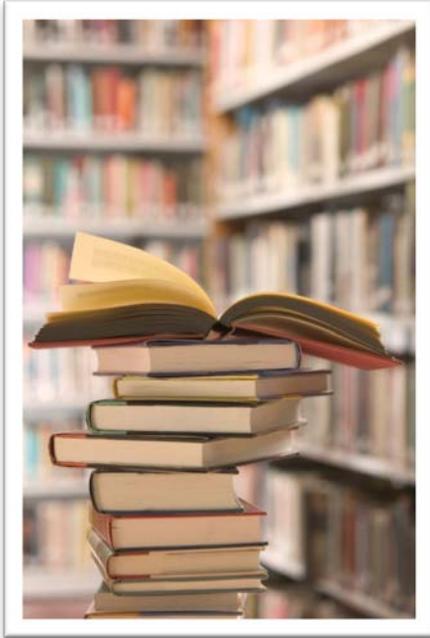




North Coast YCF youth express love for reading Part 1



By [CJ Drake](#), OYA Communications
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“What was your first memory of a librarian? What does a library mean to you? What kinds of transformative experiences have you had in your life because of libraries?”

Those were the questions recently asked by the Oregon Library Association and Clatsop Community College as they invited citizens and students to write about their reading experiences. Two youth at North Coast YCF took up the challenge.

North Coast’s library is one of the best stocked of any OYA facility and staff encourage a love for reading among the youth. Superintendent Jami Ayers said she was “deeply impressed by their perspectives and insights into how reading affected their lives.” Thanks to Ayers and the youth for sharing these two essays with Inside OYA.

“Library Love” by Isaiah

I can’t put them down.

But as I grew older, I started hanging out with my friends. The more I hung out with my friends, I started to forget about books and stopped reading them. Little did I know they were the wrong type of “friends” to have. I got into some bad habits that led me to getting arrested multiple times. I was smoking weed and not listening to my parents. I also was skipping school to smoke weed, which affected my grades a lot. Then I started to steal things. I was stealing from stores and getting caught, so I started to break in to houses and steal their stuff. I was caught stealing someone’s things from their house. Stealing got me nowhere.

Now I’m locked up, and there is not much to do but read. But I don’t care because I forgot how cool it was to read. Now I read every day, I even stay up late to read. We have library twice a week and it seems to be one of the only things I look forward to, especially because we have such a cool librarian who does so much for us. She orders us new books so we were always reading. We give her our book requests and she orders them!

I never thought that reading would mean so much to me in my life. Now I plan on turning my life around so I can be with my family and hopefully share my passion of reading with my brothers. I will never stop reading.