



Literacy Volunteers of America

Essex & Passaic Counties

www.lvaep.org

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New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning Adult Learner Writing Contest 2017

Special Mention -Memoir

Biography:

Damian Wilson lived in Jamaica until she was a young teen and was pushed along the school system through the 8th grade. "I didn't grasp anything at all, but they let me go through," she said. Damian and her LVA tutor have worked together for over two years and Damian's confidence and writing abilities have grown immeasurably. Damian is a big fan of Thursday night television on ABC and starts unwinding while watching "Grey's Anatomy" followed by the rest of the nighttime dramas. Look out Shonda Rimes, Damian is on the rise!

Her persistence as a learner has served Damian well. She currently works for the Board of Education at Glen Ridge. She assists pre-k and kindergarten students in their aftercare program. Damian exclaimed, "My job is awesome! I get to do projects, crafts, read, and help with homework." And, in her spare time, Damian continues to write.

Title: Sixteen
Student Author: Damian Wilson
Tutor: Margaret Valentine

I wonder what it would be like to be sixteen again. When I was sixteen I didn't go to a regular high school; I went to a training center where I learned different skills for jobs. I also did not get a driver's permit. I was living with my aunt then. I didn't learn about dating or dancing because my aunt did not do those things. Instead, I went to work as a babysitter.

If I were sixteen again, I would rather be in a regular American high school where I would do a lot more learning activity, such as taking different academic classes, learning different languages, getting my learner's permit for driving, and also getting ready for the high school dance. I wish I had been able to go to the mall with my friends. I wish I had been able to go out on dates.

I don't know, but I wonder what it would be like to be sixteen again.