



First Place 5th Grade
Skylar Lester
Bleckley County Elementary School
Bleckley County School System

2023 Georgia National Fair
Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition
"Fair Bear Discovers the Public Library"

"Fair Bear Discovers the Public Library."

"I'm so excited!" I say, as I walk to the Tessie W. Norris Library. Today is my first day going, and I can't wait to see all of the amazing books! I wonder who the librarian is? As soon as I get through the doors, I hear a friendly hello. "That must be the librarian!" I think. "I would like an application please." I ask. "Well, hello!" she says. "You seem like a nice bear. What is your name?" "Fair Bear." I say proudly. "Here's your application, Fair Bear!" She says and hands me an application. "Thank you." I say as I walk to a table.

As I'm filling out my application, I think about what books she might have. "What if she has a book about dinosaurs, or cavemen? What if she doesn't have a book about dinosaurs or cavemen?"

"Here you go ma'am." I say as I give her my application. She reads it carefully, then begins telling me about what I can do with my library card. "Even though you can check out books, you can do other things too. Your library card is the gift that keeps on giving!" she says smiling. "Well, of course, your new library card is FREE, so you save money. But did you know that your library can also get you free admission to museums, cultural attractions, and state parks! Here's a list of some of the places you can go with your library card," she says as she hands me a list. Then she hands me, I can't believe it, my new **LIBRARY CARD!!**

I look, and feel, like a big balloon that's about to pop! It was the best feeling ever, because I have never held, or had, my own library card! "Thank you." I calmly say.

As I'm walking back to my table, I start reading the list of places. With your library card you can go to these places:

1. Zoo Atlanta!
2. Tubman Museum
3. Museum of Arts and Sciences
4. Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

As I continued reading, I spotted something else attached to the paper. It read: **EVEN MORE BONUSES!** you can get access to other things, like movies, music, magazines, even classes! You can find out about your family history with the Genealogy Program on the computer. Story-time is every day after school at 4:00! Wow! I didn't know that you could get movies at the library!

I leave the table and decide to look at some books. "Hmm, let's try nonfiction." That is when I find the perfect book. It was about kittens! Those are the best! I knew she would have a book about kittens! Even though they're small, they make big differences.

"You're only checking one book?" The librarian asks. "Yes ma'am." I quietly say. "Well I hope you enjoy it. It seems pretty nice! Come back any time Fair Bear!"

As I'm walking towards the door, my smile was as wide as the sun could shine!



Second Place 5th Grade
Lyra McLain
Thomas County Middle School
Thomas County School System

2023 Georgia National Fair
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Fair Bear's Walk to the Library

There was a bear in the town Animalville that everyone knew by the name Fair Bear because he was always at the fair. He would go on a walk every morning to explore. This pretty morning he discovered the new Public Library. He'd never been to a library before, he'd always borrowed books from his friends, who taught him how to read. He went into the library and saw they had more than just books. There were art classes, different shows, and so many activities to do! He went up to the front with a stack of books about bears and Medieval Times, but Miss Hopper a bunny wouldn't let him check them out. "You don't have a library card," she explained.

Fair bear was confused because he didn't know what a library card was. Miss Hopper told him all he could do with a library card and Fair Bear was stoked! Now he was able to do all the activities like play on the computers, enter the Summer Reading Contest, art classes, and shows. He was now able to check out his books. Miss Hopper gave him a bag to carry his books while he was doing other

activities. The first thing he went to was the show. Mister Hunter the fox taught the people who came to the show about our environment. Fair Bears was the forest, but he already knew that. After the show was over he went straight to the computers. He was playing games forever. He had to scan his library card three times because he ran out of time. The next thing he did was enter the Summer Reading Contest. All he had to do was sign the form and put down his library number. Now he just has to read 100 books to earn prizes. In class they painted teacups. He was having so much fun painting and creating art. He's a very good artist. Fair Bear was just about to leave the library, but then he saw the coolest book ever. It was called Alice in Wonderland! He also grabbed more good-looking books. Like, The One and Only Ivan, Little House on a Prairie, and Holes! He went up to the front with his four new books and was so excited to go home and read them for the Summer Reading Contest. Miss Hopper asked for his library card, so he grabbed it. As he felt around in his pockets he could not find it anywhere. Then he saw it in the art room and ran over to get it. He brought it back to the front and checked out his books. Fair Bear said, "That was the best walk ever!!!" That was definitely not his last visit to the library.



Third Place 5th Grade
Layla Gilmore
Stark Elementary School
Butts County School System

2023 Georgia National Fair
Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition
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Fair Bear Goes to the Public Library

Fair Bear woke up on a warm, summer morning to the smell of bacon coming from the kitchen. He followed the delicious smell into the kitchen where his mother was cooking.

"Oh, hello, Fair Bear, would you like to go to the library with me?" asked mom.

"Yeah, but I've never been," replied Fair Bear.

"Don't worry, it will be fun!"

Fair Bear finished up his plate of bacon and his mother was ready to go. Fair Bear ran to his mother, and they were on their way to the Public Library. Once Fair Bear and his mom arrived at the library, they walked in to find Mrs. Anne, a librarian, with long flowy red hair, maroon glasses, and a dress.

"Why, Hello!" exclaimed Mrs. Anne. "Is this your first time at the library?"

"Yes ma'am." replied Fair Bear.

"Wonderful! Here's your library card!" said Mrs. Anne.

Fair Bear followed Mrs. Anne with excitement and got his library card and ran straight to all the exciting books. He scanned through all the books until he found something he liked, Berenstain Bears! He picked out two Berenstain Bears books and saw Mama Bear across the library.

"Oh! That is so cool!" said Fair Bear excitedly as he bolted to all the activities and met his mom.

"Ah, yes," said Mrs. Anne. "We have activities for kids every Tuesday. You should sign up and come."

"Can we, mom? Can we?" begged Fair Bear.

"Yes, but we have to get home today," replied Mama Bear.

"Awe, man," sighed Fair Bear. "Well, at least I get to check out books. Right?"

"Of course," chuckled his mom.

Fair Bear finished his craft and playing his favorite video game, Honey Crush. He followed Mrs. Anne to the circulation desk to check out his books. Fair Bear scanned his library card then his two Berenstain Bears books. Mrs. Anne gave Fair Bear a warm smile, and he headed home.

Fair Bear and his mother arrived at their house, and he immediately plops down on his couch and opens his books.

"How are you enjoying your books, Fair Bear?" questions his mom.

"I love them. Can we go back to the library again? Please!" begged Fair Bear.

"Of course, of course we can," replied mom. "We will plan another visit soon!"

It was 7:30 PM, and he thought about his amazing day at the Public Library. The thoughts of all his fun and reading his books made him slowly drift off to sleep.