

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Saint Peter School

Aaron Be 4M

1st Grade: Mrs. Quinn

Dear Christopher,

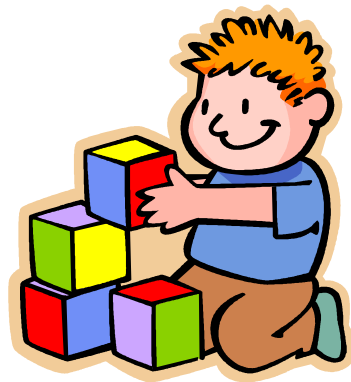
I have a secret message to tell you. Can you come to my house and play spies? See you later. Love, Jimmy K.

Dear Mindy,

I like to play with you. I like to color with you. I love you. You are the best sister. Love, Tiffany N.

Dear John,

I just love how we play at Base. I am looking forward to seeing you for a play date during Christmas. Love, Jack S.



1st Grade: Mrs. Wego/Sharpe

Dear Nora,

I went to Alabama. My cousins live there in Fairhope, Alabama. It is fun here.

Love,

Lauren A.

Dear Andrew,

Here it snows. We can build snowmen and snow forts. With the snow forts you can block snowballs.

Love,

AJ

Dear Sean,

I'm in Arizona. It's very hot and sunny. I saw a bobcat and I saw a rattlesnake.

Love,

Chase

Dear Mrs. Wego,

I went to the Bahamas. I went to the beach. The sun was hot.

Love,

Milena



2nd Grade: Mrs. Pitz

Dear Santa,

Thank you for bringing me presents every year. Last year I loved what you gave me. For Christmas, Can you please make me American Girl Doll things for my doll Kit. And will you please give presents to people that don't have enough money to buy Christmas things for their children. I'm in second grade. What are some of your elves names? What's some of your reindeers names bedies Roodoff?

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

your friend

Kyra S.

Dear Santa Claus,

Thank you Santa Claus for what you give us. Santa Claus can you give my freind Mason a 3DS because he lost his DSi? I have a elf on the shelf. My mom set more decorations up then last year. We are making hole made cookies for you. Can I please have the nerf stampede.

Merry Christmas

Love,

Ben M.

Dear Santa,

How are you doing in the North Pole. I hope you give people good presents on Christmas. I have heard your sled on the roof and raindeer to. You are very generes to thers and friends of mine. You could get me some legos for me.

Your friend

Max W.



2nd Grade: Mrs. Sheehan

Dear Santa,

How are the Elves doing? I had a great Thanksgiving. My baby sister burned her nose. I hope you can make her feel better. I want for Christmas a Nerf football.



Love,

Lance

Dear Santa,

How are you and the elves? My Aunt Anne died and all I want for Christmas is for her to look down on me everyday. Thanks and bye,

Love,



Abigail Anne B.

Dear Santa,

How are you and your elves doing? I know that you are busy but I just want to thank you for all that you do. I have a new second grade class and teacher, they are super nice! My Aunt has cancer and I am very sad. She is losing her hair so could you pray for her? Her name is Stefanie. Also, my Mom and Dad want a iphone 4s. I would like an easy bake oven for Christmas too. (PLEASE)

Yours truly,

Grace W.



3rd Grade: Mrs. Drury

November 7, 2011

Dear Firemen Cameron and Andrew,

Thank you for coming to our class. I enjoyed your visit.

What kind of sports do you play? I like playing football. Do you? Do you play baseball? My team got first place last season. Do you play video games with other fireman? Do you play any sports on the weekend? What is your favorite sport to play? What is your favorite NFL team? Mine is Chicago Bears.

Do you like being a fireman? I would like to be a fireman. How many calls do you get a day? What types of calls do you receive? How fast do you get to a fire? How fast does your fire truck get there? How long is the hose? Your job is very exciting to me. Thank you very much for your service.

From

Joseph F.



November 7, 2011

Dear Firemen Andrew & Cameron,

Thank you for coming to our classroom. I appreciate you both visiting with us. The information you shared was valuable. I enjoyed learning about your job, and all of the tools you use to protect us.

What I liked most is how you explained the rules of safety. I hope you come back in to my school in the future. Next time I would like to ride on the fire truck. Please be safe.

Sincerely,

Francesca

November 7 , 2011

Dear Firemen Andrew and Cameron,

Thank you for coming to our class. I had a great time. I like when you told us about the fire truck. It was so much fun. Keep up the good work. This was the best tour of my life! I hope we see you again soon.

Do you like any sports like hockey or football? I like hockey. I wonder what you like. Do you like to be a fireman? I thought you had more fire truck?

I hope you can come again soon.



Sincerely yours,

Chris

11-7-11

Dear Firemen Andrew and Cameron,

Thank you for giving us some fire tips. Thank you for showing us the fire truck. The class and I had a great time. At least I hope everyone did like I did, so thank you for coming.

How old do you have to be a fire person? How many fire girls work at your fire house? What position do you guys have? I think being a fire person is very hard and dangerous. Thank you for fighting fires in Geneva and saving lives.

From,

Kathryn R.

3rd Grade: Mrs. Smith

Dec. 1, 2011

Dear Santa,

Thank you for always bringing me presents. Please help me to stay on the good list. I'm sorry for every time I've been bad. Please give presents to all the kids who don't have money to buy presents. Santa, how many elves do you have? I love you and thank you so much!

Love,

Ella S.

P.S. Merry Christmas!

Dec. 1, 2011

Dear Santa,

I was wondering, how many elves are in the North Pole? Your elves are so cute! My elf is named Lucy. What is your favorite meal that Mrs. Claus makes? My favorite meal is corned beef. What I want for Christmas is nothing. All I want is to make a drive for money to give to the children's hospital. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Grace C.

Dec. 1, 2011

Dear Santa,

Do you have a pet penguin? Can elves deliver presents? I believe that reindeer can fly. I know lots of people are on the good list. I bet your elves work hard. Do you know snow is cold?

Sincerely,

Devin W.



Dec. 1, 2011

Dear Santa,

Thank you for giving me presents and elves. Thank you for keeping me on the nice list and off the naughty list. How do all your elves make all those presents? I am very, very, very good and I will probably leave out cookies and milk for you. Also, my baby brother made reindeer food and we left it out.

Sincerely,

Eli J.

4th Grade: Mrs. Groener

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134

November 9, 2011

Dear Alec,

I am coming to your house for vacation. I can't wait to go to the Dinosaur museum in Charlestown. I hear that it is big and full of facts. I also hear that there are a lot of scary videos. I am sure we are going to have a lot of fun.

After that we will walk to a basketball arena in Charlestown. The basketball team will be playing against the Bulls. Luckily we will be getting the front row seats. I'm sure they will win.

We will also go to a place where they make video games. We will get one free video game of our choice. I wonder what your favorite video game is? This trip is going to be amazing.

Your Friend,

Alexis



209 Football Lane
Geneva, IL 60134
November 17, 2011

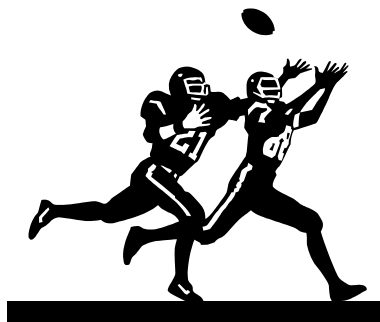
Dear Matt Forte,

I am one of your biggest fans. Did you know
To me you are the best player in the NFL. I wish I could be
like you some day.

Some day you should come to my house and have
dinner. It would be the best day of my life if you played
football in the back yard with me.

I am also a running back too. My dream is to play for
the bears. Any way I look forward to meeting you.

From your biggest fan,
Charlie



1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
December 01, 2011

Dear Paige,

Did you know I will be going to Maine? I'm so excited that I can hardly wait for December to come! I'm packing everything, but mostly my winter clothes!

There are so many fun things to do there that I can't name everything. I can only name a few things; the first thing will be painting crafts. We can also do that in our spare time. There is also a famous chocolate shop that we will go to for sure! Finally, we will go on a lot of boat rides.

This will be a lot of fun! We're doing lots of things, but it will be more fun with you. Did I mention I'm excited to spend time with you? It will be extra fun with you.

