

LITBITS



Video Contest – win a \$100 Amazon card!

With smart phones, almost everyone has video recording capabilities in their pockets nowadays. Why not use it to share your story or the stories of your students? Take a 1-to-2 minute telling the world what it is like being a Hillsborough Literacy Council tutor or student. Upload the video to Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram with the hashtag #hlcstories and email us the link.

Each person who submits a video will be entered into a random drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card! All submission need to be received by September 10 and the winner will be announced at the Tutor Student Appreciation.

For those who do not have a phone that takes video but would like to participate, please message us at adulthoodliteracy@hillsboroughcounty.org and we can send out a volunteer to record your story.

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Online Tutor Training Coming Soon

The Florida Literacy Coalition has been working with the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education and the California Library Literacy Services to offer online tutor training for literacy programs in Florida.

Once it is complete, our tutors will have access to the online training and new tutors will be able to start learning tutoring techniques online before the date of the in-person training.

The online course takes about 9 hours over a 3 week period. The course should be ready in the fall, and at that time any current tutors will be invited to try it. You never know what new tips you may pick up!

Tell Your Friends

The Next New Tutor Training is:

May 20, 2017
10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Jimmie B. Keel Library
2902 W Bearss Ave, Tampa, FL 33618



“Like”
the HLC
Facebook page.



Visions

Encourage your student(s) to participate and become a part of *Visions*, 2017 edition!

Every year the Hillsborough Literacy Council publishes *Visions*, a magazine of essays, stories and poems written by our students.

Students write on any topic, and may remain anonymous if they wish. The submissions can be up to one page and will be published without editing to celebrate each student's stage of learning.

Please email stories to AdultLiteracy@hillsboroughcounty.org by June 15.

Our Amazing Volunteers

Many thanks to HLC Tutors Steve Drumm and Bernadette Cook for volunteering at the Taste of New Tampa. They passed out cards and brochures about the HLC program to potential tutors and students.

A big thank you to HLC board member, Aldina Dzebo, for attending the Florida Literacy Coalition Leadership Institute, with the library staff Lucie Chaumont. They gained valuable insights on how other literacy organizations market, fundraise, and assist their communities.

Words from our Tutors

"Hiwot arrived in the United States from Ethiopia only 3 months ago. We have started with basic sight words and phonics. Working with Hiwot reminds me of why I love teaching. Everything she learns brings her JOY. Sounding out 3 letter words elicits my getting a hug and her smiling from ear to ear. It is a wonderful hour. I look forward to many more hours of hugs and smiles."

Submitted by: Amy Todras, HLC Tutor

"I love my student. Her English has improved so much over the past 8 months. Here's a text Tatiane sent me today: Teacher, I just stopped the car to tell you that I'm very happy and excited. I just heard on the radio a song that I love from ED Sheeren (photograph) and I got to understand the whole song. I could hear each word and the meaning of each sentence. I am very happy. Thank you for your teachings, for your patience, for the time that you dedicate to me. Much gratitude."

Submitted by: Stella Bayley, HLC Tutor

FOR TUTORS BY TUTORS

A Literacy Tutor's Notes

"The 300 most frequently-used words represent about 65% of all the words you'll use on a regular basis. By contrast, 2,000 words represents about 90%. Imagine if I had said 'steps' instead of 'words,' and think of language learning as a journey. With just 300 steps you can be 65% of the way to your destination, but it would take you another 1,700 steps to get just 25% closer. In terms of effort vs. reward, those 300 Spartan Words win every time. ... So if you're learning a new language and you want to make useful progress quickly, focusing on the 300 most frequently-used words is a great place to start."

-<http://www.fluentin3months.com/most-common-300-words>

When I first signed on as an adult literacy tutor, I did a little research and discovered that the 25 most frequently used words comprise 33% of all written English. The top 100 make up about half of all written material. Given these statistics, I realized that if my student could sight-read and instantly understand these words, she would be able to more quickly read and understand a story because she wouldn't have to focus on the majority of the words.

