



# The Parrot

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multicultural, international students, new Californians, and, well, anybody really...

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## A Picture of Prof. Patricia Wood

**The Parrot:** If you would, tell us a little bit about yourself.

**Prof. Wood:** I was born Sacramento, CA and have lived here most of my life. My first college experience was at Sacramento City College. When I first went to City College I really had no idea that I would continue on with my studies. I met some very helpful Professors who encouraged me to continue



Art in 1997 from the University of Arizona.

on with my studies. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college with a BA. I graduated from UC Davis in 1994 and then went on to receive my MFA in Studio

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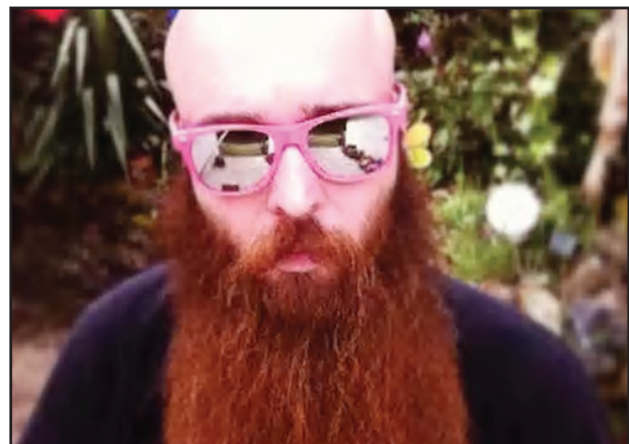


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## Trip to World Beard Competition Ends in Arrest for Alleged Dark Web Drug Dealer

United States authorities arrested a suspected dark web drug dealer as he traveled into the country from his home in France to attend the World Beard and Moustache Championships.



Gal Valerius, a French 38-year-old with a magnificent red beard, is accused of being a drug kingpin on

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## Student Chirpings

### How I Got Interested in Making Desserts

Do you like dessert? I can't imagine my life without it. Did you know that the custom of eating sweets after main dishes spread widely in Europe only in the 19th century, when sugar production increased? Until then, the privilege of enjoying desserts was available only to rich people. The tradition of eating sweets has survived to our time (Wikipedia). I love this tradition because I like to eat, cook, and share desserts.

I have always been a sweets lover, but in my childhood, there were not that many desserts I could eat. Those were Soviet Union times when there was a shortage of everything. Sweets were not excluded.

The main desserts I ate were candies and corn sticks in sugar glaze. Therefore, when my friend said that I could cook dessert with her, I was excited. We were 12 and 13 years old. We cooked bagels from yeast dough with cherries. It was a difficult recipe, but the result was amazing. Our parents were proud of us and we were satisfied. After that, I decided to write a book of dessert recipes. There was no Internet, so I started to collect clippings from magazines and newspapers. First, I tried to cook desserts and, after that, if they were good and delicious, I wrote them in my book. I still use some of those recipes to this day.

Making desserts is kind of an art for me because it's a process of creating something beautiful in taste and appearance. Desserts are not only cakes, cookies and waffles, but also jelly, ice cream, drinks, and fruits. The main idea in creating a culinary masterpiece is the use of different cooking techniques. I bake, freeze, and whip, yet some of

them I do not cook at all. Nonetheless, I try to give a beautiful shape to my dessert to match in size and color; after I decorate it. This is one of the most essential and exciting steps in the preparation of a dessert. I love this step because at that moment I feel like a creator or an artist.

Dessert is a pleasure to share or give as a gift. Every time that I visit my friends or relatives, I bring some

desserts with me. For a party, in most cases, it's jelly or some cookies. For celebrating a birthday, it's always a cake. A home-made cake is better than cake you buy in a store. The cake could be baked at home with organic ingredients and you may do it as sweet as you want, put as many fresh fruits, coconut, and nuts as you like. Also, homemade cook-

ies in a proper box makes them look like a real gift. The best gift is a gift made with your own hands. My relatives like my desserts and ask me to cook for different events. Their favorite cake is biscuits with berries. I am going to make one for my mother-in-law's birthday this weekend. It is going to be my gift to her.

Today making desserts is my hobby. I enjoy the process itself and have fun all the time. Also, it gives me an unforgettable experience and satisfaction. There is nothing complicated; only skills and attentiveness are needed. In addition, it's a useful hobby because I can bring joy to the people I love. Therefore, if you like to eat sweets and you find this hobby useful and interesting for yourself, then do not be afraid to try. Create a calm atmosphere and take your time. You will like it, too.

*Inna Biliak*  
*ESL R310*

(Expository essay)



## How Military School Changed my Life

When I was twelve years old, my grandfather enrolled me in a military school. My grandfather was a retired captain. He wanted me to be a military man. I did not want a military career, but military school changed my life.

I studied there for five years. Life in the military school was hard and disciplined. I got up at 5:00 a.m. when the bell rang. At 6:00 a.m., all students took a shower. At 6:30 a.m., my classmates and I ate breakfast. At 7:00, we went to the classroom. At 12 noon, the teachers and students ate lunch. After all had relaxed in the night, all studied until 10:00 p.m. After studying, we all went to bed.

While I was living in the military school, I enrolled at the university. I wanted to study to be a lawyer or teacher of children. I studied for five years at the San Luis Gonzaga National University in Ica, Peru. I graduated as a teacher.



I began to work in the Amazon of my country, near Brazil, in the forest of Peru. The town didn't have electric lights or roads. The people used the river and boats for communication. The people worked in agriculture and hunted wild animals for meat to prepare their food.

Many teachers didn't work in the forest. The life was hard. I lived for thirty years with the Amazon Indians. I ate the meat of monkeys and many fish. I drank water from the rivers. I had many good friends. When I returned to my city, I got a visit from them.

Life in the military school prepared me for civilian life. The discipline was like civilian life in my work and the education of my students. I was happy to study in a military school. The discipline was not physical or psychological abuse, but being aware of our duty and right to be citizens useful to our country.

*Guillermo Valenzuela*  
*ESL W50*  
*(Narrative essay)*

## Computer Benefits

Information technology is a very important part of the modern world. This technology gives us a chance to do things and perform operations which were perceived as something impossible or something magic a hundred years ago. However, in the middle of the twentieth century, the Computer Revolution happened, and now we can't imagine ourselves without our gadgets: computers, cell-phones, music players, etc. All the knowledge of human history can be stored on my personal computer. It is incredible and a little scary. We have access to the biggest content of information, and

what are we doing with this information? Yes, right, we are reading our horoscope and saving pictures of kittens. However, I really want to believe that there are other benefits to using a computer. In fact, in my opinion, there are three good effects of the computer on the life of my family: an educational effect, an entertainment effect, and a communication effect.

The first and the most important effect that a computer has on my family is an educational effect. All of us can improve our educational level



thanks to the computer. I felt it when I started to learn English. The YouTube podcasts with native speakers and English textbooks and grammar books were available to my family before we came here, to the US, from Ukraine. It helped us to adapt easier and faster. Another example of how computers are useful is the educational content for children. My son is able to learn everything in playing form. He watches educational cartoons and learns songs, the alphabet, and even math for children.

