MY TIME
By Hazel

What do you think is the best use of your time? The best use of my time is spending it in class, learning what I didn’t learn years ago. I have learned that the English language is crazy. The more I learn the more I need to learn. With all the rules I have to learn it can drive me crazy if I let it. So what am I doing with my time? Most of it is going toward learning the reading, writing and spelling that goes with the English language. And that is time well spent.

The Last Time I Got Lost
By Shawna L.

Last time I got lost when I was a teenager. My family and I were at Disney World. My sister and I wanted to ride rides. They wanted to go to the beach. So my sister and I went to rides. We thought that we told our parents but I guess they did not hear us. So when we got back to where they were they were gone. So we went to go ride some more rides, and then we went to see if the car was still there. That’s when we met up with our parents. They were so mad at us and also happy that they found us. We got in trouble for a very, very, very long time.
On the Right Trail
By Larry

I feel that I am on the right trail now. I will just have to stick with it. Because all my life I have been struggling, I have been falling short. I have not been confident in myself. I did not think that I can do it.

Hopefully, with this class I can feel comfortable in myself and I can grow stronger. I can overcome my fear of reading in front of people. I can get the understanding of life more and be a better person in my own eyes.

My life has been a struggle of not liking myself because of my reading and writing. If I can overcome this, I feel that I can be a better person and I hope that I am on the right trail.

The Christmas Gift
By George M.

My stepson needed a new television. His television broke a few weeks before Christmas. Since my stepson liked our television, we decided to get him one like ours. We decided since we were going to B.J.’s Club to check out their televisions. I spotted one for $79.99. What a bargain. His television turns out to be better than ours.

I Believe My Destiny is to Love
By Kent

I’m a child of GOD. I believe GOD wants me to love all people. The word of GOD says to us that we should love each other. I believe that’s what GOD is calling us to do. So I ask you to ask GOD to show you your destiny. We may have the same destiny.
ACCOMPLISHED!!
By MARIE G.

I just want to share with you all the things that I have accomplished since I started coming to The Read Center. My confidence was non-existent. I didn’t even know how to express myself and conduct myself around people. I let people determine and make or take decisions for me.

It has been a few years but I can tell you today that my confidence is amazing. I know myself now. I know when I can say yes and when to say no. I know all these beautiful things that I can do to protect myself. I now have some amount of self-esteem.

None of this growth would have happened without The Read Center. I will continue with my passion to learn.

If you are reading this, thank GOD that you had the education to learn to read and pass it on. Also, if you are having trouble reading this, educate yourself. Without an education, you’re existing but not truly living.

My Weekend
By Hung Q.

I look forward to the weekend which is when I have the time to do the things I enjoy, but I don’t have the time during the week. I like to go shopping and work in my garden when I have the time. I also like to see my family on the weekend. I wish the weekends were longer!
My Favorite Football Team
By Lincoln C.

My favorite football team is Dallas Cowboys. They did good last night. They were happy last night. They beat the Giants. The score was 37-18. They did a good job. The head coach was happy.

Baked Mac & Cheese
By Kenyattae G.

Mac & Cheese is a great meal and it goes with just about anything. Everyone in your family will enjoy it and it doesn’t take long to cook.

1 box of elbow noodles
2 tbl of butter
1 egg Whisked
Cheese: Sharp Cheese-block cut, Extras sharp-Shred, Cream Cheese

Preheat oven to 350.

Boil noodles on med for 15 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Butter & Cheese:
Melt butter on low heat. Once butter is melted add cheese & egg slowly. Add cooked noodle to mixture. Sprinkle parsley to the top of mixture in a baking pan & place in the oven for 20 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Enjoy-Conclusion

Feed a family of 6 or more

My Car Rosie
By Carnelia J.

