



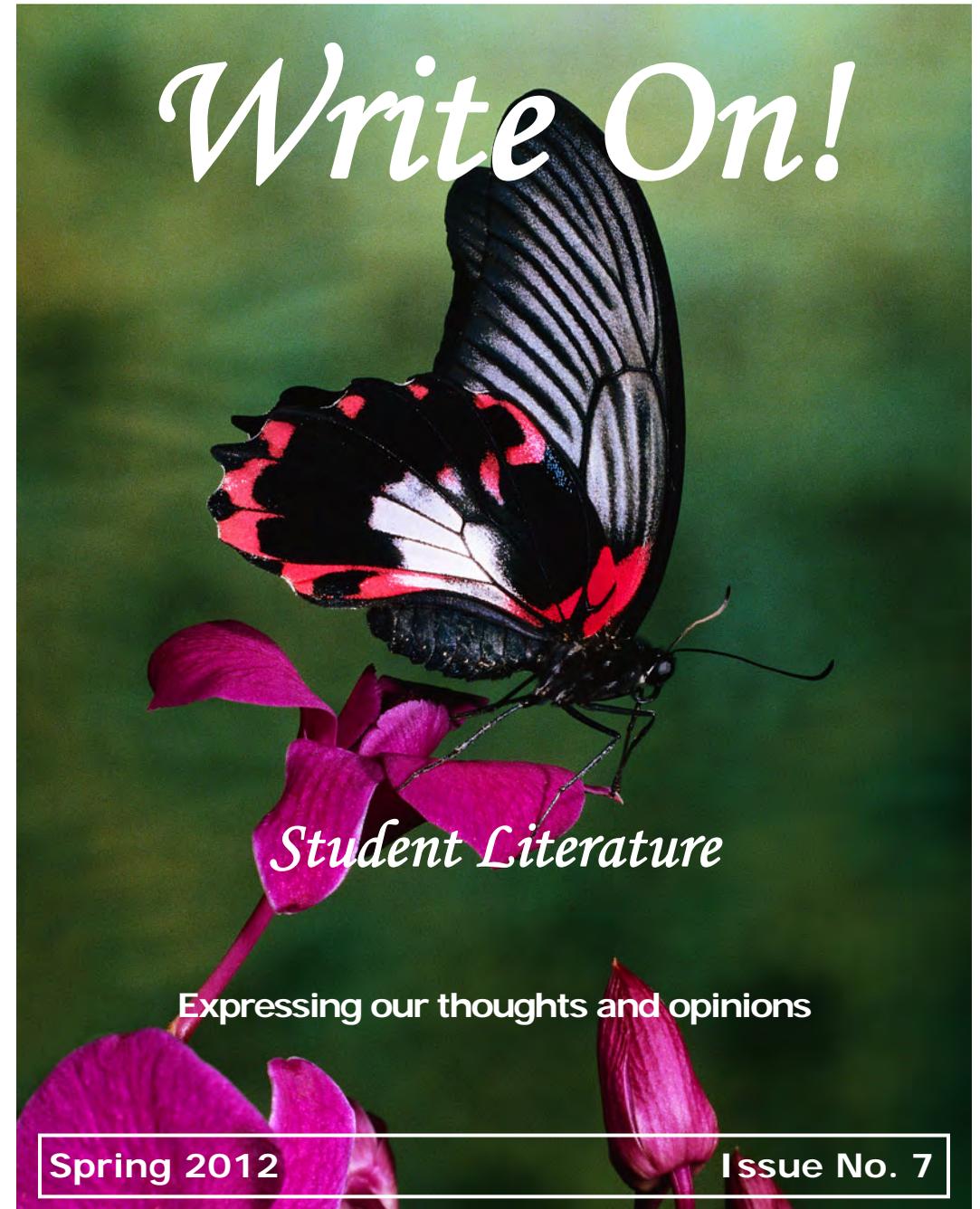
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*Write On!*

*Student Literature*

Expressing our thoughts and opinions

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Issue No. 7



## My First Day at Work

I had never gone to work in Sri Lanka, where I was born. After I came to Canada, I found a job at a factory that made charms for key-chains for cars. The first day, I took the metro but I didn't know how to put the metro pass into the machine. So I pushed at the barrier to enter, but it didn't move. The people who were standing behind me were wondering what I was doing. The guard made signs to show me how to put the pass into the machine, but I didn't understand what he was showing me. I moved away to let the people go first and watched how they used the pass. Then I did the same.