That is why my four-year-old son knows English better than me. However, adults can find something for self-education on the computer too. My husband has taken many engineering online courses to improve his professional skills. It is cheaper and faster than taking those classes in regular form. Besides that, clearly, the computer helps me a lot in my college life. I can type essays, receive e-mails from my teachers and classmates, and find some learning materials online.

The second useful effect of the computer on my family is in entertainment. We can play computer games, watch movies, listen to music, and do many other interesting things on the computer. Such entertainment is an essential part of the modern lifestyle. Obviously, these things shouldn't replace a real thing such as walking or meeting friends, but nowadays we can't imagine our entertainment without computers. For example, I like to listen to music on my computer. My husband likes to kill hundreds of monsters in computer games. My son likes to watch cartoons, which gives par-

ents a few minutes of free time. Surely, time which we spend on the computer should be limited, especially if we talk about children, but computer entertainment makes our lives more fun and more convenient, and saves us money.

The last but not least important effect of the computer on our family life is the effect it has on our communication skills. Thanks to computers, our ability to communicate became incredible! You probably can't imagine how hard it was to be an immigrant when we didn't have computer programs such as Skype. One call to a foreign country cost a lot. My parents could call me from Ukraine just once a week. Then, when they bought a computer with an Internet connection, the situation changed completely. Now, we can speak with our relatives and friends in Ukraine every day. There is also an important effect of the computer on our work communication. For example, my husband can e-mail his co-workers from home, so he can

solve some work problems faster. In that case, he has more free time to spend with our son and me.

Summing up, it is clear that the computer has had a big influence on our entire life, and there are three positive effects of the computer on the life of my family: an educational effect, an entertainment effect, and a communication effect. I think new technologies make our lives easier, so we don't need to be afraid of them. We need to understand what benefits we can have and how to use them properly.

*Viktoria Gunenko*  
*ESL W50*  
*( Cause /Effect essay)*



## Should Everything be Paid For?

Home is the most comfortable place for every members of the family. There we feel protected and loved. This is the place where every member of the family must do some kind of household chores, such as washing clothes, cooking food, cleaning the house, throwing out garbage, and so on. Everyone should have his or her own responsibilities independently as an adult or as a child. Of course, parents should decide whether their children will be doing household chores for money or not. I firmly disagree with the idea that parents should pay children for doing household chores.

The first reason why parents should not pay children for doing household chores is unpaid work promotes responsibility. Parents have to create a sense of responsibility in their children. This quality is important for every child to grow up to be socially-adapted persons and be able to work as part of a team. I'm sure that a child should understand that not everything is measured by money. The family's success results from the contribution of all family members. Obviously, if the children are still unable to do the same work as the adults, they should have their small responsibilities. I'm grateful to my parents that they didn't pay me for doing household chores. I knew that there were household chores that we divided in the family and we did not pay anyone for them: we cooked, we cleaned, and we took out the garbage. No one paid my mother for dinner, my sister for cleaning, or my brother for throwing away the garbage or making repairs. The same thing happened to me; no one paid me for washing dishes or for cleaning my room. I knew very well my house-

hold duties and I responsibly performed them. Of course, when I did my job well, my parents praised me and gave me nice gifts. I believe that a sense of responsibility is one of the best motivations for a child to perform household chores.

The second reason why parents should not pay children for doing household chores is diligence. I'm sure that diligence is an important quality for a successful person. I believe that parents



have to teach their children to love to work and not just to expect to get paid for it. If parents motivate children with money, then study and work will not become something important for them but only an opportunity for earning money. Money makes people happy

only temporarily, but valued work makes people happy regardless of their salary. My mother didn't punish me for not doing household chores but she asked me to help her. I was happy to help her. She taught me not to be afraid of any work, and that any work is worthy of respect. When I was a fourteen-year-old girl, I got a job at the market and worked all summer vacations. I was happy to bring money to my family and not to take money from them. I did this every year and was proud that I could buy all my schools supplies myself. My mother taught me that at home we helped each other and outside the house we earned money for ourselves and the family.

The third reason why parents should not pay children for doing household chores is kind-



ness. Obviously, children who do household chores because they love to work for their family and not because they want to make money grow up kind and loving people. I repeat once again that for parents to practice paying children for doing household chores is not the correct way to raise a child. I will explain that when parents help the children, parents do not expect money from them. At the same time, when parents ask for help from them, will children expect that parents will pay them? What if their parents get sick tomorrow? Should they pay their children for care? Of course, not! Family is when there is always an atmosphere of mutual assistance and support of each other. I knew one old woman who had three children but died alone and poor. I remember that all her neighbors in our neighborhood took care of her but her children didn't. She always complained to us that when

she had money, her children needed her. However, when she became sick and poor, her children forgot about her. It was a sad story but unfortunately true.

In conclusion, parents have to choose how to raise their children. However, they should remember that what kind of person their child becomes depends on their upbringing. Will he be a responsible, hardworking, and kind person? Time will tell. I believe that paying children for doing household chores is not the best idea because our home is not a hotel where every job is paid. It is better to encourage children to work outside the home, but this is a completely different topic.

*Anaida Aleksanyan*  
*ESL W50*  
*(Persuasive essay)*

## Ghosts

Hello, this is Kay Lor. I'm from Thailand. Today I going to tell you guys about my story. Back in Thailand, it was depressing. Because of little rain, people don't have water to use. Sometimes in a week or two, there is only a small chance of rain. Another scary thing is ghosts. In Thailand, ghosts are real. The worst part about ghosts is death. Secondly, the important thing is to stay home when it is dark. It is so scary that sometimes you can hear crazy sounds out of nowhere. To be safe, you have to stay close to a friend when you go out in the dark. It's important because when it is night time, you don't know who is out there that can harm you or take you away. Another thing that can happen to you is spirits follow you home. The next day you will be sick or



be cursed. Until then, you need to find a "shaman" who can remove spirits from you. It is scarier than anyone knows. The more stuff you know about ghosts the scarier it sounds. This is also a reason

why my family and cousin moved here. If you are scared of ghosts, a safe way to be is to stay close to your friends when going outside. When I was just a little boy, the only thing I feared was ghosts. Ghosts can be at anyplace, come out anytime, and pop out in any second to scare you back in Thailand.

*Kay Lor*  
*ESL W50*  
*(Expository essay)*

## Solutions to Immigrant Culture Loss

There are always gaps between generations, between parents and children. What about the immigrants? The gaps are even bigger because children are different, completely different. They are adopting a new culture, language, traditions, and values. We cannot avoid gaps; however, we can make them less visible. There are several solutions to the problem of children forgetting and rejecting their native roots, language, culture, and traditions: for them to speak their native language at home, for parents and children to spend time together, and for parents to try harder to understand their children.