Your Friend,

Ashley



1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva IL 60134
December 1, 2011

Dear Mom and Dad,

I can't believe Christmas is almost here! There will be lots of icicles because it is cold outside. Santa will bring his Christmas cheer.

I hope there is a blizzard so I can build huge snow forts and invite friends to hang out. If there is a blizzard there will be no school! I will build the biggest snowman ever!

Christmas break is a time to be with family, relax, help the poor, and celebrate the birth of Christ. I am looking forward to ringing the Salvation Army bells to collect money for needy families. The good news is there is no homework over Christmas break. Yahoo!

Your son,

Ryan

4th Grade: Mrs. Meyer

1881 Kaneville Road

Geneva, IL 60134

November, 28 , 2011

Dear St. Helen,

Hello! I'm a student in fourth grade at St. Peter school. My name is Erika M. I'm writing to you because it's for a school project. I choose you because I thought you had a very interesting life.

I did some research and learned many interesting things. Here are some things I've learned. I can't believe you found the cross of Jesus and the thieves. I really loved how you discovered which cross was Jesus'. It was an amazing miracle when a sick women walked by and touched the cross and she was healed showing this was the cross of Christ! Also I've learned you died in 330 and your feast day is August 18.

I think you're a great role model for the world! One way you're a role model is you had such great faith that God gave you a reward, which was a special grace that teaches us to try our hardest so we can get to heaven. Another way is you had a concern for others and prayed for them. One final way is you never ever gave up and persevered when you were searching for the cross. I will try to live my life as you did with the virtues!

Love,

Erika M.



1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear St. George,

Hi my name is Ryan S. I am a student at St. Peter School. I picked you because you are a Roman Soldier. We are writing to a saint for a project. Also you slayed a dragon.

I did some research on you. I learned that you slayed a dragon. You're a Roman soldier. Many patronages exist around the world. Historians have debated the exact details of your birth.

You did good things to inspire people to be a good role model. Like you slayed a dragon to save people. You are a Christian Martyr. You loudly renounced the emperor's edict, in front of all your soldiers. I will try to be like you.

Love,

Ryan S.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 28, 2011

Dear St. Patrick,

We are doing saint letters as a school project. I chose you as my saint because you are inspirational, you are interesting, and I want to learn more about you. I am in fourth grade and I go to St. Peter school. I hope you can check on what I know about you. It's so cool you're a saint.

I learned many interesting things about you. I know your feast day, March fourteenth! Is it really true you were a bishop? You must have been really lucky! I also heard you were a slave? Were you scared as you were being taken away?

You were a great believer in God. You always had hope. You were a good bishop. You were a good person. I hope I can live a life like you.

Love,

Zach S.

1881 Kaneville Road

Geneva, IL 60134

November 28, 2011

Dear St. Michael the Arkangel,

Hi. My name is Ryan D. I am a fourth grader at St. Peter School. I picked you because I think you are a good influence on everybody on earth. I also liked how you always have faith in God.

I have learned some interesting things about you. Your facts were so interesting I spent a lot of time researching you. I already know your name means "who is like God". I also know your purpose is to protect Heaven, rescue souls of the faithful, and be champion of God's people. I think your feast day is awesome. I was surprised to see it is Memorial Day.

You inspire people because of all the things you have done. I know that in battles against enemies you have always have faith in God. Instead of other angels, you have chosen to stay faithful with God. You also saved holy people from the devil. You are a great influence to people. I want to be just like you!

Love,

Ryan D.



5th Grade: Mrs. Ackmann

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 14, 2011

Dear Aunt Amy,

I haven't seen you in such a long time! How are you? I wish you could be at Grandma's house for Thanksgiving. We will be here for Thanksgiving, but not for Christmas. We'll be in Fraser/Winter Park, Colorado. Mom, Colleen, and I will make turkey cookies for thanksgiving.

In Colorado we will be staying at our friends, the Bryans', house. Their house is so big and is on a mountain. We stayed there in the summer so we haven't seen snow there yet. It's not our first time skiing, we went to Vail, Colorado and learned how to ski on spring break. For Christmas, we'll go to a resort for Mass, brunch, and to see Santa.

I feel kind of sad that you'll be gone when we'll be here. Then when you are here, we will be gone! I'll miss you, but I really like skiing in Colorado. I love you!

Sincerely,
Natalie R.



1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 14, 2011

Dear Mom,

I can't wait for Christmas. I think we should have a fake tree. I think we should put the garland in front of the window. Let's put all the little stuffed animal penguins all over the house.

This year we are going to build a snow fort. You should help us. The tunnels will be big. We will have a contest to dig tunnels. It will be a lot of fun.

We're going to have a good Christmas breakfast this year. Do you know what we're having? How do we make it? How long will it take? I hope you have a good Christmas.

Love,
Sean M.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 14, 2011

Dear Liam,

I'm so excited to see you. I'm looking forward to when you get to come over on Thanksgiving! Since our whole family is coming, we can do a lot of things. We could play football at the end of my street in the ditch.

I'm happy that I get to go over to your house, too. I'm thrilled to swim in Lake Michigan. We can go body-surfing and skipping stones. I'm excited to jump off the dock by your house.

I have a lot of questions to ask you. How is your basketball team doing? Is school going okay? How is the rest of your family doing? See you soon!

From,
Joe N.



1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 14, 2011

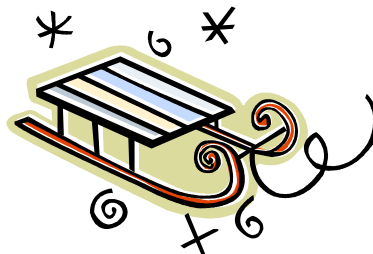
Dear Ashley and Ethan,

I can't wait to see you guys again! Do you like your new school? Do you like your teacher? What is his or her name? My teacher's name is Mrs. Ackmann. A few weeks ago our school had Red Ribbon Week where we got to do crazy things each day. Does your school do that?

I'm excited for Thanksgiving. Are you guys? We can put on another play and perform it. Let's also do girls vs. boys for the wishbone.

The weather by my house is crazy! On November 10th it snowed really hard. Has it snowed by you yet? We could also go sledding together. See you soon.

Your Cousin,
Julia M.



5th Grade: Mrs. Boehm

1881 E. Kaneville Rd.

Geneva IL 60134

November 28, 2011

Dear Kyle,

Fifth grade is really cool so far. I'm having lots of fun. Sports have been really cool and fun. Football was really fun, and I had the best time hitting people. I kind of miss it now, though I bet next year will be even more fun.

Upstairs has been really cool. It feels like we are overlords over the lower level. The lockers are really cool. At first I was really uncomfortable using them, but now it's really easy. Everybody decorates their locker, but I think it's a waste of time. It also takes up a lot of space so it's hard to put stuff in.

I thought changing clothes was awkward at first, but now it's less awkward. For some reason I'm always last, no matter what. No one likes gym because we're always playing stupid games. I'm really looking forward to Christmas break.

Your cousin,



Finn K.

1881 E. Kaneville Rd.
Geneva, Illinois 60134
December 1, 2011

Dear Grace,

There are so many things in fifth grade. This year everyone has lockers that you keep your backpack, coats, and gym clothes in. All the girls wear skirts instead of jumpers. This year we also have to change for gym in the locker rooms every time we have gym. There are so many new things new things in fifth grade.

This year we're on the second floor. We hear the middle schooler every time they change classes. They are so noisy we always hear yelling, screaming, slamming lockers, and even singing. They also drop their pages all over the hallway and they always leave a huge mess and a lot of noise.

This year we have a new classroom. We have 2 frogs, Brainy and Smurfette. This year we have a Smartboard and we use it for math and sometimes other subjects. This year we also have new religion books. Fifth grade is so fun and I can't wait for next year.

Sincerely,
Genevieve



1881 E. Kaneville Rd.

Geneva, IL 60134

December 1, 2011

Dear Dad,

I'm very excited this year because I'm in fifth grade. The setting has really changed. We are now on the second floor. Sometimes we hear the loud middle school kids changing classes. One of the benefits of being on the second floor is we get lockers to hold all our things.

