# 

A COLLECTION OF LEARNER STORIES



Oceanside READS
ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

As an integral part of Oceanside Public Library's mission to empower the community by promoting literacy, community connection and access, Oceanside READS Learning Center helps adults in Oceanside connect to one another, access the learning spaces necessary to improve literacy and language skills in order to pursue their chosen goals as learners, parents, workers and community members.

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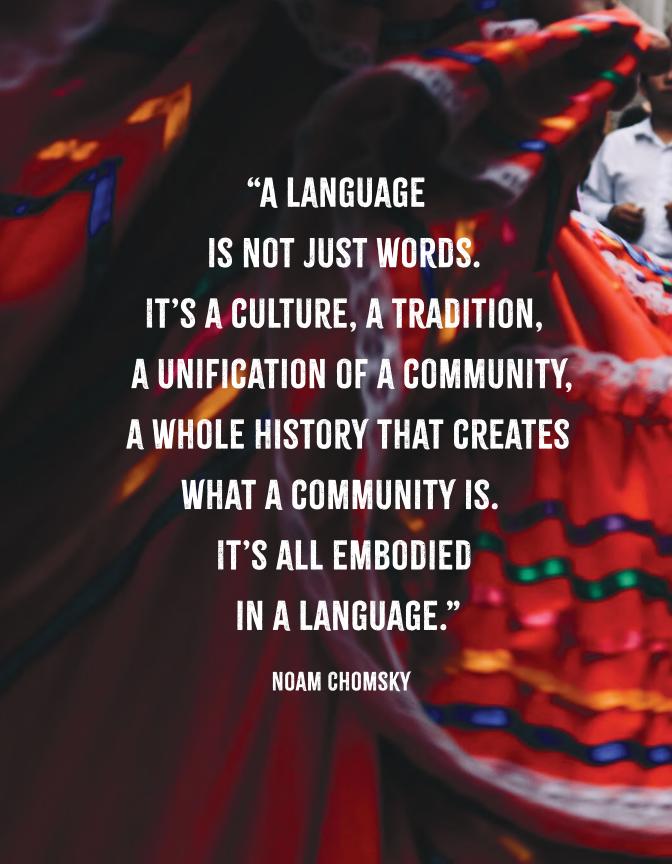
#### OUR OCEANSIDE

A Collection of Learner Stories

Oceanside READS

Adult Literacy Program

OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY







# ABOUT READS

**OCEANSIDE READS** is a very special place. Here, adults from all walks of life gather to learn to read or read better, learn technology skills, prepare for the citizenship test, develop skills for new jobs, practice English and more. READS offers free 1:1 tutoring for adults and hosts small group classes all over Oceanside. As a service of the Oceanside Public Library, our goal is to engage meaningfully with the community, provide access to whatever information is needed, connect people to each other and inspire new ideas and a sense of wonder as adults set and work towards their goals.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about learning new skills as an adult learner or volunteering as a tutor, we invite you to get in touch. A wonderful group of kind, creative and dedicated volunteers provide ongoing support to our adult learners as tutors, conversation leaders and family literacy program leaders. We would love to have you join us.

"I love this place. The people coming here are very nice. They help each other. It is a warm place. Like at home."

-Adult Learner





#### THIS BOOK WOULD NOT BE WHAT IT IS

without the creativity and tenacity of the thirty learners who shared their stories here, thank you.

To Mollie Tammone, Alison Inglis, Jan Moore and Linda Kallas, who helped synthesize a theme, developed presentations and walked alongside the community in five workshops. To Panagiota Angelos, Perry Veater and Heidi Angeles for encouraging our learners, endlessly promoting this project and compiling the entries. To Amy J. Davis for her help with cataloging and publishing this text. To Mike Stivers for capturing the vision and making a beautiful work of art with this project. Thank you.

To our tutors and conversation leaders whose learners' stories appear in this publication – your support was instrumental.

Tutors whose learners' stories appeared in this publication:

- · Alison I.
- Mia W.
- Cristine C.S.
- Ricka S.
- Eileen S.
- · Heather O.
- Jan M.

- Martha S.
- Michael V.
- Teri H.
- Elaine T.
- Linda K.
- Jacob C.

# THE WRITERS THE PROJECT

#### OUR TEAM SET OUT IN JANUARY 2023 with a vision to

one day open a book and see the vibrant stories, poems and art from learners in our Adult Literacy community. To make this happen, we hosted writing workshops, brainstormed ideas, and ultimately invited adult learners to reflect on one of four themes: Overcoming Challenges, Journeys, Celebrations and Our Town. The book you are holding is a labor of love of over fifty people – adult learners, tutors, conversation leaders, Learning Center staff and more.

An insightful adult learner shared recently that the hard work of building literacy is like gardening – planting seeds, watering, tending the soil and waiting - skills that sometimes grow in the background and then surprise you once they've grown. She said that now it was time to celebrate the harvest! And that's exactly what this anthology is: a celebration of the people that make this place what it is.

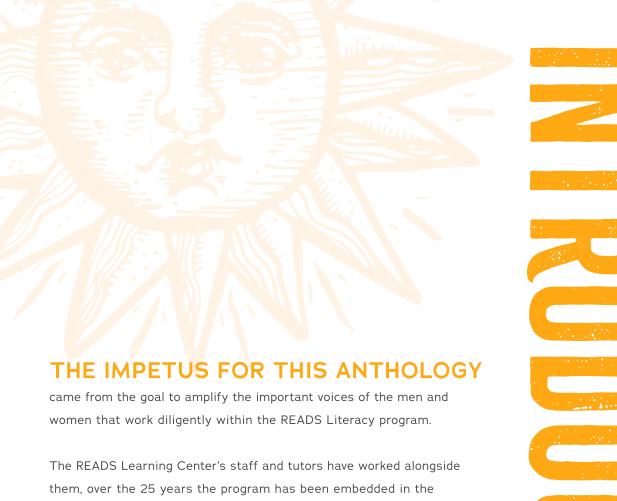
I read these writings and feel immense pride, gratitude and satisfaction. I am ever more resolute that the resilience, ingenuity and joy on these pages are the heartbeat of what makes Oceanside READS and Oceanside itself so special. This is Our Oceanside. Thanks to each of you for sharing your stories and stretching your creative wings. I hope you explore these works, connect with the authors and are moved.

