

The Lamplighter too

A newsletter by and for the students of the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

April, May June, 2004

Published quarterly

When the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce donated computers to the Literacy Council students, the Council organized a contest to select two winning essays. Tutor Bill Smart, who does not know any of the applicants personally, read the 34 entries and recommended that Edita Estibanez and Rogelio Morales win the computers. Following are their winning essays.

Si yo tuviera una computadora sería muy feliz, porque podría estudiar mas inglés por internet y podría aprender más sobre los programas de computadora, como por ejemplo como usar el Microsoft Word y otros programas. Si yo tuviera una computadora, aprendería más habilidades para hacer otro trabajo o podría trabajar en una oficina.

Me gustaría ganarme una computadora. Sería muy feliz si gano una computadora. Por ultimo quiero dar las gracias a Literacy Council por ayudarme a aprender inglés.

Rogelio Morales

Profesor: Barry McCall

If I have a computer, I'll be so happy because I would study more English by Internet, and I might learn more about the computer; for example how to use the Microsoft Word and another programs. If I have a computer, I would learn more skills to do other jobs or I could even work in an office.

I would like to win one. I would be happy if I won.

The last thing I want to say is to thank the Literacy Council Program for helping me to learn English.

Thank you, Literacy Council!

Rogelio Morales

Aunque yo nací en una época en que la computación estaba tan avanzada no tuve la oportunidad de continuar mis estudios a niveles superiores. Siempre he vivido con el sueño de superarme y lograr las metas que no pude alcanzar en mis años de infancia y de juventud. Hoy a mis cincuenta y siete años de edad, vivo en un país lleno de oportunidades al cual emigré cinco meses atrás con la esperanza de encontrar un futuro mejor para mi familia y para mí.

En este corto tiempo he podido ver los frutos de mi sacrificio. Lo más importante que ha marcado un punto de partida para mi desarrollo es el haber tenido la posibilidad de estudiar el idioma inglés, lo que me llevó a poder competir con esta narración y ganarme una computadora. Me pregunto qué haría yo si tuviera una computadora? me sentiría muy feliz por haber adquirido algo que siempre quise tener. Tomaría un curso de computación y estudiaría para aprender su funcionamiento y en el futuro emplearla para ampliar mis conocimientos de inglés; hacer mis tareas, investigaciones y proyectos. Me gustaría aprender a trabajar con ella y junto con el dominio del inglés podría encontrar un mejor empleo.

A traves de Internet, aprenderia acerca de la cultura, historia, costumbres y sobre todo de las leyes de esta nueva sociedad donde vivo. También me podría relacionar con otras personas, hacer nuevos amigos y sobre todo podría mantener una comunicación con mi hijo en mi país natal.

En que me ayudaría una computadora? Creo se convertiría en mi compañeray teclas. La computadora no sería un objeto más sino un instrumento útil que me ayudaría en todo lo antes dicho y pienso que en mucho más; me ayudaría a encontrar una mejor posición en esta sociedad por medio de mi trabajo y capacitación. Lo más importante de todo es que a mi edad, esta computadora me ayudará a demostrar que si se tiene la voluntad y el deseo, nunca es tarde para comenzar de nuevo.

Edita Estibanez

Profesor: Amilcar Santos



United Way of Lee County
Partner Agency



OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director

Sonia Heredia, Office Assistant

Monday to Friday: 9:00 to 12:00 noon

Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator

Nora Martinez, Lab Coordinator

Monday to Thursday: 6:00 to 9:00 pm

website: www.bonitaliteracy.org

email: bonitaliteracy@comcast.net

STUDENT COMPUTER LAB

Monday to Friday, 9am to 12:00 noon

Saturday, Sunday, 9am to 3pm

Monday to Friday, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 27308 Old 41 Road

Phone: (239) 495-0999

Fax: (239) 495-0071

The following stories were written by the students of Kathy Sheridan in Mom's English class held at St. Leo's in collaboration with Catholic Charities. The assignment was to write about Rogelio and Amelia and their friend Alejandro who died.

A Happy History

The spring in a place of Florida began; the birds adorned the sky, the fruit trees around the small house of Hernandez family. Amelia is a good housewife. She was cooking an apple pie. Rogelio rested in the room and he was reading the newspaper. Suddenly a shadow passed outside the window, and without making noise, Alejandro the neighbor entered.

