

Section 9

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Section 9

Readings By And For Learners

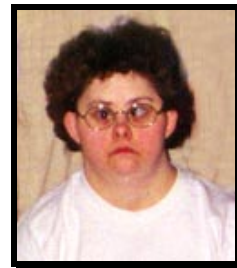
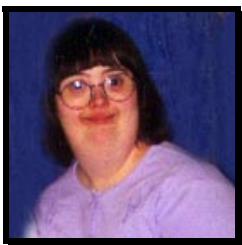
9.1 Introduction

One difficulty in tutoring learners with intellectual / developmental disabilities is finding reading materials which are geared to lower level readers and which are relevant to their life experiences. Writings by other learners can fill this need.

Several learner writings follow. Twenty-six different adult literacy learners from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia created the 35 readings.

Learners and tutors can use them for reading and for reading-related literacy activities. Pictures are included to boost the readers' comprehension.

A few writing samples are also included in this Section.



reading 1



9.2 Floor Hockey

I scored a goal. The final score was 5 to 10. We played Vancouver. We won.

I play for the Surrey Special Olympics. My jersey number is 44.

For every goal I score, I get a dollar.

We play Langley next.

Robert Almas
Invergarry Learning Centre (Surrey, BC)



reading 2



9.3 Workshop

I worked all day at Fraser Valley Workshop. I go to work from 8:30 to 3:00 in the afternoon. After work I go home and then I go out.

Robert Almas
Invergarry Learning Centre (Surrey, BC)

reading 3



9.4 The House is Fixed

The builders fixed up the basement and then they fixed up the bedrooms. The builders are painting the walls and putting down the smooth edge. When the walls dry, they will lay the carpet underlay. Soon we will clean out the garage and put the vans in it.

Robert Almas
Invergarry Learning Centre (Surrey, BC)



Quoted from:

Robert Almas, *The House is Fixed and Other Stories*. Surrey, BC: In-House Publishers. The Literacy Program. Invergarry Learning Centre, January 1995, pp. 5, 12, 6.

reading 4



9.5 My Name is...

My name is Joleen Daku. I was born on November 28th 1977 in Kipling. I am 22 now. I will be 23. I live with my Mom and Dad on the farm. I have a big family: Mervin, Greg, Janice, Barb, Murray, Kevin, and Joleen. I work at Kipling Industries and I also work at the care home and school library. At Kipling Industries, I sort paper and meet new friends like my special, best friend, whose name is Wanda, my pal. I also cleaned up for the open house on May 9th. At the care home I fold laundry. At the school I collect cans and juice boxes and pop bottles and collect paper too. I like to watch TV and do my crafts and I like to ride my bike. Some day I'd like to live on my own.

In the literacy program are Wanda and Joleen. We made posters and learned about your body. We play a game called Spelling Words. We draw pictures. I like the literacy program. I hope we will do it again next time.

Joleen Daku
Kipling Industries (Kipling, SK)

Reading 5



9.6 The Package Mill

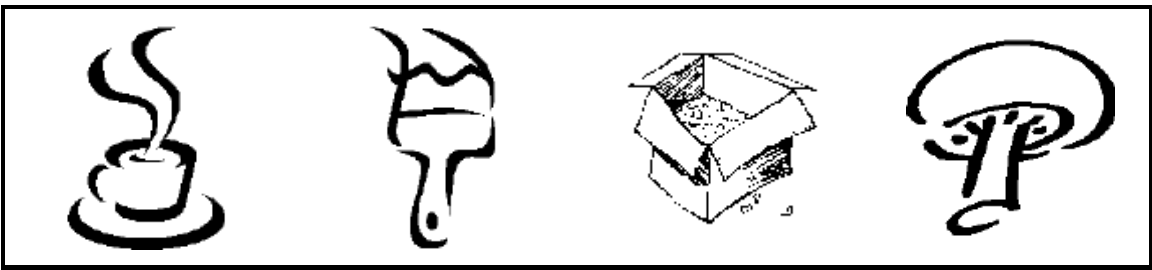
I go to the Package Mill two or three days a week. There are about 12 clients and three staff people at the work site.

Some of the clients do chores at the work site so they can earn money there. We go to the work site and do staining, painting, and sanding.

