



“My Library Story” Contest Entries

“Michelle, from the Children’s section of the library, immediately made us feel welcome and make sure we got a library card right away. The library is an important connection to the community for us having just moved here.”

~ Cathy Casey, and her family:

“The Waterbury Library helps me find books I like to read.” ~Grace

“I like finding Knight books.” ~ Nicholas

“What a wonderful support to my work as a parent! My children enjoy coming to this library.”

~ Lila Hamel

“It’s a free way to learn, enjoy & spend time! The Library has taught me to garden, sew, bake bread, and knit! It has helped me to explore new adventures!”

~ Desiree Kartluke

“Both Elise & Jill have consistently helped me in navigating the internet. They really know their “stuff”.”

~ Bob Edmonds

“I came here with my kids as toddlers for story hour, met new people and introduced them to new books.”

~ Nicole Roscioli

“I have been able to find just about every book I would like to read. I have learned many new words and references I would never have known before.”

~ Anders Shenholm

“My grandson, when told we would be going to the library today, said “No (daycare)-just library!”

~ Jennifer Connolly

“Electronic library is great: love the “hold” feature that e-mails you when a title is available!”

~Greg Cisz

“We have been able to gather weekly to paint together and share creative insights and feed off one another’s energy. We are appreciative of this space and opportunity.”

~ Janet DiBlasi, Elizabeth Wechsler, Sandra Ershow, Bonnie Darby, Mary Bramblett, Jean Gouert

“They have helped me meet new people, and helped me read new books.”

~ James Bailey



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“I love to read. I'm always in one book group; sometimes more than one at a time. I read fiction mostly, but certainly spend some time reading parenting and psychology books. In every place I've lived, since I was a kid, I've spent lots of time at libraries. In Burlington, Aurora, CO, and Boise, ID, (the list goes on...) I'd spend hours at the library finding books, reading books, and studying. It's always been a haven for me that I've found peaceful and interesting. In times when my home was chaotic, I always had another place to go.

One of the most important things I've wanted to pass down to my children is my love of reading. I've read to them since they were born. As babies, I took them to story time, spent time perusing books, and sitting in the bean bag chairs reading at the Waterbury Public Library.

I read to my kids, cozy in our bed, most every night. I love the days when my kids and I will walk to the library after dinner, pick out some books, and saunter home to enjoy them. Now, my oldest son is old enough to spend time at the library by himself. It's such a joy to see him return home from the library with a book, eager to continue what he's started.

To me, the library is like an old friend. I always find it comfortable, easy, and inviting.”

~ Georgiana Birmingham

“I first came to Chile as an exchange student sponsored by the Waterbury Rotary Club. After five years and many visits in between, I moved back to this elongated country that resembles the spine of a book. Contrary to any previous euphoric experiences, my first eight months back were as enjoyable as stepping on glass and after so many wretched months I realized that a significant factor playing a role in my slump was that I had no access to a decent library with up to date material in English. However, most recently my spirit has made great leaps and bounds when I discovered the e-book program offered through the library.

It came as a surprise when I purchased a Kindle on a recent trip to the U.S. Just last spring I remember scowling at an overweight woman in terminal four at JFK airport. It wasn't because she was using a paisley print Lands End bag, or that her slip on shoe had a piece of blue gum stuck on the side, but it was because this lady was using a Kindle. She kept her tiny machine wrapped in a red case and held it close to her nose as if she were trying to get a whiff of the sale items at Yankee Candle. I hated how she turned the pages of her so-called book with a swipe of her finger and I silently cursed her for not sticking to the regular old paper books. When the lady at the ticket counter announced the flight to Burlington I jumped up to cut the Kindle woman, moving so quickly that my rolling bag budged against her heel, which I thought was the perfect punishment for having chosen to abandon traditional books for an awful electronic machine.