Then I reached the company where I was going. I was really nervous. The boss told me to get to work. I didn't know what I had to do. He showed me how to paint charms for the key chain. I did the work well but slowly, slowly, at first. The boss told me to go faster. He was standing beside me. I was very worried and thought "If I don't go faster, he'll fire me." I worked very carefully and a little faster. I didn't make any mistakes, and did very neat work. The boss said, "Good! Keep on like this." Then he told me to come back every day.

I was really excited and happy. So then I thought to myself, "Thank God!"

Anisha



## Introduction

Welcome to the 2012 edition of Write On!, an opportunity to showcase the writings of Literacy Unlimited adult learners.

This year, we decided to go with a theme and all learners were invited to submit a piece about a "first" that they had experienced. The response from learners and tutors was excellent and we have the greatest number of submissions this year since we began publishing Write On! in 2006.

We are proud to have this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our learners whose dedication and commitment to improving their literacy skills is truly inspirational.

We would like to thank all learners who submitted work and their tutors who encouraged and supported them.

Happy reading!



## My First Home



When I came to Canada I lived with my sister-in-law. But I wanted to have my own home and it took me eight years to save and plan so I could live on my own.

I love my apartment. I rent a bottom floor duplex with a front and back yard and a balcony. I bought furniture and I am working hard to repay my bills. It is very important for me to be independent, to cook my own meals with fresh ingredients that I shopped for myself. I often cook for lots of people and I like to have people come to visit me.

When I put my key in my door I feel so great. I say "Hello, I am home!" even if no one hears me.

Collette

## My First Softball Game

I played my first softball game when I was 19 years old.

I had never played before and didn't know the rules.

Back in St. Vincent I played cricket. I loved cricket.

In that first softball game I hit the ball really hard and everyone cheered. It was a home run.

Now, every summer, I play softball. I play in three different leagues. Everyone wants me to play for them. I have three different uniforms and play three or four times a week.

A game usually takes one and a half hours but if it is tied we play extra time until someone wins.

When I hit a home run it feels really good. In one of my leagues, I hit three home runs in one game. No one in that league had ever done that before.

Now I love softball as much as cricket.