At the Package Mill we have three coffee breaks but one of the breaks is a lunch break. We sit around and talk.

On Thursday I go to the Mushroom Plant where they grow mushrooms. I go to the Mushroom Plant to make the boxes.

Susan Weaver
Partners in Employment Outreach
Adult Literacy Program (Kentville, NS)



Reading 6



9.7 Mervin's Journal

I am learning how to read. I am in the Literacy Program. I am doing very well in this program. I hope to learn more before this program is over.

I have learned math such as adding, subtraction, multiplying, and dividing. I have learned how to use a calculator. I learn a lot when I use the calculator. It helps me with my numbers. I learn a lot in math.

I concentrate when I am doing my math. I try to block out others when they are talking out loud.

I find writing my name hard, but I take my time in doing it. I like working in my journal because it gives me something to do when I am not doing anything else. I like writing letters of the alphabet. I like writing a story in my journal.

I like sounding out words. Words that the teacher shows us like *poison, push, please, Ed, apple, up, down, caution, and closed.*

Mervin Lyons
Partners in Employment Outreach
Adult Literacy Program (Kentville, NS)



reading 7



9.8 Volunteering

You go to the Outreach Office. They will get you a paying job or a volunteer job. I like volunteer jobs the best. I learn faster and I find out if my boss is satisfied with my work. If I have to pick up speed, they will tell me and show me what they mean. Then I do it by myself and in no time pick up speed. Also, they will show me the way they want it done.

Helen Cronin
Partners in Employment Outreach
Adult Literacy Program (Kentville, NS)



Quoted from:

Debbie Baker. *A Plain Language Guide in Reading, Writing and Math*. Kentville, NS: Partners in Employment Outreach (Spring 1998), pp. 2.39, 2.25, 2.44

Reading 8



9.9 Tony's Story

When I was six I went to school. We went out. We had fun but we did not read or write.

When I was seven I went to a new school. We did read and write. It was hard. I was slow but I liked it.

When I was twelve I went back to my old school. I did not like it. We did not read and write.

Now I go to school. I can read and write. I work hard. I feel good at this school.

Tony Loureiro
Invergarry Learning Centre (Surrey, BC)



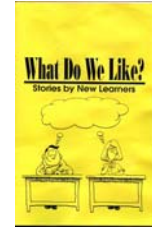
Tony Loureiro is a storyteller featured in the book:



Jean Bennet, Richard Jaccoma & Lee Weinstein (eds.) *SO FAR: Words from Learners*. Photographs by Ann E. Yowl. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1997.

Each of the eight storytellers showcased has overcome profound physical and mental obstacles to enjoy a productive and independent life. The themes in this book are universal: the struggle to overcome a lifetime of negative labelling and find meaning in one's existence.

reading 9



9.10 I Rescue Animals

I help at the SPCA.

I like different animals in the shelter.

I wish I could take them home.

I also learn from the animals.

We learn from each other.

I wish I could find homes for them.

Tony Loureiro
Invergarry Learning Centre (Surrey, BC)



Quoted from:

Our School Stories. Surrey, BC: In-House Publishers. The Literacy Program. Invergarry Learning Centre, June 1994, p. 5-6.

What Do We Like? Stories by New Learners. Surrey, BC: In-House Publishers. The Literacy Program. Invergarry Learning Centre, May 1998, p. 12.

reading 10



9.11 Christmas Holidays

I went home for Christmas. We had company. We had my Grandma, Aunty Joanne and Uncle Bobby.

I got a new T-shirt, pants, CD's, aftershave, deodorant, night tables and a picture.

We had supper at my Grandma's. We had turkey, potatoes, salad, dip and candies.

We have six new calves. There are more coming.

I had fun on my holidays.

Allen Gilbertson
Futuristic Industries (Humboldt, SK)



reading II



9.12 A Special Birthday Party

Mom and Donald had birthdays on the same day. We celebrated their birthdays on March 18, 1995. There were 129 people at their party. My Mom celebrated her 80th birthday. Donald celebrated his 46th birthday. I was sitting at the table with the guest book.

