



The ILC, The Fountain of Knowledge

ILC Student Newsletter Volume 20 ♦ April 2012 ♦ 442 Main Street, Malden MA 02148 ♦ Tel. 781-322-9777 ♦ www.ilctr.org

Dear Readers:

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) welcomes anyone who is eager to learn English. The ILC staff supports the students deeply and generously like a river that supplies water to everyone freely. The ILC is also a fountain of knowledge.

When new immigrants come for the first time to the U.S. they are very excited for a short time and are thirsty for knowledge. They have to face a lot of challenges and problems and have to communicate with other people and face life’s pressures. The ILC, a fountain of knowledge to overcome these obstacles or problems, gives help freely to anyone who is thirsty to learn English.

In The ILC there are many excellent teachers who provide us with not only English but also teach us what is necessary to integrate into the U.S. such as culture, traditions, history and etiquette and help us prepare for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The ILC helps students achieve their goals.

We wish to tell everybody who has volunteered to maintain this fountain, The ILC in Malden and Mrs. Diane Portnoy that The ILC is great!

If you have a thirst for English, please knock on The ILC’s door!



The 2012 ILC Student Newsletter Editors (from left) Katsura Hamano, Esther Tello, Augustin Hounye, Zhijun Fang. We would like to give special thanks to Tin Chee (inset), who helped create the front page banner.

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Interview with Diane Portnoy President and CEO



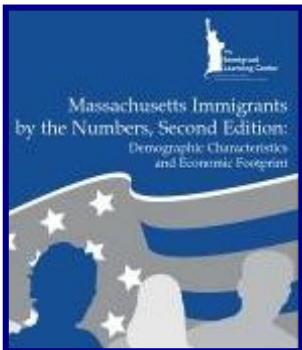
Diane had two reasons for founding The ILC in 1992. In the 1980s she was teaching immigrants from Russia, Asia and many other countries. At that time there was no free school for immigrants but immigrants needed one. Diane founded a free school to help newcomers in Malden because there are many immigrants here. Her second reason for founding The ILC is personal. Diane and her parents were immigrants from Poland. She thinks immigrants are very important for the U.S. It was very difficult for her parents to learn English. They would have been very happy with a school like The ILC.

Diane believes that immigrants help the U.S. in two important aspects. First, they help the economy because many immigrants start their own businesses, create jobs and are good consumers. Second, immigrants bring their various cultures, such as food and music. In addition, immigrants are very strong. They overcome many difficulties and have a drive for success.

We asked Diane how we can help The ILC after we leave the Level 5 class. She said some students help the school as volunteers and some students make contributions to the school. Every student can help in many ways.

Lastly, when Diane walks around the school she is very glad to see happy students and wonderful teachers and staff. Diane shared her wonderful motto: **try to make life better.**

A Tour of The ILC Public Education Institute



We were kindly invited on a tour by The ILC Public Education Institute (PEI). It is located on the 4th floor, and everybody can visit there at any time.

The PEI makes an effort to inform American people about the economic and social contribution of immigrants in the U.S. Most Americans don't know that immigrants have strong power and influence on American society. The PEI published ten studies and reports about Massachusetts immigrants as entrepreneurs, workers and consumers that are based on current research. They are distributed to the public free of charge.

We watched a video about children of immigrant entrepreneurs who are talking about their experiences of growing up in the U.S. That was very interesting and it really resonated with us.

At the end of the tour, we exchanged frank opinions about our present and future lives. Marcia Hohn, Director of the PEI who encouraged us immigrants, has talent, energy and positive impact. Don't give up hope!

Interview with Karen Oakley Director of English language Programs



Karen came to The ILC as a teacher in 1996. Now she is director of English language programs at the school. She enjoyed being a teacher and meeting students from many different countries. She was happy to teach motivated students and to see their progress. She learned a lot from her students.

