

# VISIONS

Writings  
by  
Adult New Readers

Hillsborough Literacy Council

900 N. Ashley Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
(813) 273-3650



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We the members of the  
Hillsborough Literacy Council  
dedicate the 2004 Visions  
to all the tutors and students of HLC.  
Keep up the good work!  
You give courage to all of us.

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## **How I Learned Merchandising**

By Teresa Stern

I recently graduated from Brewster Technical center where I learned merchandise handling. My class was located at the Citrus Park Mall in the Burdines store. My duties in merchandising were to put sensor tags on clothes and strip plastic off racks of clothes and deliver them to the floor.

I met a lot of people at Burdines, my dock manager was Steve, my friend Tracy stocks housewares and bedding. The employees at Burdines are easy to get along with because everyone helps each other whenever someone needs it.

I am working at J. C. Penny now. I am working on the sales floor in the mornings before the store opens. I make sure all the merchandise is put on the shelves, I get the store ready and ensure the people who shop here at the mall will enjoy walking in our store.

## **Moving**

By Clennon James

Some of the reasons I moved were to get away from drugs and for a better location. I moved to a new apartment with two bedrooms. There is a sliding door to go out to a patio. We can see a pond from our patio.

My wife and I are happy that we moved to this apartment.

## **My Vacation**

By Bruce Wickersham

To get ready for our vacation, I have to work on my truck, check my oil, water and power steering fluid in my truck. We start in the morning to Arkansas.

On the road we drive north on 75 to 10. We drove on 10 west to Alabama and Mississippi. Then we drove north on 49 to Jackson. We stopped overnight in Piney Wood on highway 49. And we headed east on highway 20 to Louisiana. Then we headed north on 65 to Arkansas. Then we turned on 270 headed

west to Hot Springs.

We were one hour away from my uncle's. Then we headed north on 7 to 298 to head west. We are at my uncle's house now. That afternoon my uncle and I went fishing.

## **Different Pregnancy Care in Japan and America** By Keiko Ozawa

I have been here for two years. I have a three years old boy and am going to have a baby soon. When I gave a birth to my older son, he was delivered in Japan. However, this time, I'm going to deliver my new baby in America. I have consulted my American doctor about the different ways to take care of pregnant women in a doctor's office between in Japan and America. I'll tell you about the difference, today.

First of all, I think the most different ways between in Japan and America are ultrasound check-ups and medical insurance for the pregnant women. In Japan, a doctor checks ultrasound every

visit throughout the whole pregnancy period. When a baby is in the first trimester, examining the baby in women's womb using an ultrasound scanner is very important. The reason is that a doctor can check the condition of the baby whether he or she is normal or not physically. I was relieved that I could see my baby's physical condition in the very early stage of my pregnancy in Japan. In addition, even though almost all Japanese are covered by the medical government insurance, but Japanese pregnant women for their pregnancy and delivery are not covered by the insurance. However, we can get \$3,000 from government after delivery. In America, pregnancy and delivery are covered by an insurance company, but not all people have the medical insurance. Throughout the whole pregnancy period, a doctor checks ultrasound only for one visit. I was surprised at this matter.

American doctors and staffs are friendly and kind. I can consult a doctor about my problem until I feel comfortable.

Japanese doctors don't talk much friendly with patients.



Anyway I have enjoyed the pregnancy life in America even though it is somewhat different from in Japan. I'm excited about delivering my second baby in America and I'm looking forward to seeing my baby soon!

## **My Future Plans**

By Maude Sanon

In January 2003, I started reading class. Now I am in Book 3. I have learned cursive writing which is very exciting for me. I have a lot more to learn. I am reading pretty well, but I need to work on my writing.

My goal is to be a Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA) because I want to help people. I know I have to get better at writing so I can pass the test to get licensed. I will keep meeting with my tutor. I want to get a class at a high school to get better at writing. I will make my dream come true.

## **I Never Learned to Read**

By Norris Snead

I never learned to read or write at school aged times and I never blamed my parents for this. But this doesn't mean I'm a bad person. I've learned to compensate. Instead of reading stories to my kids, I told them stories.