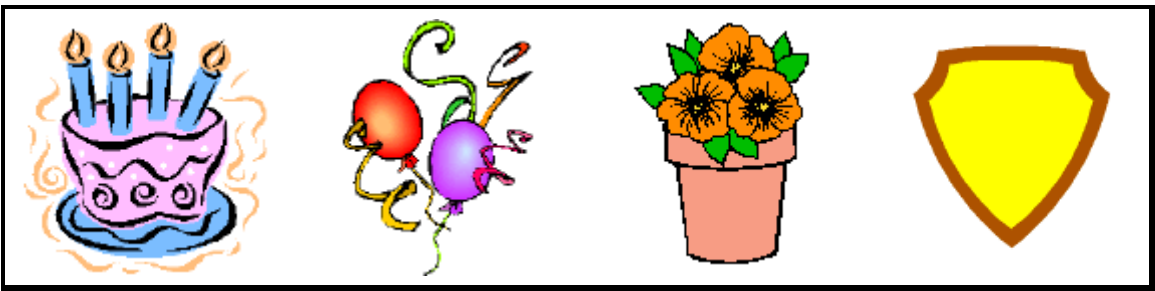
I bought pansies, a plaque and an ice cream birthday cake for Mom. Marilyn bought a candle for Mom. Mom got 86 birthday cards.

Mom and Donald passed away.

Happy 80th birthday Mom!

Happy 46th birthday Donald!

Adaline Menz
Futuristic Industries (Humboldt, SK)



reading 12



9.13 Donnie

Donnie was a sweet baby. He had brown eyes. Donnie saved Clarence's life 2 times. Once it was on a stone boat and then again when we were hauling water on a cart.

On the farm he picked stones, carried drinking water for the house and he liked to feed the pigs slop.

Donnie was at the shop in Humboldt for awhile. He really likes Mary Ann Pelly.

Donnie was in Elwood Lodge for 21 years. He liked the staff there. Marie always wheeled Donnie outside in his wheelchair in the summer. He had lots of friends there, too.

Donnie always came home for two weeks. He had 2 girlfriends.

Donnie is my brother. I love him. He passed away December 13.

Martha Menz
Futuristic Industries (Humboldt, SK)



reading 13



9.14 A Special Parade

Friday I went to the Uniplex. I was in a parade. It was opening ceremonies for the Quill Plains Winter Games. Everyone who got a medal got to go in the parade.

I got a gold medal in bowling. I am proud of my medal. We got our pictures taken for the paper.

Elaine Gabriel
Futuristic Industries (Humboldt, SK)



Reading 14



9.15 Donald's Morning

Donald gets up at 7:00. He washes his hands and his face. He shaves with his razor.

Then Donald makes his bed. Donald makes coffee and lets his cat Tiger out. Donald makes toast. On Sunday Donald makes bacon.

Donald brushes his hair and his teeth.

Donald Briggs
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)



reading 15



9.16 Donald...

Donald Briggs lives in Shaunavon. Donald lives in a house.

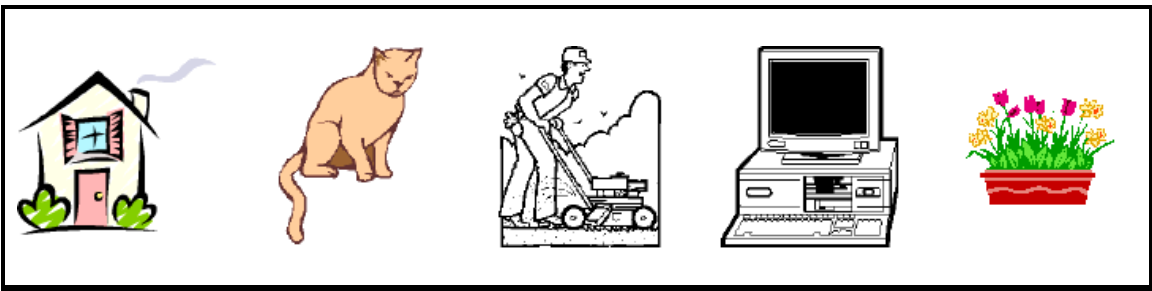
Donald has a cat. Donald's cat is named Tiger.
Donald likes his cat.

Donald works at the Ability Centre. Donald works in the workshop. Donald cuts grass and blows snow.
Donald is a hard worker.

