

# STUDENT VOICE

A Publication for and by Students of The READ Center

Summer 2019

## Stars

By Rahima

I'm interested to know about stars and planets. I'd like to know how the planets orbit around the sun, how far they are from earth, how the scientists discover new stars, and how they make new powerful telescopes to see the stars. I remember I saw in the news the scientists made a new telescope that can take pictures of the Earth every second which was impossible five years ago. Also the scientists by making good telescopes can prevent meteorites from hitting Earth.



## A Vacation Cruise

By Patricia

I would like to go on a cruise to California, because I have never been to California before. I have heard a lot about how nice it is there. Also, I want to go on a cruise, because I heard it is never a dull minute. They said it was fun all the way there. There was lots of good food to eat, good music to listen to, lots of games to play with, and TV to watch while cruising along. There were rooms to rest if you needed to rest while cruising along on the ship. I can't wait to visit California for my vacation.

## “Things I Have Learned From My Family”...

By Jennifer Masaitis

I have learned to not quit when life is hard because it has always been a struggle for me. I learned all of this by my best friend’s example a long time ago. I was in Kansas City and I was breaking down boxes and I never knew how to do it so he showed me. And I learned to never give up.

With my mom’s help, I overcame a lot. I always try to do the right thing all the time.



By Isabelle James

I learned to respect my elders from my mom. My brother taught me to be true to myself. My aunt always tells me to give back. My sponsor always told me to tell the truth. My dad used to say to me never give up but keep the faith.

By Lillie Booker

From my sister I learned to cross the street the right way. She also taught me to obey my mother and father. She told me when I go out to keep my hands to myself and to pray everyday and every night.



## My Goals

By Suha Mohamed

At the end of each year, I cancel all unachieved goals and set new goals for the next year. For 2019, I set three goals which are educational, financial, and spiritual.

The first goal is to speak English more fluently. To achieve this goal, I went to the Read Center which focuses on learning English for native and non-native speakers. I attend English classes and tutor sessions.



My second goal is finding work I can do from home. After working in an office job for 8 years, I had a back disc prolapse; so, I decided to work from home on a job that I would love to do and that also lets me take care of my little children with ease. To achieve that, I have to find a personal coach to help me detect and discover what is the best most suitable job for me.

The third goal is spiritual. I will try to control my negative feelings and thoughts. To achieve that I have to do some inner work to deal with past and future events. I will engage in relaxing meditations to clear my mind. I will post signs to remind me to refocus on the present moment.



## I'm a Survivor

By Isabelle James

Someone once asked me "How I hold my head up so high after all I've been through". I said, "It's because I am a survivor, not a victim".

## Ramadan

by M.T.

The Muslim people have a special month in the year. We call it Ramadan. In this month the people fast. They have a big meal in the early evening and small meal in the morning. We celebrate the last day of Ramadan. We call it Eid.



## Beloved Granddaughter

By: Jennifer



What a blessing it is, knowing you  
will be here soon.

I feel so much love and excitement,  
that it sends me over the moon.

To know that you will be here, sends  
joy to my heart.

I can't wait to meet you, God's work  
of art.

To see what your smile will be like,  
what your first words will be.

To hear you laugh, with so much  
glee.

Who will you look like, your mom or  
your dad?

Or will you look like Auntie, which  
wouldn't be all that bad.

You will have a little bit of Grandpa and  
Grandma, so don't be sad.

Grandpa and Grandma will enjoy spoiling  
you, every chance we get.

It will be just as exciting, as the first  
day we met.

We will love and care for you,  
even when times are tough.

There will be times, no matter how hard it may be,  
it isn't enough.

If there is one thing that you should know,  
it is that you are loved from your head  
to your tiny little toes.

## My Garden

By Charles



I started work in my garden late this year  
because of the rains. Now it is early May  
and I still haven't planted a thing yet but  
it is still in early May. Maybe this  
weekend I will get my garden planted  
yet. I will see you all in harvest.

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## Almost

By William A.

I was almost in a parade in Delaware at  
Colonial Downs. I was going to be doing  
African drumming. I was going to walk  
with my "djembe." But it rained so the  
parade was cancelled.



## Praying (Salat) the Second of the Five Pillars of Islam

By S.R.

