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## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

*The Stalker*

Gail Anderson - Dargatz  
(Intermediate)

Very early one Saturday morning, Mike's phone rings. "Nice day for a little kayak trip, eh?" says the deep, echoing voice. "But I wouldn't go out if I were you."

Mike's business is guiding visitors on kayak tours around the islands off the west coast. This weekend, he'll be taking Liz, his new cook, and two strangers on a kayak tour. Soon, his phone rings again. "I'm watching you," the caller says. "Stay home"

Mike and the others set off on their trip, but the stalker secretly follows them. Who is he? What will he do? *The Stalker* will keep you guessing until the end.

Pick up a copy of *The Stalker* at the Coventry Public Library or reserve a copy through your local Ocean State Library!

## TOP 10 U.S. LITERACY RATE STATISTICS

1. Nationwide, on average **79%** of U.S. adults are literate in 2022. 21% of adults in the US are illiterate in 2022.
2. **54%** of adults have a literacy below sixth-grade level.
3. **21%** of Americans 18 and older are illiterate in 2022.
4. Low literacy rates end up costing Americans up to **\$2.2 trillion** every year.
5. **34%** of the people 18 and older with low literacy proficiency weren't born in the United States.
6. The state with the highest rate of child literacy is **Massachusetts**, with over 80% of kids there having good proficiency in reading.
7. **New Mexico** has the lowest literacy rate for children, with over 30% of the state's children being illiterate.
8. **New Hampshire** has the most people 18 and older that are literate, with over 90% of them knowing how to read and write.
9. **California** has the lowest literacy rate in the country, with 23% of them having little to no proficiency in reading skills.
10. Throughout the US, there were **66% of children** in the fourth grade couldn't read well in 2013.

## ADULT LITERACY STATISTICS

- The literacy rate for Americans aged 18 and older is 88%.
- From 2012 to 2017, a survey conducted with 12,330 adult participants aged between 16 and 74 had a mean score of 264 out of 500 on a literacy test. There were participants from every state and county within the total that took the exam.
- Literacy rates in the US correlate with the number of immigrants residing in a specific state, whether or not they're legal or illegal. States with large numbers of legal and illegal immigrants have a 60% greater chance of illiteracy rates being above 20% for the adult population.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NOVEMBER BUCKET RAFFLE

Our November 2023 Bucket Raffle is coming! Let us know if you would like to donate an item towards our Raffle Fundraiser. If you would like to contribute an item, please contact us or swing by the LVKC office before October 27, 2023. Past items include gift cards, handcrafted jewelry, artistic glassware, handmade quilts, and more!

## LVKC HOLIDAY PARTY

Literacy Volunteers of Kent County would like to celebrate the holidays with tutors, students, and family! Please join us for our holiday party on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6 PM. Please RSVP on our website, or contact us by phone or email, so that we may better prepare for the event. [coventrylibrary.org/lvkc-holiday-party](https://coventrylibrary.org/lvkc-holiday-party)



## CONVERSATION CLASS

Let's Talk Conversation Class is a small-group ELL (ESL) program designed to primarily serve those ELL students, 18 or older, who are currently participating in one-on-one tutoring, or those awaiting a tutor. This conversational, task-oriented program helps students maximize their English speaking skills and is free to participants.

Tuesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 AM  
East Greenwich Free Library (82 Peirce St., East Greenwich, RI 02818)

Virtual Online - Zoom Meeting (link provided after sign up):  
Wednesday Nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Sign up on our website at: [coventrylibrary.org/lets-talk](https://coventrylibrary.org/lets-talk)

[coventrylibrary.org/lvkc](https://coventrylibrary.org/lvkc)

## NEED FOR BOARD MEMBERS

LVKC is looking for volunteers to join our Board of Directors.

For more information on how you can help, please contact us at [lvkc@coventrylibrary.org](mailto:lvkc@coventrylibrary.org).

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