- Chelsea Eggli, Literacy Coordinator & Editor

# FOREWORD

THIS ANTHOLOGY IS A TRIUMPH. Even for those of us working closely with adults learning to read and write, it is newly inspiring and emotional to read these submissions expressing the strength of vulnerability and the utter power and joy of finding one's voice. From the simple yearning of wanting to read a sign or billboard to the telling of a harrowing journey to the U.S., these pieces, by these brave authors, allow us to rediscover and embrace the shared humanity that they evoke.

- Monica Chapa-Domercq, Principal Librarian



Oceanside community.

In 2019, the program initiated its first family literacy programming to holistically work with learners, and in 2022, initiated its first English as a Second Language programming and support to broaden the community it serves.

These opportunities have provided a platform for more voices to be heard. Please hear those voices in this anthology as they speak about Overcoming Challenges, Journeys, Celebrations, and Our Town.

- CJ DiMento, Library Director



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SECTION 1 ···

## 



#### **JOSEFINA Z.**

#### Childhood Memories

I go in my mind to Cuilapam de Guerrero when I was a child. I remember jumping in the water with my nephews in the big river, and I liked going to the mountains with my dad. I liked to plant corn, beans, and different vegetables. I enjoyed cooking with my mom. We cooked tamales, chapulines, and for dessert, nicuatole.

I remember being very rebellious because Ldidn't like school

I had a party at 15. It was very nice. My dress was pink. The year was 1988. I remember my friend Rosalia saying, "Let's go to Tijuana. Let's travel to forget and get out of depression," because my mother had passed away.

At 15 I left my town to go to Tijuana. When I left my dad cried because he didn't want me to go, but he gave me 250 pesos for my trip. I spent them on my first two pairs of jeans and high heeled shoes. Then I didn't have money for the trip, but my friend's boyfriend paid everything for me.

This year my life changed. I never returned to live in Cuilapam de Guerrero.



Amor y recuerdos No me abandonan jamás En los recuerdos Llevo ilusión y a veces Soledad.





#### by ROCIO VÁZQUEZ

I am someone who loves my tan skin and smile.

I wonder about other cultures: their food and what they believe.

I hear nature; birds singing, cascades of water, and wind.

I see the sunrise and sunset. The mountains full of snow.

I am someone who loves my tan skin and smile.

I want to be healthy, money to travel the world, and a green card.

I pretend I know the 12 steps of Neuróticos Anónimos -

to help other people with spiritual and mental problems.

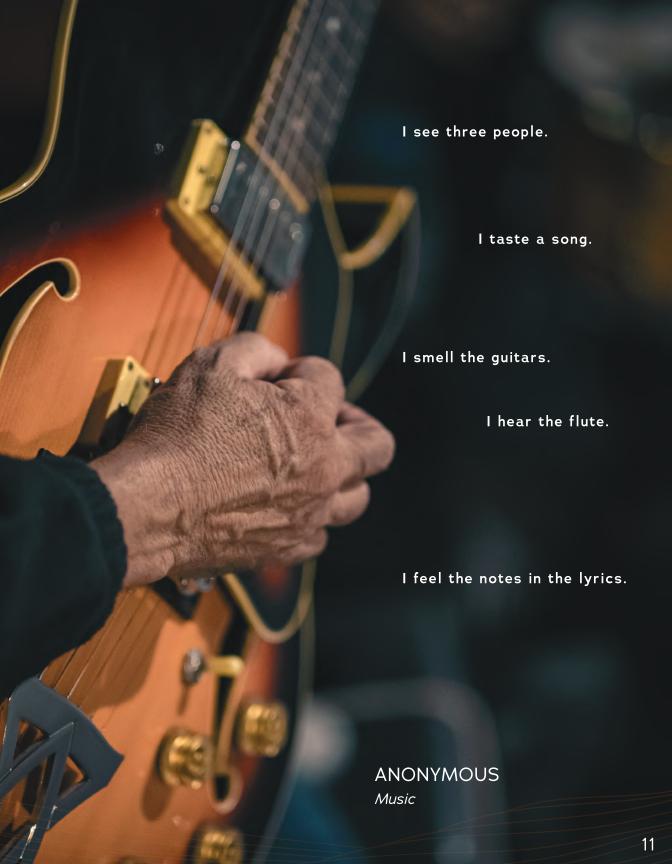
I feel joy when I see a child smile or sadness when I see people without a home.

I touch the clouds in my dreams.

I worry for many things, like my child Santiago's education and support.

I cry when I listen to sad songs and emotional movies.

I am someone who loves my tan skin and smile.



#### CICI ROPER Change

Before I met you, I
Loved you
I
Saw you as
Safe

As you changed
She emerged
He's leaving







#### JOSEFINA Z.

#### Crossing the Border

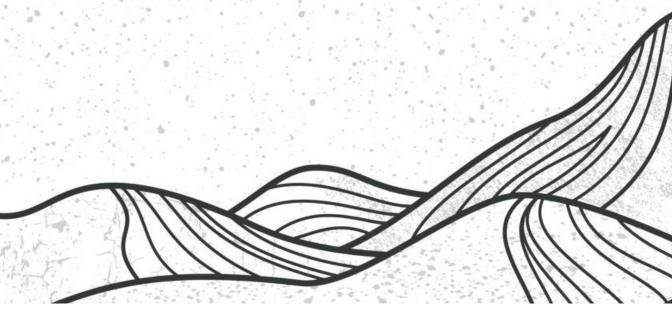
I remember when I crossed the hill from Tijuana to the United States.
I crossed 3 times. The first was easy.
The second, also, more or less.
The third was very difficult and sad.
I walked 3 days and 3 nights.



#### JOSEFINA Z. I Came to the USA in 2008

On January 5, 2008 I went back to my town to see my sisters Victoria and Irene, because I had not been there in 8 years. One of the most important reasons was to visit my dad's grave. It closed a book for me. I also saw good friends, and I had fun. When I came back, I brought my niece and her daughter. When we flew to Tijuana on February 10, we stayed in a hotel. Another couple took my niece's daughter and brought her to the USA. A friend of my friend helped us to cross the border to the USA on February 10. To get here, we started walking on Tuesday night around 7 or 8. We walked part of the night, and we took a little nap in the bushes. Wednesday morning, we had a little snack. We were excited because the next day, Thursday, was February 14. We rested for a little bit in a green field, we ate salty crackers, and we continued walking and walking. We found black trash bags with a lighter inside. We thought, "How can this help?" The person who led us said, "We'll take it!" We walked all day and the night came and we were not there yet.

