

Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library

Hello Fall!



shutterstock.com · 2655146249

September brings a special sense of energy and renewal to adult literacy programs. As summer comes to an end and people return to regular routines, many adult learners feel inspired to begin working toward new educational and personal goals. The start of fall often creates a feeling of a fresh beginning, encouraging adults to improve their reading, writing, math, and communication skills. For many learners, September represents an opportunity to gain confidence, increase independence, and open doors to better employment and lifelong learning. This is a great time to review with your learner his/her goals using the “**Roles & Goals**” form. If you are in need of a new copy, stop in the office. They are located on the counter, next to the wire basket.

Adult literacy tutors may also experience renewed enthusiasm during this time of year. A feeling of fresh motivation and strong commitment to helping their learners succeed can be a part of the Fall vibe. This positive energy helps learners feel comfortable and valued as they begin or continue their educational journeys.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

In this issue:

Hello Fall!	1
Close Reading	1
Tutor Talk: What is the best part of your weekly tutoring session?	2
Teaching Tip	2

Close Reading

Close reading is a technique to help learners better understand the text they are reading. This strategy is especially helpful for learners studying for their GED. It works best with short passages that are meaningful or interesting.

Follow these 3 simple steps:

1. Understand the “gist”.

Before the 1st reading, explore and familiarize yourself with the topic. Then read the text to determine the “gist” or the central idea of the content.

2. Read deeply. During the 2nd reading, read closely, analyzing the text for its meaning. Look for words or phrases that are

interesting, familiar, strange, confusing, difficult, etc.

3. Finding Evidence.

The 3rd reading is done in chunks, looking for the answers to questions within the reading. Learners discuss answers to questions using evidence from the text.

Additional readings may be used to improve oral reading fluency.

READ Adult Literacy Program

211 N. First Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707

989-356-6188 ext. 15
readprogram@alpenalibrary.org



Discover. Connect.
Grow.

What is the best part of your weekly tutoring session?

My learner and I have been working together for several years, so we have become good friends. We enjoy catching up on personal events from the previous week at the start of each session. We like to end each session by reading and discussing articles from the local paper. Cheryl V.

The best part of the weekly tutoring sessions is the laughter we share as we work through her written English and she shares with me many stories of her adjustments, successes, and experiences. Sophia is a willing and eager learner, not afraid to try, to make mistakes, proud of her success. I'm also lucky to get frequent peeks into Chinese culture and history. Gordon S.

Staying on course, despite occasional difficulties and watching someone doing something they never thought possible. Richard W.

Best part of weekly tutoring is the "one on one" attention that helps provide more engaging learning. Sue S.

The best part of our twice-weekly tutoring sessions is the laughter. We work hard, but occasional laughter helps keep us on an even keel. Bruce M.

My student is such a lovely person and I've enjoyed getting to know her and learning about her culture. She has such a natural curiosity and she is eager to learn. My favorite moments are when she asks questions about the lesson that lead us off in another direction from what I had anticipated. These are always full of surprises and they make me have to think through "Why do we say it in that way?" or "Yes, there are multiple meanings for this one word!". These are fun to explore with her and I usually walk away with a new appreciation for how challenging it can be to learn the English language. Kirstine F.

The best part is knowing that I am helping this person improve their situation. Lisa R.

Teaching Tip

PEACE

5 things adult learners value most in a teacher



Patience

Be patient and give time to think, try, and improve.



Enthusiasm

Bring energy and positivity. It makes learning more enjoyable!



A Lot of Student Talking

Give many opportunities to speak and practice in class.



Corrections

Correct mistakes in helpful, respectful ways so students can learn from them.



Encouragement

Encourage and believe in your learner. It builds confidence and motivation.

You make a difference!

Your time, care, and commitment help adult learners achieve their goals and build a better future. Thank you for being a teacher who brings **PEACE** to your classes.