There are many sports teams at St. Peter. In fifth grade were allowed to do sports. I'm playing basketball for St. Peter this year. I hope we will bring home tons of trophies and win lots of games.

In fifth grade we go on lots of field trips. Our first field trip was fun. We went to the Burpee Museum and learned about the Indians. Soon, were going to the Durley Lane Movie Theater to see a movie. I'm so excited for our field trips. I'm more excited for the whole year!



Love,

Hannah

1881 E. Kaneville Road
Geneva IL 60134
December 1, 2011

Dear Sarah,

I'm in 5th grade and almost to middle school. When you're in 5th grade here at St. Peter's you're upstairs. We're with the middle school upstairs, so during their change it is really noisy. We get lockers this year. I have two half lockers. I have a couple of decorations like a mirror, dry erase board and some pictures. We get a lot of homework some times, but I usually finish most of it during school.

I really like my teacher! She is really nice and I wish I didn't have to leave her when I go to middle school. I like that she makes school seem like it is not even school. She has goals that we can earn. For example, we have recess points were if the whole class is good we get a point. If the class is bad we lose a point. At the end of the week how many points we have is how many minutes we get of recess.

We have fun field trips. We went to the Burpee Museum and it was really fun. It was a really long bus ride. I brought a notebook on the bus, but it was still long. We went and saw Native American tribe exhibits that we learned about in Social Studies. We also made pinch pot pottery. We got to design it however we wanted, but it had to be what Native Americans might do back then. After all this I think 5th grade is fun!

Your Cousin,

Maggie

6th Grade: Mrs. Thumm

1881 Kaneville Rd.

Geneva, IL 60134

Nov. 15, 2011

Dear St. Albert the Great,

It is nice to write to you; I did you for my saint report. I go to St. Peter's School in Geneva, IL. I love to play sports such as basketball, football, baseball, and pool. I love to go to school because I have really nice teachers. I have 2 brothers and really nice parents also.

I can relate to you in many ways. You are the patron saint of science. I love to do science and it is one of my favorite subjects in school. You were also good at music and I like that subject too. I would like to be a saint like you someday.

You are a great saint and I ask you to guide me through my life. Please pray for me to do good things in school. Please help me do well in school. Thank you for being a role model for all people; you are a great person. Can you please write back?

Thank you,

Timmy H.



1881 Kaneville Road

Geneva, IL 60134

November 15, 2011

Dear St. Francis of Assisi,

It is nice to talk to you because I am doing my report on you. I love how you always love God's creations, for example, animals. You look very happy in the pictures I've seen of you with the animals. You love God a lot and I know that because you always prayed to him for the courage to do things. You always loved helping others. You are a very nice Saint and I love that.

Hi, my name is Patrick O'Neil. I go to St. Peter's School in Geneva, Illinois. I love God so much and I pray to him every day. I play Futbol and basketball and I have a dog named Pumpkin. I live in Geneva. I love animals because they can be so nice and loving. I have two sisters one is named Katie and the other is named Ashlee. I have a family of five and we are all Catholic's.

We have a lot of things in common. We both love animals and that is really cool. We are both Catholic and we respect God and love going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist. We both love God's creations and respect them instead of destroying them. We both love God with all our heart ,mind, and soul and respect him and give him grace.

God Bless,

Patrick O.



1881 Kaneville Rd.
Geneva IL, 60134
November 15, 2011

Dear St . Michael,

My name is Mitchell S. I am 11 years old and I play a lot of sports. The sports I play are baseball, basketball, football, and a little hockey. For my 3rd grade saint project I did you and had to dress up as my saint. It was fun to do an essay on you and dress up as you. This is me and how I spend my life.

I think it would be cool to be a saint. It would also be fun to have wings. It is also cool that you are a leader of the angels. It feels good to defeat Satan, doesn't it? To defeat the devil is an amazing achievement.

I like how you carry a sword. My brothers and I sometimes fight since there are four of us. I am a leader just like you. I lead many sport teams. When I play sports, my teams defeat other teams just like you defeated enemies. My baseball team is good at defeating enemies just like you.

Your friend,

Mitchell S.

1881 Kaneville Rd.
Geneva, IL 60134
Nov. 15, 2011

Dear St. Mary,

You are my favorite Saint and a good role model. I like you because you are the mother of Jesus and the queen of heaven. Now I will tell you a little bit about me. I am a swimmer. I love to read books! I also like to learn and enjoy school.

I think it is amazing that you were chosen to be the mother of Jesus and I think you deserved to be. You are an amazing woman. You were very strong to travel to Bethlehem while you were pregnant. You are a very great person.

I hope I can be like you. I will try my best to be the best person I can be. Please lead me to be a good person. I will think of all the Saints and heaven and hope that will help me to be like you and Jesus.

From,

Lindsey F.

6th Grade: Mrs. Osman

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60314
11-17-11

Dear Self,

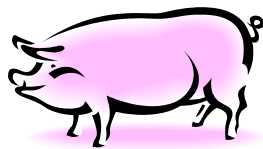
I have so many things to tell you right now about what is going to happen to you in the next couple years. First I will talk to you about your job. You will be a professional soccer and hockey player. You will also travel often. You will go to Notre Dame .

The next thing I will talk to you about is where you are going to live in and where. You will live in a mansion in Prague,Czech Republic. You will live there and then a couple years later you will move to Japan.

The last thing I will talk to you about is about marriage and kids. You will not be married and not have kids. But you will have 51 animals such as elephants, dogs,, rhinos, pigs, and monkeys. I hope you like this letter and see you later alien brain.

Your future me,

Self (Anthony P.)



Katherine
1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, Illinois 60134
November 17, 2011

Dear Me,

I am writing this to future me. I would like to find out who I will be when I grow up. Also I'd like to know if who I would like to be will be true. I really hope it does.

First off, I want to go to either Indiana University, Dayton, or DePaul. Any will do. I would like to have a job with Lindsey. I would like to be a baker with her. If that doesn't work out then a third grade teacher would do.

Now, I'll do my living. I want to live in a penthouse, most likely in New York or Chicago. I want to have a nice apartment. I want to live in the center of the city. Also, I'd like to have a lot of money so my family and I can travel a lot.

I want to be married and have lots of kids. I want to have three boys and adopt two. I'll adopt twins from Africa, one boy and a girl. I really hope all of this will come true.

Love,

Me...Katherine D.

Rachel Suzanne
1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL
Nov. 17, 2011

Dear Self,

I am writing this letter to myself in the future. I hope that this information is useful and accurate.

For my job I will be a writer. The kind of books I will write will be fictional books. I will be a very good writer. All of my books will be national best sellers and everyone will love them.

I will live on the east coast. It will be somewhere close to the ocean. I will live in a very pretty town in a very pretty house. There will be a beautiful forest by my house. I will be very happy.

I will be married. My husband will be a lawyer. We will have four kids. I will have two cats and a dog. Our children and pets will be adorable.

Thanks for reading,

Rachel Susanne T.

7th Grade: Mrs. Van (7Cu)

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Have you ever noticed that your book is like our world today, but without all the fancy technology? When a plague or epidemic hits somewhere in the world some people may step up to help them or down and ignore them. This concept is shown in your book Fever 1973. I would like to discuss this topic and others such as the characters, the plot, and the theme of your book.

I think the characters in your book are very lively and realistic. I admired your dynamic character, Mattie Cook. She was very brave and courageous even after she was left with no one to take care of her. I can't believe she took on the responsibility of Nell, even when she had to feed and take care of herself! I can relate to Mattie greatly, but I don't have it as hard as she did. When I have to take care of my brother and sister for a couple hours, make dinner, or help my parents it isn't very hard. These things are very minimal to what Mattie did like: when she had to take care of Nell, she didn't have any food to make dinner with whereas I do, and when I help my parents I don't have to run a whole shop, get up at the crack of dawn, and work all day like she did. I think Mattie was the best character in your book; she made the story very fun and realistic that came to life in my mind.

