

The Barrington Public Library has been a driving force in making me who I am today basically since I could read. It has taken many roles for me throughout my life, much as a favorite book would. The first thing the library provided for me was escape. Within its walls, I found countless worlds that I could delve into, learning and exploring with the characters within the books the library taught me to love. Many of my early favorites, from Magic Treehouse to Eragon, were introduced to me at the Public Library. I would often bring my books to my favorite reading spot, a couch behind the reference desk in the old kids room, near the paper mache dinosaur. I cannot remember a single time that I wanted to be anywhere else while I was in that reading corner.

In many ways, the Barrington Public Library still serves as an escape for me, from the everyday stresses of the world. However, as I have grown older, it has taken on another, more prevalent role in my life: that of a community. When I reached high school, I suddenly became aware of the various programs the library could offer me. I went to the midterm review sessions, where I was able to study with my friends in a fun atmosphere, and I joined my first Dungeons and Dragons group because of the library. I even started my own book club (the YA Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club) with the help of Tanya, and had a blast reading and discussing books that I wouldn't have otherwise discovered.

Throughout my life, Barrington Public Library has always been there. Even when I moved houses, even when my friends were away; whether I needed a quiet corner to do homework or a whole world to escape to, Barrington Library was there. I have taken bits of the library with me almost everywhere. When my family goes on road trips, we listen to audiobooks in the car, and when I go to camp, I always stock up on novels the day before. Even when I was touring colleges, preparing for the next step of my life, I brought an audiobook from the Barrington Library, just to remind myself of home.

Today, my room is full of at least a hundred books, and I am constantly getting more. Every time someone asks me what my favorite hobby is, I almost always reply "I love to read." I am even planning to write a novel someday, inspired by the words I have read in countless others. If it weren't for the Barrington Public Library, none of this might be true about me. And I feel that I would be all the worse off for it. Thank you for everything you have done for me. It truly means all the world(s) to me.