Now Karen plans programs for The ILC classes. These are very important for the school. She feels glad when students tell her they come to The ILC not just to learn English but also to learn about lots of other cultures. Karen has advice for ILC students: practice speaking English everywhere. Look for every opportunity to make a conversation. Try to say three things in English every day in supermarkets and stores. Speaking a little English every day is better than spending a whole day once a week speaking English.

Interviews with Teachers

Linda Altvater

Teacher for Family Literacy 3 and Afternoon Level 3



Before Linda came to The ILC as a teacher last year, she worked for 28 years in an airplane factory where she met many people from other countries. At one time she also lived in France so she knows how hard it is to learn another language. Linda started as a volunteer at The ILC and became a Level 3 teacher in 2011. She is a very kind and patient teacher. She shows students useful objects from everyday life such as a cutting board and thread and teaches them the words for the object. She thinks repetition and visual impact are helpful to remember. Linda has advice for ILC students: Just practice. Don't be timid. Read newspapers, science books and practice English everywhere.

Marcia Spector,

Teacher for Morning Level 3 and Afternoon Level 5



Marcia started as a volunteer at The ILC. She became a teacher six years ago. She likes teaching at the school because here there are wonderful, courageous, determined students from all over the world. Marcia is very patient with her students. She uses the "Information Gap" to help them learn. She gives the students information which they understand in different ways. To bridge the gap in understanding, Marcia listens to the students' words, puts their thoughts together and shares them with the class. She also uses role playing, group conversation and writing with the class. Marcia's advice to ILC students: Enjoy each day, make friends, be patient with yourself and don't be discouraged. Stay healthy and don't eat fast food!

Student Achievement Board

There is a new addition to the window outside the Computer Lab. Articles and pictures of students who have become new citizens or received driver's licenses or gotten new jobs, or library cards are featured. Teachers recommend students for this attention, and Alison is always looking for new stories to put up on the Student Achievement Board.

Nicole Plaisime

Literacy Student



Nicole was dreaming of becoming a citizen when she came to the U.S. She wanted to bring her mother here from Haiti. She wanted to be able to vote and to have a U.S. passport and get a good job. She was afraid of the citizenship test, but she studied very hard and read books. Some of The ILC teachers help her. She passed the test and became a U.S. citizen in September 2011. Now Nicole feels very relieved and happy. She continues to study English at The ILC and wants to become a nursing assistant.

Charite Merise – Haiti

Literacy Student



Charite is a new citizen of the United States. He came to this country from Haiti in 2002 and enrolled in The ILC that year. Charite was a farmer in Haiti and now lives with his son in Malden. He believes "America is a good country," and he is studying to improve his English in school. After the earthquake destroyed their home in Haiti, Charite was determined to pass the citizenship test so that he could bring members of his family to the United States. With the help of The ILC citizenship class, he passed the test and took the Oath of Allegiance to the country he loves at Faneuil Hall in Boston on February 2, 2012.

Word Search by Morning and Afternoon Level 1 Things in the Classroom

Find the words listed below. Words appear straight across, backward, up, down and diagonally.



