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### What the Library Means to Me

The library is a special place and has captivated the minds of people young and old. I have enjoyed the library for as long as I can remember. First, I enjoyed children's story time, then I read books for pleasure reading, and now I use the library to gather research for school papers. I also have been volunteering for almost a year.

The library also has many programs that continue to impact the young and old. For instance they have many book clubs including the Mayor's book club, and the lunch bunch. They also have computer classes for all ages. These lessons help the young and old alike to learn to use laptops and desktops. In the past I have experienced one of the programs by going to Cleaver Head Games, a board gaming program, which met on every other Monday and Saturday. Most of all, these programs bring people together and will continue to influence people for generations to come.

When I was preschool age, I loved going to story time at the library. The librarians were so pleasant and made me feel welcomed. The books they read always kept my attention. After story time, I would pick out some books to bring home which was always fun.

As I grew older, I used the library to entertain myself and compete with my elementary school classmates. During the school year my classes participated in the Accelerated Reading program. Thankfully, the library held many of the books that were cataloged in the system. This

was great for my classmates and me, who were getting prizes for the number of points we earned. During the summers of my elementary school years, at my house we had to read in order to earn TV time. The library provided an ample source of books. My favorite book series' were *The Hardy Boys* and *The Boxcar Children*. Elementary school really got me hooked on books and set the stage for reading to become a part of my everyday life.

Now that I am in high school, I use the library not only for pleasure reading but also for school. The library is an excellent way to find sources for papers. For instance, this year I have to write a paper each week for World History, and at least one of my sources comes from the library. It is amazing what you can learn, things like the American Revolution through the eyes of the British, and a list of authors from the Anglo-Saxon era through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I also volunteer in the children's department every Thursday afternoon. When I help reshelv books and create flyers, I am taking advantage of an opportunity to give back to the place that has given me so much.

In conclusion, my life has been greatly influenced by the library in varying ways. From keeping me occupied as a kid, to helping me write papers as a teenager, this archive of books has always held a special place in my life. The library will influence people for many years to come by continuing to provide learning and recreational activities for people of all ages.