

Author Biographies

Fumiko Adair (p. 102)

I'm from Japan, and this is my sixth year learning English at a Self Even Start program. My ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) daughter makes my life more interesting. It's sprinkled with thrills, suspense, horror and laughter. I'm glad to have a place to share her stories with you.

Carol Adams (p. 39)

This is about when my dad was a young boy and after he grew up.

Maria Allgood (p. 9)

My name is Maria Angélica Hernandez de Allgood, and I'm from Torreon, Coah, Mexico. I have been in this country for 11 years. I am happily married with 2 children, and started attending English class last year. I'm so happy for the opportunity to learn the language and the culture while also sharing my culture, of which I'm very proud.

Jasmin Barham (p. 64)

My name is Jasmin, and I live in an Adult Group Home in Youngstown, OH. I attend GED class at Hope VI, which is near my home. I am 22 years old and work at McDonald's. After I obtain my GED, I would like to go to college and major in Commercial Art.

Jess Barnhart (p. 99)

This is one of my dearest memories from childhood. It is also the one I hold closest to my heart. This is a story that I want my children to read, so in a way they will know him too.

Evelyn Bedo (p. 65)

Patty Boring (p. 73)

I'm 39, a single mother of two girls. I wrote *Jealousy Bruises* after living it for three years.

Joshua Bourne (p. 79, 162)

My name is Joshua Daniel Bourne, and I have had a fairly good life, but I have had one too many bad times. The way I deal with the bad times is through poetry. It is the best way for me to release my thoughts, anger, sorrows, pain and happiness.

Kathy Boyd (p. 165)

Kathy Boyd grew up in West Virginia and has spent most of her life caring for people as a nurse's aide. She got her GED in 2002 and is now a student at Rhodes State College, working on her degree to become a licensed social worker.

Richard Brought (p. 139)

Rose Buckner (p. 133)

Vy Khanh Bui (p. 22)

My name is Vy K. Bui. I come from Vietnam.

Kilcha Canfield (p. 7, 145)

I came to the United States in 1986 from Korea with my American husband. He is retired from the military and works at the VA hospital. We have been married 22 years. We have 2 sons, one in college, and one in high school. GED class helps me improve my English, and I enjoy it very much.

Brenda Carroll (p. 41)

My name is Brenda Carroll, and I'm 53 years old. I live in Circleville, Ohio, and attend Pickaway County ABLÉ classes. I enjoy writing stories that come to me. I enjoy learning in my classes of studies, and I thank my mother and all of the teachers who gave me the courage to do it!

Jessica Carroll (p. 170)**Susan Crabbe** (p. 45)

My name is Susan Crabbe and I am an ABLÉ student. I am a 53-year-old grandmother, and I have received my GED. I am now taking some computer classes that will enable me to find a good job.

Vicki Dennison (p. 14)

My name is Vicki Dennison. In December 2003 my then 5-year-old daughter and I left our hometown of Basingstoke, England. I married an American from Grove City, Ohio, and we now have a year-old son who was born in America. We are very happy, but I am frustrated with the immigration process that prevents me from securing employment.

Afi Abi DeSouza (p. 97)**Laura Disbro** (p. 134)

My name is Laura Disbro. I am 44 years old and have two sons. Jason is 24 and Joshua is 16. I am currently working on my GED. I wrote this piece of poetry at a very difficult time in my life. Writing sometimes is very therapeutic for me. Since then, things have turned around for me. I have my eye on a goal...to someday walk into a bookstore and see my name as "author".

Kaemi Fowler (p. 163)

My hobbies include writing, dancing, swimming, and traveling. I am a mother, and I have been married for two years. My

chosen career is Cosmetology. Doing all of this and only being 19 has ultimately built my personality. As a woman I am definitely “girly,” which helps define my energetic people skills. I keep my head up straight so that I can be an awesome influence on my younger sisters. Besides trying my best to be outgoing, there is more to my thoughts. The following describes me to a point: “Today is the first day of the rest of your life” (Anonymous author).

Sara Fox (p. 42, 49)

I’m originally from Vinton, Louisiana. I have two boys of my own and two of my boyfriends’ children. Amy was very special to me, and I thought she should be remembered in a special way. What better way than by letting the world read about her.

Mercedes Garcia (p. 108)

I am 28 years old. I attend Glenwood ABLE classes and would like to attend a vocational school. And I can do so after receiving my GED.

Kay Goetz (p. 101)

Kenneth Grubb (p. 80)

I wrote this about my life and where it was leading me and what would happen if I did not quit my drug addiction.

Adan Ibrahim (p. 3)

Margaret Ison (p. 44)

My name is Margaret Ison. I’m a mother of three children and love to read and write. I wrote this book for my three kids. As they get older, they will have learned something from the story.

Nancy Johansen (p. 47)

I returned to school to get my GED. I'm a wife, a mother of six, and grandmother of nine.

Nataly Johnson (p. 12)

I'm Nataly Johnson. I am from Kazakhstan. Three years ago, I got acquainted with Marion Robert Johnson. We chatted by Internet, and when he came to Kazakhstan two years ago, we got married. One year ago, my daughter and I arrived in the USA to live with my husband. I now attend ESOL classes.