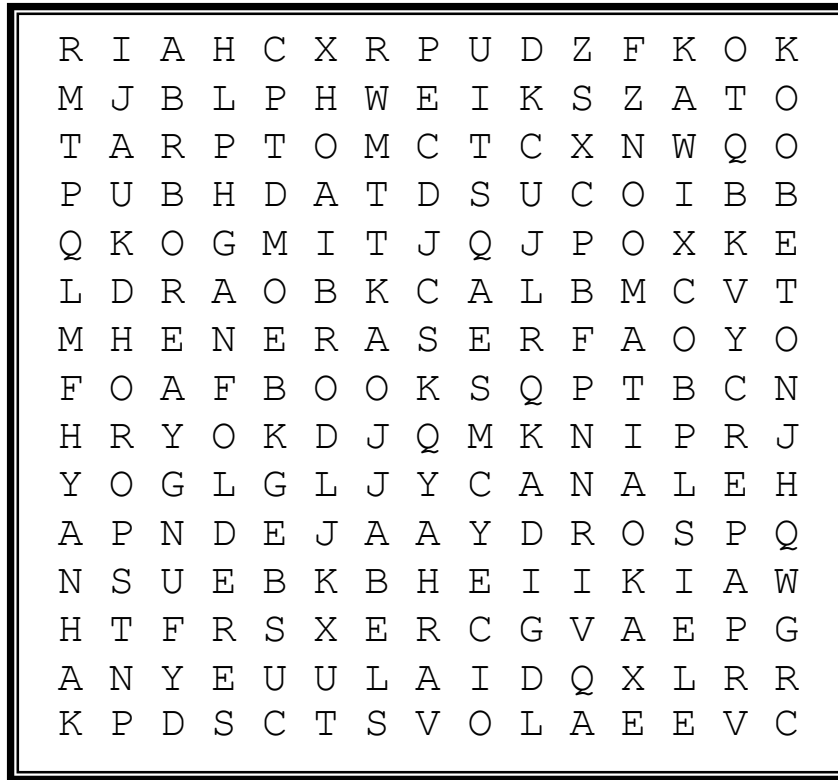
Computer



Book



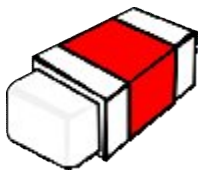
Backpack



Desk



Dictionary



Eraser



Binder



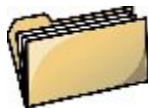
Blackboard



Chalk



Chair



Folder



Marker



Notebook

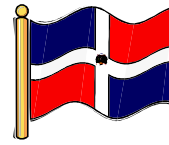


Paper

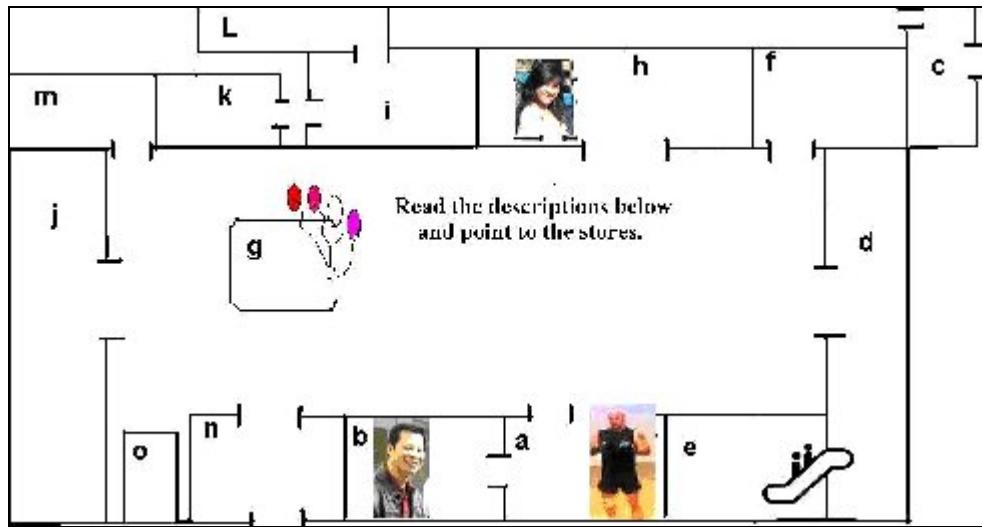
Survey of the Morning Students by Morning Level 2

Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., The ILC educates 235 students from 42 countries.

