

Julie Allen's family visit the library frequently, biking over from Bradford Place. This summer, chatting with librarian Roseann Polashek, she mentioned one of her boys, Tristan, age 8, initially a very reluctant reader, is now a voracious reader. Julie spent a lot of time suggesting all kinds of books to inspire some enthusiasm, yet he lacked any motivation to read. Progress finally came after Tristan got hooked on the Percy Jackson fantasy series, and then pulled Nick and Tesla's *Robot Army* off the shelf.

221 pages and one soda bottle, 3 volt motor, duct tape and assorted wires, nuts and bolts later, Tristan followed the step by step instructions building a "semi invisible bottle bot". He entered his bot in a contest at the Scott County Fair, and won a blue ribbon for Best Use of Recycled Materials.

"Yeah, I spent about 3 hours on it, and really like the way it vibrates around in circles," the junior engineer smiled. The Nick and Tesla juvenile series is his favorite, and he's got his eye on another invention - building a solar powered hot dog maker. When asked why he liked the library so much he replied, "I get to look at all my favorite books, and just slide one off the shelf and take it home," he said.

The thing about libraries is, there are just as many interesting people inside it as there are books on the shelves. No matter your age or stage, each new book, movie or music recording is a new adventure. If someone you know doesn't have a library card, remind them the possibilities are endless. As for Tristan, his love for books and reading is a gift that will last a lifetime.