Athan is the call for prayer at the time of each prayer. Muslims perform Ablution (Wadu) which is the washing of certain parts of the body with water. Muslims face the Kaba to pray. Kaba is the holy place for the Muslims. It is located in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Muslims perform Ablution (Wadu) which is the washing of certain parts of the body with water. Muslims pray five times a day. The first time the prayer is called (Fajer) which occurs at dawn. The second prayer is called (Zuhur) which occurs at noon when the sun is vertical. The third prayer is called (Asr) when the sun's shadow is equal in size to the thing in the shadow. The fourth prayer is called (Maghreb) which occurs when the sun sets. The fifth prayer is called (Isha'a) when it's completely dark.



### Great Teacher

By Kent

My teacher's name is Janet. She works very hard to teach us how to read. She is very creative on getting material for us to learn. She has very good teaching skills. I learn so much from her classroom. She is one of the best teachers that I ever had. I want to say thank you Janet for all your hard work. And may God bless you.

**Thank  
You!**

### I LIKE FISHING WITH MY BROTHER

By Bernard

I like fishing with my brother. We always try to catch bass and catfish. Jeffery and I are always fighting to see who will catch the most fish. Most of the time he usually wins.



## My New Job

By Jasmine

I started at Goodwill on Monday March 25, 2019. My job coach is Tamara Dykes. She checks on me at work. I also met some new people there. Their names are Teon, Mr. Doug, Mr. OC, and Mr. Charles. I love my new job. I clean the bathroom, wipe down tables, mop the floors, and adjust the chairs.

At 6:00 p.m. at break time I face time my mother and we have dinner together, and I talk to Waffles my dog. I love my new job so much. I have worked there for two and a half months.

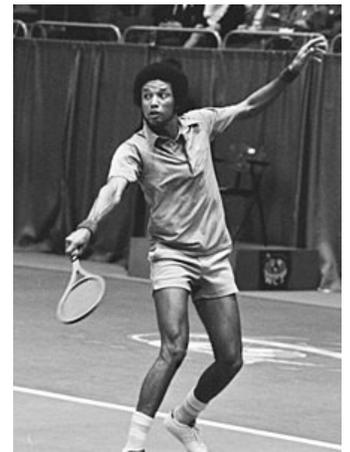


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## ARTHUR ASHE

By Wayne G.

Arthur's parents were of African ancestry. When they came to America from Africa blacks and whites were very segregated. Arthur's father was a city park policeman. Arthur played tennis and went swimming in the park after hours. Arthur traveled to many tennis camps. UCLA offered him a scholarship to play tennis. He went onto coach tennis at West Point.



## Helping Elderly People

By V. H.

I have worked for 2 years at the Masonic Home of Virginia. One of the best things of my job is helping elderly people. I help them with their laundry and to clean their room, and also talk to them. I always have a good feeling at the end of the day.

## Life of a Fish

By:Taj

One day Fish Dad and Mom would be having a Baby Fish. They were happy to have their first Baby Fish. Fish Mom and Dad struggled but they knew it would pay off in the end. As Baby Fish grew up they noticed some changes in their child. He was different from the other fish. He would get bullied by the other fish. They noticed how everyone acted so they decided to move. The Fish Child didn't know why they were moving. As life went on the fish parents saw a greater mood in their child and how everyone acted. They said, "this is going to be our new home forever".

Fish Child was able to make new friends while being different. As Fish Child got comfortable with his surroundings he found how every fish greeted him with love and kindness. Fish Dad would have the talk with his child so he knew how to survive and make a living. Fish Mom showed him what fish girls are all about and what they look for in a fish man. Fish Child was ready to move and his parents knew they did their best to get their only one child ready for life.



## Going to the Races

Last time in class, somebody gave me car race tickets on Friday night. Saturday night, I took my wife to the race. We did have a good time. Cars are fast. We lost hearing in our ear. We sat next to the starting line lots of race cars track go fast.

## Hard Work

By J. C.

I have been going to the Read Center for a long time. I also work full time and work for myself. It gets hard, but when I get to class, I enjoy learning. I learned about fractions, phonics, and nutrition.



