



A Reading Week to remember

On Monday I had the opportunity to go to Neighborhood House and read for a classroom of children ages 3-5. I walked in and introduced myself to one of the teachers. The children were just finishing lunch and still needed to brush their teeth and get organized. It was a great time for me to observe the class in action and watch how the children interacted with each other.

Eventually, the teacher called the children to the reading area. We all sat in a circle on the carpet and the teacher said, "We have something really special for you today." "Miss AJ is here to read to you." I was immediately intimidated. What? Special? No...I'm just a girl with some books to share. I don't feel special at all. The children, full of lunch and wiggling with anticipation, were all staring at me. I gulped a few times and opened the first book. As I started to read, I saw an immediate transformation. Each little face was focused on the book I was holding. All movement stopped and I witnessed the wonder of getting lost in a story on 20 little faces. At the end of the book, the children set up a chorus of "read some more" "more, please"!

I read four beautiful stories and as I started to warm up, it became more of an interactive exercise with the children guessing what happens next. After each book, they clamored for more.

When it was time to leave, they all thanked me and asked when I was coming back. It was a wonderful, heartwarming experience that I would love to participate in again.