

Beginnings XXIII

The Ohio Literacy Resource Center sends warm wishes for a joyful holiday season and a healthy 2021! As we look forward to the new year, we want to recognize hundreds of Aspire students who have submitted writing or art for possible inclusion in *Beginnings*. We also applaud the instructors who not only encouraged their students to share their writing but have helped them to become better writers.

The *Beginnings* publication first debuted in 1997. Since then, thousands of original student entries have been submitted for possible publication in the anthology. These submissions include writing of all genres—poetry, short stories, streams of consciousness, memoirs, essays, letters, and personal histories.

*Trials and tribulations. Imagine me, as a child with tribulations, so
there's no wonder that years later I'd be on trial for tribulations.
Evidence and others' insinuations would have me sent to prison
for years before I'd be awoken...*

Tyee C. Banks
Beginnings XXII Author

*...I often ask myself the question, how did I deal with this nightmare? I was able to forgive, but I will never forget.
Like the Phoenix bird from mythology, I was supposed to burn in Ukraine and be reborn in America. Now I have a new
life, a new blank sheet of paper. I am learning to live, read, write, and speak again. My motto in life is to move forward
and not look back; to be able to forgive, love, and forget about the bad, although this is not easy. I believe in miracles and
dream of something good, because miracles do come true.*

Karyna Stepanova
Beginnings XXII Author

*...I write of a love story of two spirits of nature
as different as night and day,
as old as time itself.
There under a lamp post on a cold winter night,
Snow's gown of flakes appears as
Shimmering lace.
The year seems so long.*

Susana Antal
Beginnings XXII Author

The Ohio Literacy Resource Center is now accepting entries for *Beginnings XXIII*. Aspire instructors can upload student writing by logging into the Aspire Professional Development Network (PDN) at www.ohioaspire.org. The deadline for submissions is March 8, 2021. 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 XXIII*. This is an opportunity for Ohio Aspire students to be published authors!

New for 2021 only: Pandemic Ponderings – A Reflection of 2020. Both student and teacher entries will be accepted for this *Beginnings* companion piece. Pandemic Ponderings will be submitted online in the same location for submitting the regular *Beginnings* entries.

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, you can access a number of publications on writing at <http://literacy.kent.edu/beginnings>. Please follow our Back to Beginnings – Writing Camps at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioWritersConference>.

Ohio Literacy Resource Center · Ohio Writers' Conference

PO Box 5190 · Kent State University · Kent Ohio 44242

Phone: 800-765-2897 · Fax: 330-672-4841 · <http://literacy.kent.edu>