The first solution to the problem of children forgetting or rejecting their roots is for the family to speak the native language. Communication is important for every family. When it's lost, families fall apart. I know many families whose children don't speak their native language at all or only know a few words. I know a girl from my high school who told me about her family. She said that her mom understands English but her dad doesn't. Therefore she communicates with him in Russian. It's really hard for her because she knows only a few words and she can't deeply understand what he says. That girl isn't an exception. Things like that happen across the world, especially if a child is born in the new country or is a late child of her/ his parents. To solve this huge problem, parents need to make sure that they have taught the kids their native language when they were young. When a child refuses to speak in his/ her native language, then parents

have to do something about that. For example, they can make it as a game. Parents can ask their children if they know a word in their native language or tell them about the importance of knowing another language. In addition, it is very important for parents to send their child to, for example, a school where a child can learn how to read and write in the mother language. If the child passes the class, something like going to Disneyland in the summer can be a reward.



The second solution to help shrink gaps between parents and their children is for the family to spend time together. Many parents work all the time and rarely see their children. Those children basically grow up by themselves. When they become adults, they

don't want to give up their time to spend with the parents; moreover, they may decline to speak their native language or follow their traditions. My mom has a friend whose daughter was born here. That daughter is actually interested in Ukrainian culture. She asks her mom about traditions and how they developed. Of course, there are gaps but she is not rejecting her roots. My mom's friend spent a lot of time telling her child how it was back there, the lifestyle, hardships, and, more importantly, she taught her the language and how to read and write. That daughter is 18 right now and she isn't ashamed to say that she is second-generation Ukrainian. Parents need to spend more time with their children; they should try to involve children in their basic work like cooking and cleaning. Parents need to go to the park with kids. Parents need to ask their kids



how their day was, and read them a story before bed. Those simple things will help every parent to be closer to his/ her child.

The third solution to the problem of children rejecting their parents' traditions is for parents to understand their children. What I mean is that children are not the only ones who should give up something. Parents should too. Maybe some compromise will help. Parents should not force their children but with love explain to them why it's important not to forget their native language, culture, and traditions. They should be friends, not enemies. When a family lives in a new country, parents should understand that and not re-create a home and rules from the past. I don't want the new generation to hate their parents and hide everything from them. So, please, parents, be more understandable when it comes to makeup, clothes, and choices of boyfriends and girlfriends choices. Ukrainians love to dress nicely if they go out of the home. Therefore, my mom wouldn't ever let me go in my pajamas to the store or out of the house. My

mom hates also those ripped pants. She says that in them I look like a homeless person who can't afford a pair of jeans. At first I didn't want to agree with her idea, but then I thought that it isn't something difficult to follow. In the end, we ended up with a compromise that I can wear the pants that have one or two rips in them but not the ones where you can see the entire leg. My mom was happy and I was happy too. Compromise is a way out because each side at least can get what they want with, however, some "give- ups".

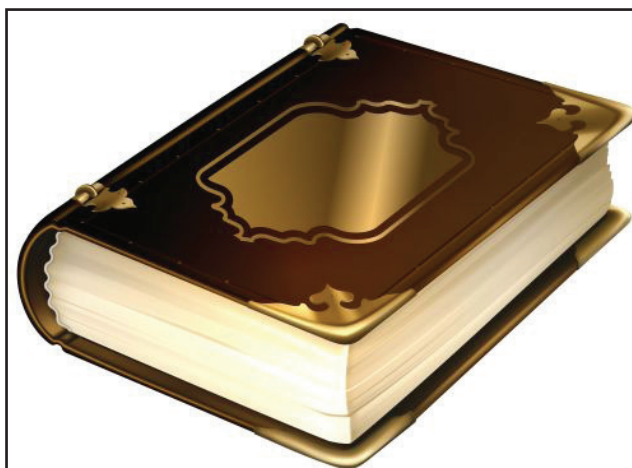
In conclusion, there are several solutions to the problem of children forgetting or rejecting their parents' tradition. One solution is to speak the native language at home. A second is for a family to spend time together and a third is for parents to understand their children. It's a good thing to establish and adapt to a new culture but not to forget your roots are also very important.

*Kateryna Melnyk*  
*ESL W50*  
*(Problem/ Solution essay)*

## The Valuable Manuscript

What is more important than to have something valuable from your ancestors? I am lucky enough to possess an important record. It came by chance into my hands, and I still keep it with me. This important and valuable document is a manuscript revealing the origin of my family.

It all started when I visited my cousin Mahfoud, who lived in my city, Medea, in Algeria. He is an educated man and works in a government office department. He was interested in reading books related to history, especially contemporary ones. My cousin's house was next to a small mosque.



Beside it, there was a room attached to the mosque. My great grandfather Haj Ali Benrekia and later his children were all buried in that room. Haj Ali's grave was in the middle of the room, with the other graves around him. The room had one door and a small window showing the outside court of the mosque. It was painted in a light white color. A clock was fixed on the right side of the wall. Some extracts from the Koran written in Arabic were painted on the

opposite wall. The tomb of Haj Ali was totally covered with a decorated wooden box. It was painted in blue, white, green, and red. A small chandelier



of three bulbs was suspended from the ceiling. The room is constantly closed and has two locks. The keys were kept with my cousin Mahfoud. He used to open the room for visiting relatives.

While my cousin was talking to me about the origin of our ancestors, he tried to count them and mentioned their names. I asked him, "How do you know all those details about them?" He paused for a while and then said to me, "I have the evidence from what our Haj Ali left to us." I asked him, "What did he leave to us?" He went to his wooden cabinet and brought something in his hands. It had the shape of a book hidden in a white piece of cloth. He said to me, "This is what I found in Haj Ali's big wooden box, which was full of books." I removed that box from the room where he was buried. It was a precautionary measure so that the books would not disappear. I was really excited, and as I was to take it from him, he showed it to me, "Don't you know that Haj Ali was a famous educated man and was at that time in charge of the city public library?"

He opened the white cloth. My cousin was a little bit far from me so I could not recognize what was exactly under this cover. He came near to me carefully. I removed the white cover and I saw a book. The outside cover was made of hard cardboard covered with brown leather. I opened the book and I saw a beautiful original illustration on the first page. Different colors and wonderful drawings were on that page. It was so impressive that at first I couldn't leave this page to see the rest



of the book. Then I started looking at each page which was written in light brown ink. The style of the letters was typically "Maghreban". It is generally used in North Africa, especially in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. It was a little bit difficult for me to read. The content was written in the writer's handwriting. However, any reader of the book would see that the Arabic standard was preserved in the text. What was more significant in the book was the writer's adherence to mentioning at the end of the book on the last page his full name, his place of birth, and the date the book was published.

The author of that book was Mohamed Ben Abdulrahman Ben Jilani Benrekia. He was born and brought up in the city of Tlemcen in the western part of Algeria. The book was published and written in 1204

Hijria (Islamic calendar). It has been two hundred thirty three years since it was written. These details made this book extremely valuable and it could be classified as a manuscript. That priceless and wonderful document enabled me to know the roots of my ancestors based on details given in this valuable manuscript.