The next topic I want to discuss is the plot of your book, Fever 1973. I think the setting of the story effected the ending very much, because if this happened now only a few people may have died with all the medicines and vaccines we have. The plot of your book was always changing and I never knew what was going to happen next. Even though this story happened hundreds of years ago the events that you imagined were extremely logical and realistic. You also were very descriptive in your writing, even though you weren't in Philadelphia during the yellow fever. After reading the ending of this book I wish you could have gone on more about Mattie working in the coffeehouse, how mother does, and whether Mattie and Nathaniel get married. When I finally read the end of the book, I wanted more. More about Nathaniel Benson, Eliza, Mother, and little Nell, do you ever think you will write a sequel to Fever 1793? I think your plot made your book come to life and be very realistic.

The last topic I would like to talk about is your theme of the book. I think that in Fever 1793 many themes were going on like: how plagues do more than just make people sick, how prejudice is wrong, how medical treatments are very different now and back then, and how when things get rough some people step up while some step down. I think the main theme is how people react in the midst of a crisis. This applies today when drastic events happen that kill, injure, or cause many people to get sick and maybe even die. Depending on what type of person you are you may try to help the people who are experiencing a plague or another major event or just let them die and experience many hardships with no help at all. Some people may send money, clothing, toys, or humanitarian aid packages. While others will just stand by and watch them suffer. This theme is shown in your book when the Free African Society helps the sick even if they are another ethnic group. People at Bush Hill also showed this bravery and kindness to help others. I think this theme can help or destroy an injured community.

Fever 1973 is a lot like our world today especially how some people step up to help people in a crisis while others step down. In your book this theme is shown and I discussed the characters, plot, and theme with you. If everyone in the world helped at least one person in their lifetime, instead of stepping down, the world would be a much better place. Your book has inspired me to help others that are less fortunate or are experiencing an epidemic, hardship, or natural disaster.

Sincerely,
Colleen C.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Isn't it amazing that the human race still judges people on the color of their skin? Prejudice has destroyed the human society from the day it was instituted. Fever 1793 displayed a prejudice that left me frustrated and melancholy. This topic will lead me to talk about characters, the plot, and my theme with you.

The character I chose to address is Eliza. Eliza was a character that I felt was very authentic and sympathetic. She was a real person and I very much liked her. To me, she did not change very much throughout the course of the book. Even though Eliza was a slave, she was a real person to the Cooks. Prejudice did not cross my mind until the fever had started to become a real issue. The fact that she had to participate in the Free African Society while doctors thought black people could not get the fever made me angry. I kept thinking that she was going to get the fever while caring for sick people and not return to the Cooks! Thankfully she returned without the fever. On the not so good side, I think she returned with the unforgivable mark of prejudice. Overall, she was a heartfelt character that tied the book together.

I thought the plot of this book was a very good choice. I enjoyed how it was placed in 1793 in Philadelphia. The events in this book seemed very realistic. However, when Mattie opened up the coffeehouse right after the fever had ended, was a little overstretched. The fact that thousands of people died resulting from the fever is extremely realistic for the time period because back then people didn't have good medical care. Neither did they know what good hygiene really was. The events in this book seemed logical because any person in the fever situation would have reacted the same as the characters in the book. The ending of this book was somewhat predictable. As I got closer to the ending, I knew that Mother would come home, as well as Eliza. By this paragraph, you may notice that plot has an important input on this book's story.

This book definitely had a theme that stood out to me. Plagues are way more than the disease itself. Besides the medical standpoint, there is an emotional tragedy. When one's family member becomes infected with the medical disease, the family is diagnosed with a disheartening obstacle. This obstacle is separation: A way of being alone or caused to be broken up. Even the definition itself is enough to scare someone. I would believe that anyone given the situation of sickness, death, fear, and sadness would come to think that plagues really are more than a disease. Plagues come with a definite price of emotional challenges and medical hardships. I really liked how you used these examples in Fever 1793 by separating the Cook family and having them suffer from yellow fever. It made the book exciting, suspenseful, interesting, and somewhat sad. As you can see, theme is something that really stands out to me in this book.

It really is amazing that people still judge other human beings by the color of their skin. In this paragraph I explained a character, the plot, and the theme of Fever 1793. This book relates to people who suffer from separation and especially, prejudice. Whether you are white, Hispanic, black, etc., the human race really should treat each and every single person with respect, honor, and kindness.

Sincerely,

McKenna C.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, Illinois 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear Miss Anderson,

Have you ever noticed that when disaster strikes someone is always there to help? If people didn't step up in times of trouble, the problem could grow and grow and grow until it was uncontrollable. In Fever 1793, I believe that the people of Philadelphia stepped up to help their neighbors in need very nicely. In a discussion of the characters, the plot, and the general theme, you will see my point of view of people stepping up to help others.

I think the characters you created for Fever 1793 were very realistic and easy to relate to. Mattie resembled a normal girl in the time frame of this book and acted very realistically. Her activities and feelings toward different things, such as people and chores, drastically changed when yellow fever struck. These changes in Mattie Cook designated her as a profound dynamic character. Other people in Fever 1793 also seemed realistic. Nathaniel, for instance, was a good friend to Mattie. He was also a realistic character in my eyes, though static, which means he didn't change very much throughout the story. Nathaniel also had a very different personality compared to Mattie, which I think is very impressive. I really liked all of your characters in Fever 1793 and look forward to exploring your characters in other books.

The plot of your book, Fever 1793, was very good, while predicable. The setting, which you chose to be Philadelphia, seemed very real for the time of the book. I think that in a different setting, the plot of Fever 1793 would be completely different. All of the events you described seemed very probable, and the reactions of many citizens of Philadelphia were logical even today. Throughout the hardships of Mattie's life during the fever many of her actions were very predictable. Despite the fact of the suspense of her demise, and any of her family, was a little gripping, it was very obvious nothing would happen, excluding Grandfather. I noticed that some people stayed behind to help the less fortunate with their skills. I think the ending of Fever 1793 was a little boring. I would have ended it differently, with some action or excitement, not just a same old start. All in all, I thank you for great descriptions of the plot though; I often got absorbed and felt as though I was there.

I think that your book has a main theme holding it all together, how people are always there to help in times of need. The fever caused many of the Philadelphians to flee the city and take refuge in the country, whilst others, mainly the doctors and printers, stayed behind to aid the less fortunate. I believe I can apply this theme to my day-to-day life. When others are feeling down or are down, I can always be there to cheer them up and help them feel better. When I feel down, I hope that someone will be there to assist me, too. I could also use this theme to help those that I don't know. Thanks to Fever 1793 I can apply myself to helping others and know that what I am doing is really helping someone else. I'm sure you know the saying, "What goes around comes around," I'd like to thank you for really helping me know what that means. The next time something goes wrong for someone, the first thing that will pop into my head is this book. I'll go and be that person that is always there to help in times of need. The theme of Fever 1793 is something that is valuable I got from this book that I can use in my day-to-day life.

Fever 1793 helped me realize that there are really people to help in times of need. The characters, the plot, and the general theme helped emphasize my theory of people always there to help. People should always and will always be there to help someone in jeopardy, just as they would expect from someone else. Thank you for writing this book that taught me a life-long lesson!

Sincerely,
Henry F.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Isn't it amazing how people step up in times of disaster? If people didn't step up, a lot of things would end with horrible consequences. In Fever 1793, Mattie had to step up because not only everything around her was a disaster, but her life was. Dealing with this topic and others, I will talk to you about characters, plot, and theme.

The characters in Fever had a tremendous effect on this book. I really felt like you developed your characters well. I thought Grandfather was on the verge of being a static character. He changed on the way he felt about the fever. Grandfather had a very distinct personality, which helped me recognize what kind of person he was. When I read the book fever, I felt like the characters were coming to life. The characters didn't come to life at one time, but throughout the book. I felt like the farther I got into the book, the more developed it got. I felt like your characters were very well developed, but not very realistic.

