



Kenosha Literacy Council

# Student Anthology

2025





**2025**

**KENOSHA LITERACY COUNCIL  
STUDENT ANTHOLOGY  
24TH EDITION**

The articles that are contained in the 2025 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 24th 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 60 essays that focus on the themes of It's in the Meaning, Discovering My Community, and The Power of Food.

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 2025 Student Anthology!



Cheryl Hernandez  
Executive Director



Cassie Christianson  
Program Coordinator



Nathan Tidd  
Program Assistant

# Table of Contents

## **It's In The Meaning**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. The American Dream by Luz                | Page 2  |
| 2. My Little Angels by Norma                | Page 3  |
| 3. Remember Our Loved Ones by Dayana        | Page 4  |
| 4. The History of Jairo Andres by Andres    | Page 6  |
| 5. History About Gil by Gilberto            | Page 7  |
| 6. Archangel Rafael by Leidy                | Page 8  |
| 7. Many Names by Marcela                    | Page 9  |
| 8. Independence Day in Honduras by Nolvin   | Page 10 |
| 9. The Day of the Dead by Montserrat        | Page 11 |
| 10. The Story of My Name by Azucena         | Page 12 |
| 11. God Has Chosen My Name by Rafael        | Page 13 |
| 12. The Story of My Name by Jose            | Page 14 |
| 13. A Beautiful Name by Kelly               | Page 15 |
| 14. Named After My Grandmother by Fatoumata | Page 16 |
| 15. A Humble Name by Pablo                  | Page 17 |
| 16. Scandinavian Name by Danesa             | Page 18 |
| 17. A Strong Name by Briant                 | Page 19 |
| 18. Flags by Juan                           | Page 20 |
| 19. The Story of My Name by Yonghuan        | Page 21 |
| 20. Independence Day by Milda               | Page 22 |
| 21. Traditions Together by Mara             | Page 23 |
| 22. The Day of the Dead by Veronica         | Page 24 |
| 23. Diana Penguin by Diana                  | Page 25 |

## **Discovering My Community**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 24. Having a Good Time at River Bend Nature Center by Milda | Page 27 |
| 25. Chicago History Museum by Hector                        | Page 28 |
| 26. Travel to Camp by Fredy                                 | Page 30 |
| 27. A Trip to the Lake by Sylvia                            | Page 32 |
| 28. My Hometown by Oliver                                   | Page 33 |
| 29. My New Hometown by Fatoumata                            | Page 34 |
| 30. Hawaii by Candelaria                                    | Page 36 |
| 31. I Love My U.S. Home by Emilia                           | Page 38 |
| 32. A Really Good Job by Chris                              | Page 40 |
| 33. Fishing by Jose   | Page 41 |
| 34. Downtown Kenosha by Shaik                               | Page 42 |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 35. Lagos de Moreno by Linda               | Page 43 |
| 36. The Best Restaurant in Kenosha by Jose | Page 44 |
| 37. A Walk in Chicago by Libia             | Page 45 |
| 38. Moving to the U.S. by Emelyn           | Page 46 |
| 39. Visitors to Kenosha by Aracely         | Page 48 |
| 40. Autumn in Our Lives by Yasmin          | Page 49 |
| 41. My Work by Victor                      | Page 50 |
| 42. Family Road Trip by Rogelio            | Page 51 |
| 43. Ache's Trip to Kenosha by Harold       | Page 52 |

### **The Power of Food**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 44. Food That Feels Like Home by Azucena   | Page 54 |
| 45. I Like Cooking by Lidia                | Page 56 |
| 46. Fiambre by Rene                        | Page 57 |
| 47. The Nickname Ajiaco Legend by Hernando | Page 58 |
| 48. Food Connects People by Oleksandr      | Page 60 |
| 49. Mute Santandereano by Jhonatan         | Page 62 |
| 50. Christmas Food in Colombia by John     | Page 64 |
| 51. Tomato Sauce by Filomena               | Page 65 |
| 52. Cooking Borsht by Oleksandr            | Page 66 |
| 53. Chicken Cordon Bleu by Juan            | Page 68 |
| 54. Cookie Trip by Carlos                  | Page 69 |
| 55. Corn Is Everywhere by Frida            | Page 70 |
| 56. Mole Red & Green by Aurora             | Page 71 |
| 57. Chiles en Nogada by Ana                | Page 72 |
| 58. The Foods of Peru by Elcira            | Page 73 |
| 59. Mother's Day Feast by Leticia          | Page 74 |
| 60. My Favorite Food by Pablo              | Page 75 |
| 61. Grilling by Ramon                      | Page 76 |
| 62. Tamales by Georgina                    | Page 77 |



# It's in the Meaning



# The American Dream

When I think of the word “immigrant” I think of pain, struggle, change, hope, and dreams. I imagine a bird in the fall that decides to fly towards an unknown world in the hope that it will be better there. I envy its ability to adapt and to reach a safe harbor.

In the same way with heavier luggage, we “immigrants” take our flight. We are going after a dream that hurts, that worries, that challenges. We leave family and friends behind. We leave customs and routines. We leave music and language. Then we become “immigrants” because we don’t belong. We feel different and alone. We feel lost in a strange world. However, there is something that always pushes us towards the path.

We are all moved by a dream, the idea of a dignified life. We all wish to have the opportunities that every human being deserves, health, safety and well-being. The American dream is our guide. We work hard to reach it. We learn a different language. We make new friends and even new families. We adopt new customs. We get used to the cold and we start to like apple pie. Suddenly, we no longer feel like immigrants.

Then, we realize that dream that hurt us now relieves us. It is then that we learn the value of effort and work, the value of education, the value of the help of the people that God puts in our path. The value of not giving up and always dreaming.

## 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 Little Angels

Our family has two cats. One is a male cat and his name is Marcelo. He is an older cat and a very good cat. The other is a female. She is a kitty and her name is Mia Leticia. We call her Mia for short. She is one year old and a mischievous kitty. Marcelo is 5 years old. He lived on the streets of Peoria before he came to us. My sister was feeding this stray cat that was very skinny. My son asked me if we could have him to take care of him, because he was older, very skinny and needed help. I said, "Yes!" We brought him home and he needed to see a veterinarian. We had to get everything he needed as a new member of our family. He needed food, a bed and a litterbox. To our surprise, he got used to the litterbox right away! We tried to have him wear a sweater, but he didn't like it. My son wanted to name him Chele, but he only responded to Marcelo so we gave him this name instead. My son thinks that Marcelo is his cat, because it was his idea to rescue the cat. However, Marcelo really belongs to our whole family. He's a good cat. We decided to get a second cat, so that Marcelo could have a companion to be with, because he would just spend the day sleeping, so we got Mia. They are friendly with each other, but like to fight over their food. Mia is a baby only one year old. She was a gift to us from a friend of a family in Kenosha. My kids love our cats and our dog likes the cats too!



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Norma Paz

**Learning Goal:**

To be able to communicate without translate at my children's Parent/Teacher conference.



# Remember Our Loved Ones

Every year my family, my community and I celebrate our “passed away” persons. Since I was a child every November 1 and 2 we went to the cemetery in my little town in México. We decorate tombs of our family, put on them cempasuchil flowers and move little and bigger funeral wreaths, but this custom start days before too, when in our homes we make an “altar” for our dead family and friends.

On those “altares” we put all the things that these persons love when they were alive, like their favorite food, bread, drink, fruit, the traditional dead bread, “papel picado”, “calaverita”, cempasuchil flowers, photos of that persons, water, candles. Each thing in these “altares” has their own and specific meaning.

