

He hath shewed strength with his  
arm; He hath scattered the proud in  
the imagination of their hearts.

Mary of Nazareth



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## Imagination: A Paean



Imagination, also called the faculty of imagining, is the creative ability to form images, ideas, and sensations in the mind without direct input from the senses, such as seeing or hearing. Imagination helps make knowledge applicable in solving problems and is fundamental to integrating experience and the learning process. A basic training for imagination is listening to storytelling in which the exactness of the chosen words is the fundamental factor to "invoke worlds." It is the essence of all that we do.

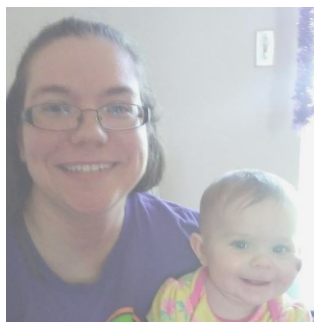
This past winter I had a prose essay challenge on "the scope of the imagination." Jessica Power's won the contest with her essay titled "*Requiem of the Imagination*." She polemicizes that the imagination has helped us create beautiful works of art, as well as technology to aid us in medicine, but is also where fear, jealousy, and anxiety are born. I wondered how the imagination could find expression in libraries?

First, what is a library? It would seem that there are so many definitions that finding one to choose would depend upon the person's position. Librarians say that a library is a collection of books and subsequent managing of these materials. Society says it is an asset to every great community to aid in defending freedom and seeking truth. The director would say it is a staff of individuals dedicated to serving the patrons. Literacy would say it is a place of stretching one's vocabulary and learning new things. The staff would say it is the events and activities that bring in the patrons. These are all good definitions, though one question remains: What should the atmosphere be in a post-modern library?

Michelangelo, the artist from the Renaissance, when asked about his favorite artistic discipline, said, "Sculpting, because it is closest to the sacred," in context of his sculpture of David the Psalmist. "I chiseled away what wasn't, so that I could see what was." A library is just that, a working in the unknown. It is a conversation, a progression, an exploring of the dark. It is all we have learned over the years. It is a community project. It is where our imagination can chisel away what it is no longer, to work towards a vision of what it could be.

Can our imagination incarnate a presence of creativity? Can it create a space within that is encouraging to all patrons, of all ages? The by-gone days of "shh" libraries are over. A library is now a community center. Have you heard of a Makerspace? Google it. The future of libraries is in our imagination. What does your imagination see?

“Patron” is a column in *Athenaeum* that focuses on someone connected to FCPL. This month I interviewed Dustee Kelly, the literal mortar in our bricks. Her job title is Administrative Assistant, though Dustee is basically a polymath. The last historical polymath was Leonardo Da Vinci. She does what would take others days to accomplish in less than a minute. She graduated from IU South Bend in 2013 with a General Business Degree. FCPL is blessed to have her. If you get a chance, ask her a math question.



Dustee with beautiful Emily Rose. Emily is now 7 months old.

**How many years have you worked for the Fulton County Public Library?**

7 years. I started in 2010 working part-time in the Children’s Department, eventually moved into working in the Teen Room. In 2014 I was given full-time as the administrative assistant.

**What is your favorite aspect of working for a library?**

It is in my temperament to help people. I do feel a sense of pride when I help people find the items they are looking for or answer their questions. I also love people, so its nice to spend time helping at Circulation, meeting new people and listening to their stories.

**Do you have a favorite TV show?**

Yes, my favorite TV show of all time is *The Golden Girls*. I have watched all of the episodes at least a dozen times and it still makes me laugh.

**Who is your favorite Golden Girl?**

Sophia. She always has some wisecrack to say, especially about her daughter and roommates, but in the end she loves and cares for them deeply.

**What would you do if you had the whole day to yourself?**

I would try and be outside and enjoy nature. Just taking a hike at a State Park, walking on the trails, and being in the woods is nice. I love it when I stumble on a waterfall.

**If you could invite one person from history to dinner, who would it be?**

Hands down, Elvis Presley. He is my favorite singer.

**Who inspires you/what inspires you?**

Who? My mother Rose Krull has always been very inspirational to me. I have learned a lot from her. She has been a great mom. My husband Skylier Kelly inspires me everyday. We have a daughter, Emily Rose Kelly, who helps bring such hope to me. What? I love dolphins. I think they are truly the most magical and beautiful animal in the entire universe.

**If you could afford to quit your job, what would you do with your time?**

Everyday it would be a blessing to just be able to spend more time with my family. If I also had the money, it would be nice to travel the United States and see the wonders of each place.

**What is one thing you have not done that you would love to do?**

I would like to go to Sea World and swim with dolphins, or become a dolphin.

**Math or English?**

I have a degree in business, definitely math.

**This is the hardest known math equation:  $e^{(xy)} + y^2 = \sin(x + y)$  when  $\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} + \sqrt{z} = 4$ ?**

First, there is no way that is the hardest math equation of all time. Second, the answer is:  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 40.125$ ,  $e^{(xyz)} = 4.771$ , answer:  $x=1$ ,  $y=0.25$ ,  $z=6.25$

**Can you do Sudoku puzzles?**

Sudoku puzzles are my favorite. I have solved all of them except for the one by Finnish mathematician Arto Inkala.

**What is your favorite food of all time?**

Pizza

**Would you be a good eyewitness to a crime?**

Not a chance. I have a terrible memory.

**What Ninja Turtle are you?**

Michelangelo. He is relaxed, and just goofy.

**What would surprise people about you?**

I am obsessed with arcade games. If I go to a casino, any gambling I do is spent playing arcade games.

8									
		3	6						
7			9		2				
5				7					
			4	5	7				
			1				3		
	1						6	8	
	8	5					1		
9				4					

The only Sudoku puzzle that Dustee is having trouble solving. The hardest known level is five stars. The above puzzle was scored eleven stars.