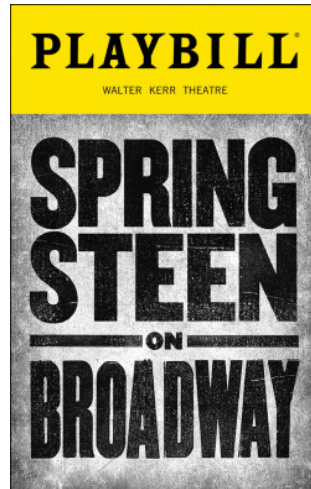




## Inspired By Bruce



Christina Mandara  
Tutor Program Manager



My husband and I went to see “Springsteen on Broadway” this month. Whether you are a fan of Bruce’s music or not, this one-man portrayal of a rise to Rock ‘n Roll stardom is quite an intimate and compelling story.

One of the perspectives Bruce shared during the show has remained with me. It was how Bruce described what he misses most about the years of his youth. He said at 19 years old, he had no job, no money, his family moved away, and he set out with nothing but uncertainty in front of him. It was the scariest time of his life, but it was also the most exhilarating. He said it was like he had this *big blank piece of paper* laid out in front of him just waiting to be scribbled full of stories.

In this past year I have gotten to know so many of you, your talents and the fullness of your own life stories. We can all relate to missing our younger years, but we have found a way to soften growing older by giving of ourselves to others in our literacy work.

You are a special group of people who enhance those torn, ripped and wrinkled pages of today’s new immigrant, of today’s aspiring American, of today’s illiterate citizen. You are sharpening their pencils, smoothing out the folds and binding one page to another so they can seek and find opportunity. You consider the families they’ve left behind, the jobs they wish to have, the education they’ve missed, and how frightening their lives must be at most times.



TUTOR OFFICE

So, each time you meet with your student remind yourself it is the one moment in all the scary, uncertain moments of their lives where they feel they have a fighting chance. And so your impact in their lives is profound.

So, this holiday season take a minute to consider yourself. Turn to

## CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Tutor Program Office will be closed from December 25 through January 1. We will return on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018!

your next blank page and jot down this simple truth:  
"I am a literacy tutor. I ignite hope!"

And in igniting hope, your own life story will continue to grow by volumes.

Yours in peace, hope, love & literacy,

Christina Mandara  
Tutor Program Manager  
Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.



## Tutor Tip: Six (6) Questions to Empower Learners

Over the course of your sessions, take time to teach your students how to ask these questions of you. By knowing how and when to ask these questions, a student will learn more language and feel more comfortable with it. It will also help you know where they may be having difficulty.

1. Could you please repeat that? I'm sorry. I don't speak English very well.
2. Could you speak more slowly?
3. What does . . . mean?
4. How do you say this word?
5. How do you spell that?
6. How do you say this (using gesture or visual)?

This tutor tip is brought to you by Literacy New York's (LNY) Online Tutor Training. *Upon log in, proceed to English Language Learners Module > Unit 1 > Chapter 2 . If you did not take your tutor training online, but would like use of this resource, please let us know and we will provide a link for you.*

## A Shout Out to our Tutor Program

December marks the one year anniversary of Tutor Program Manager, Christina Mandara's, start at LSNY. And January will be one year for Tutor Education Specialist, Judith Levine. Together with YOU we are building a seamless and robust tutor program. Here are the results of our collaborative work in 2017:

- We maintain 145 active tutors that include 73 working tutors serving 132 students.
- We have re-activated 20 former tutors.
- We have 15 active county libraries which include 5 re-activated library locations.
- We have trained 20 tutors for work as citizenship tutors.
- We have trained 16 tutors in multi sensory educational activities.

- We have upgraded our tutor communications to include:
  - A more descriptive educational evaluation of a student at the time of a new match
  - A more descriptive post-test evaluation so a tutor more clearly understands a student's test performance
- A new evening conversation group at the Nyack Library started by a tutor couple
- A new citizenship group session at the Nanuet Library started by one of our citizenship tutors
- A new enterprise relationship between our tutor program and a local landscape business where tutors work with ESL staff (8-10 people) during their slow winter months

Please accept our sincere thanks for making this year at Literacy Solutions so successful. We could not build this program without YOU!



## About That Annual Appeal

Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. recently mailed out an annual appeal for your consideration. For our students, we are hoping to fund a few more costly citizen application fees. For our tutors, we use donations for subscriptions like *Easy English News*. Most importantly, we are grateful for even the smallest donation. Every little bit helps! Thank you!

Donations accepted @ [www.literacysolutionsny.org](http://www.literacysolutionsny.org) > Get Involved.

LSNY Tutor Program Office located at the New City Library  
Pass front desk to the right & downstairs  
845-708-9072  
[www.literacysolutionsny.org](http://www.literacysolutionsny.org)