

# The Student Special

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

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Fall 2009

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## Proverbs

By Lynn O'Connell

Skill Book 3 and *Changes*, page 11

New words: **proverb** **taught**

A proverb is a short sentence. It teaches something to the reader. Here are five proverbs in English:

*"The best things in life are free."*

This proverb tells us that we don't have to pay for the best things in life like love, peace, and friends.

*"A stitch in time saves nine."*

Do it right away, and you will need one stitch. Do it later, and you will need nine stitches.

*"He who teaches everything teaches badly."*

The teacher who teaches everything does not teach well. A better teacher lets a person learn some things on one's own.

*"You can't take it with you when you die."*

When we die, we let go of everything. We don't take things with us. You can't take your money with you.

*"Better not taught than taught badly."*

It is better not to be taught than to be taught badly. It is better not to learn something than to learn it badly.

# Ann Has Three Apples

By Linda Del Bene

Skill Book 1, Lesson 12

New word: **now**

Ann has three apples.

Ann puts the apples in a dish.

She has two eggs.

She puts the eggs in a cup.

She has one fish.

She puts the fish in the pan.

Ann has three apples, two eggs, and a fish.

Ann gives one apple to Jill.

Now Jill has an apple.

Ann gives one egg to Ed.

Now Ed has an egg.

Ann gives the fish to Fran.

Now Fran has a fish.

And now Ann has two apples, one egg, and no fish.

## A New Look

By Joan Lange Keller

Sara was in second grade. Mrs. Cooper was her teacher.

One day in October, Mrs. Cooper called Mrs. Long, Sara's mother. She called to tell Mrs. Long that Sara was having trouble seeing the different charts hanging in the classroom. She also was having trouble seeing the work written on the board. If Mrs. Cooper asked Sara to read a question or answer a question from the board, Sara said she didn't know it. Mrs. Cooper asked Sara to come up to the board. Sara was then able to read everything on the board. As long as she was close, she had no trouble seeing. Mrs. Cooper said she then realized that Sara couldn't see from where she sat.

Mrs. Cooper asked the school nurse to test Sara's eyes. The nurse agreed. Sara couldn't see from a distance.

Mrs. Cooper suggested that Mrs. Long take Sara to an eye doctor.

See **A New Look**, page 4

# My Story, Part 1

By Gloria Castillo Cruz  
Student

I was born in El Salvador, San Pedro Masahuath City. I have four sisters and two brothers.

I had a happy childhood, even though my parents didn't have a lot of money. They tried to give to all of their daughters and sons more than they had.

We lived in a city. My mother was busy all the time. She cleaned, cooked, and washed clothes. She was always tired.

My brothers and sisters went to school and came home to help my mother. We went to street markets to buy groceries and took food to our father and helped him in the field.

My father had a small farm outside of the town. On the farm he grew fruits like mangoes, avocados, cantaloupes, watermelon, bananas, oranges, lemons; and some vegetables like beans, corn, and squash. My father started work at five a.m. and finished at seven p.m. Monday to Sunday. I enjoyed those days in the field because everything was easy.

In these days of my childhood I had many neighbors who were my friends. Every day we would walk to school together. In the evening we would play baseball, using a stick and a plastic ball.

## The Student Special

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Editor: Ron Wise

You are invited to write pieces for *The Student Special*. Send them to the Editor, Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA 22042.

## We Need Your Help

*The Student Special* is for the students of the Literacy Council. It would like to have more stories written by students. The stories do not have to be long. They can be about things that really happened or about things you make up. Your name will not be printed if you don't want it to be.

So try writing something for *The Student Special*. Send it to the Editor, in care of the Literacy Council office. Happy writing!

## My Story, Part 2

By Gloria Castillo Cruz  
Student

When I was thirty years old I made a very difficult decision to come to this country and to leave my daughter Katherine with my sister and my mother.

I knew that it wouldn't be long before Katherine came to the United States. My daughter stayed in El Salvador for only three months because she had a visa to come to this country.

I will never forget the Wednesday when I said goodbye to my daughter, sister, parents, and friends. Then I left my beautiful house.

I thought that in this country everything was going to be easy because I was living with my brother and he took care of me. He rented a bedroom in an apartment, and we had to share the kitchen and bathroom with seven other people.

At first I got two jobs because I wanted to save my money so that I could rent an apartment with my brother.

The first three months were and still are the most difficult in my life because I missed my daughter, Kathy, so much and I had to work at two fast-food restaurants for fourteen hours a day. Every night I wished to go back to my country.

After three months Kathy came to this country with my sister Ana; but she was only four years old, so she couldn't go to school, and I didn't know who could stay with her while I worked. She stayed with me for one month, and I decided that Kathy needed to go back to El Salvador. In one year she came to visit and left every three months. She came to stay when she was five years old.

During the eight years I've been here, I never thought about helping myself. I'm always trying to help my daughter and my other family in El Salvador. But now I have a tutor who is always there telling me to try new things.

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### **A New Look**, *from page 2*

Sara now comes to school wearing an attractive pair of glasses. Her friends like her new look. They would love to wear glasses like her. Sara can now see everything in class from wherever she sits.

If your child is having trouble in school, it could be that she can't see well. An eye doctor could help to find out if she needs glasses.