



Visions ...
a collection of thoughts from
new authors

Authors in Residence
Volume I
1993

ANR

FICTION



A Message from the President.....

This year, 1993, has been a good year for this council. We have added a few new jewels to our crown, but if I may be forgiven for just a bit of partiality, I consider this collection of writings by adult readers to be our crowning glory.

For the past year, new readers, at all levels, have been working hard on their entries as their tutors offered encouragement and assistance according to the rules of the contest. Now, all is in place. We have our **AUTHORS IN RESIDENCE, VOLUME ONE, 1993**. This is the first publication of the Hillsborough Literacy Council, but by no means our last. The contest will be repeated each year, beginning in January, and concluding with a new volume to be published each September.

I have always had a deep love for the English language and for the limitless ways it enables us to communicate our thoughts and feelings to others. Writing is the culmination of mind and heart and experience. It can sing for joy or cry in despair. Whatever the words, they enable both the reader and the writer.

I know the writers of these original pieces are proud of their achievements, as well they should be. You, dear reader, will share that joy when you share their thoughts.

..... Gloria Abrams

MY FAMILY

My wife's name is Kathy. We have been married for thirty-four years. We have four kids. There are three boys and one girl.

The kid's names are; Bill Jr. and the girl's name is Debbey. Next boy is David Sr. and last boy's name is Ken Sr.

All my kids are married too. We have fourteen grandkids.

My son David family. Have found a house. It is big and has more room's.

David call me. His ask if Kathy and I can come to help him move.

David two brothers Bill and Ken asked if they coule help too. He side yes. So we all helped David move.

Well my friend, I will have to stop my letter to you for now.

From your friend,
Bill

P.S. Please write back soon.

..... Bill Kramer

I DID NOT LIKE SCHOOL

I did not like school because no one seemed to care if you were there or not. A lot of us really did not care that much about going to school. A lot of teachers did care, but they did not have time to work with us if we had a problem. Some of the kids would rather take an F instead of trying to do something they couldn't do. And if you did try to do something that you did not understand, Everyone would make fun of you And laugh at you for trying

I would try to do a good job everything I would do just was not right. In a system like this it is hard to want to learn anything in school. When you couldn't get help in school and you were not very good in P.E. it was very discouraging. I did not like sports that much. I tried to read and do some English but it was very difficult. Math was really a nightmare!! It was so hard to do and I tried, but I just could not do it. Finally, I gave up. I finished 9th grade and never went back.

..... Robert W. Simpson

I love you now and forever.
If you're ever going to love me,
love me now, while I can know
all the sweet and tender feelings
which from real affection flow.
Love me now, while I am living.
Do not wait til I am gone
and the chisel it in marble...
warm love words on ice-cold stone.
If you've deor, sweet thoughts about
me, why not whisper them to me?
Don't you know't would make me happy....
and as glad as glad could be?
If you wait till I'm sleeping,
never to waken here again,
there'll be walls of earth between
us and I couldn't hear you then so, dear.
If you love me any if it's
but a little bit,
let me know it now while
living I can own and treasure it.



..... Laurette Medlin

DREAM DIALOG

Me: Why me?

Sick: It was an accident.

Me: But I have a family to support.

Sick: You can find help.

Me: But I miss running and jumping and playing with my family.

Sick: You still have your family.

Me: Sick, you changed my life. Go away!

Sick: But I am here to stay.

Me: What am I going to do with you?

Sick: Learn to live with me.

Me: What do you mean?

Sick: Go back to school and learn a trade.

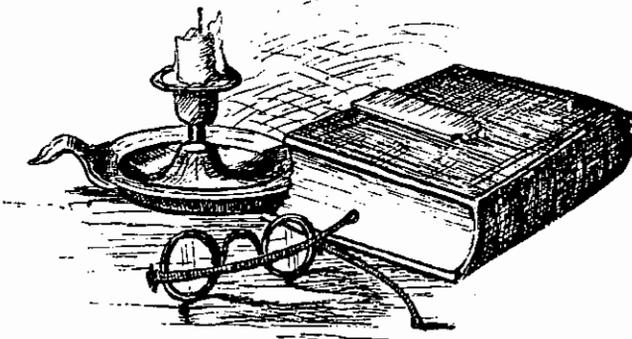
Me: Thank you for helping me.

Sick: I understand. I've been there before.

Conclusion: When I wrote the story about myself, I found out that I miss working. I miss having the money that comes from working which supports my family.