Donald uses the computer. Donald uses it on Mondays.

Donald likes to work in his yard. Donald planted two spruce trees. Donald made a flowerbed. Donald likes flowers.

Donald Briggs
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)



reading 16



9.17 My Cat Tiger

Tiger is a female cat. She lives with me (Donald).
Tiger is brown with long hair.

Every year Tiger gets big fur balls. She has a winter coat that gets knots in them. She doesn't like to get the knots out. She fights with me when I try to pull those knots off. I have to put gloves on so she doesn't scratch me. Someday soon I will have to take her to the vets to get her claws trimmed and get the sharpness off.

I like Tiger but miss my other cat Mitten. He was white and got run over. The big oil trucks parked by my house and one of them ran over him. I had Mitten when he was a tiny kitten.

Someday I will have to get a collar for Tiger so I can put the tags on her.

Tiger is my friend and I would miss her if she was gone.

Donald Briggs
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)

reading 17



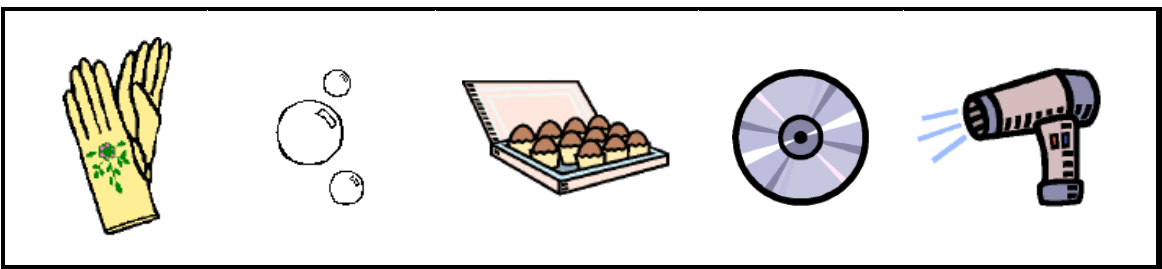
9.18 Donna's Christmas 2000

I went home for Christmas to Maple Creek. Most of my family was there. Gail, Dave and the kids were there. They had Christmas supper. Dave's Mom and Dad had Christmas Eve.

Santa brought the presents. I got gloves and I got stuff from my Auntie Peggie (stuff for the bathtub – it smells like coconut) and a box of chocolates from Dave's Mom and Dad. I think you call them Turtles. For my disc player from Mom and Dad I got some discs. And that's about all that I can remember.

Oh! I got a blower for my hair. I needed a blower but left the curler part at home. And that's about all I can remember.

Donna
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)



Reading 18



9.19 Mothers

I have a Mom. Her name is Brenda. She is a really nice lady. She is there when I'm down and she is there when I have problems, too. I've been taught by her for 12 years now. And she is a cool teacher. She has short, brown hair and green eyes. We go to church on Sundays together. She is very confident. Sometimes she is worried about me, too. My Mom taught me a lot of things. I love my Mom a lot.

Katy Thaxter
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)



reading 19



9.20 Justin

I have a boy named Justin. He is four years old. He has short, straight blondish hair and blue eyes. He has no glasses. He is always a happy little boy.

He is my little helper. He helps me with putting clothes away and he helps me put dirty dishes in the sink and put his Pull-Up in the garbage can.

Tracy
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)

reading 20

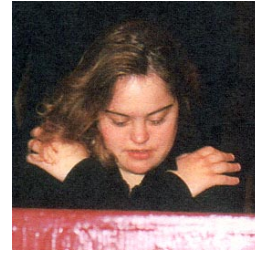


9.21 About Me

My name is John McCaw. I was born on April 26, 1968 in the town of Wolseley. I have 4 sisters and 1 brother. We moved to Moosomin from Wolseley. I like going to the farm and helping my brother because I like the outdoors. I work at SARCAN where I count containers and run the till. Some of my hobbies are drawing and working on small motors.

John McCaw
Pipestone Kin-Ability Centre (Moosomin, SK)

reading 21



9.22 Open Doors

Reading has changed my life.

It's like a key to open a mind to new ideas and new adventures.

Books have opened up so many doors for me.

They're amazing!