Mohamed Benrekia  
ESL W50  
( Descriptive essay)



## Nestscape -- Articles from The Web

Continued from page 1



the dark web, acting as an administrator for Dream Market, a marketplace for illegal narcotics including cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines, counterfeit consumer goods and stolen data.

Vallerius was arrested as he landed at Atlanta international airport on 31 August, and during a border search of his laptop confirmed his identity as "OxyMonster", the username for a Dream Market account that was not only listed as an administrator for the site but also listed prescription drugs including OxyContin and Ritalin for sale. Officials also discovered about \$500,000 in bitcoins, the currency used for anonymously trading on the marketplace.

The arrest, first reported by the Miami Herald, was the culmination a multi-agency investigation that started in February 2016. As part of the investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration agents made undercover purchases of crystal meth, LSD and hydrocodone from a range of vendors on Dream Market and trawled the site to identify the usernames associated with the organising team.

"OxyMonster knowingly participated in the Dream Market conspiracy not only as a vendor, but also in a leadership and organizational role as a senior moderator and administrator," court documents state.

Investigators tied the username to Vallerius's real identity through his bitcoin transactions, some of which went to bitcoin wallets associated with his name. They then tracked down his Instagram and Twitter accounts to compare the writing style with that of OxyMonster and discovered "many similarities" including the use of the word "cheers", frequent quotation marks and intermittent French posts, according to court documents filed in Florida.

His trip to the beard contest was Vallerius's first time in the United States. He had registered for the "full beard 30.1-45cm" category, one of 27 at this year's event.

Bryan Nelson, the co-founder of the Austin Facial Hair Club, which hosted this year's championships, described the arrest as "pretty dramatic". This year's event had 738 competitors from 33 countries and, apart from Vallerius, the only contestants who weren't able to attend were people from Nepal and the Middle East who had trouble getting their visas.

Although Nelson had never met Vallerius in person, he immediately recognized him when he learned of the arrest from his involvement in an app called "Beard Wars".

Players of Beard Wars would bet chips on their own beard versus someone else's beard and other people would vote for the best one. The person with the most votes would win the chips.

Nelson and his friend MJ Johnson would consistently rank No 1 and No 2 within the app, until a user called "Barba" came out of nowhere and started amassing loads of chips.

"You could see false accounts were getting created to make bets," said Johnson, one of the winners at this year's World Beard and Moustache Championships.

Within weeks, Barba had more chips than Johnson and Nelson put together.

Nelson and Johnson felt vindicated in the Beard Wars this week when they saw Vallerius's photo in the news. It turns out that "Barba" was actually Gal Vallerius.

"As soon as I saw the story and saw he was a computer guy it all made sense," said Johnson.

Johnson, who also met Vallerius at the 2015 championships in Austria, said that he "always seemed like a fun, carefree person".

Regardless of his alleged crimes, both Nelson and Johnson are impressed by Vallerius's facial hair.

"I don't know anything about what other stuff he did, but as far as his beard goes, it's really awesome, long and bright red," said Johnson.

Vallerius's arrest is the latest episode in a broader crackdown on dark web marketplaces by the US government, which previously infiltrated and shut down AlphaBay and Hansa.

Following the closure of AlphaBay and Hansa, many traders had flocked to Dream Market to continue their operations.

At a court hearing in Atlanta, Vallerius did not contest his identity and detention. He is expected to be transferred to Miami, where the complaint was filed, where he faces another conspiracy indictment that carries up to a life sentence.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/sep/28/world-beard-moustache-competition-drug-dealer> So

## Kazakhstan to Qazaqstan: Why would a country switch its alphabet?



The Kazakh language has long been unsure which alphabet to find a comfortable home in and it's now in for another transition - but this is not without controversy.

Last Friday Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev finally decreed that the language would shed its heavy Cyrillic coat and don what he hopes to be a more fashionable attire: the Latin alphabet.

Is this going to be easy?

No. The Latin alphabet has far fewer letters: There will need to be creative combinations with apostrophes to catch all the sounds needed for the Kazakh

language.

Kazakhstan is in an unusual position: None of the alphabets that exist seem like a perfect fit or have a long enough tradition to be the uncontested host for its language.

Kazakh is a Turk-based language and its history is political: Originally it was written in Arabic. Enter the Soviet Union who in 1929 did away with Arabic and introduced Latin - only to 11 years later shift to the Cyrillic alphabet to have the republic more in line with the rest of the USSR.

The Kazakh version of Cyrillic has 33 Russian letters and nine Kazakh ones, while the Latin script only has 26.

The big changeover is to be official by 2025.

Confused by all this talk about letters and characters? Before you get lost in translation, here are a few spellings of the country's name just to give you an idea:

Russian Cyrillic	Kazakh Cyrillic	current Latin	future Latin?
КАЗАХСТАН	ҚАЗАҚСТАН	Kazakhstan	Qazaqstan



## Why change?

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has given a lengthy explanation: There are many reasons like of modernising Kazakhstan, but also determined by “specific political reasons”.

Political pundits see it as step to weaken the historical ties to Russia: Shedding not only the Russian alphabet, the thinking goes, but also the influence Moscow still likes to exert over its post-Soviet backyard in central Asia.

There are also more immediate practical reasons: The hope is that Latin letters will make it easier



to push for modernisation in a global and digital world.

Of the other four Former Soviet Republics in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan still use Cyrillic while Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are using the Latin alphabet.

## Will it be a smooth transition?

This discussion is not new: The change to the Latin alphabet has been mooted several times since the country’s independence after the end of the Soviet Union, but so far has failed to garner widespread support.

Because: If even the name of the country would change from Kazakhstan to Qazaqstan, just imagine the potential for confusion in people’s daily lives?

Let’s look at the innocent carrot for an example: The Kazakh word for carrot is “сәбіз” and would traditionally be spelled “sabeez” in Latin. In new Latin

alphabet though, it will end up as “sa’biz”.



This, again, is awfully close to the Latin spelling of an extremely rude Russian swear word.

Not all the mix-ups are as delicate as this one: But there’s ample discussion online of people confused and amused by how they now should write their own names and whether the change will work out well not.

While some see it as a right step out of the shadows of the Soviet past and of present Russian influence, others warn it’s a politically motivated move which will disconnect future generations from the country’s written past century.

## So what is next?

By the end of the year there will a finalised official Latin spelling. By next year teacher training is to begin and new textbooks will be developed.

Come 2025, all official paperwork and publications in the Kazakh language will be in the new Latin script. President Nazarbayev indicated though there would be a transition period where Cyrillic might still be used as well.

Given that Russian is the country’s second official language, signs and official documents will though remain bilingual: in the Kazakh with Latin letters and in Russian with the Cyrillic alphabet.

Reporting by Andreas Illmer, Elbek Daniyarov, Azim Rakhimov and BBC Monitoring.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41800186>



# S.O.A.R.D Invites You!



Students of American River College with Disabilities and Allies also known as **S.O.A.R.D.**, is a club whose mission is to give students with disabilities a voice on campus. Having a peer support network gives students with disabilities an outlet in which they can come together and assist one another in finding the resources they need to have a positive college experience. The vision of S.O.A.R.D. is to be inclusive to all students with or without a disability, so that we may get to know each other, build friendships, participate in activities together, and empower and support one another.