I drive a silver Honda. Her name is Rosie. She is a very reliable car. Rosie is real good on gas. I fill my gas tank once a week. I like to listen to the radio when I drive Rosie. Rosie drives so well, I love her.
A Love Story That Ends Badly
By Hazel

Two caterpillars are so in love, both eating leaves from a big Tropical fruit tree in the rain forest. Then one said to the other, “These are the best leaves, we have eaten all day. I’m going to eat and eat until I get fat. Then I’m going to turn into a ball and roll down that big hill, that way I won’t have to walk.” The other one said “That sounds well and good, but, lookout there is a little bird looking at you”. Before he could look back, the bird had him in its beak eating him for lunch. “Oh well,” said the caterpillar that was left. “Being fat was at least good for that LITTLE bird, who has my beloved friend for lunch”. So, what ends badly for one, may be good for another.

My Hopes
By Inaam

These are my hopes for myself and grandchildren. My dream is to learn to read and write. I want to be able to know what is going on, to read for myself, and to read to my grandkids. Education is important. My dream is for my grandchildren to be educated. When I see someone who can not read, I know what an uncomfortable feeling it is. No matter who you are, it is important for you to be able to write and read. People in America are lucky to be able to go to school.

By Calvin F.

I was in the hospital. I was taking a test for my heart. I am sorry I missed the trip to see the movie. Now I am recovering from mouth surgery. I can only eat soft food.
My Journey to My New Beginning
By Kim

The time was right! I called the READ Center and made an appointment. That was the beginning of me learning how to read and write. I was very excited about the idea of learning how to read. I didn’t know it would be so hard for me. I look at people and listen to them and I say to myself, “boy they are lucky because they can learn easily.”

So, let me tell you all about it. Well, it is not easy to do but it is worth it. I’ve been working with my teacher/tutor for 8 months. She is very good. Sometimes I have good days with my lessons when everything is going well for me. I am happy because I feel like I’m getting it. Some days I feel frustrated and I want to give up. I get so mad at myself. Then I realize I can’t give up. I’m not a person who gives up quickly so I keep pushing on. It’s okay to have these feelings.

Today I know anything I put my mind on I can do. I am reading and writing pretty well. Now I can even read the TV guide and the information about the programs. I am proud of myself but I still have a long way to go. So everyone who is like me, who is in my shoes, don’t give up!

Hope
By Fatimo I.

I met this lovely lady and nice man at Circles RVA. Her name is Jean and his name is Joel. When I told Jean my problem, she helped me to find one of the READ Center classes in Richmond. I was happy to get into school, so what I wished for is coming true. Now I can read my own letters and the book for class or from the library. If I do not understand what I am reading, I ask my teacher or my children. I love my teacher and my tutors for the help they give to me. And I thank Joel and Jean for driving me from work and to school.
When I Started Smoking
By Joshua G.

In 1976 I was 12 years old, my first time I tried smoking. I was hanging with boys older than myself, a lot older, and all of them smoked. I thought I was a big boy doing big boy things. I was hanging out at all times at night, not going to school, not listening to my parents; Just doing big boy things. I knew I was a big boy. No. I was being a big dummy. On July 22 of 1983 I got real sick. I was so sick I was put in the hospital for a long, long time. Smoking was the reason for my sickness, and that was the last time I ever smoked. Smoking will kill you. It will have you sicker than you have ever been. It will put you in the hospital for a long time. It is not good for me or you or for anyone. Smoking will hurt you. So don’t do it for goodness sake.

Work on my G.E.D.
By Marcia

I work on my G.E.D because in the future I want a better job. I want to be more successful. I also want to read and write correctly. I come to class and practice on my IXL. I work in the small group to learn more about punctuation, cause and effect, grammar, math, and other things. My goal is to finish my G.E.D at the end of this year so I need to work hard to complete my goal.

My Favorite Work of Art
By Rashad

My favorite work of art is music. I like rap and R and B because they have a good beat. They have good rhythm and I like to dance to the beat. I like to sing the melodies. One of the songs I like to sing is “This Christmas.” One of my favorite singers, Chris Brown, sang it at Christmas time.
My Family
By Rodney

My oldest is Ciara, she is a graduate from Highland Spring High School. She is living in DC. She only calls her dad when she wants money.