The next day, Thursday, February 14, we were already very tired, and we didn't have any more food. We came to a river full of rocks, and we found green watercress and ate. It was like two in the afternoon. We rested a little. It started to rain very hard. We got wet, and all the provisions we had were gone. When it stopped raining, it started hailing for around 45 minutes. Frozen water crystals were falling from the sky. I had never seen snow before.



Guadalupe and I were so excited to see the sky turning white as the snow that we forgot how hungry we were. It stopped snowing and we were so wet but happy. Then it started raining again and hailing again. The rain was on and off, everything turned white and wet, and we were lost. We were walking in circles and shaking with cold. I asked the guy who led us at what time will we be there or how long until we are there? All he said was, "We will be there soon", but he said, "If you want, I can call 911 so they can rescue us." I said, "If we are almost there, don't call." I was afraid to spend the night. I asked God to give me another opportunity to be a better person and a better mom for my kids. Our shoes were wet and everything was white as the snow. I saw two deer very happy in the snow. I asked again, "How long until we are there?" The snow was like a foot high, he said, "As soon we pass the mountain I will call our ride."

I told him we should keep walking, but I was afraid to see Guadalupe shaking with cold. She said "I am cold." I told her to jump, and the guy said he will try to make a fire. The snow was up to our ankles.

He tried to find dry wood, but it was impossible. Because it was very windy and there was nothing we could do, we decided to continue walking, but tears were running from my eyes. A helicopter was flying on top of us and I felt sure they would capture us. I thought it would be good to be rescued, but all the sacrifice of walking would be wasted. (continued > )

FENENI
OPENEN MY
EYES,

everything around us WAS COVERED WITH

WHITE SNOW.

We slept so deep WE DIDN'T FEEL THE COLD."

#### I Came to the USA in 2008 (cont)

We saw a big white rock to hide. It was like seeing a cup of water in the desert. The place under the rock was for 3 persons only. My heart jumped with happiness. At that moment, I knew God answered my prayers. Our guide found a lot of wood to burn on a fire. The helicopter continued to fly on top of us, but for some reason it didn't see us. This was a miracle because the fire we started was very big. Our shoes, socks, and the only sweaters we had got burned.

We hid under the rock. The guy was in the back, my niece in the middle, and I was in the front. Every time the helicopter came to us I tried to cover the fire with the plastic bag we found on the way. Tiredness overcame us, we fell asleep.

We woke up the next day and it was Friday. When I opened my eyes, everything around us was covered with white snow. We slept so deep we didn't feel the cold. I believe it was because the fire heated up the rock. I fully believe God put the rock there to protect us. We started climbing the mountain and we did not have any more food. Our hope was that we were almost there. We climbed the mountain and another mountain. Finally, the snow started melting. I told them that I wasn't feeling my legs anymore. He massaged my legs, and we continued walking until very late. He finally said to hide in the ditches. He will let us know when to get out of there. This place was Cuyamaca Freeway 95. It was dark already when a truck stopped to pick us up. I did not see the color of the truck. It was when my distress and despair ended. He took us to our apartments, and it was a new start. The news next day said 8 people were missing and the helicopter went looking for them, but didn't find them. I thought it could be us. It was by God's grace that we are here today.

Thank you to my tutor Alison. Who very kindly helps me to learn English. Thank you!



#### DORIS E. GARCES LOPEZ

#### To Be Alone

The feeling of being alone by yourself or with a member of your family in a foreign country is not only about the environment you are in. Loneliness also causes effects in our mental and physical health.

Whales are a widely distributed, diverse group of fully aquatic placental marine mammals. These whales can even survive alone in the vast ocean: they like to belong to a group, seek their mate and reproduce as equals. Humans, like whales, belong to the animal kingdom and can survive alone, but most prefer to live in groups called society. They join in pairs to form a family.

Just like the whales, we have felt loneliness and maybe we did not show our sadness, but we didn't feel well. I cried several times. I had a terrible cold, because loneliness turns into depression, and it is not only a mental symptom but also physical. How do we feel when we are alone? The feeling of being alone is the sensation of being isolated even when you are in the middle of the crowd. That feeling can turn into "illness" called loneliness, and loneliness is a thing you can better at; that is, with treatment from a specialist or when the circumstances change.

When my son and I came to the United States, the prognosis was good. I came to my elder son's house and he was to process my permanent residence, but unfortunately, the Marine Corps sent him to Afghanistan, and I only had two days to find a new place to stay. I started looking for a room to rent, but it was useless. It is very difficult to find a place in a few days, especially when you do not have a job. Even if you have money you have to prove that you have a job. We did not know English, we were far away from our family, I did not have friends, and it was scary to think of not having a place to spend the night, most notably because a minor was under my responsibility. In a podcast I listened to, they talk about the whale as the largest marine mammal to produce unique loud sounds. I think that the sounds they emit are with the purpose of trying to communicate with people aboard ships. Or with their other peers, if they are close enough to hear it, because it feels lonely. (continued > )

#### To Be Alone (Cont)

There are many situations in life to feel alone, but in our case, it is about being forced to leave your country because some day somebody or candidate came and offer villas and castles. Offering "Socialism" as if they are genuine pearls, but that "Big Lie" was something terrible. My country, Venezuela; was a country more wealthy than America with oil reserve proven for two hundred years! Now, it is where the people die because the government doesn't provide for their Citizens the most basic resources such a meal, medicines, and medical attention. The Venezuelan regime has turned to "Communism", and changed my country radically. There was a society like here in the United States with problems, but if you worked you could live decently and happily. Over there we no longer have rights, your money is devalued until it practically left you without anything. If you work hard and have two houses, you only can have one. If you are retired, but you don't participate with their party, then you do not have the right to receive your retirement money. Finally, on September 16, 2020, UNITED NATIONS - appointed panel declared, "VENEZUELA ABUSES AMOUNTED TO CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY".