I like running, jumping, and fishing with the children and being there when they need me. I learned when you're sick things change, but life goes on. I'm learning to live with myself and to accept the changes in my life. I'm going back to school and learning a trade.

.....Leonard Coleman



WHY I WENT BACK TO SCHOOL

I went back to school when I was 39 I wanted more out of life. I discovered an opportunity to go back to school and get my education. First I started with a tutor at the public library. Then I found out about the Eastlake Community Education Center through a notice and a meeting at work. Now I still see my tutor once a week, and I go to Eastlake twice a week.

There are a lot of things that I do not understand and I want to learn about. I need to learn about reading, math, English, I need to improve alot on reading and speech. There are a lot of things I have learned since I have started school. I really do enjoy it a lot now. I want to better myself for work, for my own peace of mind, and for my father. In school now they have computers that you learn on. It is much easier to understand than the way it was back in the 60's and 70's. Classes aren't as big and things were so much different. Now I do understand things a lot better and things are not as confusing to me. I still have a long way to go, but I will make it, I have much better teachers now and the way of teaching is different and much better than before. I have grown up a lot and realize that the time to do it is now.

.....Robert W. Simpson

I can read a newspaper and I feel better about myself. I have the best teacher in the world. Reading can help me find a better job. I wish everybody can read and find a job. If you cannot read you will never have fun. I wish one day I can go to college.

..... Javier Diaz

P.S. I wish I have a teacher like XXXXX in school. Children have to be able to read in this world.

COMING TO AMERICA

I am from the Philippines and grew up there. My father died when I was two months old, and my mother was mother and father to seven kids - five girls and two boys.

I lived with my Mom when I was in kindergarten, but sometimes I lived with my aunt or my cousin, because my Mom lived on a farm and school was far away. When I lived with my aunt I had to clean the house before I went to school. Every time I went to school I was always late. My Mom told me to go home because of how my aunt was treating me. My Mom didn't make me go to school because it was far away from where we lived. I quit school in third grade. I was a kid and I didn't want to go to school - I'd rather play. And the teacher would pinch us on our ears and legs.

I remember my teacher told me I was good in math. I was a good student. I know how to read a little bit when I was a little kid, but when I grew up it was just forgotten.

I was a problem kid. I had to fight back. My mother said, "If you cry, I'll spank you". That's the way parents are in the Philippines. Mothers are always very strict. They teach children respect and discipline. Children have to stay in their bedroom. with their parents' friends come to the house. That's the way children are raised in the Philippines.

We had some superstitions in the Philippines that Americans don't believe, just like you have some superstitions in America that we don't believe. This is one of the things we believe: Pearls come from the sea and can bring you good luck or bad luck, just like the tide can go up and down. You are not supposed to buy pearls for yourself. That's bad luck. Pearls are supposed to be a gift from someone else. Many Philipinos who grew up in the Philippines believe that. I don't own any pearls.

Also, you don't give your shoes to your friend - that's bad luck also. You and her are not going to get along. You have to give her some money without her knowing it. Then you won't get into an argument with her.

It is also bad luck to give your handkerchief to your boyfriend. That means it will bring you to tears.

There were a lot of weird things when I was growing up in the Philippines. We believe in voodoos and fortune telling and that kind of thing.

When I was growing up I never went to the doctor or the hospital, and never got any shots until I got to the United States. My Mom took care of me. We ran around with no shoes all the time and we would get athletes' foot because of all the rain. My mother would make medicine from a different kind of red plant that grows in the Philippines and put it on our feet. About three days later the athletes' foot would go away. There are different plants to make you well if you are sick with a high fever. If we were sick with a bad cold and coughing, my mother cut sugar cane or lemon in half and put something on it, and she would leave it outside all night, from 6:00 at night until 6:00 the next morning. At 6:00 in the morning you'd have to eat it. It tastes terrible, but then your cold is gone the next day.

I was the youngest in the family and the only one that hadn't gotten married yet. My mom forced me to marry. It's family tradition in the Philippines. If you parents have a friend and she has a son you get married when you're 18, whether you like it or not. It's the old fashioned way.

My brother was in the Navy. I met a friend of his - Mr. Nice Guy -He was an American. They were on the same ship together. My brother's friend liked me. I was 17 years old. He talked to my Mom and asked to marry me.

So I got married. He was in love with me. I didn't like it at all. I didn't want to be married. I wasn't ready for marriage. I wasn't ready for no husband at all. but sometimes you have no choice. Maybe you'll get a good future with him and things will be better for you.

