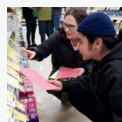


KENOSHA LITERACY COUNCIL

STUDENT ANTHOLOGY

2023



Read. Succeed. Lead.
Kenosha Literacy Council

2023

**KENOSHA LITERACY COUNCIL
STUDENT ANTHOLOGY
22ND EDITION**

The articles that are contained in the 2023 Student Anthology are the actual essays that were authored by Kenosha Literacy Council adult learners. These stories are unedited as much as possible and reflect the abilities of learners, all at different places on their journey of literacy education. Statements and opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the author or authors and do not reflect the views and opinions of the KLC Board of Directors and staff.

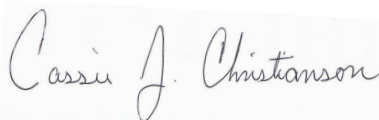
The Kenosha Literacy Council is pleased to present the 22nd Edition of the Student Anthology. The persistence and dedication of KLC students can be seen through their own words in the stories they authored for this year's anthology. There are more than 50 essays that focus on the themes of Believe It or Not, Beauty All Around, Traditions & Celebrations.

At the Kenosha Literacy Council we see firsthand how adult literacy is a factor in almost every socioeconomic issue, including parenting, health care, workforce development, and poverty. We believe that literacy is a basic human right and the foundation for lifelong learning. Our programs teach reading, writing and speaking skills to adults so they and their families can achieve financial independence, good health and greater involvement in our community. We give adult learners the tools they need to change their lives. When their hard work and determination is paired with KLC's educational opportunities the results are life-changing.

We want to thank all the learners and tutors who worked so hard on preparing their stories. Learners should be very proud of their writing accomplishments. We hope you enjoy the 2023 Student Anthology!



Cheryl Hernandez
Executive Director



Cassie Christianson
Program Coordinator

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Believe It or Not...



How I Fell In Love With English

Can you imagine I fell in love with the English language because of a song in a movie? All of my childhood I didn't like English. It was just a boring subject for me with tons of strange rules. And besides, I thought, why should I study a language that isn't my native language?

My attitude towards English suddenly changed in my teen era. That evening I watched the movie "10 Things I Hate About You". In order to impress his girlfriend the main character played by Heath Ledger sings the song "I love you baby (I can't take my eyes off you)". Because I've never seen such a beautiful and pure love confession before, this scene truly touched my heart. I was so inspired by Heath Ledger's breathtaking performance that I decided to google the lyrics of the song.

I wanted to understand what is this song about and why it is so special. To memorize the lyrics I even started a new notebook where I put the meaning and pronunciation of all words. Obsessed by the song I looked into its history and variety of covers.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Juliya Semenova

Country:
Russia

Learning Goal:
I want to feel more confident in English to study in college and go to work.

Once I started to do so, I couldn't stop anymore. Songs, quotes, lines from movies kept filling out my notebook. I realized the beauty and poetic nature of English. This language wasn't just a set of rules it was a song with emotions, stories and sentiments. My journey with English had unexpected turn from 10 things I Hate About You into 1,000 things I love about you.



Yankee Doodle Dandy

From my young years my dream was to live in the U.S. I was born on July 4th. It looks like my destination was to go to the U.S. Interesting fact: a person who was born on July 4th is called “Yankee Doodle Dandy.” In 2021 I proposed to Ana to be my wife and on the same day we applied to the green card lottery.

In May 2022 we reviewed the result and recognized that we won. We started the hard and long process with blinders to the full-scale war in Ukraine. After all the documents were ready in April 2023 we finally got an appointment to the General Consular of the U.S. in Germany.

To go to the appointment we went through seven countries in our own car. We visited Kishinev, Moldova; Satu Mare, Romania; Warsaw, Poland; Hanover, Germany and Frankfurt, Germany. This is where we were successfully approved for immigrant visas. At the end of July 2023 we moved to the U.S. especially to Kenosha.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Vlad Artomov

Country:
Ukraine

Learning Goal:
To make my English more conversational and to learn new things.

Pleasant Prairie is a beautiful and peaceful place. We were blessed to be hosted by guys who live on the shore of Lake Michigan. They used to swim in Lake Michigan everyday. In Kenosha. We've met a lot of good people; especially at KLC where we have the chance to learn English.

The moral of the story: never give up on the way to your dream. If you have strong belief and God blesses you, you will turn your every dream to reality.



I Am a Talented Star

It was an amazing day in my life. I can say it was a milestone event on my life map and trip. The day was the second day in the second week of my middle school period. The drama teacher of our school entered the class and said, "Good day guys. Would any of you like to join our theater team?" In that moment I thought about my theater art passion and how much I liked this art. But, I was afraid to raise my hand. The art teacher stared at me and said, "You are handsome son. Do you think you want to join our team?" I was shocked for a few seconds then I said, "Hmm, maybe sir." "You are with us!" he said. Then he continued, "If you do well tomorrow in our test you'll probably get a chance to join our team."

It was a raining, cool day. My mood was complicated but the rain helped me to be more cool as the weather is cool. "What is your name son?" my theater teacher asked. I said, "Azzam." He said, "Ok, Azzam, the stage is yours now. You'll show us your talent by showing any scene you watched before." I stood on stage and I acted as king, encouraging his team to take care of the people and reminding them of the ethics of their job and blaming them. I finished my show within four minutes. My theater teacher stood up and clapped his hands hard. He turned to my classmates and said, "What a nice show! Guys, we have a copy of the star Anthony Quinn in our school." Then he asked me which movie it was from. I told him it wasn't a movie. I created the script right then from my mind. "Azzam, you'll write this year's theater script for our

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Azzam Obeid

Country:
Jordan

Learning Goal:
I hope to be a public speaker in the U.S. and get a masters degree in management.



team and I'll help you as much as I can," he said.

In the evening I told my parents about the milestone event that happened that day. My father said, "Well instead of an engineer you would like to be an actor." I said, "no dad, I'll be the both." My mother said, "Oh dear you have a multitude of talents, like your grandfather."

In the high school years I created and directed the theater team's theatrical shows and in most of them the audience applauded me many times because of the wonderful theatrical performance I was performing.

Now after many years I still keep that nice memory in my mind. I tell my sons, daughters and my grandchildren about it.

