

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

2006 MASSACHUSETTS LEVEL TWO — HONORABLE MENTION

Dear Tamora Pierce,

Your stories touch me somehow. They remind me of my own life and make me feel like I'm not the only one who feels the way I do.

In your stories, your characters are always different from the rest of the world. That is how I feel all the time. I have friends but I know they never feel the same way I do. I feel sort of helpless the way your character feels.

Your books show me that I can stop feeling helpless and do something. They feel real to me. They touch me in a way I was never really able to describe. It's a strange feeling, a certain range of happiness and fear. The happiness is finding out others feel the way I feel and the fear is that it might not get better or I'll have trouble dealing with it. Your books help me deal with it. Each time I read your books over and over I understand this better. I find a new meaning. I know now that things will change in time, but I don't know if I want the way I feel, or the way I am, to change. It's the uncertainty that really scares me. The way your books grasp that uncertainty and change it from fear to expectation is why your books influence me so much.

I finally understand my feelings and it's all thanks to your books. I really thank you for unconsciously helping me and other girls get through these things.

Sincerely,

Krystal Gmyrek

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