Kizzie



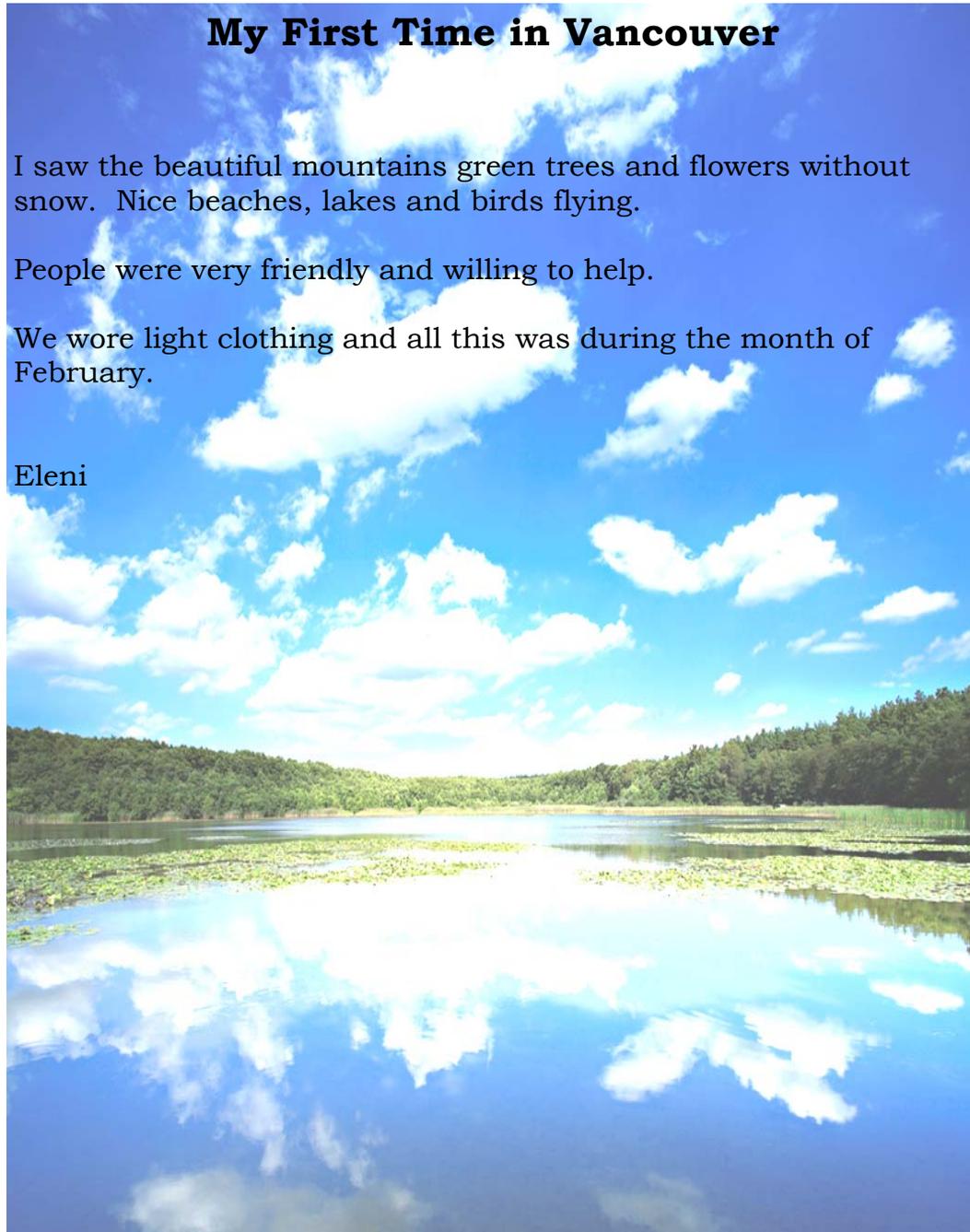
## **My First Time in Vancouver**

I saw the beautiful mountains green trees and flowers without snow. Nice beaches, lakes and birds flying.

People were very friendly and willing to help.

We wore light clothing and all this was during the month of February.

Eleni



## **We Visit the Park of Morgan Arboretum**

It was a very warm and sunny day, the season was Fall and the colours of the trees were beautiful to look at. Golden yellows, flushing reds, calming oranges were like medicine asking us to sit and relax on the benches to soak it all in. And some trees are full with berries for our winter birds, like the attractive blue jays we saw.

Little chickadees were running around and gathering seeds for the cold winter. The walk through the park was tranquil and an enjoyable and memorable day.