We're excited at the prospect of expanding membership in our group. We welcome you to join us in any of our upcoming meetings. We have several guest speakers to be

announced as well as fun parties coming up. You may also visit our Facebook page for more information:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/454857454711257/>**

Here is a list of our upcoming meetings which are held in the Student Center Club Room on

**Tuesdays from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

**February 6: General meeting**

**February 20: Guest speakers: TBA**

**March 6: General meeting**

**March 20: guest speaker: Joslyn Gains / (Spring Party)**

**April 3: general meeting**

**April 17: Guest speaker: TBA**

**May 1: Guest speaker: TBA**



## Eat the World!

*The Parrot represents students of many hues and sounds --- no news there. Indeed, birds of a feather flock together, right? They also eat together. The Parrot is proud to present Parrot fodder from around the world in this and subsequent issues. Squawk!*

### Corned Beef Hash



Total: 45 min

Prep: 15 min

Cook: 30 min

Yield: Serves 4



#### Ingredients

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

8 ounces cooked corned beef, diced

1 white onion, finely chopped

1 bell pepper, finely chopped

2 medium baking potatoes, peeled and shredded (about 2 cups)

4 tablespoons unsalted butter

4 large eggs

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

4 slices cheddar cheese (about 2 ounces)

#### Directions

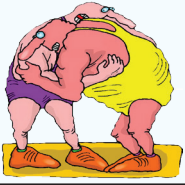
Heat the oil in a medium skillet over high heat. Add the corned beef and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon, until it releases some fat and browns slightly, about 3 minutes. Stir in the onion, bell pepper and potatoes and cook, undisturbed, until brown and crisp on the bottom, about 6 minutes. Continue cooking, turning the hash as it browns evenly, about 15 more minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the butter in a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Fry the eggs sunny-side up or over easy; season with salt and pepper.

Place the cheese slices on top of the hash, reduce the heat and let sit until the cheese melts, about 1 minute. To serve, top each portion of hash with a fried egg.

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/corned-beef-hash-recipe-2103490>

# Parrot Warbling



## Grappling with Grammar

### Grammar Parentheses

**Rule 1.** Use parentheses to enclose information that clarifies or is used as an aside.

Example: He finally answered (after taking five minutes to think) that he did not understand the question.

#### Rule 2.

If material in parentheses ends a sentence, the period goes after the parentheses.

Example: He gave me a nice bonus (\$500).

**Rule 2a.** Periods go inside parentheses only if an entire sentence is inside the parentheses.

Example: Please read the analysis. (You'll be amazed.)

**Rule 2b.** Take care to punctuate correctly when punctuation is required both inside and outside parentheses.

Example: You are late (aren't you?).

Note the question mark within the parentheses. The period after the parentheses is necessary to bring the entire sentence to a close.

**Rule 3.** Parentheses, despite appearances, are not part of the subject.

Example: Joe (and his trusty mutt) was always welcome.

**Rule 4.** Commas are more likely to follow parentheses than precede them.

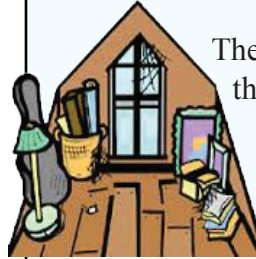
Incorrect: When he got home, (it was already dark outside) he fixed dinner.

Correct: When he got home (it was already dark outside), he fixed dinner.

<https://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/parens.asp>

### Idiom--Attic

## Blood Is Thicker Than Water



The family bond is closer than anything else.

Example: When his sister was going through a difficult period and needed support, he dropped everything and went to stand by her; **blood is thicker than water.**

<http://www idiomsite.com/>

### Beak Speak Syllables

Many words are made of small parts called syllables. Each syllable has one vowel sound.

\***Closed syllable** - can only have one vowel and it is followed by one or more consonants. The vowel sound is always short.

For example: last, napkin

\*Exceptions of this rule are words ending ind, ild, old, olt and ost.



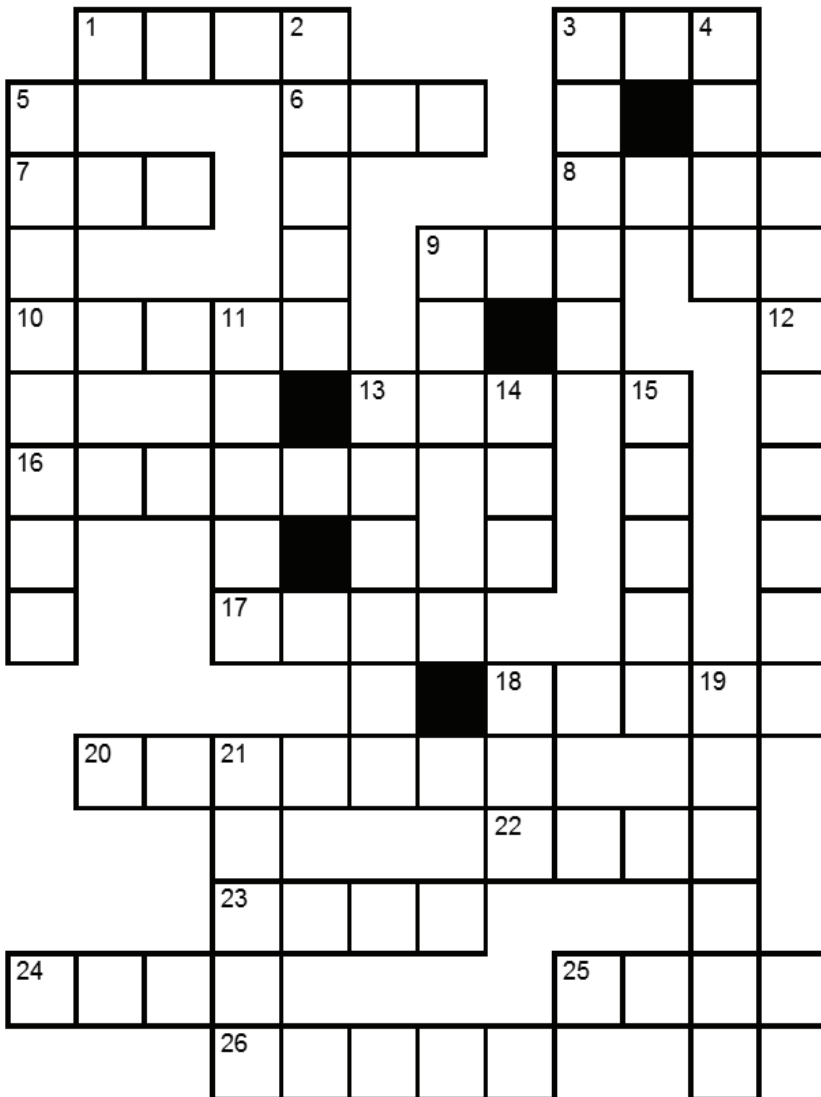
\***Open syllable** - can only have one vowel sound which is the last letter in the syllable. The vowel sound is long.