There are so many different kinds to read.

When I open a book, I start to dream about adventures and of love stories and far-away places.

Reading also helps me keep in touch by e-mailing friends who have moved far away.

When I read my journal and have e-messages, I keep special memories alive.

Reading is a special gift.

I am so grateful that I can read.

Lisa Mitchell
Manitoba Learner



reading 22



9.23 In John's Own Words...

I want to learn to read so I can learn about my country, the weather and Winnipeg. I like going to the library to meet other people and not be shy. I would like to work in the Co-op store again now that I can read better. Stocking shelves would be easier. I like math. I learn a lot – reading, writing, and typing on the computer. I really like using the computer.

John
Manitoba Learner



Quoted from:

A New Understanding of Literacy. INSIGHT. Winnipeg, MB: Videon Cable 11, May 3, 1998 (Air date).

Multiworks Corporation is located in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan and provides support to individuals who are cognitively and physically delayed.

Debbie has been a Program Participant at Multiworks since 1995 and attends a Day Program including literacy, mathematics, and life skills daily. Debbie is a 27 year old woman who expresses her feelings through written form.

Recently, Debbie has displayed talent in writing poetry and, with the encouragement of Staff, Debbie has written several poems that portray important aspects of her life.

reading 23

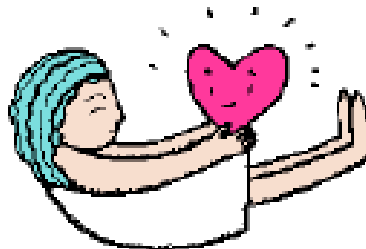


9.24 I Love Myself

I love myself.
That's okay.
That IS okay.
That IS good.
Never stop!



Debbie
Multiworks Corporation (Meadow Lake, SK)



reading 24



9.25 My Sister Will Sing

My sister will sing
And that's good.
Sometimes is that word
That you have good times, too?



Debbie
Multiworks Corporation (Meadow Lake, SK)

reading 25



9.26 My God

My God,
Connie, Ben, Gloria, Rodney are gone to Heaven.
Can you have time for everyone in Ourselves?
Look that's good.
Those were good times but never still time.
Some are still understanding me!

Debbie
Multiworks Corporation (Meadow Lake, SK)

Reading 26



9.27 Love Is

I love you
When you love someone
It has to be like parties
Love is the greatest thing
In the world and I
Love you
My greatest Friend
The little kid sitting with me
I love my boss
And Gloria
The greatest girl ever
Love is the most loving word
Maybe marriage is love
But of course
I love God.

Debbie
Multiworks Corporation (Meadow Lake, SK)



reading 27



9.28 One Day I Went Fishing...

One day I went fishing and caught a tree. My Dad got it out and I didn't go fishing ever again. My brothers went fishing. They did better than me. My Dad did filet the fish for supper. It was good to eat. We love fish. We went to Kenosee Lake to do fishing and camping there.

Brenda Galbraith
Kipling Industries (Kipling, SK)



reading 28



9.29 One Cool Fall Day

I raked a huge pile of leaves.
The wind will blow the leaves.
I will have to rake the leaves again.

Jodi Doka
Kipling Industries (Kipling, SK)



reading 29



9.30 SARCAN

I love to take my cans and bottles to SARCAN.

I remove tops from the bottles.

I squish my pop cans.

SARCAN is a fun place.

I can work and have spending money.

I enjoy my time at SARCAN.

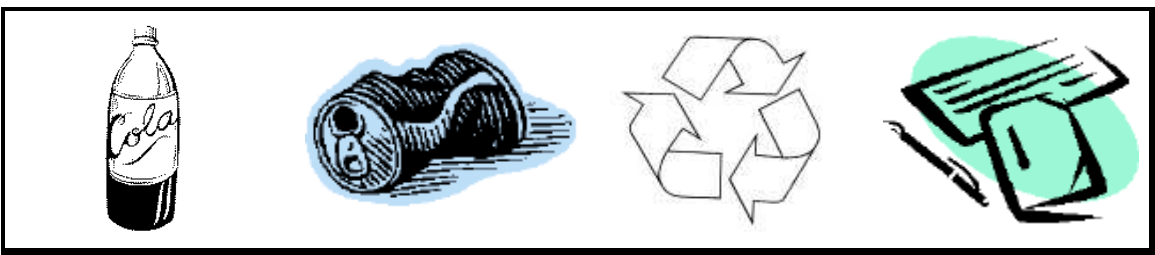
Sometimes my pay is a cheque.