I didn't continue to be the second copy for the star Anthony Quinn but I became a public speaker and trainer in my country and in all Arabic speaking countries. I didn't become an engineer as my father was dreaming but I joined the college of management. I achieved my talent in acting by speaking in front of people and implementing training programs. My dream now is to be a public speaker in the United States also. My talent is still steadily growing and I still feel that I am a celebrity and star.

My Educational Achievements

I grew up on the farm learning the value of hard work, for example milking cows, feeding the pigs, chickens, etc. I grew up without running water or electricity. Two years before I moved to the city they installed the electricity.

I studied at the Elementary School there. I wanted to continue studying but at the ranch there aren't opportunities to study. Later on I moved to the City of Lagos de Moreno Jalisco, and I decided to continue studying.



I searched for schools for adults and a friend of mine told me about one school for adults in which I finished Middle School. That school is like KLC. After that I realized that I had to study the High School. With encouraging and my family's support I got my High School diploma. It wasn't easy because I had to take a computer course to learn how to use a computer in order to complete my assignments. I didn't have confidence in myself to go to the college. I thought that I couldn't pass the test but I did! One of my happiest days was when I received the news that I was admitted in the University of Guadalajara. I got my degrees in law. I was the first in my family to graduate from college.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Carmen Surratt

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my writing skills.

My Dream to Go to Africa

When I was maybe 13 or 14, I want to go to Africa. I have a lot of books about Africa. I wanted to help kids there who lost parents. My first book was by Madame Lotti. She open a center for people who lost somebody or have AIDS. I read more books from her and I know that is what I want to do.

My mom love Africa and the people also. And actually we want make a vacation there and do safari tour. Now I am so old that my mom passed away and we didn't do it together.

Now I have 2 wonderful children and I think I can't do this, but I want to do with my children. In the moment, the political situation is difficult and my husband say he doesn't care to do this. But I know when the time is coming, I want to do this.

The author of the book went to West Africa and left her family to do this experiment. She had two children; and when you read the story in this book you will understand me. Sometimes I think I am too old for this, but deep in my heart, I want to do this.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Germany

Name:
Annette Krebs

Learning Goal:
I want to speak English to talk to the people.



Open Arms, Legs Together, Head Raised

I remember it was a Saturday in the summer of 2021. I went to a birthday party with some friends and after some shots of tequila we decided to test our bravery with a parachute jump. Then, we started to fill out the pre-registration form to avoid somebody quitting.

June 13, 2021 was the day of truth. I woke up early with a hangover. After breakfast, I drove to my friend's house. We went together to the Skydive Midwest in Sturtevant. Already at the airport, I took a little training on how I have to do when jumping. Now I get it clear. Open my arms, put my legs together and my head raised. I was to jump in tandem with an experienced instructor. When I met the instructor, he helped me to wear the security harness and reminded me what I had to do: open arms, legs together and head raised.

Finally, we boarded the small plane. There were around twelve people. Everybody joking and laughing because of nervousness. The small plane went up until we couldn't recognize any building. Everything looked like a Minecraft map, and the air was so cold. Three other tandem jumped before me. It was my turn now. I sat on the edge of the small plane, and the instructor told me one last time. Open arms, legs together, and head raised.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Javier Gomez

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
To improve my English skills to continue with my mechanic career and study a degree.

Then we jumped and while falling I couldn't breathe well. I forgot everything about my arms, my legs, and my head. The instructor helped me to put everything in the correct position. I was full with adrenaline. I felt like I was flying. When the parachute was open, I just enjoyed the view. I have no words to describe how I felt at that moment. At that the moment I stepped on the ground all I wanted to do was jump again!



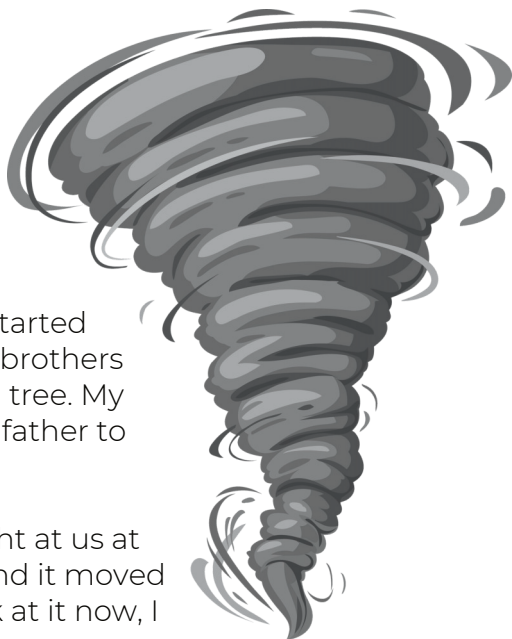
In the Tornado

In 1957 I was 9 years old and that summer in Mississippi a place called Lee County, a tornado came. The sky was looking pink and everything was at a stand still. Then we heard a sound. We thought it was a train.

All the family was in the house: grandfather, father, mother, my baby sister, four brothers, and me. My brother said, "Here comes a tornado." My father said, "Junior, go see." He said, "Sure is."

My mother, my brothers and I started toward the ditch. My other two brothers wrapped their arms around the tree. My dad was trying to get my grandfather to safety.

The tornado was coming straight at us at first. Then my mother prayed and it moved away from us. When I look back at it now, I can thank God for saving us.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Chris Bogan

Country:
United States

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my writing and reading skills.

Have You Ever Milked a Cow?

This is story happened many years ago. My parents and I live in a big village. When my father finished medical university he worked in the little hospital. We have small field where we grew potatoes, carrots, beet roots, cucumbers, peas, pumpkins, and other vegetables. In our barn live pig, chickens, and cows.

Every day my mother twice a day milked our cow. Our cow was young animal. I was a little child. I had only seven years old. Often I saw how my mother milked cows. I liked milk. My mother was absented in our village some days. She was learning on those days. My mother asked the neighbor to milk the cow.

I saw how neighbor Claudia milked cow. She did not wash very well the udder of the cow. After milking, neighbor Claudia was boiling this milk on a campfire. On second day and other days I was milking myself. I took warm water, clean towel and washed well udder of the cow. I like white and clean and fresh milk. In the evening my mother came back home.

She asked me, "The cow milked?"

I said, "Yes."

"Who milked the cow?" asked mother.

"Me", I answered.

