

Reading Books for ESL Students
Nancy Bilbao, Las Positas College

Thank you to CARE for your generous grant for books that the Las Positas College ESL Department received.

These books have been so well received, and may I dare say, treasured by the students. They have expressed their delight in being able to read books that expand their knowledge of American life and topics that they're interested in. Often, ESL students express their frustration about learning meaningful vocabulary, which is a rather daunting task for them. However, these books are full of vocabulary that they want to learn. Because the words are presented in context and with photos, the vocabulary can more easily be learned.

Please find attached two photos of the students in ESL 131B, the second semester of the Beginning Reading and Writing class. In one, the students are working together in the ESL lab on a project. The students in this photo hail from Egypt, Mexico, Afghanistan, Columbia and Mexico. It is heartwarming to witness students from all cultures and background work together and develop a better understanding and respect for each other, dispelling any previously-held stereotypes.



In the other photo, the student is giving a report to the class on the Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo. The assignment was to research and report on a woman who has made a difference in the global community. I like this photo, because the student took the assignment to another level and actually dressed up as Frida. Having raised her family, this student is now attending LPC with the hopes of continuing on to get an AA degree and a career in the arts.



The books are now part of the ESL library and are being shared by various instructors. I will use and reuse them every semester.

Again, my thanks to you for the gift of learning for the wonderful and sincere ESL students of Las Positas College.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bilbao