

Your ARC newsletter by and for ESL, multi-cultural, international students, Californians, and, well, anybody really...



The Parrot



ISSUE #169
Spring 2023



The Parrot Palette-- Elena Arjanova



How long have you been drawing?

Elena: I loved drawing when I was a child. I'm from Modolva. I liked to draw at an early age but my parents didn't

have good finances to support me to study art in my country.

Where did you learn art?

Elena: It's my hobby, so I learned it by myself. I think it's a gift God has given me.

Is art your major at ARC?

Elena: No, my major is Human Services. I didn't decide to study art because I want to have more ways to support my family. With this major, I can find a job easier.

Have you ever taken classes in the Art Department at ARC? If yes, how have these classes helped you?

Elena: Yes, I took ART 300 and I really liked it. It helped me a lot and taught me many new things. It was an online

Continued on page 31

Inside This Issue

Family Dinner.....	2
Alcohol.....	3
Festival Foods.....	7
Parrot Pastimes.....	8
ELLIS Club	17
Afghani???	21
Crazy Cake.....	25
New Colossus.....	29
Taste of Fall.....	37
Enrolling at ARC.....	38
Snow-Storm.....	42

Would you like to contribute to *The Parrot*?

P.15

Morocco: The World Cup's True Champions!



Soccer (football as we call it) is popular in my country, Morocco. Like many Moroccans, I am passionate about this sport. I have played it since childhood in neighborhoods and with some clubs. Playing soccer is still one of my favorite hobbies. When our national team qualified for the World

Continued on page 19

Student Chirpings

The Important Effects of Eating Dinner Together as a Family

"A family that eats together stays together!" It is no secret that food is an integral and necessary part of a person's daily life, and each of us needs to eat. So, there are so many different holidays, such as birthdays, weddings, baby showers, religious holidays, and even funerals, when food is prepared, and a whole family gathers together. Of course, in our busy lives, it is not easy for families to eat dinner together every day, but I try to follow this rule because it has many positive effects on my family. There are three most important effects of eating dinner together as a family.

The first important effect of eating dinner together as a family is transmission of traditions and customs. For many families who have moved to other countries, it is very difficult to preserve their traditions and pass them on to their children. However, these families, who have dinner together every day can easily pass on their national traditions to their children and also teach their children good manners. For example, every time my family has dinner, we pray to God and thank Him for the food. As a result, my children have learned to be grateful to us and God for food. In addition, I also try to cook our national dishes so my children do not forget our national dishes and love to eat



them. Finally, during our joint dinners, my children have learned to help set the table and place the utensils correctly. Therefore, a joint family dinner has a positive effect on preserving traditions and customs.

The next important effect of eating dinner together as a family is that it gives everyone better health. It is no secret that our health also depends on what we eat. As we know, homemade food is healthier and more useful than fast food. When your family has dinner together at home and eats homemade food, it has a good effect on the health of each family member. Moreover, homemade food prevents obesity and strengthens immunity. For example, I always try to prepare

nutritious and healthy meals for my family. Also, when my family eats dinner together, I try to teach my family to eat healthy foods and eat more fruits and vegetables. In addition, I try to do everything possible for my family to eat less sugar, salt, and fat. So, I can see that correct nutrition and vitamins help my family stay healthier and happier. Therefore, it is very important to have dinner with the whole family because it has a positive effect on health, and you can always monitor whether your family is eating healthy.

Finally, the most important effect of eating dinner together as a family is the creation of a strong relationship. Actually, when a whole family gathers together for dinner, members of the family not only eat food, but they also communicate with each other and learn more about each other. For example, during our dinner, my husband and I always talk with our children about important events, and we have conversations about different topics, including our plans, vacations, children's schools, and so on. In addition, we express our thoughts and ideas, ask different questions, and share personal stories of this day. My kids know that we can talk about anything over dinner, and we all enjoy having

dinner together. Finally, it is very important to have dinner as a family because it creates a strong bond between each member of the family.

In conclusion, the three very important effects of eating dinner together as a family are the transmission of traditions and customs, improvement of health, and creation of strong relationships. Moreover, I firmly believe that families who eat dinner together will be stronger and happier forever.

Nataliya Parylyak

ESL 55

Cause/Effects Essay

Alcohol

Cheers! I have heard this phrase many times in my life and in various life circumstances. There are many different circumstances: joyful or sad, happy or unhappy, long-awaited or unexpected. Many of these different life circumstances cause alcohol consumption. There are many reasons why people buy and drink alcohol, but we will focus on just a few reasons, such as relieving stress and relaxing, for courage and bravery, or celebrating an important event in life. Because modern life is full of constant stress, the most common reason for drinking alcohol is the desire to relax. The life of modern man is full of high demands that are exhausting and lead to stress. All information that flows around us in the globalization of the world are constant factors of stress. Some seek solace in sport, some in food, and

some believe the true Latin wisdom that the truth is in wine. Such people seek to relieve stress through alcohol. Alcohol gives them the opportunity to relax, and all the surrounding problems fade into the background. A glass of wine – and let the whole world wait! Most often

we are ambushed by problems at work. You want to leave eternally dissatisfied customers and bosses, misunderstandings with colleagues, and all these work troubles at the office, and you only want to take home a bottle of good wine.



But when you come home, will you find peace and understanding there? Will your tired and suffering soul, who swam all day among the office plankton, be able to find peace at home? Maybe a football match and a box of beer will relieve tension in the family. But if it's the four-

teenth of February, and you have a misunderstanding in a relationship with a loved one, a glass of good old whiskey will come in handy. Can gin and tonic tone your relationship? Maybe you will find this peace in a glass of old whiskey. So, when people have trouble at work, in family, or in relationships, they seek solace and relaxation with alcohol.

Another reason for drinking is the desire to become bolder and braver to dare to do something. For example, when we meet new people, we lack courage. In Ukraine or Russia there is even such a toast "for acquaintance" because this is another reason to have a drink with a new friend. "Alcohol causes short-term expansion of blood vessels and the circle of friends." However, it's

one thing to meet a new friend, but quite another to meet a girl. This requires great courage, and you can gain this courage through alcohol. And again, what is a date without champagne? How can a person make a good impression on a girl so as not to be trapped, embarrassed, and too shy? Champagne! A glass of champagne will help to make the dating a success. But sometimes one glass is not enough, and you need the whole bottle to succeed. People drink alcohol not only for a successful date, but also for success in the workplace. For example, you are sent to a conference to make a public speech. This is the first outing in your life with such a large audience. And you understand that champagne does not help here. You need something stronger. So, some people drink to relax, but some people drink for courage.

A good reason to drink is celebrating an

important event in life. For example, a wedding is a significant event in life and an occasion to drink. In Ukraine, part of the official marriage registration ceremony is when the newlyweds are served two glasses of champagne with the words "Be happy!" They also wish good luck to a newborn baby, raising glasses for his health and future happy fate. In the past, maybe ten years ago, dads were not allowed to go to the maternity hospital in Ukraine. What did they have to do? Celebrate! This was an occasion to visit the liquor store more than once. Not only the birth of a child, but any joyful events such as a bachelor or bachelorette party are a reason to drink a lot of alcohol, and it is even a reason for jokes and Hollywood movies. Every

joyful and important event in a person's life is a reason to buy alcohol.

Thus, many life events can motivate a person to drink alcohol. Some people are drowning their sadness in a glass. Some people relieve stress at the end of a hard day's work. Some people seek their lost valor in a glass and find their courage there. And some people just celebrate a happy event. Alcohol consumption can be due

to many reasons, such as the desire to relax, or vice versa, the desire for courage, or celebration of an important milestone in life. As one genius said, "Only limited people drink from nothing to do. A smart person will always find a reason." And another genius replied, "Life is one solid reason to drink."

Lurii Zachynskyi
ESL 315
Cause/Effects Essay



Special Places

Do you have a special place in your life? In the world there are a lot of beautiful places for people. Some people like beaches, parks, rivers, bookstores, malls, or home. Most people have a special place in their life. In my life, there are three exceptionally special places.

First, my parents' house in Kabul, Afghanistan is an important place in my life. It has two floors. The first floor has two bedrooms, a beautiful kitchen, and a big, nice hall. There are our childhood photos on the wall. On the second floor, there are three bedrooms, a nice balcony, and a hall. In my parents' house, there is a beautiful yard. It has four tall trees, different kinds of flowers such as mallow, buttercup, and tulip. My parents' yard is very flourishing and green. In addition, my parents' house is very relaxing and nice place because I can talk with my father, cook with my mother, and play with my sisters and brothers. In summary, my parents' house is extra special in my life.

Second, Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco) is a very special place in my life. It has beautiful weather and fresh air. It is very nice place in summer for vacation. This place is very overcrowded because it is very famous, but I still like it so much. There are so many people from different countries that go to San Francisco for visits and see the Golden Gate Bridge. We went to San Francisco last summer with our family and friends. First, we went to the Golden Gate Bridge because we can see the whole city and big ocean.

It has tall trees and nice towers. The towers are very nice, large, and long. Golden Gate Bridge is one the best places for photography. We can take professional photos. In short, Golden Gate Bridge is one of the important places in my life.

Finally, my home in Carmichael is an extremely special place in my life. My home is not big. It is an apartment. My home is small, but it's very comfortable. I have a pleasant kitchen, nice bedroom, and a small hall. I have a balcony, and there are so many different flowers on my balcony. I like flowers such as rose, white, yellow, and pink flowers on my balcony. I love my home, and I always decorate my home with panel, vase, and decorative utensils. I like a clean home, and I always clean my home twice a week. My home is very relaxing and comfortable. I like a quiet place because I can do everything such as watch TV, cook food, play with my son, do

my homework, read books, or talk with my husband. To summarize, my home is an important place in my life.

In conclusion, my parents' house, Golden Gate Bridge, and my home are the especially significant places in my life. I hope everyone has places to relax and bring joy into their life.



