

The Library is the Perfect Place

By Carol Gordon Ekster

Don't even think about it. Not at the library, you don't. You can do lots of things at a library, but that's not one of them!



If you want to run like hundreds of bees are chasing you, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to look at maps of places where you might like to run someday, pick up an atlas. Pages of maps will hint at awesome adventures. The library is the perfect place to go.



If you want to shoot hoops, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to play basketball, or any other sport, check out a nonfiction book to learn the rules of the game. The library is the perfect place to go.



If you want to shout at the top of your lungs, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to learn how the lungs and other body organs work, do a search on the computer. The library is the perfect place to go.



If you want to whack a baseball so hard that the ball whizzes high into the sky, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to learn facts and statistics related to baseball, skim the index of *The World Almanac* or *The Guinness Book of World Records*. The library is the perfect place to go.

If you want to finger paint, spread swirls on paper and let colors collide, please don't do it at the library. But...



If you want to learn about a famous painter and her techniques, read her biography and find out more about her life and her style. The library is the perfect place to go.

If you want to blow the biggest translucent bubble with its bubblegum sweetness wrapped around your tongue, please don't do it at the library. But...



If you want to look up the meaning of a word like "translucent" in the dictionary, visit the reference section. The library is the perfect place to go.

If you want to sing your favorite song at the top of your lungs, please don't do it at the library. But...



If you want to borrow a CD of the band that wrote that catchy tune, the library is the perfect place to go.

If you want to stand on your head with blood rushing to color your cheeks, please don't do it at the library. But...



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If you want to learn how to do yoga, take out a DVD. Libraries lend a variety of audiovisual materials. The library is the perfect place to go.



If you want to dance the tango, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to read about the newest dances in a magazine, or another periodical, the library is the perfect place to go.



If you want to empty your pockets of crinkled paper, crumbled food, and pencil shavings, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to learn about smelly garbage and recycling, use an encyclopedia. The library is the perfect place to go.



If you want to jump up and down twenty times pretending you're on a trampoline, please don't do it at the library. But...

If you want to sit for a spell, you may hear a magical story being read by a literature-loving librarian. The library is the perfect place to go.



With only a card, you can be almost anywhere. Enter this building of hushed sounds where words come alive on printed pages, and undiscovered worlds are opened before you....

Today, tomorrow, always . . . the library is the perfect place to go.

Some Cool Library Facts

Did you know that it was Benjamin Franklin's idea to start America's first lending library? When he was alive, books were very expensive and many people couldn't afford them. He was part of a group called the Leather Apron Club, whose members all wore leather aprons and met to think of ways to help their community. The group went along with Ben's suggestion, and in 1731, the first lending library in America opened. Thank you, Mr. Franklin!



Did you know that there are libraries called Presidential Libraries? These are not like libraries you've been to that lend books. They are a place that preserves the papers, records, and other historical materials of all the presidents since Herbert Hoover. In 1949, the presidential library system officially began when President Franklin Roosevelt gave his presidential and personal papers to the federal government.



Do you want to know more?

- www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0768720.html to learn about the Dewey Decimal system
- www.factmonster.com/ce6/ent/A0859272.html to find out how libraries developed
- www.lib.sk.ca/aboutlibraries/famous.html to find out about types of literature



Carol Gordon Ekster is the author of Where Am I Sleeping Tonight?: A Story of Divorce (Boulden Publishing). She has also been an elementary school teacher in Derry, New Hampshire for 35 years. Visit her Web site at www.carolgordonekster.com to learn more.