I enjoy every custom we have because it is part of our history, but this one is one of my favorites. The Day of the Dead is not only about this day but it is about the people who leave this world before us. It is about remembering and never forgetting our persons. It is about having a little piece of them ever with us.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Dayana Rodriguez

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
To be fluent in English so  
I can study for a career.

I saw my mom and aunties go to the cemetery and celebrate this day about my grandfather who passed away before I was even born, and this custom let me visit him and spend a little day with him always remembering his face and who he was. Outside of the cemetery is a little food market that we can enjoy. This is the way my family and I celebrate this day but in different parts of México they celebrate with other things extra to this day or the other way but I think it doesn't matter the way we did it. The important thing is we can always remember our loved ones.



# The History of Jairo Andrés

My name is Jairo Andrés. My father chose the name Andrés because it reminded him of his uncle. My father remembers his uncle because he was a good person who helped people. The meaning of Andrés is a strong man. My name Jairo was given to me by my mom because she was a fan of a movie actor of the time with that name. I like my name because I feel youthful and it's beautiful. I like to be called Andrés because it reminds me of my father's uncle. My friends call me Jairo and my family call me Andrés and I like it. My name is written Andrés in Spanish but my name is in English Andrew. I like my name in Spanish. My name connects me to the brother of my dad.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Andres Romero

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
To learn English so I can improve in my work, and as a person.

# History About Gil

In Mexico there are a important history about the names. Since the year 1500 with the arrival of Spain to Mexico, they bring a lot culture; like religion and names, names that today have been important for us.

The name GILBERTO was chose by my father. He was Gilberto too. The meaning is the future is good.

My name always has been like this and never has been changed. Some times the people in USA call me GIL with different sound in the letter (G) while in Mexico the pronunciation is like GIL (h). And my name I don't like because I am not close to my father and I'd like that the people call me for my second name that is Javier because when I was born my parents chose two names for me. My name is simple and English or in Spanish. The sounds is the same only with the difference I had the sound on the words (G) and (h). Currently I'm not sure if there are a history connected to my name but this is a couple history about me.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Gilberto Gomez

**Learning Goal:**  
English is important to me because I need to be able to talk to people in my job.



# Archangel Rafael

I have always been very spiritual. In the time of my inability, I read about Archangel Rafael. I had an accident in January 15 2018 at 9:00 pm I went home on a motorcycle with a friend, when a car driver didn't stop the red light. The car collided with me and I rolled for some meter. This is happened in the popular street of my city in Colombia.

I lost mobility in my right leg, being at home I discovered that he is the archangel of the health and travel, I felt my connection because he interceded for me before God. I always tell my mom to light a green candle for me. This is color that represent him.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Leidy Perdomo

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to acquire more knowledge about English.

# Many Names

My name is Marcela. One day my mother heard my name when she was watching a movie. She asked my father a question, "Do you like the name Marcela?"

My father said, not "Marcela." I don't like it. I like Diana, it means woman full of light. My mother says its boring. Ok my mother says I like Marcela for a name because it means woman warrior. My family like Diana.

My sister and my brother played Power Rangers. I like name Kimberly who is the pink ranger. My sister and I fought for name Kimberly. Is good childhood



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Name:**  
Marcela Ramirez

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to have fluent  
conversations at work in  
English.



# Independence Day in Honduras

The Independence day in Honduras is September 15th, each year. When this day comes it can be a different day of the week. It's special day. The people come together in dos camino community and in other cities. The celebration begins with a parade. There are musicians who march in the parade. They play trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and drums.

Students from Elementary, middle, and high school march in the parade. They prepare for one month before that day. All the channels on tv are focused on the parade. The families Honduran they make different meals. Chinese food, tamales, rice, chicken, and drink a beverage similar to tequila.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Nolvin Cardoza

**Country:**  
Honduras

**Learning Goal:**  
need

# The Day of the Dead

The Day of the Dead is a Mexican tradition. The celebration is in November 1 and 2. Usually my family makes the favorite food of our family that past away. We'll always start by putting on a nice tablecloth, candies, and cempasuchil flowers (marigold). On November 1 we remember the past away children in our family, we put on candles, toys, milk, juice, fruit, dessert. The November 2 we put more candles, and more food like a Mole, Pozole, steak, cheese, coffee, tea, soda, water, soups, beer, wine, fruit, like tangerines, bananas, grapes, for the adults.

The last year my sister and I made the altar, she made steak and mole, and I made Pozole. We went to the Mexican store first to get ingredients. We enjoyed making the food and decorating the altar. The last November was the first time after many years that we did it together because before we were living in different countries.



**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Montserrat Crane

**Learning Goal:**  
Speak better English, for get a good job and also can speak with husband's family.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

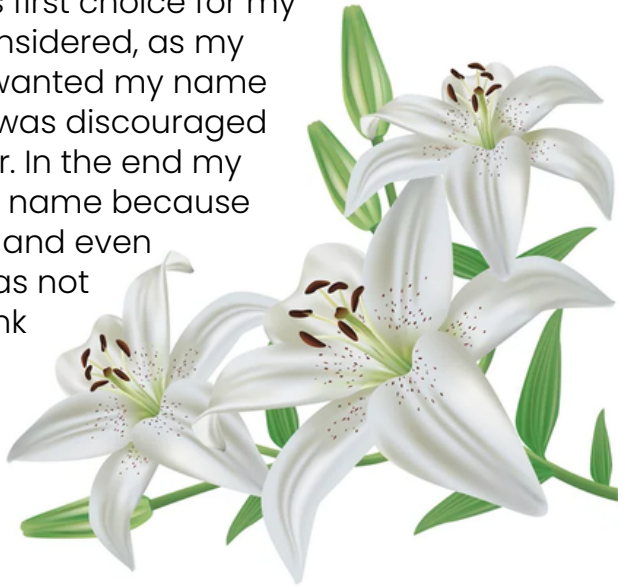


**2025 Student  
Anthology**

# The Story of My Name

My name is Azucena del Carmen. I know it means a flower name, like lilies, it's a white flower. I do think that meaning fits me because I love flowers, and lilies are amongst my favorites.

I wasn't named after anyone that my family knows, in fact it wasn't my family's first choice for my name. They also considered, as my mom told me, she wanted my name to be Berenice, but was discouraged by a family member. In the end my aunt Fina chose my name because she liked the name, and even though my mom was not happy about it, I think everyone ended up liking it, like now I like it too.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



### **Name:**

Azucena del Carmen  
Balderama Alonso

### **Country:**

Mexico

### **Learning Goal:**

To improve my vocabulary and be more confident in my second language.

# God Has Chosen My Name

My name is Rafael. My mother chose this name because that was her grandfather's name. She loved her grandfather because he provided for her education. My great grandfather died before I was born. My name has great meaning in religious history. My name means "God has healed". I like the connection that I have with God. I like reading the Bible because God strengthens me with his example to do things better every day. My family and my friends always they call me Rafael. With appreciation or affection they call me Rafa or Rafita. I like my first name Rafael, I have my middle name is Alberto, but I don't like it. I like it when people say my name in Spanish.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Name:**  
Rafael Rodriguez

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to be able to  
communicate with other  
people.



# The Story of My Name

My name is Jose Diaz Rodriguez. My name Jose means God will add. I was thinking that this meaning fits because of the belief that God is life. Jose was my family's first choice for my name. They considered the name and liked it because it is a name that is considered popular.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Jose Diaz

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
Speak English and have conversations at work.