?

## **It's Not Impossible!**

By Victoria A Guy

When my roommate, Carol Godwin, introduced me to the idea of getting tutoring for my reading, I was very excited. Carol knew of the Hillsborough Literacy Council, because she herself had been a literacy tutor in the Carolina's. She even helped me make the necessary phone calls to get things set up.

I was part of a family that moved a lot when I was a child; a Canadian gypsy family. So I was sent to school only one day

of first grade. I started work at 14 years of age and was married by 16 years old. After three children, and 34 years of marriage, I finally decided to do something for myself. I left the marriage and moved in with my son and daughter-in-law. Immediately, I enrolled in night school and started looking for employment. The State of Florida Vocational office has helped me to assess my needs for medical and employment help. Now, I work for a caregiving agency and support myself, while going to school and receiving tutoring for reading. I also joined a local church and support group and quickly made lots of friends. They even asked me to work at their daycare on Wednesdays and Sundays.

What once seemed impossible tasks for me, are now normal, everyday happenings, because I learned to believe in my own worth! What a difference it has made to be able to read things around me; it has opened so many doors. I am even in the process of purchasing my own home in Riverview.

There must be many other people like me, who are

unaware that the Hillsborough Literacy Council exists. Or, they are afraid to be embarrassed in front of others, because they are unaware that the instruction is confidential one-on-one.

I have now reached my first goal: reading little stories to my grandchildren. My family is really noticing the difference in me, too.

It takes special people to volunteer to tutor. I am very lucky to have a tutor who is very patient and kind. We have become such friends.

My long-term goal is to get my CNA certification and/or work with Hospice. I am on the way to that goal, but know it will take a lot of time and work, but it is worth it, now.

It's not impossible!

**Peace**  
By Haia Mashaly

Let us talk about the most important thing in the whole world (this is peace).

I believe that when you have peace with your self, you will have happiness.

You will face all people and the whole world with an open heart and an open mind. When you feel good about yourself and satisfied with your situation in your family, your work, your school or anywhere, you will have peace with yourself. All of us know that peace is an important order from God.

We can live all together on earth if we really believe in peace.

Sometimes I wonder if we had spent our money for helping poor and weak people instead of spending that money for several wars in our whole human history, then you know what... I am sure the world would be more safe, more charitable, and more loving.

Maybe there are a lot of problems every where and every one tries to approach you to bring you to his side.

I believe in peace between people and having an open heart will

solve our problems.

When I read this little poem I love it so much. I hung it in my bedroom to read it any time I feel sorrow about peace which almost disappeared from our world.

I hope everyone loves it like me.

Where there is faith  
    there is love  
where there is love  
    there is peace  
where there is peace  
    there is God  
where there is God

there is no need.

## **My Dream (A Short Story)**

By Goldie Mingo

One day I was at work. Joe gave me a piece of paper to read. I wasn't able to read the piece of paper, so Joe told our co-workers. My co-workers giggled and laughed at me. I was so angry that I went under a tree and ate lunch by myself. While I was eating lunch, I accidentally rubbed on a Budweiser can. When I rubbed on the can, a genie came out.

The genie told me I had one wish. Now I could have wished for a million dollars or a beautiful new car or I could have even wished for a better mind. But I wanted to teach Joe a lesson, so I told the genie to send Joe to a foreign country, Africa, where everyone speaks Swahili. The genie sent Joe to a town where everyone spoke Swahili and the street signs and hotel information was also written in Swahili.

The genie told Joe if he could get back to America, he will be granted a million dollars. Joe started his

journey on trying to get back to America. Joe came upon a man, and asked him where the airport is? The man spoke in Swahili and Joe did not understand his response. So Joe thought with his mind, he would read the telephone book, but the telephone was written in Swahili also. Joe went to the bus station and asked the bus driver if he was going to the airport. The bus driver spoke in Swahili. Joe finally realized that he could not get back to America because he did not understand Swahili.

