

# First Literacy LAB Presentation

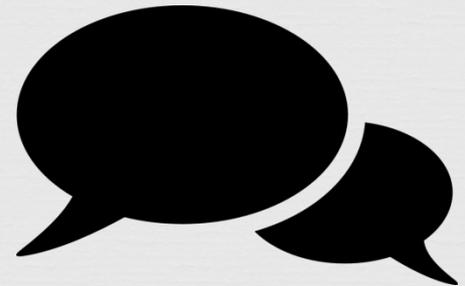


Immigrant Memoir Project  
-Brookline ESOL Program-

# Program Context



- ❧ The Brookline Housing Authority assumed sponsorship of the Brookline ESOL Program in 2015 to increase access to English classes among low-income, Limited English proficient residents of Brookline
- ❧ Program Director hired to initiate classes in 2016
- ❧ Funded by community-based sources



# Community Context



- ❧ Brookline, MA
- ❧ Needs:
  - ❧ 13% poverty; 1,000+ households in subsidized housing
  - ❧ 10% Limited English Proficient
    - ❧ High proportion of elderly immigrants
- ❧ Resources:
  - ❧ Highly engaged and educated community
  - ❧ First Literacy



# Project Origins and Purpose



❧ Project Team

❧ Power and Potential of Storytelling

*"To be a person is to have a story to tell." -Isak Dinesen*



# Project Structure



- ❧ Orientation and introduction to story-telling
- ❧ Multi-week sessions incorporating multiple skills
- ❧ One-to-one assistance
- ❧ Final presentations
- ❧ Final product

## **Telling Your Story:**



*A FREE 10-week  
English Conversation  
and Storytelling Class  
for Immigrant  
Seniors*

**Information Session & Registration  
Thursday, September 22 @ 11:30am  
61 Park St. Brookline MA, 02446**

*Hurry! Space is limited and is not guaranteed.  
For questions or to RSVP,  
please contact Danielle at (617) 277-2022 x315 or  
[dmendola@brooklinehousing.org](mailto:dmendola@brooklinehousing.org)  
A service of the Brookline Housing Authority.*

# Project Process



- œ Team planning
- œ Professional development
- œ Pre- and post-sampling



## Survey Measures - Fall 2016

1. In my daily life, I typically use English:
2. When people speak English to me in daily life, I understand:
3. How many people did you have an extended conversation in English with  
in the past week? (#) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Asking questions in English is:
5. Giving a presentation in English to others is:
7. Telling a personal story in English with many details is:
- 8.a. In the past month, I have told stories about my life, my parents or other family members to my children and grandchildren:  
b. If never, why? (Circle one or more reasons.)
9. I believe I have a story (about my life) to tell.
10. Telling my family story is important.
11. Before I begin this class, my feelings about sharing my personal story are:

# Project Participants



- ❧ Older adults
- ❧ High beginning-to-intermediate level
- ❧ Varying levels of education



# Project Tools



- ❧ Model stories
- ❧ Journals
- ❧ Choice of prompts
- ❧ USB voice recorders

# Project Outcomes



## Product

*Sharing Our Stories:*  
*A Presentation of the Immigrant Memoir Project*

March 17, 2017



**New Year's Day**  
By Irina Degtereva

*Questions as you read:*

1. What is your favorite holiday?
  - How did your family celebrate it?
  - What was the most important part of this holiday for you?
  - What are some the sights, tastes, and smells you remember of this holiday?
  - Was there one particular year that was extra-special for you? Why?
  - How do you feel when remembering this holiday?

## Process



# Project Variations



❧ Beginning Levels

❧ Other Groups

*Learn English  
Through Story!*



A FREE 10-week English conversation group for Brookline parents at the high beginning – intermediate levels

- Improve your reading and conversation skills
- Learn high-quality books and activities to help your children develop
- Facilitated by award-winning teacher, Alicia Hsu
- You must be a Brookline parent with limited income to participate
- Course is free; just one-time \$20 materials fee

**Time:** Thursdays, 12:15-1:45pm  
**Fall Dates:** October 5 – December 14, 2017  
**Location:** 22 High St. Brookline, MA 02445

**Hurry!** Space is limited and is not guaranteed.  
For more information or to register, please contact:



 **Brookline ESOL Program**  
Danielle Mendola, Director  
(617) 413-4186  
[www.BrooklineESOL.weebly.com](http://www.BrooklineESOL.weebly.com)

# The End



Questions?