There are 2 students from Albania.
There are 2 students from Algeria.
There are 10 students from Brazil.
There is 1 student from Cambodia.
There are 4 students from Cameroon.
There is 1 student from Cape Verde.
There is 1 student from Chile.
There are 33 students from China.
There is 1 student from Colombia.
There is 1 student from Congo.
There are 2 students from the Dominican Republic.
There is 1 student from Egypt.
There are 16 students from El Salvador.
There are 4 students from Ethiopia.
There is 1 student from Georgia.
There are 3 students from Guatemala.
There are 87 students from Haiti.
There are 2 students from Hong Kong.
There is 1 student from India.
There is 1 student from Iraq.
There is 1 student from Italy.
There is 1 student from Kazakhstan.
There are 2 students from Libya.
There are 4 students from Mexico.
There is 1 student from Moldova.
There are 16 students from Morocco.
There is 1 student from Nigeria.
There are 2 students from Pakistan.
There is 1 student from Panama.
There is 1 student from Peru.
There is 1 student from Puerto Rico.
There is 1 student from the Republic of Benin.
There are 4 students from Russia.
There is 1 student from Rwanda.
There is 1 student from Somalia.
There is 1 student from Suriname.
There is 1 student from Syria.
There are 2 students from Thailand.
There is 1 student from Tibet.
There is 1 student from Ukraine.
There are 2 students from Venezuela.
There are 15 students from Vietnam.



The above information does not include the 168 students who attend The ILC in the afternoon. They come from the countries listed above and Afghanistan, Bosnia, Burma, Ecuador, Eritrea, Greece, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Nepal and Sri Lanka.



Game by Morning Level 3

1. **Go through** Vitalie's Boxing Gym (a) **to get to** C.K. Kung Fu (b).
2. You can only **enter** the Big Dragon Restaurant (c) **from the outside**.
3. Macy's (d) is **connected to** Hard Work English School (e) **by an escalator**. Macy's is **bigger than** Hard Work English School.
4. The Toy Story (f) is **next to** the Big Dragon Restaurant.
5. The Kiosk store (g) is called Balloons and Flowers.
6. J.C. Penneys (i) is **across from** C.K. Kung Fu.
7. Huyen's Hair Salon (h) is **between** J.C. Penneys and the Toy Story.
8. Sports Authority (j) is **at the opposite end of the Mall from** Macy's. Sports Authority **faces** Macy's.
9. The entrance to J.C. Penney is **directly across from** the entrance to Victoria's Secret.(k)
10. Great Kiss Chocolates (L) is **next to** J.C. Penneys and **behind** Victoria's Secret.
11. Bow Wow's Pet Store (m) is **between** Sports Authority and Victoria's Secret.
12. Market Basket (n) has **an outside and an inside entrance**.
13. As you're walking into Sports Authority, you'll **pass by** the restrooms (o) **on your left**.

Match the sentences below by connecting the right column to the left column:

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The bus will drop us off in the morning and | a | because it doesn't fit. |
| 2. You should try on those pants | b | the customers at table 3. |
| 3. I want to fill out | c | so now he has to buy new clothes. |
| 4. Let's grab a quick bite at | d | an application for a job. |
| 5. I'm going to take this shirt back | e | at Big Dragon Restaurant. |
| 6. Please hang the robe back up on | f | correct. |
| 7. I'm going to take off these tight shoes | g | see what we owe for lunch? |
| 8. I have to think it over because | h | to find the best deal. |
| 9. I ran into | i | pick us up in the afternoon. |
| 10. Your job is to wait on | j | what time the mall closes? |
| 11. I don't want to go into debt so I don't | k | of shoes you like? |
| 12. Let's look over the bill and make sure it's | l | I'm not sure I can afford that coat. |
| 13. If we chip in together, we can buy a nice | m | Big Dragon Restaurant. |
| 14. My son grew out of all his clothes | n | to make sure they fit. |
| 15. I'm going to cut back on my spending, | o | want to spend a lot of money. |
| 16. Did you pick out a pair | p | because my feet are killing me. |
| 17. It's a good idea to shop around | q | so I can save money. |
| 18. Could you add up the bill and | r | an old friend at Huyen's Hair Salon. |
| 19. Can you find out | s | wedding gift for Anne and Omar. |
| 20. I'd like to eat out tonight | t | the rack. |

Answers: 1-i, 2-n, 3-d, 4-m, 5-a, 6-f, 7-p, 8-l, 9-r, 10-b, 11-o, 12-f, 13-s, 14-c, 15-q, 16-k, 17-h, 18-g, 19-j, 20-e

**How English Helps Us in Our Lives (English – The Key to Success)
By Morning Level 4**

When we first came to the U.S; very few of us could speak any English. This made our life very difficult. Even little things like shopping or using public transportation caused big problems. We were afraid to go out and talk to strangers. And when someone talked to us, we had no idea what they were saying.