Joe had to get the genie to help him get back to America. The genie helped me to teach Joe a lesson by showing him that he should not make fun of other people's reading disability. My 30 minute lunch break was over and I woke up and realized it was just a dream.

## **The Big Move**

By Dina Castillo

My father was born in Palestine, Bethlehem, in July nineteen eight. His name was Carlos El Bascha. When



he has sixteen years old, he got permission from his parents to travel to America with his uncle. They got on a ship and they traveled many days. The ship arrived at a port in Barranquilla, Colombia. His uncle landed there, but my father continued on to Honduras in Central America. He landed in Castilla and he walked around the port. He met a wonderful man from Palestine, Mr. Hode, who supported and helped my dad, he gave him work. My father was a dynamic entrepreneur and quickly had his own store. He called it "Casa Bascha." My mother, of Spanish heritage, was born in El Salvador, in November, nineteen fourteen. Her name was Susana Marmol. Her parents decided to move from El Salvador to Honduras, to find better work and better quality of life.

One day my dad meets my mom and they fell in love. They got married in November, nineteen thirty seven and procreate eight children, five boys and three girls, over the following fourteen years. I was their second baby.

In January nineteen sixty nine, I married Mario Castillo a Dentist from La Ceiba in Honduras. We procreated three children, one boy and two girls. My sister Doris got married two years later, to a Honduran Doctor, who decided to travel to Pittsfield, Mass in June of the same year, to qualify as Gynecologist and Obstetrician. Every year my parents, my husband, my children and I would come to visit them.

In nineteen seventy three my brother in law decided to move permanently to Houston, TX. And finish his specialty there.

He began working at St. Joseph's Hospital, three years later he found a partner and they opened their private practice.

We always enjoyed the lifestyle in the USA. Our dream was to live in this country some day.

In June nineteen eighty eight my son Mario graduated from High School. We sent him to pursue his education at the University of South Florida.

Four years later Claudia graduated and we sent her to the University too.

Finally Regina, our youngest daughter followed her brother and sister to South Florida.

In November nineteen sixty eight I lost my mom, it was terrible, we were very, very sad. In May nineteen ninety four my father died, and after the funeral all the members of my family were really sad. My husband decided to come to visit our children here, we enjoyed this time with them enormously. My husband was really happy and said: "Soon we will come to live here together. Would you like that?" I answered immediately "of course that is a great idea."

Unfortunately, that was his last trip; sadly he died suddenly that October.

This was the turning point in my life. He was my soul mate for twenty five years, nine months and one day. His death changed my life perspectives. I know saw my self yearning the

company of my children.

Both my girls were born in Houston, TX. Claudia was born in October nineteen seventy three, and Regina in June seventy five. And are therefore citizens of the USA by birthright. Following her twenty first birthday Claudia, was able to file Sponsorship papers on my behalf and I was able to come to the USA in nineteen ninety seven as a resident. Last year I was granted citizenship and now live happily here very close to all my children and grandchildren too.

## **Story About Anna in the Tropics**

By Fred Coley

This play is about a cigar factory in the late fifties. The workers are from Cuba.

They are living in Tampa's Ybor City. Ofelia sent for a lector that she paid to read stories to the factory workers as they work. Cheche is Santiago's half brother from America. He hates

lectors because his wife ran off with one, so he tried to tell the workers that he was in favor of replacing lectors with machines. Santiago made a new cigar brand that he was proud of, so they had a party. The next day everyone was late for work. Cheche was the last one to arrive. He came in with a gun and he shot and killed the lector.

## **My Story is Called Bluffing**

By L.

Bluffing hurts when you do it. It only hurts when you know what it is. It is something that will make you feel like you are having a heart attack or anxiety attack. It makes you feel like you are having the worst thing happening to you. During your life, you worry all the time. Mine has lasted for 47 years. Because you live like this, it never stops. It still goes on now. People never know, but you do know. We need help. It happens all the time and it hurts. It is a lie that you live all the time. You could lose

your job because they found out about this. I have had the same job for over thirty years. It is very hard to do this. I know because I happen to be a senior manager.

