

Darby Doll Dispatch

Volume 1 Issue 5

January 2014



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Darby Library American Girl Book and Doll Club

January Meeting

By Miss Kay

The January meeting of the Darby American Girl Book and Doll Club was held Friday, January 3, after school at the Darby Community Library.



Darby and Summer are dressed in clothes remade from adult nightgowns, skirts, and shirts.

The theme of our meeting was The Great Depression which occurred between 1929 and about 1941.



Sophia and Bella shared the Best Dress award.

We talked about what caused the Great Depression and why so many families lost their homes. Children suffered too,

having to deal with dust from the drought, hand-me-down and remade clothes, and no store-bought toys.

Sophia and Bella shared the Best Dressed awards for their clever outfits. Sophia brought a homemade cloth doll. Many families could not afford fancy dolls during the Depression so Moms and girls made their own dolls. The dolls hair might have been made by unraveling an old sweater for the yard. The dolls clothes might have been made from pieces cut from old shirts, nightgowns or sheets. Bella dressed her doll in a dress that might have been made from a flour or feed sack. In those days, flour and animal feeds were packaged in cotton bags with lovely prints or stripes. Moms made school dresses and shirts out of them too.

Peter came dressed as a hobo. Men and boys road trains trying to find work in the Great Depression. They would carry possessions in a sack or bag and carried a blanket or bed roll. Hobos would ask people to trade food for work, like painting, fixing cars or wagons, and other jobs.

Bartering (trading) was very common during the Depression, since money was short. So, we had Clothes Swap! We made some pretty good trades and all got something new to us.

Kit Kitteredge was the American Girl Doll of the Month at the January meeting. We chose Kit because she grew up in 1934 right in the middle of the Great Depression. Kit helped her family through hard times by helping her Mother with boarders, helping with meals and laundry and even raised chickens and sold eggs.

The book of the month was *The Truth About Sparrows* by Marian Hale. This is

the story of a 10 year old girl named Sadie who was forced to move to Texas



Peter dressed as a hobo.

from Missouri with her family when they lost their farm in the Great Depression. Sadie works in cotton fields and a shrimp canning factory to help her family. She experiences hard times at school too, when the kids from town pick on the kids from the fishing area outside of town where Sadie and her family live.

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Our craft project was to make puppets out of newspaper. Children during the Depression had to make many of their own toys and newspaper would have been an easy construction material to find. Boy, did our hands get black from the ink but it was fun.



Our next meeting is Friday, February 7 at the Library right after school. The theme of the February meeting is

Mardi Gras! For the February Best Dressed contest, dress your doll or teddy bear in a Mardi Gras costume for a parade or a masquerade ball, or mid-1800s costume.

Marie Grace and Cecile, from New Orleans, will be the Dolls of the Month for our February meeting.

Member Profile - Bella

By Miss Kay

Our Girl of the Month is Bella. Bella is eleven years old and in the sixth grade at Darby Elementary School. It's hard for Bella to choose a favorite subject because she loves school and loves learning.

She especially likes her English class. Bella has a wonderful teacher that encourages creativity. His motto is

“follow your own passions”. Bella is very creative and this class gives her opportunity to exercise that creativity.

Bella has written a story that her teacher is currently reviewing for her, and if we are lucky, she will publish it in our newsletter. Bella has already published an original story, *A Search for Friendship*, in the October 2013 issue.



Girl of the Month - Bella.

Bella plays basketball, but her favorite physical activity is dancing. Bella has been dancing since she was about three years old.

She likes modern dance because it is flowing, and you don't have to point your toes all the time! Modern dance is kind of a mix between ballet and hip-hop.

Bella performed last Christmas season in both *The Nutcracker* and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

Being a very creative person, Bella likes to make up dances at home with her Wii Fit.

Rebecca Rubin is Bella's favorite doll. In a club program last year, we photographed our dolls, printed and laminated them, then made paper doll clothes for them. Bella made a whole wardrobe for her paper Rebecca. Bella is so creative, she could design doll and people clothes!

Summer's Scoop

By Summer Elise Flores



We finally got a bunch of snow! It was deep and stuck together well so we made a

snowman. Darby has built plenty of snowmen, but this is my very first one. It was really fun!



Our snowman. He's going to help us shovel!

Darby also showed me how to ride a sled and make snow angels but the best part was snowshoeing. What fun! And it's easy to learn and you don't have to

be real athletic to do it. What I liked best



Summer and Darby snowshoeing

about snowshoeing is that the snowshoes are long and wide so you don't have to worry about tripping over logs or falling down all the time. I could look all around while we were walking without having to watch real close where



Making snow angels

I was putting my feet. We saw Debbie and Diane and some of the other deer while we were out. It was great!

We spent the whole afternoon out in the snow. Boy did that wood stove feel toasty warm when we came in.



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Animal Adventures

By Albert, the alligator

I have heated gear!!!! Mr. Dan has a heated vest and gloves that plug into his motorcycle, when he wants to go for a ride when it is cold. Well, Miss Kay and Mr. Dan made me a snowsuit with boots and everything, and it's HEATED! I can stay out for hours without getting cold. Since I don't have fur of my own, and I don't have warm blood, my new heated snowsuit is a super special gift.

My heated snowsuit covers my belly, back, head and tail and has matching



My new heated gear.

snow boots to keep my feet warm. The batteries keep me warm for hours. I can't take my snowsuit into Benny's lodge because it will short out. No problem, Roscoe is keeping it in his den, high and dry!

I tried it out for the very first time and boy does it ever work great. Benny, Bea, Roscoe, Walter and some of the

other animals all came out to play in the snow and ice.

I like snow pretty well but ice is really fun. We had races to see who could slide the furthest and played games like who could spin around the most times.



Playing in the snow and ice.

One time, while I was watching Debbie and Diane sliding on the ice on their bellies (just like Bambi!) I stayed in one place too long. The heat from my snow boots melted the ice just a little and I was stuck! Walter got me out in no time by scratching the ice around my stuck feet.

Summer and Darby and Peter came out to the pond to go ice skating. They really had fun, even if they did fall down a lot. You should have seen Darby trying to do a single Axle jump! Landed right on her bottom! She and Summer are really getting anxious for the winter Olympics to start next month. They promised ice skating pictures for the next newsletter.

Photo of the Month

Submitted by Summer



Darby and Summer shoveling snow before they played with their sleds, made snow angels, went snowshoeing and built a snowman.

Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Event – Theme	Time	Location
Friday	February 7	AG Club - Mardi Gras	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	March 7	AG Club - Circus	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	April 4	AG Club - Lewis and Clark	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	May 2	AG Club - Cinco de Mayo	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library

Don't forget that the Doll Fairy presents an American Girl doll at the May 2 meeting. You get to entry your name at every meeting you attend. You **MUST** be present to win!

To add events to the calendar, call or email Miss Kay at 406-360-7214, schrader1501@blackfoot.net