My mother was surprised and smiled. After she kissed and hugged me. I always helped my parents. I love my parents.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Ukraine

Name:
Oleksandr Buinyi

Learning Goal:
I want to read, write, and speak English with everyone.



Beauty All Around



Land of Rivers and Lakes

I was born in a small town in the north of Russia. The city is called Beloyarsky, like “white sands” in English. I would like to tell you about nature and weather in that place.

That region called “Land of rivers and Lakes”. Big river flows around the city and many small rivers and oaks goes to this river. This river called Kazum, this means in local people language “ganging sands”.

Nature is very wild in my region. There are many wild animals in forests around the city. But not many people live there. This is very important part of their life. It's like relaxing and hobby after work.

In this area live few local people with their own language and old traditions. They are called “Hunty” like the word in English “hunt”. Most important their traditions are raise deer, hunting and fishing. They have many words similar with English words like: pot, name, hot, south.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Alex Rudik

Country:
Russia

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English skills to get a good job.

Weather is very severe and changeable. It's very cold and snowy in winter and very hot in summer. In one day you can see 30 degrees Celsius to 10 degree Celsius after rain starts. There is very long distance between cities. Several months a year in late autumn and early spring, my town don't have road to another part of the country because the big river, Ob, freezes and big ice flows along it.



My Life After a Good Time in Kenosha

This is my story, a real one. A story that want to let you know, that you need to follow your feelings and you need to understand that, sometimes what you want is not what the universe, god or whatever you believe, wants for you.

In 2019 after I finished my university, my parents took the decision of to buy an airplane ticket for 6 months for me, to go to US, the idea of them ... to show their daughter another world, help her to live experiences that they couldn't live, and maybe with good luck for her, to learn English and then to have better opportunities.

So yes, I arrived in August of 2019 at O'Hare International Airport with my mom, so nervous, excited and with a good expectative. In the airport was waiting for us, my mom's best friend whom live there, and whom will be my mom for the next 6 months. Over there, I met awesome people, awesome places, I was taking English classes at The Kenosha Literacy Council and Getway, I found love, friends even work, lol, I made a whole life there.

But the final day arrived, February of 2020, it was meaning that I needed to come back to Colombia, and I did, with a broken heart, crying because even I want to see my family, my friends and eat Colombian food, I didn't want to quit the life that I was building in Kenosha.


MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Paula Aranzazu

Country:
Colombia

Learning Goal:
To talk English with native speakers and to understand the movies and music in English.



So my idea for that time was, “Ok, I’m going to come back to US with a student visa, so I’m going to find a school for do it, and I’m not going to lose anything”. But God, the universe and the destiny talked. And Colombia closed its borders for Covid-19... and all my illusions was down, and I started to think, what’s going on with my boyfriend? What’s going on with the school? So after a whole month crying, Covid get worse, and the Colombian government took the decision to close Colombia for all the year!!

At that point I said to myself, right! I need to restart my life here, I’m a lawyer, young, I need to start again. And I did, I studied a specialization for my career, I started to search a job where I can practice all my knowledge as a professional and a person, I didn’t stop to learn English. I started to see the life in positive and anymore in negative.

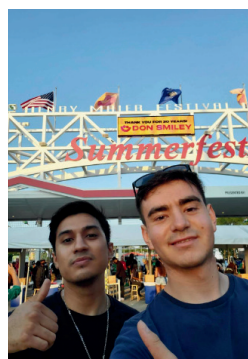
After Kenosha, after my life in US, my mind change, my live improve, I learned over sad stories from immigrant people there, about hard situations that they are going through just for looking a “better life”. And that change my life, I’m started to see at the people as a human that they are, is not matter what education they have, how much money they have, everyone needs love, respect and to be treat right.

So, when I was thinking that I loosed everything in my life, the entire universe had better plans to me. Have been at Kenosha just doesn’t teach me a little bit of English, it teaches me to be a better person, to trying to understand the other one, to search for options where the doors get close to you, to think nice, in positive and to help others when I can do it. My life change, in a positive way, I loosed a good love... but I found someone special, I was thinking that I didn’t have any opportunities, and my career bloomed, I was thinking that I wasn’t going to learn English, never, but I didn’t quit that dream and I’m improving every day. Now I’m just enjoying the moments with the people that I love, I enjoy my work, my life, and I say every morning when I wake up “thanks god, thanks universe for this life, for this day, I’m a blessed person, thanks”.

SummerFest

This summer was great, I was planning to go to the SummerFest in Milwaukee. I had heard that it is a really good concert. My friend Leo and I got the tickets online just one month before. It was a little bit expensive, but good events are not always cheap. We really wanted to go see Imagine Dragons live.

We've been friends for a long time and it's amazing that Leo and I have same taste in music. We wish we could have get tickets in front of the stage, but we didn't have enough money. So we selected the tickets in the back section.



When the day came I drove with Leo to Milwaukee. We park in the parking lot and we walk about 30 minutes to the entrance. We were so excited so it didn't feel too long. Once we got there I noticed there was a lot of people. It was very crowded. We had to follow a long line to get in the bathroom and we never expected that.

Schedule said that Imagine Dragons will come at 8:00 PM but they came 1 hour later and when they finally appeared on stage we started screaming!

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Pedro Popoca

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English skills to get a job as a carpenter.

My Great Vacation

The best summertime memory for me is when I was in Mexico, I has a holiday. In 2018, on Friday I went to Cuernavaca with Lucia and Alonso. We visited the Cortes Palace. I remember that there are many murals and the city is very beautiful. Then, on Saturday, we went to Tepoztlan. Many people visit this town because they want to see a pyramid. It's in a mountain. We spent three days in Cuernavaca.



On Monday, we bought a ticket for travel to Mexico City. In the city there are many museums. We visited the Soumaya Museum, the Anthropology and History Museum, but even better was when we went to the Cinetera Nacional. We watched a film called Her. It was very interesting.

In Mexico City we spent only two days because we decided to visit another city. So, we went to Puebla. Lucia wanted to see a famous restaurant, Milagros. It was a nice place. We drank coffee and we ate cemitas. A cemita is a special kind of sandwich from Puebla. I remember this travel because I enjoyed everything with my best friends.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Mexico

Name:
Jose Calderon

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
get a good job.