However, it was only after realizing that I cannot live without a library, that I came to approve of and applaud e-books, which I can get my hands on thanks to the Waterbury Library. Each night when I click off my lamp, or when I spend an entire dinner conversation telling my Chilean family about the novel I just read, I secretly give a standing ovation to the Waterbury Library for their unbeatable service, which makes it possible for a student like me at the end of the world to check out books on a weekly basis. The best part about the program is that I am able to continue nourishing myself on a daily basis with high quality reading material and makes for a simple way to stay connected to my small town community, even if it is a continent away. This service has been the catalyst for leading a better quality of life in Chile and when traveling. So next week when I fly home for another visit, if I see that woman in the airport again gripping a Kindle, I may just nod and smile instead.”

~Sophie Kirpan



“My Library Story” Contest Entries

“When I was six years old we moved to Rutherford, NJ. My mother took me to the local library as one of the first things we did after moving in, and we obtained our library cards. I remember vividly the Librarian explaining the rules of the library and showing us where the children’s section, reference area and adult sections were located. I still can smell and feel that entire library. It was pleasant, welcoming, and light filled, and I had my very own library card!

At least once a week after school I would walk or ride my bike the several blocks to the library. I can remember the sensation of sitting on a stool in front of the low children’s shelves. For what seemed only a few minutes, I became lost going over many titles, pulling out a few to read in place and selecting several to take home for a week of engaged reading. It wasn’t like there weren’t any books at home, but at the library there were SO many more! Each book I selected opened for me new worlds of history, geography, information, stories, and fantasy. I couldn’t wait to get home and begin pouring through those books.

As time passed, I read almost all of the volumes designated for the youngest children and began taking out books from the next oldest age group. That seemed to worry the librarian. She denied me permission to a book and asked I bring a parent when I next came to the library. This frightened me, thinking I had done something wrong and wouldn’t be allowed back in the library.

My father always encouraged my interests and curiosity in all endeavors, and explained to the librarian it was perfectly all right for me to take out books above my age level. If he thought any book brought home was inappropriate, he would question why I wanted to read it. If necessary he would explain why he thought I should put that book aside until I was older.

That never did happen, as I recall.

After that episode, when taking my books to be checked out, the Librarian might ask why I had selected a book she thought was not age appropriate. But she never again denied me the books I selected.

When Home Land Security was enacted and libraries were told to keep records of the books and periodicals people were taking out or reading, I was swept back to being six years old. As an adult, it angered instead of frightened me, that any individual, group or government agency might conceivably deny me my right to read anything and everything I wanted. And possibly arrest me too.

By being able to read in a library I learned the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and Amendments of the United States. The Declaration declares “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”² Being able to read anything and everything is part of that Liberty and Happiness.

The first Amendment of the Constitution orders, “Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press”²

I firmly believe in the content of those documents and what they say about our rights as a nation.

Without freedom of access and ability to read any and all publications found in libraries denies us our rights. Without information and knowledge of diverse view points, thoughts and beliefs we, as a people, would be unable to make informed judgments in all areas affecting our lives.

The Waterbury Public Library is such a valuable asset for all children and adults in the community.

Though the current facility is limited in space for books, the librarians are always willing to locate any book not on the shelves, from another library. With the computers and free Wi-fi, anyone can be connected to any periodical, record, or information on the web they wish.

To feel “Uncle Sam” is looking over our shoulders, we would become six year olds, frightened by higher authority dictates.

Our dedicated librarians have fought not to have that happen, and for that I am sincerely appreciative. I am not frightened a six year old anymore because of much that I have learned in libraries.”

~Anne Imhoff



“My Library Story” Contest Entries

Look at these poetry entries!

All the books in a row
there to help you learn and grow..
So many there to choose from-funny,sad and mysteries
about planting trees or honey bee's..
I go every week
a new adventure I seek..
The books take me away to places near and far
all from the comfort of my house-I never have to take my car..
I escape into the stories for a hour or two at a time
surely reading so much is not a crime..
So many different titles and covers to see
choosing my next book makes me so happy..
Now I have a child learning to read
all these years I have planted the love of reading like a seed..
The library is more then just reading a book it sets your mind free
everyone should go and try themselves and see..

~ Tammy Reynolds

A friendly greeting and a smile
for those who are lonely.
Books and books and books
to keep you company
and to make you think
about other lives, real or imagined.
A world outside your own.
The well into which you drop
the stone of your curiosity,
and it never hits bottom.”

~ Lyn Kasvinsky