

Be Brave Enough to Live Life Creatively at Your Library

As I was thinking about the library's summer reading program and its themes- "Be Creative" for the children and "Master the Art of Reading" for adults, I came across a quote from Alan Alda's biography, "Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself." He says, *"Be brave enough to live life creatively. The creative is the place where no one else has ever been. You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. You can't get there by bus, only by hard work and risk and by not quite knowing what you're doing. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself."* These words from his address at his daughter's commencement resonate with me because my nature is the complete opposite of it. If you were to ask the people in my life to describe me, you would be hard pressed to get them to say I was creative, imaginative, or playful. I am the logical, orderly type who needs to have structure and a plan. So in order to be creative, I have to step outside of my comforts into unnatural territory.

However, the importance of creativity is not to be underestimated. There have been many books and articles written on how creativity allows you to succeed in all aspects of life. In fact in this depressed economy, creativity might be just the feature that sets you apart from other job candidates. According to the "Ready to Innovate" report published in 2008 by Americans for the Arts, "97% of employers say creativity is of increasing importance and 72% say hiring creative people is a primary concern."

Why are creativity and imagination so important? Dr. Stuart Brown, author of "Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul" says that "in play we can imagine and experience situations we have never encountered before and learn from them....We make new cognitive connections that find their way into our everyday lives." He goes on to say that we create these simulations by "watching and engaging in sports, physical activities, books, storytelling, art, movies, and much, much more." Most of these activities can be experienced right here at your library- for free! Right is the best time to take advantage of what we have to offer. Our Adult Summer Reading Club which starts on June 1st allows you to not only experience these things, but to be rewarded for it. You win prizes for the first four books you read, you can win our weekly prize drawings, and you might even be our grand prize winner of a \$50 Target gift card.

The purpose of our Summer Reading Club is to encourage both children and adults to read and experience the wonders of using your creativity and imagination. When reading a book, your imagination is what brings the story to life. While there are words on the page, your mind works to create the image and allows you to put yourself in whatever scene they characters are in.

Which new worlds will you choose to discover this summer? Will you learn how to paint or knit? Will you study the art of the Renaissance Masters? Will you travel through time? Whatever you choose, stop by the Reference Desk and let us know. You just might find me there ready to tell you what wonders I have found.

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