## Earl's Family

By Antonio Earl

Earl Antonio, born in Washington DC, 1505 seventh street, NW. I am the fifth son of eight on my father's side. I am the first son of a flock of 7, on my mother's side. 14 brothers and sisters! I remember as a young boy I would show my sisters how to protect themselves. Doing so, I've come to realize how protective I have become of them. 5 of them are no longer with us, so now I am the big brother, with three older sisters, three younger sisters, and two younger brothers. Nice group of people, if I should say so myself. We are all over the place; my brothers and sisters but once a year we all attend our family reunion. While there we talk trash to one another; play horse shoes, spades and reconnect with family members.

I love them more than I care to say. Together we are like a well oiled machine....Brings a smile to face to just think about it.



## My Brother's Wedding

By Carnelia

My brother is getting married. He asked me to stand up for my mother. He asked our brother to stand up for our father. I am excited to shop for a new dress. The wedding is in September and will be in South Carolina. I am so happy.

## Summer is almost here

By J.

I'm looking for a hot summer. It is already humid outside. There are so many activities that I'm definitely not going to unless they're inside, to avoid the heat. I'm one of those people that are always complaining, never satisfied, whether is hot or cold. I will just try to get through this summer and enjoy myself.



## What is that animal?

By HMW



There's always some kind of animal in my back yard. This animal looks like a squirrel, but it has no tail. It has one eye, right in the middle of his head. It also has four legs, two long legs in the front, and two short legs in the back. I have never seen anything like this before. Its colors are black, gray, and brown with a blue strip running down the center of its back. I want to say this animal is a cross breed between a squirrel and a rabbit, but this animal has very bad issues. I know it cannot help itself because they're crazy looking things in this world today. I don't know what this animal is; and, I don't want to know. But if it starts to have babies, I'm going to have to kill it because I don't want this family of ugly looking animals in my back yard.

## Fun at the YMCA

By ABC

The YMCA is one hundred seventy-five years old, but I have only been going for sixteen years. I have learned so much. I learned yoga and exercise. The YMCA offers so many activities for everyone from babies to adults. Some of these include exercise classes, swimming, book club, scrapbooking, Bible study, and lunch and learns. At the lunch and learns everyone brings a dish or a dessert and sometimes a speaker talks about different topics. The YMCA also offers trips, big ones and little ones. I went to Alaska, Bermuda, Boston, and Fredericksburg. Also you can have a cup of coffee or tea and relax. The Manchester Family YMCA is a great place to visit.



## PLANTING ELEPHANT EARS

By Linwood

I want to put a border of elephant ear plants around a part of my yard. It can be a private spot for my grandchildren to play. These plants can grow up to 5 feet tall, like a fence, so the kids won't run out in the street when they are playing, It will look nice for the yard as well.



## My HERO

By Letisha

My mom is awesome! She raised me right. She taught me how to be a good mother and a good daughter. She taught me right from wrong. She spoiled me. She took me places and spent time with me. I love my mom very much!

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## The Company that Broke my Heart

By Dempsey

I work for company that is just as big as the government. I like working for this company but now things have changed for the worse. I have worked for this company for 17 years. I go to work every day that I am scheduled unless I am sick. When I started working for this company I was hired as a door greeter. After about 2 years I changed over to a service writer for about 5 years and then I went to be a worker in electronics for about 6 years. I was still happy. Then my boss told me that they were going to open up a gas station. He wanted me to be an attendant. Oh boy, was I happy! That was one of the best things that happened to me in a long time. We were there just about 4 years when they told us that the store and the gas station were closing on March 29<sup>th</sup> I was very hurt.



## My Life

By Laquinda

I love going out meeting new people, but sometimes I get really shy around people. I really love going to the movies with my friend and moms. I love working, making money, and helping my Moms out. I love going outside with my 2 puppies. I love to walk all the time and getting fresh air. I really do love eating salads a lot when I'm in the mood for it.

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## Fast Food vs. Immune System

Everyone eats unhealthy every now and then. It's human nature to go to the most convenient places to get food, especially when you're in a hurry. That's how your eyes and brain work when you get hungry. Yet, despite that a really good question is how does it effect the immune systems for the long run?

The immune system helps defend the body when it gets sick. In order for the body to do that we need to exercise and eat food. Healthy food that is. All those hamburgers and other fast food items definitely don't play a healthy role. In fact, greasy fatty food weakens the immune system.