Maryam Naseri
ESL 47
Opinion Essay



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Festival Foods in China

There are "China Towns" almost everywhere in the world, and many people like Chinese food. But do you know what Chinese people eat for festivals? You can often see special Chinese food in supermarkets. Furthermore, Chinese people eat a variety of food, especially during festivals. Here are three special foods that I think best represent the festivals in China.

First, I'd like to introduce sweet dumplings to you. It is the symbol of the Lantern Festival. Sweet dumplings are made of glutinous rice flour and sesame. But it varies from place to place. In the south, stuffing is wrapped in sweet dumplings. In the north, people will put the stuffing into a

bowl of glutinous rice flour and shake it, so that the stuffing is wrapped by flour. A sweet dumpling has a round shape and a soft waxy texture. Normally people would boil sweet dumplings in boiling water, but nowadays more

and more people fry sweet dumplings in oil. For me, on the night of the Lantern Festival, I will eat a bowl of sweet dumplings boiled by my mother and feel very happy. Because it means reunion, there is affection in sweet dumplings.

The second Chinese food I want to introduce is mooncake. A mooncake is the symbol of the Mid-Autumn Festival. It is made of flour, sugar, nuts, and fruits. Why does it have the moon in its name? Mooncakes are round in shape when viewed from the front, like the moon. Thus, Chinese people call it "mooncake". Eating mooncakes has been very popular since the Tang Dynasty. But today's mooncakes are not as simple as before. For example, when you go to the supermarket to buy mooncakes, you will find more than 30 kinds

of mooncakes with different fillings. For me, the mooncake with a duck egg yolk is the best. More than that, most Chinese people eat mooncakes when they miss their relatives because they represent sweetness and reunion. The shape and special meaning of a mooncake make it hard not to love it.

The last very important festival food is traditional Chinese rice pudding. Its Chinese name is zongzi. It is the symbol of the Dragon Boat Festival. And *zongzi* is my favorite food! Like sweet dumplings, it has local variation in China. People in northern China like to eat sweet *zongzi*, while most southerners like to eat salty *zongzi*, if you

give a northern a salty *zongzi*, it is like giving an Italian a pizza with pineapple on it. In most case, it is delicious made with rice and dates, so you can eat it as a meal. Maybe you wonder why the Chinese people choose to eat it on the Dragon Boat Festival. This is because it is used in memory of poet *QuYuan*. After *QuYuan* jumped into a

river, people threw *zongzi* into the river to prevent his body from being eaten by fish. *Zongzi* also has special meanings. People hope that eating it will help them achieve good results. Eating *zongzi* on the Dragon Boat Festival is not only delicious aspiration, but it also a cultural salute.

In China, people really like to eat festival foods to get good luck. In addition, there are many special foods about festivals to discover. If you try these festival food, you will not only get the satisfaction of eating them but also the warmth of family.



Jiaying Gong
ESL 47
Opinion Essay



Parrot Pastimes - Traveling Is Good

There are many reasons why people travel. Many people travel to get away from their problems. Others to learn new cultures. Still others travel because it's cool. Traveling provides many benefits such as memories, pleasant emotions, and discovering something new.

First, traveling can make good memories. Memories are the most precious thing we can have. We are the creators of pleasant and not so moments in our life. We need to enjoy life, so we need to look for the opportunity and time to travel. Each person

must create new pleasant memories that he will never forget. Those memories that we get while traveling remain in our memory for a long time. We can happily share these memories with our family and friends. We love going on vacation to the beach, and our son loves swimming and playing in the sand. For example, when we traveled to Florida with my family last year, my son loved swimming in the pool, and my husband taught him how to swim. We will always remember that vacation because now my son is really good at swimming and loves it. We took lots of pictures and videos from that trip to look back on. In short, traveling brings a lot of joy for most people, and after the vacation, families have a lot of fun memories and new stories to tell.

Second, traveling can be fun and a great adventure. When we travel, we plan our own itinerary. We distribute the time that we need to spend in one place or other. Traveling gives us freedom. Traveling helps to get positive emotions. Also, traveling helps to find a positive attitude in life. A change of scenery has a good effect on a person and his emotional state. When we traveled to Ukraine with my family, it was a special trip because my son was born in the United States. My family had never met him. It was special to bring him to my home country to meet

his grandparents for the very first time. It was a very emotional and happy time for us. In brief, traveling makes our life interesting and eventful.

Last, most people like to travel and want to travel more. When we travel, we discover new beautiful places and countries that we want to return to again and again. Through traveling, we can see how other people live. When we travel, we can interact with other people, see their culture, and taste their food. When we traveled to Mexico, I was surprised by how spicy all their authentic food was. In all the



restaurants we went to, we had to remember to ask for less spicy food because we were not used to it. Also, my family and I enjoy the beautiful sights and beautiful scenery. Travel develops a person's horizons. A person learns a lot of new information and also sees new different cities and countries. When visiting Mexico, I learned that a lot of locals there make their money in resort cities by selling goods to tourists from other

countries. We went to the local market and were surprised to see a lot of handmade items for sale that were so unique. A person can get acquainted with the customs of the places they visit. In Mexico, a lot of people wear bright and vibrant colors that represent their culture. Compared to America, people wear a lot of neutrals that don't stand out. Indeed, traveling is interesting for most people because they get to meet new friends, experience different cultures, and see new places.

In conclusion, during a journey, we experience different emotions and relax our body and soul. Traveling is like another page in the book of our life, which will forever remain in our life.

Iuliia Sokolova
ESL 47
Narrative Essay

The Education Systems in Morocco and the U.S.

Introduction

There is a famous proverb that says, "Education is the passport to the future. Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." And because today's generations are the pillars of the future, every nation strives to provide the best conditions for teaching future generations, and this is what I will try to explore by comparing the two educational systems of the United States of America and my mother country, Morocco, using the following questions: What is the meaning of an educational system? Are there similarities between the American educational system and the educational system in Morocco? Or are they completely different?

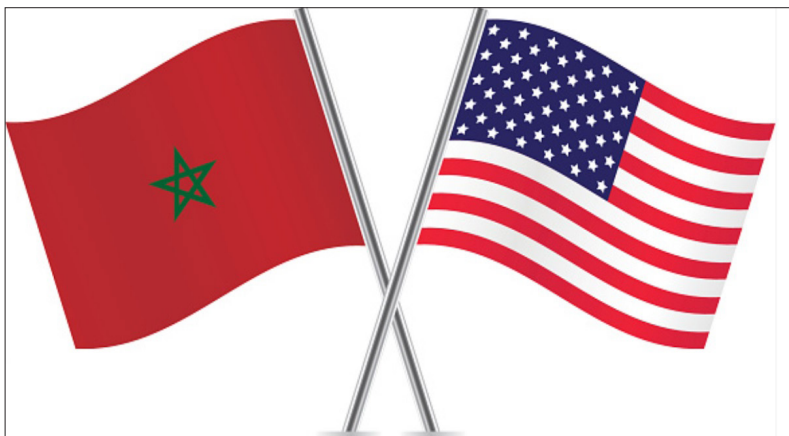
An educational system is a general structure that frames the educational path from the beginning until the last stages of education. It is among the first things that countries care about because the educational system is considered the basis for building a society culturally, economically, and scientifically. Therefore, it stems from a central question that evokes identity, history, and the future: "Who are we and what do we want?" A country's educational system determines the future of the generations that will contribute to building the nation. Therefore, there is a close link between an educational system and development. As a result, people are the foundation piece of investment.

In general, in the American and Moroccan educational systems, a distinction can be made between two stages: the pre-university stage and the university stage. In this regard, I will focus on the stages of schooling before university, to see the congruence and difference between them. What we can note at this level is that the Moroccan educational system before university is divided into three compulsory stages: primary school, preparatory (middle school), and secondary education (high school), in which the student engages since the age of six. As

for a fourth stage of education before age six (kindergarten), it is optional, as parents can teach their child wherever they want, and it is called informal education, and parents can also give it up.

At this level, we can notice some differences. Although the stages of study are similar, pre-school education before the age of six (kindergarten) in America is compulsory, while it is optional in Morocco. There is also another difference with the term "college." Whereas in Morocco it means middle school, "college" in America can only be accessed after obtaining a high school certificate. That is, college is a type of higher education and is equivalent in the Moroccan system to a specialized technical or higher technical certificate, with a difference in the number of years. In addition to this, the "baccalaureate certificate"

obtained by Moroccan students when they succeed in passing the end of high school exams is equivalent in the American system to the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test). It remains to be pointed out that the education



system and programs in America are decentralized, where each state chooses its particular program, while in Morocco there is a centralization through the ministry in the capital, which sets the programs and applies them throughout the national territory.

Now that I have talked about pre-university education, I will now talk about college education, and I will start by discussing American college education. The first thing to point out here is that university education in America is not free, and the price of study varies according to universities, their scientific status, and their nominal value. As for the study system, it is four years for a bachelor's, two years for a master's, and six years for a doctorate. It is the same system used in private universities, but the difference between public universities and private universities is mainly seen in the number of

students, as well as in some specific disciplines.

As for university studies in Morocco, they adopt the same system, with a difference in the number of years for a bachelor's degree, which requires three years instead of four, while a master's requires two years, and a doctorate extends for six years. It should also be pointed out that university education in Morocco includes public universities, which are free, and private universities, which are not free, as well as specialized institutes, and although they are free, they set certain conditions that must be met by the student to access them, and their seats are limited.

Conclusion

This essay tries to clarify the similarities and differences between the two educational systems in the United States of America and Morocco. Education before age six is required in America, but it is different in Morocco, where families have a choice.