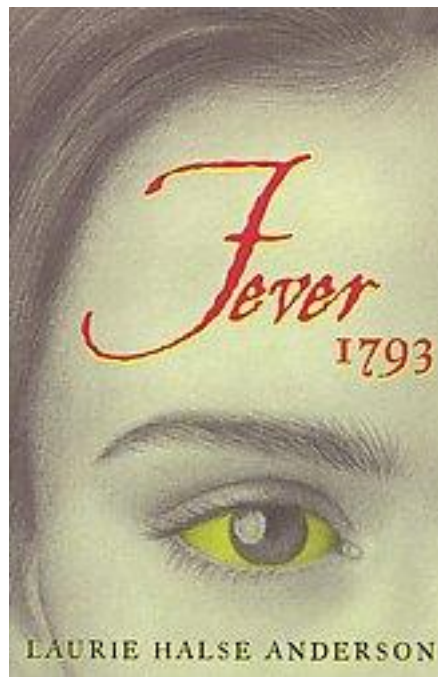
I thought the plot of Fever 1793 was very interesting. When I read Fever 1793, I thought that the setting of the fever was the wrong place at the wrong time. The event didn't seem very realistic to me, but when I found out it was real I was incorrect. Mattie's story didn't seem convincing. Also, your book didn't really project the event, it was more about Mattie's life and hardships during the fever. Fever 1793 could have been about a more notable person, or a real person. Maybe you could have written the book based on a diary of a French doctor, or Benjamin Rush. All in all, it was an interesting book, but didn't live up to its literal title. I didn't enjoy the ending of Fever because it was so predictable. Obviously, Mattie SURVIVES, Mother catches Fever but SURVIVES, Nathaniel Benson SURVIVES, William, Robert, and Nell all catch the fever but SURVIVE. Maybe that's how you intended the book to be. Did you plan to make everyone survive?

I think the main theme of the book is that people step up in times of disaster. I think this is important because if no one steps up, there will be more disaster. Mattie was all alone when Grandfather died. She never had anyone by her side after that. Eliza stepped up when she let Mattie stay with her and she went to give food to the fever victims. I think Eliza was a major character that stepped up when the fever came. She helped Mrs. Cook when she was ill. I think Eliza is somewhat heroic because she stepped up and she was brave and determined to get through the Fever. In conclusion, people do step up in times of disaster.

People who step up during times of disaster should be noted for their heroic acts. I discussed the characters, plot, and theme having to do with my thesis. Fever was a book with developed characters, a weak plot, but a powerful message. Because of your inspirational book, I now know about the fever of 1793.

Sincerely,

Anthony G.



7th Grade: Mrs. Van (7Ca)

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear Mr. Boyne,

Do you know a world where people are treated like animals? Earth did and still does treat people like caged animals. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas relates to the world about humans treating others badly. The book's strong points are the characters, the plot, and the theme.

In regards to characters in The Boy In Striped Pajamas, they are very well thought out. The people in the book have human characteristics and personalities. Bruno and Shmuel are both really nice and caring for anything and everyone. The two boys are so innocent and friendly. Bruno grows through the book from when he was young and non-knowing to when he grew to have knowledge of what was happening. Bruno grew through the book and learned with us. The book described him well so I felt like I really cared for him. I felt like Bruno and Shmuel were close to me like family.

The plot of the book The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is very good too. The book's plot made the book seem like I was in it. The book has a realistic plot that flowed well. The plot told the reader things slowly so they would understand. The events were in perfect order and were realistic. The events made sense and fit in to the setting. The setting of the book is important to everyone and has to be mentioned. The plot was well thought out and very fluent.

Another important part of the book is the theme. Friends can be found anywhere no matter what they are. Everyone is a human being and we can make friends with anyone. In The Boy in the Striped Pajamas they show that people should not be treated like animals. Nobody should be tortured and be cruel. Everyone should be treated fairly. The theme says that you should realize what adults are doing and what adults are saying. Adults make the wrong choice too sometimes.

People should not be treated like different beings. Most books have strong points that are characters, plot, and themes and so does your book. The Earth needs to be friendly and we have to treat each other equally. If we treat people equally, the world would be a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Ryan B.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 17, 2011

Dear Mr. Boyne,

Have you ever been in a situation where you have no idea what to do? Many people end up in these no-win situations every day. Bruno though, from your book The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, probably ended up in the worst situation of the twentieth century. How he handles this is shown throughout the book in the way he acts around the other characters, in the plot, and in the theme.

Bruno is a character I can relate to in what he does and how he acts. I found him to be a very dynamic character throughout the book and enjoyed watching him change as the story went on. I am similar to him in that sometimes I don't know exactly what is going on in situations where I need to make an important decision. Bruno was put in this same situation when he figured out something was wrong at Out-With, but decided not to do anything. Bruno learned a lot from the beginning of the book to the end. Later, he knew what his dad was doing was not right and sadly, only learned that when it was too late. Like Bruno, I also enjoy to make unusual friends. He met Shmuel, which began a very odd friendship, with a fence between them. They stayed friends although sometimes they grew apart. I have met friends everywhere, in Mexico, in Downtown Chicago, and I even send letters to a friend in Australia. I feel Bruno is a very real character and enjoyed reading about him.

Another aspect of the story that made it unique was the plot. I loved the way you wrote the story. I can imagine that it was definitely hard to take a very sad and controversial event in history and put it in the view of the wrongdoer's son. The previous movies and stories I've seen on the Holocaust were very different from your book. I also thought the plot was one that could have happened. The families of the officers would most likely have moved with their dad to where he was stationed. The part of the story that was truly remarkable for me was the friendship. It would have been rare for a friendship between a Jewish boy and a German boy to form, especially at a concentration camp. I liked Bruno and Shmuel's daily meetings. It was sad yet heartwarming to see how Bruno cared for Shmuel and how thin and ghostly pale Shmuel got. Although, I thought it was hard to imagine Bruno, if he was real, would not know of the Nazi's plan and be aware of the Hitler salute in such a Fascist country by the age of nine. Even if he really didn't know, there would have been guards stationed patrolling the fence that would have caught Shmuel and Bruno if they had been meeting for a year! Even though some of the details were far-fetched, I thought overall the plot was fantastic and made the story the award winner that it is.

The last thing that made this novel one of my all time favorites was the fact that the story and its situations could relate to the real world in many ways. From the book I learned friends can come from anywhere. The kid someone hated could become that person's best friend and someone's best friend could become that person's enemy or rival. Everyone should hold on to the friends they have, but at the same time go to great extents to make new friends. Another lesson I learned was that one should listen to your superiors, but also do what is right at the same time. One should always filter what teachers and parents say because that's not always the right thing to do. Finally, the last lesson I learned from the story was that all of God's people are created equal. You should respect all cultures and embrace them as your own. Different tongues, beliefs, and skin colors do not make us different and race one better than the next, but make us unique. These are only some of the lessons I learned in your book. I think the values of kindness, giving, and humbleness learned by Bruno at the end of The Boy in the Striped Pajamas are the main theme of the book and can be taken directly into our own lives.

Sometimes, a horrible, no-win situation can be crafted into an amazing novel. Your book did this in a great way and blended the situation with a heartwarming story that has perfect characters, plot, and theme to bring the story together. The lessons learned from your book can be intertwined into normal life and make the world a better place. Maybe, with the lessons learned from your book, a similar situation can be prevented in the future and save thousands or millions of lives.

Sincerely,
Charlie Z.

P.S. I truly enjoyed reading your book and hope you keep writing.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 16, 2011

Dear Mr. Boyne,

Have you ever thought about the effects a story might have on the people that read it? When people read a book they develop an opinion about it and are often affected by the story or its message. I think your book, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, has a big effect on people and it also had an effect on me when I read it. Three factors that make up the opinions that develop when reading this story are the characters, plot, and theme of the book.

The first important factor in this book is the characters, specifically, the main characters, Bruno and Shmuel. Throughout the book I seemed to become more and more attached to the characters and I began to feel the same things they were feeling. I thought these characters, Bruno and Shmuel, were described in a way that made them feel very real. For example, Bruno was very sad about leaving Berlin because he wouldn't get to play with his friends. That is something that a real nine-year-old would think was horrible about moving. Sometimes during the book I could relate to what the characters were feeling. When Bruno was upset about moving far away from his home I thought about how sad I would be to move away from my neighborhood and all of my friends. Also, I think that some characters changed and some didn't. Shmuel I think was static throughout the book because his personality didn't change a lot. I think Bruno, though, was dynamic because his feelings and ideas changed throughout the story. In all the characters in "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" were realistic and I liked the way they were portrayed throughout the book.

