

My Early Tutoring Experiences

By Bette Ahlers

I started tutoring nineteen years ago, in the fall of 1996. My first student was Marcos Zavala. His first tutor completed Laubach – book 1 with him. She then moved out of the area. When I started with him, he wanted to review that book before we moved on. He was the kind of student every tutor dreams of. He worked hard and always did his homework. Some of the things we did were bake chocolate chip cookies and attend the Spring Receptions. I also invited him to my house one Easter and for my grandson's birthday party. When we quit as a tutor pair, he had completed several books in the Challenger Series.

My next student was Jose' Hernandez. My best memories about working with Jose' is the change English literacy made in his life. He was a young father working at TNT crust. When we started tutoring, he was sweeping and taking out garbage. By the time we ended, about four years later, he was supervising a line of workers.



During that same time period, I tutored Paulino Vasquez and Pedro Lopez. They worked at a McDonald's, so we used a booth at the restaurant. Neither had transportation. These two men knew almost no English, so it was my chance to test the Laubach method.

Pedro liked to cook, so on May 7, 2002, they prepared a Mexican meal for me and some of my family.

These were some of my successes. Over the years, there were many others. There was also a few pairings that didn't work out. So, my advice would be don't quit tutoring just because every match isn't a complete success.