

Hello my name is Mariam I'm from Syria I'm 16 years old I have a big family we are 10 people I have 3 sisters and four brothers they are very nice I am the eldest.



My country Syria was very beautiful we were happy there. Syria is a beautiful country I

love Syria so much, and I hope the war has ended there



Before I came to Canada I lived in Lebanon for three years and a half. I found life difficult there, Lebanon is very small and many refugees live there. There are no jobs and everything is very expensive, I missed 5 years of study that was so hard for me.

I moved to Canada on 18 December, 2015. I was very scared because that's a big change for me, I have to speak a new language. Everything was new to me!

I found a nice people here who want to help. My sponsor is Janine, she and her family helped us a lot when we were new here and everything was hard. She was so nice to us and she still helps us. We cannot do anything without her because we do not know everything in Canada .

I study in school Stratford Central, it's a good school, and I am so happy to go back to school, there were a lot of teachers and students who wanted to help.

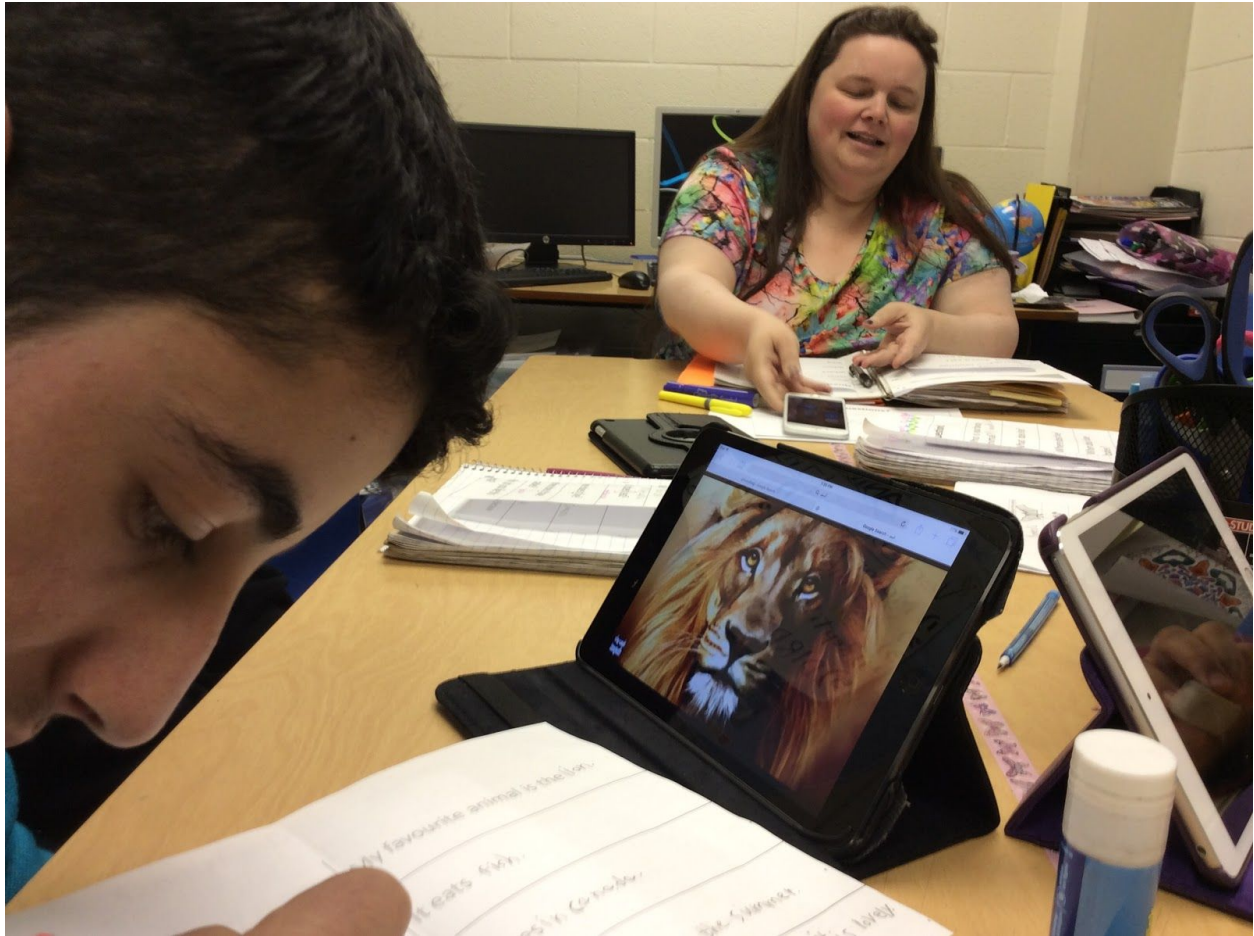
The first day at school was so hard for me but my sponsor 's daughter, her name is Haley she was with us at school for three days to help us. She helped me a lot. She is very nice thank you very much Haley!

The school gave us iPads. The Ipad was so good it helped us a lot. At school sometimes the google translate didn't make sense. It gave me old Arabic but the ipad helped me a lot. I could google search on the ipad and it gave me definitions of the words and then I understood. When I went to school last year my English was zero. At home I couldn't study without my iPad!

I started learning ESL at school and took Food and Nutrition, Gym and Math. At first it was hard for me to learn but my teachers were so nice to me and they helped us. We were not understanding anything and they used pictures to help us understand the lessons. They were talking with us slowly and that was good. My ESL teachers knew when we felt tired and they played things like Uno to make us happy. There were students from Brazil, China and Japan and they shared playing with us. They were very nice and they gave us time to learn English.



Students at the school were all eager to get to know us and everyone said Hello to us. That made us get used to the school and adapted to our new country. Sara was a girl who who left her friends and sat with us at lunch. She was so nice she ate food with us and gave us her time and encouraged us with good words that made us feel good about ourselves. In Gym many students helped us understand what the teacher said and we enjoyed gym! Many people are still helping us, like in Science class they explain the homework to me. A nice girl, Clara sits with me three days a week to help me with homework after school. I have so many things I remember that were so good!



The thing that helps to learn a language is to work so hard and do your best to learn. A new language requires a lot of time and a lot of patience.

No one can help you as much as you help yourself !

I would like to thank you all and all the people who have helped us and I want to thank Justin Trudeau too! He is a good man!

