



Redlands Reads!



The Redlands Adult Literacy Program Web Page Updates

Enjoy the following:

- Adult Literacy Program videos
- Literacy resources for tutors, learners and the Redlands community
- Information about becoming a tutor or an adult learner
- Literacy events
- Links to "News For You," a weekly digital newspaper
- The Activity Guide for the Community Read of Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

To Learn more, visit: www.akspl.org/literacy



Literacy Changes Lives!

Adult Learner Gains Literacy Skills During Pandemic

As a young girl in Mexico, Karla Soto's education ended at middle school because she had to go to work to help her single mother provide for the family. She joined the Adult Literacy Program because she had a desire to improve her reading and writing skills to be better at her job, read to her children, and improve her communication with others.

Karen Fredricksen, Karla's tutor, is a retired elementary school teacher with a passion for both teaching and reading. She understands that literacy is the foundation for everything in life, such as expanding one's knowledge, or improving employment. She enjoys tutoring because she is able to share her gifts with Karla and celebrate Karla's achievements.

The team joined the

literacy program during the pandemic and met remotely for the better part of last year. Despite the technical challenges of distance learning, Karla has been able to gain both reading and writing skills. They look forward to meeting in person at the library soon.

Karen emphasized that improving literacy takes time and commitment, but the work that a learner puts in will help them take a big step toward improving their life. There is no downside to learning to read and write, the joys and growth outweigh the work that one needs to invest. The best part of tutoring has been getting to know Karla, observing her commitment, and witnessing her progress.

Prioritizing literacy will open doors to better



Karla Soto (left) and her tutor Karen Fredricksen

opportunities, Karla shared. She said, "Keep going, make time for literacy, and learn everything you can." Improving her reading and writing has helped her at her job: now she can write letters and accurately fill out work-related documents.

This wonderful team wants the community to know that support for the Adult Literacy Program at A.K. Smiley Public Library has helped many people to improve their reading and writing skills, at no cost. Improved literacy is a great investment in the future of others and benefits our entire community.

Adult Learners Win Writer-to-Writer Challenge

Eight adult learners participated in the Southern California Library Literacy Network Writer-to-Writer Challenge. This challenge encourages adult learners to write to authors about books they have enjoyed.

Adult learners who were recognized for their achievements included:

Elen Alsabea (1st place Intermediate) who wrote a letter to Jasmine Warga, author of Other Words for Home; Yesenia JV (Runner Up, Beginning) for her letter to Megan Stein, author of Who is Sonya Sotomayor?; and Teresita Rojas and Cindy Yanke (Runners-Up, Intermediate.) Teresita wrote a

letter to Lois Lowry, author of The Giver. Cindy wrote a letter to Vicki Myron, author of Dewey, The Library Cat.

Other participants included: Guillermina Rangel, Yanhong Zhou, Norma Sarahi, and Cinderella Tran.

Congratulations to all!

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

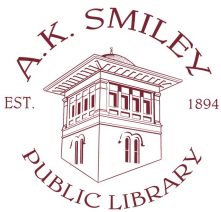
Email: literacy@akspl.org

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 Launches Community Read of Charlotte's Web

Everyone is invited to participate in the 2021 Adult Literacy Virtual Community Read of Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White. This classic story highlights the universal themes of friendship, celebrating uniqueness, and the cycle of life. Charlotte's Web speaks to all ages, to individuals, their families and groups who love to read. Adult literacy welcomes the opportunity for the Redlands community to share a classic story as we recover from the isolation of last year.

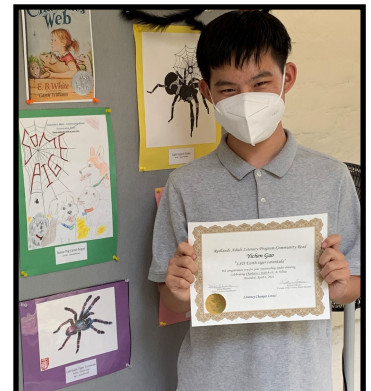
To help explore Charlotte's Web, an activity guide was developed and can be found at: www.akspl.org/literacy. The Adult Literacy Program website was recently updated to help tutors, learners, and the

community find information about signing up for the Adult Literacy Program and the types of literacy materials that are used in the program. Due to donor generosity, literacy materials may be checked out by anyone.

The website includes a special section for Charlotte's Web to help the adult literacy and Redlands communities participate in virtual activities. As shown to the right, monthly activities are planned to help share how we uniquely experience Charlotte's Web. If you would like to submit a work, please attach it to a submission form to allow the library to share your work with the Redlands community.

Let's explore Charlotte's Web together! Stop by

A. K. Smiley Public Library and look at the Charlotte's Web display. Check out Charlotte's Web or borrow the audio and movie versions of this classic story. Share your art and writings at the library, so we can learn how the story of Charlotte's Web changed your life!



Artist Yichen Gao receives a certificate for his spider drawing.

Share the Joy of Charlotte's Web by Submitting Your Works to the Library by the Following Dates:

May 31: Draw a picture of an agricultural area (farm, dairy, orchard, or garden.)

June 30: Choose a character from Charlotte's Web, and write a story from this character's perspective.

July 31: Submit an art project that reflects Charlotte's Web—your choice!

August 31: Write a letter to E. B. White, the author, to tell him what you liked about Charlotte's Web and how his book moved you.

Have Fun & Be Terrific!