My oldest son is Rodney Jr. He has 3 children and he also graduated from Highland Spring High School. He is living Highland Spring VA. He also only calls dad when he needs money.

My son Javonte is the one that looks like me. He also stays in trouble. He received his GED from Henrico Juvenile Correction Center. He currently is serving time in Richmond City Jail. He only calls dad when he needs Money.

My daughter Ireyana she is the youngest. She will be graduating this year. She just started to drive. She would like to be a CEO. I would like to work with her. Sometimes she calls to see how I am doing, and sometimes she calls for money.

I’m Here
By Antonio J.

The reason I came is to learn to read. Also my kids want me to be more independent for myself since my wife passed.

I Thought It Was a Bear
By Bernard M.

I was walking home and I thought I saw a bear. It was in the house looking out the window at me. I looked at it and it wasn’t a bear. It was a huge dog.
Christmas Story
By LaQuinda

Christmas is my favorite holiday. I really love wrapping the gifts and putting them under the tree. What makes it special is because I get to see my babies open up their gifts. I see them smile. Also, they are very happy of everything they get. I love Christmas because I love everything I got from my mothers. I always appreciate everything God blessed me with.

Now, about the decoration, I love doing the tree and helping my mom with the lights and candy canes on the tree. I love decorating outside too.

People Living in Different Places
By Patricia

There are people who live in one place most of their lives and don’t want to move any other place. Living in one place does have its advantages. You get to know a lot of people; and become friends with the neighbors; and know your way around where you want to go! And on the other hand, there are some people who would enjoy the experience of living in different places. It would be exciting; and you could get to meet and enjoy more people by living in

Party Gift
By A.C.B.

I was invited to a house warming party. I had to take a gift. So I set off to find something. I did not know what to get. I found some table mats. I liked them for myself. I bought them for a gift. When I gave the gift to the lady it was appreciated.
What Kids Are Missing Today
By Larry

Kids today are missing morals, respect, and love from their parents. Kids are lost if their parents aren’t paying them any attention. Babies are having babies. Nobody is teaching them about God and what he has done for us and that he died for us.

Kids should respect their parents and all adults but the adults have to respect the kids as well. If there was more respect and love in this world, it would be a better place. Kids can only be taught love by their parents and that is what kids are missing today.

Laser Tag
By Destiny

Shooting people with the gun that’s how they get hit and they have to reload for more power. You’re building a fort to hide behind so you won’t get out of power. I can get them, but they can’t get me out. I have to get more power to get you out before you get me out. To get more power, you have to point the gun up and down. It’s fun to play with people you know and people you don’t know is just fun to play and being active. I am moving a lot not trying to get out of the way so I won’t lose power I did not have time to reload my gun to shoot my gun again.
The Trip with Family for Christmas
By Janae K.

It was not like any other Christmas. We had planned a trip for a month. My aunt was very sick at that time. She was back and forth in the hospital. We had sent for her to come to Maryland she did come down to my grandmothers and so I drove from Virginia to Maryland to see my aunt on the 15th of November. I was so happy to see her but I know she was not herself. We still had fun laughing, joking and playing cards. I had so much fun with her that weekend. She wound up going back to New York but I called her almost every other day. I would ask her are you getting treatment and she would say yes aunt is doing good and I would feel good knowing that she doing good but only to find out that she really was not. She call me in the morning it was very early I was sleeping. I missed the call my mother called me later to tell me that my aunt passed out on her living room floor and her roommate called the ambulance. Rushing her to the hospital, the family immediately drive to New York to go see her. The doctor said she does not have much time. The clock stop at that very moment for me and my family. My aunt passed not even a week later December 19th. May she rest in peace. Wow, we grieving. We decided, as she would want us to go to the vacation home for Christmas and be together. She always wanted family to be close. We were there trying to lift each others spirits up. We would say things that she used to say and make each other laugh. I am going to end this by say during that week it was a lot of tears and laughter.

