



LITERACY MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2019



Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.

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IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES EXPRESS OUTRAGE OVER ICE RELOCATION

(reprinted with permission from the New York Immigration Coalition)

At the end of January, Nassau County Executive, Laura Curran, announced her decision to relocate federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) trailers to the grounds of the Nassau University Medical Center.

The decision sparked outrage and protest throughout the Nassau community, anticipating that undocumented residents will opt out of receiving necessary medical treatments due to the fear of being detained by ICE officers at the hospital.

Steven Choi, Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition, issued the following statement in response: "Nassau County Executive Curran's decision to allow ICE to sit outside the most important safety-net hospital in the county will undermine public safety and public health efforts, and will keep immigrant workers and families from seeking critical health care services like primary and pre-natal care. Assurances that ICE will not be allowed in the Nassau University Medical Center do not change the fact that they will be located in the same complex, and visually and institutionally linked. If the County is committed to securing the trust of

immigrant communities and encouraging them to use needed health care services, they should not be providing space to ICE on their property at all."

Background

The Office of the Nassau County Executive announced that ICE trailers formerly located outside the Nassau County Correctional Facility would be moved to the grounds of Nassau University Medical Center. The move was being made in compliance with a recent court decision prohibiting the County Sheriff from delaying the release of any individual because of an administrative immigration detainer.

Update as of 2/4/19

After concerns rose about ICE agents possibly arresting undocumented immigrants seeking medical treatment, Curran announced they could remain at the jail instead. In a public statement, Curran said, "The bottom line is, as much as I do not want dangerous criminals out in our community, I also don't want a mother to feel that you cannot take the baby to the emergency room if there's something going on."

Agents will remain in the trailer behind the county jail in East Meadow until they can find a more permanent solution.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

People get excited when February comes for lots of reasons. Some people love Valentine's Day. Others feel like spring is around the corner. Some just love the deep freeze. For us, February marks the beginning of the college baseball season. In the summer, we watch some of the best college ball players come together and do battle every day in the Cape Cod Baseball League. This February, we are traveling to Arizona to watch some of our favorites play in the first conference of the season over President's Day weekend. We will be following the seasons of several current juniors who are eligible for the MLB draft this June. Sometimes, friends ask me why I enjoy this so much. The truth is, it's incredible to watch athletes with such raw talent working so hard *before* being discovered. There is beauty in the striving! We see it in our students, in our children and grandchildren, and even, if we possess that unique combination of tenacity and good fortune, in ourselves. In 2012, Aaron Judge played on our Cape League team. I can't wait to see who gets discovered this year!

Karen 😊



Anyone who knows my family knows that we are huge college baseball fans! Above, my girls pose in their gear!



DOES SPELLING MAKE SENSE?

(submitted by Kim Nau)

When I first started teaching, I was under the impression that the English language did not make sense and that it did not follow structured spelling patterns. Through my Orton-Gillingham (OG) training, I've realized that this is simply a myth. According to Louisa Moats, 84% of the English language is actually predictable. Many words can be spelled correctly if the word meaning and origin are understood.

Think of the English language as an onion. You have to peel away the layers to truly understand the meaning of a word. You can build students' vocabulary tremendously by examining the history of a single word.

Let's take the word "one" which means: unique, single, solitary. There are also other words related to "one": only, once, solitary, unique, a, single, an, and any. Here are some morphological relatives that share the same base word: anyone, atone, lone, alone, none, oneself. Think about how these words relate to the word, "one".

Remember how I mentioned that the English language is like an onion? The word onion can appear to be irregular. The spelling doesn't seem to make sense but in reality, it does. Unlike garlic which has many cloves, an onion has one single bulb. The spelling has gone through changes but it originated like this: one+ion = onion.

Many more words can be spelled correctly if word meaning and origin are taken into account. The ideas from this article were inspired by a fascinating Ted Talk by Gina Cooke. I encourage you to watch the YouTube video to learn more about spelling relationships: <https://youtu.be/ombuwZK0lr8>.





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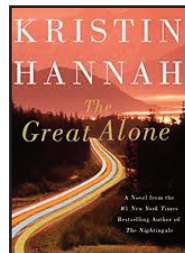
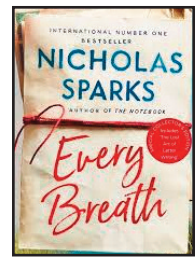
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STAFF READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Kim recommends:

Karen let me borrow her copy of *Every Breath* by Nicholas Sparks. I have read all of his books and this is his newest novel. I enjoy reading his books because they all have the similar romantic themes and are mostly set in North or South Carolina. Reading them provides me with a comfortable escape.