I sign a paper for my money.

I go to the bank.

I go shopping.

**Carmen Campeau
Hudson Bay, SK**



reading 30



9.31 Summer Plans

I have a job coming to me. It's at the Plank `n Hammer before you get to Berwick. They want me to work with wood. That's what the Plank `n Hammer is all about. It's about wood. It's like the Flower Cart. It's a work site.

I might be moving to the Kentville Group Home. I'll be glad to move. I'll be learning to cook more, how to keep my room clean, learning how to live alone without parents, and making more friends.

I might also be taking a reading course this Fall in Wolfville. It's going to teach me more reading skills.



Dawn Kerr
Partners in Employment Outreach
Adult Literacy Program (Kentville, NS)



Quoted from:

Debbie Baker. *A Plain Language Guide in Reading, Writing and Math*. Kentville, NS: Partners in Employment Outreach (Spring 1998), pp. 3.29.

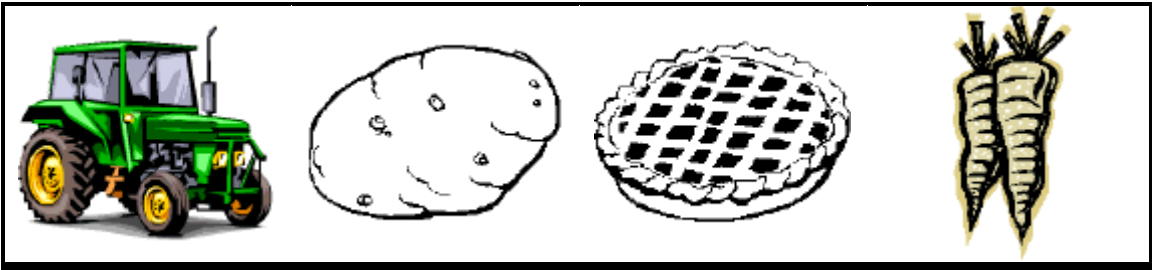
reading 31



9.32 Our Farm

When I was a kid I drove a little tractor. I was hauling hay for the cow. I planted potatoes, too. You use your own hands to put the potato hole in the soil. We grew cabbage, carrots and round turnips. Sometimes we picked up rhubarb and made rhubarb pie. It was sour, not enough sugar. My dad had diabetes so he couldn't have sugar, but diet sugar was okay. We put our potatoes, turnips and parsnips in the root cellar.

Norman
CHALLENGES Literacy Project
 PROSPECTS Literacy Association (Edmonton, AB)



Quoted from:

Maureen Sanders. *Meeting Challenges: A Literacy Project for Adults with Developmental Disabilities*. Edmonton, AB: PROSPECTS Adult Literacy Association, 1991, p. 20.

reading 32



9.33 Someday

Someday
I'm moving
downtown

Someday
I'm going to be
the best bowling player

Someday
I'm going to go on
a trip

Someday
I'm going to be a
singer and actress

Someday
I'm going to
Hollywood

But right now....
It's coffee time

Louise
CHALLENGES Literacy Project
PROSPECTS Literacy Association (Edmonton, AB)



Quoted from:

Maureen Sanders. *Meeting Challenges: A Literacy Project for Adults with Developmental Disabilities*. Edmonton, AB: PROSPECTS Adult Literacy Association, 1991, p. 25.

reading 33



9.34 Dreams

I dream of going to Hawaii, of going anywhere.