**2023 Student
Anthology**

My Trip to Wisconsin Dells

It was a very nice trip to Wisconsin Dells. I went to Wisconsin Dells in October for three days. I went with Mr. Tim, his friends, and my brother. It was my first time and I liked it very much! We went to a very, very nice park-Wisconsin State Park. We went walking for two hours. We saw many trees and took pictures.

We went on a special boat on the water. It drove on the road and went in the water. We saw the water and the trees. The trees were very pretty with different colors. Some trees were yellow and some were red. I like it very much.

We went shopping to the Walmart in Wisconsin Dells. We looked for cheese pizza and ice cream. We cooked the pizza at home. Everyone enjoyed the pizza and ice cream. It was very good.



We will go back to Wisconsin Dells in November for a vacation. It will be a very good vacation. I am happy to go back!

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Aquil Safari

Country:
Afghanistan

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English skills to go to school and study a career.

Door County

In the fall, I and my sister and her family went on a trip to Door County, Wisconsin. That is a beautiful place. It has many parks where we hiked together and watched Lake Michigan. I saw many great trees with different colors.

We drove on curvy roads. It is an awesome road! We made good photo for Instagram, and after we went to Green Bay city.

It's old city. They have old good stadium of the Packers. There is a beautiful park with a rehabilitation center where they care for different animals.

I like Wisconsin. I like to travel and Wisconsin is one state you need to see.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Ukraine

Name:
Yurii Oliinyk

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
get a good job.



My Grandma

My grandma is the best grandma.

She helps me learn.

My grandma lets me talk about anything with her.

My grandma will tell me things about her life.

She has two cats and she likes to watch tv.

She is an important person to me.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Read, Succeed, Lead.
Kenosha Literacy Council

2023 Student
Anthology

Name:
Arianna Messer

Country:
United States

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my
reading and writing to
get my G.E.D.

My Great Grandfather

This happened in Mexico. When I was little I grew up with my great Grandpa. I went to live with him when my Grandma died because he was sad. I was like eight years old.

I would get up at 5am and we would go to church. Next we would get home and broom the street and wash with water. I put water on the plants. I washed the floor with water and wash clothes.

In the afternoon he would take me to the park. He paid for me to go to catholic school and bought me shoes and clothes. He gave me money and I ran to buy cartoon dolls. My Grandpa was happy because I put on music and sang when I was alining the house.

I had the best Grandpa.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Mexico

Name:
Estela Padilla

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
talk to my customers.



I Love My Dogs

My dog's name is Lassy. She is small, very loving and, like a rose. She is a Chihuahua. She has brown eyes. She is white and brown.

One dog's name is Cuavo. He is big and black with white. He is loving but also aggressive.

Morita is medium sized. Her color of eyes is black and the breed is pug and color is brown. She is loving and she plays a lot.

Blacky is my dog. He plays too much. He is the color black. His eyes are the color black and the size is medium. His character is loving and aggressive.

Nena licks and jumps too much. Her breed is Pitbull. She is too loving and aggressive. She is medium and her color is grey.

My dog's name is Puggy. He is too much loving and his color is brown. He is medium sized and his color eyes are black. The breed is pug. He plays.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Angel Roblero

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my speaking skills to talk to my manager at work.

My Cat, Tom

I have a cat. His name is Tom. He is a great big cat. He is black and white with a heart on his head.

Five years ago my friends gave me him. He did not look after him or take care of him. Tom stayed in his carrier and under the bed for three days. He came out because he like me. In my home he has a lot of freedom. He loves to play with his favorite toys; mouse and ball. He is very funny. He loves to watch TV. He looks for birds on TV but not cats. He also looks at nature on the balcony. He especially likes the birds.

He is beauty around me and my life is beautiful with him.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Ukraine

Name:
Mykhailo Loiovskyi

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English for
my work.



Winter Day

I am looking out the window on the couch and I am at home with a cup. I am going out to have a good day.

I am going to the library to have a good day. I am looking out the window on the couch and I am looking at the snow. I will go out to work out of the house today.

It is so cold out now. And I would like to have fun going out today. I am thinking of cooking food and having some coffee today.

I am thinking of my mom all the time today.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Read, Succeed, Lead.
Kenosha Literacy Council

2023 Student
Anthology

Name:
Paul Alba

Country:
United States

Learning Goal:
I would like to read
better so I can read for
fun.

Winter Olympic Games

My favorite winter Olympic games are skiing, bobsled, and hockey.

I like skiing because I am a big fan. It is fun.

I like bobsled because of the speed and the steep turns.

I like hokey because players must be strong and tough.

If I could be one sport I would choose hockey because players must be strong and they work together to win.

My second choice would be bobsled. I like four men bobsled because it is faster and has more turns.

All Olympic athletes practice and work very hard. The player has world glory and more money.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Ukraine

Name:
Constantin Grygorovych

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
get a job in delivery.



Trip to Mexico

At the end of the year, I traveled to Mexico.

I like to go to Tejupilco county. When I'm there we go hunting with my cousin, friend, and uncles. It's fun because we walked a lot and we also talked.

We hunted morning doves and turtle doves. In this county, sometimes it is really hot. We drank a lot of water and sometimes also some beer. We cooked some snacks.

When I go back to this place it is like my life is restarted. I remember the best moments I live here with my family.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Read, Succeed, Lead.
Kenosha Literacy Council

2023 Student
Anthology

Name:
Raul Patino

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I would like to speak
better English for my
work and to talk to
people.

Ilha do Mel

In January 2020, I and my son went to amazing island in Brazil. This travel is very important for us because we had a good moment, mom and son.

We take the boat and is possible feel the energy of the ocean. When we arrived on island, it is wonderful, because is possible walk around all the Island.

I had a good moment with my son. Is possible our mom-son relationship grew.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Brazil

Name:
Nubia Cardoso

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
get a job as a college
professor.



Life Is Beautiful with Grandkids

My life is beautiful with grandkids.

I have four grandkids. Lisette is thirteen years old and my first grandkid. Juli is twelve years old. Alex is ten years old and my special grandson. Ariana is seven years old.

We all love to go to the lake. All of us play ball, run, and swim all day. We go home when Grandpa gets tired.

What makes each of them special is that Ariana loves to sing, Juli loves Olympic wrestling, Alex is great at math, and Lisette, well, she is thirteen.

