Book: My California

Reviewer: Marianne Adams

Level of Difficulty: Difficult

My thoughts about the book and its suitability for my group:

The book consists of a series of essays about California, written by Californians. The book contains contemporary jargon and up-to-date ideas. The variety of writing styles is interesting. The book includes websites at the end of each essay, which help give a better understanding of the author’s point of view. Maps are an extra bonus.

Some essays may be indelicate for a mixed group of male/female, older/younger sensibilities. I skipped a few authors because I thought people might be uncomfortable since we read the essays aloud.

Students’ reactions to the book:

The subject matter makes this an interesting book for students new to California. The students enjoyed the topics, and liked the reading challenge. It was fun!

Tips for other tutors who may want to use this book:

Read the book thoroughly before using it with students. I thought that essays by Goldmark, Tobar, and Martinez (the coarse ending on page 130) were inappropriate for the group. The essays by Chabon and Steinbeck require a vocabulary and reading comprehension that may be beyond some students. A difficult page could be read by the tutor.