The Weather
By J.

Weather have been really strange. We have warm days like it’s not even winter and then we have colds days. I’m still hoping for snow but not a lot. I always said I didn’t like weather but this one I think it’s the best one so far.

Bob Marley
By Jasmine

My favorite CD is Bob Marley. I like his CD. I like his songs. They make me happy.
By Hiram

Harriet Tubman is one of the giants of American history a fearless visionary who led scores of her fellow slaves to freedom and battled courageously behind enemy lines during the Civil War. And yet in the nine decades since her death, next to nothing has been written about this extraordinary woman aside from juvenile biographies.

Harriet Tubman was one of the bravest Americans in history at a young age. She knew slavery was wrong. She escaped and helped many other escape also. Her work didn’t end there! She was important in the Civil War and fight for women’s rights. Harriet Tubman was an awesome American.

Grateful
By Deborah J.

I am so grateful for the Read Center and my tutor. We have the best time when we meet and she is so dedicated to the me and I really appreciate her. I look forward to meeting with her weekly and we cover so much during our session. She’s a blessing to me. Thank you all for your dedication to the organization.

Learning How to Sew
By Violet

My mother was a very smart woman. She could do just about anything. She owned her own hand laundry. During the time that I was growing up, I had to work after school, so I learned how to iron. But she wanted me to learn how to sew and I just wasn’t interested. Now that I have gotten older, I wish I had learned how to sew. I mastered the ironing because I enjoyed ironing.
**My Trip on a Cruise to Bermuda**  
*By Lue*

This was my first time on a Cruise. We went from Baltimore to Bermuda. The only reason I went on the trip was to go to a family reunion. I didn’t like it because we were on the water most of the time. I wanted to be able to walk on dry land occasionally.

I didn’t like it. I believe that we were on it during the time when the wind and waves were high. The ship was moving too much. I couldn’t walk straight. On the boat, there was a lot of different kinds of food. I did enjoy it, but I ate too much.

I was so glad when I returned to Baltimore. I was finally on dry land and could finally return home. It took a few days to get adjusted back to real life and to be on land again.

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**Becoming a Writer**  
*By F.M.*

One day I would like to become a writer. I think of writing a book about my life. All the time and how hard it was for me to come out of my shell and tell people about my difficulty in reading and attending the Read Center. I was very shy when meeting people for the first time. Once I shared with someone about my reading difficulty and it placed my job in jeopardy. That person told people that I could not read well. So to save myself the embarrassment, I resigned from a good job.

As I look back at that time in my life I think if I was more open with my reading as I’m today, I would have a better job. As they say, let’s not cry over spilled milk. Life goes on. Not saying I don’t like my job now, I am still working at the same place but not where I started out. But since I have been coming to the Read Center I have begun to come out of my shell.

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**Changing Myself**  
*By Dempsey*

I lied to myself about being on time for school, work, and appointments. It seems that I am never going to get it together, but I know something has to change. It is embarrassing for me, and it is not fair to the other people when I am late. But I have to keep on trying. Maybe one day I will get it right.
Lazy Day
By Wayne

My favorite way to spend a lazy day is to watch TV. I like to watch Law and Order. It comes on channel 15 and 50. I also like to play with my cats. I like to throw a ball of string and they chase it. I enjoy riding in my car. I like to drive around and look at things. At 12:00 I like to eat. My favorite meal to eat is a Big Mac. This is my favorite way to spend a lazy day.

A Memorable Experience in a Hotel
By Jimmie

I enjoyed a full day of relaxation in a hotel. The shower in the hotel was very relaxing. There is nothing like a hot shower. There were good action packed movies on TV. I watched a good action packed movie. Thank you Lord for a good night sleep. I liked the nice clean towels after my shower. It is nice not having to clean the room.

Charity (Zakat) is the Third of the Five Pillars of Islam
By S.

Charity is very important for Muslims. Muslims have to follow the rules of Islam. We do charity in every year of our Islamic calendar. Muslims prefer to do their charity in the month of Ramadan because it is the most important month for us.