Another part of the book that was interesting was the plot of the story. The story was realistic because it was set in a concentration camp where a little boy could be and things that were explained in the story could happen. It also seemed fake at points because certain things Bruno and Shmuel did seemed like the events couldn't happen during that time. The setting made me develop opinions about the characters. You start to feel bad for some of them because the characters are at a concentration camp and Bruno's family was forced to go to the concentration as well as Shmuel's family. The setting also sets the mood for the story when Bruno first arrives at Out-With and realizes he doesn't like it there. I started to feel bad for Bruno and his sister Gretel when both of them first looked out the window and saw all the people in the concentration camp. The events in this book made sense because they went in logical order and it was easy to understand why the events happened when they did. The plot of this story seemed real and imaginary at different times in the story.

Along with the characters and the plot of The Boy in the Striped Pajamas the theme of the story is also important. There were several things in this book that you could learn or messages you could get out of it. The first one is that we should treat people like they should be treated - like people - and they shouldn't be treated like animals. In the book Shmuel is sad most of the time because of the horrible things that are happening on the other side of the fence. Everyone on that side is being treated badly and unfairly but Bruno doesn't understand because he doesn't see how anyone could be treated that way. Another message from The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is that friends can be anywhere and can be anyone. Take Shmuel and Bruno as an example. They were two completely different boys that met almost on accident. The two had never met each other before they saw each other at the fence and became friends right away. So friends could be anywhere you go. The last thing you can learn from this story is that even little kids can understand when adults are doing something wrong. Bruno didn't know what was going on on the other side of the fence but he eventually got the feeling that whatever is happening to those people is wrong. Of course, he couldn't do anything about other than imagine what was going on. The theme of this story is an important because it can teach us many things about people and that someone might not always be what we think.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is a good book with even better messages that can affect people in many ways. The important components that make up this book that I talked about were the characters, plot, and theme. Sometimes people can make a wrong decision about how to treat someone. There are still people out there, though, who strive to be as nice as they can be and are always there to be somebody's friend.

Sincerely,
Ashley F.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60314
November 16, 2011

Dear Mr. Boyne,

Can you imagine living in a world where everyone treats everyone equally? That would be nice because not everyone treats everyone equally or with respect. In the book [The Boy In The Striped Pajamas](#) I learned that a while ago people were treated even more unfairly than they are now. I found that the three things that talk about treating people is characters, plot, and theme.

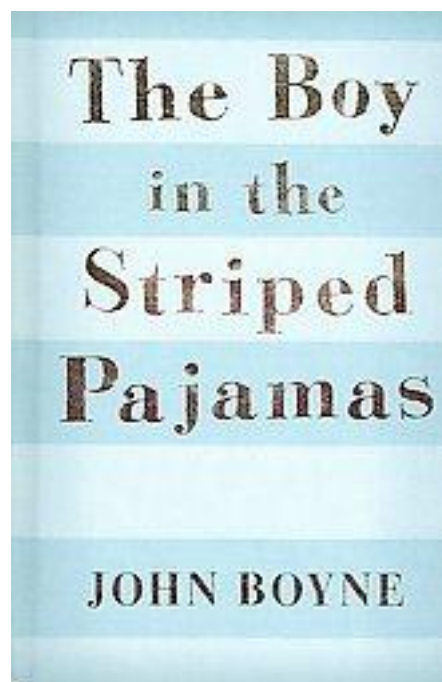
The characters in the book were talking about treating people fairly. Bruno seemed like a very real and dynamic character. He felt real because he had almost no idea what was going on. Felt real also because he fought with his sister. I liked this character a lot because I could really relate to him. I liked him because he was one of the few characters that stayed kind throughout the book. Another character that I would like to talk about is Shmuel. Shmuel is a sad gloomy character. Even though he is sad character I still like him and he was still dynamic. I like Shmuel because he is also a very kind character. Those are the two characters I like the most and the two that I think resembled treating fairly people the most.

I thought the plot was extremely well written and talked about people being treated wrongly. The plot was realistic and understanding. The events with the plot made sense and were well arranged. I liked the events because they were cliff hangers. I think the setting was well put with all the other aspects of the story. The plot was a little imaginary but only a little. The logical order of the plot was well written and easy to follow. Those are things and reasons why I thought the plot was good and treating people unfairly.

There are four main and very touching themes in this book. The first one is treat people for who they are not like animals. I like this one because it really tells people that you should care about others and treat them fairly. Another one is friends can be from anywhere. I also like this one a lot because I have some friends that used to live in different countries. The next theme that I that really stood out to me is people should not be tormented for doing nothing wrong. This one is so true people should not be treated badly even if they did do something wrong. But if they did nothing wrong then it is even worse. The fourth and final theme is even kids can realize that adults are doing something wrong. I see this one a lot in my life. Those are the four main themes In this book.

I think I would love to live in a world where everyone treats each other equally. The three ways that showed in the book was through characters, plot, and theme. If everyone just really took the time to think about other people then this fantasy might become a reality. I hope someday I get to live in a world like this.

From your fan,
Lauren B.



8th Grade: Mrs. Van (8S)

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 9, 2011

Dear Ms. Park,

Books are like atoms. They are made up of many different particles. Many particles make up the book, When My Name Was Keoko. The main ones in it are the characters, plot, and theme.

First, the characters in When My Name Was Keoko are interesting and different. Sun-hee, is, in my opinion, one of the dynamic characters. She starts out acting like a child sometimes, and an adult other times. At the end of the story, more maturity than immaturity comes out of her. Tae-yul is, in my opinion, more static. He starts out being very patriotic and stubborn, and stays that way, even at the end of the book. Their opposition to the Japanese occupation of Korea and the disappearance of some aspects of their culture is large. They are a bit like Uncle, who's very patriotic, brave, and has a big personality. He does much to stick up for his culture and country. In my opinion, he is a static character, because his personality doesn't really change during the book. I feel that the characters were developed with decent skill, but some of them could have been developed a bit better; it would have been nice if the book contained a scene during its end of Tae-yul apologizing to Abuji for disrespecting him. Sun-hee's acting like an adult only at times and Tae-yul's patriotism is relatable. When My Name Was Keoko is a book with relatable and memorable characters.

Second, characters that include the ones just mentioned do things that form the plot of When My Name Was Keoko. Uncle's actions have many effects on his family and the plot. The survival problems but ultimate survival of the rose of Sharon tree may be a parallel to the Kim family's Japanese occupation and war-related conflicts that are mostly resolved in the end of the book. Tae-yul's joining of the Japanese army to stop the Japanese's contact with Uncle causes much sorrow for his family, and is important to the plot. It doesn't have good effects on his look on life. Two of the plots are chained together. Uncle's going into hiding to print the resistance newspaper affects the Japanese's actions toward the Kim family and a decision of Tae-yul's. I feel that the plot was developed with skill; it was never boring. In a world where there is war and such evil things as abortion are legal, some of the plot is relatable.

Lastly, some particles of the characters and plot make up the theme of the book. Tae-yul struggles with seeing or caring about consequences of some actions and does some bad things. Due to this, "consequences of actions" is part of the theme. Sun-hee learns to not be selfish, and Tae-yul learns not to be angry and not to be disrespectful to Abuji. Because of this, a section of the theme is "learning from mistakes." All of the characters have personalities that are partly influenced by their culture, so the "importance of culture and heritage" is a piece of the theme. Some of the choices of the characters in relation to the war are bad, and the Japanese do some cruel things to people, so the "cruelties and hardships of war" is part of the structure of the theme. I feel like the theme was developed alright, but I would have liked to have seen the cruelties and hardships of war shown more in depth, and more consequences shown of a couple of Tae-yul's actions. The theme can be related to my life and life situations in a few ways; some of my personality is influenced by my American culture, I'm able to learn from mistakes every day, and sometimes I don't care about or realize consequences before doing some actions. The book's theme is made up of some of the characters' and plot's elements.

Books are ultimately different than atoms. Even though that is true, books have different particles like atoms; the main particles of this book are the characters, plot and theme. Books can't be books without these three particles. When My Name Was Keoko is a book that has much good drama that comes out of those three particles.

Sincerely,
Sam H.

1881 Kaneville Raod
Geneva, IL 60134
November 9, 2011

Dear Ms. Park,

How do you develop characters and a plot to create a book? I really enjoyed reading When My Name Was Keoko because of how well blended the story was. It was very adventurous although I found it to be heartrending and full of hope. I especially enjoyed reading this book because of the characters, the plot, and the overall theme.