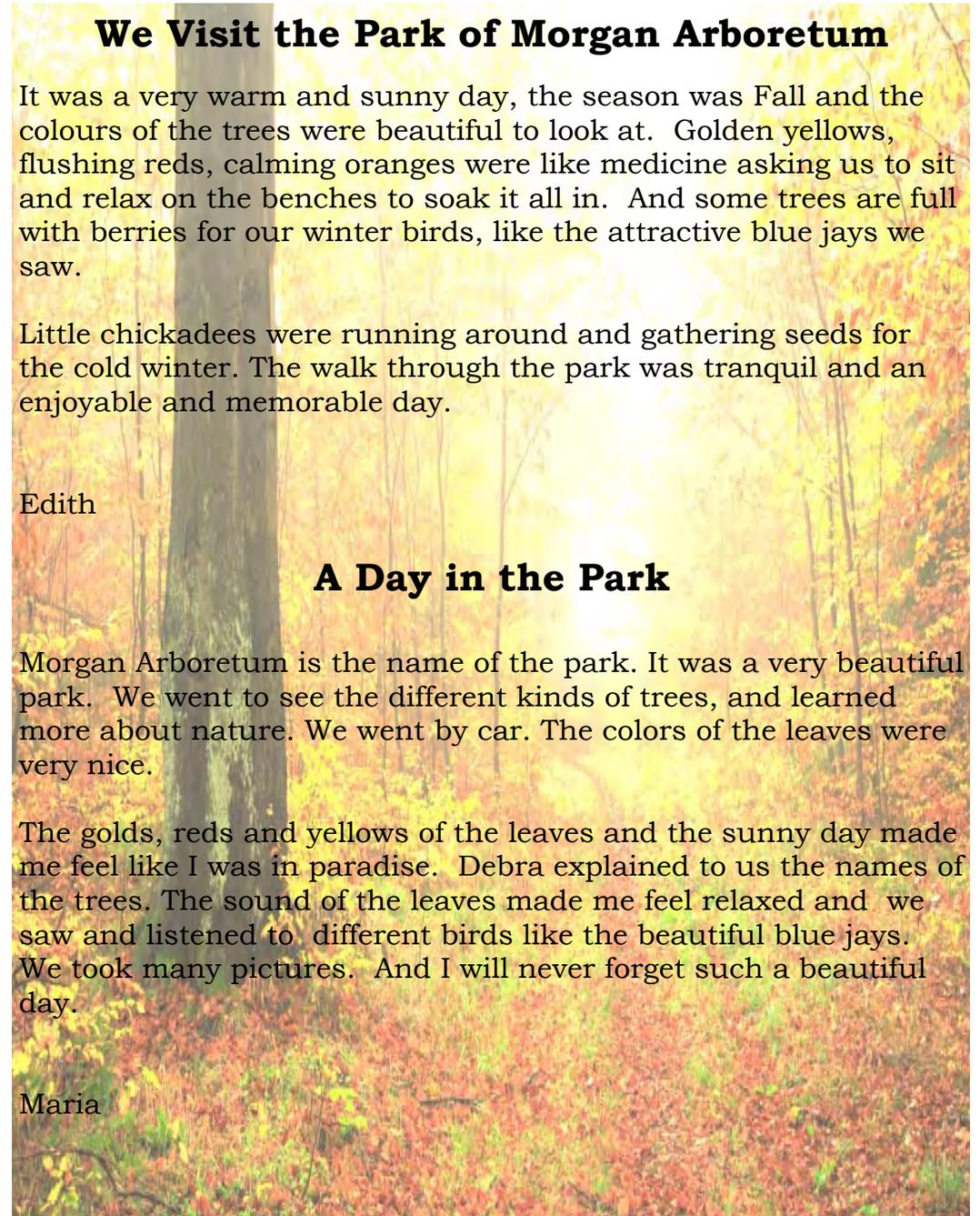
Edith

## **A Day in the Park**

Morgan Arboretum is the name of the park. It was a very beautiful park. We went to see the different kinds of trees, and learned more about nature. We went by car. The colors of the leaves were very nice.

The golds, reds and yellows of the leaves and the sunny day made me feel like I was in paradise. Debra explained to us the names of the trees. The sound of the leaves made me feel relaxed and we saw and listened to different birds like the beautiful blue jays. We took many pictures. And I will never forget such a beautiful day.