I am a lucky grandfather.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Pedro Ochoa

Country:
Mexico

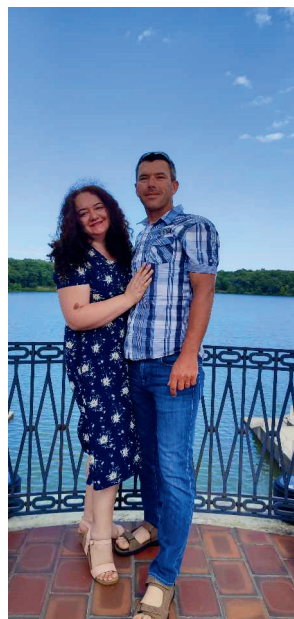
Learning Goal:
I would like to speak better English to get my U.S. citizenship.

My First Picnic in the United States

I had not seen my husband for five years! I didn't see him because I was in Ukraine and he was in USA. I flew into the USA on October 2, 2022. We wanted to take time together.

My husband Mykhailo and I went on a picnic. It was our first picnic in America. There is a beautiful park near our house. We found a nice place for a picnic.

Mykhailo fired up the grill. I was cooking. We ate traditional Ukrainian picnic food: barbecued pork wrapped in onion slices, zucchini slices dipped in eggs and flour and fried with oil, and potatoes wrapped in bacon and cooked in foil on the grill. The picnic was very nice.



After the picnic we went fishing. My husband caught a big fish. Mykhailo is a great fisherman. We walked in the park and saw many things. We saw a deer and a lot of beautiful flowers. This is a very nice place. I took a lot of great photos. It was a wonderful day we spent together.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Ukraine

Name:
Ira Loiovska

Learning Goal:

I want to learn English to talk to people in the community independently.



The Song of Puerto Rico

The distance it makes us feel melancholic and sad. Little by little we are making a lifetime of memories. There are two things I miss most about Puerto Rico, the warm mother hug and the sweet song of my homeland.

How does Puerto Rico sing? Whoever has spent a night in Puerto Rico knows it.

As soon as the sunset begins, the first chords are heard. A rain of colors draws our sky. The moon and some stars appear over the mountains. The roosters say goodbye to the day. Then, the orchestra begins. You can't see the tiny musicians but you can hear their powerful and melodious voices. That music is an invitation to sleep.

These little musicians are tiny brown frogs called coqui. At night you can hear his peculiar song, "coqui, coqui, coqui". It sings to fall in love. It is like if the island sang its lullaby, and we, its children, fell pleasantly asleep in his arms.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Luz Santos

Country:
Puerto Rico

Learning Goal:
I would like to speak better English to feel more confident expressing my ideas.

My House

My house is white and big. It is by a park.

My family is laughing in the house. In my house my family, my mom, grandfather, two brothers, and me.

My house is in Yemen.

My house is big and by a big park. In the park I play soccer with my brother and cousins.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Yemen

Name:
Maher Akrem

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
talk to customers at my
store.



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Kenosha Literacy Council

**2023 Student
Anthology**

Chicago

I like Chicago because it is a very big city. It is beautiful. Many people live there. I've gone three or four times in the car with Mr. Tim. I've gone on the train too. One time I went with Mr. Tim. One time I with with the Literacy Council. One time I went with my brother.

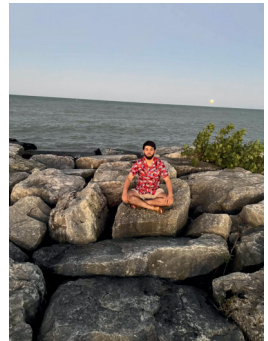
I like to go to walk in the city and watch people in the park. I see tall buildings. It is very, very beautiful with very big parks and tall buildings.

Whenever I go to Chicago I go to the restaurant called Halal Guys. It is a very good restaurant. I eat beef and chicken with rice. I drink Fanta orange soda.

I might like to live in Chicago but over there is very expensive. Kenosha is very small. It is good to live here because it is cheap.

One time with the Literacy Council we went to the Aquarium. That's a nice place. I saw here nice fish. There was a big white fish called a beluga whale. We saw a very long fish. We saw nice red and white fish. I just saw that place one time.

I saw the fountain in Grant Park. It was very nice. The fountain was tall with many lights.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Eshrahim Safari

Country:
Afghanistan

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English
to go to college and study.

National Park and a Zoo

I went to go to a park with a zoo in North Carolina in June.

I went with my uncle and friend.

I see the bear and deer eating.

The park was natural.

I see the Grandfather Mountain view.

My favorite part was walking on the big long bridge.

On the bridge we see trees, houses, and the big mountain.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Mexico

Name:
Fernando Garcia

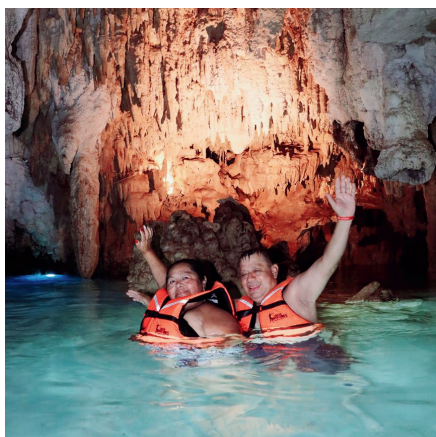
Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
talk to my boss and my
co-workers.



Vacation in Cancun

I went on vacation in September. I drank margaritas on vacation. I liked the beaches. My husband liked swimming. The hotel was clean and beautiful. The food has too much because it was a buffet. The hotel was white. It had three swimming pools. We were excited!

We chose Cancun because everybody says it's too much beautiful. I like dancing every day in Cancun. The food at the buffet was from different countries like Spain and China. We went to Tulum and it was beautiful! I liked vodka in orange juice too much. Maybe we will go again next year.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Paulina Ochoa

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my reading and writing to get my U.S. Citizenship.

Playa del Carmen

I like Playa del Carmen in the Riviera Maya. I went to the Riviera Maya when my son got married.

When we got there a van from the hotel took us from the airport to the hotel. When we got to the hotel I can't believe it!

It was wonderful! There were pretty flowers with different colors. The hotel was excellent. There was a swimming pool that had a gazebo with a lot of food and different fruit. You can eat whenever you want. I went shopping. I take a massage. I went to see the pyramids. I saw the caves. We went to Xcaret Park. I can't believe I see flamingos and big, big turtles. It is a lot to see.