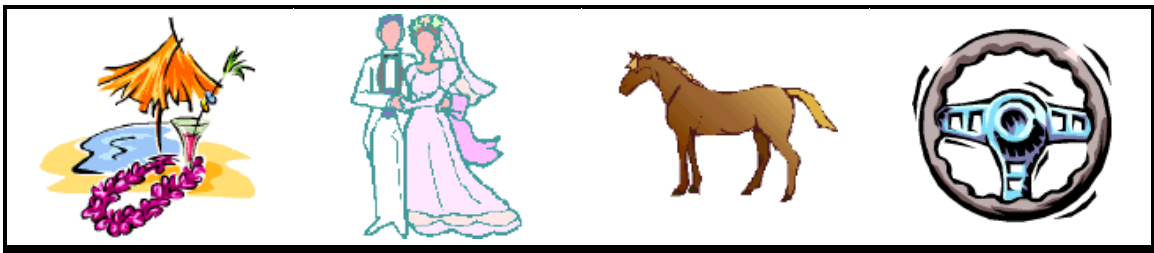
I dream of travelling and getting married.

I dream of riding in Mark's truck, of swimming and going horseback riding.

I dream of running, of driving a car.

These things are funny, scary, happy, and enjoyable.

Leslie Lord
CVI Literacy Project
Clover Valley Industries (Cloverdale, BC)



Quoted from:

Teamwork: A Newsletter By and For CVI Literacy Students, Family, Staff, and Friends.
Volume 1, Number 1 (Fall, 1999), p. 3

reading 34



9.35 Lorelei's Thanksgiving

I live with Margaret and Shirley. Margaret and Shirley went home for Thanksgiving. Margaret's mother came to pick her up.

I had a haircut. Stella drove me to the hair salon.

I had chicken and vegetables for dinner, and pumpkin pie for dessert, with my caregiver.

Lorelei Davies
CVI Literacy Project
Clover Valley Industries (Cloverdale, BC)



Quoted from:

Teamwork: A Newsletter By and For CVI Literacy Students, Family, Staff, and Friends.
Volume 1, Number 1 (Fall, 1999), p. 3

reading 35



9.36 My Niece's Wedding

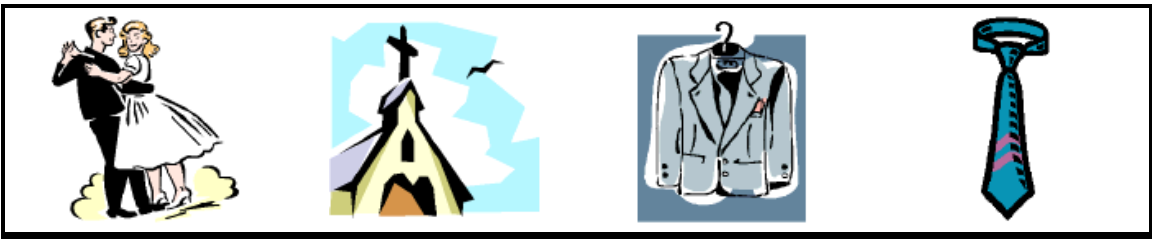
My niece Milda is getting married. I met her future husband. He's a nice guy.

They are getting married in Vancouver in two churches. One is a small church for the ceremony and one is for supper in the big church. We went down with my brother Larry to have a look.

I'm going to wear grey pants and a grey sports jacket and a white shirt and a black tie.

I'm going to take _____.

Doug Mills
CVI Literacy Project
Clover Valley Industries (Cloverdale, BC)



Quoted from:

Teamwork: A Newsletter By and For CVI Literacy Students, Family, Staff, and Friends.
Volume 1, Number 1 (Fall, 1999), p. 3

9.37 Writing Samples

Writing Sample 1

Word List

MAN BOOTE ✓
 MISSISSAUGA
 RENNISBLETTMAN
 BOX 719.
 ROSTER
 SUSANNE
 5063 RO
 STAGE. DOOR 1708
 232 4647
 ST. BEET H 18450000
 D U CLARK S W S E .
 VISA CARD
 ROYAL MONTREAL
 CREDIT CARD
 VISA CARD
 ROSTER MONTREAL
 CREDIT CARD
 MASTER CREDIT CARD
 ORANGE LICENCES
 CARD TICKET
 MEMBER CARD
 VISA CARD
 VISA CARD
 123456789101112
 13141516171819202122
 2324252627282930

Jennifer Leymann
 Valley Action Industries (Rosthern, SK)

Writing Sample 2

Maggie's Christmas 2000

MAGGIE'S Christmas / 2000.