Maria



## My First Time in Cuba

When the plane landed and the door was opened I felt the hot wind and said, "Wow, it's like my home country, Bangladesh!" During the bus ride to the hotel, I was excited to see so many familiar trees. There were banana trees, coconut and date trees, and a lot of money trees. On the bus there was a guide who welcomed us to Cuba and explained many basic things that tourists should know.

The beach was a short walk from the hotel. The climate was pleasant with low humidity every day! We played in the warm water and the fine white sand which was great for my young grandsons. From mid-morning the tide was going out, just perfect for us to play for most of the day.



Some of our other activities were horseback riding on the beach and visiting the baby crocodiles, as well as a trip into the market town of Havana. Of course I had to get sick. I was too greedy eating the papaya, pineapple and guava fruit!

I really want to visit Cuba again.

Anna

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## My first Time in Canada



My name is Rebecca. This is my first time in Canada. I was very excited, I wanted to see the snow because I saw it on TV, but seeing it was more exciting and for that reason I fell in love with winter. And being in Canada gives me the opportunity to do a lot of things that I was not able to do in my country. My education which lead me to meet all the wonderful people at Literacy Unlimited who helped me and still do. They encourage me in my education and I am learning to drive for the first time. I am going to school to achieve my high school diploma for the first time. I take a course in PDSB. For the first time I took an English course with the help of my teacher at LU.

Rebecca

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## First Time

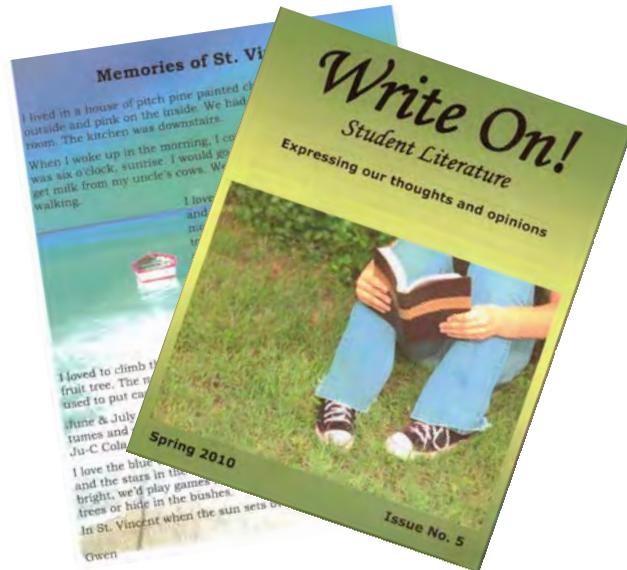
The first time I met my tutor Jane was in April, 2009. We spoke on the phone and made plans to meet at John Rennie on Thursday evenings.

I was a little nervous. I was wondering if she would be a nice person and she was. That night after I got home I said to my husband, "Jane challenged me a lot," and he said "that's good!"

We've done a lot of reading and writing. I've kept a journal, I won a \$50 prize and I was so happy and proud and so was my family.

The first time my writing was published in "Write On!" I sent a copy to my Dad in St. Vincent.

Gwen



## My Trip to Kingston

I went to Kingston for a trip with the students and teacher from my old school. I went to see the 1000 islands and I liked it. First I went to Upper Canada Village. Then I went to the hotel to put the bags in the room. The room was the best. Then I went to the haunted walk then went to eat supper in Panda Buffet. We went to bed. In the morning we went to Tim Hortons for breakfast. Then went to the 1000 islands for a boat cruise and then went on a bus tour. After, we went shopping. I bought a PS3 game for \$39.99. We went to the hotel to eat pizza and then to the pool. I forgot my cell and my wallet in my pocket. Next morning we ate breakfast in the hotel then we put the bags in the bus. Then we went to Fort Henry, it is cool. I ate poutine, I got sick in the bus. I got stuck in traffic we were late to Fairview at 4:45. End of story.