Too much fatty food makes you more susceptible to the viruses around your area. Also, it makes you less likely to stay on this Earth longer.

So the lesson is that if you want to be stronger and more active, just do the right thing. Eat your veggies, fruits, lean meats, and less starchy foods. With those little changes to your diet you will feel so much better. Hopefully, you will keep the healthy food in your life and enjoy it!



By Isabelle James

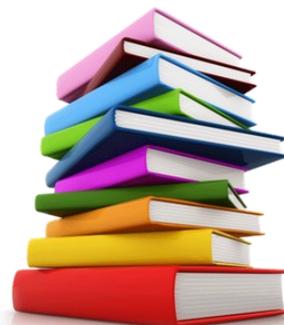
Leadership to me means a lot. It helps me to put people in my life first. To help people who don't have much, I give to the homeless on the street because I used to be homeless, too. Someone helped me when I needed it. This is one way to give back what God has given me.

## 1000 Readers Books

By Keith Thompson, Sr.

I really enjoy these books. The class works on computers to improve our skills, but these books have brought the class closer together. Why? Because it lets everybody relax, read, and answer the questions together. The class really enjoys it.

"Thank you for these books."



## Hillary Clinton—A Book Report

By Lillie Booker

Born: October 26, 1947

Lived: Chicago, Illinois

Hillary Clinton helped organize carnivals, food drives, and fundraisers for groups such as the United Way. She was made a partner in the Rose Law Firm in 1979. She helped found a state-wide organization to aid children and families. She also served as an adviser to the Children's Defense Fund and other children's aid groups.



Hillary was appointed leader of the newly created President's for National Healthcare Reform. She wanted to interview medical and insurance professionals.

Hillary published a book called It Takes a Village. Hillary was a spokesperson and ambassador for the president. She was never afraid to speak her mind. In 1995, Hillary spoke out at a United Nations meeting of women in the treatment of women around the world.



By Jennifer Masaitis

I am grateful to the Read Center for all that the teachers and tutors have taught me how to read and write better. I want to learn how to write so that someday I can publish a book about my life.

## My routine on Tuesday

By James Maina Ndungu /Kenya

I wake up in the morning and take a shower. I will dress up and eat breakfast afterwards. I will make up my bed and wash the dishes in the kitchen sink. After resting for a while, I will start getting ready for the English class at 11a.m. with teacher Don. I will also lay out my work clothes since I work in the evening. The English class has been very helpful because I can read better now without many errors and mistakes in pronunciation. Tutors Sue, Anne, Jennifer, Marylee have been very supportive in helping us to read articles in newspapers, magazines, etc. I am also very happy that I can now use the computer comfortably.



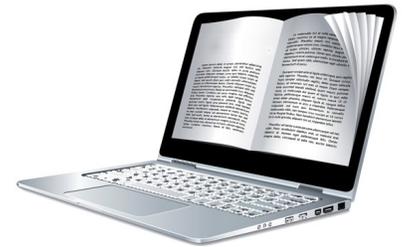
By Calvin Fowlkes

I am glad that the READ Center helps me learn to read. I also like my tutors. My teacher's name is Don. I liked it when we went to the museum. I would like to go to the canal trip. I would like to thank the READ Center for all they have done for me.



By Hiram

My friend Donald and I were reading an article online and I came across some words I didn't know. He said to me, "How did you teach me to read and you don't know some of these words?" I replied, "When I was in school reading was hard for me. Because no one took the time to work with me like I worked with you so you don't have to struggle through life like me."



### **"Create the magazine you wish you could find on newsstands"**

By Keith Thompson, Sr.

I would create a magazine of referees' bad calls. I would name that magazine "Bad Calls". The magazine would deal with how calls are made in the NFL that can change a game in a heartbeat. As we have seen in the game Rams vs. Saints, the Rams won due to a missed call by the referees. This missed call cost the Saints the ball on the third down leading to the Rams getting the ball back and winning in overtime.

In the second game of the night against New England and Kansas City, the referees threw a flag on Kansas City for hitting the quarterback on the helmet. The replay showed the player did not touch the quarterback's helmet. In another play, the New England player did not fully catch the ball as it hit the ground first. After the referees reviewed the play, they decided he did catch the ball. This missed play call happened twice in the game. The commissioner should make changes in how calls are made and what plays should be reviewed through replays.





