



First Place 6th Grade
Joy Anna Hellman
Tiftarea Academy
Independent School System

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

Fair Bear Discovers the Public Library

Fair Bear woke up early and could feel excitement in the air. Today his father was taking him to the public library. He had not been to a library in a long time, even though he loved to read.

He quickly got dressed and woke up his father. Fair Bear urged him to go as fast as he could. Finally, they got in their car and headed towards the public library.

Right when they opened the door, Fair Bear could smell one of his most favorite smells. It was the sweet and musty smell of books, both new and old. More than anything, he wanted to flip the pages of all the books and feel the different textures against his fingers. His father interrupted his thought to tell him it was time to get his very own library card!

They walked up to the counter in the center of the room. Fair Bear had to stand on his tiptoes to see over it. His father gave them

all the information: his name, birthday, and their address. The lady behind the counter was very nice and even let him pick the color of his card. He chose blue. She wrote his name on it and handed it to his father. Fair Bear was disappointed that she had not given it to him, but at least he wouldn't have to worry about losing it. He grabbed his father's hand and started running through the aisles of bookshelves.

While running, he realized they were no longer surrounded by books but computers! He had not known that there were more than just books in a public library.

Noticing the surprised look on Fair Bear's face, his father explained that there were more rooms filled with different activities for people of all ages. Fair Bear decided they would find and explore as many of these rooms as they could.

They spent most of the day going from room to room playing, reading books, and doing crafts. It wasn't until his father mentioned something about food that Fair Bear realized he was hungry. He looked down at his watch and was surprised to see that they had spent over four hours in the library!

Quickly, he gathered his books and took them to the checkout counter. Most of his books were from the non-fiction section and were

about animals and nature. A man stood behind

Fair Bear went home, ate a good lunch, and began reading. He loved how you could travel all around the world just by sitting in a chair reading a book.

Later that night, Fair Bear went to bed thinking about what he had read. He wondered when he would be able to return to the library and where his books would take him next.



Second Place 6th Grade
Lucy Lane
Burke County Middle School
Burke County School System

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

Adventures in the Library

On one sunny clear day there was a bear named Fair Bear, who was overfilled with joy. For his birthday, Fair Bear had received a library card. At first, Fair Bear did not what this was, but he eventually figured it out. When the day came for Fair Bear to go to the library, he got up, got dressed, and ate breakfast. Then, he put on his shoes, and walked right out of the door to the library. When he got to the library he had a smile from ear-to-ear. But, when he got in it was not what he expected. Not only were there billions of books, but also movie DVDs, computers, and cool models of dinosaurs. He first picked out some books, Harry Potter, Nancy Drew, and of course Pete the Cat. He checked out these books and got to reading. But, something caught his eye. There was a little trap door behind a book shelf that was half open. Fair Bear wondered whether or not to go look at what was behind the mysterious door. Fair Bear started to walk to the door at a brisk pace, making sure no one saw him. Was Fair Bear going to get in trouble if someone saw lurking around at a place that he wasn't supposed to be? Either way, Fair Bear was excited, and he wasn't going to

Stop until he figured out what was behind that door! When he got past the door, he ended up in a big room about half the size of the library. The room was full of books! He looked around to see all of the books, and most of the books were the same books that were in the library. He wondered why this room had the

So, he found a comfy bean-bag, got Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, and flipped to the page that he ended on in his other book. He touched the page, and out of nowhere he was at Hogwarts! He had a long black robe, and a big, bulky book in his hands. On top of that book though was Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. He pinched himself to make sure he wasn't in a dream, and to his amazement he wasn't in a dream! He flipped to the same page he ended on, touched it again, and was back in the library. He was sitting on the bean-bag in his normal clothes again. Fair Bear had a feeling that these books were in a different room for a reason. Fair Bear went to that room everytime he was at the library. He did not tell anyone about this room, but he had a feeling that the librarian knew. From then on, Fair Bear loved the library.



Third Place 6th Grade
Ellia McClain
Armuchee Middle School
Floyd County School System

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

Fair Bear stepped into his school library, welcomed by all of the books on the shelves. He started searching for a book when Mrs. Longclaws greeted him.

“Hello, Fair Bear! Can I help you look for anything?” she asked.

“Yes, please. I’m looking for the first book in the Adventures of Brady Bear series. My friend Henry Hedgehog suggested it to me,” answered Fair Bear.

“I’m sorry. Unfortunately, a student just checked out that book, but you can look in the Sunny Spot Public Library.”

“What’s the Sunny Spot Public Library?”

“It’s similar to this library but bigger and open to anyone.”

“Cool, I’ll check it out after school. Thanks, Mrs. Longclaws!” said Fair Bear as he walked out the door.

Later that afternoon, Fair Bear jumped off his bus and rushed up his driveway. He told his mom he was going to the public library, and he went outside, hopped on his bike, and rode off. Fair Bear arrived at the library and propped his bike by a tree. He walked into the library looking at the breathtaking rows of shelves. Fair Bear was surprised at how many more books there were

in the public library than in the school library.

Fair Bear was starting to wonder how he was going to find his book when he spotted a sign that said "Kids Books." He started there and found the book he wanted. He went to the checkout counter, but a lady with a name tag that read "Ms. Blackfur" told him he needed a library card. After he checked out, he took the book home. The next day, Fair Bear woke up to a hammering noise. He walked out into the hallway and saw his dad hammering two planks of wood together and frowning.

"What are you doing?" asked Fair Bear.

"I'm trying to build a bookcase, but I'm stumped," answered his dad.

"Hang on, I can help," said Fair Bear with a plan in his mind.

Fair Bear rode his bike to the library and quickly grabbed the book he had seen the day before titled "D-I-Y Bookshelves." As soon as Fair Bear was back at his house, he gave the book to his dad and told him he found it at the library.

"Wow! This is super helpful!" exclaimed Fair Bear's dad.

That afternoon, Fair Bear poured straight through his book. The next day, Fair Bear returned to the library and found the second book in the series. As he headed to the door with his book, he saw some couches next to people surfing the web.

"I want to start reading here," thought Fair Bear.

As Fair Bear began reading, he thought about all of the ways the public library is useful. He dreamed of seeing the sites in a park or museum by checking out a free pass or attending a book club meeting. Fair Bear smiled and said, "I guess when you try new things, you can discover new opportunities."