Jr. was shot. Next, we went to see Elvis' mansion, and the rest of the city, then back to Nashville, TN for four days.

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## Part One

by M.S.

I want to talk about how I got here, my mother and father, and bad management. It started at home.

Two parents, maybe too young, had kids. My mother had kids pretty young. There are five of us, one girl,

triplets - two boys and a girl, and twins - a boy who lived and one who died. Having so many kids that young led to problems.



She left, and I haven't seen her back. All of the kids were left with our father. He worked a lot and we were left on our own. Someone came with advice and said he should carry us to the country. I was given to some market people. So I worked on the farm and didn't have a chance to go to school. There I had no time to rest. I couldn't go to sleep until the adults went to sleep, no matter how late. One time, as punishment for being asleep, I was slapped on my hand with a machete, and was cut. There were some bad times.

I was left with all the burden when my sister ran away. While they were doing good, it was bad for me, at the same time. Not going to school, I was doing things to benefit those people. While I was there, for so long, many years, not knowing what was going on. This is the end of Part I.

## It is all about me!

by Ida B. Henry

I am the mother of three adult children. I have two sisters and three brothers. I am the oldest child.

I take care of everybody.

It is time for me to take care of me. I will take time to go to church. I will go to school. I will go to work.

I will not let anybody stop me from doing what I want to do. I am excited about my future. I have discovered that I am very good at mathematics from my study at the READ Center and my reading improves all the time.

## My Mom

by Jasmine

This story is about my mom. She likes to cook fish.

She loves jewelry such as rings. My mom prays all the time. She likes to walk in the mall. Her favorite color is purple. She was born in July.

## Cataract Surgery

by James Taylor



I want to tell you of my experience. I had trouble reading and driving. I went to the Doctor and he told me I had cataracts in both eyes. I was concerned about having the surgery, but, after I had it, I tell everyone “go for it”.

I had a little discomfort afterwards mostly itching. You have to use a lot of drops in your eyes. Now I see much better Thank God!

I had surgery two weeks ago and my eyes get better every day.

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## My Vacation

by DP

My family generously treated me to vacation California. They flew me first class on American. The most exciting part of the trip was flying on an American international flight. I was told that the plane was only 1 year and 6 months old. The food was unbelievable and the servings were very large. My seating area was as large as a cubicle it had TV capable of holding up to two hundred movies I was told by the stewardess. Everyone should have a similar experience!

## Thanksgiving Dinner

by Patricia



I wrote a list for what I needed to get from the grocery store for my Thanksgiving dinner. There were twenty-five people that came to the dinner. I cooked turkey and stuffing, ham, rolls, greens, and yams.

For dessert: chocolate cake, lemon cake, sweet potato pies, and coconut pies.

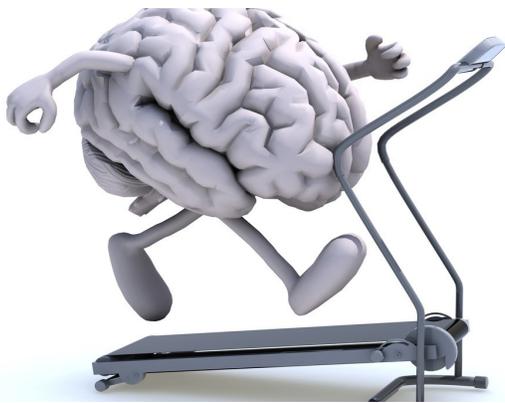
For drinks: fruit punch, wine, and water.

They played games and cards and everyone had fun and left.

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## Healthy Brain

by Anonymous



When you exercise it helps your brain. The brain gets happy feelings from the oxygen you produce. The oxygen comes from your heart when it pumps blood from moving around. The final result is you feel much better all day and are able to think straight, plus make better decisions.

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## Winter

by J.

This has been a very cold winter, lots snow and ice. I love the snow. I'm not a big fan of the ice. I am looking forward to some warmer days to come.

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## Kids in Need of Help

by Valerie E.



What can be done to help these kids today? I work at a school. I see a lot of dysfunctional things in some kids. I asked a kid his name but the kid could only give me his nickname which was two letters. By the age of this kid I knew he should have been able to give me his whole name. So I asked him to write his name on paper. It took him a minute to write it. I was watching him. I noticed he was a little confused with the letters, although he got it right he couldn't spell his last name, which was shorter than his first name.

So, how can we help these kids? As the saying goes our kids are our future.

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*The READ Center's mission is to help adults with low-level literacy develop basic reading and communication skills so they can fulfill their roles as citizens, workers, and family members. This mission is accomplished by providing classroom instruction, one-to-one tutoring, and educational resources to support students.*