At that point, you have no alternative. You must decide to leave what you love and worked all your life for. At that moment you don't know it, but you also must decide to suffer and go through adversities that you never imagined. Because the paradise where you were born, grew up, studied, worked, retired, lived in democracy and were happy... it didn't exist anymore, it has vanished. The significant part is that when you think that your life is already done, that you only have to live from your savings and your pension, travel and enjoy life in what you work, you can be wrong, maybe your life is to start again! The more important thing about this experience is the way that not everything is bad. My grandmother used to say, "loads are accommodated on the road", and she was right! We have started a new life, new Mexican and American friends, new experiences, new learning, in almost all aspects. At this time, I thank God for daring me to come, and for staying in the best country in the world where we can still live in peace, work and be happy! YES! I Prefer "TO BE ALONE" in a country of foreigners, but live in democracy and with rights than live on my knees before an evil regime!

#### I AM ANA

I WONDER IF FAIRYTALES EXIST

I HEAR BIRDS SINGING

I SEE THE BRIGHT SUN

I AM CARING AND LOVING

I WANT TO BE HAPPY

I PRETEND TO BE SOMEONE THAT I'M NOT.

I FEEL MIXED EMOTIONS
I TOUCH EVERYTHING THAT'S WITHIN MY REACH.

I WORRY MOSTLY ABOUT EVERYTHING.

I CRY WHEN I'M SAD
I AM CARING AND LOVING
IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT.

SECTION 2 ···

### 

#### NATALIE Friends

Jessica is a good friend at school. I had bullies that are hurting my feelings. Jessica took care of it. She said, "Don't ever come back! I have my phone. Don't bully anyone else ever again!" They said, "Okay, okay." They started to cry. Jessica is good to me. Jessica is a good friend. I was relieved. She took care of it. I said, "Thank you" and she said, "You're welcome."





JOSEFINA Z. What I Learned

Wow. I feel happy because I remember my dad and my mom. They couldn't read and write. They didn't have what I have now, so I appreciate what they gave me and it was a lot. I am happy, and I thank God for my parents and the life I lived.

I feel that I value more what I have and especially I am more grateful. In a few words: I am happy. I learned that it is not good to close my mind, because I have a lot to learn.



#### TIMMY WHITE Oceanside READS

I went there for 9 months in 2018, and then I returned again in January 2020 and have been there since then. My reading has gotten a little bit better than before. My typing has improved too. I have been doing a lot of homework and reading the driver's ed book. During COVID shut down, every week I went to a history club meeting and learned about black history. I came to READS for my learning disability and for reading. My case manager helped me find READS. I have been there since. READS has helped me improve my reading and helped me go back to school. I have been studying for my driver's license and saving up for a car. I also worked hard to get my high school diploma. I like being a student, learning how to read and learning about history. Because of READS, I did well in my economics class. I finally graduated, now I got my diploma and will start college!

VONDER WHEEL WEEPING DVERWHELMING REPEAL TELAP KELIEVED INNER EMOTION ESTROY BY S.C.

26

by JAYDIN GRIMBALL

I am happy and kind.

I wonder how Oceanside Public Library works.

I see more positive good attitude when others have good days.

I want a better future.

I give thanks for people supporting me- who help me go forward and stay motivated.

I remove negativity from my thoughts.

I hug myself and I love myself.

I worry about when my family moves on, where they're going to go?

I cry when irritated because my family starts something.

I am not here to fight.

I am here to do what I'm going to do.

I am always improving my work.

# Motherly Advice

Come here, she told me sweetly,
my mother one day.
(I still seem to hear a heavenly melody
in the sound of her voice)

Come and tell me what strange causes bring that tear from you, my child, that hangs from your quivering eye lashes as a curdled drop of dew.

You have an anguish and you hide it from me:
Don't you know that even the simplest mother
knows how to read her child's soul,
like you, as easily as a printed page?

Do you want me to guess what you are feeling?

Come over here, my dear,
so that with a couple of kisses on your forehead,
I will dispel the clouds of your sky.

#### by CARMEN RODRIGUEZ

I burst into tears, telling her nothing;
I ignore the cause of my tears
but from time to time, my heart presses me
and I cry.

She bowed her brow thoughtfully her pupil was disturbed, and wiping tears from her eyes and mine, she told me calmly:

Always call your mother if you are suffering.

She will come whether dead or alive,

If she is in the world, she will share your sorrows
and if she is not, she will console you from above.

And this I do when down on my luck as today I feel the calm in my home disrupted - I invoke the name of my beloved mother and then I feel that my soul widens.

## Canseja Maternal

Ven para acá, me dijo dulcemente mi madre cierto día. (aún me parece que escucho en el ambiente de su voz la celestial melodía).

Ven y dime que causas tan extrañas te arrancan esa lagrima, hijo mío que salga de tus trémulas pestañas como gota cuajada de rocio

Tú tienes una pena y me la ocultas: no sabes que la madre más sencilla sabe leer en el alma de sus hijos como tú en la cartilla?

¿Quieres que le adivine lo que sientes? Ven para acá pilluelo, que con un par de besos en la frente disiparé las nubes de tu cielo. Yo prorrumpí a llorar, nada le dije la causa de mis lágrimas ignoró pero de vez en cuando se me oprime el corazón y lloro.

Ella inclinó la frente pensativa, se turbó su pupila, y enjuagando sus ojos y los míos me dijo más tranquila.

Llama siempre a tu madre cuando súfrase que vendrá muerta o viva, si está en el mundo a compartir tus penas y si no a consolarte desde arriba

Y lo hago así cuando la suerte ruda como hoy perturba de mi hogar la calma, invoco el nombre de mi madre amada y entonces siento que se ensancha mi alma. HOW TO READ BETTER AND OPEN HORIZONS.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN TO READ BETTER FOR MYSELF FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES.

I WOULD LIKE TO READ
THE WRITING ON
BILLBOARDS AND BOOKS.

AND TO TRAVEL.

ROBERT G.
Why Did You Come To READS?





#### ANA ROMERO FIGUEROA

#### My Name is Ana

Who feels mixed emotions Who gives love unconditionally And someone who fears darkness Someone who would like to See brighter days I am Ana



# COACRIFICE

M. BEGGEL

# DRIVING IN

BLIZZARD, ICY ROADS, SLIPPERY.

WHITE SIGNS, FREEZING FLAKES.

SNOW LIKE PAPER, HEAVY FUN -

LIKE CONFETTI WINDS.

SIGNS FREEZING, COLD ICE ROADS,

LOT OF SLOPES.