Now I will explain what charity means to me as a Muslim. Muslims donate 2.5% to charity from our savings. Example: If I have saved $1,000 the whole year, 2.5% is $25. If I have the value of 2 grams of gold not used for a year, I give 2.5% as obligatory charity contribution. I take the total to give to our Masjed. It will collect all charity to give to poor people and also send some charity to different organizations.
The 1950’S
By Tim W.

In the 1950’s, black people could not go into restaurants where white people ate. Not only that, they could only sit in the back of the bus. If anything were to happen to the bus, they would have been the last to be saved, or not. Things are different today.

Prom Night
By Keith T.

Yes, I went to my prom. This is what happened. I went to get a rental car. I rented a Cadillac Seville. I picked up my tuxedo. I went to pick up my date, then we proceeded to the prom. My date started acting up before we got there. Somehow she started acting weird. I stayed outside of the room and talked with the principal. I was voted the king of the school and could not even enjoy the prom. So, I took her home and then, I went home. I did not have any fun at my prom.

Out of all the girls I could have taken to the prom, I took her. What a waste!!!!!!!!!!

Someone I Can Not Trust
By Dewin T.

I had a friend who I can’t trust because she can’t keep a secret. She always talked bad things about me. I regret being friends with her. She is still coming around me, but I will never trust her again.

A Job I Did Dream Of
By Ebony E.

I would have love to work with kids. I have not had a chance to work with kids yet, but one day I will work with kids.
Fear Can Stunt Your Growth
By Anna G.

When I was young, I was always afraid of so many things, airplanes, elevators, heights and that stopped me from really enjoying my life. I didn’t travel at all and I missed out on going so many places and meeting so many people, but life itself has taught me when you’re not enjoying your life you’re not really living, you’re just existing then something inside of me woke up!!! and I wanted to live. So I finally pushed fear out of my life, and got on a plane. I’m not so fearful of elevators these days, but if I’m honest, I’m still a little fearful of heights. Today I’m happy to say that I’m ready to travel and enjoy my life. I love just getting away even if it’s for one day. I even enjoy packing a get away bag. So, now a days I stay ready. The only thing that stops me is my job because I work on the weekends, but I’m off on Mondays and Tuesdays so now Monday’s and Tuesday’s have become my new weekends. Fear no longer stunts my growth.

A Trip to the Theater
By Lavado

My READ class and I went to the Bowtie Theater to see Harriet Tubman. Harriet was a slave. She ran north to free herself. She went back to free her family. She changed her name from Minty to Harriet. I rode the city bus to get to the movies. The trip was good.

Lazy Day?
By Deborah

On my lazy day I would get comfortable in my favorite pajamas and get my favorite drinks and get my yarn. I’ll knit a blanket in a couple of minutes and I can knit a pillow too. I have to stop my dog from playing with my yarn and getting tangled up in the yarn. I have to stop and she slows me down. It takes me all day to untangle it and then my lazy day turns into a disaster and that’s how my lazy day ends up. Thank you Sunshine for my day. Sunshine is my dog’s name. Thank you for my lazy day.
A Valuable Lesson
By Isabelle

My teacher, Mrs. Jamison, taught me a valuable lesson on how to keep going and never giving up no matter how hard it seems to be. I can ask for help when I don’t understand a subject or problem. If I want extra work to do, I ask for it. The more work I do, the better I will be doing in class and at home.

My Vacation
By Bernard

My family and I went down south for Thanksgiving and saw my brother. We didn’t have much to do. I got to know his new baby’s mother and she seemed nice. Then we watched the football game together. Then I went to my sister’s house. She had all kinds of cake. She fixed me a plate of food and then we talked for hours.

The Tree
By Charles N.

One summer, there was a big storm with strong winds and lightening that hit a large oak tree in my backyard about three years ago. Now, it is winter, I will cut that tree down. Chop it up and sell it for firewood.