Things began to change when we enrolled in The ILC. Little by little, we started to understand our teachers and other Americans and respond to them. Although we have a long way to go, our life is much easier now that we can speak some English.

First of all, we can speak with our kids' teachers and help our children with their studies. Some of us read English books to our children and grandchildren. We can make doctor's appointment by phone and even speak with him without an interpreter.

Everyday communication at work, while shopping and asking for directions has become much easier. We can make friends not only with Americans but also with English-speaking people from other countries.

Reading street signs and following directions is no longer a problem.

Most of us use English language Internet to read the news and shop online, and many of us watch American TV and listen to the radio, which is not only enjoyable but also helps us improve our English.

Most importantly, our ability to speak the language gives us better chances to find a good job and get promoted.

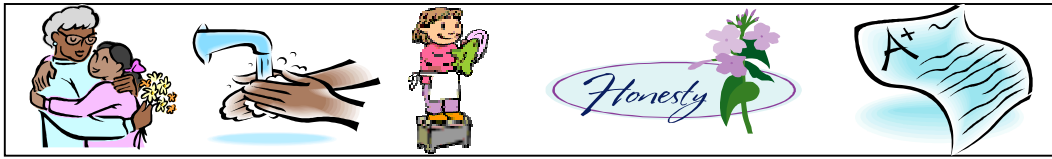
It can be justly said that the knowledge of English is the key to success in America.

**Literacy
Can you Guess the Word?**

1. _ _ _ _ _ I take this to go to school. It makes stops.
2. _ _ _ _ _ I toast this and put butter on this in the morning.
3. _ _ _ _ _ We use this to make meatballs. It's the color red.
4. I _ _ _ _ _ my teeth.
5. _ _ _ _ _ I go to this place to buy clothes.
6. _ _ _ _ _ I go to this place to eat.
7. _ _ _ _ _ This is a time of day when you rest, watch TV and dream.



Ideas for Raising Children by Family Literacy 2



I help my daughter with her nutrition and her health.

I think my child needs good instruction because life is very complicated in the world today.

It is important to give children chores.

I play with my children.

Children should have good respect for people in their family.

You need to teach children to be honest.

Raise your child well to help other people.

Protect your children from bad things.

Sports and exercise are important for children.

Children need to respect other people.

Children should go to school every day and do their homework.

I want my children to have good hygiene.

I want my son to be a good citizen.

Children should wake up early every day.

Children need to be polite to everybody.

I need to give my child a lot of love.

I want my older child to help with the baby.

Tell your child to expect less in life.

Tell your children to give more to other people.

My child needs to pick up her toys when she is finished playing.



Family Literacy 3 School Lunches From Around the World



Suriname - In my country I used to eat bread with peanut butter and jelly for school lunch. Sometimes I ate inside and sometimes I ate outside. Sometimes I made cassava bread and used that for school lunch with juice. I liked to make lunch myself because I liked to eat.

The Dominican Republic - In my country the children don't eat lunch at school. The typical lunch in the Dominican Republic is rice, meat, beans and spaghetti.

China - When we were children, we didn't have lunch at school because the school was nearby. Our parents always made lunch for us. Sometimes we ate chicken, eggs, vegetables, rice, soup and noodles. Those were all our favorite foods.

Chile - In Chile, when I was a girl, school lunches were healthy. Some typical foods were legumes, soups, stews and spaghetti with sauce.

Vietnam - I ate lunch at home because that's the culture of my country. My Mom cooked for me. The main meal

for lunch was rice, spicy fish, vegetables, meat soup and noodles.