Everything is different. I saw how the Mayans play soccer and at night we went on a tour. We listened to drums like Indians played. They said go to the theater but I don't see anything. I only see rocks but there was a theater. Every state from the country was represented. The state I like was Jalisco. It was represented by Puerto Vallarta and with mariachis. I yelled and cried when I listened to the Mexican song lindo y querido.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Mexico

Name:
Estela Padilla

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
talk to my customers.



The Big Beautiful Dream

In February 2019 my husband passed away. The loneliness needed to be filled. My family with my hosts Peter had an idea. I would travel to the USA to study English for three months. The pandemic happened and my travel was canceled. I live in Brazil and my big and beautiful dream was to finish this travel.

The end of the pandemic came and everything was normal so all the plans came back. To travel and study English was a reality again. I came to Kenosha and all helped me at the Literacy Council. With excellent teachers and nice friends I learned English.

My favorite place in Kenosha is the beach of Lake Michigan. In the summer it is the best place for a bike ride, walking, see the blue water, and feel the wind on my face.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Jane Schmidt

Country:
Brazil

Learning Goal:
I would like to speak better English to talk to my host family.

Petrifying Springs Park

I like this park. There are many trails for walk with family and my dog. I think is a different park because this have many plants, animals and trees; different colors in fall are beautiful. I like the air, is very fresh and clean. I think that all seasons are beautiful in the park. There is in winter, the snow for sledding with children.

The wild animals, they are free, they can run on grass without fear. I like to walk in this park, sing and be happy. It's my way to escape and run with my dog. This park was created for enjoy the life.

I like it because is best place to be with friends. I can go and eat my lunch on grass with family or friends. I play volleyball with friends in between the trees.

The Petrifying Springs Park is a place created by the best persons. Why? There we can have happiness. The sky always show us colors are my favorite. I like them. When I am at Pets, I remember my country when I walk in the park.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Colombia

Name:
Sandra Estrada

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to talk to my doctor and people in the community.



School on the Beach

On July 19th we had school on the beach. I came to the beach on foot. Others went by car. At Lake Michigan we met our teachers Cheryl and Cassie. There were other students and some brought their children. The children were walking near the lake. They were playing in the sand. I went swimming in the lake. It wasn't cold. The weather that day was sunny and hot. I tried to convince other people to swim in the lake but they were sitting near the lake in a lawn chair. Many people said, "we were swimming last year" or "we will swim in January in Florida". The best swimmers were the children. They were swimming for a very long time.

The lake have different color near the beach on the right and on the left before the peninsula. At the peninsula are two museums. On the left the color of the lake is blue. On the right the color is gray blue. Often the smells on the right are very pleasant. It smells like the sea.

I came back home. After swimming my spirit, mood, and body were well. I think I will swim in Lake Michigan in September, October, and maybe November. I think it is good for my body to swim in the cold water. After swimming my brain does better. My mood is very good.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Oleksandr Buinyi

Country:
Ukraine

Learning Goal:
I want to read, write, and speak English to talk to everyone.

Traditions and Celebrations



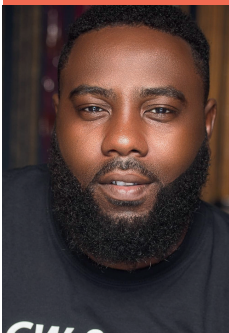
La Toussaint in Haiti

Every country in the world has her own culture or events, a day of the year to celebrate the importance of her country or other festivals or moments. I invite you to my island for an interesting tradition.

Every early November in Haiti the Catholics or non-believers celebrate the feast of dead. In this feast there's a common celebration as every country, like Halloween. La Toussaint or other name. But in Haiti, this celebration would be in honor of dead persons. Every year specifically, we see some voodoo priest and their servants in the cemeteries or peristiles. In the cemeteries, there's some families who bring foods and coffee in honor of the dead or spirits.

All this has to do with our origins as African descendents. What's interesting to see during this period is the people who use a bottle with piments liquids in its lower part watch the spirit manifesting in their head, they feel nothing. In this period we can meet people in the street dancing to voodoo music. They share foods, they sacrifice animals, offer the blood to the spirits or invisible forces. And sometimes they drink the blood, which is really from

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Stanley Corridon

Country:
Haiti

Learning Goal:
To improve my English skills to talk to people and get job.

other countries, and even interesting. Areas outside the capital welcome tourists those in the country who have days off take part. Certain regions, especially in the south of the country, by the beach, are places for welcoming tourists; you can't imagine the atmosphere.

It's not just the atmosphere for seeing people dancing on the street or anything else that's worth remembering during this period. But the cultural unity that links not only Haitians but also the foreigners who come to take part. For me La Toussaint is one of the celebrations in Haiti that shows an African image in the Caribbean country.



Day of Little Candles

A favorite holiday of the year for my family is the Day of the Little Candles in Colombia. It is celebrated on December 7th every year. Pope Pius IX made it a holiday in 1854 to celebrate Christmas Eve.

Families come together to give thanks and share in the joy of the birth of Jesus.

We share a delicious soup called Ajiaco Santafereno and custard pastry. The soup is made with potatoes, corn and chicken.

We light candles while making wishes for our family to be happy and healthy.



MEET THE AUTHOR



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2023 Student
Anthology

Name:
Alison Osorio

Country:
Colombia

Learning Goal:
I want to be able to talk
to my children's
teachers in school.

Festival in Peru

We travel to Peru for celebration There is a 5 day celebration in Peru. Each day is different.

On day one we cut down a tree from the forest. We decorate the tree with clothes, pants, shirts, shoes and many ornaments. We put presents for the people on the tree. There are 4 trees total.

On days 2-5 we go to church at 8:00 in the morning. The women and men dancing around a tree. They take turns using an ax to chop the tree until it falls. When it falls people get the presents. There is music.

Each day we chop a different tree. The person who chop the tree, buys the tree next year.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Peru

Name:
Libia Cuadrado

Learning Goal:

I want to speak English with my family and people in the community.



Gorditas

When I was a little girl I was very close to my grandmother. She taught me many things. She taught me to make gorditas. Gorditas have different fillings. Some ingredients in gorditas are: potatoes, chorizo, chicken, beans, cheese, pork rinds, and green sauce.

My grandma made food for meals. It was traditional for women in Mexico to make gorditas and tortillas outside in a special room.