Joan Kay Joseph (p. 106, 147)

My name is Joan Kay Joseph, and I'm a displaced worker. My job moved to Mexico, and Canada. I am 56 years of age. I took the test for my G.E.D. on January 19th of this year, and I am awaiting the outcome. A good teacher, Amy Guda, and I have high hopes. Yea! Just found out I passed.

Kum Sun Kim (p. 95, 133)

My name is Kum S. Kim, and I am 49 years old. For four years I have been attending ABLE classes in Milford, OH, and my goal is to become a cosmetologist.

Jennifer King (p. 126)

Nikolay Koptev (p. 4)

My name is Nikolay Koptev, and I'm from Belarus. My country is a beautiful place in central Europe. I was living in Green City, Gomel. My city was contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of Ukraine. I was a builder. I have been married for forty years, and I have one son who is living in St.Petersburg, Russia. I arrived in the U.S. nine years ago, and I have been living in Cleveland. I am happy living here.

Tonya L. Lay (p. 107)

I wrote this poem for my dad because I love him very much. Sometimes I wonder if he knows how much he means to me, so this is my way of showing him.

Ruo Yun Liu (p. 16)

My name is Ruo Yun Liu. I am a 32-year-old Chinese immigrant. I came to Cleveland 15 months ago. I look forward to studying accounting after I feel confident of my English skills.

Live Oaks ABLE Class (p. 150)

Keeva Long (p. 68)

Elizabeth C. Marinich (p. 111)

The reasons I came to get my GED was to fulfill a life-long dream. Life before GED classes was overwhelming with family and journals. Now it is filled with learning how to put those journals and family together. I want to enroll in college for journalism classes, so I can write a book. I want to write professionally, so that my family and Mamaw would see I can attain my goal.

Steven McCord (p. 37)

This story is one of the most exciting and memorable writings I have ever written. Not a day goes by that I do not think of these times. Camping at Blue Rock was a childhood thing that I always looked forward to. For those of you that still have a child inside, camping is where you should be. Thank you and God Bless.

Eunise McCoy (p. 24)

I am a missionary worker from Colombia. My American husband and I do missionary work in Colombia and the United States. We have four children. Recently, I became an American citizen.

Doris Molina-Hernandez (p. 93)

I was born in the city of Bogotá, Colombia, and I went to José Allamano High School. I got a degree in International Business in Cooperativa Integral Advanera. I am married and I have two children and work at the Marriott Hotel North in West Chester, Ohio. Now I am studying English (ESL) in Great Oaks.

Shanequa Morrow (p. 96)

My name is Shanequa Morrow. I'm 24 years old and was born in Youngstown, Ohio, but raised in Akron, Ohio, for 13 years. I was raised around a big, loving family. By the time I turned 16 years old I was on my own. I've come a long way, and I'm still trying to achieve my one big goal: complete my GED and become a Child Care Provider.

Patikai Mark Musuka (p. 117)**Linda Nelson** (p. 43)

I am in my late forties, and I am now going to school to get my GED. I am a mother of four grown-up sons and a grandmother of eight. They are all very supportive of the effort and hard work I have shown towards making my dreams come true. Just like my husband told me, you can accomplish anything; all you have to do is want it bad enough. I would like to say "thank you" to my family and all my wonderful teachers for their support.

William Norman (p. 63, 125)**Tomasa Nuñez** (p. 33)

I am a single mother of three daughters, and soon to be a grandmother of one (a boy). I was born and raised in Victoria, TX, moved to Ohio to make a better living, and now after working odd jobs almost all of my life, I am working toward receiving my GED. Not only for myself, but for my children and my grandson, who is due on April 21, 2006. This is

dedicated to my baby brother, who was murdered in May 2005.

Emily Nutter (p. 31)

I consider myself to be a very romantic, very sensitive person. Therefore, any situation in my life could be an opportunity to write something about it. That was the case with "The Unread Letters". There are some situations in my life that make perfect stories.

Tony Panza (p. 130)

Shirley Pasholk (p. 118, 130)

Shirley Pasholk, recording secretary of USW Local Union 979, has worked in a basic steel mill since July 1976.

Mike Paynter (p. 82)

I'm really thankful for one more chance at life. I'm finally learning how to live on life's terms, and for that I'm truly grateful.

Ulises Perez (p. 148)

Ladonna Pharis (p. 70)

My name is Ladonna Pharis. I have two beautiful girls, Miranda, 10, and McKayla, 8. I wrote this story because I want people to realize how hurtful one rumor can be and how it affects people's lives.

Ebony Pierce (p. 55)

My name is Ebony Pierce, young mother of five anointed children. I'm studying for my GED and would love to become a mentor of teenagers who might need encouragement to turn their lives around and believe in a Higher Power to focus on life's terms.

Joe Pilot (p. 133)

Gloria Portis (p. 87)**Dawn Powell** (p. 166)

I am 25 years old and enjoy writing. It is the only way to express my true feelings and emotions. I recently earned my G.E.D. and am now enrolled in pharmacy tech classes.