- Hello! Everybody
- Hello and welcome my friend, said Rogelio,
- Where is the lady of the house?
- She is in the kitchen making an apple pie.

Alejandro is an old friend from school. They enjoy each other's company.

- I am going to go on a trip. I will do my dream of adolescence! said Alejandro.
- Will you go to Colorado? asked Amelia,
- But are you going alone? asked Rogelio.
- Of course, now I have some money and will make this trip. Tomorrow morning I shall leave and I promise to send a postcard.

He's life is solitary and boring. He has worked in an office in front of a computer for long time.

Nine days later they received two postcards of the Great Cañon. Somebody knocked on the door, and Amelia opened the door.

- Is this the Hernandez family house? asked the agent of the police.
- Yes, how can I help you, Amelia answered.
- You know Mr. Alejandro García?
- Yes, he is our neighbor
- I'm very sorry. Mr. García has had an accident. We need to ask questions about him...

Alejandro had a heart attack while in the Great Cañon. The police discovered that he sent the postcards before seeing the Great Cañon.

MORAL: You never let the fight to make reality of your dreams, because when you see the end of the way, that is the beginning of the true happiness. The end. -- Susana García

The American Dream

Hi, I'm Amelia. I'm at the police station. We have been here at least two hours. They are asking us questions about our friend, Alejandro, who just died, but we barely can answer them because our sadness is more than big.

They're asking how long we had known him; if we know his family's address in Mexico and why we had decided to come here illegally and if we know where they could find the coyote and his name, and many, many questions that we also make by ourselves.

We just knew that Alejandro was our very dear friend. Rogelio and I, we both felt guilty because we agreed to come here.

A long time ago when we were children, we lived in a small town called Jericuaro, Gto. Rogelio was seven, Alejandro was seven too, and I was six when we were going to the same elementary school,

The American Dream (con't)

and then we went to the same middle school. At that time Rogelio was a playful boy and he hardly wanted to study for tests. Alejandro didn't like to study either, but he liked to go to school and talk with the girls because he was a very flirty boy. He was handsome.

And I liked school, to have friends and study especially chemistry and biology, but we all three had a common thing, our parents did not have enough money to live decently. I mean, we lived poorly, we didn't have the necessary stuff.

Well, time passed, and Rogelio and Alejandro got jobs as bus drivers and I got a job in a grocery store, but even when we already were helping our families, the money wasn't enough; you know, you work all the weekdays and you can buy for just one day.

That's why we decided to come here and reach the "American Dream." We had to save money to pay the coyote, and when we had the amount we left, leaving behind our families, our country, and our traditions. --- María C. Meza

The Gonzales Family

Rogelio and Amelia Gonzales have lived in Pasadena, California, fourteen years. They have two children: Carlos is twelve old years and Ana is nine old years. They came from Costa Rica, but now they are American citizens. Mr Gonzales works in restaurant and his wife works in the laundry. They have a neighbor; his name is Alejandro. He and Mr and Mrs Gonzales are friends, but this morning the Gonzales didn't see their friend, and they knocked on the door but nobody answered. Then they called 911 and the policeman came into the house and saw that Alejandro had died.

The police are asking questions about Mr. Alejandro, and Mr Gonzales said: "This morning my friend Alejandro didn't take out his garbage. Every Tuesday in the morning he took out the garbage; I didn't see him." When back at my home I said to my wife that I didn't see to our friend. She said we needed to go and see what happened to Alejandro. We went to the house of Alex and he didn't open the door and then we called 911.

The doctor said that Alejandro died of cardiac illness, heart attack. Now the Gonzalez will call the Alejandro family, who live in Caracas, Venezuela, where Alejandro's sister lives. They will tell Alejandro's sister that she ought to come to the United States, because her brother died and she must take care of his estates. -- Griselda Montes

Estate: Assets	Debt
\$18,000 car	\$20,000 mortgage
75,000 house	
2,500 bank account	
100,000 business	\$198,500 - <u>20,000</u> =
<u>3,000</u> CD collection	
\$198,500	\$178,500 Value of estate