



Friends of the Library Scholarship Essay (Shortened Version)



Books have deeply shaped my life, worldview, and dreams. Growing up, my mom read chapter books to me every night, including the Little House series. Those stories sparked my imagination and taught me powerful lessons about perseverance and resilience. Visiting the places Laura Ingalls Wilder once lived made those lessons real and showed me that humble beginnings do not limit future success.



When I was eight, I read *Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell*. Her determination to become the first female doctor, despite being told she couldn't, inspired me. Her story sparked my interest in medicine and motivated me to pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian so I can help both animals and people.



Through these books, I learned that hard work, courage, and determination can overcome obstacles. Reading has shaped who I am today and continues to guide who I hope to become.