

Massachusetts Letters About Literature Honors, | 2011 Level I

Dear Kate Klise,

I *never* really thought I would be a writer. Your book, *Regarding the Fountain*, has shown me a whole new way to write. Once my fourth grade teacher began to read the first page of your book to the class, a whole new world opened to me.

I had always wanted to write my own book, but I didn't know where to begin. One year later, you came to our school! You told the fifth grade class we could write our own "Regarding" book. I went home and re-read parts of your book to refresh my memory. You wrote newspapers, letters, telegrams and *even* postcards. I wanted to do that. I wanted to be an author just like you.

I was so anxious to start, I couldn't find a piece of paper and a pen fast enough. When I finally sat down to research and start writing I was stumped. You *have* play on words for names. I could not steal those. I tried and always ended up with one name that was the same as yours. I was so amazed I might actually be a writer I could not think! I imagined I would be the one with my name on the cover. I wanted it so bad, I did not *have* enough time to write.

The thing that surprised me most of all was that I do not like writing stories inside school. The teacher limits you to the number of pages, or the topic for your writing. You *have* to sit and write *even* if you do not want to. With your own book, you do it on your own time, with pleasure, and there are no limits. No one can tell you to stop writing because of math class, or that you *have* to take out your *favorite* part because it did not follow the rubrics. Better yet, with your own book there is no rubric.

Your book, *Regarding the Fountain*, has shown me a different side of myself, what it means to be a writer, and my possible future. I can do something my parents did not do; what my siblings will not do. In 5 years, my book could be on store shelves. I'll be going to book signings and interviews. I can do what I *never* dreamed of doing. I can be the first in my family. I can start a career now. You showed me I am not going to follow my parents' or sisters' footsteps. I am going to walk in my own shoes, with pride in myself. I will not be a follower. I will be followed. Thank you, Kate Klise. Thank you for showing me, well ... me.

Sincerely,

Tina

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