The first special thing in this novel is the characters. I thought it was very interesting to read the opinions and stories of both Sun-hee and Tae-yul. I feel Sun-hee was a dynamic character and Tae-yul was more of a static character. Often I felt that Tae-yul knew nothing about what Sun-hee was going through and how she felt about everything going on in the war. The ages of Sun-hee and Tae-yul are very close to mine. Sometimes I felt that I could relate to their situations. The most important thing about Sun-hee and Tae-yul is their attitude and how they develop throughout the story. I admire how Tae-yul took on a huge responsibility and joined the army. I don't like how he jumped right on a mission he knew nothing about just because he felt offended. I thought it was stupid and irrational that he might not get the chance to see his family again. I admire how much faith they had in their culture during the war. Any good novel needs interesting characters.

The next thing I noticed is the plot. I like how the plot has many twists. My favorite is when everyone thought Tae-yul was dead and he came waltzing through the gate catching everybody by surprise. Another surprise I enjoyed was that Abuji wrote articles for the underground newspaper that Uncle printed. There are also some things I dislike about the plot. I did not like how we never read about where Uncle ended up or if he's alive and well. I like how when the war first started they took away something that was even more important than the soldiers collected later: Their names and their culture. I enjoyed reading about what it was like to work in the Japanese army. I was able to see what it is like at home in a war and in the army. Overall I appreciated the plot and how the problems formed and were solved.

The final point is the themes of the story. From this story I have learned and applied things from the characters and plot. The most important theme to me is how your culture and heritage is important. Tae-yul, Sun-hee and the rest of the family still kept their culture alive in secret, such as hiding the Rose of Sharon tree, drawing the Korean flag but then burning it, and uncle when he printed the underground Korean newspaper. I learned no one has the right to take away who you are and that there are always ways to be true to your cultures. I also learned about thinking of consequences and learning from mistakes. There are a few instances where both Tae-yul and Sun-hee just acted and there were bad consequences. The action I noticed most is when Sun-hee jumped to conclusions when her friend Tomo warned her and she ran off to tell Uncle. Although, later when she found out Tae-yul was going to become a kamikaze she went to tell Abuji. I have found many things in this book that can be applied to real life.

This story was very exciting and I enjoyed it very much. I enjoyed reading about the characters, the plot, and the theme. There are many things that can be taken from this story and applied to life. Overall this story changed the way I think about how war can hit so close to home.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth R.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL, 60134
November 9, 2011

Dear Ms. Park,

"Be someone others can depend on." I think that in the beginning, Sun-hee did not follow this quote. As the book goes on, Sun-hee slowly changes to become someone others can depend on. The three things that I found most interesting in When My Name was Keoko, was the characters, the plot, and the theme.

Characters, the culture, and if the story is believable or not are important factors in a book. There are many interesting characters in this story. My favorite character was Sun-hee. Sun-hee is my favorite character because she reminds me of myself and my friends. She is a very curious person, and she is my age in the beginning, which is at the age of thirteen. I think that the characters in this book are very believable. Uncle sticks to the culture at times, but then changes his mind in a very distinct manor. I think that Sun-hee and Tae-yul change to their own way of the culture while Abuji and Omoni stick to the original Korean culture. I think that this makes the book more believable because I think that the young children do not truly know the way of the Korean culture yet at their age, while Omoni and Abuji keep to the traditions of the Korean culture. The cultures are very respectful to others. The culture is a very important element to this story. An example of this would be how Omoni cannot greet visitors to their house because she is in mourning gown. The Korean culture states that it is very disrespectful to greet someone or go outside in your mourning gown. The characters, the culture, and if it is believable or not are major parts of this book. More people should look deeper into a book, and uncover its many secrets.

Along with the characters, the cultures, and if the story is believable or not, there is a plot. In this story, many different events happen. First, the Japanese take over Korea, so all Korean citizens must change their names to Japanese names. Everyone must call others by their Japanese name, not their Korean. I thought that this part of the story showed how strict the Japanese would and could be to others. Second, Uncle leaves after Sun-hee comes to warn him because she thought that Tomo came to give a warning. I thought that this showed how Sun-hee can misinterpret many things and turn them into bad situations. Finally, Tae-yul left to join the Imperial forces because the Japanese officers want Tae-yul to help them find his Uncle. When Tae-yul lied to the officers, it told me that he showed true commitment to his country and his family. It also told me that Tae-yul was a very brave boy for his age and that he was also a very kind and caring person. I believe that the plot tells the major parts in a story. It tells what the characters are and what they do in the story.

With the characters, cultures, if the story is believable or not, and the plot, there is a theme. The theme tells what society can learn from their mistakes. I believe that Sun-hee definitely learned from her mistakes from the time when she warned Uncle, from when she warned her father about Tae-yul. She convinced herself that she had to make the right choice and forgive herself from when she put Uncle into hiding. This told me that Sun-hee is very strong in her thoughts and in the beginning, she had doubt in herself with what she thought. Towards the end, she had full trust and faith in herself. Next, citizens can also think before they act. I do not believe that Tae-yul thought before he acted. When the Japanese officer said that Koreans were cowards, and Tae-yul volunteered for the special mission, I think that he just volunteered his life. I believe that he then learned his lesson after he realized that it was a kamikaze mission. Lastly, the casualties of war go beyond the battlefield. What I mean by this saying, is that everyone is effected by war. When Tae-yul's family thought that he died, they all were depressed. Also, with everything that happened to the Koreans, they were also sad and I think that they were also angry at the Japanese. When the war was over, everyone rejoiced. I thought that this action brought the town and the community together. The theme of a story shows what society can learn from a story. More of society should notice these characteristics of the theme in a story.

People can tell many things from a story once they look at all of the details in categories. In the end of the story, Sun-hee is a totally different person because of three things. The three things that I found most interesting in When My Name was Keoko, was the characters, the plot, and the theme. Anyone can change, they just have to look at themselves and ask themselves what they can do better for themselves!

Sincerely,
Alessandra W.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 15, 2011

Dear Ms. Linda Park,

Do you know what your book is like in the eyes of the reader? This book called When My Name Was Keoko is a very well organized book. This book made me think what would I do if I was put in that situation, and it entertained me and forced me to keep on reading. The sticky and filling parts that make this story come together are the characters, the plot, and themes.

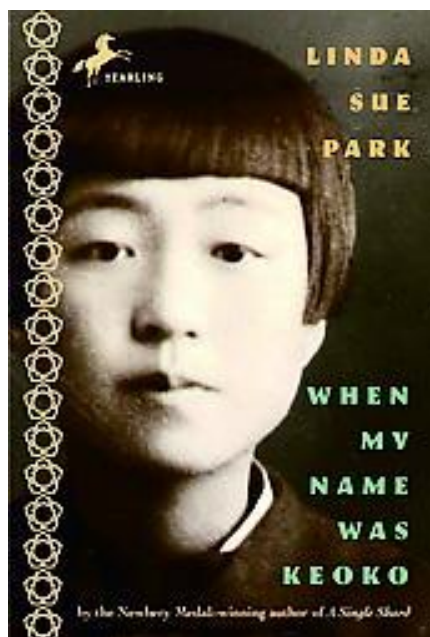
The first thing is that without nothing would work are the characters who revolve around everything like planets around the sun. First there is Sun-hee who is a very dynamic character whose name in Japanese is Keoko. In the beginning she was always trying to be a hero and save the day. She changed into being more cautious and caring more about others. The second character is Tae-yul whose Japanese name is Nobuo. He is a static character who is always just jumping to conclusions not caring about the consequences. The third character, Abuji, is a static character who is always silent and cautious. The fourth character is Uncle, he who is also static because he is always rebellious and courageous for his country. The last character is Omoni, she is dynamic. In the beginning she was shy and passive but she gets active and rebellious. Those are my opinions for the main characters in this book.

