



Portrait of a Super Reader: Kimberly Alvarez-Delgado

by KIMBERLY ALVAREZ-DELGADO



Growing up as a child of immigrants it was hard for me to enjoy reading. After all, English was not my first language. It was hard to sit down and read because I was not fully comprehending the stories. In Mexico, both of my parents were very lucky to be able to attend elementary school, but their schooling did not go beyond that. My mom truly believed that education was an incredible tool and wanted to instill that thought into my brother and me. She would sit down and help me read. First it was books in Spanish, then we both began reading books in English, taking the time to sound everything out. We both began our journey in learning this new language.

As a child, I also saw my mom go above and beyond when it came to reading and writing. Although she knew she was not the most avid reader, she would take the time to help others in the community acquire this skill. Many immigrant adults did not have the opportunity to attend any school; therefore, they did not know how to read and write. My mom and I would go before school and sit down with adults to teach them these amazing skills.

I was lucky enough to grow up with two libraries very close to our home. I would go to the library in my elementary school and pick out books I wanted to read. After school, my mom would take me to the public library to browse and pick more books that I was interested in. I do not remember a time in my life when I did not have books around me.

Currently, as an adult, I absolutely love reading. It is my favorite pastime and hobby. It is amazing to fully immerse yourself in stories, and with characters. You do truly get to live so many different stories while reading books.



It is an amazing experience! I have been building my home library since I was a teenager, and I am currently running out of space in my home for books, but I would not have it any other way. From living a life in my apartment to having the opportunity to live through millions of vacations, I get to live vicariously through all of my favorite characters. Reading is truly an incredible skill that only keeps on giving.

More About Me:

I received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from San Jose State University. As an advocate for underserved minorities, I began working as a Health Screener with Healthier Kids Foundation. After about eight months, I transferred to be a Program Associate with the 10 Steps Team. I was then promoted to be the Program Manager for the department. The department's objective is to prevent the onset of Type 2 diabetes in children while also encouraging parents and children to develop healthy habits. We promote having a structure and routines at home. Currently, we are developing our new class which will encourage parents to help children learn through play while also incorporating more literacy at home.