I went to Calgary on the bus, and my brother took me to Field for Christmas out at HERMAN'S Acreage and we found out about Mom's death, I got some sweaters, and I got a winter coat, and a purse. Tom, Herman and I went to a friend's house. We play a game called Please Pass the parcel. And we had a breakfast in the afternoon. We sang some songs then went home.

MAGGIE
REA

Maggie Rea
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)

Writing Sample 3

Diane's Christmas 2000

2000

My family went to church on
Christmas Eve. Got
Communion and wine.
Got new jacket it is a
root jacket, a new
watch and new necklace
said Diane my sister
Joanne and Carolyn +
the kid name is Chesty
+ Ryan Tler + Joanne
kid name is Nolan +
Quinton + Mark are
down for Christmas +
my brother are down

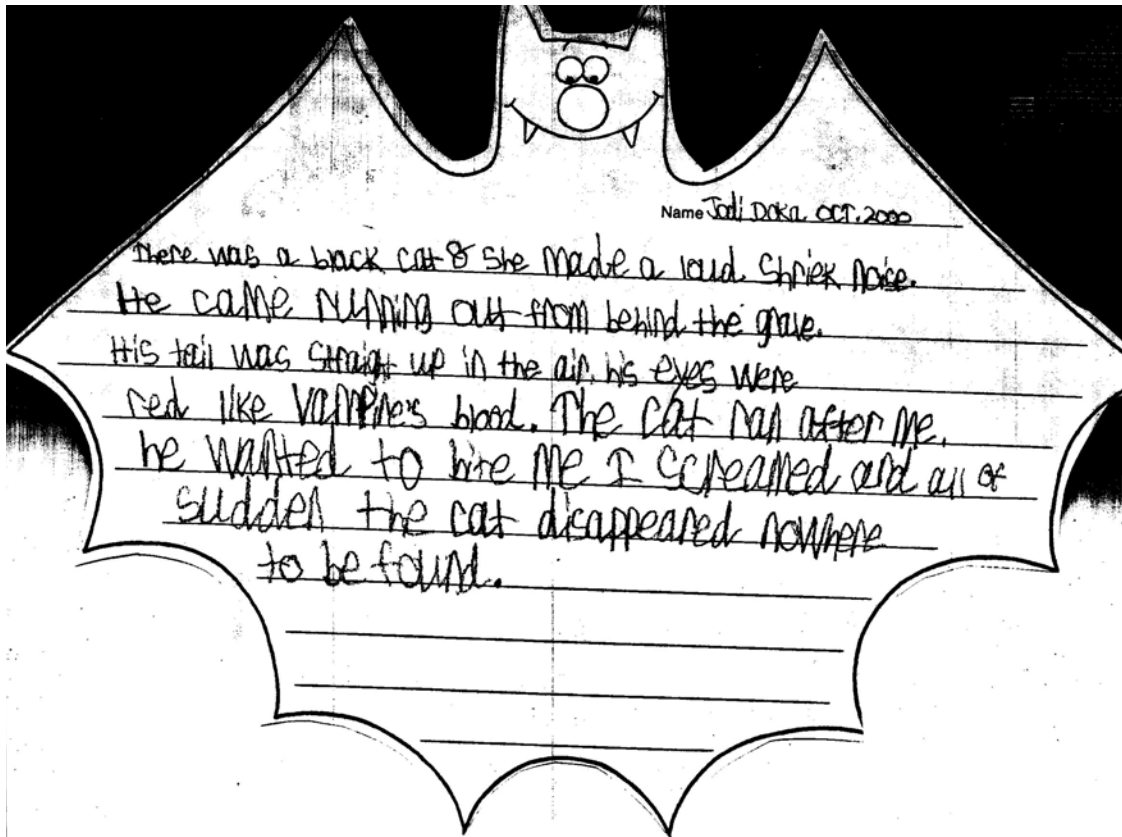
Name Larry & Dean &
Wayne are down for
Christmas & Larry's kid
are down Dean is down &
ON New Year Diane watch
TV Count down New
year went to bed at 12 o
at night next morning we
are having turkey for
Dinner & we are
opening presents together.

Diane
Cypress Hills Ability Centre (Shaunavon, SK)



Writing Sample 4

Black Cat!



Jodi Doka
Kipling Industries (Kipling, SK)