Although the reality is that most Moroccan families are keen to educate children at this age, they bear additional expenses for that, and even the regular educational system assumes that the student has received some knowledge and skills and builds on them in developing the teaching curricula for the school. After that, a point of similarity appears between the two educational systems, which is represented in the age of schooling, and it is free from the age of six until the university. Here, new points of difference appear at the level of free education, educational paths, the quality of the curricula, the institutions that receive students, and the quality of the required certificates. These choices and directions have a particular presupposition and internal and external motives that oblige the state to adopt them exclusively. I will try to explore this in the second part of this article.

Parrot Staff Writer: Mohammed El Mrani

Immigrant Perspectives

Immigrant Surprise

Hello, my name is Maria, and I'm from Kyrgyzstan. I came to the United States in 2019. I am a student at American River College, and I started here in August 2022. Today I wanted to tell you about what surprised me as an immigrant when I came to the United States. Before I came here, I had visited some European countries and when I was coming to the U.S., I expected something similar to Europe. I was really surprised that the U.S. was completely different from my expectations. I was shocked by how big America is. I mean not just the size of the country but also roads, houses, stores, or parks. For example, the widest freeway that I saw in Germany was 4 lanes in one direction. In comparison, next to my house, Truxel Road has 8 lanes in one direction, and I'm not even talking about our freeways. Another thing, a two-bedroom house in my country isn't the same as a two-bedroom house in America. In my country, a living room also counts as a bedroom. So, I was surprised to hear that American houses were bigger than what I thought when I heard "two-bedroom" house. I didn't expect that Americans do not count the living room as a "room", a place where you sleep. And the third thing that surprised me was the size of the stores. Even the largest stores in my country do not compare to the sizes of American stores like Costco or Walmart. The size of states and national parks is another thing that surprised me. So far, I have little experience with state and national parks, but even that was enough to knock me off my feet. Every time I visit parks like Yosemite or Calaveras, I'm astonished by the scale of those parks. I'm also very glad that these kinds of parks have developed infrastructure and services. I have been living in America for almost four years and these things haven't stopped surprising me.

-Maria Naumenko, ESL L51

Immigrant Perspectives

Immigrant Experience

I am from Afghanistan. I came to the U.S.A. in 2016. I am a student at American River College, and I started here in September 2021. So today I want to talk about 3 culture differences between my country and the U.S.A. First, in my country, many couples like to have a big family, so they like to have more children, but in the United States couples prefer to have small families and fewer children. Second, hospitality is very common in my country. For example, if a family goes another city to visit their relatives, they stay there for more than a week and the host treats them well and prepares all kind of foods. But in America if a family comes to their relative's house from a distance, they eat together and entertain them for a few days and then stay in a hotel or go to another place. Third, boys and girls in Afghanistan over 18 do not live apart from their parents until marriage, but still practice independence. In contrast, in America this is common and seems to increase after age 18. Finally, I must say that there are many cultural differences between these two countries.

-Torpekay Hikmat, ESL L51

Memorable Year as Immigrant

My name is Sadaf Roshan. I am from Kabul, Afghanistan. I came to the United States on April 27, 2021. I am a student at American River College, and I started here in January 2022. Today I want to talk about a memorable year of life, a year in which I experienced new things. 2021 was the year that completely changed my life, and I will remember this year forever. On April 4, 2021, I got married, which was the most beautiful and amazing day of my life, and in the same month on April 27, 2021, I came to the United States, which is also a memorable day in my life. I had my first longest flight from Dubai airport to San Francisco airport, which was 16 hours, and it was a different experience from the flights that I had before then. After I came to the United States, I faced new challenges. After a month, I got my Green Card and my driving permit. At that moment, I was very happy and excited too because that was my first time driving. Learning to drive was a little difficult for me because I didn't drive before, and after so much practice, I got my driving license. In December 2021, I applied for American River College and filled out the papers and documents. After approval, I did my placement and in January 2022, I started my classes. So, 2021 was a year full of changes, challenges, and new experiences in my life. I will not forget what happened that year. I enjoyed new experiences and new life, but one thing which makes me sad is that I miss my family a lot and I hope to see them soon.

-Sadaf Roshan, ESL L51

Susan Pezone Memorial ESL Scholarship Recipient

Fatima Darouiche--Scholarship Winner!



Where are you from?

Fatima: I am from Morocco.

What languages do you know besides English?

Fatima: Arabic is my native language. French is my second language. I have learned it since the third grade.

How long have you been in the U.S.?

Fatima: I have been here for three years.

How many semesters have you studied at ARC?

Fatima: I have studied for two semesters at ARC.

What is your major?

Fatima: My major is Computer science.

Do you want to transfer to a 4-year college?

Fatima: Yes, I will.

What kind of work do you do to support

yourself in college?

Fatima: I don't work yet. I take care of my two kids and my husband supports us.

How do you feel about receiving this scholarship?

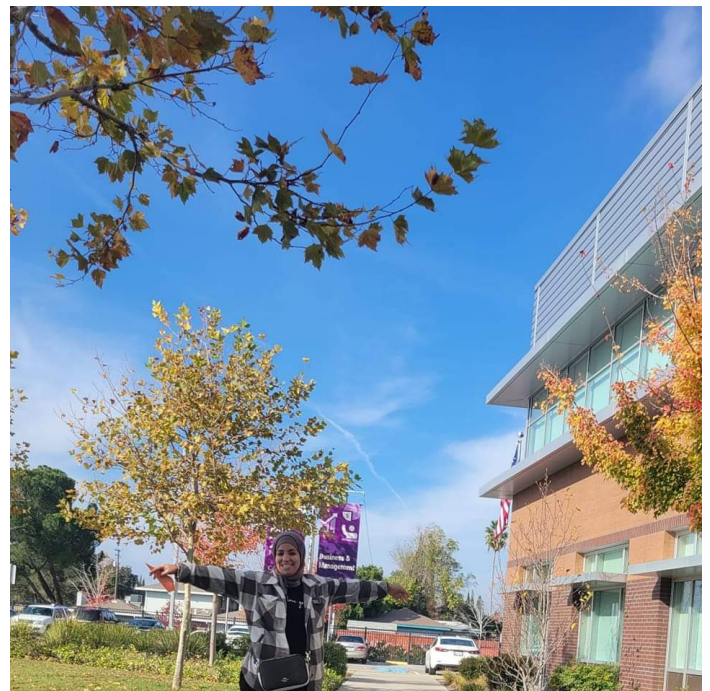
Fatima: I was so happy to hear from Professor Margaret Travis about this scholarship. I was excited to apply.

This scholarship is in memory of Professor Susan Pezone. Did you know her?

Fatima: Yes, I did. I heard that she was a great professor at ARC. She was a good writer and quite interested in teaching writing.

Do you enjoy writing (in English or other languages)? If so, what kind of things have you written?

Fatima: I like writing and enjoy it, especially in Arabic. I was a good reader and writer in elementary and middle school. I enjoyed reading



Susan Pezone Memorial ESL Scholarship Recipient



literature and history; however, after choosing a science major in high school, I focused on math and physics.

Is there a book or writer that you really love because the writing is so good?

Fatima: I read many books in Arabic, French, and now in English, which improved my knowledge and sometimes affected my thinking about many topics. The first one that I can't forget is *My Intellectual Journey in Seeds, Roots, and Fruits: a Non-Subjective, Non-Objective Autobiography* by Abdel-Wahad El Messiri. It was written in Arabic and was translated into many languages.

Who are some people that you want to thank for helping you in your educational

journey? How have they helped you?

Fatima: I am so proud of many professors at ARC who helped me a lot to learn and improve my skills in English such as Margaret Travis, Jane Driscoll, Mim Montgomery, and others. I am still studying and learning.

Any other thoughts that you would like to share?

Fatima: I am so excited by the teaching manner in elementary school here in the United States. I like it strongly.



Want to apply for the Susan Pezone Memorial ESL Scholarship?

Look for the application link in Fall 2023!

Beginners Reading Comprehension



Our Toy Shop

Hi, my name is Amy. I am twelve years old. We have a small toy shop in our neighborhood. My father says Fridays are the busiest day in our toy shop. So after school, my mom takes me there to help my dad. That's another reason why I like Fridays. We allow kids to play with the toys when they are in the store. My father says I am responsible for the toys and that I need to watch and make sure nothing breaks. Many kids from my school and neighborhood also come to the shop to look at our new toys. It is always noisy here because it's full of babies and small children. Little girls tend to go for dolls, boys go for cars. Some just want to play with the toys, some actually want to buy them. It's a bit tiring for me, but I like going to the shop and helping my father.

Do you want to read more stories? Click on the website below:

<https://www.grammarbank.com/beginners-reading-comprehension-5.html>

Can you answer these questions?

1. Which of the following questions can you not answer with the information from the reading?

- A) Where is the toy shop located?
- B) When is the busiest day at the toy shop?
- C) Why is the toy shop so noisy?
- D) What's the name of the toy shop?

2. Which of the followings is not correct?

- A) Amy goes to school.
- B) Amy enjoys helping her father in the toy shop.
- C) Kids can play with the toys at the store without buying them.
- D) Amy's mother works at the toy shop too.

3. Why does Amy help her father on Fridays?

- A) Because it's the busiest day.
- B) Because she doesn't have school on Fridays.
- C) Because she wants to play with the toys.
- D) Because she doesn't like Fridays.





Would you like to contribute to *The Parrot*?

If you want to share your work, art, opinion, or anything with *The Parrot*, please email us at TheParrot@arc.losrios.edu. We would be happy to hear from you and will try to respond ASAP.

The Parrot welcomes all ESL student matters!



ALL ARTS BOND - New Art Club at ARC



If you have any hobbies in any kind of art and would like to join a club at ARC, All Arts Bond is where you belong. We are happy to introduce our new art club to the ARC community.

This brand new club welcomes all ARC students. We welcome all creators who have an interest in arts to join our club.

Don't worry about being good at art to be able to join this club. We are here to help, share our experience, enjoy our members' creativity, and encourage and connect artists.

