



# LITERACY MATTERS

JUNE 2021



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

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## TRANSITIONING BACK TO IN-PERSON TUTORING

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

Last year, we all weathered the huge transition from in-person classes over to virtual instruction. We thought it would be so challenging and couldn't wait to get back to normal. Now, we are finally ready to go back to in-person and are finding that the transition back is just as challenging. We learned so much this past year and found so many benefits of virtual instruction that many of us want to continue with it indefinitely. Not only does it provide the comfort of teaching from you own couch or home office, but it also guarantees that you will not suffer any health risk by being exposed to other people live. Of course, the flip side of this is the potential long-term mental effect of lengthy periods of social isolation such as the one we have experienced in this past 18 months.

NYS Education Department, which provides a grant for our English Language Learners (ELL) program, is requiring that we get back to in-person teaching and in-person testing so we are currently working to get all of our current students tested, utilizing our outdoor space in Wantagh. Then we will start registration for new students. Many libraries are not open for programs yet, so we have limited locations available. We are trying to be creative in using out

door space. For the summer ELL session (7/12-9/3) all students must register and be tested in-person, but we will still be offering limited virtual options for tutors and students who are unable to take an in-person class at this time.

Summer ELL classes will be held at Williston Park Library, Hicksville Library (outdoors), Oceanside Library, and at our office (outdoors). The Basic Literacy (BL) program will continue to be primarily virtual for the summer, unless tutors and students want to meet in local parks. By fall, we are expecting that more libraries will reopen for programming and that we will have more options to offer students. So, if you have been "on pause" waiting for us to restart in-person classes, now is the time to let us know if you would like to start up again for the fall session.

Our Next Chapter Book Clubs (NCBC) are still on standby, waiting for the libraries to open their doors to group meetings. Most still have strict guidelines in place for larger groups. We also anticipate that the clubs will be able to resume fully in the fall. We will use this opportunity to restart and reorganize the clubs.

Please contact Kate regarding ELL or BL classes and Jessica regarding NCBC. Let us know your availability for the fall and your preferred libraries.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

One of my favorite things to do in the summer is read. I save books - literally, I hoard them - throughout the year so that I can luxuriate in the summertime and drown myself in all of my new books either by the pool or at the beach. This summer, I am personally excited to dive into Elin Hilderbrand's newest novel, *Golden Girl*, Jennifer Weiner's novel *That Summer*, and the newest Emily Henry novel, *The People You Meet on Vacation*. Check out some of the summer's hottest picks from Goodreads on page 3 of this newsletter!

I'm also excited to be graduating with my MFA this July. Hopefully, sometime soon, I'll be promoting my own novel, encouraging you to pack it in your beach bag for a hot summer day! (A girl can dream!) Happy summer!

*Karen* 😊



My mini-me, Haley, is getting really into *The Babysitters Club* series by Ann. M. Martin. I used to love those books as a kid!





## NEXT STEPS FOR DONATION-BASED OG STUDENTS

(submitted by Melissa Mattia-Sansobrinio, Associate/OGA)

When Orton-Gillingham practicum students at Literacy Nassau complete 100 hours of tutoring with their associate-level trainee, they are given the opportunity to work in a small group with other students in the following academic year. These group sessions allow students to further their reading and spelling skills with more advanced OG tutoring. Since the fall, I have been lucky enough to be working with 6th graders (and former LN practicum students!) Matthew and Shea in a small group studying morphology.

A morpheme is the smallest part of a word that has meaning. Morphology is the study of morphemes and how these parts come together to make larger words and more complex language. In our studies, we have examined prefixes and suffixes of Anglo-Saxon origin (the most basic and oldest layer of the English language) and have recently delved into prefixes, root words, and suffixes of Latin origin. It is estimated that more than 50% of English words are derived from Latin, so understanding this layer is essential for students to expand their vocabulary, and read and spell higher-level texts.

Like all other OG sessions, our morphology lessons are highly multi-sensory and cognitive. The students are asked to engage all three sensory pathways (visual, auditory, and tactile/kines-  
tetic) as we work through our lesson. For example, in an auditory drill I might ask Matthew and Shea to listen to a group of words and identify the prefixes they hear in common within each word. Once identified, the students will spell the prefix aloud and then write or type it, thereby engaging visual and tactile pathways and enhancing memory. Even simple multi-sensory tasks like "say-spell-write" are highly effective in improving memory and learning in students with dyslexia. Once a morpheme is identified and spelled, we explore meaning through word sums, connected texts, and game-like activities to bring in the cognitive pieces of our lesson. Some of Shea and Matthew's favorite games to play are OG Connect 4 (a version of Connect 4 where the students have to read a word and answer a question about the word before they can place their "chip") and OG Jeopardy (a game where all the Jeopardy clues are based on newly learned OG concepts).



Playing OG Jeopardy

In a recent session, I asked Matthew and Shea about their experiences in our morphology group. Here is what they said:

**MS:** How have you guys liked working in our morphology small group? Which part of our group lessons did you like the best?