# THE SNOW

by LUPITA VERGARA

1CY WINDS, 7 SEE SLED CRASHES.

SLIDING SLEDS AND SNOW. SCARED.

FREEZING LEGS SHAKING,

7 SEE SPARKLING SNOW, NO BRAKES.

ICE ROADS, SLIPPERY, I WANT TO GO HOME.

SECTION 3 ···

### CELEBRATIONS

#### LUPITA VERGARA

#### Mother's Love

For you mom, whom I love and appreciate all your effort as a mother who always gives us attention and unconditional love. Thank you for your love and patience for always being there to listen to us. I admire you. You are a great example for us as children who know what you have suffered. In your life, as well as in your childhood, and in your marriage, you've gone through a lot. Thank you very much for being so dedicated to each of your children. Life is easier when you are present for all the mothers who dedicate quality time to their children and strive to educate them. Thank you so much.

#### ROCIO VÁZQUEZ

First Steps in La Villita

1977, my mom and me.

La Villita Cathedral, Mexico City.

A healthy, sweet, beautiful baby.

My mom looks happy.

Lucky baby, motherly love.

Good vibes and a flower crown.

Happy people thanking God.

In the cathedral, I move in my mom's arms.

She's scared but puts me on the ground.

And I walk by myself, no problems.

For the first time, at 8 months.

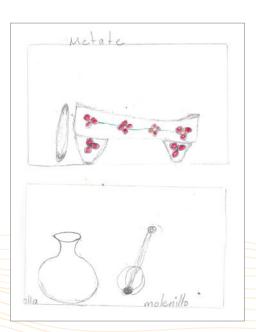
Lucky baby, mother's love.



#### JOSEFINA Z.

#### Nicuatole- A Beautiful Time With My Mom

When I was a girl, I helped my mom to cook nicuatole. I enjoyed cooking the corn very much. We boiled corn, and when it was ready, we ground it on the metate, a stone surface. When the dough was ready, we dissolved it in water. We strained it through a special cloth into a pot and we added cinnamon and a lot of sugar. I had to stir the liquid all the time so it didn't stick. The wait was very long, maybe four or five hours or more until the white water was sticky. Then we poured it into a bowl. I liked this time, because the cooking pot was mine and I could eat what was left. The next day the nicuatole was ready to cut into slices for us to enjoy.





#### ANA ROMERO FIGUEROA

My Little Princess Analeah

Sweet caring

Smart, self-spoken, interesting

She is my daughter

Plays, loves, cares

Easy going loving

My daughter











#### LUPITA VERGARA

When My Three Children Were Born

I was a little bit scared because I did not know how much pain would come. But I was excited to have my baby. Before my first child was born I knew it was a boy so we decided his name would be Rolando. When he was born I was so happy and thankful to have this experience in my life and when I was not feeling any more pain I felt a lot of love for my baby. It is a really good experience

When I had my second baby I was not scared of the pain. I would wait a lot at home before I went to the hospital. My husband drove me and I felt my daughter on the way to the hospital. When I arrived at the hospital, my husband dropped me off in the front with my mother in law and he went to park the car. When I saw the doctor, he said that it was going to be painful. They gave me a room, checked me in and said, "it's coming! Are you ready?" They did not have time to give me anesthesia. My daughter came so fast. My husband and I named her Sofia. My husband came into the room to see our baby. I couldn't believe that Sofia came so fast. She came so fast while he was parking!

My third baby we decided to not reveal their gender. We chose two names and when she was born it was a girl! We named her Yola. Because this was my third baby, I wasn't scared and decided not to get anesthesia because I could be more present with my babies. In conclusion, the most unforgettable experience for me was becoming a mother.



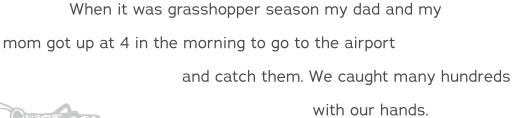


### IN MY TOWN, CUILAPAM DE GUERRERO OAXACA,

near the airport, many grasshoppers grew.

The place is called San Isidro.

It is one hour's walk away.







Cooking them was fun because when we put them in the boiling water they were all jumping.

When they are inside the bowl we waited until they were red as lobsters. It cooked about 30 minutes.



#### BY JOSEFINA Z.



Then we drained them in a colander.

In another saucepan we already had lemon juice,

3 heads of garlic and salt boiling.

There we put the drained grasshoppers.

And we let it cook until the lemon juice disappeared and the casserole began to burn.

When I heard the chapulines crackle they were crispy.

In the whole house it smelled so delicious.





ROSA ANAND Proud

#### CARMEN RODRIGUEZ

#### Amor Filial

Yo adoro a mi madre querida Yo adoro a mi padre también, ningún me quiere en la vida como ellos me saben querer.

Si duermo, ellos velan mi sueño si lloro, están tristes los dos, si rio, su rostro es risueño, mi risa es para ellos es el sol.

Me enseñan los dos con inmensa ternura a ser bueno y feliz mi padre por mi lucha y piensa, mi madre ora siempre por mí.

#### Filial Love

I adore my dear mother
I adore my father too,
no one in life loves me like them,
They know how to love me.

If I sleep, they watch me dream if I cry, they are both sad if I laugh, their faces are smiling my laughter, the sun, is for them.

They both teach me with immense tenderness to be good and happy my father fights and thinks for me, my mother always prays for mi.

#### LUPITA VERGARA

#### I Am

Mom of three amazing children

Artist of my own life-painting lots for colors

Respect for cultural diversity

ce cream: wonderful flavors for families

Adventure in the colorful world

Grateful books: another piece of art

Unique special essences make you what you are

Apples: crispy delicious crunchy sweet

Dreams never stop for others

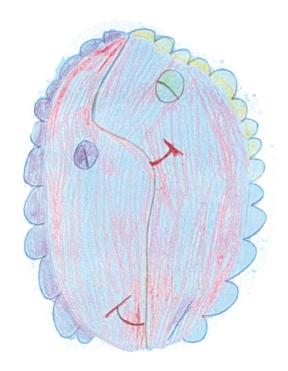
Amiable, cheerful, best life

ovely gardens: lots of flowers smell good

Use your mind to build a greater future

Powerful woman- proud of myself

Educated, advanced people are cultured



#### **ANONYMOUS**

#### The Other Me

Brooke is pretty in pink.