# A Beautiful Name

My name is Ling Chen. Ling means is beautiful in Chinese. I think that meaning fits me because Ling is beautiful name. I was named after simple call out. Ling was my family's first choice for my name. In the end my mother chose my name because is beautiful and simple call.

# 美丽

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
China

**Name:**  
Kelly Chen

**Learning Goal:**  
Improve my English speaking  
and writing skills.



# Named After Grandmother

My name is Fatoumata. My father chose this name. He chose to name his daughter after his mother-in-law, who is my grandmother and my mother's mother. The meaning maybe a generous person or kind. Sometimes it's maybe a little difficult for people to pronounce or write properly my name but they always get used to it. I love my name and I like to be called by it. Here in the United States or everywhere is that they call me with my grandmother's name and she really used to love my father that's all. Thank you.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Fatoumata Dukuly

**Country:**  
Liberia

**Learning Goal:**  
I am learning English so I can do my GED classes and become a nurse in the future.

# A Humble Name

My name is Pablo Rafael Marin Tellez and I'm 24 years old. I think that my name is special for my mother and father. It is important to me its because my parents gave it to me. I think that the meaning of my name is humble. It makes me happy sometimes.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Pablo Rafael Marin Tellez

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak more English at my work.



# Scandinavian Name

My name is special because my father choose it based on the Denmark's nationality. Denmark are Scandinavian people. I believe that meaning fits with me because I love Europe and I have been dreaming about living there in a future. I would like to live in Scotland, Sweden or Slovenia, but maybe why not, in Denmark maybe that's a reason for my name.

I was named after I born. It was my family first choice. They also considered Lucimar which is my second name in the end they named me "Danesa Lucimar". Lucimar means Luz (light) y mar (sea). It is special because my father use to be a fisherman besides be in the military in my country Dominican Republic.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Danesa Custodio

**Country:**  
Dominican  
Republic

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to learn more  
vocabulary and be  
more confident  
speaking.

# A Strong Name

My name is Briant, it means strong.

I think that meaning fits me because I'm a strong person. One thing that makes me strong is that I'm living far from my family.

I was named after Coby Bryant. Briant was my family's first choice for my name. In the end my brother chose my name because he likes basketball and there are one player named Bryant.

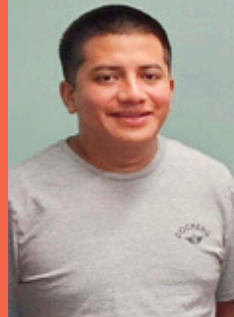


## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Briant E. Miguel Sanchez

**Learning Goal:**  
Speak English very well.



# Flags

A flag is very important for a country. Independence Day in my country is on September 16th. When it's Independence Day there's live music, food, a fair, and fireworks.

My family likes to eat everything special on this holiday. We eat different kinds of food like pozole, tamales, mole, and pork. There are drinks too like tequila and beer.

Everyone dances to music like cumbia, ranchera and salsa. There is also a festival fair that is a lot of fun. Everyone has fun on this holiday!



## MEET THE AUTHOR



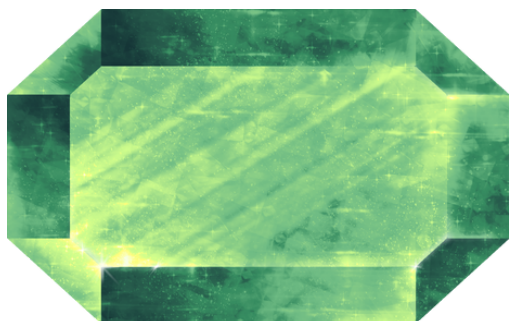
**Name:**  
Juan Juarez

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to be more confident using English at work.

# The Story of My Name

My name is Yonghuan. Huan means jade ring or bracelet. I do think that meaning fits me because my name is very much in line with my personality. I am like my name, very kind, honest, sincere and pure. I was named after the stone jade which means pure. Yonghuan was my family's first choice for my name. In the end my great grandfather, age 81 chose my name because I was the firstborn and he liked those qualities.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
China

**Name:**  
Yonghuan Zhang

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to read and write in English for my job.



# Independence Day

Independence Day is September 15 in Guatemala. The Independence of Guatemala was the process by which Guatemala, which included the present day nations of Central America, separated from Spain in 1821.

The key event was the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Guatemala City.

With this event, the “Pacific Plan of Independence” began. The signing of the Act of Independence was a negotiated and peaceful event.

On September 15, the streets of Guatemala are filled with parades, marching bands and cultural activities paying tribute to the heroes of Independence.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



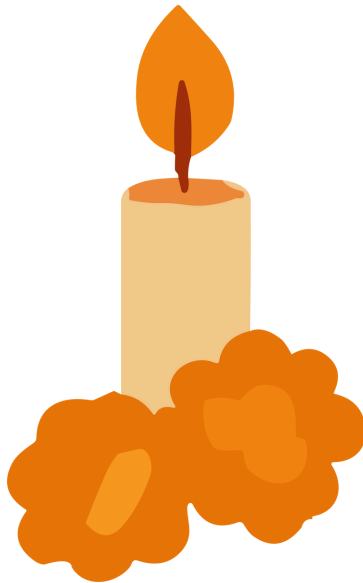
**Name:**  
Milda Velasquez

**Country:**  
Guatemala

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak English with my children's teachers and at work.

# Traditions Together

Day of the Dead is celebrated on November 2nd in my country of Mexico. On this day my family decorates an altar and cooks food. We make food like mole, tamales, and bread for the altar. My mother and my family celebrate this together because it is an important tradition. On day three we go together to the cemetery with orange flowers.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Mara Valencia

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to learn more English for the community.



# The Day of the Dead

In Mexico The Day of the Dead is a cultural and spiritual celebration that honors the memory of deceased loved ones allowing them to return home to live with their families once again. This tradition, which combines pre-Hispanic beliefs with the Catholic calendar involves creating altars that we call ofrendas. The ofrendas are filled with food, flowers candles, photos of people, and the deceased's personal belongings to guide the souls. We visit cemeteries and enjoy festivities such as parades and music.

The two main days of the Day of the Dead are November 1 which is All Saint's Day. This day is dedicated to honoring deceased children and young people (the little dead). And November 2 which is All Souls' Day. This day focuses on remembering adults.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Veronica Vargas

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
Learn English to get a promotion at work.

# Diana Penguin

My name is Diana Carolina Guzman Pachon. My name Diana means divine and my name Carolina means free woman. My mom chose my name.

I like my names because is they are popular names. Also, I have two names to use. Mu first name I use for my friends, coworkers or different people. My second name I use with my family.

But the most interesting is my nickname Penguin. This name was selected for me in the school by my friends. My past time friends continue calling me Penguin.



The writing about my name is very interesting for me because it was possible to interview my mom about the history for my names. I felt a strong connection talking with her concerning my beautiful and blessed name.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Name:**  
Diana Carolina  
Guzman Pachon

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to learn English so I  
can get a better job.



# Discovering My Community



# Having a Good Time at River Bend Nature

We went on Saturday. It was sunny and warm. I enjoyed the new experiences with my daughters. We went on a walk in the trees. We saw a white tail deer, turtles, and ducks.

The most fun was when we were canoeing on the river with my friend Veronica and my daughters. We needed life jackets and we needed an oar to paddle right and left to make it move in the river. I sat in the front of the canoe.

I liked the games because it was my first time doing something like this. We also played different games. It was fun to work together with friends. We worked on balancing. We walked on some logs that had poles with ropes. In this game we had to work together.