**SR:** I like it! We learn cool stuff and play fun games about what we learned. I like the games the best!

**ML:** Morphology is cool and I like learning about it! The games are so fun!

**MS:** How has it been different from when you were working one-on-one with your tutor last year?

**SR:** It's not too different, except that we get to share answers with the other student.

**ML:** I feel like we have learned things from each other, too, especially when we are stuck on a word or a rule.

**MS:** What is one of the most memorable things you learned in our group this year?

**SR:** Oh! When you showed us the video of the acrobat to demonstrate the word "contortion".

**ML:** Yes! That video was cool! I'll never forget what "tort" means after seeing that!

(In a recent tutoring session, I showed a video of a contortionist to demonstrate how the Latin root "tort" means "to twist".)

**MS:** What did you learn in our group that surprised you the most?

**SR:** I learned that even though English is hard and seems impossible at times, there are rules that make sense once you learn them.

**ML:** I learned that English has roots in so many different languages. I never realized that before.



Matthew (left) Melissa and Shea (bottom)

**MS:** How did you like working with another student your age and why?

**SR:** I like that we can talk to each other and learn things together.

**ML:** I like it because in the games we can compete with each other. The competition makes us work harder.

**MS:** Would you recommend small group OG lessons to other students and their families? Why or why not?

**SR:** Yes! They will learn things and have fun at the same time!

**ML:** Definitely! It's been fun to learn with another kid.

**MS:** Are there any other things you would like to learn moving forward?

**SR:** I like Greek mythology so I would like to learn about the Greek words in English, too.

**ML:** I remember you said that there were lots of Greek words in English, especially in science. I'd like to learn about those next.

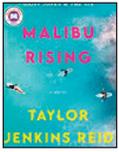
**SR:** Yes! More games, please!

**ML:** But I also want to play more games!

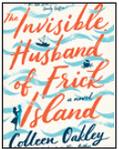


## TOP 5 SUMMER BEACH READS

Compiled by Jessica. Let us know what is in your beach bag!



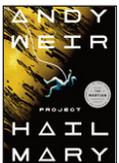
*Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid is a story about one unforgettable night in the life of a family: the night they each have to choose what they will keep from the people who made them...and what they will leave behind. (Womens Fiction).



*The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* is written by Colleen Oakley is an unforgettable love story about an eccentric community, a grieving widow, and an outsider who slowly learns that sometimes faith is more important than the facts. (Romance)



*People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry is about Two best friends. Ten summer trips. One last chance to fall in love. A sparkling new novel that will leave you with the warm, hazy afterglow usually reserved for the best vacations. (Romance/Rom-Com)



*Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir is an irresistible interstellar adventure, *Project Hail Mary* is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival to rival *The Martian*—while taking us to places it never dreamed of going. (Science-Fiction)



*The Last Thing He Told Me* written by Laura Dave is a gripping mystery about a woman who thinks she has found the love of her life—until he disappears. (Mystery/Drama)

**In-person classes will resume this summer!**



**If you plan to visit our office don't forget your mask!**

## Poetry Challenge Submission

**Thank you tutor, Frank Annese for your poem.**

**We hope you all enjoy reading it!**

### MY UNWELCOME WAGON

**O Fairmont, my Fairmont, oh why won't you start.**

**Your malfunctioning engine is breaking my heart.**

**A smooth-running auto you just will not be.**

**With problems so many the eyes cannot see.**

**I step on the pedal to give it some gas**

**With horns blaring loudly, the Ford's stalling fast.**

**I say I won't junk it, it gets me around.**

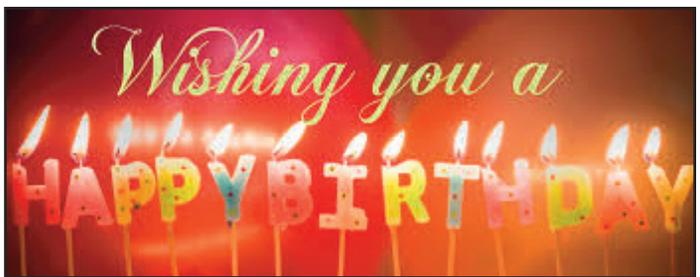
**Then sure as I'm breathing I hear that strange sound.**

**The doctors have counseled, the verdict is in**

**The symptoms all studied, now grieving begins.**

**The shock that has hit me is too much to bear.**

**Like when I realize all four tires need air.**



### Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

Adolph (Al) Anglade – Janet Bazuro – Teresa Benedetto  
 Mel Breshin – Harriet Cabelly – Marilyn Clarke  
 Maureen Calamo – Marily Clarke – Marla Cohan – Carol Davan  
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 Muriel Leonard – Carolyn Meditz – Brianna Meurer  
 Lauren Ostrow – Edward Paley – Alison Picarella  
 Cindy Podell – Celeste Pomerantz – Jennifer Power  
 Patricia Ryan – Maxine Schmerlzler – Robert Silver  
 Kathryn St. Juste – Lauren Thomas – Monique Thomas  
 Matilda Tobin – Sandra Villatoro – Eileen Watts



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1 Ivy Lane, Wantagh, NY 11793  
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**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!**

SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH  
ENJOY YOUR DAY!



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT :)**