

Beginnings VIII

A PUBLICATION OF ADULT STUDENT WRITING OF THE

Ohio Writers' Conference

OHIO LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER

Foreword

Welcome to *Beginnings VIII*, the annual publication of creative, original writings by Ohio ABE students sponsored by the Ohio Literacy Resource Center's *Ohio Writers' Conference*. This year over 470 entries were submitted! Needless to say, it was a difficult task selecting the award winners. We thank *all* ABE students and their teachers for their outstanding dedication to this venture!

We are proud to say that this year's publication begins with a poem entitled *Education*, written by Jennifer Cline, a *former* ABE student and GED Scholar who is currently a freshman at Kent State University. The poem is a tribute to her struggles, persistence, and success and serves as a model for *all* ABE students and their dedication to pursue an education. In addition, for the third consecutive year, *Beginnings* features the artwork of ABE students. This year's edition captures the creativity of Kelly Bond and Maria Thomas, Live Oaks ABE.

The authors of *Beginnings VIII* and their teachers were honored during the 8th Annual Writers' Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on May 20, 2005. The conference featured keynote speaker and award-winning author, Angela Johnson. Angela, a native of Ohio and former Kent State University student, has published over 20 children's books and has received numerous literary awards including the *Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award* (1991), the *Coretta Scott King Award* (1991 and 1994), and the 2004 *Michael L. Printz Award*. In addition, the attendees were entertained by award-winning storyteller, Lyn Ford. As many of you know, Lyn has become a dear friend of the *Ohio Writers' Conference* and engages the participants in stories that capture the essence of heartfelt family traditions.

In this edition of *Beginnings* we also acknowledge the writers who submitted entries that we were unable to publish. They are listed in the *Honorable Mention* section. We thank them for their commitment to writing and encourage them to continue to submit their original writings next year.

The OLRC thanks the Ohio Department of Education – Adult Basic and Literacy Education Office – for the continued support it has provided for this ongoing project. We also thank the OLRC staff, many reviewers, and the judges for their dedication to the *Ohio Writers' Conference*. Most of all, we thank the ABLE teachers who have encouraged their students to reflect, to write, and to submit entries. The success of this annual conference is truly a tribute to ABLE teachers and their students statewide!

Now, we hope you sit back and enjoy reading the creative writings of adult students in Ohio that include thoughts of *youth, family, love, places, fiction, pleasure, learning, and perseverance*.

Chris McKeon
2005 Conference Organizer

Table of Contents

Foreword	iii
A Poem: Education	vii
Thoughts of Youth	I
Thoughts of Family	13
Thoughts of Love	41
Thoughts of Places	55
Thoughts of Fiction	75
Thoughts of Pleasure	105
Thoughts of Learning	113
Thoughts of Perseverance	133
Biographies of Authors	171
List of Honorable Mention Authors	183



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