Play Station
By William

I love the Play Station. I like the video games. I have a bunch of video games at home boxing, ninja, xmen, and an Italian video game. Going up a skill level makes me happy. It’s hard to go up sometimes. I use the moves on the controller to move a person. Sometimes it messes up.
A Time I Said “No”  
By R.  
My 13 year old son wanted to go outside and I said “no”. I didn’t know where he was going. He listened but he was not happy. He was not happy but got over it.

What Is in My Fridge Right Now?  
By Adrian S.  
If you look in my fridge you will find a little of nothing. Let’s see, you will see water, milk, ginger ale, and fruit juice. Maybe the reason why is because I live alone and I never at home.

Something in My Life That Is Worth It  
By Samuel P.  
I am going to the comedy club. My daughter is performing at the Funnybone club in Norfolk. She is performing for 15 minutes. We laugh for almost the whole time. Last time she won. I hope she wins this time.

History of Experiments  
By I.D.K.  
When I was a minor I got into so much trouble for doing home made experiments. My first experiment was performed when I was about 6 years old. I first started doing them for attention. As I got older my experiments progressed further and became more complex.

In my 8th grade year I had to take chemistry class. That 8th grade chemistry class was where I really showed off my “skills”. On the last day of school I accidentally blew up a Bunsen burner. As a result of the explosion, the school had an hour earlier release than expected!

During the next 12 years I continued to do experiments on and off. I still do them every now and then, yet I still manage to get grounded!
I’m a Homeowner
By Andretta

On November 16, 2018 at 4:00pm I became a homeowner. Yes, I bought a house. On November 16, 2019 I thanked God for blessing me to be in my house for a year. I always wanted to own my own house, and God made a way. I also want to thank my parents for always having my back. The older I get the more I appreciate them. I appreciate my sister for her support through the whole process. She was very instrumental, and I couldn’t have done it without her. That why I’m happy today because I’m a homeowner.

Three Goals
By Alice C.

I want to live in a house of my own only because it is a goal to live by myself. I want to take care of kids Who need me. I love God a lot. I want to get a GED. Because I Want to go to college and do better. I am going to do this for Myself with God help. It will be a blessing.

Harriet Tubman
By Jamar

Harriet Tubman was a slave. She ran away. She went back south to free her family and friends. When it was dark, she led them to the north. Harriet Tubman was very brave.

Sweet Kid
By Lance

I had a cat named, Angel. On Dec. 24th, I put her down. She was very sick. On Dec. 26th, I got two new kittens. They are a lot of fun and love. They eat a lot, drink a lot of water, chase each other, and then they go to sleep.
Proud MaMa
By Letisha

My daughter will graduate from Highland Springs High School in June of 2020. She is a good kid. She goes to school every day and does good in her classes. Cooking class is her favorite one. I am very proud of her.

Three Things I Think Are Beautiful
By Lillie B.

I think Monroe Park is beautiful. The workers put down gravel and new signs. They have police and it is clean. I also think a newborn baby is beautiful. They smell good, like Johnson’s baby lotion. They know who holds them when they cry. I think a rose is beautiful. The rose I think is beautiful is small and gray, yellow, and white. It is planted on Broad Street.

Giving Up Smoking
By Linwood

My name is Linwood. I have been smoking for over 50 years. I have tried to give it up for a long time. So I promised the Lord that I would stop. I asked for strength to stop. It is not easy but I believe I can do it with the help of the Lord.
Job Interview
By Larry

My last job interview went very well. I got there early and I was waiting for them, so that was good and they apologized to me for being late. The interview went well. They asked me about my experience related to the job that I was applying for and why they should hire me for the job. I started working that day.

What is first thing you do when you wake up every morning? Why?
By Jammar

I wake in the morning and I eat breakfast. I eat Frosted Flakes cereal, eggs and hash browns.

Life
By Marlon


Winter
By Lavado

I do not like winter because it is too cold. I don’t like to be cold. I must bundle up. I wear a hat, a scarf, gloves, and a coat. Do you like to be cold?

