

The building that stands at 50 South Fullerton Avenue, in Montclair, New Jersey, is the Montclair Public Library. I always go there to read. It is a place where I will always want to go, no matter what. It is special to me because the library offers arts and crafts, a variety of resources and lots of great programs.

The first reason I love the library is because it offers lots of arts and crafts. Once, an author called Elizabeth Foley came to the library to speak with the Reading Club. She taught us to write everything that pops into our minds. She suggested that we write in a journal. And that's what we did. We designed our very own journals. Ms. Foley gave us journals and some colorful paper and with markers at hand we drew different pictures that represented our lives. Next, we folded our papers in a special way to cover our journals. By doing this activity, this inspired me to write more. I still have my journal in my desk.

The second reason is because it offers different types of resources. For example, in the library, they have books, movies, computers and magazines. Before I learned how to read, my mother would bring me to Toddler Time, where an inspiring librarian introduced us to the world of reading. She did this through poetry, music and books. This was really important to me because my parents spoke mainly Spanish and very little English. This special opportunity helped me to learn some English. This also helped my parents. Since that program, I have been taking books home to read. Some of my favorite books when I was little were the *Elephant and Piggie* series, the *Little Golden Books* and *Goodnight Moon*. I now like *Harry Potter*, *Because of Winn Dixie*, *Wonder* and *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*.

My final reason is because of the many programs they offer. The Kids Department offers The Summer Reading Club, Minecraft Mania, Reading Club, Meet the Author, Drop-in Family Movie, Board Games and Crafts. My favorite program is the Summer Reading Club. During the Summer Reading Club we read and log our minutes. The more points, the more prizes you get. You can get a lot of awesome prizes! But I do not do it for the prizes —I do it for the books. One summer, I read *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. This book is about a boy named Auggie who has severe craneo-facial anomalies. Everywhere he goes he experiences prejudice. This book changed my life by showing me that it does not matter how a person looks, but what does matter is how a person reacts. I had a similar experience when I lost my two front teeth. I talked in a funny way and people would stare and sometimes even laugh at me. I felt sad when they did this. However, Auggie suffered more because he will have the same face forever, while I just waited for my two front teeth to grow in. Because of this, I have become aware of treating others fairly and not judging them on how they look, but on how they act. I can't wait to learn other lessons from different books that I am reading. This is what brings me to the library.

So, if you are bored, get up, go to your car or bus, and go to the Montclair Public Library! I promise you will love it, too!

Nataly Ruiz, who lives with her parents in Newark, New Jersey, is a nine-year-old fourth grader at the Ann Street School in Newark. Nataly discovered the Montclair Public Library because her mother studies English there twice a week with a tutor from the Literacy Volunteers of America.