Syria - I'm happy when I remember my childhood. When I was a child, I brought my lunch to the school. My Mom made a lunch for me because I couldn't do it by myself. My favorite lunch was a cheese sandwich, yogurt with Syrian bread and some fruit.

El Salvador - When I was a child, I never ate in school. I ate at home. My Mom made rice with milk, cinnamon and sugar for me. Some children bought lunch at school. Typical food was pupusas and milk

Haiti - In Haiti, when we were children, we used to eat pasta, egg sandwiches, potatoes, beef, french fries with hot dogs, plantains and chicken. We drank lemonade or orange juice. For dessert, we used to eat bananas, tangerines or other fruit. Now it's different.

Cameroon - We eat lunch at home. We usually eat rice and beans. We occasionally eat sandwiches like peanut butter or ham. Everyone would like more sandwiches but that is too expensive.

Why did I come to America? By Afternoon Level 2

“I came to the United States five years ago because in my country there is not work. In the United States, there is opportunity for anything.”
- El Salvador

“...we believe this country is better to live in for now.”
- Mexico

“After the earthquake in January 2010, I came to the United States with my daughter because my house was destroyed and life was difficult for my family.”
- Haiti

“I would like to continue to work with the kids in this country like I use[d] to in Haiti, but it’s very difficult because my English is poor.”
- Haiti

“I came to the United States of America to work to help my family financially. I’m studying English to improve my situation and to move forward. In this country, there are many job opportunities in all different areas, providing health and welfare to all people.”
- Colombia

“The United States has more timeliness and I love the United States. The United States has more jobs. The United States has more good colleges. The United States has more good medicine. The United States has more good free high schools. Finally, the United States is a good country.”
- Haiti

“I came to the United States to help myself and my family. The reason is because I have three children.”
- Haiti

“One of the reasons that I came [to the United States] is because my father lived here...”
- Haiti

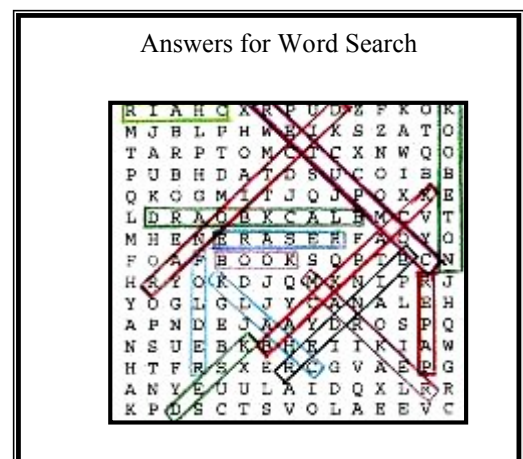
“My life in the United States is different from my country...I have security...”
- Haiti

“I came to live in the United States to improve my career.”
- Haiti

“It was always my dream after I graduate from high school to come to [the] U.S.A.”
- Haiti

“Since the earthquake my country has many problems. My house was destroyed and my husband died...”
- Haiti

“One of the main reasons for immigration is the search for work, to find a job and have peace.”... “A lot of people come to the United States seeking religious tolerance.”
- Morocco



Weddings Around the World by Afternoon Level 3

At a wedding in **China** the couple must bow three times: the first bow for the ancestors, the second bow for the parents and the third bow for each other.



This picture shows the Kingdom wedding in **Morocco**. The king and his queen are dressed in traditional clothes. The wedding lasts for three days.



Guatemala: The bride wears a beautiful white dress with a veil on her head and carries a fresh flower bouquet. The groom looks perfect in his suit.



Italian weddings, particularly in Venice, are special. The bride and groom come to the church in a traditional boat called a gondola.



In **Vietnam**, before the wedding day, the groom's family must prepare some gifts to go to the bride's family and must ask for the girl's hand for their son.



In **Cambodia**, a traditional wedding lasts for three days and three nights. The bride and groom wear traditional Cambodian clothing.



