

LFSDC 2009 Essay Contest

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“Libraries – for Readers Only?”

Whoever it was that mistakenly presumed that libraries were for readers only was vastly mistaken. In fact, libraries are for the music fanatic, the scholar, the movie partisan, and those interested in cultural activities such as movie screenings, dance classes, book readings, and so on. Offering books on everything from academics to gardening, arts & crafts to politics, and even self-help to travel guides, libraries are for all people interested in knowing more about a particular passion or interest.

Before I fell in love with the magic of books, I frequented libraries for the freely available computers and fun children’s activities. Of course, at the time I was seven-years-old. Actually *reading* the multitude of books never once occurred to me, until a book reading at my local library. *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* fascinated me (Atwater, Little Brown). Never had I thought that a chapter book could open up a world such as this. Consequently, I promptly checked out the book with my handy library card and thereafter swiftly gobbled up the book. And so I discovered that libraries *were* for readers.

Maturing into the age of developing an adoration of glossy magazines, I never once imagined that movies and magazines could walk hand in hand, much less in my faithful library. However, I must confess that this discovery took my little brother’s intervention. He had grown into the age of machine guns, spies, and action adventure. I had forced my brother to join me at the library so I could read the magazines that I couldn’t typically afford from home, when suddenly he appeared at my side with five action-packed DVDs in his hand. I chose one or two movies of my own, chick-flick movies on romance and fashion style, and we both walked out of our library fully

satisfied. And so I came to understand that libraries were for both readers and movie fans.

It was literally many years later that I finally realized that I could check out as much music as I wanted, and even order more from other libraries! What gave me the idea? My friend, who hated books but loved music, had perhaps fifteen library CDs scattered around her car. Nat King Cole, Taylor Swift, the Nutcracker instrumentals, and many more were invitingly smiling at me.

“You got this from the library?” I asked in delighted shock as I held up the latest Chris Tomlin CD. “I’ve been wanting to hear this CD since forever!” And so I learned that libraries were for readers, movie fans, *and* music aficionados.

I am so thankful for my libraries, for the fact that I can confidently conclude that libraries are for readers, movie fans, and music aficionados. Other than my house and school, this is my most visited home on the planet! I’m sure I still have more to discover but at the moment, I am both contented and grateful that everyone and anyone can find satisfaction from their local library.

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