

What REEP Means to Me

student poems written in support of the
Arlington Education & Employment Program (REEP)
March, 2005

My school is...

*My school is red
because of the intensity of the students
looking for progress.*

*It sounds like spring birds
when it's time to come back home.*

*It feels like a hot shower that cleans your body
of ignorance.*

*It tastes like bread that came a few minutes ago,
so when you finish it,
you know how wonderful was the class.*

*It smells like a small flower growing with the sun of
knowledge each day.*

- by Adolfo, from Bolivia

*This poem was read aloud by REEP Director Suzanne Grant as
part of her speech to the Arlington County Board on March 29,
2005.*

Scroll down or click on each link
below to read poems by these
REEP students:

[REEP is...](#)

acrostic poems about REEP
written by 550-level students
(Teacher: Angie Felix)

Haja Rakoto Alson
Yuly Acuña
Beatriz R. Prado
Luis Alvarez
María Norah Falcon
Ana Cabezas
Marco Enriquez
María C. Rivera
Ismael Barrios
José Vidal Lopez
Dario Hector Baguena
Emilio Villafuerte

[My School is...](#)

descriptive poems about REEP
written by 400-level students
(Teacher: Pat Thurston)

Patty, Bolivia
Adolfo, Bolivia
Santiago, El Salvador
Ferhana, Bangladesh
Fatima, Morocco
Ayda, Ethiopia
Bouchra, Morocco
Jimena, Bolivia
Manuel, El Salvador

Acrostic Poems about REEP

(An acrostic poem uses the first letter of each line to spell a message going down the page.)

R eally nice and smart, to create
E nglish classes which helps the foreign community learn the language
E mployment follows, when you get good stuff to transmit
P eople you meet here are helpful especially when you register for class

P rices or tuition fees are not expensive, so you can afford to go to school
R eading, speaking and writing are the goals of the students
O pportunities are many because you are well prepared, and
G ood positions or jobs are available because you feel self-confident
R eep program also provides scholarships to help students
A lot of inspiration for people who want to study different courses.
M ay God bless all the REEP staff and the head of Arlington County Board!

-- **Haja Rakoto Alson, Madagascar**

R eality - - I am very happy because I am studying
E nglish in this Learning Center. This kind of
E ducation is really very important for me, and these
P rograms really help a lot of people to learn English.

P rograms such as this also exist in my country,
R eally, it's necessary in my life, because here I have the
O pportunity to learn to improve my speaking, reading, writing, and
G rammar because that's basic.
R eally, I need to give thanks to the REEP program, and I'll
A lways be very grateful to all the
M any good teachers who helped me learn English.

-- **Yuly Acuña**

R eading, writing and speaking
E nglish in the United States is the key to find
E mployment and to grow as a person, instead of just
P roviding for food.

P roviding a better lifestyle for our families, the
R EEP program
O ffers us this big opportunity to show that we can be
G reat learners. I've been in this country three years and I think I'm
R eally a good student. The
A dult education program taught me to

Manage my life and my future, thanks to REEP!

-- **Beatriz R. Prado**

Ringing of bells in school means time for classes, and good
English is difficult to learn.
English is very important for me when I go to class. Even
Parents, too, are happy if they can come to these classes.

Programs like REEP in Arlington county
Really make a big difference in our lives.
Obviously the Arlington County Board is
Generously trying to help the program.
Really, I enjoy learning English every night.
And that's why we need more funding for the
Many students like me who want to go to school..

-- **Luis Alvarez**

Receiving lessons in our English Class when we came
Early in this country, has helped us immigrants.
English will help us to make our dreams come true and in
Planning our future.

Programs like REEP have made a big difference in our lives.
Really, believe me.
Objectively we can see our future.
Gratitude is what we feel about this program.
REEP, we thank you and the
Arlington County Board for your support.
Many people learned reading and writing in English because of you.

-- **María Norah Falcon**

Reinforcing my vocabulary is learning more
English because it helps me with reading and writing, and
Enriching with more grammar. My
Plan is studying more English. This is my

Project so that I will get a better job.
Really I like this program.
Our lives have changed a lot and I feel
Great to be able to communicate.

Recently I passed to a higher level.
And I think I have improved because
My life is better now.

-- **Ana Cabezas**

Really by attending classes we can learn more
English and we can communicate with each other,
English is spoken in many countries in the world. This
Program helps us a lot to reach our goals.