We are happy to hear from you. Please contact us at:

Email: allartsbond@gmail.com

Officers

Snow: 916-770-5527 (WhatsApp)

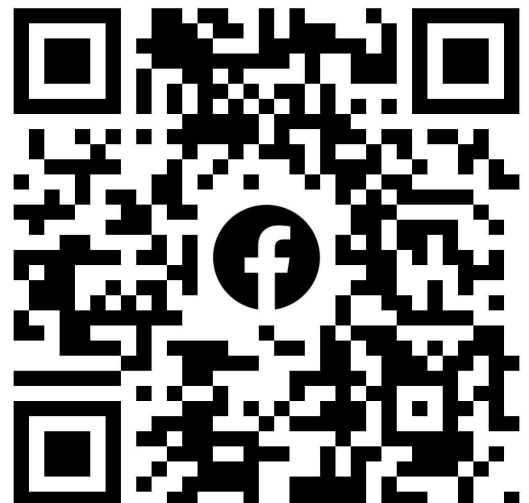
Manny: 916-997-1648 (WhatsApp)

Advisor

Professor Hoggan - HogganP@arc.losrios.edu



Be Creative



ELLIS CLUB

Social Hour

Join Us!
Every Thursday
2pm -3pm

Location:
LRC - ESL Center

Meet new people.



Join in some games.

Ask questions
about the
college.



Practice English.

Continued from page 1



Cup 2022 in Qatar, our expectations were not high. Qualification was an achievement, but our dream of winning the World Cup began to grow after the Moroccan team's stunning performance, and we had complete confidence in reaching the final match.

Before the World Cup started, Moroccans' dream was to pass to the second round of the competition. That also was the main goal; no one thought we could do more than that.

Therefore, after every match, the dream became bigger and bigger; everyone was surprised by the performance of the Moroccan national team. We do have high-quality players, but the atmosphere surrounding the national team before the World Cup could have been more suitable because the coach was changed three months before the competition. In the soccer world, this is not a good situation.

The goal was to pass the first round, and it was achieved in the best way. We saw an excellent team with a very talented coach who exceeded our expectations, especially after defeating Spain and Portugal. The loss to France was brutal, but the pride of the Moroccan team is indomitable.

Morocco made history as the first Arab and African team among the best four teams in the world, and the joy has been incredible. It has spread all over Morocco and a lot of countries.

There are many manifestations of joy and celebration of this historic achievement, some internal and others external. As for the internal celebration, it was represented in the popular reception of the national team. Thousands of Moroccans at-

tended and lined up along the road from the international airport in the city of Sale to the royal palace in Rabat, the capital of Morocco.

The Moroccan national team passed through the crowds in an open-taped bus to conclude their journey by being received with their mothers by the Moroccan King, Mohammed VI, who rewarded the players and the coach with the Royal Medal in recognition of their remarkable achievement. The celebrations continued in the Moroccan streets, as various international channels transmitted them.

The celebration was not limited to major cities but even reached remote villages, where the news cameras recorded the interaction of the families of some of the players who came from ancient families on the outskirts of cities or the high mountains. We saw recorded statements and expressions of joy and pride expressed by some members of the family of the Moroccan national team goalkeeper, the brilliant Yassin Bono, from his hometown in Taounate, a small city on the outskirts of Fez.

The player Youssef Al-Nusiri, who scored the famous winning goal against the Portuguese national team, as well as the goalkeeper Reda Al-Taknaouti, who came from neighborhoods in the city of Fez, received a popular welcome and honor from the residents and the mayor of the city in appreciation of their efforts. In the achievement of these players, there is a message to the youth of Morocco that with diligence, perseverance, and dis-



cipline, your dreams will become a reality, no matter how harsh the circumstances are.

The manifestations of the players and the public's joy reflects not only the atmosphere of victory on the field but also the importance of parental appreciation and the impact of family cohesion in reaching the goals, as the world witnessed how the players were expressing their joy with the participation of their mothers and fathers after each victory. This beautiful picture culminated in a dinner party held by the King of Morocco to receive all the players of the national team and their mothers. This showed the appreciation of the family and its role in instilling patriotism in the younger generations of Morocco.

As for the manifestations of the external celebration of the historical achievement of the Moroccan national team, we start with the *Los Angeles Times*, where it wrote an article titled "Why this World Cup will

be remembered as Morocco's after all," where the author considered that the historical achievement of the Moroccan national team, which represented all Arabs and Africans, will make us remember this version of the World Cup as "Morocco's World Cup." The Italian newspaper *La Gazzetta Dello Sport* also wrote on its pages that the victory was for the French team, but the applause and salute were for the Moroccan team because they wrote the best story in the World Cup. In the same vein, the most prominent American, European, and international newspapers and news sites reported similarly.

There were many positive reactions in the international and Arab media about the Moroccan national team's historic achievement in the World Cup. Noticeably, the Moroccan red flags with the green

star invaded social networking sites, and congratulations and blessings poured in from famous personalities such as the owner of the Twitter platform, Elon Musk. One of the most prominent manifestations of interest in the Moroccan achievement was U.S. President Joe Biden's follow-up to the match of Morocco and France in the semi-finals of the World Cup with the Moroccan Prime Minister and some African leaders on the sidelines of the American-African Summit. And the American president published a picture documenting those moments.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the local and international echoes about the historic



achievement of the Moroccan national team are still going on even as I write this article. I expect it to remain immortal in the global sports memory, and most importantly, it broke the stereotype about the teams that used to reach the final in the qualifiers of the World Cup. The world will contribute to removing the psychologi-

cal barrier for the rest of the African and Arab teams and will make their ambition more extraordinary in the upcoming World Cups. What should be noted is that this achievement did not happen by chance or in a vacuum; behind it was years of serious work, in addition to discipline and focus on the goal, as well as placing the right person in the right place, all of which combined to make history.

Parrot Staff Writer: Mohammed El Mrani

Afghan, Afghani, or Afghanistani?



**Hamed Karzai Ex-president
of Afghanistan
From Pashtun tribe**



**Ahmad Shah Masoud Ex-Leader of resistance
forces and National Hero of Afghanistan
From Tajik Tribe**



**Abdul Rashid Dostum Former
Marshal of Afghanistan
From Uzbek tribe**

It was super interesting and at the same time felt weird when I, as a citizen of Afghanistan, faced the following question from my American coworker. I had no solid answer for him. He asked, "Edres, nationality-wise what should I call you? Afghan, Afghani or Afghanistani? Here in America, we have a blanket that we call an afghan, so, can I call you Afghani?" At that moment, my mind froze for a few seconds and flashed back all those long years ago to the on-going controversial debates in Afghanistan in high governmental levels as well as between friends, coworkers and classmates etc. that actually had not settled on an answer to this question: What should a citizen of Afghanistan be called? To my coworker's question, I first responded that "afghani" is the currency name for Afghanistan money. For that reason, the word "Afghani" can automatically be cancelled from this list. However, there is no solid answer to what an Afghanistan citizen should be addressed as when choosing between Afghan, Afghanistani, and some other names that some specific tribes prefer to be called.

We have so many tribes living in Afghanistan such as Tajik, Pashtun, Uzbek, Hazara, Arab, and

others. For many years, there has not been an actual census done in Afghanistan. Hence, we cannot say for sure which tribe has the majority population in Afghanistan. Although, many Afghanistan citizens who mostly are from the Pashtun tribe claim that Pashtun is the majority population of Afghanistan and conclude that the word Afghan is a synonym for *Awghan*, which in their language refers to a member of the Pashtun tribe in Afghanistan. Thus, in their view all citizens of Afghanistan should be called Afghan. In addition, there has been an amendment in the Afghanistan constitution to call a citizen of Afghanistan "Afghan." However, this is not acceptable to many who are living in Afghanistan, and they say that the term "Afghan" is being forced on all Afghanistan citizens.

On the other side, the Tajik tribe, who are considered more literate, claim that there has been no actual census done for 100 years or more and now consider the people who speak Dari in Afghanistan (who are mostly Tajiks) to be the majority of Afghanistan population, and we don't want to be called Afghan. We don't want to be referred to as Afghan because it is a word that belongs to the Pashtun tribe, and we

don't want to be listed as their tribe member. Since we are from Afghanistan, we believe that citizens of Afghanistan should be called Afghanistani. Other tribes have similar kinds of debates and discussions going-on and some prefer to be called Afghan while others prefer to be called Afghanistani. There is still no conclusion for this debate even after many years. So, that is why I felt weird when I faced this question. In fact, I still don't have an answer that is acceptable among even just ten Afghans from diverse tribes.

I am student at American River College, where we have so many immigrants from Afghanistan. To see what are the opinions of Afghanistan's immigrant students at American River College, I asked this question to ten students from Afghanistan and also 4 Afghanistan citizens who are not students at ARC now.

What do you want to be called?

- A. Afghani
- B. Afghan
- C. Afghanistani
- D. Not sure

And why do you want to be called by that?

Unsurprisingly, when I asked this question, I noticed that, if the person belonged to the Pashtun tribe of Afghanistan, without a second thought they chose to be called Afghan and strongly objected when others wanted to be called any other name than Afghan. Some, who were even Dari speakers and were from tribes other than Pashtun, also chose to be called Afghan. When I asked why they chose this option, they mostly answered, this is how we have been addressed for so many years and it is written in our constitution for many years and I don't care if it was forced on us or if it's not acceptable for all to be called Afghan. They basically said, "I am used to being called this and will choose to be called Afghan in the future too."

Interestingly, 3 out of 14 choose to be called Afghanistani. They believe it is a broader name that could include all the tribes of Afghanistan. There are lots of Afghans who don't like to be addressed as Afghan, and they like the word Afghanistani better. For instance, Abdul Latif Pedram, a famous politician

who is a Tajik and a Dari speaker, and is the leader the of National Congress Party of Afghanistan, has been fighting for many years over this debate and raised his voice that he prefers to be addressed as Afghanistani and doesn't want to be called Afghan.