When I make gorditas, I use chicken, pork rinds, and potatoes. I use special pan to cook the gorditas. I am happy my grandmother taught me to make gorditas. I make them for myself and my family.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Aracely Sanchez

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to be able to talk
to my doctor in English.

Borscht

Borscht is the national soup of Ukraine. It is red because it has beets in it. Borscht also includes potatoes, cabbage, onions, carrots, and tomato paste. It can be eaten with onions, sour cream and fresh bread. We eat it for lunch. In Ukraine many people love borscht.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Ukraine

Name:
An Marchenko

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my
English to get a good job
and communicate freely.



The Jehovah's Witness Convention

I am a Jehovah Witness. Our celebration is a convention for the entire world every three years. They invite people to assist. It is completely free.

This year the title is Exercise Patience. Who doesn't need to exercise patience in life? Here we help how to apply biblical principles in our lives. We help to see and think like Jahovah. We help how to get closer to Jehovah.

We see seventy videos. I really like to get together with my brothers in faith.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Read. Succeed. Lead.
Kenosha Literacy Council

2023 Student
Anthology

Name:
Marlyn Felix

Country:
Puerto Rico

Learning Goal:
I want to understand
my doctor and people
at work

My Last Celebration in Laos

In December 2018 everyone was getting ready for the only celebration that we have in a year. Everyone was so excited for the celebration. My family and I were excited also.

After the sun went down, everyone in the village must go “nkaum toj qab” to wash every bad thing away. The new things and good things will come with the new year.

The first day of the new year we will have a big event. I enjoy it very much because you can see a lot of people wear Hmong traditional clothes, see people dance, play instruments, play sports, and pov pob, which is like catch.



The thing we like to do most at the festival is play catch. We made friends playing catch with each other. I went on stage and sang a song. Then we had pho for our meal. It's a traditional meal. I love pho and the celebration. When we celebrate here it always reminds me of my last celebration in Laos and when I met my husband for the first time.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Laos

Name:
Payao Moua

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to communicate for my business.



Remembering Tiffany

On February 17th we celebrate the birthday of my beautiful daughter Tiffany Natasha Wells. My daughter died on June 8, 1988 but we want to remember her.

We got together as a family to celebrate Tiffany's birthday. We ordered a cake and got some balloons. We go together to cook nachos and talk about how little time Tiffany had. We listened to music from the 80's. We had a big picture of Tiffany by the cake. We played cards and laughed a lot.

It was a good day to get together to remember my daughter. She's always in my heart.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Lela Moton

Country:
United States

Learning Goal:
Learn how to read
better

Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead in Mexico is when we remember our dead family and friends. Every 1st and 2nd of November we celebrate this day. We make skull with candy and toys like skulls too. We use special colors like orange, black, red, and yellow. We wear clothes with these colors. We put a picture of somebody that we remember and start to decorate with skull candy, tequila, bread, rice, and special colors.

This day is special because we have a lot of years celebrating Day of the Dead. We paint our faces like skulls. We celebrate this day with our family or in different place like the school and on the street. We go to the cemetery to put just orange flowers.



I think traditions are important because every country has a lot of culture to show the world.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Mexico

Name:
Oscar Mayo

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English to study for my career.



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2023 Student Anthology

New Years in Ukraine

Every year we have big celebration, my favorite celebration, New Year. Women do the cooking, men clean the house. We visit our friends around 8 o'clock and sit at table. We talk and eat while we wait for 12 o'clock.

We eat traditional Ukrainian food. Kids drink homemade juice. The adults drink alcohol. At 30 seconds til midnight, we open window, light sparklers, open champagne. When it's 12 o'clock on the dot, we toast champagne.

Next we sit at the table, talking and eating. We listen to music and dance. Kids play. We continue until the morning and then go to bed.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Oleh Akulinichev

Country:
Ukraine

Learning Goal:
I want to learn how to
speak English so I
can get a job.

Salad Olivier

In my country, Belarus, on New Year's Eve, we eat a traditional dish called Salad Oliver. It is usually eaten in the evening.

Boil the following ingredients:

3 eggs

2 potatoes

1 carrot

300 grams of beef

You also need 3 pickled cucumbers and mayonnaise.



Cut everything into cubes, and mix all. Serve it cold.

This is a very high calorie dish but it is always on the New Year's Eve table.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Belarus

Name:
Sviatlana Karnila

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English to study for my career.



Soccer Event

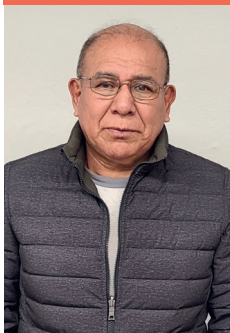
My grandson Mateo is 10 years old. He plays soccer in Mukwonago. My wife Libia and I went to watch the game on Saturday 20 August 2023.

They play soccer with a different school. He plays soccer many times. He plays soccer with many students. He plays soccer every year.

It is a fun tradition. We enjoyed watching the game.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Lester Quispe

Country:
Peru

Learning Goal:
I want to learn how to
speak English so I
can talk to people in
Kenosha.

Fourth of July

I'm so happy. Me, my brother, my mother and my cousins are going to celebrate the fourth. We are going to the park. The park is in Racine. We go there every year. We like it because it's by the beach of Lake Michigan.

My mom likes to cook. She's happy to cook for us. She makes the best hot dogs, hamburgers, and bratwurst. After dinner we listen to music and play cards for a couple of hours.

Now! This is what we are waiting for! The fireworks are starting! My family has enjoyed this holiday for many, many, many years.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:

United
States

Name:

Derrick Howard

Learning Goal:

I want to improve my
reading and writing to
get my G.E.D.



Day of the Dead

In my country Mexico we have many traditions. One of them is a celebration called Day of the Dead. It is on November 1 and 2 every year. We remember our dead family, friends, and acquaintances. Whether they are babies, children, young adults or adult from our homes, churches, or school. We place offerings or altars are placed in their memory. We remember them fondly with wine, orange flowers called cempasúchil, and pictures of our dead friends, family and acquaintances.

