

New Berlin Library
New Berlin, NY
2014 Jan Stauber Grant
Final Report

Our Project was entitled "Elementary" and was held at our library beginning July 1st and ran through August 30th. We had 46 children age 12 through 17 sign up to participate. Due to high numbers we divided them into smaller groups and held weekly sessions on both Wednesdays and Saturdays for a total of 9 sessions per group, 18 overall. Each participant was given a copy of "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" to keep, which contains 4 novels and 56 short stories. They were each issued detective journals as well to log their findings and list what they believed to be clues to solve the crimes. In the past we used clue packets, but since the sign up was so high we opted for this simpler approach.

Each group selected a different short story each week to read and write down their own findings as they read the story. On meeting night we would gather together to discuss what they felt were clues, the story and how Sherlock solved the mysteries.

The discussions were always animated and filled with fun. Many had never read Sir Doyle before and were entranced by the quick wit and cleverness of Mr. Holmes. Oftentimes parents stayed and got involved in the discussions as well. By the end of the series we had parents who had not read Sherlock before themselves, not only participating, but continuing along with their children to read the other works of Sir Doyle.

For our final meeting several members approached the staff with what they thought would be a tribute to Sir Doyle and what they had learned and enjoyed about Sherlock Holmes. They, along the help of some parents wrote a short play that they performed (with permission) at our local cemetery. It was called "The Mystery of the Missing Headstone". It was a modern Sherlock Holmes adventure they created and solved like true Sherlockians.

This latest program not only served as an introduction to the writings of Sir Doyle and the character of Sherlock Holmes, but for many participants helped them enjoy reading for the first time. All those who participated continue to visit the library and have become more avid readers. We are grateful for the opportunity afforded us and plan to hold a similar event again this coming year.

There can never be too many readers or too many Sherlockians!

Respectfully Submitted By;
Darlene LaBrie
New Berlin Library Director

Join us to and discover the world of

Sherlock Holmes

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

“ELEMENTARY”

The program will run from July 1st through August 30th

At New Berlin Library

For those between the ages of 12 and 17

All participants will receive a copy of

“Complete Sherlock Holmes”

Each week we read a different short story and learn to sleuth
alongside one of the world’s greatest detectives.

This program is brought to you by funding from the

Jan Stauber Grant Program

For more details or to sign up please stop at the library at 15
South Main Street or call us at 607-847-8564