Hagop



## When I was young

When I was a child I was very hyper. I used to run around everywhere in parks and in the house. My mom used to chase me, to try to catch me. Then when I got older I used to play with toys. I liked playing lego and hot wheels. I also had action figures. My favourite action figure was Batman. Then when I was seven I started playing Nintendo with my sister. She used to play better than me but I practiced more and then I beat her at all the games. I also played soccer in the Armenian league. Now I still play a lot of video games and I love sports games. I fall down and cut my nose. I drive my bicycle when I was 5 years old. My favorite salad is tabouleh.

Hagop



## My Son

On August 18, 2008 at 2:30 a.m. my waters broke. I was at home in bed. I ran into the bathroom and took a shower. My boyfriend called my cousin to come get us. I was so anxious to meet my son, but at the same time I was really scared because this would mean he was going to be a month and a half premature.



When my cousin came, we left right away. On the way to the hospital we got some red lights and I had to yell at my cousin to go through them because she was stopping at them. I didn't yell because I was in pain. I had no pain at all. I was yelling because I wanted to get to the hospital to make sure everything was okay.

When we got to the hospital the doctors saw me right away. They did an ultrasound and we then found out the baby was breach. So I had to go for a C-section. They rushed me in to get the baby out fast. There were many doctors there.

About twenty minutes after going into the O.R. my son was born. He looked so perfect! He had blue eyes, straight black hair and he was very small. I did not get to see him for very long because he needed to be put in an incubator.

We had to stay for three weeks until the baby was big enough to go home. Finally, we got to go home and I was so happy he was healthy!

Christa

## A Day to Remember

Before I was married I lived with my parents and one of my brothers. One day I woke up and I brushed my teeth. Then I walked downstairs to the kitchen. I saw my brother waiting for someone. I said to him are you going somewhere today? My brother looked at me and said; yes we are going for a ride with my friends on the mountain. Would you like to come with us? In the beginning I hesitated and said no thanks, however when my brother walked to the front door and opened it I saw three cars in our driveway. I walked outside and I saw boys and girls waiting for my brother. I knew them all. Everyone asked me to go with them; one of the girls was holding a ball. I said to them, I will be ready in five minutes. When we reached the mountain we started to walk to the forest and we found a place to play ball.

How can I forget such a beautiful day?

Maria



## I Came to Canada

I came to Canada from Guyana in 1994.

Three weeks after I arrived I found a job in a textile company and I started to work eight hours a day.

My wife also found work in a clothing company, it was a seasonal job. Every season they normally had sales, they give to the employees a reasonable price, so she was able to buy a lot of clothing for our daughters who were back in our country.

We filled the barrel up with other things like food stuff, goodies, etc., as well as the clothes. To ship these things to Guyana we had to buy a container which is a barrel from the shipping company. Then we addressed it to our children and when it was ready we called the agent and he came and picked it up and they shipped it to our country.

The barrel weighed about 350 lbs and we paid \$125 for a shipping fee.

A barrel takes about six weeks to arrive in Guyana. When it arrived at the wharf, they called one of our daughters to go and pick it up.

Milton



## My First Canadian Winter

I came to Canada on October 18, 1993. I came wearing a sweater. At the airport my husband gave me a new jacket to put on top of my sweater, because I felt the cold air. He gave me new boots, too. That day it was just cold, but no snow. The season was autumn.

I did not know what it was when, one day, everything outside was white. My husband told me that it was winter.

Every day I was always thinking of what to make of this season of winter. I told my husband that I wanted to go back to Ghana, please, because I felt cold. I could not believe the weather in Canada.

I spent most of the winter inside my house because I did not want to go anywhere in the winter weather. When the winter was over, I began to go out with my husband and my friends.

The second winter was okay. Sometimes I fell down in the snow, but I always got back up.

Still now, I can't get used to it. In winter my body feels the cold all the time.

I like Canada, because it is a good country!

I do not like the Canadian winter!

Mercy

## My Day with Anna and Christina in our City

Last summer my friend Anna and her daughter Christina came to Canada from Chicago to see me for the first time.