A CHRISTMAS GIFT
By Ebony E.

I would split the money I got with my family and keep the rest for me. My favorite Holiday is Christmas. I love Christmas.
My Dream Place to Live

By Aletheia

My dream place to live is Norfolk, Virginia. I would want to live there because that is where my parents first met. I have family living there and I love going there, too.

If I lived in Norfolk, Virginia, I would go to church and to the movies. I would also go to Waterside to watch the fireworks. I really would enjoy going to Norfolk, Virginia.

By Isabelle

My dream place to live would be Africa. It would be my dream place because it’s a beautiful place to live.

The weather there is just right for me. I love the way the women wear their clothes and hair. I would love to see the animals that are there. I would just sit back and imagine me running with the wild. I can also learn about my ancestors who came before me.

By Keith

Arlington, Texas is my dream place to live. I would want to live there because the Dallas Cowboy’s football team is there. I could be a full-time football member of this team. I would be tailgating, playing games, eating food, and meeting a lot of new people there. I will have lots of fun with the fans.

I would get a group of men to from an organization to mentor little boys in the neighborhood about life. I will teach them to become better men. I would also teach them to obey their parents, maintain self-control, maintain their appearance, and become a role model. It is so important for men to be in young boys’ lives.
My Favorite Season and What I Love Most About It
By Aletheia

My favorite season is fall because I get to see my Grandpop, Uncle Robert, Uncle Mark, Uncle Tim, Aunt Donna, Aunt Nita, Aunt Cynthia. I also get to see my cousins Beverley, Adrienne, Elana, Fahren, Ashley, Josh, Kyle, and Mark Anthony. On Christmas and Thanksgiving Day after eating, we play some games and watch movies or TV.

My other favorite season is summer because I don’t have to get up at 7:30 to be ready at 8:10 in the morning. In June I will be going down to Norfolk, Virginia to see my family on my dad’s side. I get to sleep in sometimes. I also get to go on a cruise. I love it!

Thank You Letter to My Auntie
By Isabelle

I would like to thank my aunt for being there for me. For supporting me when I need it. And for always telling me to go for my goals and never give up. It’s because of you I am the woman I am today.

My Inner Peace
By Isabelle

My inner peace is knowing I don’t have to struggle, be hungry, or be homeless. By the grace of God.

What did you get into trouble for the most when you were a kid?
By Jammar

When I was a kid I would tell a story. It was true but my cousin accused me of lying. This happened a lot.
What Is in My Refrigerator
By Lauren P.

When opened my refrigerator I saw milk, eggs, oranges, juice, lemons, grapes, oranges, roasted chicken, hot dogs, green and red peppers, onions, lettuce, sandwich meats, cheese, cooked green beans, celery, sausage, a pasta dish, salad dressings and mayo. I am so lucky because I know there is plenty of food for me and my family.

My Odd Friend
By Harry T.

A long time ago a friend of mine was punished for throwing rocks at passing cars. I was with him at the time he was doing all of that, so I got punished too. It didn’t occur to me that was going to happen like that. The driver of the car that he hit, recognized the both of us. And he went to our house and told on us. We were punished real badly by our parents. I didn’t understand why I was punished so I asked my parents. They told me if I didn’t want to be punished then I should not have been there.

AN AWARD
By Lauren P.

When I was cheerleading in middle school, I received many trophies. They are now on top of my desk.

Five Things I Am Thankful For
By Isabelle

I am grateful for getting up this morning. I am also grateful for being around people I love. I am grateful that I can walk and also that I can use the bathroom. I am thankful for my five senses.
One of My Greatest Blessings
By Janet B.

The greatest blessing I have received in this life is simply this:
I am growing in peace of mind because of knowing my Heavenly Father. The reason is this, I have learned to love others in spite of all the issues I have faced, and still continue to face. Finding the love of Christ has taught me how to love.