In the countryside in **Venezuela**, brides wear colorful, flowered dresses. The couple celebrates with Joropo music with traditional musical instruments like harps, cuatros and maracas.



When a couple gets married in **Colombia**, there are beautiful red flowers in the church. The bride walks down the aisle with her father.



People like weddings in **Russia** because there is music and dancing. The couple promises each other good fortune, a happy life, and love.



In **Haiti** the bride wears a long white dress and the groom wears a navy blue suit and white gloves.



A wedding day in **Brazil** is very important. The ceremony is similar to the American tradition. A wedding planner helps with everything.



In **Albania** the groom's handkerchief is burned at the wedding, symbolizing the end of his bachelorhood.





**Cupid Visited The Afternoon Level 4 Class In February
And Inspired them To Write Poems!**



Roses are red,
Daisies are white...
Will you please marry me?
You're Mr. Right!
-Marie

Roses are red,
Daisies are white...
You and I will elope
Together this night!
-Luis

Roses are red,
Daisies are white...
You make me happy
And my day very bright!
-Adriana

Roses are red,
Violets are blue...
You think you're so handsome,
But that is not true!
-Sylvia

Roses are red,
Lilies are white...
If you ask me why I love you,
I love my diamond ring bright!
-Demi

Roses are red
Violets are blue,
Don't only say, "I love you!"
I need a diamond, too!
-Anne

Roses are red,
Daisies are white...
Don't be scared
'cuz you're just my type!
-James

Roses are red,
Violets are blue...
I ask myself why I love you
When your love isn't true!
-Saint Jean

Roses are red,
Daisies are white...
You gave me a fright!
Come and hug me tight!
-Sharmila

Roses are red,
Daisies are white...
Both colors make you happy
On Valentine's Day bright!
-Renaud

Roses are red,
Daisies are bright...
I am the string
And you are the kite!
-Sandy

Roses are red,
Carnations are pink...
Don't wear those eyeglasses!
They make your eyes blink!
-Anu

Many Voices by afternoon Level 5

Our class participated in Malden Reads. We read Home of the Brave, by Katherine Applegate. Kek is an African refugee who tells us his feelings about coming to the U.S. We will tell you about ours. Each student wrote part of this prose poem.

Many Voices

I left my country.
I left my family.
I left my friends.
I was young. I wanted the opportunities.
I was 67 years old. It was difficult for me to change my life.
I came for my daughter's future.
I prayed every day to come to America.
I came here for my husband's business. It was not my will. I came here reluctantly.
I didn't come here as an immigrant. I came as a refugee. I came for freedom.



I won the lottery visa. I came to the U.S. At first, I was so happy. Then, I was sick. I had no appetite. "You have depression," the doctor said. He sent me to a psychologist. "You don't have depression," she said. "What happened to you?" I said, "I have no job. I stay at home from morning to night. Help me to find a job." She helped me to write my resume.

I went to an unknown place.
A first surprise were the mountains of snow.
Everything was different from my motherland.
American food was too sweet, too salty, too fatty, and the portions were too big.
I was a fish out of water.
I just nodded my head, confused.
I said, "Hi," "Good morning," "Bye."
"Sorry, I can't speak English. Talk to my husband."
My tongue was disabled to describe my feelings.



It's a long path. Sometimes I'm exhausted. I don't give up.
Beautiful flowers come on dry branches.
I am learning English.
I can take care of myself.
I like American food better.
I have changed my life. I'm not closed indoors.
I have good friends.
I have chances in my career, and second chances and third chances.
My wife can live her life her own way here.
My children were born here. They are Americans.
Children grow up in a fine place. They are stronger.
My husband and I don't have the good jobs we had in my country. But I'm grateful to this country. It has welcomed my family.

I feel sad about the situation of immigrants. I have no value here.
I hope there will be an immigration bill. I want my daughter to go to college like any other child.
College makes all the difference in the life of a person.

I have a wish that everything will turn out well for us,
who one day long ago dreamed to live here in this country.