I decided to take them to see our city. I drove downtown and they were looking all around and were amazed with Montreal. We went into different stores, saw a lot of people, huge buildings and a ship in the port. Squirrels were climbing trees. The most amazing were the coachmen with the horses going along the streets. We could hear the horses from far away. We visited museums and Notre Dame Church.

At the end of the day our feet were swelling and a little bit tired, but we were happy to have spent a day together in the city. I will never forget that happy day.

Maria



## First Time Speaking to an Audience

A couple of years into my tutoring, I was asked to speak at a tutor training about my experience in literacy. I felt nervous speaking but when it came to answering questions it was much better.

I signed up for a workshop to learn how to speak in public. The workshop was very interesting. It taught us how to speak, present yourself and what to wear for different circumstances. After the workshop was done, by chance, the Literacy Unlimited annual general meeting (A.G.M.) was coming up, so they asked me if I wanted to speak at the A.G.M. I accepted the task.

I wrote a speech, practiced and memorized it. I had a bit of stage fright and I was very nervous. As my speech went along, I felt more comfortable. The audience was fantastic! I was very proud of myself and I felt great after.

Trelton



## First Autumn, First Snow

First, before I came to Canada, I lived in Buffalo, in the United States. I think it was October when I saw some trees that didn't have leaves on the branches, and other trees whose leaves had changed in color to red and yellow. It was a surprise because I had never seen leaves in a color other than green. One month later, when I woke up in the morning and opened the door to go outside, I was pleasantly surprised again.

Everywhere, everything was white. Something was falling from the sky. Suddenly I realised it was snow. Before that, I had never seen snow except in a movie, because Sri Lanka doesn't have snow – it is always hot there. But now I saw the real thing.

I was very happy at that moment. I can still see myself running out and jumping and jumping to catch the snow, but it would not stay on my hand. I tried to catch it again and again, but I couldn't. It was melting because it wasn't really freezing cold. The air was fresh and brisk. I breathed in that lovely air, and saw my breath come out like smoke from my mouth. I felt refreshed by it. I cannot forget that day. It was a wonderful moment in my life.

Torrington



## The First Time

First let me tell you a little bit about myself. Not me in the present day, but of me in the past, the twenty years ago me when I was eleven. I was a very hyper boy. I had all types of “problems” in the sense of learning. Couldn’t read at all, couldn’t spell if my life depended on it and found any way possible to get kicked out of class. One thing I had no problem with was making friends. In a weird world where the more you get in trouble, the more you make friends.

Okay, okay, let’s get to the story, the topic is “first times”. So here’s the deal, I had this one friend, we’ll call him Nick Black to protect his identity. Nick had no problem in school, he did just fine. Here comes Christmas, and in Catholic school for an activity they assign two kids of your pick to construct a crèche. Here’s the story it took me all this time and yours, “the Reader”, it’s about the first time I built a crèche.



Nick was in regular class, while I was in Special Ed in another classroom. The day that it was time to pick your partner, Nick was the one that had the chance to pick anyone from the regular class. He could have made it easy for himself and gone with someone from his class that had a better attention span than me. But he chose me for the love of a friend even though he knew that it wasn’t going to be easy and a little bit of a challenge. He didn’t care.

“Dring, Dring”, I hear the lunch bell, go outside for lunch and Nick came up to me and said he had picked me for a partner for the assignment. I was ecstatic!

Here comes the weekend. I get up, have my Captain Crunch and head over to Nick’s, where he lays out the plan. He pulls out two advent chocolate calendars that have all the main characters of the Catholic crèche scene when Mary gave birth to baby Jesus. We commence to eat handfuls of chocolate, while cutting out the characters, hot glueing them to a painted brown shoe box with trees from a train set. Our work is done, we are drunk on chocolate, and have a beautiful crèche. Monday comes and we get to display our crèche amongst all the others, while the whole school gets to marvel at our incredible crèche.

p.s. some crèches were bought!

John