There are colorful decorations like paper picado, figures and skulls dressed as the Catrina. There are also things that represent their profession such as nurse, doctor, baker, or mariachi. Sugar or chocolate skulls are placed on the table. The table also has candles, glasses of water, and containers of food. The food might be pumpkin or sweet potatoes, the person's favorite foods, pork carnitas, mole green & red, barbacoa, enchiladas, tamales, tortillas, and bunuelos. Some drinks like bacanora, coffee, tequila, beer, hot chocolate or wine are also there.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Francisca Valero

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to improve my English skills to get a job.

I remember my father, mother, uncles, and grandparents going to the pantheon (cemetery) too. I liked going to the pantheon because I feel the presence of my deceased relatives and I like to enjoy that moment. We bring them the flowers they liked as well as the traditional orange and wine colored marigold flowers. We decorate with figures, picado paper, catrinas, and skulls. Sometimes there are mariachis or their favorite music.

It is nice to remember our deceased relatives on the day of the dead. It is a special date but at the same time sad because in reality they only live in our minds and hearts forever.



My Christmas with My Family

I am very happy at this time because my family came to celebrate the birth of Jesus our savior. Days before they came I made the decorations. I made different cakes, cookies, and jello with fruit. For the decoration of my house I like candles and rugs.



There is always ponche with fruit and coffee. For these days I have two or three different meats, pastas, and salads.

The more important thing is I see the love of my family together. We have gifts for all. To see the families united gives me peace. I thank God for everyone. My brothers and sister call me from Mexico to give me their love and blessings.

I am very blessed. I have the love of God, of my husband and son and now I have two beautiful daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren. They are all for me.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Candelaria Soto

Country:
Mexico

Learning Goal:
I want to speak more English so I can talk to the people.

Christmas in Italy

In my native country it is customary to wait for Christmas by preparing the nativity scene. The work begins on the first day of December.

The week before Christmas traditional desserts are prepared like turolilli, sealille, cuddrurieddri, and then they are exchanged with neighbors and relatives. On Christmas Eve the color red is prohibited. The color white is strictly used to symbolize the Nativity, innocence, purity, and the divine. Even the clothes are white, in particular table decorations and the fish based dinner because meat is not eaten that day. All is white as well as the wine. The color red is avoided in the vegetables and fruit.

There is never a shortage of mistletoe hanging from the chandelier under which to exchange greetings.

After dinner friends and relatives arrive to play around the tables. The men play cards. The traditional game is called tow. The children and women play bingo. At midnight everyone goes to holy mass together.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Italy

Name:
Filomena Vulnera

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
speak with people
everywhere.



Easter Holiday in My Country

Easter is celebrated in the spring in April. Every year need to look at the calendar because the date changes. This year, Easter will be on April 16. My family celebrated this holiday at home. Some people from my family going to the church, bring eggs and panettone. The priest blessed them.

We wake up in the morning and congratulate each other. We say "Christ is risen." And other people say "Truly risen." This is tradition. We eat blessed eggs. We have another funny tradition. Knocking boiled eggs. Whose egg cracks does not win. Before this, all the eggs are painted in different colors and designs. We have one more tradition. We remember deceased relatives and bring flowers to their burial sites.

Many women in my country make panettone at home. I like cooking this cake because I can use many different colors and other ingredients which my children love. I like this holiday in Ukraine is a very long winter and Easter is the first big celebration in the year. Spring is beginning, flowers are blooming. Nature around me is transforming. Now I am waiting for this holiday to come because it makes me happy.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:

Oksana Akulinicheva

Country:

Ukraine

Learning Goal:

I want to speak more English so I can talk to my daughter's teacher and work.

Spring Holidays

In spring we celebrate a lot of holidays. First in March 8 we celebrate Women's Day. Flowers are everywhere this day. Besides flowers, a lot of women get gifts from their men. In April we celebrate Easter. People make preparations for the holiday. We thoroughly clean up our houses. On Thursday before Easter day we cook a special cake called kulich and also we paint and decorate eggs. This time we also visit our relatives who passed away and clean up the graves and surrounding areas.

On May 1st we celebrate Labor Day. Most of the people organize picnics with relatives and friends and spend the day in the nature.

The last spring holiday is May 9 or Victory Day. It is the most grandiose celebration in the spring and one of the major holidays in the year. Military parades are organized in the big cities of the country. After that thousands of people march in crowds and carry portraits of their relatives who died in the war.

Also people lay flowers at memorials. There are a lot of concerts around the country dedicated to the memory of our deceased loved ones. In the evening fireworks flash everywhere and this completes the celebration.

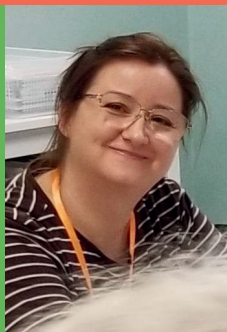


MEET THE AUTHOR

Country:
Russia

Name:
Maria Kudryasteva

Learning Goal:
I want to learn English to
get my U.S. citizenship.



Halloween

Halloween is on 31 of October. I celebrate at my house. I cook and decorate.

I wear a costume and use make-up. I like to decorate my house. I use pumpkins and spider webs. I like horror movies. I like the movie The Exorcist.

I like to cook for people. We celebrate with food, music, dancing, games, and candy. We visit the city too.



MEET THE AUTHOR



Name:
Lina Estrada

Country:
Colombia

Learning Goal:
I want to speak more English so I can talk to people at work.

Nauryz

Nauryz is very important holiday in Kazakhstan. It is the biggest celebration in country. Nauryz means “new day”. Most people in Kazakhstan think that is “new year”. It starts on 21 of March and end at 23 of March. All cities make a festival with traditional nomad houses called “yurts”. Yurta is a traditional nomad mobile house. There are many concerts and fireworks during the holiday.

People make many traditional foods. The most popular is Nauryz Koze. It has 7 different ingredients that symbolize seven qualities such as health, success, agility, etcetera. Other popular dishes is a beshbarmak, boursak, kuurdak. People make a traditional Kazakh drink, kymiz. It is made with horse milk.



People congratulate each other with the phrase “Nauryz meinomy kutty bolsyn” that means congrats with Nauryz. Many people wear ethnic clothes and play traditional nomad games. It is a good time to spend time with your family and friends.

I like this celebration because we are getting together with all our family. We have a good and fun time eating tasty food. I like to go to the park at the festival with my friends. Usually at this time, best of all. there is sunshine and warm weather.

MEET THE AUTHOR

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Learning Goal:
I want to learn to read,
write and speak English
so I can get a good job.





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