

## **Story #1:**

**Submitted by Mrs. Rose Upshall, Arnold's Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador**

### **Story Title: Janie's Secret**

Janie was a four year old girl with a secret. It seemed to her, as if all her classmates could read (but not her). She didn't know how. When Janie's mom, Angela, would pick her up from pre-school, she would ask how she did that day. Janie would always say "good" and her mom would praise her, telling her how smart she was. Janie didn't feel smart –she felt stupid. She was too ashamed to tell her mom the truth. At home she had storybooks that her mom had always read to her. Now, Angela wanted Janie to read to her. Janie was scared. She was glad she had a good memory and knew the stories by heart. Her mom didn't suspect a thing.

One Saturday, Janie went to a party at the city library. Janie was having fun until story time came. Janie didn't know the book the librarian was reading and she was choosing children at random to say certain words. Janie said she was sick and went home early. Angela wanted to take Janie to the doctor, but she said she was feeling better now.

The librarian, Judy James, was a really kind person and she wondered why Janie had left so suddenly on Saturday. The next time Janie went to the library she had a talk with her. Janie was shy at first, but then she told the nice lady her secret. Judy promised to help her.

After pre-school Janie would ask her mom to drop her off at the library. Judy assured Angela that she would be all right. Judy helped her every day and slowly Janie learned to read. Judy gave her new books to practice with and soon, Janie was reading them to her proud mother.

Janie was so happy that she could now read like her friends that she sat down and made a thank-you card for Judy. Angela asked her what she was doing and Janie told her the secret. Angela was upset at first for Janie not telling her, but then she was very grateful to Judy. Angela said she was going to write a letter to the library board saying she was the best librarian ever. Judy blushed and said she was only happy to be able to help little Janie.

**Story # 2 – Submitted by Agnes Snook, Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Story title: Why I became interested in the Laubach Literacy**

It was years ago that I quit school. I only had grade 7. I had to quit school because my mom was sick. I had to do the housework, get water and wood. I felt very sad; hurt because I had to quit because I would like to get all of my grades. My mom only had grade 3. My brothers and sisters only had low grades. I found it hard in math, reading, spelling and history. So I was encouraged by my sister Sarah to take up tutoring. She encouraged me all the way. I felt happy she did. I am learning math, reading and crossword puzzles. I am doing good. I learned about the heart, brain, time and about dying. I started on February 27, 2009. My tutor is Patricia Woodrow. I have finished two books already. I am starting Challenger 5. I enjoy it very much. I also would like to learn computers. I would like to teach someone else one day. I would like to graduate some day. My sons only had grade 7 or 8. Except for my daughter, she got her grade 12. I learned also about Babe Ruth, who was a baseball player. Also, I learned about Diamond Jim Brady, who ate too much. He was born in 1856. He died in Atlantic City in 1917. The name of the story was The Hungry Eater. I learned about the ship of the desert which is a camel. I learned about the lungs, artery, and the small and large intestine. Also, I learned about the vein. Also (I learned) about digestion. Also, I learned where the camel stores the fat. It is in the hump on the camel's back. Diamond Jim Brady went to the doctor and the doctor told him he had to cut down on his eating, if he wanted to live. Also, about the salesman who collected jewellery. He was known as the jewellery collector. I enjoy going to this program and am hoping to be continuing this program in the future.

**Story # 3 – Submitted by Joshua Compton (and mom Shelly Penney) Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Story title: My Haiti Friends**

It was just another day in my world. Going to school with brand name clothes on, enjoying wearing my new DC boots and already thinking about going home and playing my new Xbox 360 I got for Christmas. We take so many things for granted. I want something every time we go to the store. I like to have my McDonald's every week. I have a computer, game systems, plenty of food and water. We have a hospital to go every time we get sick or hurt. I didn't understand it but my mom explained it all to me. It's not like this in every part of the world. We are luck.

I don't think about what if something goes wrong. What if a student comes to school with a gun? What if I get kidnapped outside my school? What if we get hit with an earthquake? A child in Grade 3 doesn't think about those things. Not in my part of the world.

I remember mom picking me up from school and saying that Haiti got hit with an earthquake. So what I thought. That happened far away from me. I didn't understand. Things like earthquakes do not happen here. What is an earthquake anyway? I thought.

When I got home my mom had the news on and she wanted me to watch. I saw kids my age crying, some were dead, some were all beaten up. Some were still trapped. My mom started to cry. "What if that was us?" she said. I saw a little boy who was trapped in the rubble, when he was rescued he raised his hands in the air and his smile brightened up the sky. Some kids had lost their mom and dad and they were all alone. What they must be feeling. They must be so scared. I know I would be.

To my Haiti friends, if I could give you just a little of the life that I have right now, I would. If I could give you my DC boots I would. I'd share my clothes and toys. I'd give you food and water, a place to lay your head. I'll be a friend.

Each night before I go to sleep my mom and I say a little prayer. We pray for the millions affected, for the loves ones lost, and may much aid and support come their way.

I hope this story will help kids my age understand how lucky and how thankful we should be.

**Story # 4 – Submitted by Sarah Lee, Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Story title: Learning to write and read**

This story is about me and my family learning to write and read.

When I was growing up, learning that I couldn't write and read wasn't very nice to hear. My mom couldn't teach me how to read and write because she had no education. When I got in grade 8, I decided to quit school and look after my mom because she was sick.

When I turned 21, I decided to get married and had three children of my own. When all my children went on their own, I decided to go back to school. I was in the ABE program for two years. Then I decided to go to one-on-one tutoring. Now I am in one-on-one tutoring since September of 2007. Marsha is my tutor. She helps me a lot. In 2007 I won the Student of the Year Award at Bay St. George Literacy Council. I was very proud of it. Now I received a letter saying that I am the 2009 Student of the Year from Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council. I am very excited to get this award!

My husband also has a problem with writing and reading. He went to night school. My daughter also has a problem with writing and reading. She has three children of her own. My daughter went back to school last year in Grand Falls.

In tutoring I learned how to read and write and do math. When you can write and read you can understand the problem.