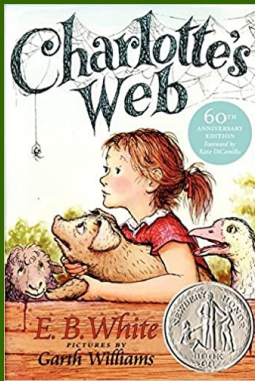




Redlands Reads!

The Redlands Adult Literacy Program

Announces
the 2021
Community Read



Charlotte's Web

by
E.B. White

This classic story has
universal themes and
can be enjoyed by the
entire family.

We invite you to read
Charlotte's Web
with us.

~
**Literacy Changes
Lives!**

Adult Learner Overcomes Fears and Celebrates Her Growing Literacy Skills

Consuelo Annaguey bravely took the first step to improve her reading, writing, and communication skills by walking into the library two years ago and asking to join the adult literacy program. She confides that asking for help was very difficult, but she wishes she had done it sooner. She is excited about her progress, although learning to read is not easy.

"Taking the first step to ask for help takes courage, but once you are here you can change your life."

Consuelo and her tutor Ellen Kronowitz, a retired teacher, enjoy reading books about history and discussing their own history and culture with one another. Consuelo shared that she is inspired by Harriet Tubman because she was very brave and not only did she escape slavery, she helped others

make their way along the underground railroad to freedom.

Consuelo and Ellen work on writing and effective communication. Consuelo has authored stories for *Our Stories, A Collection of Writings Volumes 2 and 3*. She now records her family memories, and keeps those stories alive by sharing them with her children. Her children are very proud of their mother's dedication to improving her literacy.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the library to close its doors last March, Consuelo and Ellen met remotely using Zoom. Both were thrilled in September when the library reopened enabling them to meet in person once again.

When asked what she would say to others who want to improve their reading or writing,



Consuelo Annaguey (left) and her tutor Ellen Kronowitz

Consuelo responded, "I would say to them to look for a library or school where they can study to achieve their goals." She recommends the literacy program to anyone who wants to improve their reading and writing because literacy is important for success in life.

Ellen added, "I get more than I give, watching Consuelo's progress and observing her increased confidence gives me great joy. We both look forward to Mondays!"

Adult Literacy Program Thrives in 2020

The Adult Literacy Program has successfully responded to the challenges presented by Covid-19 by:

- Developing a distance learning strategy for literacy teams.
- Installing Plexiglas dividers in areas where literacy teams meet.
- Creating remote tutor training and continuing

learning opportunities.

- Implementing small group literacy classes over Zoom.
- Facilitating tutor and learner use of remote learning tools.

To become a tutor or for literacy assistance, call Diane Shimota at literacy@akspl.org or 909.798.7565, ext. 4138.



Adult learner Tammy Zhou reviews goals with literacy assistant Renee Kennedy

Redlands Adult Literacy Program

Sponsored by A. K. Smiley Public Library and
The Friends of A. K. Smiley Public Library,
a 501.c.3 organization.

Donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information...

Call: 909.798.7565, ext. 4138

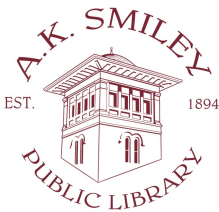
Email: literacy@akspl.org

Stop by: A. K. Smiley Public Library, located at
125 W. Vine St., Redlands, CA

Visit the library website: www.akspl.org

Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofsmileylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofsmileylibrary)

Facebook: [Friends of A.K. Smiley Public Library](https://www.facebook.com/Friends.of.A.K.Smilely.Public.Library)



The **MISSION** of the Redlands Adult Literacy Program is to provide professional and confidential tutoring in reading and writing to help learners in the Redlands community reach their literacy goals.

All participants are treated with dignity and respect.

You can help support adult literacy in our community:

- Spread the word that literacy help is available at Smiley Library—most learners find out about the program from family and friends.
- Become a literacy volunteer.
- Come to literacy events.
- Join the Friends of A. K. Smiley Public Library and purchase books at the Friends Bookstore, located in the lower-level of Smiley Library.
- Make donations to the Redlands Adult Literacy Program.

Help change someone's life!

Adult Literacy Celebrates Its First Decade with Gratitude

In 2010 the Friends of A. K. Smiley Public Library re-established the Redlands Adult Literacy Program. All of us can celebrate the success of each adult learner who has advanced their education by obtaining a GED or attending college. Our city is enriched by parents who use their literacy skills to help their children in school, and adults who read a book for the first time, communicate with a friend, and gain the confidence to advance in their job or to volunteer.

The adult literacy program's success depends upon the generosity of community volunteers and donors who know the importance of every adult having access to literacy services.

Special thanks are owed to library trustees, the library director, and library staff who support adult literacy. The City Council, in approving the adult literacy coordinator position, recognized how literacy strengthens Redlands. Their action fostered the opportunity for partnerships with local organizations, grantors, and California State Library Literacy Services.

Adult literacy has changed our city for the better, by changing the lives of adult learners and their families, tutors, donors, employers and more. The city of Redlands is richer, in the truest sense, because of the Redlands Adult Literacy Program.

Thank you for your support and your belief that education, especially during a pandemic, is the key to economic and social advancement in Redlands. We invite you to hear more of the literacy story, by visiting www.akspl.org/literacy and watching the Redlands Adult Literacy video.

Learner Derek Rodriguez expressed his gratitude for the adult literacy program and his tutor, long-time and dedicated volunteer, Monte Stuck. Below are Derek's words:



Derek Rodriguez (left) works with his tutor Monte Stuck

Reading

By Derek Rodriguez

(excerpt from Our Stories, Volume 3)

"I was a construction worker for most of my life and also a welder. Three years ago, I started taking reading lessons at the Redlands Smiley Library because I could hardly read anything.

...When I met Monte, he told me we had a long journey ahead, but it has been well worth it. I am not now a fast reader but I can read. I encourage anybody who has problems reading to go to Smiley Library because the teachers are very patient and understanding. Everybody is willing to help..."