

Scribbles and Jots

July 2019 Issue 7

Celebrating Independence

July 4th is the day we set aside to celebrate our country's freedom. We also celebrate the awesome people who wrote its citizen's right to pursue happiness into The Constitution that forms the foundation of our great nation. Freedom and a wish for happiness! What a great combination!

With those two amazing gifts in mind, I would like to remind you that science says people who engage in creative activities tend to be happier and healthier than those who do not. Now *that's* something to celebrate!

So, this July, remember to keep some time free in your busy schedule to simply pursue your happiness with a little time dedicated to your favorite creative outlet. There is no greater celebration than a happy heart!

Sidewalk Chalk

Use it on...

Old Pillow Cases
to make Flags

Clay Flower Pots

Club House Walls

Rocks of all Sizes

Cement Floors

Old Canvas

Tennis Shoes

Flower Pots

Camp Fire
Logs



Be
creative

Create something using only the following:

Flat Cardboard
Plain Pillow Case
Permanent Markers

Fun in the Sun

We have been getting a lot of rain where we live this year. That doesn't mean that the sun never shines, though. And when it shines, my suggestion is to get out in it!

Your imagination is the best playground in the world! It isn't limited to equipment or location. Use it to be anyone you want. Pretend you are anywhere you want to be. If you have chores that need doing, let your imagination make them fun! If you have free time, let your incredible mind run wild.

That isn't a swimming pool, it's your mermaid lagoon. That tent? It's base camp for your scientific expedition to another world. If you're helping in the garden, maybe you are actually lost in a maze or collecting food in a place where you need to be quiet as a mouse so the dinosaurs don't hear you.

Let summer be your wonderland! No matter what age you may be, your imagination promises to be your very best friend this summer! Get outside and give it a really good workout!

Celebrate
Creative
Freedom!

Opinion Time

Sweet Salty

Spicy Sour

 Write the perfect celebration

About

that Reading List

While we are talking about freedom this month, I want to mention (in big, flashing neon letters accompanied by a brass band and tap dancing centipedes) your freedom to read (and write) what you want.

In your life you are going to have a whole slew of people tell you what you can and can't read (or write), what you should or shouldn't read (or write), and what is or is not acceptable to read (or write). You will not know the vast majority of these people. Why on earth are you listening to them?

As you can probably guess, I am not a big fan of censorship ASIDE FROM a parents right and obligation to have a say in what their minor child is reading (and writing). That's where my foot goes down firmly.

Do I believe all of the reading material out there has positive value in this world? Not even remotely. Would I read anything handed to me. Absolutely not. Do I get offended from time to time by something I've read? Without a doubt. That does not mean that the reading material that I don't like should not be out there. It doesn't mean that you shouldn't read and even enjoy it.

Censorship is a slippery slope. Reading is the safest way to explore new concepts, live a life that is foreign to your own, see from a different viewpoint, and gain knowledge about the world and people around us. If we allow others to dictate what we are allowed to explore through books, we allow them to shape our beliefs by simple omission of alternatives.