## My Class and I Went to the Museum

By Calvin Fowlkes

I liked it when we walked across the Potterfield Bridge. I took pictures of the bridge. I liked it when they guided me through the museum. They showed us uniforms, iron gear, and weapons. I learned a little bit about war.

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## The Adoption

By Jenny Harris

Once upon a time there was a family whose last name was Harris. The family was in a car accident. The mother and father passed away. They had a little baby boy with blonde hair and blue eyes. His name was Mickey.

Mickey was put in a foster home. He was two years old. A family saw the little baby boy and they thought he was cute!

Their last name was Thompson. So they changed his name from Harris to Thompson. So his name became Mickey Thompson. As he got older, they told him about being adopted. They told him that his parents were in a car accident and that they passed away. They had loved him just as his real parents would have. He was so happy to have them as his parents. He loved them too.

As Mickey grew up he got married. He and his wife were talking about adopting a little baby. Mickey said that if his parents hadn't adopted him he didn't know where he would be now. Mickey and his wife went to the foster home to see the little babies. They chose a baby girl. They loved her so much.

I think there are too many kids in foster care. They need someone to teach them how to love one another. Teach a child about things that they wouldn't know.

The End.



## My Experience in the U.S. from Africa

By James Maina Ndungu/Kenya

I came into the country in 2014 and my English was weak since I never practiced. The Read Center has helped me improve in writing, pronouncing difficult words, reading long articles and helping me understand the message. The tutors are very understanding and helpful to the students. Being able to speak well has made it easier to blend in. I am able to talk to everyone and they understand me and I hope to keep improving so I can go back to school.



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## Mother's Morning

by Jessica S.



Getting up every morning with two kids some days are difficult and some are easy. Getting us ready for that day we move fast rushing out the door dropping them off to their good day and dropping me off to my wild day. The only person is always there that keep me is the good God. After my wild days I can get home and breathe for a little while then I have to go get the little girls and entertain them, feed them and then time to go to bed.

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By Lavado Green

I am supposed to take my lady friend's daughter to see *Lion King* at the movie theater when it Opens. She is 8 years old will like *Lion King*. I met my lady friend at Food Lion in 2015





## An Amazing Mother Proud of her Children

by Fatima I.

I'm proud of myself from the beginning to now. My oldest daughter graduated college and my second and third children are in the process of completing college and my last child finished middle school. She is now going to Richmond Community High School. Things for us were hard from day one, but we made it with God's will. I was born in Lagos, Nigeria in January 1966. I am happy that I joined the reading program so I can move forward with my reading and writing. I suffered a lot, but God was good to me. I thank God for mercy upon me and my family.

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## Tim's New Home

By Tim Walker

MY friend and I purchase a new home in this year. It was a long time coming, before we got the house. We put down a lot of money before we moved in our new home.

I was upset. I wanted to give up some times but I did not give up. I pray to the good lord above, we move before spring. I love my new home on Shadow Brook Drive.



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## My Daughters Second Grade Field Trip

By Marcia R.

Last week I went to the Science Museum and it was fun. There were a lot of second graders attending the trip with us. We walked around fascinated by the sights. So instead of walking to each exhibit, we took the elevator to the second floor. While the guide was talking, we learned about a fish that was born blind there was an experiment that if you tried to break a coin with a hammer it wouldn't break. But if you cooled it, the coin would break. I will go back.





### Something that causes me stress

By Hung Quach

A major source of my stress is doing paperwork in English. For example, at work I get stressed out when I have to take a test or fill out a survey. Also, when I need to read and complete paperwork at my doctors' office, I feel stressed out. The forms are difficult to understand, but I'm aware that native English speakers struggle with this task too.

### Goals I Would Like To Achieve

By A. Dixon

I would like to lose weight so I can move around and breathe better. I won't have to use oxygen all the time.

My biggest goal is to learn how to read. Last night I had my Bible reading. I read in front of 30 or 40 people. I did so good everybody got up and gave me hugs. I'd like to follow the commission found in (Matthew 28:19) by preaching the good news more fully. "Go therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"



### Give Your City A Name

By Bernard Mitchell



I choose Rain City because it rains all the time, because the rain never stops.