I had such a good time because I was with my daughters playing and enjoying different experiences. I would like to go canoeing another time, to see some deer again, and to walk again in the trees.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Guatemala

**Name:**  
Milda Velasquez

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak English with my children's teachers and at work.



# Chicago History Museum

Visiting the Chicago History Museum was a unique and enriching experience that allowed me to discover the city's past in a very engaging way. As soon as I entered, I was struck by the building's architecture and the way it blended with the modern design of the exhibits.

One of the sections that impressed me the most was the one dedicated to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, where through medals, testimonies, and original artifacts, it was possible to understand both the magnitude of the tragedy and the resilience of the people who rebuilt the city.

I was also fascinated by the gallery that focused on the African American and Latino communities in Chicago. It highlighted how diverse cultures have shaped the city's identity.

Another space I truly enjoyed was the one dedicated to sports, especially baseball and basketball, which emphasized the passion Chicagoans have for their local teams.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Hector Euceda

**Country:**  
Honduras

**Learning Goal:**  
I would like to be able to perform better in my job where English is not an obstacle.

I appreciated that many of the rooms were interactive, allowing visitors to learn in a hands-on way. The museum also had areas with photographs and recordings that made me feel as if I were traveling back in time. Each exhibition seemed carefully designed not only did they provide information but also to spark emotions and reflections about Chicago's past and present. I left museum with a deeper understanding of how the city has grown, overcome challenges, and become a place full of diversity and culture.



# Travel to the Camp

I finished my high school, so I began a new part of my life. I didn't know what my next step would be, maybe start the college, travel, find my first job. It was all confused in my mind.

That is the reason I took a decision by start a few months in a Camp, maybe the Camp would help me in my future decision for my life.

The place is in Ecuador, I need take free time to clear my mind and take better options in my life. The trip took 22 hours, it is far because it is another country. I could have flown but I preferred take a bus. It has more views, different places and new people to help me in my travel.

Ecuador is beautiful. The camp is for guys who were 17-20 years old. I was excited for different activities, and maybe start and new dates with women. The camp give me other experiences my life, like fishing, walking in the mountains, and fireworks at night. All helped me clear my mind.


## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Fredy Moreno

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
I would like to be able to communicate fluently with my co-workers.



Every morning we started the day at 6:00 AM, wake up have breakfast, and practice workout. The camp gave optional activities, like yoga, baseball, soccer, and other games. At midnight we made a bonfire, and talked with the new people about our lives problems, goals, and dreams for the future.

All people have similar problems, family, in the job, friends, or maybe just with yourself.

Everyone talked about the problems with professional people, the experience tips and good advice, that was a great experience, new people, breathe fresh air every morning, mountains, wild, All is Awesome for clear my mind, and Refresh my soul and body.

# A Trip to the Lake

I woke up in the morning and I said Let's go to the lake. It's so hot in the house. We like to go to the lake, at least once during the summer

The kids put sunscreen on the face and arms.

The neighbors came with us. Five people drove their cars. We went to Bigfoot State Park in Lake Geneva. The girls played volleyball. The boys cooked BBQ ribs.

The people waited for the food. We had beans, rice, beef, and salad. We covered the tables. the people sat down.

They listen to the music on the radio. English and Spanish. We prayed for the food. Everybody put you food in the plate whatever you like. The kids ate watermelon.

The kids wanted to swim. Their mothers told the boys and girls to wait 30 minutes to go swimming.

Everybody cleaned the mess and went to their houses.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Sylvia Reyes

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak English with my doctors and at the store.

# My Hometown

My hometown is Cali in Colombia. Cali is the capital for salsa dancing. Colombia is between two oceans, the Pacific and the Atlantic. We eat a lot of fresh fish and fruits like oranges, bananas, and mangos. The temperature goes from 75 degrees to 93 degrees Fahrenheit. There are two hospitals in Cali and they are the best in Latin America. Cali is the capital of sports in Colombia. There is football, basketball, boxing, running, cycling, and swimming.



**Country:**  
Colombia

**Name:**  
Oliver Llanas

**Learning Goal:**  
I want more English  
for work.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**2025 Student  
Anthology**

# My New Home

My name is , I'm from Liberia in West Africa. I lived in the United States in Kenosha since September 2024. I flew to come to Chicago then my husband drives me to Kenosha.

My husband lives in Kenosha and this is why I live here too, but I really love my neighborhood. It is very clean, very beautiful and very calm and I love the calm.

At first I went shopping at Pleasant Prairie. The place was so beautiful and full of good stuff. My first store I went to was Michael Kors. The store had A.C. The store had a beautiful jeans and clothes. I tried some jeans to find my size. In the fitting room, I finally bought three jeans, one sweater and one T-shirt. Then I went to Nike store. It was full of people.

What I like about the people who work in that stores is that they are always nice to the clients. Nike store or any store, they're nice to clients. So at Nike store I bought one pair of shoes and two sweaters, one pink color, one beige color and one black pair of shoes.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Fatoumata Dukuly

**Country:**  
Liberia

**Learning Goal:**  
I am learning English so I can do my GED classes and become a nurse in the future.

When we were going home we stop at McDonalds we enter in the McDonalds and the waiter spoke nicely to us and ask for want we have choose.

Before I lived is a small village. I had never been to a place like this. I don't know what to say after I said hello. I just grabbed my husband hand and he tell me want to do. There was on the screen the picture of what they have at McDonalds.

I just had to look at it and make a choice, so I chose double burger with fry and Sprite. It's was my first burger in my life. But you know what? I love it so much, we eat in the place and I take my drink with me in the car.

Going home I was so excited and happy because of my beautiful adventure of the day full of good experiences!



# Hawaii

Years ago we went to that beautiful place that we saw only in our dreams. It was a place we always wanted to visit.

Hawaii was the place, with active volcanoes, its tropical climate is full of vegetation and mountains. And we could meet in person its beautiful native people, their dances foods and customs.

Many new experiences happened there. The ocean had special color. All the sea was beautiful. When the plane arrived the people received flowers necklaces, but we had to buy them, since they were not free. I got my necklace from my husband and sons. It was a nice decision.

We always wanted to go to Hawaii. One time when going for dinner one lady said hello and welcome at the same time. She and I bumped heads. When we bowed all are laughing.

We enjoyed everything. The food, desserts, the music, the jewelry and shells from the ocean.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Candelaria Soto

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak better English.

We wanted to eat roast pork, then we traveled by the boat.

I danced with the dancers. Another day we went to a big restaurant. Everything was sea food. Its was great. There were many kinds and all of it delicious.

The greetings a little different to us. I saw surfers and hot air balloons and shows. The natives are very nice people. They have special color on their faces.

The sunsets are amazing. We went to Pearl Harbor Naval Base to see the warship Arizona. I will never forget that wonderful place.



# I Love United States My Home

Coming to USA was not my decision. Let me tell you some things that made me respect and love this country and feel at home. 34 years ago my ex-husband and I came to this country. He promised me that we would live here for a year. We never returned to México. I cried for years, when I missed my parents, my family, my job and my life in México. While my daughters were being born - and I was taking care of them, my husband and my home. 14 years went by. After all that time, we divorced. I didn't speak English, I didn't know the laws or culture of this country. I didn't know what opportunities my daughters and I would have in this country. But I knew I would find a way to work hard to give them a good life. I wanted them to grow up here in their country, loving it, learning about their culture and history. It had to be that way. I stopped dreaming of returning to Mexico. I wouldn't forget my family from Mexico. Some of them are still waiting for me. I don't regret having made the decision to stay in this country. I had difficulty looking for job. I met people who hired me to clean their houses. I did that for a couple of years. Throughout 2 years I was humiliated by these people. It was ok. I learned they were important to me too.


## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Emilia Fernandez

**Country:**  
México

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak English  
fluently with the people.



In some way they also contributed a little to my daughters and I to reach our goal. That was a lesson. I had also met kind people who not only give me job but also become close friends. I'm thankful to this country, here raise my daughters and educate them.

I grateful to this country because over 34 years living here we had a great times like my daughter's college graduation. But also surviving difficult times with my rare illness. Here we lived uncertain days and months with the COVID pandemic. Then other beautiful moments gave us hope: the birth of my grandchildren.

I feel that this country has embraced me. Estados Unidos thank you for have the city Kenosha Wisconsin, which has been my home for 20 years. I love living here. I very grateful to give me the opportunity to learn and improve my English conversation at the Literacy Council. Thank you for helping us. I feel confident to speak English now.

All of us make the United State the land of opportunity. I believe it. The United States is the land of opportunity. It was for me and I hope it continues to be. It is the land of my daughters and grandchildren. It has been my home for 34 years. I hope it continues to be so. I love you U.S.A. Because since 1991 there have been countless experiences lived in this country that I have written in my memory.

# A Really Good Job

As a young boy, I remember that my dad was a good auto mechanic. I didn't like working on cars. I wanted to have an office job. Then I found out AMC was hiring.

To work at AMC was very important to me. For the first time I would be making good money. So I filled out an application. Oh, behold, they called and I was excited. A 23-year-old man, I was going to be working at AMC!

When I first started there, I was on first shift. The size of the plant was very huge. I had never worked in a place that big. After I started to work, my supervisor asked me had I thought about being a floater, that way I could do different jobs every day. And that's when my journey began to making good money.

I always wanted to have something to talk about like I did about getting shot when I was 17. Then it happened! A really good job!



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Name:**

Christopher C. Bogan

**Country:**

U.S.A.

**Learning Goal:**

To improve my reading and writing skills.

# Fishing

My name is Jose and live in Illinois. My favorite days are when I go fishing with my wife. Our favorite fishies are the catfish and salmon because are very delicious. The town of McHenry is our favorite place for fishing and it is a beautiful lake. It's a lot of fun to go fishing because I like spending time with my wife since she really likes fishing and other times also going camping. This last weekend my wife was very happy because she caught a very big catfish and we decided to cook the fish in fillets and have dinner with her parents.

This winter we are planning to go fishing with my cousins in Wisconsin Dells and that's why we have been buying jackets, gloves, hats and boots for the cold.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Jose Garcia

**Learning Goal:**  
To learn more English in this year. In 2026 to buy a new house for my family.

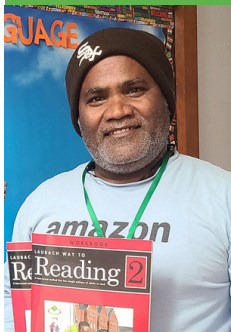


# Downtown Kenosha

I like to walk around Downtown. I try to go every week for 2-3 hours. Sometimes, my wife comes with me. We like to go to antique shops. We look at stuff. Every week I buy something. We also buy pizza or coffee or ice cream. At Harbor Market the trolley goes by. I like it. Its fun. Something my wife and I enjoy is watching the people. We talk and laugh. and listen to music. The beaches and lake are beautiful. I'm always happy to go downtown.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Shaik Javeed

**Country:**  
India

**Learning Goal:**  
Learn English, speaking,  
writing to be more  
independent.

# Lagos de Moreno

I visit my first time in Lagos de Moreno Jalisco. My husband and I fly to Zacatecas and then take bus to Lagos de Moreno in Jalisco. I wanted to go to this place because my husband was born in this place. I liked this place because it is beautiful. We visited different churches and people made food outside of their houses. It is a beautiful place and I would like to go again.



**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Linda

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to have more confidence in speaking English.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

# The Best Restaurant in Kenosha

My favorite restaurant is "TOMMY HOME RUN". The restaurant is on Sheridan Road, by the side of Kingfish Stadium in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The first time I was in this restaurant was in winter 2018. I was there to have a breakfast with my Aunt Aurora and her friend. The restaurant has a large menu. My favorite plate is the "skillet TOMMY HOME RUN", which is special with swiss cheese, of course, always come with pancakes, never toast, lol. My second favorite plate is Omelet special of home. Always when friends or family visit me we go to breakfast at this restaurant because the price, attention and food are very good and workers are polite and happy. My English teacher Tom said: "The price and food is very good."



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Jose Jaramillo

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
To speak and meet new people.

# A Walk in Chicago

I went on a visit to Chicago with family. There are people from many countries in Chicago. I saw the big buildings and also I saw the Trump building.

I like the boats and the Bean in the city. We took photos with family in different places. In the Chicago river there are boats. I saw people that ran around the lake. We went to a restaurant and ate sandwiches and drank water. My son bought some souvenirs. He bought a keychain and a magnet. We went home after 8 hours.

I enjoyed visiting Chicago with my family.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Peru

**Name:**  
Libia Cuadrado

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak more English to talk to my grandchildren.



# Moving to the United States

My life in Honduras wasn't perfect, but it wasn't bad either. However, Honduras has always had a corrupt government, which has hindered its progress. My father, a hardworking man, dreamed of a better future for his daughter—for me—so he decided to emigrate with me to the United States in March 2019. I was only 11 years old.

I clearly remember the day I had to leave my country. I was excited to discover the United States. Saying it was easy, but I didn't know that a long road full of uncertainty awaited me, not knowing if I would arrive alive at my destination.

Leaving Honduras was the beginning of the most difficult part. We had to cross many places and some countries like Guatemala and Mexico to reach the United States border. Most of the time we walked, and sometimes we got a ride, but it wasn't like traveling freely. We had to go hidden with other migrants in the back of a truck, covered so as not to arouse suspicion.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Emelyn

**Country:**  
Honduras

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to improve my English skills.



There were days when we had no food or water; sometimes we survived on snacks. I remember when we found a lagoon and took water from it. We filled our bottles with that water and took care of it as if it were gold. When we walked, we did it through areas far from the houses; there were only bushes and dirt under an intense sun. It was a terrifying experience that I had never lived through before.

Thank God, after all that suffering, I arrived at my destination. I was detained in immigration centers, but I finally got out of there and was able to reunite with part of my family.



# Visitors to Kenosha

My Aunt Graciela came to visit me on October 8, 2024. She came here to see her granddaughter graduate from the Navy School. My aunt Graciela is my father's younger sister. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

I hadn't seen my aunt for 35 years. It was a very nice visit. I cooked pazole and we ate. We also talked a lot. When we finished, we went for a walk to the lake and took photos to remember the visit.

When my aunt came the second time, she brought her two granddaughters Maya and Jessica to meet us. They arrived and we went out to a restaurant celebrate Maya's graduation. When we finished, we went to Jerry Smith's Pumpkin Farm. It was very exciting to see pumpkins and different pumpkins made for Halloween.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Aracely Sanchez

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
Speak with my doctors  
in English.

# Autumn In Our Lives

Without expecting anything a new opportunity, a new hope restarted our lives and changed them. Autumn came with cold weather that I never experienced before. It was very special in my heart. We did not look for this place but fate brought us here. We fell in love with the amazing people who are very friendly, fresh food, wonderful vast fields, and beautiful sunrises and spectacular sunsets that warm your soul and cheer your heart.

