



Reading Letters

I would like to hear more about your thoughts about what you are reading and how your reading life is going.

Next week, we are going to begin an exchange of letters about our reading. About every two weeks or so, I would like for you to write me a short letter ($\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 page) about your thoughts and feelings about what you are reading and how your reading life is going.

Here are some ideas you might include in your letters:

Writing About Reading: Some Ideas*

I was surprised when...

I was angry when...

I had trouble believing this character would have done (or said) ...

I like the way the author...

I don't understand why the author...

If I were the author I would have...

This author reminds me of...

This book reminds me of...

I like or don't like the main character because...

I like or don't like the point of view the author chose because...

The author does this cool thing with time...

The problem of the book feels true or important because...

I have been thinking about the genre of this book...

I'd say a theme of this book is...

I would recommend this book because...

I would not recommend this book because...

I'm wondering...

Something I learned from this book is...

I rated this book __ out of __ because...

I loved this sentence or passage because....

This is a stand out moment for me because...

* Many of these ideas are adapted from The Reading Zone by Nancie Atwell

I don't care about SPAM for this work. You can type (share a Google Doc) with me or neatly handwrite your letter. Feel free to include illustrations that show your thoughts and feelings.

You do not have to write about a book you are currently reading. You can also write about one you have finished recently.

I have attached an example of my own and included the schedule for the first round of letters. Access Tutorial would be a great time to get this work done, or you could use part of our writing time in Language Arts.

Mon, Nov 5	Hailey	Emma	Helia	Maddy
Tues, Nov 6	Eloise	Madeleine	Kayden	Billie
Weds, Nov 7	Alex	Weston	Vincent	Freddy
Thurs, Nov 8	Rowan	Rohit	Anna	Mylie
Tues, Nov 13	Jack	Levi	Lexi	Paige
Weds, Nov 14	Kirsten	Katie	Ria	Rocio
Thurs, Nov 15	Noah	Brenden	Alan	Jim
Fri, Nov 16	Krasni	Justin		

I will hand out new due dates after Thanksgiving.

Dear 8th graders of awesomeness --

I am currently reading a book called *Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram. I am loving it. Darius is a young man (in high school) who lives in Portland with his family (parents and younger sister). He is funny and obsessed with Star Trek. When he describes things, he often compares them to things from the show. For example, in one scene where he talks about his sister's ability to sense tension in the room, he says, "Laleh looked up at Sourab and then back to me. She could sense the tension between us like a cloaked Romulan Warbird." (pg 129)

Darius' mom is from Iran and in the book he travels there for the first time to visit his relatives. I love the way the writer describes the way we can feel both deeply connected to people and not sure how we fit in. This was relatable for me.

Adib Khorram is also really good at describing food (Darius loves food and tea), and his descriptions, especially of the desserts, make me really want to try the food that Darius eats with his relatives.

I haven't finished the book yet. Still working on it. I hope that it stays this strong all the way through.

When I think about my recent reading life, I notice that I have been pretty focused on realistic fiction and graphic novels. There are so many good books in these genres coming out right now. I feel like it has been a while since I read any historical fiction or nonfiction; I might try to move in that direction next. I also have a pile of books that I have read to around page 50. I feel like it is time for me to decide if I am going to come back to them or put them back on the shelves.

I am looking forward to hearing about your reading!

Thank you!

Love,

Ms. Manuel