A book is something that you need to be able to read and you must be able to write. One day, I will, but it is a hard thing to do now. I know that I'm not the only one who lives like this in the work force.

**You Can Do It Too**  
By Karla F. Ramirez Cintron

My name is Karla. I am from Puerto Rico and I am 22 Years of age. I moved to Tampa, FL because I wanted to learn to speak English. In P.R. the teacher spoke English in the English class, but outside the teacher spoke Spanish. I want to learn everything about English.

I miss my family in P.R. (especially my mother, sister and brother), but I know it is better for me to stay here in Tampa. I will

understand two languages and this is good. When you start it is hard, but you can do it if you try hard. Later you will be proud that you understand two languages.

Thank God my aunt and my uncle opened the door to their house to help me. Thanks. All my family speaks two languages and I think if my family speaks two languages, why can't I do it? If I can do it you can do it. It is not easy, but do it for your future.

I have three years of college in P.R. and I want to finish my degree at USF. This August I start at USF to finish my degree. Then, I will take the exam to enter Law School. I know it is not easy, but I will do it. Thanks.

## **Inca Princess**

By Ysabel Quevado

Hello, my name is Ysabel. I'm from Peru in South America. I'm the mother of a 10 year old boy "Martin". I love everything related to Arts & Crafts and I do some of it as a part time job. At

the Library I have found a good selection of books concerning Art, and my son loves to spend time at the Library, with the computers, the books and with the Library activities as well. (See his story)

My son and I attend the Library of New Tampa every Thursday since the year 2002 for the class in English conversation which is guided by Mr. Richard Morris, to whom I'm very thankful for his time, his patience, his knowledge and his good advice. He also encourages me to improve my English skills to have a better development of my person in this country. I'm so glad there are people at the Library willing to help others to reach their goals.

### **Martin's Story**

By Martin Quevado

(10 year old son of Ysabel Quevado)

I think that the Library it's a really good place to spend time wisely. I love the fact that Mr. Morris helps my Mom with her English. Her pronunciation is a lot better than before. For example, before she said "eschool" now she says "school", and



she used to say the number 3 as "tree" instead of "three". Now she understands more and more about my homework from school, which is great because she is able to help me with it. I'm very proud of my Mom.

### **Amporn's Metamorphosis**

By Amporn Dyel

My name is Amporn and I am from Thailand. My name in Thai means Sky. I came to Tampa, FL from Thailand in August 1998. When I came here I knew English only a little. I remember when I went to my sister-in-laws house the first time, they spoke so fast I couldn't understand what they said. I sat down with them and listened to them talk and that made me uncomfortable. I told myself if I knew English better I could make conversation with them. If the telephone rang, I couldn't pick it up because I didn't understand what they said. If I went to the store, I was afraid to talk to anyone.

After that a friend of mine from Japan told me that she went to learn English at a library on Bruce B. Downs. She gave me the address and I went there and met Mr. Morris and he took me into the class. He told me that if you want to learn English you have to practice everyday and not be afraid to try.

Ever since, he has been teaching me English once a week for 21/2 years and I have learned a lot from him. Now I can speak better with other people, answer the phone, talk with sales people at the stores and even found a job. He is a very good teacher. I know I still have a lot to learn, because English is very difficult to learn.

That is my story.

## **A Cheerful Student**

By Gloria Andel

My name is Gloria and I am from Colombia. I have lived in the United States since May 1995. I have lived in Tampa for two years and before that I lived in Orlando, FL. I have been going

regularly to the Library for some time to learn English at Cross Creek. I go on Thursday nights to the free English class to refine my English.

I personally enjoy being with other people from different countries and exchanging cultures. Sometimes I take my son to class with me if my husband has to work. Mr. Morris allows the mothers to take their children to his class if necessary.

I attend the English class at the library to learn better pronunciation because I don't have a lot of money for other classes and the library is very close to my house, so it is easy for me to attend.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to the library and particularly to Richard Morris for being so generous and teaching English with dependability, patience and professionalism and also to all the students who attend or have attended the library conversation class.

