

Write “Your Story” at the Library

Written by Margaret Fritzel, Children’s & Young Adult Coordinator

We are surrounded by stories at the Warsaw Community Public Library with 35,113 adult fiction stories, 3,572 teen fiction stories plus 30,000 in the children’s area.

Stories are a powerful form of communication. Presidents, preachers, teachers and parents connect with their audiences when they tell stories, because concepts presented as stories become imprinted in our minds. Stories help us to learn.

Every person is a story, a unique story of experiences involving people, places and things. We often tell our stories, incidents that happen in our families or at our work. We laugh when we tell humorous stories about ourselves and sometimes become vulnerable when we share our dreams.

Writers of stories look for such “morsels” from people around them to use in their creative work, like fiction stories at the local library.

Those who attend WCPL’s monthly Writer’s Club build stories on their experiences, from something they found “right under their noses” or from an imaginative idea that is so fresh no one ever thought of it before. Here are some of their comments:

Michelle Weidenbenner says: “The club is a great place to meet fellow writers who are looking for ideas, feedback, training, encouragement and an audience who will listen.”

Pam Engle talks about having been bashful about reading her stories aloud, but through attending the club “confidence has grown.”

Jan Long enthusiastically states, “I love writing stories about my family, for my family.”

Karleen Brennan writes: “The enthusiastic listening/test market quality of reading my stories to other aspiring writers is helpful in the questions evoked, so I am able to expand my outlook, as further writing is considered.”

Teens are now gearing up to write stories, poems and book reviews in an upcoming newsletter, with the goal of encouraging others to read young adult stories. Check out www.warsawlibrary.org / teen page link.

Another writing opportunity is the Creative Writing Contest, offered each year during the summer reading program. The contest gives teens the opportunity to let their stories unfold on paper, to win prizes and to have their work printed in the Times Union.

Children, kindergarten through third grade, are also encouraged to write stories for the Reading Rainbow Young Author and Illustrator Contest. WCPL forwards their stories to the regional competition, hoping they will, then, be entered into the national competition.

Last year three area students received recognition in the 15th Annual Reading Rainbow with two of them having their winning stories exhibited at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Stories are important, so either tell or write yours and take advantage of these opportunities at the library.

For more information on the writing opportunities at WCPL, call 267-6011.