For example: hi, sky, skyline, me, etc.

# Phonics

[http://www.glencoeschools.org/images/central/phonics\\_rules.pdf](http://www.glencoeschools.org/images/central/phonics_rules.pdf)

## Some More Parrot Fun Stuff



### Across

- 1- A flying animal that rhymes with word. (4)  
 3- The opposite of high. (3)  
 6- Another word for sick. (3)  
 7- The opposite of young. (3)  
 8- A type of flower that begins with R. (4)  
 9- Another word for pull. (3)  
 10- A kind of flower that begins with D. (5)  
 13- The antonym of good. (3)  
 16- A type of lizard that begins with I. (6)  
 17- Another word for jump. (4)  
 18- Another word for glad. (5)  
 20- A synonym for trash. (7)  
 22- The opposite of far. (4)  
 23- A farm animal that rhymes with boat. (4)  
 24- An animal that rhymes with dish. (4)  
 25- The antonym of fast. (4)  
 26- A synonym of sleepy. (5)

### Down

- 2- The antonym of clean. (5)  
 3- Another word for big. (5)  
 4- The opposite of east. (4)  
 5- A kind of fish that begins with G. (8)  
 9- A drink that rhymes with sea. (3)  
 11- The antonym of big. (5)  
 12- Another word for scary. (6)  
 13- A kind of fruit that begins with B. (6)

- 14- A pet that rhymes with log. (3)  
 15- A farm animal that rhymes with sleep. (5)  
 18- A farm animal that rhymes with pen. (3)  
 19- A kind of bird that begins with P. (6)  
 21- The opposite of wrong. (5)





# Countries of Europe

Find and circle all of the Countries of Europe that are hidden in the grid.



ALBANIA	ESTONIA	MALTA	SLOVENIA
ANDORRA	FINLAND	MOLDOVA	SPAIN
ARMENIA	FRANCE	MONACO	SWEDEN
AUSTRIA	GEORGIA	NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND
AZERBAIJAN	GERMANY	NORTHERN IRE-	TURKEY
BELARUS	GREECE	LAND	UKRAINE
BELGIUM	HUNGARY	NORWAY	SERBIA/MONTE-
BOSNIA-HERZE-	ICELAND	POLAND	NEGRO
GOVINA	IRELAND	PORTUGAL	VATICAN CITY
BULGARIA	ITALY	ROMANIA	WALES
CROATIA	LATVIA	RUSSIAN FEDERA-	
CYPRUS	LIECHTENSTEIN	TION	
CZECH REPUBLIC	LITHUANIA	SAN MARINO	
DENMARK	LUXEMBOURG	SCOTLAND	
ENGLAND	MACEDONIA	SLOVAKIA	





## A Poem About Technology

A computer was something on TV  
 From a sci fi show of note.  
 A window was something you hated to clean  
 And ram was the cousin of goat.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend  
 And gig was a job for the nights.  
 Now they all mean different things  
 And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment.  
 A program was a TV show.  
 A curser used profanity.  
 A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age.  
 A CD was a bank account.  
 And if you had a 3 1/2 floppy  
 You hoped nobody found out.  
 Compress was something you did to the garbage  
 Not something you did to a file.  
 And if you unzipped anything in public  
 You'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire.  
 Hard drive was a long trip on the road.  
 A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.  
 And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife.  
 Paste you did with glue.  
 A web was a spider's home.  
 And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper  
 And the memory in my head.  
 I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash,  
 But when it happens they wish they were dead.

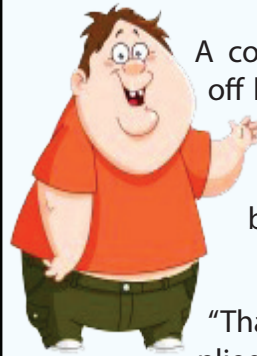
## Rigoberto's Riddles

People always ask for me even though they don't like to face me. What am I?



The truth.

## Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



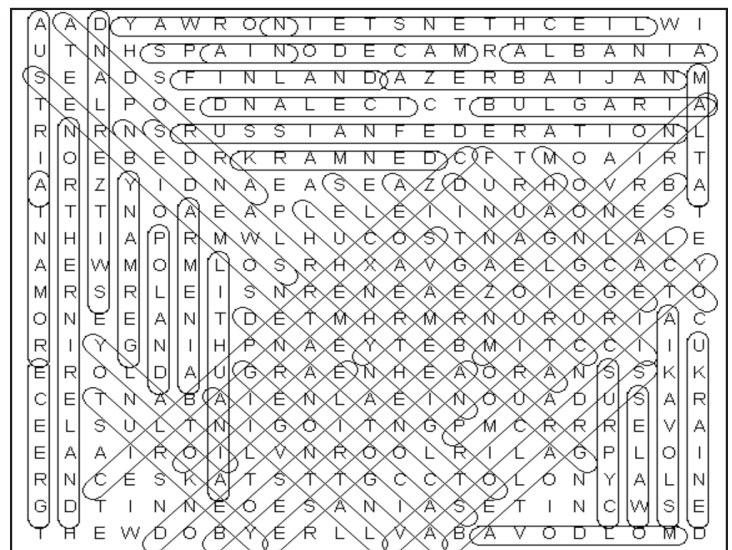
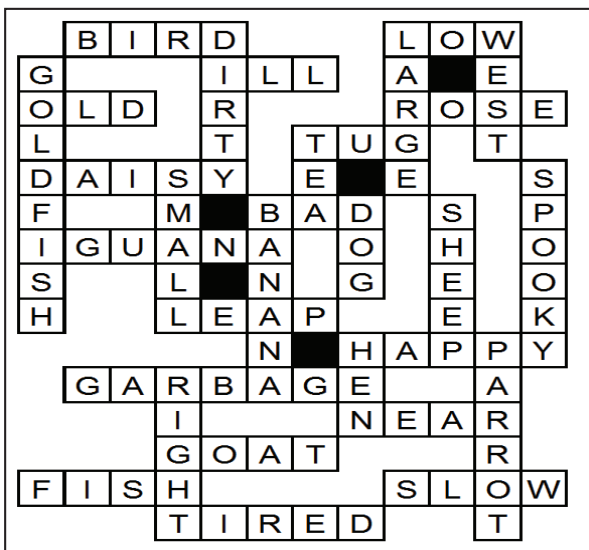
A college student was proudly showing off his new apartment to his friends one night after an evening out drinking.

One of them asked him, "What's the big brass gong and hammer for?"

"That's the talking clock", the student replied.

His friend was confused and asked, "How does it work?"  
 The student said, "Watch..." and then proceeded to give the gong an ear shattering pound with the hammer.

Suddenly someone screamed from the other side of the wall, "Knock it off will you; it's two o'clock in the morning!"



