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## **The Great Frontier**

One does not have to travel far to observe new cultures or gain fascinating new insights. All it takes is an excursion to the local library. Don't worry about being an avid reader – with a bit of curiosity and a willingness to learn, there's always an adventure to be encountered. Libraries are frontiers of opportunity for impassioned explorers to view the world and to perceive themselves in a new light.

There are windows into the customs and cultures of the globe, open wide to anyone with the bravery to look. Book clubs that explore the civilizations of the globe and English for Second Language classes that tear down linguistic barricades are just a few of the resources that are capable of building bridges from culture to culture, all within the halls of a library. People can attend weekly meetings where they learn to handle computers and gain skills that will allow them to flourish in this age of technology. A struggling middle-class worker can attend seminars on how to support their family during the economic recession. Teenagers can meet in a healthy environment to socialize and connect with other human beings their age. Willing citizens can offer their time volunteering to keep the facilities running. All of these things are great ways for people to come together and support each other in mutually beneficial atmospheres. That is what the

Library is all about – bringing individuals of different races, creeds, generations, and social status together into one thriving community.

There are also resources for self expression. Groups that gather to share poetry and artists that exhibit their work in the free art galleries all testify to the creative avenue of exploration offered by the Library. People can learn a great deal about their personality by expressing themselves musically at recitals in the auditorium or get acquainted with their roots by looking up their family's heritage in the genealogy section of the resource center. They can get a new sense of character from helping school children out with homework during study time or they can discover a hidden passion for some unusual form of international cooking by borrowing a recipe book. At the Library there is always a place for those who want to discover something new about themselves. There is always a way to share one's passions and creativity with others in their community.

The possibilities are *endless*. Simply being in a room filled with books, computers, and information is inspiring. But what can be really motivating is the realization that one is never alone in their quest for knowledge and new perspective, however they decide to pursue it. Who said libraries were just for readers? They are places of opportunity for writers, poets, artists, musicians, volunteers, and explorers of every kind.