

2017 Jan Stauber Grant – Final Report

Submitted by: Kyla Waltermire, Collinsville Memorial Library Center

The Collinsville Memorial Library Center's grant program, "The Hounds of the Library," was targeted toward children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The core activity involved uncovering clues to determine which staff member's dog chewed the library book on Bring Your Dog to Work Day. Additional activities included playing "221B Baker Street: The Game," making paper deerstalker hats, coloring steampunk themed pages, and taking photos with Sherlock Holmes related props.

The evening began with a discussion about who Sherlock Holmes is and what makes him unique. Most of the 19 participants knew about Sherlock, but a few had never heard of him before that night. After going more in-depth with Sherlock lore, participants were split into three groups that took turns going through the main whodunit activity while the others enjoyed the supplemental activities. The library's community room, which is where the whodunit began and ended, was turned into Scotland Yard. Other areas of the library were decorated with Sherlock posters, height charts, footprints, signs, and police tape to become Baker Street, Whitechapel, and Fleet Street. Each "detective" was given a bag containing tools they would use throughout the whodunit; they were allowed to take the goodies home afterward. The tools included a cipher wheel to solve a cryptic message, a magnifying glass to identify a paw print, and an invisible ink marker to find a hidden message. Each location eliminated one of the suspects until the detectives were left with the culprit. All of the participants had a great time during the event, expressing eagerness to move from one clue to the next. After the event, several children asked if the library could do a program like this every week and a few were inspired to create their own whodunit activities at home.

Utilizing the same supplies and with a few minor tweaks, the library replicated "The Hounds of the Library" at its sister library in Fairmont City, IL. Four children participated in this program.

As part of the grant, the library purchased several Sherlock Holmes and Sherlock-inspired stories that were added to the children's collection. These books, which display the bookplates provided by the Beacon Society, were on display throughout the night and many of them were checked out by eager readers that evening. The "221B Baker Street" board game was also added to the children's collection post-event.

The Collinsville Memorial Library Center succeeded in its goal to introduce elementary school-aged children to the key components of Sherlock Holmes stories and interesting them in reading the original Sherlock and/or derivative stories. As discussed above, some participants had not heard of Sherlock before and were introduced to his world through this program. Many of the Sherlock Holmes stories purchased through the grant were checked out as a direct result of participation in "The Hounds of the Library." Participants became eager to try creating their own whodunits and to read something new, which benefits their literacy skills and expands their knowledge. Concurrently, the library's mission to promote literacy in an engaging and entertaining way was achieved.

HOUNDS OF THE LIBRARY: SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY FOR KIDS!!!



NOVEMBER 29, 6-7:30PM
AT THE COLLINSVILLE LIBRARY!

KIDS IN KINDER-
GARTEN
THROUGH SIXTH GRADE
ARE INVITED TO A
SCAVENGER HUNT
MYSTERY AT THE
LIBRARY. THERE WILL
ALSO BE OTHER SHERLOCK
GAMES, CRAFTS, AND ACTIVITIES.



PROGRAM MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE
JAN STAUBER GRANT.





