

Somerset Literature Festival

By Madelyn Scanlan

On the 16th and 17th of March, Miss Geddes and Mr Bellas accompanied 18 Burnett State College students to the Gold Coast to attend the Somerset Literature Festival held at Somerset College. The festival is a celebration of all things literature. The festival proudly boasts over 30 acclaimed authors from all around Australia who hold interactive workshops and sessions for both children and adults. During our time at Somerset we listened to inspiring talks from 5 different authors. One author especially was a favourite amongst not only our school but many other people as well. Yassmin Abdel-Magied is a young author of the coming age story, 'Yassmin's story'. She spoke to the crowd about determination and not letting other people limit what you can do in life.

This year for the first time ever our school was given the privilege of attending the writer's dinner on the Thursday night. Once there we drew an author's name out of a bucket and were split into groups accordingly. We were then seated we introduced ourselves to everyone at our table before the authors were brought out and seated with us as well. At my table our author was Rachael Craw, the author of the bestselling 'Spark' series. Once we started talking we found that many of us had similar interest in relation to books and conversation flowed easily. We ate our dinner and then were sent off to separate rooms so that our groups could prepare a short skit to perform for everyone. Each group's skit had to be based on a certain topic that we were given and my group's topic was "awkward eye contact". In response to this my group came up with a comic retelling of sleeping beauty in which awkward eye contact is the cause of the curse. Zane Ratcliff was gracious enough to play our sleeping beauty while Jacob Keenan played the handsome prince.

Overall the night and the festival itself were extremely entertaining, interesting and beneficial and I would definitely recommend attending next year.

