

2018 ESL Student of the Year

Ayse Yilmaz came to LV Monmouth from Turkey in February 2017 seeking a tutor to improve her English Language skills. Ayse was matched with newly trained tutor, Lori Cortiglia and they have been meeting weekly ever since.

As a highly motivated student Ayse wanted to learn everything about English immediately. With the help of her tutor, Lori, they were able to set goals of what was most important for her and they began their work from there.

From the beginning Ayse and her tutor did a lot of reading, writing and grammar activities. Ayse was given easy chapter novels to read and she began writing in a journal all of the vocabulary that she didn't understand. During the spring of 2017 Ayse and her tutor began working on an article about nutrition and foods from her native land, Turkey. For 3 months they worked on writing and rewriting this article and then they asked if LV might publish it in the next issue of the Beacon. We did!

In September 2017 she started discussing new goals in reference to jobs and citizenship. She also expressed interest in volunteering in her community. Ayse's goal is to volunteer at a nursery school, something she did when she was in Turkey and she hopes to use her volunteer experience to get a job in this field as she enjoys working with little children very much and she has training and experience for this job.

Ayse reads and writes weekly and keeps a journal of writings where she notes vocabulary, punctuation and grammar that she wants to work on. Ayse likes to read children's classics as well as novels and Ayse has also taken to reading newspapers. When she and her tutor meet they also spend time on practicing the pronunciation of minimal words pairs. Since December 2017 Ayse and Lori have been working on different kinds of writing styles, like fiction, personal, narrative, fiction, etc., and Ayse continues with her journal entries. Every week she and her tutor review what Ayse has written going over it for proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. She rewrites the old entries with the corrections that they make. Ayse has begun to write short stories for children and she has progressed from a Basic English Grammar workbook to the Intermediate level.

Some of Ayse's favorite books have included "I Am Malala", the Christmas Carole, and she especially enjoys books written by women authors as well as biographies.

Ayse's goal to improve her English Language skills is being met weekly. Her new goals of volunteering in her community have been met as she currently volunteers with the Keyport Garden Club and she started taking the U.S. Citizenship Preparation Classes offered By LMVC this past March.

Due to Ayse's commitment to learning, her willingness to work toward her goals and her ability to take on new goals, we are pleased to award **Ayse Yilmz with our 2018 ESL Student of the Year Award.**