When I came to America I had only my purse in my hand. I had no suitcase with me. I thought over here everybody was rich and I could buy lots of nice things. When I got here and went to our apartment I was very disappointed. Our apartment looked very poor. I thought in America you didn't have to work to make money. I turned 18 here and went to work at 19.

In the Philippines our language was Tagalog. I couldn't speak English. I didn't understand my husband at all. When I cam to America my husband put me in adult high school for three months to learn English.

Now that I'm older I regret that I didn't go to school. I am getting older and don't know how to read, but I'm doing something about it. When I learn how to read I'm going back to school and get my GED. Maybe I'll take a few years in college if I learn very well. I am practicing typing and would like to work with computers.

.....Judy Ablazo



My name is Surapee Damrongwatanasuk. I was born August 29, 1962 in Phitsanuloke Thailand. I came to U.S.A. July 22, 1989, by airplane for 24 hours.

I came here to visit my mother and I like to learn about this country and the people how they live, work and their customs. I would like to compare this country with Thailand.

My first job in this country was at con seafood then I change my job to work at LO-AN Foods.

My job is to roll egg rolls. I can roll 8,000 - 10,000 egg roll in one day and I have another job. My other job is cooking Thaifood in a Thai restaurant.

..... Surapee Damrongwatanasuk

BACK HOME

I left my country 17 years ago. On April 8, 1993 I went back to see my family and friends. Everything changed, the streets, the people, and the places where I used to play.

I enjoyed the food, the beaches, and the friendly people and the talks with my family. I got the chance to remember the things I used to do when I was a child.

Those three weeks were excellent, especially the time I spent with my father.

I found Santo Domingo a beautiful place to visit but it's not the place I want to live.

Living 17 years in the U.S.A., I feel it is my home.

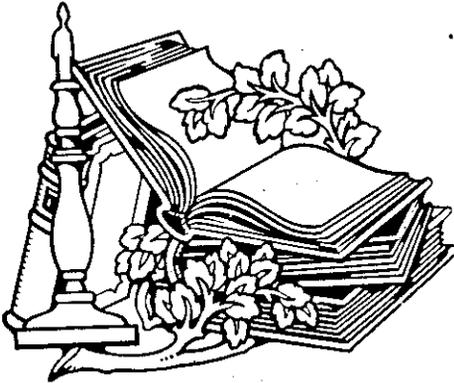
When the vacation finished, I was happy to come back home.

..... Elias Soto

THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT PEOPLE

I feel like lots of people don't get the mileage out of what they are doing. I see a lot of people that work hard every day and are just barely getting by. I know it is frustration for a person to work hard and still ain't making no progress - still in the same rut and can't get out of it. I wish there was some way I could help them get out of their rut.

..... Jimmy Jackson



One day at a time.

Just for today. I won't sorrow.

I'll find things to do with my time

For one day, I'll fight to ad just.

You have your life, I have mine.

Just for today. I'll get through it

My "missing you" tears locked inside.

For only one day, I won't cry for you.

I'll lean on my courage and pride

Just for today. I'll try harder.

Life isn't all roses and wine.

For only one day. I can't promise more,

But I'll take it one day at a time.

.....Laurette Medlin

IF YOU CAN SAY IT, YOU CAN READ IT

If you can say it, you can read it. Reading takes skill to do and time. It is something that you need to do for yourself. You will find at times it is not easy, but you will learn the steps. Admit you need help.

People look at you and see what they want to see. You know yourself better than anyone else. You can't tell a non-reader by looking at them. We all look the same. You can see a bleeding person, but we are bleeding inside. Everytime we look at a book, newspaper, sign, contract or a test, we freeze or make up excuses. That's why we need to learn to read.

Making time for reading is hard to do. Don't expect you can learn to read in two weeks. You will have to be creative, organized and patient with yourself; still making time for study, time for family and friends, and time for yourself. Remember, in order to live productively, you need to learn how to read.

YES.... IF YOU CAN SAY IT.... YOU WILL READ IT!

.....Bobbie Smith

My name is Charlie F. Johnson. I am employed by the City of Tampa Solid Waste Department.