Autumn brought us and gave us the cold winter. Spring followed and summer announced the love and memories we have for this new place. This is our home away from home. We enjoy the warmth of summer that eventually brings us back to autumn. It reminds us of the autumn that changed our lives and brought us to our home away from home.



**Country:**  
Panama

**Name:**  
Yasmin Ortiz

**Learning Goal:**  
I need to listen & understand more English for my next job.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**2025 Student  
Anthology**

# My Work

I have ten years working as a welder in Mexico. I came to Kenosha four years ago. My friend Alex told me about his job in Racine. He is a welder. I thought, "I like welding!"

I have five friends that work at the same job. We make ramps and platforms for different companies. I set up a steel table. Then I weld the sides together with a welder. A welder has a very hot flame that melts the steel. I learned how to weld when I watched an experienced welder. I feel good when I make smooth edges.

Next month I will go to Ohio to install a ramp. I'm looking forward to seeing another state. We have a celebration one time every year. They tell us how much they like our work. They have a big lunch for all of us.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Victor Cruz

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
Learn more English so I  
can have conversations.

# Family Road Trip

After my wife's graduation, our family packed up the car in Illinois and set out and drove 11 to 12 hours drive to South Dakota. Our first stop was the Badlands, where the landscapes amazed us. We also visited Mount Rushmore and even stopped at a prairie dog farm, where we got to feed the prairie dogs.

We camped there for two nights, but a powerful thunderstorm came through, soaking the campsite and ruining our tent. Soon after, the heavy rains caused flooding in Yellowstone, our next planned destination. So, we drove another 12 hours and we stayed around Montana and made the best of it.

We went on small hikes and learned the basics of hiking in the woods like carrying bear spray since the area is home to both black bears and grizzlies. We were surprised to hear that just the day before we arrived, there had been a moose attack nearby.

Even though Yellowstone was closed we filled our days with family activities, exploring local spots, and enjoying time together. In the end, the road trip became less about checking off destinations and more about making memories.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Rogelio Garcia

**Learning Goal:**  
I need to improve my English to advance at work.



# Ache's Trip to Kenosha

Ache was a puppy when he came at home, he was 3 months old. Ache is a white a brown french bulldog, he is so small and cute. Ache and I had been living in Colombia 2 years, but I had to move to Kenosha. So, he was living with my mom 1 whole year, during that year we did many documents, certificates and health tests.

One day in summer of 2024, I and my family, wife, daughter and baby, were looking for a nice place for our dog - Ache. I found in google some pet parks, my wife choose the Peorio Park. That afternoon we went to the place, we were walking by all park, we saw forests, lagoons and a ravine, but the better was a clearing among the trees, with a large, clear and welcoming lawn, in that moment I thought, "this place is perfect to picnic", then I started to plain it.

Some months after, my mom could come to visit us and she brought to Ache, our loved doggy. Finally, we were all gathered, so, in spring of 2025 we cooked many foods and we went to Peorio Park. That afternoon my baby and Ache ran by all over the place, my wife and my daughter taked many pictures while I and mom served the food, later to eat we were giving thanks and praying. Since then we visit the Park often.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Harold Abella

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to learn English so  
I can get a better job.

# The Power of Food



# Food That Feels Like Home

From where I came from food is special. Well, I believe there is a feeling food can give to basically anyone who loves to eat and who loves where they come from.

I am from Monterrey, Mexico. I have always lived there until this past year. My family and I moved to Kenosha. Since then I have missed every dish that I remember like tacos, flautas, carne asada, everything. I believe that it is not only the food that I miss. I guess it is what comes with it is what I miss the most. Almost every week I had the chance to share a meal or two with my mother and also my best friends. If I think about it, it is not even the food. Although, let me explain that food, even a single taco was delicious if you know where to get it from or prepare it yourself. Beyond food comes the experience, the joy that comes from being at the table with your loved ones.

That's by far what makes the difference. One of the most significant dishes I remember is tamales. In Mexico you can buy tamales at the market but when the holiday season arrives your family prepares the tamales.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Name:**

Azucena Balderrama

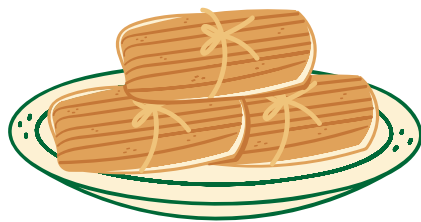
**Country:**

Mexico

**Learning Goal:**

To improve my vocabulary and be more confident in my second language.

Every Christmas Eve since I can remember my mom joins my aunts and, from scratch, they take almost all day to make the best tamales I could ever have. Those were my childhood treasured memories. I always went with her so as soon as we woke we got ready and embarked on a day of cooking and sisterhood vibes. Even through I was no longer with my mom in my adult years, I still keep those memories close to my heart. It has meaning for me because of all the effort she and my tias put in to provide a tasty and very elaborate dish for their families. My mom is now an elder beautiful lady and despite her painful arthritis and aches she still says yes every time her sister asks if she can help prepare tamales together. My mom is always willing to help and that's one of the many things I love about her, about Christmas and about my traditions and, of course, the food!



# I Like Cooking

I like cooking for my son who is 29 years old and my daughter who is 9 years old, and for myself also.

My daughter likes the black mole sauce from Oaxaca in Mexico.

I like posole white, red and green and a little spicy and a lot of green.

I like the tamales and pavo (turkey) are for New Year's and Christmas, and posole is for birthdays. I like tinga for the everyday, and I like to go one day a week to a restaurant.

Tinga is chicken, tomatoes, chile chipotle, onion and condiments. Posole is beef, chicken, pork, tomatoes, garlic, onion, chiles, and corn all cooked together. Black mole sauce is made from chocolate, onion, tomatoes, peanuts, chiles, crackers, cooked in a broth. These 3 dishes are my favorite foods.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Lidia Cabanas

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
I need more English to  
talk to everyone.

# Fiambre

That start like a week before of November first be cause we need to buy all ingredients for make the fiambre, the firambre is delicious, is about beet, onion cabbage and sausages but in Guatemala the families come together to make it and eat it, after or before depends the family we go to the cemetery to leave a little of the fiambre to our families or our dead and after on the cemetery we eat whit all family it is a tradition in Guatemala it is like Coco movie.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Guatemala

**Name:**  
Rene Lopez Morales

**Learning Goal:**  
I need to improve my English for work.



# The Nickname Ajiaco Legend!

Legend has it that once upon a time vegetables and greens were bored. They wanted to try to make a good body human. They wanted to be the most good for the person.

It is here where they decide to have a meeting. It is a meeting of different potatoes. All potatoes have representation, so this meeting was called the potato mafia, but this days, no is good this name, so they decided to involved others. They invite peas, cilantro and onion but this meeting need more taste. They invited chicken and sweet corn.

Once everyone was gathered together they decided that (Mafia potatoes) no is good name, so the keyword ajiaco would use. But what does this secret word mean?

wAter  
Jewel  
onion  
peARs  
Chicken  
pOtatoes

## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Hernando Cardona

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
My goal is to have  
better listening.

But this history is still far from finished. In the General meeting they take a decision for new leader for Ajiaco.

The new leader is Guasca but no have good name for USA, for USA the name is Gallant Soldier. But what was Gallant's mission? The mission is put special flavor. This flavor is different from any other soup.

But what is Ajiaco? Ajiaco is a dish of boiled meat and vegetables seasoned with onion and garlic. This fun history just want to tell the history of a Colombian dish in different way, with the plot of a Netflix movie.