She is very creative.

She is smart, kind, and positive.

#### Thankful

I am thankful for friends and family.

Love is love with God, Jesus.

Joy is the meaning of life.

#### Loving, Handsome, Caring

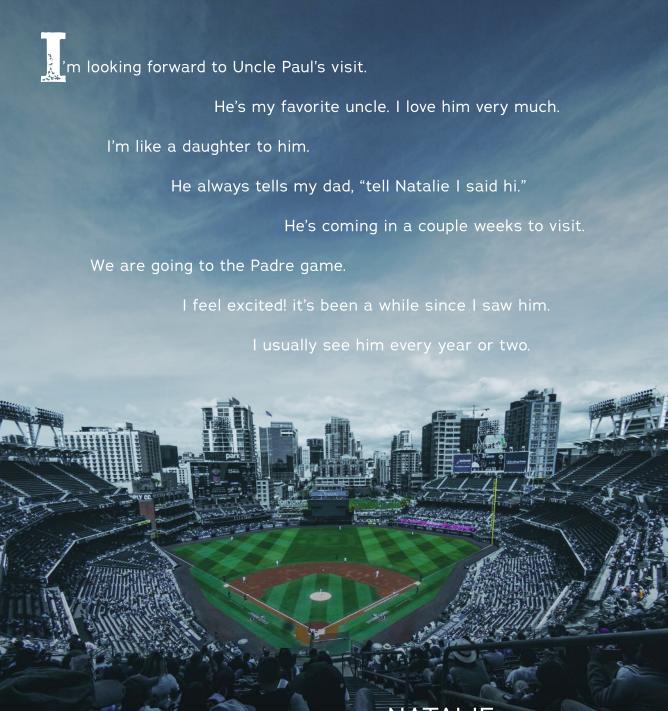
I love my dad. He shares.

ne snares.

He plays golf and tennis, loves to walk, and loves his cars.

He is kind loving, handsome,

and caring.



NATALIE Uncle Paul

#### Family

Happy cozy

Smiling posing hugging

Loving grandmother and granddaughter

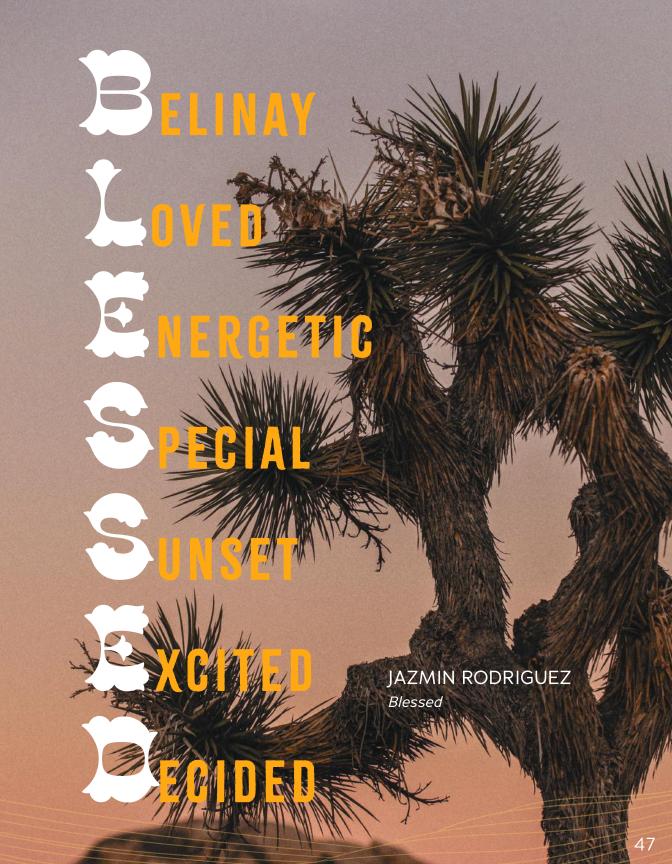
Springtime sitting belonging

Traditional colorful

Home

GROUP PROJECT
JOHN LANDES CAFECITO

Students were asked to write a poem based on an image of an elderly woman and young girl holding each other and smiling.



## I AM JAYDIN.

I AM SOMEONE WHO LIKES PEOPLE IN GENERAL.

### WHO FEELS LIKE A BIG HEART.

WHO GIVES POSITIVE ENERGY TO EVERYTHING.

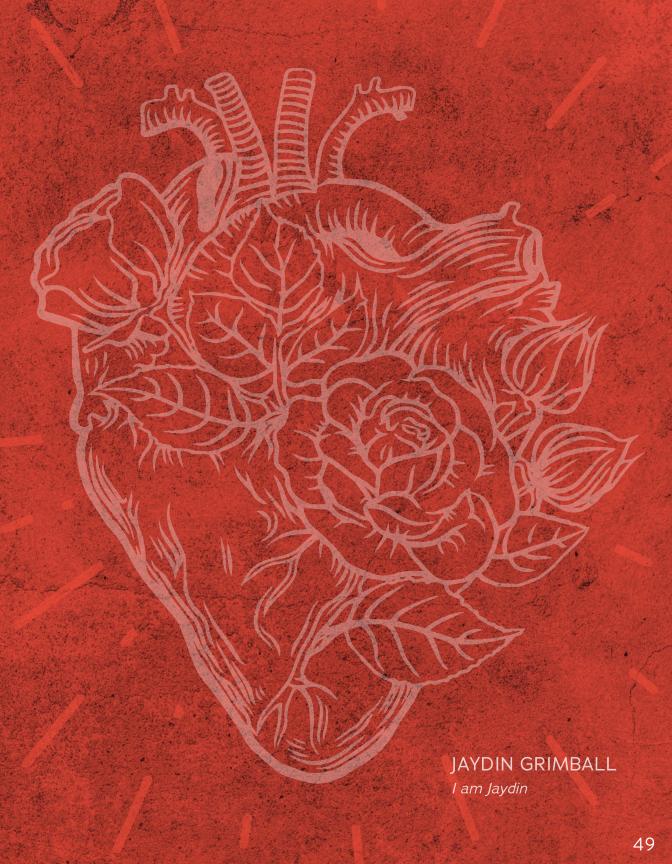
WHO FEARS SNAKES.