## Granny Noetal

### Dear Granny Noetal,

I do essay writing at home and it takes me very long. My family gets angry at me. I take 4-5 hours. My grade is not good. When I do an in-class essay, I get a better grade. I don't understand why. I'm happy with my grade in class, but I want a better grade on my writing outside of class.

Muzga Doubza

### Dear Muzga,

It does seem strange to many people. You take twice as long to write at home, but your grade is not better. In fact, it is worse. I talked to a few writing teachers, and they agree that sometimes at home, there are many interruptions: family members ranging from hungry spouses to hungry infants to grumpy in-laws, radio, TV, cell phones, unexpected guests, talking parrots, and dancing bears. Perhaps the constant



interruptions cause you to lose focus. There are other reasons, of course, that writing essays at home can sometimes take so long. Some students make the mistake of writing first in their own language and then translating. That takes time. Hopefully that is not your strategy. Other students write in English but grab a dictionary or use Google Translate after every three or four words. They interrupt themselves and their "train of thought". When you are in class, you generally have no more than two hours. You feel that pressure and put your head down and focus. The teacher maintains quiet and often suggests using a dictionary only for the last part of class, during the editing process. The intense concentration on your part probably helps you think in English the whole time and do your best. What do you think?

**Granny**

## Interview with Professor Wood

*Continued from page 1*

**The Parrot:** Do you have any advice to aspiring artists on how to find their personal style?

**Prof. Wood:** I would advise aspiring artists and students not to worry too much about personal style. The best thing is to be open to trying lots of different media, approaches, and styles. In order to grow as an artist one has to remain open to different ideas and ways of doing things.

**The Parrot:** What advice would you give aspiring artists when it comes to self-promotion?

**Prof. Wood:** If an emerging artist wants to start exhibiting their work or is attempting to get their

work some recognition, the most important thing to do is to network. They should go to as many events/exhibitions as possible and meet as many people as possible in their local art community. That's the key more than anything else. It still has to be face-to-face. You can do some with social media but you really need to get out there and meet people.

**The Parrot:** What inspires you?

**Prof. Wood:** I am often inspired by my students. Watching them create and try new media and approaches for the first time is always exciting.

**The Parrot:** What motivates you?

**Prof. Wood:** I think I am mostly motivated by my ideas. My mind is always conjuring up ideas and I



begin to feel overloaded if I don't get them down on paper. I feel that it is necessary for me to process one idea before I can move on to others.

**The Parrot:** What role does the artist have in society?

**Prof. Wood:** I believe that artists make people see and consider things from a different point of view. Sometimes this simply means that an artist uses a material in a different or new way, or uses materials that are not consider traditional. Sometimes art is intended to provoke politically or is just simply to get people to pay attention to things they may be ignoring.

**The Parrot:** Name three artist you would like to be compared to?

**Prof. Wood:** I don't think it is necessary to be compared to anyone. In-fact, comparisons can sometimes pigeonhole an artist and create expectations in regards to their work. This can end up feeling like a trap.

**The Parrot:** What do you dislike about the art world?

**Prof. Wood:** I dislike the aspects of the art world that feel too money-driven. Of course money is a part of it but there are some art dealers and organizations that seem like they are just in it for the money.

**The Parrot:** What other forms of art do you like beside sculpture?

**Prof. Wood:** I am not a sculptor; I am a painter but I mostly draw and work with watercolors now. I do, however, love sculpture and photography. While I have completed a few decent sculptures in the past, I have never been very successful at photography. I don't think I am a patient enough person for the process. However, my art collection includes many beautiful photos create by people other than myself.

**The Parrot:** What obstacles do you face in making and exhibiting your work?

**Prof. Wood:** I think many artists, myself included, face the obstacle of not having enough time.

Every artist I know would like to have more time to create. When it comes to creating, there never seems to be enough time.

**The Parrot:** Thank you so much.

**Prof. Wood:** My pleasure.

**Paroteer:** Alaa Al faili



# Art by Patricia Wood



“Stop”

Mixed Media Collage and Acrylic on Panel...



“Go”

Mixed Media Collage and Acrylic on Panel...



“This Short Time...”

Mixed Media on Paper, 9”x12”,  
2015



“Rewriting History”

Acrylic and Conte on Chalkboard...



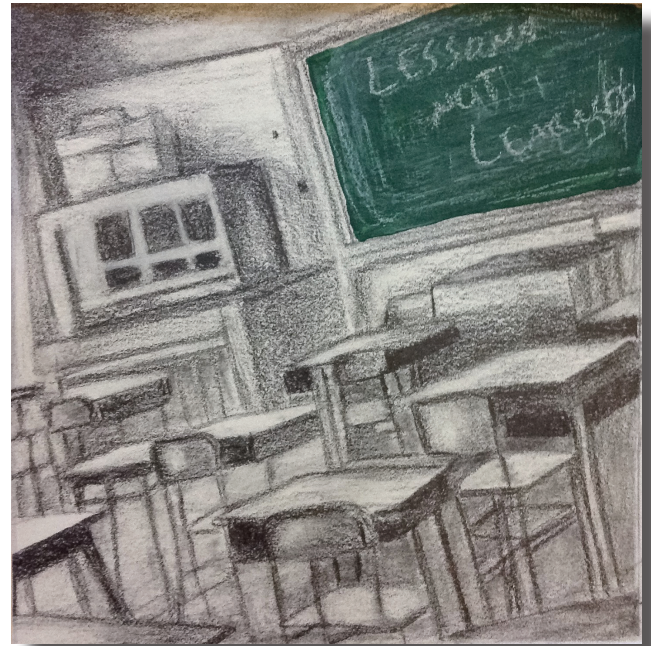
“Control”

Acrylic and Conte on Chalkboard...

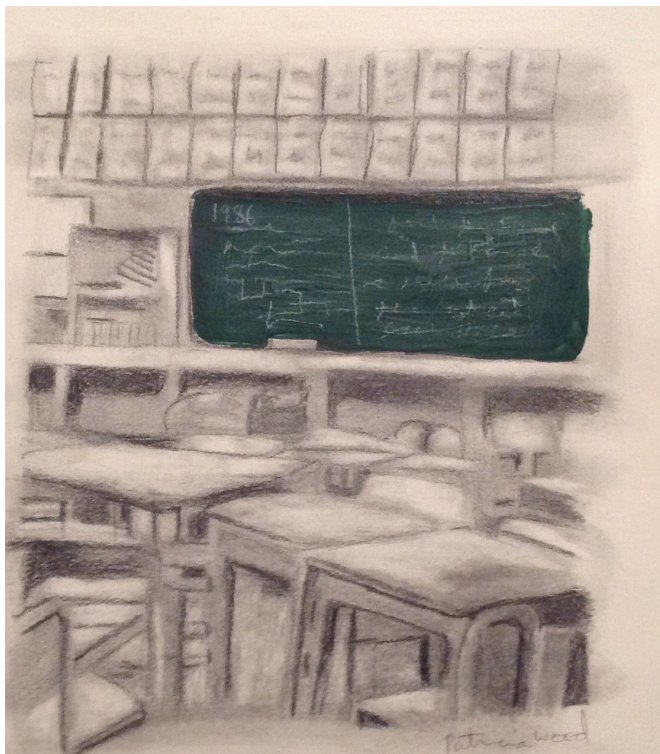


“Untruths”