## **The Life Story of Franklyn Jerome**

By Franklyn Jerome

My father was thirty-eight when he died in 1956. My sister was fourteen years old. She is the big one and I am the second of six children. Life was hard in Trinidad at that time. In school I was very good with math, but not so good in reading. There were no books or newspapers in our home, but at age 12 I had to quit school to help the rest of the family.

Thirty-three years ago, in 1971, I left Trinidad to come to America and make a new life. I left my girlfriend and my son, Dexter. Two years later my child's mother left our son with her sister and came to meet me in Brooklyn, New York, and we began living together. Two years later we had another child, Lisa. At three years old I took her to Trinidad to live with my mother.

Things were going good for me and my girlfriend, so we got married and lived a great life for the next five years. A friend of mine had moved to Tampa, Florida, and my vacation was coming

up so my friend asked me to come to Tampa. I liked it here, so while I was here in 1978, my friend helped me find a home to buy. After the closing, the same real estate person found a tenant and rented the house for me.

In January of 1981, we moved to Tampa and I got a job. Things were going good by then and my kids came from Trinidad to live with us. From that time things changed from good to bad. Everything was good for the kids, but not for me. Six years later my daughter was doing what she liked and no one said anything to me. I was working nights, 9:00 at night to 7:00 in the morning. When I came home from work, my wife went to work and the kids went to school. The next thing I know Lisa is having a baby at 15.

I became sick and my blood pressure shot up so high that my kidneys failed. I was on dialysis for five years and during that time my wife and I divorced. I started school in the Adult Education Program at Robinson High School and on January 21, 1998, when

I came home from school, I got a phone call from Tampa General Hospital that I would be getting kidney transplant. I was so happy and it was one of the best things in my life. At that time I quit school at Robinson, since I did not like how things were going there.

My surgery and recovery were long, but successful. My son graduated from high school and joined the Navy for four years. After several construction jobs he is now a nurse, but suffers from Crohn's Disease. My daughter married the father of her child and has had two more children, divorced and remarried.

In January of 2003 I saw a phone number on TV, saying to call the number and someone will answer you, so I did. Now Jan is the one I talk to and is my school teacher at the library every Thursday in the morning from 9:00 to 11:00. Jan helps me with my reading and explains what I do not understand. I am very grateful to the Hillsborough County Literacy Program for this help.

## **Learning to Read Better**

By Jerry C.

I like to study because:

1. I learn words.
2. I feel good.
3. I can help my baby.
4. I can get a better job.
5. I can read more books.
6. I can get my GED.
7. I can go to the Air Force.

## **Chicken Canelones**

By Maria Soledad

Blintze (Ingredients)

- $\frac{1}{2}$  gal. milk
- 4 cups of flour
- 3 eggs
- a pinch of salt

Way of preparation:

Mix these ingredients until blended. Put a pan on the stove on high, add a little piece of butter, finally add the mix by spoon full to the pan, leave to brown and turn to the other side. Set aside to cool.

Filling (Ingredients)

- 2 onions
- 2 green peppers
- 4 packages of fresh spinach
- 3 pounds of chicken breast
- 2 eggs
- salt and pepper

Way of preparation:

Brown the onions with the green pepper, add the chicken breast in little pieces, till cook around 10 min, add the eggs and finally the spinach, cook about 20 min. at low heat.



- Red Sauce (ingredients)
- 2 onions
- 2 can tomato sauce
- 2 green or red peppers
- salt and pepper

Brown onions with green peppers, add tomato sauce, salt and pepper, cook 20 min., low heat.

Put the stuffing on the blintze, form a roll, put in a big dish, add the sauce on top, put in the oven for 5 min. take out, add cheese parmesan and serve.

This is a recipe from my country Argentina we prepare it in special occasion like on Father's Day, Mother's Day or on Sundays for the family gatherings.

**GIVE A HAND**  
**TO TEACH OTHERS TO READ**