There is not a single answer to this important question that is acceptable for all tribes living in Afghanistan because the preference of each person most often depends on their tribe of origin or the language they speak. Therefore, since it has been a century that Afghanistan citizens are addressed as Afghan and since it was mentioned in the Afghanistan constitution, everyone is bound to address an Afghanistan citizen as Afghan. I even noticed that all international troops in the last 20 years were addressing Afghanistan citizens as Afghan. I believe they were trained to address Afghanistan citizens as Afghan because it was in the Afghanistan constitution and they were required to follow the Afghanistan constitution while serving in Afghanistan.

As a final thought, for now, since there is no full agreement about what to call someone from Afghanistan, it is always nice to ask each person, and when you do, it will likely begin a very interesting conversation that will help you get to know them better as an individual, unique person from Afghanistan.

Parrot Staff Writer: Sayed Edres Sadiqi



Explore California



Upper Bidwell Park

If you want to go for a hike while enjoying a gorgeous view, then Upper Bidwell Park, in Chico is your best choice.

Located in Chico, California, this park is always a must if you are visiting the area. There's free parking in a lot with a restroom, and the hike up to the hill is about 20 minutes long. I'd recommend, if photography isn't your thing, to bring a note book or a good pair of headphones, so when you go up there, you can sit by the rocks and just enjoy the view while you listen to your

favorite song or write or read your favorite book.

To get there, just [click here](#) to start navigating or see how far it is from your current location.

This photo was taken with my Fujifilm GFX 50s ii mounted on a tripod to avoid any blur or shakes and using a very close aperture to get a cleaner and sharper shot.

By Manny

Bird's Eye

How to Make a Good Impression on a Photography Client

Trying to make new clients can be scary, but there are ways to make that first connection easy and successful.



First, be friendly and polite. Introducing yourself and asking them questions about themselves can break that first layer of tension that is often there when you first meet a stranger. Because clients want pictures of themselves, giving them compliments about their appearance that you think would make them look good in a photo is also a great way to start off the conversation, and it's valid since you're the photographer, so you are always looking for what would make a perfect shot.

Second, be professional. Always arrive on time when you first meet up with them, make

sure you talk about your prices and photo packages with confidence, and always ask for what they want to express in the photos and be open to listen about ideas they might have for the photoshoot.

Lastly, show excitement and be respectful during the photoshoot. Smiling throughout the photoshoot can make a huge difference about how they feel. Most people can get tense when they are in front of the lens, so always make sure you make small talk and show enthusiasm about how the photos are coming up. Also, if you need to adjust their pose, it is very important to always ask permission to touch them. This shows that you respect them, and it will help them feel more comfortable around you.



Making a good first impression will not only guarantee a loyal client, but also it will help your business grow as you create a good reputation for yourself. The clients will not only come back, but they will also refer you to their families and friends.

If you want to see more of my work, feel free to check me out on [Instagram](#).

By Manny

Eat the World!

Crazy Chocolate Cake



INGREDIENTS:

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups white sugar
½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups cold water
¾ cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
Mix flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda, and salt in a large mixing bowl.
Add the water to the dry ingredients and mix to combine.

Add in the oil a little bit at a time. Mix until all of the oil is added and the batter is smooth.

Stir in the vanilla and the vinegar last.

Pour into a greased 9x13-inch baking dish.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes. Frost with your favorite icing. (I like chocolate).

This is a recipe from my grandmother. She used to make this cake on birthdays and special occasions. We always had to hide this cake from my grandfather because he could not stop eating it after it was baked. There are other versions of this recipe, but they never taste the same as my grandma's. Her secret was to use red wine vinegar instead of distilled white vinegar. I think it makes a big difference. I always loved this recipe because I am a big fan of chocolate.

Madison Griffin - ESL Assistant Professor, American River College

Restaurant Review

MEHFIL INDIAN RESTAURANT



mehfil

"Where friends hang out"



T

Mehfil Indian Restaurant is located in the Roseville area on a busy street. It has a lot of spaces for parking. The restaurant offers a daily lunch buffet and dinner buffet only on Tuesday night.

It had a couple of customers when we arrived around 5.30 pm for dinner. The menu has various dishes to choose from. The waiter gave us a warm welcome and



explained the menu clearly.

We ordered Bread Basket, which gave us a selection of 3 kinds of naan (special Indian bread), were so delicious when we dipped them into the Chicken Curry. The Chicken Curry was served with basmati rice that gave us an unforgettable flavor.

They cooked the chicken so well with a combination of spices that was so tasty.

We also ordered Tandoori Hot Plates. The flavor was exquisite and everything tasted fresh and delicious.

This is definitely a place you want to go if you are feeling like trying something new, or on a Sunday afternoon with family, or for lunch on a week day with your colleagues. The prices are excellent considering the quality food you get, and the place is clean and organized.

Go and enjoy the unique tastes of different kinds of Indian dishes here:

1605 Douglas Blvd, Roseville, CA 95661

<https://www.mehfilindianrestaurant.com/pdf/menu.pdf>

Words of a Feather Adjectives

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun or pronoun such as person, place, thing, or idea.

An adjective can tell...

Color

black
blue
coral
green
pink

Size

big
huge
large
little
short

Shape

boxy
oval
round
square
triangular

Taste

bitter
sour
sweet
tangy
tart

Odor

flower
fresh
musty
salty
stinky

Texture

bumpy
furry
slimy
smooth
squishy

Sound

faint
harmonious
loud
pleasant
quite

Number

few
fifty
many
sparse
two

Weather

clear
dry
foggy
rain
windy

Examples:

Tomorrow is going to be a **windy** day.

Only a **few** friends attended my birthday party.

The **black** car parked outside is mine

A **square** pizza is something you don't see often!

The watermelon was too **sweet**.

I'm not a **big** fan of **huge** trucks.

The New Colossus

By Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
 Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
 "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
 With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Source: https://poets.org/poem/new-colossus?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIifn53M3F_AIVHDKtBh2Zpw67EAAAYASAAEgKGEvD_BwE



Posthumously famous for her sonnet, "The New Colossus," which is engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty, Emma Lazarus is considered America's first important Jewish poet

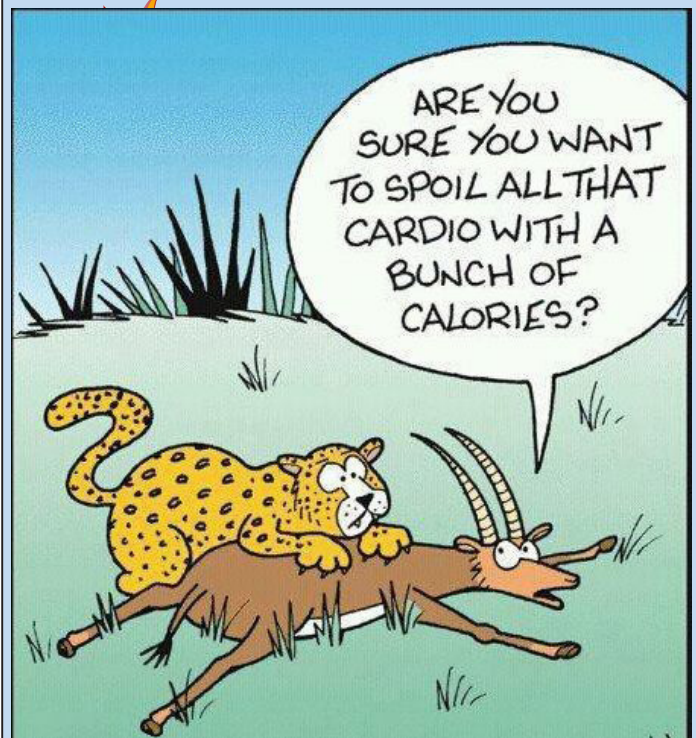
Rigoberto's Riddles

A woman shoots her husband, then holds him under water for five minutes. A little while later, they both go out and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?



She shot her husband with a camera and then developed the photo.

Silly Vasily's Chuckle Chamber



Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/514888169910952006/>

Poetic Reaction to "The New Colossus"

By Mohammed El Mrani



Summary

In the "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus, the poet highlights the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of freedom and salvation for all the oppressed and the miserable. She opens her poem by comparing the [Colossus of Rhodes](#), that extends its feet from land to land, and the Statue of Liberty represented by that mighty woman carrying a book in one hand and a torch in the other hand. She hints that the Greek statue is a symbol of greatness and might, while the Statue of Liberty is just the opposite, as the poet asserts that her name is "the mother of the exiles" and that she stands opposite the sea like a beacon that lights the way for the lost from all over the world and calls, on silent lips,

to all the poor and the tired to give them the fragrance of freedom. She is not concerned with history, race or gender as much as it is concerned with man and his natural rights.

Response

I think that the central idea of the poem focuses on the bright face of the United States of America, which is trying to market itself to the world and has made the Statue of Liberty a symbol for it. On the one hand, reaching America is a dream for many people across the world because of the huge possibilities it provides in terms of living standards, freedoms, job opportunities, and self-development, but the real picture is not without problems. In addition, a person does not achieve himself except under a system that takes more from him than he gives him through taxes and advertising machines that rob the person of his freedom and impose on him a machine-like lifestyle. We can add to that that the American dream becomes a nightmare when it comes to relations with the outside. For the sake of interests, American civilization has destroyed peoples and countries, displaced millions, and ignited wars. The bottom line is that the Statue of Liberty not only promotes a positive image of American civilization but also hides many shortcomings behind it.

What is HomeBase?

Let's learn more about your HomeBase.

An Overview of Us:

HomeBase is a one-stop support center where you can find a community of students with similar majors and interests.

We have staff to support you (Counselors, Coach, Clerks, and Peer Mentors).