WHO NEEDS SUCCESS, HAPPINESS AND LOVE.

WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE WORLD AND MEET NEW PEOPLE.

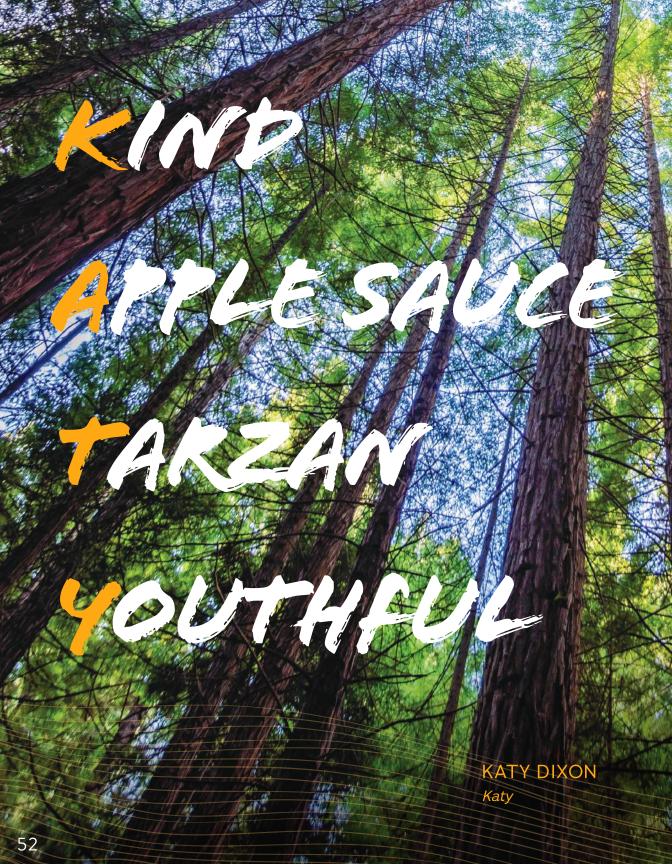
I AM A RESIDENT OF OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

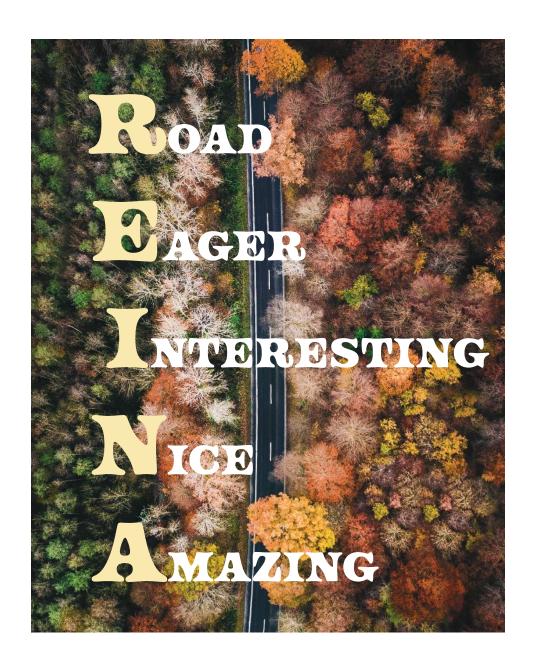
JAYDIN GRIMBALL.





ELIGHTFUL INTERESTING AFFECTIONATE EVERENDING ADVENTURESOME





SECTION 4 ···

# 



#### JOSEFINA Z.

#### Coming to Oceanside

In 2000, I came to the USA with my two children. I wanted to work for a short time and return to Mexico soon. I was frustrated because I found barriers. The barrier was English, but I kept going. One day I wanted to return to Mexico, but my children did not want to go. I never liked school. I focused on my children and my work. Sometimes I went to school in Twin Oaks to learn English, but I had depression. I looked for help in Neuróticos Anónimos. That brought me to Oceanside in 2012. In that group, I met my husband. Then I got married and moved to live in Oceanside.

In 2015, I went to the library. Amanda, my daughter, liked the library, so we continued going. Amanda started asking for words in English. One day, Amalia, my neighbor, told me that in the other library they were teaching English. That's how I met Chelsea, who has been a very patient person with me. We cried together when I told her why I didn't like school, and she got me a very nice tutor, Alison, who teaches me until today.





#### I SEE THE OCEAN

I HEAR THE WAVES

I SMELL THE SALTY WATER

I FEEL THE COLDNESS OF THE AIR

I TASTE THE SALT OF THE OCEAN.

ANA ELLIS Ocean

#### "ALRODES"

My First Memories of Oceanside

My first memory of Oceanside is of the pier and how wonderful the view of the sunset is from there. As well as feeling the color of the sun in my skin, that was an unforgettable moment in my first visit to Oceanside.

I remember a place called "Listos" (ready), for children under five years of age, where they learned while playing.

I met Lucia and her son in "Listos", my son and her son played together. When they turned five years old, they went to different schools. A few years later, they met in third grade, resuming their friendship which continues until now many years later.

I remember that Lucia and I spoke often when our boys were little. We talked about their future, now we remember when they were children. We are proud of their achievements. I am very happy to have a very good friend.

Currently, "Listos" is closed, but Lucia and I are still friends.

And I still go to the pier to see the sunset with my family.



PEARS. ORANGES. APPLES GREEN, ORANGE, RED GROWING, COOKING, EATING LEMON, KIWI, BANANA YELLOW, BROWN, YELLOW SWEET, SOUR, TASTY LIKET

