



# Beginnings XXI

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For 20 years, adult students who participate in Aspire programs have found their voice and told their stories through their writing. Since 1998, thousands of original Aspire student entries have been submitted for possible publication in *Beginnings*. These submissions include writing of all genres—poetry, short stories, stream of consciousness, memoirs, essays, letters, and personal histories.

*My voice is as deep as the Grand Canyon  
It goes up and down  
It falls off the tip of my tongue like tumbling rocks  
It wakes sleeping babies from their slumber  
It is an endless roar*

*It feels strong like a wind that can rumble trees in the night  
It tastes like a pack of winter fresh gum  
It is a voice I have grown to love  
It tells the world how strong and courageous I am*

*-Andrea Gaines  
Beginnings 20 Author*

With the support of the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAACE) and the State Aspire Office, the Ohio Literacy Resource Center will begin accepting submissions on February 28, 2018. Aspire instructors can upload student writing by logging into the Aspire Professional Development Network (PDN) at [www.ohioaspire.org](http://www.ohioaspire.org).

Entries are evaluated in a blind review process and judged on the following criteria: content, organization/structure, creativity, and mechanics. After the selections have been made, the chosen authors are invited to the annual Ohio Writers' Conference where storyteller and author Lyn Ford will guide and inspire students to expand and improve their writing. The day culminates in the presentation of certificates, an autograph session, and voluntary reading of submissions. The conference is an opportunity for Ohio Aspire students to be applauded for their efforts and accomplishments.

Ohio Writers'

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Students of all literacy levels and abilities have been published in *Beginnings* and honored at the conferences. *Beginnings* is not solely for students in advanced levels. If you or your students need suggestions on the writing process, which genre to try, or what to write about, a number of publications on writing can be accessed at <http://literacy.kent.edu/beginnings>.

In conjunction with the annual OAACE conference, the Ohio Literacy Resource Center will celebrate the accomplishments of accepted *Beginning XXI* authors on September 20, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. **The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2018.**

**Ohio Literacy Resource Center · Ohio Writers' Conference**

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