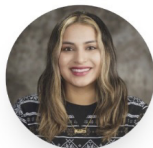
We help you navigate ARC and succeed in college.

We host fun events!

Who is in the Homebase?

Success Coach:

Shelvina



Clerks: Nadia and Renny



Faculty Advisor: Dr. O'Brien



Peer Mentors: Fiona and Sunny



Counselors for Your Major



Mayra Mireles-Tijero



Kim Herrell



Bonnie Miller



Robert Quintero

What are majors under Language and People Home-Base?

Anthropology, Art History, ASL-English Interpreting,

Communication, Deaf Culture and ASL, Early Children Education,

Education/Teaching, English, English as Second Language, Ethnic

Studies, History, Humanities, International Studies, Journalism,

Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Social Justice Studies,

Social Science, Sociology, and World Languages.

Resources

Homebase is a home for you! Services here include:

*Space to study and socialize

*A coach

*Free printing, computer for use, announcements, snacks, and drinks

*Events - social, hiring, workshops

*Help with campus resources and navigating campus, enrollment, Canvas, eServices, counseling appointments.

Where to Find Us

In-person at **Davies Hall #103 and #104**

Canvas: Online chat and announcements

Instagram @archb_lp

Email: AskHB-Humanities@arc.losrios.edu

Phone: #(916)c484-8584

Monday - Thursday, 9am - 5pm,

Friday 12pm - 4:30pm

Learn more @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9z9QHHsqig>



Continued from page 1 Interview



class, so it was a little tough with learning about the shadow.

We really love your paintings. What medium do you use: oil or watercolor? How do you decide on what kinds of color to use in a painting?

Elena: I only know how to use metallic acrylic because it makes the pictures shine and looks wonderful. Especially in the dark, it makes the pictures look interesting.



Which medium do you prefer?

Elena: I think only metallic acrylic for now. I started to learn about watercolor, but I think I need some classes for it.

What was the longest time you spent on one project?

Elena: I can't remember well, but maybe around 10 to 15 hours spread over 2 weeks.

What types of subjects do you usually draw? People, nature, or things?

Elena: I like landscape. I can't draw people because I can't measure the right size for the body.

Have you ever sold a painting?

Elena: No, I don't know how to count the work I put in it to be paid. I think it won't have much meaning if you sell a picture when you put too much work in it. The gift makes my picture worthier.

Have you ever participated in any art contests?

Elena: No, I think a contest is a big thing to me; however, in the future, I may try to challenge myself. Now I only have a group of people on Facebook who love drawing. We share our work to encourage each other.





relaxation. When I have a bad day, I look at a picture of a landscape and I feel better. Many people can find hope by looking at a painting.

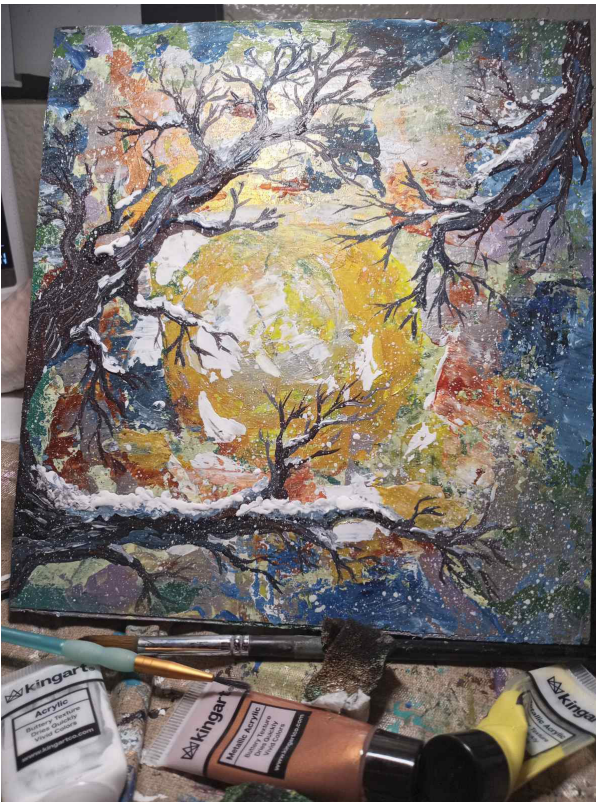
Would you like to be a member of an Art Club at ARC if we could have one?

Elena: Yes! It would be nice and I will love to join.

Thanks for your time with us. Have a nice day.

Elena: Thank you. Same to you.

Interviewer: Snow



According to you, is there such a thing as "an ugly painting"?

Elena: I don't think so because everything is beautiful when a person puts their mind to it. In my opinion, everyone is an artist. Some people make the wonderful things like cooking, building a house, etc. They said they were not artists, but look what they did! The job they did is wonderful and presents their mind. I love drawing as it gives me peace and



English Practice Hour



English Practice Hour

It will be
online.

Please contact Professor Denise Saur at saurd@arc.losrios.edu for a link to the Zoom session, or for the location of the in-person Talk Time.

The weekly practice hour is Wednesday 12:00-1:00.

Help for Refugee Children



Starting Point is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting newly arrived refugee children in the greater Sacramento area.

The organization strives to give them a warm welcome by providing basic necessities and programs as they begin their new lives in the U.S. They do things like meet refugee families with children at the airport, give them welcome baskets, and provide basic ESL and computer lessons, and they have even started a very popular soccer team for the kids. Visit the website and click on [REQUEST HELP](#).

Starting Point is directed by Vickee Moy, a professor of English as a Second Language professor in Sacramento. She launched Starting Point in June 2017 after being deeply touched by her refugee students' stories about their lives in their native countries and about their new lives in the U.S. Starting Point is one way she hopes to

honor and remember their incredible stories and beautiful lessons about perseverance, strength, hope, and humanity.

As a child of immigrants, Vickee feels a connection with new arrivals and is passionate about helping them begin successful lives in their new country. Along with her husband and three sons, she is excited to reach out to this growing community of newcomers.

<https://www.startingpointworld.com/>

Want to Help?

There are several ways that you can help Starting Point to help children. You can put together a welcome basket, assemble a backpack with supplies, help buy shoes, assist with lessons, and program development for SPARK (Summer Program for Arts, Recreation and Knowledge), or even coach and support a soccer team!

Donations to Starting Point are tax deductible. Please visit the [Starting Point Volunteer Page](#) for more information.



The ESL Center is also open on ground in the LRC, Mon. & Wed 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Tues. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feel free to call: (916) 484-8919.

Spring 2023

<https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/97773383036>

Mon-Thu 8am-7pm Fri 8am-12:30pm

New ESL Student Questions

Study English in the LAB

ESL Program @ ARC Info ESL



Assessment Info

Dari	Translation	Russian
Spanish		Ukrainian
Romanian		German
Pashto		French
Hmong		Arabic



Cold, Sled, Frost, Chill, Toboggan, Ice

Did you find them?

Parrot Student Voices

Here our students tell a story from their past. Their stories may be about happy days, or sad events, but the stories are always told in their own words.



"How I Fell in Love With"

"...And I came here to tell you about my story: how I fell in love with French..."

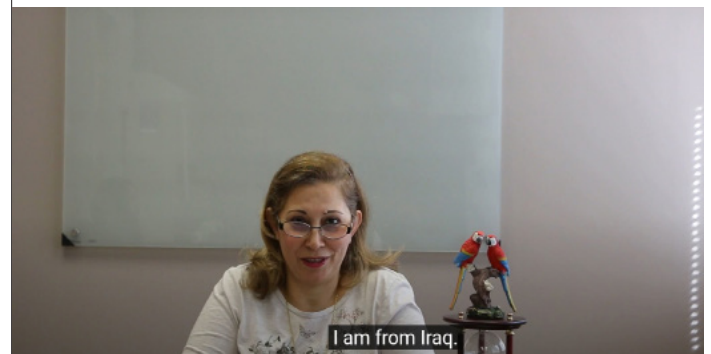
-Doina Teletiz, from Moldova

Click on *Doina's* photo and hear her answer.

"...We decided to come to the United States because it is a better country..."

-May Dawood, from Iraq

Click on *May's* photo and hear the rest of her story.

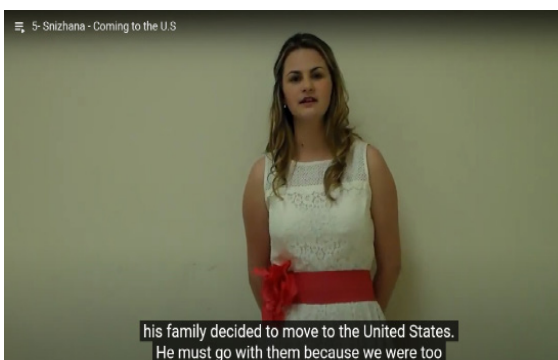


"How I've Changed Since I Came to the USA"

"...I met my husband 8 years ago in Ukraine. We were very young and liked each other, but his family decided to move to the U.S..."

-Snizhana, from Ukraine

Click on *Snizhana's* photo to hear her thoughts.



"Coming to the U.S."

Students Squawk: Yasmin Piña Onchi

Parrot Voices: Viewer Response

Video #1.

Who was the speaker?

I listened to [Yury Kolesnik](#). He is from Ukraine.

What was the topic?

He talks about the best day of his life, his wedding day. He was 20 years old. He explained their traditions, and he was in love because he describes his wife as a princess and they feel like there were in a fairy tale. His family and friends came to the ceremony. They have 3 kids and continue to enjoy their marriage. He had good grammar and was easy to understand. It was a lovely story and I learned something new about their tradition. I didn't know men need to be steeped in a handmade towel so that means they will be together in times of happiness and sorrow.

Video #2

Who was the speaker?

I listened to [Sonia Chavez](#). She is from Colombia.

What was the topic?

She talks about things she misses from her country. The most important thing that she missed is her family because when she was in Colombia she spent all the weekends with them. Also, she misses the food and she loves the tamales. She hopes to come back soon.