Mixed Media on Paper, 7”x7”, 2015

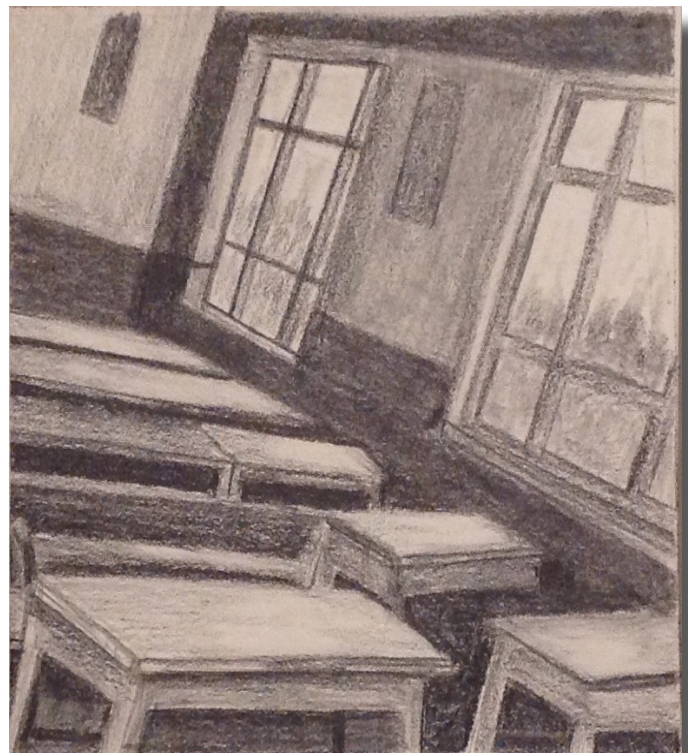


“Lessons Not... Mixed Media on Paper,  
7”x7”, 2015



“1986”

Mixed Media on Paper, 12”x9”, 2015



“Days”

Graphite on Paper, 7”x7”, 2015

# R320 Parrot Quiz by Ala Floca

Key words being reviewed in this quiz are in alphabetical order with part of speech designated.

1. Adage (noun)
2. Cease (verb)
3. Clogged (adjective)
4. Haggard (adjective)
5. Impaired (adjective)
6. Mend (verb)
7. Resembled (verb)
8. Striking (adjective)
9. Triggered (verb)
10. Underpinnings (noun)
11. Upcoming (adjective)

## Vocabulary Questions

1. While there are a couple of antibiotics that usually work, if they are overused, they, too, may \_\_\_\_\_ to be effective.

- a. mend
- b. cease
- c. impaired
- d. striking

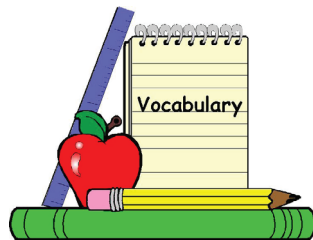
2. Remember the old \_\_\_\_\_ — buy cheap, buy twice!

- a. underpinnings
- b. trigger
- c. adage
- d. upcoming

3. The roads are \_\_\_\_\_ with holiday traffic.

- a. mend
- b. clogged
- d. haggard
- c. resembled

4. There is a \_\_\_\_\_



**difference** between Jane and Mary.

- a. impaired
- b. striking
- c. upcoming
- d. resembled

5. We'll face a tough fight in the \_\_\_\_\_ election.

- a. haggard
- b. impaired
- c. upcoming
- d. underpinnings

6. He wants me to \_\_\_\_\_ his shirt for him, but I'm not going to!

- a. trigger
- b. resembled
- c. haggard
- d. mend

7. Which word is described by this definition: "Having an exhausted appearance as from a prolonged suffering or anxiety?"

- a. abnormality
- b. haggard
- c. died
- d. recovered

8. What does the word underpinnings mean?

- a. effects
- b. causes
- c. results
- d. research

9. How does an impaired heart work?

- a. normally
- b. very well
- c. abnormally
- d. poorly



	5 - c
d - 9	4 - b
q - 8	3 - b
b - 7	2 - c
d - 6	1 - b

# Out of the Cage

## "College Hour"

**"Nevertheless, she persisted": Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in California.**

**Date: Thursday March 8, 2018**

**Time: 12:15pm – 1:15pm**

Since 1987, March has been recognized as Women's History Month. Come to this special College Hour presentation that celebrates and recognizes the continuing efforts of women to eliminate barriers to equality that affect all women. Authors Steve and Susie Swatt will present their upcoming book, *Paving the Way: The Struggle for Women's Political Equality in California*, which weaves the dramatic public and personal stories of dozens of mostly unsung and long-forgotten women who challenged traditional nineteenth- and twentieth-century concepts of femininity into a 170-year historical narrative. From pioneering days to contemporary times, the book traces the development of the still-unfinished mosaic of the California women's political movement and documents the fierce fights California women have undertaken to seek influence, clout, and political parity with their male counterparts.

## Astro Yoga at Asha

**Date: March 11, 2018**

**Time: 4:30 pm - 5:45 pm**

Fusion of Astrology and Yoga • Free astrology report & chart

Twist your body to align with the stars.

**Location:** Asha Yoga, 2421 27th Street

## "College Hour"

**The Math of Rock and Pop**  
**Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018**

**Time: 12:15pm – 1:15pm**

Have you ever noticed that math and music are closely related? An ARC math professor decided to research this relationship and now she shares the results. This presentation will discuss the mathematics of music, particularly rock and pop. Experiments performed by Pythagoras show how frequencies are intentionally made so people can enjoy music. Included will be a demonstration on measuring frequencies on a chromatic scale, ratios of major musical chords, the designing of instruments, a brief history of popular music, and the math behind melodies and lyrics. COME FOR THE MATH, STAY FOR THE ROCK N ROLL!

**Location:** Raef Hall 160

## "College Hour"

### Word Soup

**Date: Thursday March 22, 2018**

**Time: 12:15pm – 1:15pm**

Please join us for an earful of Word Soup! This annual event during National Poetry Month features the reading of original fiction, poetry, and nonfiction of our very own American River College professors and staff. This time enjoy the poetry of Michael Crowder and Irene Whitcomb!



**Location:** Raef Hall 160



## Questions/Comments?

Student Editor: **Elaf Khafaja**

Please let us know what we can do to improve "The Parrot." We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Send us an e-mail, call, or just drop by Professor Bracco's office D337 (Davies Hall), call (916) 484-8988, or e-mail [Braccop@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:Braccop@arc.losrios.edu). To see The Parrot in color go to [http://www.arc.losrios.edu/ARC\\_Majors/Humanities/ESL/The\\_Parrot.htm](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/ARC_Majors/Humanities/ESL/The_Parrot.htm)