As March (National Reading Month) blows in warmer weather, a sign of spring, it’s the perfect time to grab a book and head outside! Whether you prefer the front porch swing, the shade of an old tree, or a lounge chair by the pool, be sure to select a book genre that you enjoy! From mysteries and romance to westerns and science-fiction, finding a genre we enjoy gives us a sense of belonging and makes us feel like we are spending time with a good friend. Familiarity also increases reading comprehension.

OC Read offers a carefully curated collection of Adult Literacy Rapid Reads with a wonderful selection of genres to choose from. Find your favorite on our website at ocread.org.
LEARNER SUCCESSES

Sungeun wrote a heartfelt response to last month's writing prompt!

Congratulations to Teresa for being a runner-up in the Writer to Writer Challenge!

Radhika passed an exam this month!

Hanieh met two goals!

Nice work, everyone!
**TUTOR CLASSES**

These classes are open to all OC Read tutors. To register for a class, follow the "To RSVP" instructions below each description.

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**Tutor Writing Workshop**  
**Wednesday, March 9 @ 2 PM**  
**Virtual Event**

This workshop counts towards your 2-hour tutor training commitment. We encourage all tutors to join in! If you attend, don't forget to add the time to your monthly report. For waitlist and unmatched tutors, OC Read staff will make sure your time is noted.

*Please use the following link to register through CLLS*  
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErduoqTsrEtYW84jyCUm8n0aGlTr-HphM

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**Beyond Boundaries Tutoring (BBT)**  
**Monday, March 14 @ 11 AM**  
**Virtual Event**

BBT meetings are your space to share, collaborate, and learn from your fellow tutors. All tutors are welcome, regardless of if you are meeting, matched, or waitlisted.

The topic for March's BBT will be **Goal Setting**. Questions to ponder before the meeting are:

- How do you and your learner measure progress on a goal?
- How would you explain why goals are important?

*To RSVP, email readoc@occr.ocgov.com*
LEARNER CLASSES

These classes are open to all OC Read learners. To register for a class, follow the "To RSVP" instructions below each description.

Readers' Club
Tuesdays @ 6 PM
Virtual Event

Discuss our book of the month or share something you read during the week. March's book is *The Possibility of Lions* by Marta Maretich. This book has a total of 98 pages and is written for adult literacy learners. The first ten participants can receive a free copy of the book.

The Readers' Club will meet:
- March 1
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22

To RSVP, email readoc@occr.ocgov.com or call 714.566.3070

News For You
Date to be decided. Next meeting in April.
Virtual Event

OC Read staff and participants will read current news articles to practice our reading skills and strategies. Tutors, please encourage your learners to attend.

This class focuses on building vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension skills.

To RSVP, email readoc@occr.ocgov.com
LITERACY EVENTS

These events are open to the public and all OC Read program participants. To register for an event, follow the "To RSVP" instructions below.

Mobile Library Storytime

Join OC Read staff at the Mobile Library for a literacy-based storytime!

March 2 @ 10 AM
Buena Clinton Youth & Family Center
12661 Sunswept Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92843

March 9 @ 2:30 PM
Little Cottonwood Park
4000 Farquhar Ave, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

March 17 @ 11 AM
Veteran’s Park
23102 Ridge Rte Dr, Lake Forest, CA 92630

March 24 @ 11 AM
Magnolia Park Family Resource Center
11402 Magnolia St, Garden Grove, CA 92841

March 29 @ 2:30 PM
Westminster Family Resource Center at Sigler Park
7200 Plaza St, Westminster, CA 92683

No reservation required
The year is 1920, and all of Mexico is at war with itself. Gangs of rebels roam the country, stealing money, food, and horses. Carlos is twenty-eight years old. He works in his father's cafe. One day, a gang rides into Carlos' village. When the gang leaves, they kidnap Carlos. Weeks later, the rebels and Carlos ride into the town of Rosita. Suddenly, Carlos is forced to make a life or death decision. He does so, though in a way that surprises everyone. Is Carlos a brave man or a coward? It is a question that takes him a lifetime to answer.

This is an ebook. You can find it here: https://ocpl.overdrive.com/media/686821?cid=1084450
Did you know? Music can help you learn.

In fact, researchers at the University of Edinburgh (pronounced ed-in-bur-uh) found that people who sang new words learned them better than people who just spoke them.

When children sing, it helps them process and remember information. Just think about the alphabet. There are plenty of adults (OC Read staff included!) who still sing the Alphabet Song to help them remember what order the letters go in. That's because songs and melodies make stronger connections in the brain than just words alone.

Singing songs with children is one of the best ways to help them learn, grow, and develop.
Tutoring Tip: The OC Read website has a new look

In order to better support your tutoring sessions, we've updated our website!

Resources
We've added new items to the Resources page which cover topics like Reading & Writing, Career & Job Readiness, Computers & Technology, and more!

Families for Literacy
For those of you with learners who have family-related goals or children, we've created a page with links to our current Families for Literacy initiatives.

Events Calendar
On the homepage, there's now an Events Calendar where you can see all our upcoming programs at a glance.

Visit ocread.org to see the changes, and don't forget to bookmark the link!

Writing Prompt
If you could only keep 3 of the apps on your phone, which would you keep and why?

Send in your writing by March 20 for a chance to be featured in next month's newsletter!

Email your work to: readoc@occr.ocgov.com
Congratulations, Hanieh, for creating this month's featured writing prompt response!

Hi, dear Mom,
I hope you are always well, healthy, and happy with my father.
Do you remember that a few years before we moved to the United States, we went to traveling to Isfahan?
It was a great time that you could come with us. How good it was to be with you, and I was by your side!
Do you remember that we went together and saw all the old places of Isfahan? Last week I was looking at all the photos. I wish I was in Iran again, and we could travel together. I miss you, I love you, and I love my dad too.

Take care,
Your daughter Hanieh

Thank you to all of our writers!
Word Game

ACROSS
4. amazing or surprising
5. carefully gathered, chosen, and organized

DOWN
1. a style, kind, or category
2. plans or programming for a specific purpose
3. quick or fast
6. to wander or walk

Hint: All of the words in the puzzle can be found in this newsletter.
Check next month's newsletter for the answer key!
New English Conversation Group

ESL CONVERSATION GROUP
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 & 23
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 & 27
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 & 25
5-6pm

Improve your English, meet new friends, and have fun through casual conversation, songs, and games.

All levels welcome. Free! No registration required.

This program is for adults 18 years and over.

OC Read is a literacy program and division of OC Public Libraries
February Puzzle Answer Key

Word Search - Guess the Song

The song was "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from the Disney movie, Encanto! You can listen to it on YouTube by going to this link: youtube.com/watch?v=byWRMAU6V-c

Trivia:
"We Don't Talk About Bruno" surpassed Frozen's "Let It Go" to become the highest-charting Disney single since 1995.

Click here to find the DVD at an OCPL branch.