# Food Connects People

Food makes friends in the mountains. Once I got my backpack and necessary things and went to the mountains. I reached my favorite lawn and met friendly-bear, Mishka, there. I call Mishka a bear, because he is my mountain friend.

He was looking very thin and sad. We met.

"Hi. My name is Oleksandr."

"Hello. My name is Mishka. I'm hungry and angry."

I said, "I have my birthday today."

He replied. "Me too."

"Let's celebrate together, I have enough good food," I said.

We shook our hands and congratulated each other.

We started cooking together and preparing the mountain soup and other meals.

Mishka and I drank a little bit of vodka.

The tasty soup was eaten.

The cheese, sausage, cucumber and bread with garlic was eaten too.


## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Oleksandr Buinyi

**Country:**  
Ukraine

**Learning Goal:**  
I must understand  
English to speak to my  
brother & daughter.



Then we made a big fire and we were singing songs.  
Often we were singing "Happy birthday to you".  
Around midnight my friend said "I'm hungry, I want to eat."  
I prepared porridge barley for my mountain friend and he ate it with some sausage and cheese.

We drank some of the tea and we went to bed.  
I was sleeping in my tent. Mishka had a good shaggy fur and he was sleeping beside my tent.

At night I woke up, why? Mishka was snoring loudly for a long time.

In the morning we did exercises and cooked millet porridge, meat, cheese, and butter.

We drank black coffee with milk.

We had been traveling in the mountains for two days together. We saw beautiful nature.

My holiday was finishing. I left my mountain-friend-brother Mishka my food and came back home.

I'm very happy that I helped avoid starvation for my "hungry man."

Thanks to food I met a real friend in the mountains and we had a good time together.

Food is a really major part of our lives. We eat food every day. When we have enough good food we often have good health and spirit.

Dear friends! This is really true, because I saved and helped one our a "little brother."

# Mute Santandereano

The Mute Santandereano is a typical dish from my region because its made with different ingredients, that give it a by unique flavor, accompanied by cassava, avocado, race and chili.

The ingredients, carrot, arracacha-like a potato, pumpkin, yellow potato, beef belly, garlic, tomato, onion, an herb called guacas macaroon, green peas, chickpeas, corn for mute, fresh beans, black potato, beef, cilantro, rice, avocado, cassava, and chili.

First all the meats, are washed, chopped into not-so small, pieces and cooked, adding salt. The chickpeas are cooked alone to soften them. All the vegetables are chopped into squares and put to cook after boiling the black potato is added, the tomato, onion, and garlic are sauteed.

Twenty minutes before the Mute is ready, the corn for mute, and the yellow potato are added. Add all the meats, a little macaroon, the sauteed guacas and cilantro.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Jhonatan Chacón

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
Improve my speaking skills in English.

The Mute is served accompanied by rice, avocado, cassava and chili. In my city it is served hot and is accompanied with a delicious & refreshing refajo which is a mixture of beer and apple-flavored soda.

This is a typical dish for weekends and especially for special days, such as birthdays Mother's Day, Father's Day among others. The dish of the Mute Santandereano it is important to me, because it is an exquisite dish and it is a dish that represents us a region where we go to discover our delicious gastronomy.

A special date for me was my last birthday which I was able to spend with my family in Colombia before coming here to the United States. We celebrated my brother's and my birthday, where my wife, my mother and my mother in law made a delicious Mute Santandereana.



# Christmas Food in Colombia

Christmas food in Colombia is a blend of flavors that reflects the country's cultural diversity. Dishes like lechona, tamales, and buñuelos are essential during the celebrations. Lechona is a pig stuffed with rice and spices. Tamales are made with masa, meat, and Vegetables wrapped in banana leaves. These dishes vary by region but are always flavorful. Buñuelos are small fried cheese and corn spheres, along with nutilla, which is a creamy dessert, they are the traditional Christmas sweets. For drinks aguardiente, whisky beer and wine are popular especially on cold December nights.

Normally, when we meet with the family, we make these dishes together, like tamales, buñuelos and nutilla. These dishes are made by the grandmas, and they are not difficult to make.

In conclusion, these dishes not only nourish but also symbolize family unity and Colombian traditions.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
John Medina

**Country:**  
Colombia

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to speak English at work with my supervisors.

# Tomato Sauce

I like the summer season because I can prepare my favorite dishes as well as traditional ones. Summer is the season of the vegetable tomato. I buy my tomatoes at the farmers market in August with my family which includes two sons, a daughter in law, grandson, granddaughter, and friend. They help me peel the tomatoes, help chop them, and preserve them by sealing in glass jars.

The tomatoes are boiled. I then put through a grinding machine. Finally I put sauce with a lot basil in ziplock bags and put in the freezer. I prepare with tomato sauce in different recipes for dishes. I make a simple sauce with olive oil, garlic, basil, red pepper hot or cheese almost always. A lot of sauce I use to prepare these recipes: Zucchini and eggplant parmigiane. With chopped tomato I like to make pizzaiola with slice of meat and pizza. A lot sauce is consumed by my family in various types of home made pasta with the peeled tomatoes - pasta "bucatini alle matriciane" (alle Romane) with pork jowls, a lot onions and a lot pecorino romano. We use sauce for spaghetti alle bogonese with a lot ground beef, basil and cheese parmigiano. Still plenty of sauce for the fusilli alle zingara (gypsy) with sausage; mushroom and cheese. More sauce is used to prepare pasta all'arrabbiate (angry). This dish has a lot hot red peppers. The most popular dish with my family and friends is pasta lasagne. When I prepare these dishes it is a big celebration for everyone who comes to my dinner.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Italy

**Name:**  
Filomena Vulnera

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to have more  
fluent language.



# Cooking Borsht!

Food is a major part of our life. We eat food every day. Every day we need a good breakfast. The breakfast is one way we can start our day strong. It saves our health, our body, and our spirit.

I like cooking for my family. Usually, I have enough time, because I'm retired. I try to help my family, because my brother and his wife work very hard and a long time. I hope they need to have more time for their resting. Cooking usually takes much time. Sometimes I cook three or four hours. I try to cook tasty and delicious food. Often I ask my family - "what would you like to eat for breakfast and dinner?" Then I plan cooking.

For the breakfast I cook different porridges such as oat, millet, buckwheat, barley, with different vegetables and chicken meatballs and some berries. I ask my family shake up their legs very fast in the morning and then eat my friendly tasty breakfast.

Sometimes they refuse my breakfast and they say - "we aren't hungry, because we had your very tasty and fat soup for the dinner yesterday."

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Oleksandr Buinyi

**Country:**  
Ukraine

**Learning Goal:**  
I must understand  
English write, read and  
speak English very well.

I have been cooking the fresh delicious soup every day because this is obligatory meal in our life. I think so because I have big skills cooking tasty soup in the mountains with my mountain-friend-bear-brother Mishka.

Sometimes I cook a unique dish from my country. It's a borsht. The borsht is soup, but it includes tasty beans and beet roots. When the borsht is ready it has very pleasant color. This color is dark red. I like fresh borsht soup and other food. Some people prefer this meal on the second day, after it is refrigerated. Every person has their own family recipe. Some of the people use pork with a little bone; others use chicken, beef or little fish. Usually, we put fat sour cream, one or two tablespoons in our borsht and black rye bread and some garlic too. It's very delicious.

You can see different recipes of borsht on Youtube. Let's start cooking Ukrainian borsht and eating together.

Good luck!