By Lincoln

I went to the private lake with my mom Saturday to fish. Mom caught a trout and a catfish.

I tried, but I did not catch anything.

I cut the yard at home.



## Something That is Worth it to Me

By Bernard Mitchell



It is worth it to me to come to my reading class because I am learning how to read and write better. I'm learning more each day that I come to class. It means a lot to me.

## A Woman I Admire

By Ebony Edwards

A woman I admire is Carolyn. She is funny and kind. She makes me work hard. She is respectful to everyone.



## My New Beginning

By: Kimberly Harris

Hi! My name is Kimberly.

I am excited to step into a new world. I dream about reading new books that I never could read before. I am excited to write down everything in my head...good things and bad things. I want to read to my grandkids (ages: 13, 10, 4) for the first time. I want to go to a restaurant and order food on my own. I want to travel on a plane to visit other cities and countries. I would like to sit down and have a conversation with people. What people take from granted I want to do.



## How I Manage my Stress

By Janet B

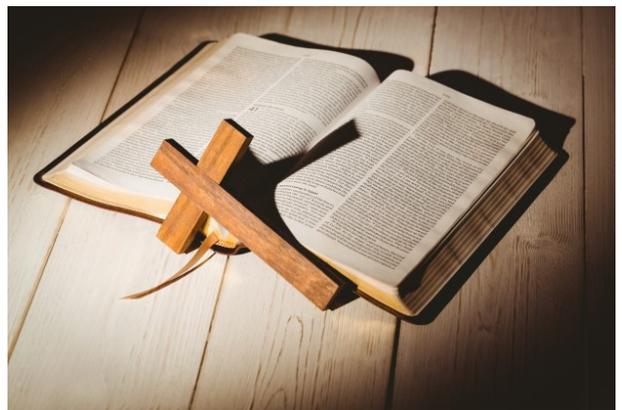
How I manage my stress is, I take a 5 minute break, and I focus on my breathing. I sit up straight, and close my eyes. I meditate on the word of God, who says I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. Then I sing his praises, and feel grateful to be alive.

## My ADVICE TO SOMEONE WHO IS GROWING UP TODAY.

By H.M.W.

My advice, will be to everyone, whose living in this word today. READ THE BIBLE; it's the book of instruction to live by, I recommend you read the book of proverbs first, it's God command of do's and don'ts.

My advice, also would be to avoid some of the religious systems in the world today, if they're hindering you from having a close intimate relationship with our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, because he paid the price, to save your life. When tempted, "satan" came to him and said "If thou be the son of God command that there stones to be made into bread". But Jesus answered and said " It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the month of God". (Read Mathew Chapter 4 verses 3-5) I will say this, if you believe then you'll receive, or you can doubt and do without. That's my advice! Take it or leave it! It's your choice.



## Growing Up In The South In The 1950's And 1960's

By Harry

When I was young my brothers and I were treated very badly by some white people. They would force us off the road with their vehicles. They would throw stones at us. Those people just didn't like black people. After all these years I still don't understand why they did not like us. We did everything we could to get them to treat us with respect and dignity. That was so hard for them to do at that time.

## Ten Years From Now

I am writing in a diary ten years in the future. Wow! This is a hard one, but let's see. Ten years from now only God knows.

Here I am just guessing, and also, it's what I desire to happen. I believe I will have my own car and be more independent. In ten years' time I will cross fifty-one with ease, and by that time, I see myself accomplishing wonderful things in life.



## Back in My Childhood Day

By Harry

I got into trouble the most for running to the dinner table. I always wanted to be the first one at the dinner table. So I could get the best piece of fried chicken. I remember very vividly one day when my mother slapped me across the face for doing that. That's why fried chicken is not the first thing on my menu today. The reason I feel like that is because she slapped me so hard my dog who was underneath the table ran out the door before I could.

## My favorite work of art

By Samuel Parker

My favorite work of art is the 1957 Chevy. I think the car looks very good. The car has a 289 cubic inch engine. It has a red interior and bucket seats.



*Changing lives through adult literacy is The READ Center's mission.*

*We believe that everyone needs and deserves a literate life.*

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