

The image features a background of a glowing, open book with a warm, golden light emanating from its pages. The book is set against a dark, starry space background with soft, colorful nebulae in shades of blue, green, and orange. The title "A Better Story" is written in a large, elegant, white cursive font across the top of the image.

A Better Story

FCCNH 2022 ELDER MEDITATIONS

8 DECEMBER 2022

Gail Hayek

Sometimes a Better Story is a story about a story.

This story is about the power one person can have, even if that person is a 10-year-old boy.

Dillion, who lives in Boise, Idaho, spent part of his 2021 Christmas vacation writing a 72-page fanciful story about a young boy walking through a portal in the family's Christmas tree and having wonderful adventures.

When Dillion presented his finished book to his family they gave him high praise for his imaginative and creative story. As he lay in bed that night he decided he wanted others to read his book, and he had an idea of how to make that happen.

As luck would have it, the next morning Dillion was going with his grandmother to their local library. After breakfast, and before leaving the house, Dillion hid his book under his warm jacket, and off he and his grandmother went. When they arrived, Dillion headed for the fiction section and quickly shoved his book between two other books on the shelf, excited that many readers would find it.

By the next morning Dillion was having second thoughts about leaving his book and told his mother what he had done. After a lengthy discussion about making better decisions, his mother called the library to alert them of Dillion's "deposit" and told the librarian that they would pick the book up that afternoon.

When they arrived, much to their surprise, the librarian had Dillion's book on her desk and told them that several of the library staff had read it and really enjoyed the story. In fact, they thought it was so good that they entered it into their system, making it an "official" library book. The librarian asked if they could keep it because, as word spread about Dillion's story, they had a list of patrons waiting to read it.

Dillion's story got picked up by the media and it wasn't long before parents were calling their local library asking if they would accept their child's book. The result was that some of the libraries set up a special area for "young unpublished authors" limited to elementary school age children.

The story doesn't end there. Retired English teachers concluded that there was a need to help youngsters develop their writing skills, and well-attended writing classes were started and were thriving months later.

God gave Dillion the gift to create a Better Story and guided him to make a difference in this world.