

# MORE THAN WORDS

SUPPORTING LITERACY AND A LOVE OF LEARNING AT YOUR LIBRARY

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## Yolanda Can Tell You a Story

When her husband was deployed in Iraq, Yolanda found out she was pregnant with her first child. Months later, her son was born with four heart defects - requiring multiple surgeries to repair his tiny heart. After his recovery, the challenges continued as he was diagnosed on the autism spectrum. **Yolanda, a native Spanish-speaker, wanted to make sure communication was never a barrier to getting her little boy the extra help he needed to succeed. Determined to learn to read and write fluent English, she turned to her local library for help.**

Yolanda is one of hundreds who have benefited from the Pioneer Library System's Adult Literacy Services (ESL) program, funded by a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Library and other caring donors to Pioneer Library System Foundation. Pioneer libraries offer one-on-one tutoring services for both English as a Second Language students as well as native speakers of English needing practice.

"It changed my life," she says, sitting inside the Noble Public Library. "I was desperate when I came here to the library."

Little by little, word by word, Yolanda learned to read and speak English - opening a new world. Yolanda's son is now getting the most out of his education because she can articulate his special needs to the school district. He is healthy, happy, and enjoys playing games with his younger brother. Yolanda also achieved her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen. She even became a tutor to help other ESL students.

There are many more success stories like Yolanda and her family. If you would like to make a difference in someone's life by volunteering as a tutor, please send an email to [litsepioneerlibrarysystem.org](mailto:litsepioneerlibrarysystem.org).



*Yolanda is grateful for the ESL tutoring that opened doors for her family*

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## Summer Reading Programs Coming Soon to Your Library

We invite you to join us at the fun-filled events offered through Pioneer's Summer Reading Programs. You can participate in interactive learning experiences and watch artistic performances at any Pioneer library. While many of the programs are designed to keep young children mentally active during the summer months, there are also activities that appeal to teenagers and adults. Nearly 30,000 people attended Summer Reading Programs during 2016 alone.

Summer Reading Programs feature something for everyone. Through a partnership with Oklahoma City Zoo, zookeepers bring exotic animals to the libraries to captivate and teach children about nature. Science Museum Oklahoma staff inspire teenagers to explore their imaginations by engineering Rube Goldberg machines and other inventions.



*Children learn about exotic animals through hands-on activities thanks to Oklahoma City Zoo*



*Journey back in time with "Ben Franklin Live!"*

People of all ages can immerse themselves in cultural experiences, such as live musical performances by Cimarron Opera and Boulevard Brass, and presentations by Benjamin Franklin (as portrayed by a historical re-enactor).

Summer Reading Programs are made possible in part by grants from the Oklahoma Arts Council, Hitachi Foundation, and The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, funding from Friends of the Library groups, and the generous support of donors like you. To find Summer Reading Program events near you, please download the Pioneer Library System Connect App to view the calendar for your library (described below).

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

## Access Your Library on the Go



Pioneer Library System Connect makes it quick and easy to access your hometown library on the go. Search the library's catalog, read ebooks on demand, manage your account and find popular titles instantly. All you need is a Pioneer Library Card to get started. Manage your account, read eBooks, digital magazines and more!



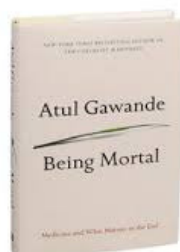
## Being Mortal Leads to Life-changing Book Discussions

If something happened to you, do your loved ones know your final wishes? Selected as the 2017 PLS Big Read novel, *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande explores this question and other end-of-life issues with compassion. As a surgeon and public health researcher, Gawande encourages readers to make decisions now that will give them the best quality of life in old age and peace of mind.

Each of the eleven Pioneer libraries hosted *Being Mortal* community book discussions featuring scholars from fields such as medicine, counseling, and estate planning. Book discussion participants of all ages felt an emotional connection to the topics, giving positive feedback. One attendee commented that the discussions provided "great information that will assist my family and me." Another participant said "thank you for inspiring the community to have these difficult conversations."



*A group of scholars engage book discussion participants as part of the 2017 PLS Big Read*



You can check out *Being Mortal* at your local library. If you would like information on planned giving and leaving a legacy with Pioneer, please visit our website at [pls.foundation](http://pls.foundation).

## You Did It! Endowment Fundraiser Surpasses Goal

When Anne Masters retired as PLS Executive Director, she did not ask for flowers or gifts. Instead, she requested that her friends and family make donations to help Pioneer Library System Foundation establish an endowment.

Thanks to generous donations from donors like you, the endowment campaign was a success! Together, we surpassed our \$25,000 goal, resulting in an additional \$5,000 matching donation from the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma. To date, the endowment now totals more than \$40,000.

Thank you for helping us fund literacy projects and transformational community programs for future generations. We could not have done it without you!

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Exciting things happen at your library every day... thanks to you.  
Read about it inside!



Your contribution is fully tax deductible and greatly appreciated. If you have additional questions about how you can make a difference, or would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact us at [development@pioneerlibrarysystem.org](mailto:development@pioneerlibrarysystem.org). Thank you.

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 Greatest Need for My Gift  Pioneer Society  Summer Reading Programs

I would like to join the Pioneer Society (\$42 monthly recurring donation or approximately \$500 per year)

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation:  
 \$250  \$100  \$50  \$35  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes! I will support literacy and learning in my community!**  
Donate online at [pls.foundation](http://pls.foundation) or return this form with your gift.