# Chicken Cordon Bleu

My favorite recipe to make chicken cordon blue for my wife and myself. What I use is boneless chicken breast. Which I then pound. Then I roll up the chicken, with the cheese and ham inside of the roll. Then I dip it in the beaten eggs and flour. I put it in a hot frying pan and brown it for about 15 minutes. Then I put in oven and bake it 20 minutes. I often serve it with a salad. I chop lettuce, onions, cucumbers, tomatoes to make a salad. I like thousand island dressing an it. Then we sit down to a delicious meal.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Juan Torres

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
My goal is to English to  
past my citizenship test.

# Cookie Trip

I like cookies. About three years ago I heard about a store called Insomnia cookies. I found one was in Milwaukee. Me and my three friends traveled to Milwaukee to go to the Insomnia Cookies. They had a lot of cookies there. I don't know why but it's so good!



**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Carlos

**Learning Goal:**  
I need to learn English to talk to people in the community.

## MEET THE AUTHOR



**2025 Student  
Anthology**

# Corn Is Everywhere

Corn is found everywhere in Mexico. If I'm craving something with corn there maybe many options and many ideas. My family likes to eat chalupas. We eat this food during the week and on weekends. My mom, brother, grandfather and I eat together in our home. My family makes a green sauce. We slice onion and cilantro and add sour cream. We also grill steak, chicken, chorizo and other meats.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Frida Sophia Moreno  
Ballesteros

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
Learn more English

# Mole Red and Green

I always make mole for celebrations. For example birthdays or special occasions. My favorite to eat is red mole but sometimes I make green mole. We eat mole on a special occasion to celebrate at a party. All family and friends are welcome to our house, when we celebrate a birthday. Sometimes I cook by myself but my husband gives me a hand, when it's not busy. We eat mole, because everyone loves the rich flavor and we are Mexican. My mother taught me how cook this dish when a was young.

The red mole needs a lot of ingredients and a lot time to cook, but if you eat at next day the flavor it has a much better.

Some ingredients are: dry peppers (pasilla, mulato, jaral) sesame seeds, pumpkin seeds, salty crackers, peanuts, tortilla toast, chocolate, lard and a lot love to cook.

Sometimes I made turkey (guajolote) or chicken, also made it with pork. The green mole is more easy to make, because I just need only green ingredients. The green mole ingredients are: cilantro, spinach, lettuce, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, garlic, onion etc. and seasoning with Mole green Doña Maria. I always make the green mole with chicken. I think I love to cook and enjoy with family and friends.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Aurora Jaramillo

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to be ready to pass my English test at Gateway and start a program.



# Chiles en Nogada

It's a recipe passed down from my father. What kind of food is chiles en nogada? When making this recipe in my house is a party because I can't make it every day, because it has a lot of ingredients. For this recipe I need chiles poblanos, chicken, raisins, peaches, apples, pears, onion, salt, pepper, sour cream, walnuts and pomegranate seeds. This is how I make this recipe. First I put chiles poblanos on stove for roast then put them in the bag for an hour. Then you do the next steps. I chop the chicken and peaches, apples, onions, raisins, walnuts. When all the ingredients are chopped I put them in the kettle with the chicken onion, salt, and pepper for 20 minutes in the oven. When all is ready I put in the peaches, pears, apples, raisins, walnuts, cook for 20 minutes more. I then take the bag of chiles and clean. I take off all the skin. When all the chiles poblanos are clean I put all filling in the chiles. The third step is to put in the blender the sour cream and walnuts. When it is ready to top I pour the cream and sprinkle the pomegranate and walnuts. The last step is to put it on a plate and we eat it is delicious.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



2025 Student  
Anthology

**Name:**  
Ana Castillo

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
Learn more English

# The Foods of Peru

In my country the food is different than in other countries. In Peru, we like to eat lomito saltado, which is made with meat from the cow. It is prepared in oil with onions and tomatoes and is served with potato fries and rice. Lomito is served hot as a main meal. Another food served in my country is Ceviche. Ceviche is a fish dish that is served cold with corn and sweet potatoes. They are both very delicious foods. My friends from different countries, like Europe and the US also enjoy eating Lomito and Ceviche.

We have it in the restaurants and I make it at home sometimes. We enjoy these any day of the week and on special days like my birthday and other holidays. We don't have Ceviche on Christmas Day. On this day, I prepare a Turkey. During holy week before Easter, we only eat fish, no meat on Thursday and Friday. At my house, my son will cook for us on special days. He is a very good cook and his food is delicious!

I enjoy fruit like different types of bananas and mangos are sweet. I like the citrus flavor of passion fruit. Avocados are imported to the United States from Peru. We enjoy avocado in slices in our salad. When I eat these foods it reminds me of my country, my family and my parents.



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Peru

**Name:**  
Elcira Carranza

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to integrate into this country.

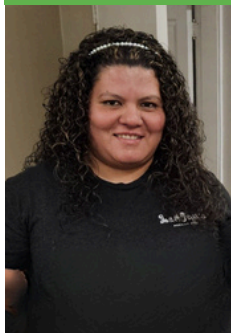


# Mother's Day Feast

I work in the restaurant called Waterfront Warehouse. Mother's Day was a special day at the restaurant. We took care to prepare the restaurant for this day. I liked cooking for the people with their families. People made reservations to celebrate the special occasion with their mothers. It was important to make reservations because the place is big. There was special food prepared to thank mothers. The food included pasta, soup, ribs, salads, and meat. My son and I liked the pasta alfredo. The food was delicious!



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Leticia Acosta

**Country:**  
Honduras

**Learning Goal:**  
Learn more English

# My Favorite Food

My favorite food from my country is pozole. It is a special kind of soup. There is red and green pozole but my favorite is red. Pozole is a traditional dish in Mexico and 100% Mexican. My Mom made this soup in our house in Mexico. Pozole is common on birthdays and other celebrations. It has meat and corn. It is spicy. My Mom would make this food for my birthday. We would enjoy it with my mom, sister, brother, and father. It is very good. This food is very special to me!



## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Pablo Marin

**Learning Goal:**  
I want to learn more  
vocabulary.



# Grilling

We have many cook outs on Saturdays in the summer. All of my family gets together at my father's house. My uncle, my cousins, my parents, me and my girlfriend. We enjoy family time.

My father does the cooking. He is a good cook! He makes hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, and sometimes we have steak.

My girlfriend brings salad, rice, macaroni and cheese. Sometimes she brings mashed potatoes.

We have ice cream for dessert. I like the combination of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberries.

We listen to Mexican music. It makes us happy. The family is together and the music brings memories that we Talk about.



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**Name:**  
Ramon Martinez

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Learning Goal:**  
My goal is to learn more English to talk to my friends.

# Tamales for the Family

At my parent's house in Mexico my mom likes to make tamales. Tamales are a very special food for Mexican people. Usually these meals happen on special occasions like Christmas, New Year's, birthdays, and family reunions. She loves to make them for her own family because she knows how much we love tamales.

She knows that we like the green tamales. The recipe is very simple: green salsa, masa, meat, leaves, salt and a lot of love.

I remember when she makes tamales, and she puts them into the pot. I started asking how long it takes to make them ready to eat. And she always said "Stop asking because if you keep asking, they're never going to be ready to eat."

Now I make tamales for my family and when I make them, I remember my mom and how she was so happy sometimes.



My kids like to hear the history about my mom. We love to sit and talk about her and eat the tamales. I always think about her and sometimes it makes me sad because I really miss her. The good thing is that she taught me a lot of things. And, now all I learned from her, I try to teach my kids.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Country:**  
Mexico

**Name:**  
Georgina Juarez

**Learning Goal:**  
My goal is to learn to read & write English.





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