

"WHAT THE LIBRARY MEANS TO ME . . . OR TO MY FAMILY"

"Friends of the Library," Greensboro Public Library, is conducting a contest to boost interest in the library. A \$25 cash prize will be given to the child and the adult who submits the best paper in 200 words or less on the subject "What the Library Means to Me . . . or To My Family." Winners will be announced at the 50th Birthday Anniversary Open House on February 4th.

Central School P.-T.A. offered a book prize to the pupil at Central who wrote the best paper about the Public Library. More than 850 pupils wrote on the subject at school, during a school day. Winning letters from the Primary, Grammar Grades, and Junior High School divisions are quoted:

The library means a lot to me and my family. We have interesting books to read that are filled with lovely pictures, which help me to understand the story better.

I like to read books and study. I like the quiet of the library. It helps me to read.

It is a lot of fun to go in the library and look around and bring home any book I like.

Now I would like to say something about all the children's magazines. There are the kinds about the news, something like our WEEKLY READER, and others that help us with our school work like HIGHLIGHTS.

I am glad we have a good library that I can use every day.

—Nina Duke Haney, 8 years old, grade 3

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My favorite pastime is reading and I like to do this reading in the library. There I can read or study quietly. It has books that I can read for pleasure or for information. Best of all I like the ones about famous people. Some tell of other countries, their people, and habits. These help me to become better acquainted with our world neighbors and for me to make many new friends.

In the library I may study famous portraits, pieces of antique furniture, and dolls dressed in costumes of many lands which help me to find out about the people themselves. Its maps also help me in locating many important places that I may want to visit when I am older.

If I go to the library I may get any number of books free of charge and in a few minutes be living a thousand years ago. I can be close to home or on the other side of the world. The only place anyone is really able to do this is in the library. I love to spend my spare time there making friends with good books.

—Nan Hedrick, age 11, 6th grade.

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In answering the question "What does the library mean to me?", I think the biggest thing is our freedom. Libraries are a symbol of freedom, for there I can go and without being told what material to read, I can select any book on any subject from how governments and politics work to a joke book.

Only the library can furnish detailed material so cheaply on almost any subject we wish. It supplies us with this material not only to enlarge our vocabulary and general knowledge, but to help unload the mind's burden and allow us to relax.

The function of the library is vital in our democracy since it represents freedom of the press and reading, which is the greatest engine human genius has evolved. Remember an informed public is a free one.

—Jimmy Turner, age 13, grade 8.

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The Public Library means to me a place where I can study in fields beyond those taught in school. It means a place set up by the City of Greensboro for the enjoyment of the public, a place where men and women can come to study after they have finished school. The Public Library is a collection of the knowledge of men to be had for the asking. It is a monument to the hard work and freedom of the people of the City of Greensboro.

Its quietness and silence are as refreshing as the brooks, mountains, rivers and dales that its books tell about.

The building is a monument to God who works in harmony with the people for the advancement of many to the ways of peace and security. Its books tell the story of the wonders He has created on this earth and in the Universe. They tell the history of nations and men from ages past.

To sum it all up, the Greensboro Public Library is truly a wonderful place.

—Robert Willet, age 12, grade 7.

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Quote from 3rd grade paper:

"I would rather do without radio and television than without a library because I like to read interesting books."