People like us have the opportunity to learn this language.
Rarely we see other countries help us in our studies.
Obviously we should continue studying at Arlington public schools.
Grateful we are because we can study.
Really we are thankful for all your help. We have
Agreed that if we can continue with this program, the
Majority will need a lot of your help.

-- **Marco Enriquez**

Reading, writing and speaking
English is very important for me.
Employment opportunities are there, so there should be more
Programs like this because this is important in this country.

People around the world speak this language.
Really I need to learn English well because
Opportunities in this country are very good. This is a
Gift that I can give to myself. By
Reading, writing and speaking in this language,
All my dreams can come true because this is like a
Magical dream.

-- **María C. Rivera**

Right now, I'm a student of
ESL because I want to have better
Employment, and I'm sure that this
Program will help me to make it.

Personally, I have been improving my skills in
Reading, writing and speaking. Now I understand

Other things. And my main
Goal is to use this language as a
Resource to live a better life in this country.
Also it is interesting to share ideas with
Many students that come from other countries.

-- **Ismael Barrios**

Recently I began to introduce myself in English.
English has helped many people to speak with other people.
Everyone knows how important it is to speak this language because it
Provides many opportunities in life.

Programs in English help people reach their goals.
Readng and writing is very important because it gives many
Opportunities to live in the United States. A
Gift is something that makes you happy.
Really it's a nice thing to learn English and it
Affords more REEP programs to help us, immigrants.
Money is not enough to live our lives.

-- **José Vidal Lopez**

Rarely I have missed
English classes in the adult
Education
Program of Kenmore School.

People who come from other countries
Really think that Arlington is a good place to live
Or to study.
Growing with your kids in Arlington gives them a
Real good life
And an education. It also helps the students in the program to
Move from the beginning to the intermediate level.

-- **Dario Hector Baguena**

Readng and writing in
English is my goal.
Education in the REEP program is good, and my
Priority is to learn English well.

P eople who do not speak English
R arely have good jobs,
O r meet new friends. That's why I'm
G rateful to the
R EEP program for this opportunity to learn
A new language. In my life, this opens
M y door to new opportunities.

-- **Emilio Villafuerte**

Descriptive Poems about REEP

My school is like a rainbow.

It sounds like a rock concert
with many people there.

It feels like my school back home
when I was a little girl.

It smells like a garden with many roses.

It tastes like the many flavors
in one big melting pot.

-- **Patty, Bolivia**

My school is blue like the sky that makes my mind fresh and peaceful.

At school the students sound like twittering birds.

It feels like pride and joy to help us improve and change our lives.

It smells like the red rose in summer.

It tastes like Kit-Kat chocolate on a long trip.

-- **Ferhana, Bangladesh**

My school is white like the peace flag.

It sounds like the jungle

in the morning.

It feels like my soft cotton pillow.

It smells like a perfume of jasmine flowers
in spring.

It tastes like ice cream and tiramisu
in summer.

-- **Fatima, Morocco**

My school is a small world
with many faces.

It sounds like water
from a high mountain
calling thirsty people to drink.

It feels like a village living in peace.

It smells like fresh air helping babies grow.

It tastes like delicious food my mother cooked.

-- **Bouchra, Morocco**

My school is white like sun in the morning.

It sounds like a river when
all the water goes down.

It feels like very soft fresh cake.

It smells like a room full of roses.

It tastes like natural honey.

-- **Ayda, Ethiopia**

My school is white

like the moon lighting my head.

It sounds like when my grandmother calls me to do something.

It feels like a strong storm coming.

It smells like old wines that you want to taste.

It tastes like a pinch of salt from the bottom of the ocean.

-- **Manuel, El Salvador**

My school is red like the blood.

It sounds like bells at Christmas.

It feels like a big soft toy bear.

It smells like rose perfume.

It tastes like sweet, hot bread.

-- **Jimena, Bolivia**

My school is like a rainbowful of color.

It sounds like the Amazon jungle with songs from different kinds of wild birds.

It feels soft like touching a two year old sheep.

It smells like a flower store
on Valentine's Day.

It tastes like the most expensive champagne.

-- **Santiago, El Salvador**

My School Is My Heart

My School is white clouds
in a blue sky.

It sounds like an alarm that tells me,
"Hurry up, it's late!"
"Your life is going by!"

It feels like a hug you get without touching
or
how you feel
when your mother says,
"Don't be scared."
"I'm going to save your life."

It tastes like the first bite of my favorite food after a long fast.

It smells like the most special plate of food,
one that you must first work really hard for,
if you want to eat from it.

-- **Mervat Awad, Egypt**

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