Rebecca Ramos (p. 25, 26)

I dedicate this book to my mother who told me all these wonderful stories as I was growing up. Also to my teacher Linda Pelton who encouraged me to do so.

Robert Rojc (p. 83)**Carol Rudder & Karen Smith** (p. 128)

Karen and I have worked at Pierre for several years. We both work in the Quality Control Department. We both have had our writing published in previous Beginnings books. We both enjoy writing. We are proud of our accomplishments.

Monica Ruddock (p. 60)

Hello, my name is Monica Ruddock. I'm working on my GED at this present time. I have a 4-year-old son, and I have a new son due in Feb. 2006. Thank you.

Hayfa Ali Saleh (p. 23)

I made this program to make people aware of the true Islam, because Islam has been portrayed as religion of terror. The fact is that Islam is religion of peace and love, and the terrorists who call themselves Muslim represent only themselves. Please read about Islam to know about it.

Deborah Shepherd (p. 151)

My name is Deborah. I am fifty-two years old and have been attending the ABLE classes at Live Oaks. I started classes in 2000, taking up this challenge in life to complete my

education (and it was a challenge). It took five years and has been frustrating, but I never gave up. I took the GED test in the year of 2005 and passed. The big thing that I believe is to have a positive attitude and attend class every day!

Faye Ann Smith (p. 159)

I am 26 years old and I live in New Philadelphia, OH. I am a mother of 2. I love to write poems. All of my writing comes from the heart, and is mostly about life experiences. I want to thank my teacher, Charlotte Putt, for all that she has done for me.

Lisa Smith (p. 143)

April Spangler (p. 167)

I am a 23-year-old who started writing when I was about 8 years old. It was and sometimes still is my way of relaxing. My notebook is like a counselor to me. It gives me a chance to express my feelings. It is hard to find a trustworthy person nowadays, so I turn to my pen and paper. My son has now become an ear to turn to. He is 3 years old, so he can't tell anyone.

Tiruwork Tadesse (p. 20)

I am a student of the Adult Education Second Language program.

Inessa Tarkhanova (p. 19)

I was born in 1928 in Moscow, USSR (now Russia). In 1945, I graduated from school and in 1950 from Moscow University. From 1950 to 1994 I worked in the department of Immunochemistry of the Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology. In 1994, I retired on a pension and left Russia for America as a refugee. Now I live in Cleveland, and I have been in America for 11 years.

Andre Thomas (p. 75)

Lonika Thomas (p. 160)

My name is Lonika Thomas. I am a single mother of two. I am working to get my GED and move further in my education as God leads. I have written these writings as a testament to the things I face in my life. Also, I hope to encourage someone who may identify themselves with my writing. God Bless!

Maria Thomas (p. 66)

My name is Maria Thomas. I'm in my forties, and I'm also a struggling, single mother of three children. I'm trying to start over for the first time in a long time, and my goal is to get my G.E.D. and move forward to a better future.

Shaterra Tillman (p. 154)

My name is Shaterra Tillman. I currently reside in Canton, OH, with my lovely three-year-old daughter. At 19 years of age, I am actively pursuing my GED to better the life of myself and my daughter. My career goals include anything that has to do with medicine. Actually, to be more specific, it's Forensic Pathology. This has been my dream since I was a child. I believe with all my heart that I will soon achieve this goal through hard work and motivation.

Misty Tinker (p. 109)

My name is Misty Tinker. I am 26 years old. I have a 2-year-old and a baby on the way. I am attending Diamond Oaks ABLE program. I wrote this essay about my grandparents because next to my daughter, they are the reason why I walk this earth. My life would be so much different without them in it.

Roselle Turner (p. 130)**Candice VanSickle** (p. 56)

My poem was about a rough period in my life. I'd have to say I learned a lot from that part, but I appreciate what I have

now, which is family and friend. I'm 24 years old, I just got my GED last year. I have a wonderful boyfriend and a baby boy on the way.

Roger D. Wade (p. 57)

My name is Roger D. Wade. I do tree work for a living. I cut trees down for people who want them down, or I top them. As for the wood, I use it for heat, or I sell some too. That's how a tree man lives.

Tina Wagner (p. 35)

Kin Wijasa (p. 6)

My name is Kin Wijasa. I came to the United States six years ago. I have two daughters & one son. I am a 63-year-old grandmother learning English! I would like to become a citizen of the U.S.A. I also want to speak and understand English better because I have 4 grandchildren.

Shawn Wycuff (p. 81)

My name is Shawn Wycuff. I enjoy taking life easy and raising my little girl, Keyara. I can only pray she chooses a better road in life than I did.

John A. Yonkof (p. 130, 138)

Work for Mittal Steel, designer, writer, photographer for 979'er News.

Henrietta Young (p. 58, 169)

My name is Henrietta Young, born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. I'm a mother of three, grandmother of seven, and a GED student. My hobbies are reading, listening to music, and writing poetry and short stories. Listening to spoken word is also another joy of mine. My husband and I are empty nesters who enjoy being together and helping others. My goal is to pass on to my grandchildren the knowledge I have learned, and I pray that they carry on and do well in their lives.