Video #3

Who was the speaker?

I listened to [Dai Nguyen](#). She is from Vietnam.

What was the topic?

She talked about differences in her life in the U.S. and Vietnam. She said the first difference is in Vietnam there are two seasons: rainy and dry, but here in the U.S.A. are four seasons. Another difference is how people call the person by their age. The last difference is in her country they cook a lot, but over here not too much because people buy fast food. It was an interesting story and I didn't know that Vietnam has two seasons. It sounds weird. Also, that confused me when she said it was only rainy and dry. I don't know exactly what seasons they are.

Taste of Fall - Award Recipients

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Our Winners

What is your favorite fall drink? The Parrot asked this question to readers, readers responded, and we had a drawing for two gift cards. Congratulations to the two winners who were each sent a \$10 gift card to Starbucks for telling us about their favorite fall drink.

My favorite drink to order is an iced matcha latte with almond milk and two pumps of vanilla.

--**Dania Thanoon**

My favorite fall drink is an oat milk latte with stevia.

--**Rory Kinoshita, ARC Professor of Mathematics**



Want to win a gift card? Look for future offers in The Parrot.

Gift Card



Enrolling at ARC: My Story

My name is Sayed Edres Sadiqi. I was born in Afghanistan in 1989. The existence of war and abnormal political circumstances from the day I was born took away the opportunity of having a standard educational system from me and my fellow Afghans. Although I attended school under the Taliban's first regime, it was only a school in name. There was nothing to learn except reading Arabic religious books that in most cases I didn't really understand. I always had the dream of a good education opportunity that wasn't available in Afghanistan. Like a thirsty person looking for water, I was always searching to find a way to go to an actual school and study. Unfortunately, that was not possible for me in Afghanistan.

I never knew that one day I would immigrate to the United States, but somehow destiny made this possible, which itself is a long story that I can't include in this article. Anyhow, I ended up immigrating to the United States in late 2016. By emigrating from Afghanistan to the United States, lots of things changed for me. Some of those things changed for the good, while some of the changes were not that pleasant for me. One of the good things was a lifetime dream for me of getting the opportunity to pursue a standard education in the USA. Although the initial years of my immigration were full of hardships such as resettlement, the immigration document processes, and economic hardship, my love and enthusiasm for education pushed me to start digging around to

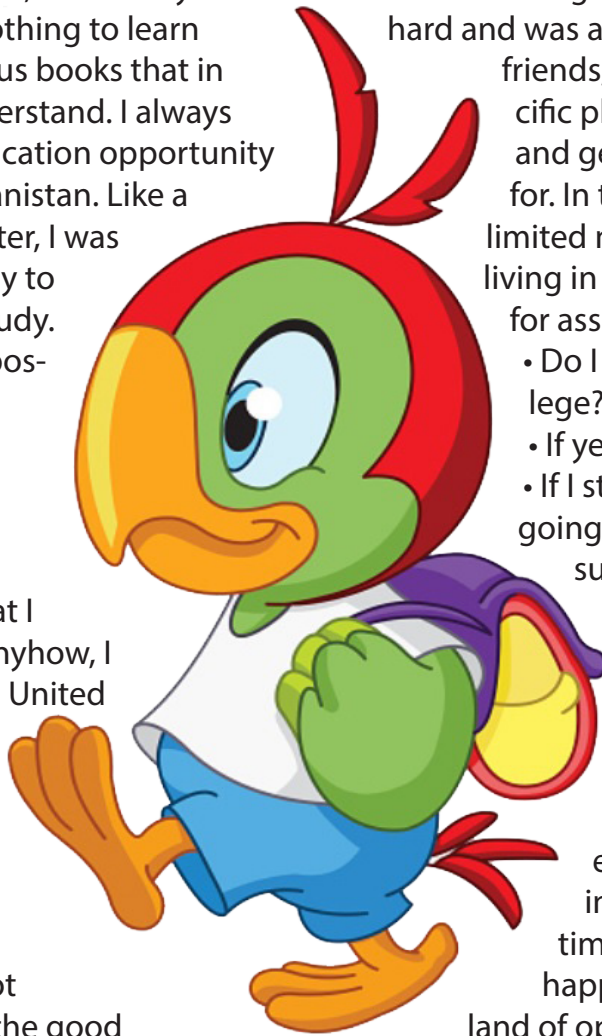
get information on how to enroll myself into a college and start my education.

There were so many questions and concerns in my head that I had to figure out the answers for. One of the hardest things for me was to find a platform to ask my questions about how to enroll in a college. Though I was working really

hard and was asking questions to lots of my friends, I wasn't able to find any specific platform to pose my questions and get the answers I was looking for. In those days, there was a very limited number of Afghan immigrants living in the city where I settled to ask for assistance. Questions like these:

- Do I have to pay to enroll in college?
- If yes, how much and how can I?
- If I start my education, then who is going to pay my expenses such as super high rent, utilities, food, transportation etc.?
- How can I financially support the rest of my family who are in Afghanistan now?

All these questions were eating at my mind and taking away my rest in the night time. Although on one side I was happy that I was in the USA, a land of opportunity, on the other side, because I didn't know what to do to make these opportunities available to myself, my new life was like I was living in a nightmare. It took me one and half years to find out about community colleges (which was a new thing to me) and an address to refer my questions about them. After crossing lots of bridges, it felt so pleasant that I



finally enrolled in American River College and started pursuing my higher education, which was my lifetime dream.

In contrast to the Afghanistan higher education system, here in the USA, I had the option to choose my major. They were giving me the option to study what I like and that was super interesting to me. I had a strong passion in Computer Science, which I had no option to choose as my major in Afghanistan. Therefore, it was an awesome feeling that I was able to choose what I want to study, so I chose Computer Science and Engineering as my majors and this is my second year now.

Now that I am a current student at ARC, I have been learning about so many educational opportunities that are available to immigrants. I know about the platforms such as [ELLIS Club](#), which I am also a volunteer member of. I also have a Facebook Messenger page by the name of "Afghan Students at ARC" that has more than 300 follower where I help immigrant students with their questions. In addition, I work with different ARC departments to expand my knowledge about the departments that exist at American River College and their scope of work, and this is helping me to refer students to the right department when they have questions or concerns. All these platforms are where we can ask our questions and get help to start our educational journey and achieve our educational goals. I have already helped many immigrant students and still would love to help students to enroll to achieve their educational goals.

I have learned that, "the help you put out in the world, will find it's way to come back to you." So, it is always good to help others if we can.

Parrot Staff Writer: Edres Sadiqi



DIY Multipurpose Room Divider



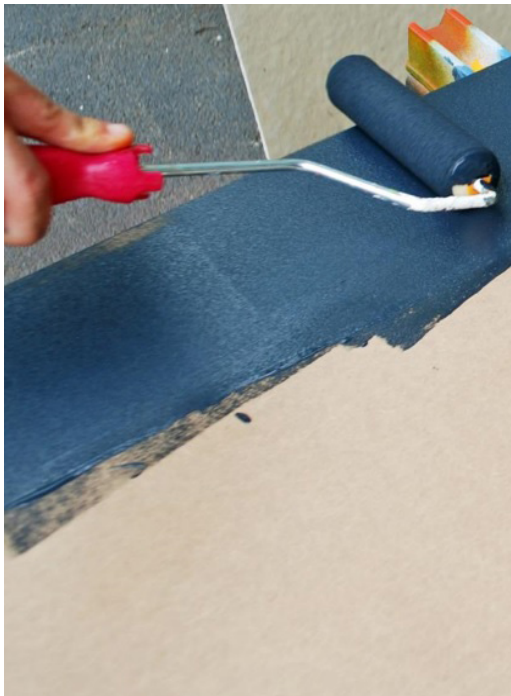
Materials Needed:

- 3/4-inch Thickness MDF Board (4ft. x 8ft.)
- 4 Door Hinges (Color To Your Liking)
- 4 Yards Fabric (To Your Liking)
- 3/4-inch Ribbon (50ft. length minimum)
- Queen-sized Quilt Batting
- Chalkboard Paint
- 4-inch Foam Roller
- Spray Adhesive
- Stapler
- Sand Paper
- Fabric Glue or Hot Glue Gun
- Drill Gun / Philips Screwdriver

Instructions:

Cut Out Screen Pieces

Cut MDF board to the height of your liking. For this example, it was cut down to 60 inches in height and was left with 48 x 60 inches. Then we made two cuts to get three 16-inch-wide panels. Sand any rough edges after cutting the panels.



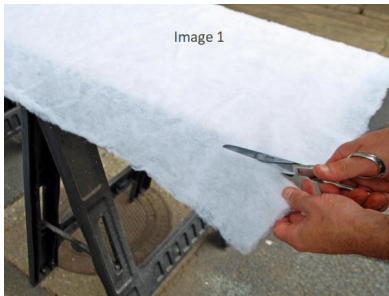
Apply Chalkboard Paint

Since this room divider is reversible, one side of the three panels will be painted with the chalkboard paint. Using the foam roller, apply three to four layers of chalkboard paint. Let dry between each coat.



Upholster Reverse Side of Screen

On the reverse side of the painted board, lay out the quilt batting and cut to size leaving 1-inch excess of material (Image 1). Using a razor blade, trim excess material leaving enough to cover half of the side of the panel (Image 2). Spray adhesive to unpainted side of board and adhere batting to board.



Apply Fabric to Screens

Depending on the fabric you chose, take into account the designs for placement on the three panels. If you chose a solid color, then just cut three equal pieces to cover the batting. Once your pieces are cut, place over batting and staple the edges around the trim of the panels. Cut excess fabric around the sides of the panels.