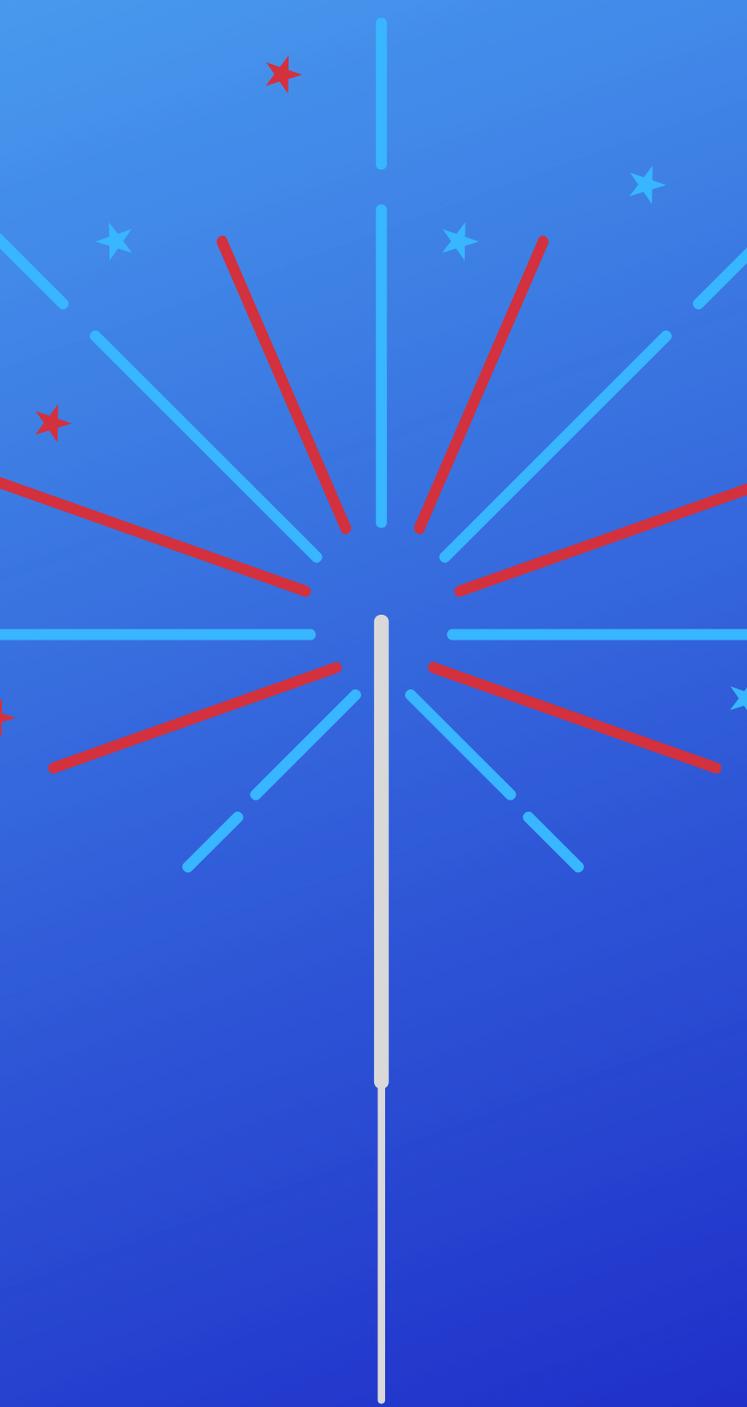
Listening to the opinions of others will also make you miss out on some great reads simply because someone said that the story was too (young, old, difficult, simplistic, poorly written, unpopular, etc.) or rope you into spending your reading time on books you don't enjoy just to be a part of the "in crowd". Read what makes you happy!

Choose your own adventures. Don't let others decide your roads for you. Life is too short for books you don't enjoy! (Stepping off my soap box, now.)

Prompt:

It wasn't that Rex was a bad dog. He was just incredibly bad at being a dog.

It Came from My Brain!!!



My time has been flying and my creativity has been going in some really unique directions lately.

First and foremost, we here at the Cassity house are really focused on the renovation of my 1970 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia (named Gregory). That project is taking quite a bit of our time and thinking power as we come up with solutions to a wide variety of small (and not so small) problems that have been uncovered in the process.

I'm also really busy clearing my To Do List of everything I can in anticipation of some really cool future projects that have either restarted or come about as a result of attending the West Virginia Writers, Inc. summer writing conference in June.

After this week's push to meet a couple of deadlines I will be turning my "spare time attention" to two maps and a book cover for the lovely lady who won my illustration package at the conference's silent auction.

I will also be sorting out a LONG standing problem with a manuscript under my pen name. I'm very excited for this one! The advice I received from two workshops and a longer discussion with one of the presenters promises to really improve the whole project - which will now be projects!

I hope that your summer is shaping up to be full of fun and creative things that really speak to your heart just like mine is. Enjoy!