

Lonesome Pine Regional Library

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LIBRARY UPDATE

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Rocket Gets Ready for Summer Reading by Visiting Lonesome Pine and Learning about *True Grit*

Travels In Virginia By Rocket (As Transcribed by Miss Enid Costley, Children's and Youth Services Consultant, The Library of Virginia)

Dear Library Friends,

This month, Miss Enid and I have been visiting libraries in Virginia. We have been to the [Lonesome Pine Regional Library](#). It took us over six hours to travel from Richmond to Wise in southwestern Virginia. In [Wise](#), I visited with Miss Julie and Miss Amy. Miss Amy likes cats. I am not fond of cats so I don't have a picture of Miss Amy. I do have a picture of Miss Julie. Miss Julie was dressed up in a western costume because she and other librarians taking part in the [B-I-G Read](#) by having everyone read the same book. I suggested they all read – *How Rocket Learned to Read* – as it is a B-I-G book and it has the word “read” in the title, but Miss Julie smiled and replied that was a good idea, but for now they had already picked out a book. Everyone is reading *True Grit* by Charles Portis. I know what grits are, but Miss Julie said that is not what the book is about. She suggested I visit some of the other libraries and maybe find out what “True Grit” means. I thought that was a good idea.



Our next visit was to the [C. Bascom Slemper Memorial Library](#) in Big Stone Gap. This library was named after Mr. Slemper, who was a congressman and the Secretary to the President of the United States under President Coolidge. Mr. Slemper also created

the Slemper Foundation, which supports the library and other projects. *I wondered if “True Grit” has anything to do with being a leader like Mr. Slemper or being a kind person.*

[Lee County Public Library](#) in [Pennington Gap](#) was our next stop. The library staff was just beginning to get ready for the [B-I-G Read](#). They had borrowed a carriage for a display and they were putting together another display in the entry way with bales of hay. They had a lot of people in the community helping their library. Their library was creating “wanted



reader” posters which looked like an old FBI wanted poster. The one I saw featured the sheriff's department, dressed in old time western gear. They looked tough. *I wondered does “True Grit” have anything to do with justice or doing the right thing.*

[Rose Hill Community Library](#) in [Rose Hill](#) was the next stop. This is a one-person library, and boy, howdy, the librarian knows everyone! The flag comes out to tell the town the library is open and people come to use the computers and check out books and other stuff. It must not be easy. *I wondered maybe “True Grit” means courage.*



Rocket's adventure continues on the back of this page!



The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Start Here—Go Anywhere!



Coeburn Community Library in Coeburn

is the first library we visited on day three of our travels. This library has recently remodeled the upper level of the library. They have two meeting rooms, one of which was being used for a preschool program. Their children's room is dedicated to a boy named Justin who was ill and spent time in the library creating good memories. *I wondered does "True Grit" have something to do with overcoming hardship.*



Haysi Community Library in Haysi

is the newest library in the Lonesome Pine Regional Library. On the steps of the library, we met a library patron who we had seen at the library in Clintwood. We discovered that he was looking for a book that was available at the Haysi Library and then he found a David Baldacci book to read, too. *I wondered if "True Grit" means tracking things down.*



We visited the J. Fred Matthews Memorial Library in St. Paul next. The library staff is hosting a chainsaw artist at the library. He is going to display his work and teach whittling. St Paul

is an old town; people came here for lumber, then coal and then for the trains. *I wondered like Saint Paul, does "True Grit" mean perseverance.*

The next stop was the Jonnie B. Deel Memorial Library in Clintwood, which is located in Dickenson County, the youngest county in Virginia. A storytime program ended soon after we arrived. The children and parents made a beeline to the children's area for playtime and to select some books. *I wondered if "True Grit" means to make the community better.*



On Saturday, on our way back to Richmond, we made one more stop at the Scott County Public Library in Gate City. After traveling to and around the

Lonesome Pine Region for two days it was ironic that the GPS device in the car could not find the library and a phone call was required to find the library. *I wondered if "True Grit" means being a librarian!*

Boy, what a bunch of fine people and libraries we visited in the Lonesome Pine area of Virginia! I appreciate their helping me understand what "True Grit" means. What does it mean to you? Hope to see you again sometime soon. Until then, happy reading to all my friends across Southwest Virginia. Remember to visit me for Summer Reading coming to you in June 2014 and remember at Lonesome Pine, you can *"Start Here—Go Anywhere!"*

Lonesome Pine Regional Library & Books-by-Mail
124 Library Road, SW
Wise, Virginia
276-328-8325

Serving Wise County & City of Norton:

Wise County Public Library, Wise
C. Bascom Slemp Memorial Library, Big Stone Gap
Coeburn Community Library, Coeburn
J. Fred Matthews Memorial Library, St. Paul

Serving Dickenson County:

Jonnie B. Deel Memorial Library, Clintwood
Haysi Community Library, Haysi

Serving Lee County:

Lee County Public Library, Pennington Gap
Rose Hill Community Library, Rose Hill

Serving Scott County

Scott County Public Library, Gate City

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