

“Every Hero Has A Story” Summer Reading Program Proposal

Background: Danika Gordon, currently a 7th grader at Sturgis Williams Middle School, is focused on sharing the message of good character and kindness with other students. In September 2013 she began offering monthly “character lessons” at her 4-H club meetings (35 members) and with students at the Sturgis Elementary after school program (on average 40 K-5 students). From these experiences, she created a “character education activity book” for other 4-H clubs across the state and she wrote her first book “What Makes You A Super Hero?” via the storyjumper.com website. In 2014-15 she has continued with her monthly presentations to 4-H and the afterschool program.

Danika would welcome the opportunity to visit libraries in the Black Hills area this summer as a “guest reader” to share her book with other audiences and continue sharing the message of character and kindness. She is comfortable speaking to small audiences and interacting with students.

Presentations might include:

- a) Having a brief discussion on what makes someone a hero, then reading the What Makes You A Super Hero book, and discussing the discussion questions included near the back of the book. (10 minutes)
- b) Danika has several other book titles that reinforce the message of kind actions that she could read and discuss with audiences...(Have you filled a bucket today, Because Amelia Smiled, Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed)
- c) Conducting 1 or 2 of the easy character activities from her “Add Character” 4-H activity book. (10 to 20 minutes depending on number of activities)
- d) Reviewing the storyjumper.com website to encourage other students to write/create their own story. The site is free to create online books. Both text and clipart illustrations are offered. (5 to 10 minutes...if there is enough interest (and time), Danika could provide a story starter and work with the students to brainstorm on a quick book concept to help really get them thinking about the writing and story development process.

Additional options:

- Danika’s book is available for free viewing on StoryJumper.com, which would allow library groups to view and discuss it without Danika present.
- Danika’s Character Idea book with activities that relate to character could be emailed out or posted online as a pdf so it is accessible by libraries.
- Working with other 4-H members across the state, Danika could connect with a 4-H student and give them a brief training, so they could deliver the program options outlined above to a library in their local communities.

To have Danika attend a library as a “guest presenter,” to request materials, or to request a 4-H’er from your local community to present, contact:

Danika and Kindra Gordon, PH:605-722-7699, or email office@gordonresources.com