

School: South Iredell High School

Student Library Ambassador Essay

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I don't remember much about the day we moved to our new home, but I do have distinct memories of certain moments. I remember stepping foot into our new home, experiencing the glory of a fast food restaurant for the first time, and I remember the sheet foam we used as a bed when we couldn't afford a real one. The second I stepped off that plane, I was in what seemed like an alternate world. At the time I was an only child, and my parents and I had just travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to live in the US. Here everything was new, unfamiliar, different, and exciting yet terrifying both at the same time. I was so unfamiliar with this world, and everything I thought I had figured out; wrong, I had to start over. In my attempts to make sense of the lifestyle we were to soon live by, I set my sights on exemplars of social situations. For this I relied on books and television. After awhile I could only take so much of Dora, and I set my sights on this mysterious establishment. It was dedicated to the housing of books and had more than just old newspapers. I convinced my parents to take me, and in one trip I decided that this was my favorite place in this foreign land. I was always obsessed with stories, but this was the beginning of my long standing obsession with books.

Through the existence of this library I was able to learn how to handle unfamiliar situations. Reading books felt like a secret gate to knowledge that I had once been locked out. The stories themselves had a profound effect on my childhood development, and my avid reading provoked a constant hunger for knowledge. I was always talking, learning, observing, and over time I became quite outspoken. The brass handles on the entrance to the library were

like a gateway to a venturing mind. The libraries easy access, and free of charge usage, provided me with a safe haven, one I didn't even realize the importance of at the time. Without the library I would never have been exposed to the great works of Jane Austen or Stephen King.

As I grew, the obsession grew, and soon I was more fascinated with books than Jem was with Boo Radley. In third grade I managed to turn a weekly reading assignment into a competition, and ended up reading over 300+ books in the course of one school year. The same year I set my sights on a club known as Battle of the Books, and I was completely in love with the idea. The goal of the club was to read an list of books, and comprehend it very well. Well enough, to the point that when a question was asked regarding one of the books you would be able to immediately come up with the correct answer. A test turned into a competition, and my team and I took it very seriously. The first year I participate, we won the district competition and placed 4th at regionals. Since then, my classmates and I held a newfound respect for the library. To me libraries were always a breath of fresh air, a step into a rich history, and a community of people who shared the all consuming interest of literature. After the competition to my classmates and I, they became important in the way that they represented new opportunities, ideas, and a triumph.

A book is a great magic trick. It encompasses the power to serve as a time machine, or provides you with the unique ability to reader a mind. A story places you in a character's shoes and you're free to learn about their feelings, motivations, secrets, fears, and the on goings of their mind. Like a time machine, the meticulously crafted sentences can you take back into a completely different time period. Reading ignites our brain, by forcing us to process and interpret we build new neuron connection, and increases our knowledge. Books opened new realities, and

built my morals, and taught me about the ways of the world. They are works of art, and are able to provoke meaningful conversation, brilliant thought, and a new perspective. Reading a book is like starting in one universe, and ending in another. By the end of the story, you have a whole new outlook on a particular subject. Your thoughts, opinions, and perspective change, and the variation teaches one to think differently. Our mind continues to develop, and our spectrum of knowledge expands. Books are important to the future of North Carolina because written among the pages, are the ideas that serve as catalysts for the future. When we read our mind forms new thoughts and develops ideas, and this new range of thinking begin to influence our lives. Thus in the end, the story becomes a tool for navigating the future. Books are important to the future of North Carolina because they have a great influence on decisions regarding the future.