There are many free sources online that list the most frequently used words in English. I chose the following document because I like the way the words are ranked and presented in columns <http://www.eyeonthesky.org/pdfs/highfrequencywords.pdf>. I printed out the list, and we reviewed 10 words each tutoring session. We talked about each word, ensuring she understood the meaning and how it would be used in a sentence. If there are multiple meanings for a word, we discussed them, and I explained the importance of context in deciding which definition of the word is being used in a story. Occasionally I would ask her to speed-read the list up to the point we had reached that day, and I would spot-check her understanding of a few words.

We finished the Top 300 words before the holidays, and I asked her if she wanted to continue. She was very enthusiastic, so we have now started working our way through the next 200 words. www.k12.wa.us/MigrantBilingual/pubdocs/TOPOFTHECHART.pdf. This latter document also has an interesting list of Idioms Across Five Languages.

By the way, I typed the Top 100 words into a spreadsheet and sorted them alphabetically. I gave her the list and a one-page story to read. Then for homework, I asked her to circle all of the words in the story that were on the list, allowing her to visually see what progress she has made. I also did the same for the Top 300 words earlier this year -- she was very proud of herself for knowing so many words! I've also noticed a marked increase in her reading speed and comprehension.

By: Linda Helman, HLC Tutor

Conversation Corner

Conversation Corner is a drop-in English practice program. They occur weekly for one hour at multiple library locations. Please encourage your students to attend as many as they can to practice their English conversation skills. The more they exercise their speaking and listening ability, the quicker they become proficient in the English language.

Spring session locations, days, and times:

New Tampa Regional Library



10001 Cross Creek Blvd.
Tampa, 33647
Mondays
6:30 p.m.
April 3 - May 15

Temple Terrace Public Library



202 Bullard Parkway
Temple Terrace, 33617
Mondays
6 p.m.
March 20 - April 24

North Tampa Branch Library



8916 North Boulevard
Tampa, 33604
Saturdays
10:15 a.m.
April 1 - May 20

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library



2902 W Bearss Ave.
Tampa, 33618
Tuesdays
11 a.m.
March 28 - May 16

Town 'N Country Regional Library



7606 Paula Drive, Suite 120
Tampa, 33615
Wednesdays
11 a.m.
March 29 - May 17

Bruton Memorial Library



302 W McLendon Street
Plant City, 33563
Tuesdays
7 p.m.

Brandon Regional Library



619 Vonderburg Drive
Brandon, 33511
Tuesdays
6 p.m.
March 14 - July 25

Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library



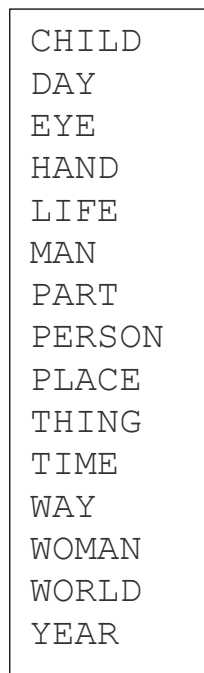
3910 S. Manhattan Ave.
Tampa, 33611
Tuesdays & Thursdays
6 p.m.
March 21 - May 18

The current schedule is posted on our website at www.hillsboroughliteracy.org/learn/english-practice



Student Word Search

Some of the most common nouns

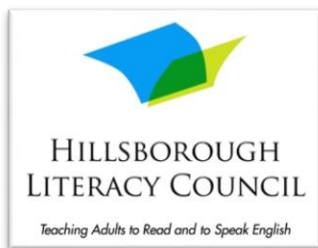


Proverbs around the world

A stranger nearby is better than a far-away relative. – Korean proverb

Don't think there are no crocodiles because the water is calm. – Malayan proverb

HILLSBOROUGH LITERACY COUNCIL



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