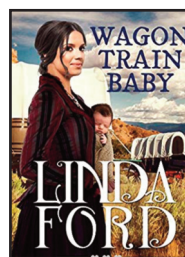


Kelly recommends:

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah was recommended by my colleague, Renae. I'd read a book written by her which I didn't enjoy so I wanted to give her another shot! So far the book is not disappointing. It gives a really beautiful description of life after moving to rural Alaska.

Anne-Marie recommends:

Escaping these gloomy, cold weather days is easy when engrossed in the beautiful illustrations of the island of St. John on the pages of Elin Hilderbrand's *Winter in Paradise*. A family tries to piece together the death and secret life of a husband/father. Each character is filled with a developing story of their own. I'm looking forward to reading this entire trilogy.



Kate recommends:

I am reading the *Love on the Santa Fe Trail* series by Linda Ford. It is a historical fiction series depicting life of families traveling west by wagon train along the Santa Fe Trail in 1848. I love being brought into that era of time in history. I enjoyed this series of books and started a new one by Linda Ford.

Karen recommends:

I recently finished reading *Becoming*, which is Michelle Obama's memoir. She weaves together the Cinderella story of how she went from growing up on the south side of Chicago to ultimately being the first African-American First Lady. In a funny and authentic voice, Mrs. Obama narrates a story about hope, trials, and ultimately, the American dream.



Karen also recommends:

I read this book because it got a lot of hype in recent media and I wanted to see what all the fuss was about. A quick read, *Girl, Wash Your Face* shares the author's often embarrassing, real-life stories about love, work, parenting, and more, offering tips for other middle-aged women struggling with similar issues.

ONA STUDENTS STUDY U.S. HISTORY

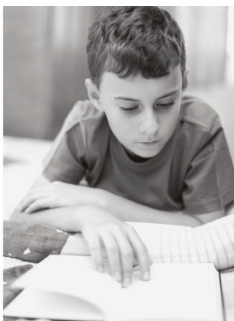
(submitted by Kate Quijano)

The winter theme for our ONA advanced level ESL students is "U.S. History and Civil Rights." In the beginning of the session, students did an activity where they listed facts they already know about U.S. History and then listed questions they have or topics in U.S. History that they want to learn more about. From that list, we chose several activities for this session.

Students have been reading the Long Island Herald newspaper, looking for articles about new members of our government and engaging in discussions about the three branches of government.

Students are also working on a research project for President's Week. Each student chose a president that he/she wants to learn more about. They found library books about each president and articles/videos from online resources. They worked on note taking and putting information in their own words. Then they each began writing a report about their chosen president to share with the class. After Presidents' Week, the students will practice their speaking and listening skills as they listen to classmates' presentations and learn more about our various presidents.

In addition to our research project, we are also looking forward to a field trip to the African American Museum of Nassau County to view their exhibit on the Women of NASA. We plan to compare it to the movie *Hidden Figures* as part of our study on Black History Month and Women's History Month which is celebrated in March.



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TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: DEANNA GLASSMAN

(submitted by Cindy Cabrera)

Deanna has been volunteering with Literacy Nassau since November 2017. She has a passion for working with adults with developmental disabilities. Our Next Chapter Book Club program really called her attention. She volunteers every Monday at the Deer Park Public Library. Her focus is to have our members read, engage in social conversation, and create community awareness. We are very lucky to have Deanna as a volunteer in our organization. Below are some questions we asked her.



Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: As a retired speech language therapist in a public school district, I was looking for a volunteer opportunity that would continue to afford the opportunity for me to work with special needs individuals. I happened upon Next Chapter Book Club at my local library and immediately became interested, as I also enjoy reading and am part of my own book club with friends and colleagues. Through NCBC I could combine two of my passions. It's now been a year that I have been involved with NCBC.

Q: What would you advise a new volunteer starting out with Literacy Nassau?

A: For those volunteers starting out, just jump into it and allow each participant to be himself or herself. Each one has his/her unique qualities. It is very gratifying to see those qualities expressed through reading together.

Q: Tell us about your current Next Chapter Book Club. How are things going?

A: My NCBC group is quite diverse. Some are excellent readers, some need help with certain words, and some rely on "echo" reading when it is their chance to read. Everyone wants to read and discuss what is going on in the story. Sometimes, someone will ask what a particular word means. Sometimes opinions are expressed as to likes and dislikes regarding a character in the book. I find it particularly gratifying when the story stimulates conversation amongst the participants.



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