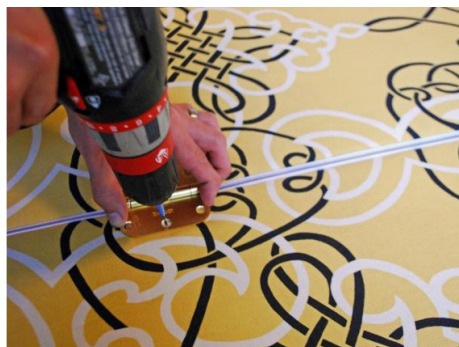
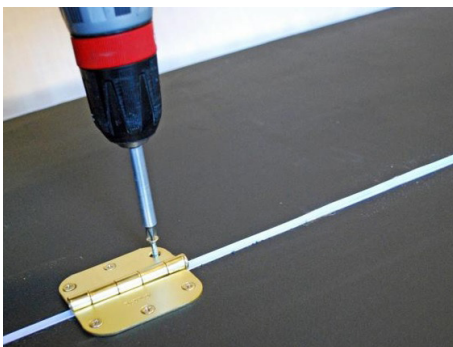
Cover Staples

After the three panels are finished, use the 3/4-inch wide ribbon to finish up the edges of the panels. You can attach the ribbon to the edge of the boards with fabric glue or a

glue gun to cover up the staples.

Apply Hinges

Since the divider panel needs to fold in opposite directions to stand, two of the hinges will be mounted on the chalkboard side and the other two hinges will be mounted on the fabric side. Facing the chalkboard side of panel one and two up, measure 1ft. down from the top and 1ft. up from the bottom between both panels and mount the hinges. Flipping the connected panels one and two



over to the fabric side, now you will connect panel two and three together the same way you did with panels one and two but this time,

the hinges will be mounted on the fabric side.

Finished!

Now complete, the fabric side can be used as a pin board for important notes and photos. The chalkboard side can be used to write reminders and to do lists. You can be more creative and design this multipurpose divider panel to your liking, like adding a calendar board or so much more. Have Fun creating!

Source: <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/how-to-make-a-multifunctional-room-divider>

Emerson's "The Snow-Storm": A Grammatical Blizzard

By Professor David Evans

Famous mainly as an eloquent essayist and lecturer, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) also wrote a great deal of poetry. This particular poem of his, "The Snow-Storm" (1847), has enjoyed wide popularity. I was drawn to the poem when I encountered it in an even more famous poem—"Snow-Bound" (1866), by John Greenleaf Whittier, a contemporary of Emerson's—which opens with a quotation of the entire first stanza of Emerson's "The Snow-Storm."

From an English-language standpoint, the poem presents certain challenges to the modern reader. Although the first stanza is by far the easier of the two, even it merits commentary. Describing the arrival of a severe snowstorm in a rural area, the first stanza opens with a striking inversion. Instead of "The snow arrives, announced by all the trumpets of the sky," we have "Announced by all the trumpets of the sky, / arrives the snow."

Also worthy of note in the first stanza is what may be called a series of reduced absolute constructions ("The sled and traveller stopped, the courier's feet / Delayed, all friends shut out") which precede the main clause of the final sentence: "the housemates sit / Around the radiant fireplace." The reduced absolutes could be expanded like this: "The sled and traveller *being* stopped, the couriers feet *being* delayed, all friends *being* shut out . . ."

Those phrases all provide contextual reasons for the housemates' sitting privately together around the fireplace. The loud and turbulent storm has become the occasion of this private gathering, which Emerson refers to, poetically, as "a tumultuous

privacy of storm." Interestingly, it is in that final line of the stanza that the poem may be seen to exhibit its first rhythmical irregularity—the first of many.

The meter of the poem is blank verse, or unrhyming verse consisting of five sets of two-syllable feet per line, with the first syllable of each foot unstressed and the second stressed: weak-STRONG | weak-STRONG | weak-STRONG | weak-STRONG | weak-STRONG. That pattern occurs through most of the stanza: "an NOUNCED | by ALL | the TRUM | pets OF | the SKY | ar RIVES | the SNOW"; "and VEILS | the FARM | house AT | the GAR | den's END."



In the final line of that stanza, however, the meter is momentarily destabilized. Because it would be unnatural to begin with "in A," with the indefinite article stressed, we must suppose that Emerson was using a foot of two unstressed syllables followed by a normal weak-STRONG combination, or iamb. The result is a line in which there are three unstressed syllables in a row, and this appropriately jostles the reader: "in a | tu

MUL | tuous PRI | va CY | of STORM."

The second stanza then opens with a shortened, four-foot line: "come SEE | the NORTH | wind's MA | son RY." In the subsequent line, as in many others in the second stanza, the first foot is an inverted, STRONG-weak foot (a trochee), this creating a rhythmic spring within the line, mimicking the energy of the storm. We should not read the second line as "out OF | an UN | seen QUAR | ry EV | er MORE," but rather as "OUT of | an UN | seen QUAR | ry . . ."

Going back to noteworthy grammatical features of the poem, let's look at an archaic English preposition that Emerson uses, as well as two unusual uses of past participles. The archaic preposition is *maugre* ("Maugre the farmer's sighs"). Those readers

who speak French may recognize *maugre* as a borrowing from French, coming very close to the French word *malgré* and having the same meaning: "in spite of." Emerson was fond of using *maugre*.

One of the past participles worthy of note is *whited*, in the phrase "the whited air." Emerson could have spoken of "the white air"; but by describing the air as *whited*, he indicates that the snow has done something to the air. The other interesting past participle is *astonished* in "Leaves . . . astonished Art." Why doesn't Emerson use *astonishing*? An observer can be astonished by astonishing art, but how can art itself be astonished?

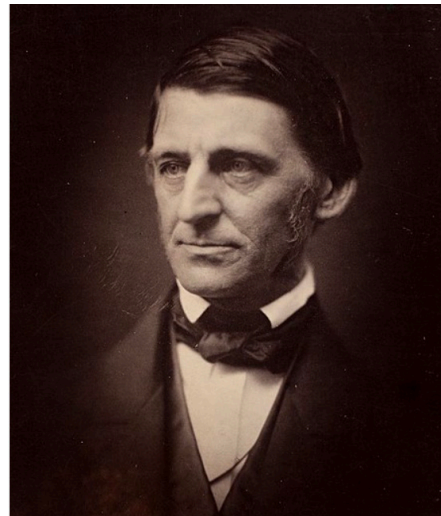
This is a rather deep question raised by the poem. Emerson founded a school of philosophy in America known as Transcendentalism, and natural beauty was of great importance to Transcendentalists. In Emerson's essay "Art," he writes: "In happy hours, nature appears to us one with art; art perfected,—the work of genius." Let us suppose nature enjoys some measure of self-awareness. Natural objects could then be astonished at themselves as the work of genius.

"The Snow-Storm" is a work of beauty, too. When I refer to it in my title as "a grammatical blizzard," I am being facetious. Nevertheless, look at the final sentence of the poem. Just look at it! What exactly is the final sentence? Punctuation will not guide you to the right answer. As punctuated, the main verb of the final sentence, "Leaves," lacks a subject! Moreover, the subject of "Leaves" cannot even be found in the preceding sentence.

I maintain that the final sentence really begins thirteen lines up, at "Mockingly." It has three main verb phrases and two parenthetical sentences, inserted, one might say, polyphonically. When the grammatical blizzard of the sentence settles in our mind, the following emerges: "Mockingly, / . . . **he** [the north wind] **hangs Parian wreaths;** / . . . **Fills up the farmer's lane** from wall to wall, / . . . **and . . . Leaves . . . astonished Art**" for human beings to mimic.

[A Poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

Voiced by Prof. David Evans for *The Parrot* ESL Newsletter at American River College



The Snow-Storm

BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
Arrives the snow, and, driving o'er the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight: the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river, and the heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's end.
The sled and traveller stopped, the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm.

Come see the north wind's masonry.
Out of an unseen quarry evermore
Furnished with tile, the fierce artificer
Curves his white bastions with projected roof
Round every windward stake, or tree, or door.
Speeding, the myriad-handed, his wild work
So fanciful, so savage, nought cares he
For number or proportion. Mockingly,
On coop or kennel he hangs Parian wreaths;
A swan-like form invests the hidden thorn;
Fills up the farmer's lane from wall to wall,
Maugre the farmer's sighs; and, at the gate,
A tapering turret overtops the work.
And when his hours are numbered, and the world
Is all his own, retiring, as he were not,
Leaves, when the sun appears, astonished Art
To mimic in slow structures, stone by stone,
Built in an age, the mad wind's night-work,
The frolic architecture of the snow.

Out of the Cage

Pell Recalculation Date (PRD) for Financial Aid

The amount of your Pell Grant eligibility will be based on the units you are enrolled in on this date. Students who add classes after this date will not receive a Pell Grant for the late added classes. Students who received Pell Grant funding prior to this date and dropped classes may be required to repay based on their current enrollment on this date. No adjustments will be made after this date.

Spring 2023: Sunday, March 26, 2023

ARC Financial Aid contact:
Financialaid@arc.losrios.edu
(916) 484-8437

Need Food?

Wednesday, March 8th (11am-1pm)

Wednesday, March 22nd (11am-1pm)

The Beaver Cares Center offers walk-up produce distributions throughout the semester where we provide free fruits and vegetables. Open to all currently enrolled ARC students.

Questions? Contact the Beaver Cares Staff at
(916) 484-4510 or

arcbeavercares@arc.losrios.edu

Students should **sign up** for produce distributions in advance.



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Student Editors: **Tuyet Le, Emmanuel Madrid, Mohammed El Mrani, Sayed Edres Sadiqi, and Phong Nguyen.**

Faculty Advisors: **Patrick Hoggan and David Evans**

Please let us know what we can do to improve *The Parrot*. We appreciate any and all feedback you are willing to give us. Contact us at TheParrot@arc.losrios.edu. To see previous issues of *The Parrot*, go to <https://arc.losrios.edu/academics/the-parrot-newsletter>