CARMEN, VICTORIA, MARGARITA, AND ISOBEL COUNTRY CLUB SENIOR CENTER CAFECITO

Fruit Basket

I see hope

I hear the ocean

DIANA D. PAHL

Норе

I smell summer

I feel the ocean

I taste happiness



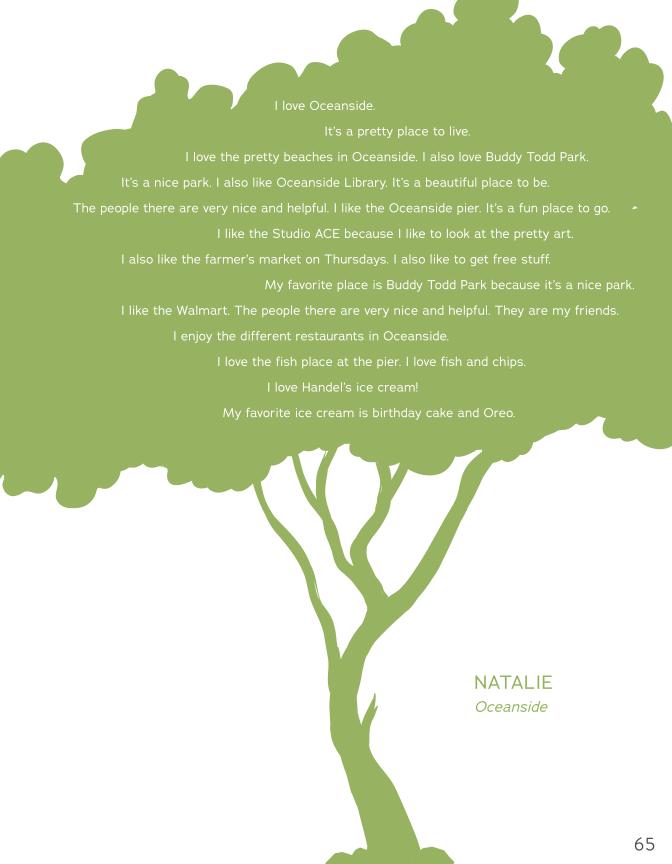
#### I see my mommy

I smell flowers

I feel cold

#### I hear the birds





#### **GARY SWIMPSON**

### Life Gave Me Another Opportunity

Oceanside, I came to you for a better life.

I love the beaches, the people and the military too.

The palm trees, the ocean, the pier, and libraries Just the beauty of the city, in Oceanside.

Oceanside, me and my family lived here.

And when we walk to the pier I see paintings everywhere.

I see paintings of oceans, I see paintings of people.

I see paintings of dolphins, I see paintings of skies.

And they all are very nice.

When I come to the Hall,
the brothers and sisters are so encouraging,
To help me on my spiritual journey.
To get closer to God, there's no better goal in life,
to learn about the Creator and get baptized.
I was invited, in Oceanside.

When I came to the building I was really scared. But the teachers are there to keep me aware. They were so inspiring and so helpful, inspiring me to read and do the best I can do. By being committed and because of their help, I'm better in my reading, in Oceanside.

To all the teachers in Oceanside READS, there's no better teachers that could ever be.

They have always helped me to learn, baby baby, I brightly burn.

I really appreciate all the help they have done, and now the race has just begun.

Oceanside, you've helped to change my life in so many ways Words cannot express in all these days.

The people that I met, have helped me to grow

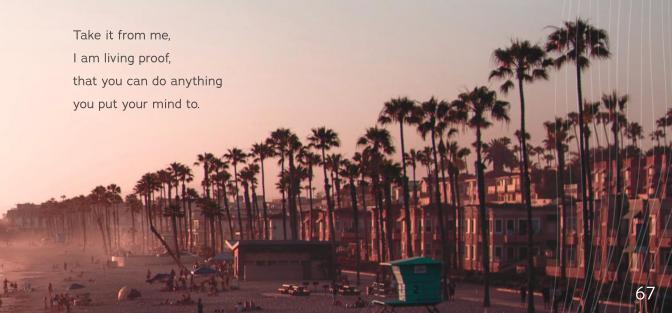
And now, they must all know that anything you put your mind to, you can do,
and no one else can harm you.

So, as long as you hold on and believe,
there is nothing you can't be.

So, to all the people that have inspired and touched my life, I really appreciate your help in my fight.

So never give up on life, 'cause life is full of challenges, but there's nothing that you can't do.

As long as you believe in yourself, you can get through anything you put your mind to.





### LUPITA VERGARA

The Best Place!

**OPTIMISTIC** CONFIDENT EDUCATION ADMIRABLE NURTURE SUPPORT NSPIRED DEVOTED **EQUALITY** 

PASSION
UPBEAT
BRILLIANT
LOVING
INCENTIVE
COMPASSIONATE

LUCID INNOVATIVE BUILD READ APPRECIATIVE READ YEAR



# DO YOU WANT

### **WE HOPE YOU ARE INSPIRED!**

WANT TO SAY. MAKE ROUGH NOTES OF INTERESTING IDEAS.

- What do you want others to know about being you?
- What major changes have you had in your life?
- What are you passionate about?
- What do you feel strongly about?
- Where did you come from? How did you get here?
- What are your dreams? How will you get there?
- What or who motivates or inspires you? Why?

# TO WRITE your own story?

### WRITING IS A PROCESS. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN STORY.

- 1. Collect your notes on ideas you want to share.
- Pick one idea and write about it.Pretend you are telling a friend about it.
- 3. Put the piece away for a while.
- Reread and rewrite.
   You can share the story with your tutor or friend.
- 5. Repeat steps 3-4 until you feel you are done.

Thanks to 'Qlameda Reads' for this outline.

# Photography ILLUSTRATION CREDITS:

Page	Artist	Image Description	
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00	Sydney Rae**	Mexican dancers	
0	Robert Penaloza**	Pier	
10	lineartestpilot*	Face	
11	Julio Lopez**	Guitarist	
12	Aleksandr Ledogorov**	Dandelion	
13	Gunung Madjiyero*	Desert sketch	
14	Samsul Aripin*	Mountains	
18	Kim lck**	Whale	
21	Mona Eendra	Wall	
23	John James / Audubon**	Birds	
23	Unknown (Courtesy of Josefina Z.)	Josefina and mother	
24	Chelsea Eggli	Timmy White	
25	Mak**	Sidewalk	

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27	Tom Barrett**	Clouds
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44	Anonymous	Face illustration
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50	Lee**	Flowers
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52	Graham Holtshausen**	Tall trees
53	Fabio Jock**	Trees and road
55	Sir Benj Owen	Library
56	Nick Agee**	Pier
57	Andrew Riojas**	Ocean
58	Tyler Whitehead**	Sunset pier
61	RLT Images	Fruit bowl
62	Matt Hardy**	Ocean
64	Mi Min**	Cherry blossoms
65	Neng Kokom Komala*	Graphic tree
66	Matt Howard**	Coastline
68	Sir Benj Owen	Library

# "A POET IS,

before anything else,

A PERSON WHO IS

## PASSIONATELY

in love with

LANGUAGE."

W.H. Auden

