



Beginnings XXII
2020
A Celebration of Aspiring Authors.

For decades, adult students who participate in Aspire programs have found and shared their voices through the publication *Beginnings*. Thousands of original Aspire student entries have been submitted for possible publication in the anthology. These submissions include writing of all genres—poetry, short stories, stream of consciousness, memoirs, essays, letters, and personal histories.

*...I'm no longer hiding. I came to the HSE/GED program and let the ugly secret out.
When you stop hiding and let it be known, it won't have that hold on you anymore.
Let me inspire you. No matter what age you are, whatever you're hiding, bring it out in the open,
let it be known. When you put it out there, you're free to move forward to work on what you're hiding from....*

-Mildred Myles
Beginnings XXI Author

*...We started eating our snacks: all kinds of mandarins, sweet oranges, sweet lemons and grapefruits,
including salt and crushed red peppers. Then we lay down on our stomachs facing the street and watched
people passing by – the drunk guy trying to ride his bicycle, a group of friends returning from some kind of party,
and the family coming back from a dancing night. In my little hometown once per week (mostly weekends),
there was a dancing night; it was one of the few entertainments people had in these early years
when I was growing up...*

-Miriam B. Wellman
Beginnings XXI Author

The Ohio Literacy Resource Center is now accepting entries for *Beginnings XXII*. Aspire instructors can upload student writing by logging into the Aspire Professional Development Network (PDN) at www.ohioaspire.org. The deadline for submissions is February 8, 2020. 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 will be published in *Beginnings XXII* and invited to a regional *Beginnings* celebration in the spring. This is an opportunity for Ohio Aspire students to be applauded for their efforts and accomplishments.

With the support of the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAACE), the Ohio Literacy Resource Center welcomes Lyn Ford to the 2019 OAACE Conference on October 25th. Lyn will lead an instructor session entitled ***Beginnings as the Beginning: The Publication as a Writing Model and Prompt***. Participants will experience ways to analyze and utilize previously published narratives and writing formats as creative-writing models and prompts to add to their teaching toolkit. The session will also help teachers to inspire and encourage students toward confidence in their own speaking and writing voices, and, perhaps, their own submissions to *Beginnings*!

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>.