Something Simple That Brings Me Joy
By Aletheia

I have joy when I go to church on Sundays to see some people. I enjoy working with Mrs. Bailey every other Saturday. I also enjoy being off from work so I can go with my mom to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Holidays come and go so fast.
By Asheeda

We all look forward to the holidays to spend time with family and friends. Decorating the house is so much fun. I enjoy getting the bedroom ready for family sleepovers, making all my favorite foods, drinks and desserts. On the day of the holiday, all my family and friends join together to make a festive meal. We all sit together and bless the food and eat it too.

Harriet
By Rashad

It was a good movie and Harriet was a brave woman. She was married and lived a long life.

Harriet left her husband to go north. She went back to rescue him but he was married to another woman.

During the movie, I ate a lot of popcorn.
Is Good Cheer Contagious?

By Hung Q.

Yes, I think that good cheer is contagious. That helps some people if they are shy. Then they will act more friendly. My son has a friend who is shy, so my son helped him for school. His mom told me my son is so helpful, so now her son knows how to make decisions for himself. He acts more friendly now.

By Shawna L.

I work Security so if I’m sitting at the security desk, I run in to lot of people with different types of moods and personalities. We are supposed to greet everybody that comes in the James Center with a smile. We have some people stop to talk to us and walk away with a smile. They always say “Thank you for being here”.

By Hazel

Yes, it can be contagious, If everyone would keep the commandment of our creator God the father and his son Jesus Christ. Can we imagine one thousand people spreading the word of God’s unconditional love? He did say honor they father and mother, and love they neighbor as thyself. If everyone would honor God’s commandments we won’t need an angel to tell us when to say good morning. Every born again Christian should know this. Now, if, telling people about Jesus Christ can be contagious, by all means be contagious!

By Harry T.

Yes, I think good cheer is contagious. I am polite to people and give them respect by being friendly. If I do that, then people might start doing the same thing. People are set in their own ways and sometimes it’s hard for them to change. When people see you smiling and being friendly, sometimes it will rub off on them. I always respect people. It doesn’t matter if people refuse to respect me or not.
Is Good Cheer Contagious?

By Janine

Yes. When a person is in good cheer it can become contagious. Like for instance one day I was kind of down and my friend Shawna was in a good mood, and told me to snap out of it. So then she told me some of her corny jokes. They’re not really funny but they make me laugh. At times when she is down I make her laugh with my jokes, but my jokes are funny..lol..

YES SHAWNA MY JOKES ARE FUNNIER THAN YOURS... 😊

By Dewin T.

Yes I think good cheer is contagious. If I have things on my mind, a nice greeting makes me feel better. This can happen in an elevator.

By Alice C.

I always say God bless to people. They took care of me in the hospital and they are nice to me. A woman took me in her family. I feel good about it a lot because I had no where to go.

I have a friend who looked out for me all the time.

By Adrian S.

Yes good cheer is contagious because when someone see you do something nice to another person they want to do something nice as well.

By Marie G.

Yes, I do think that good cheer is contagious. The reason is when I pass by someone and give them a smile, they immediately smile back. Also, when I say “hi,” they smile and say “hi” back. This makes me feel good because they have responded with joy.
**Just Roll With It**  
By Carlos S.

If my life were a TV show it would be “Just Roll With It.” I like it because it is exciting! You don’t know what will happen next. It makes the show more entertaining to see what might happen if that was my life. My life would be funny if it was the TV show “Just Roll With It”.

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**Flowers Are a Beautiful Thing**  
By Asheeda

Flowers are such a beautiful thing. It starts from a little tiny seed. We plant the little seeds under the ground and water the seeds every day. The seeds take about a week or two to grow. The buds blossom as beautiful flowers and the fragrances you can smell from far away.

People use flowers for so many things. Example: weddings, funerals, birthdays and wishing someone gets well soon. You can send flowers to someone to tell them that you love them and more....

Who wouldn’t love wonderful flowers?

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*Changing lives through adult literacy is The READ Center’s mission.*  
*We believe that everyone needs and deserves a literate life.*