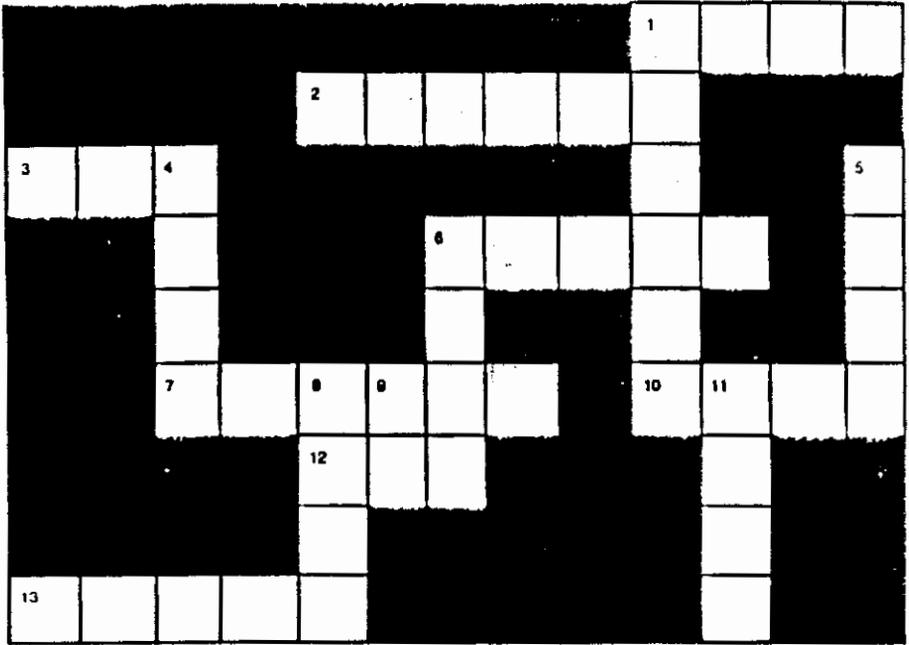
I've been attending the school for the past 2 years. It is my opinion that each individual will get out of this program exactly what they put in and I feel the greatest motivation is the desire to know and once you are motivated to learn there is no obstacle too great to conquer.

..... Charlie F. Johnson

I feel so shy as you draw near,
Your warm breath upon my ear.
Is it true, am I really here? My
Heart pounds so but not in fear.
Your arms pull me into your embrace
I reached to touch your dear face.
The look in your eyes makes my heart race.
This must be the time, the perfect place.
My face feels flush, my senses go reeling
That warm glow, that strange new feeling
A passion that grows as moments go stealing
My trembling body, my soul to you revealing
Oh what joy! Oh, the complete loliss!
I never dreamed the love was like this
Nothing in the world could be amiss!
You lips touched mine - our first kiss.



.....Laurette Medlin



Across

- 1 Mr. _____ has a big truck.
- 2 Ed was sick but now he is _____.
- 3 Her _____ is red.
- 6 Jimmy's _____ gets stuck.
- 7 Mrs. Hill is Ed's _____.
- 10 He will _____ a letter to the woman.
- 12 Mary finds ten eggs in the _____ house.
- 13 Molly's _____ is very pretty.

Word List

- BETTER
- BRICKS
- BUCK
- EGGS
- HAND
- HAT

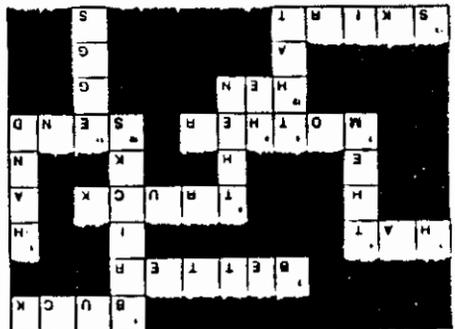
Down

- 1 Ed put some _____ in the mud.
- 4 The letter will tell _____ Fred is well.
- 5 She had a dish in her _____.

- MOTHER
- SEND
- SKIRT
- THAT
- THEM
- THEN
- TRUCK

- 8 _____ has five apples.
- 11 Mary sells fresh hen's _____.

..... Sallie Mae Lynn

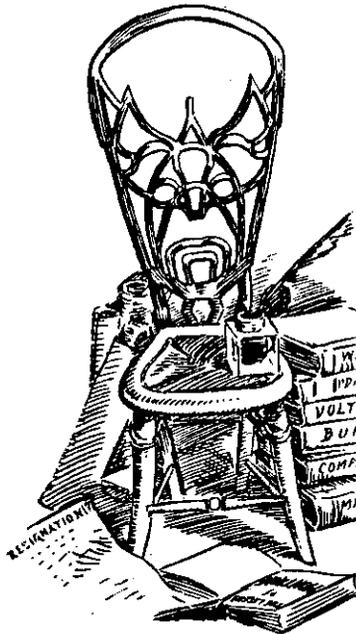


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