The second thing that would make the book dull and dry without would be the plot which brings everything together like the sun using gravity to pull in the other planets. The plot starts out with Korea occupied by Japan. These Japanese do not let them use their own language and cultures. This is a real problem when they have to use Japanese names. Uncle is in trouble because he is against them and is forced to leave. He is at constant risk of death so it keeps me on my edge. Then Tae-yul is forced to join the army. That makes me wonder if he died in battle. Then he becomes a kamikaze that makes me think he is dead. Finally he comes home alive but Uncle is stranded in the north, which is still scary. I liked how Uncle never came home because it shows that nothing good comes from war and that nothing is ever perfect. Those are the main plots and what I like about them.

The third thing is the theme which is like what you learned from these planets and stars. The biggest theme is to think things over before you put them into action. This reoccurs with two characters. The first time it happens is when Tomo tells Sun-hee a hidden message and Sun-hee thinks it is about Uncle right away, even though it was not. This costed her Uncle and almost her mentality. Tae-yul's decision was even worse. He went straight ahead and volunteered for a kamikaze assignment. This decision almost killed him and severely injured his family. This is why people must listen to themes like look before they leap.

I think that this book is very entertaining. You used the characters, plots, and themes very well. This book will still be read in years to come. This book will also help people live by good morals.

Sincerely,
Patrick Christopher W.



8th Grade: Mrs. Van (8V)

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60314
November 9, 2011

Dear Mr. Mikaelson,

Have you ever done something that you regret or can't fix? Bullying can be a big problem for a lot of people. It is especially a problem in your book Touching Spirit Bear. The characters, plot and theme add to this problem.

The characters in this story play a big role in the problem. I did not like Cole in the least bit when we started reading this book. I knew that a lot of people had anger issues but I didn't know it could be bad. I also didn't think that his father or mother helped solve the issue either. I guess you could say I was very pessimistic about Cole's whole family. To me, children who are only children think they have the right to do a lot of things and it seemed to me that Cole was one of those children. But, towards the end of the book I didn't think Cole was that bad of a person he was just in a bad situation that he created. Overall the characters were well developed and did add to the problem.

Along with characters, the plot of the story further complicated the problem. When Cole was first sent to the island, he was so smug. The whole situation that he had gotten himself into made it harder and harder to dig himself out. He thought that the situation he was in was so easy to get out of but he never thought through his own plans. I think the ways you developed this story was amazing. Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse you made us realize the other problems we had over looked like Cole had. You always added different things to the situation that made the bullying seem like it was every part of the book which it completely was. These are just a few of the ways the plot further complicated the problem.

Along with the characters and the plot, the theme of the story adds to the complications of bullying. Circle Justice is such an important part of this book because almost everything involves it. Circle Justice is such an interesting way to help change Cole and made for such an interesting book not only because it had restrictions on Cole but it also helped with the different situations that occurred in the book. Another important theme of the book is the Native American heritage. Almost everything on the island revolved around the Native American heritage. The a tow was very important and so was the totem along with the different methods they had for doing things. I think that it added an interesting spin on the book because you added so many dynamic situations and cultures. I thought that the many things that Cole went through also added to the theme. He learned many characteristics like courage, trust, and honesty that I don't think you could learn from sitting in jail. These are a few reasons that the theme of the story mattered so much in the overall book.

Bullying is such a big issue in your book Touching Spirit Bear. However, the characters, the plot, and the theme all added to the problem. From reading this book I think people can learn many things. Everything in this book could change your perspective on anything.

Sincerely,
Alice B.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60314
November 9, 2011

Dear Mr. Mikaelson,

Is our system of government fair? Going to jail after committing a crime isn't helpful to all of the people involved. Cole witnessed how Circle Justice heals not only Peter but also himself. The three ways that I found that you could help summarize this novel was through the characters, the plot, and theme.

The first way that this novel could be talked about was through the book's characters. Cole Matthews has become an influential person, after robbing stores and bullying others he has become a kind and like able person. Peter Driscall is a person that everyone should feel sorry for in the beginning of the book. I never saw the idea that Peter would try to get even with Cole. Edwin is not a large part of the book, but when he is in the story he makes plenty of changes that contribute to the mood. Once he was talking to Cole and he got Cole to think about how his change could be complete. Garvey is a calm and intelligent man. Garvey always knows how Cole is feeling. The characters are incredible in this story because they all have good traits and bad traits about them.

Along with the characters, the plot set the stage for this book. I was very glad to see that this story took place in this time period and that the main character was around our age. The fact that Cole needed healing was a very believable problem to have in this story. The fact that Cole didn't think his change was complete until he helped Peter was very influential. I thought this very interesting when Cole thought of this idea when everything was fine on the island. The book's mood began with anger towards Cole and ended with people wanting to be Cole's friend. It was a drastic change but was very enjoyable. The plot of this story set the stage for the book.

Along with characters and plot, the theme of this novel is one that should be known by everyone. The fact that bullying is a major part of this is a good idea, it helps show the struggle that a bully could be in. In Cole's case he has parents who are not very loving towards him. When a convict goes to jail they don't heal, the victim does but the convict's anger stays inside of them and when they are released from jail they want to get rid of their anger and rage. When someone tells you to control your anger that doesn't mean that you have to soak in a pond every day, it means that you need to do activities to take your mind off of being angry. One thing everyone needs to know how to do is forgive, it is not right to try and get even with someone, the right thing to do is forgive the person who has done wrong to you. The theme of this book is so large and important that everyone should know about.

This book teaches us that there are different ways to punish people who commit crimes. We learned all of these things through the characters, the plot, and the theme of the book. This book helps us learn how to control our anger and help out others. I believe everyone should read this book because it teaches good morals and life standards.

Sincerely,
Johnny C.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60314
November 9, 2011

Dear Mr. Mikaelson,

Over the past two months, my class has been reading your book Touching with Spirit Bear, and we recently finished it. I thought that it was a truly inspirational story. Cole's transformation from a violent juvenile delinquent to a thoughtful individual was astonishing. I would like to tell you what I thought about your characters, your plot, and your theme.

The first thing that I would like to discuss is your characters. I thought that the characters in the book were very believable. In our world today, there is an unfortunate amount of violence. This sad but true fact made it easy to picture the kind of person Cole was. I could also understand why Peter acted the way he did near the end of the story. Though I have not been bullied before, I can clearly see why Peter might be a little wary of Cole when he first came to the island. I can also relate to Garvey and Edwin. I, too, have felt the need to help someone in order to right any wrongs that I have made. These are some of the things that I thought about your characters as I read your book.

Another thing that I would like to discuss about your book is the plot. I thought that for the most part it was very realistic. The violence and anger Cole exhibited sadly exists in our world today. Another thing that I found realistic was Circle Justice. My class briefly researched Circle Justice before reading your book; we found as we read that it was similar to the Circle Justice in Touching with Spirit Bear. The reactions of the people to Cole and his actions were also plausible. There were a few things, however, that I thought were not realistic. For example, it was very unlikely that there would be a Spirit Bear so far from its natural environment. It is also unlikely that someone who was mauled by one by one would be able to survive that long. I also had trouble seeing how being mauled could change someone like Cole. Either way, I do think that your plot was excellent. This is what I thought of your plot.

The last thing that I wanted to discuss about your book Touching with Spirit Bear was the theme. There are numerous lessons to be learned from your theme. Some of the things that I learned were the effects of bullying, consequences, and most importantly forgiveness. Bullying, which was clearly shown in your book, can have serious repercussions on both the victim and on certain occasions, the perpetrator. Your book also demonstrates how there are consequences for the actions of each character. Cole beating up Peter caused a series of endless consequences. Some of the biggest repercussions were Peter's mental and physical injuries. I also learned a great deal about forgiveness. When seeking forgiveness, it is necessary to forgive yourself as well as make amends. These are some of the many things that I learned from the theme of your book.

As I said before, your book was a phenomenal story that sends a good message. Your characters, the plot, and the theme which I have discussed are all factors that made Touching with Spirit Bear what it is. The meaning that you sent in your book is one that I will hold close to my heart. Perhaps if everyone followed this message the world would be a better place.

Sincerely,
Sam C.

1881 Kaneville Road
Geneva, IL 60134
November 9, 2011

Have you ever wondered what people think about your book? Punishment often does not make up for the mental part of a crime. In Touching Spirit Bear Cole tries to forgive himself after Bullying Peter. The characters, the plot, and the theme of your book were three things that stood out to me in your book.

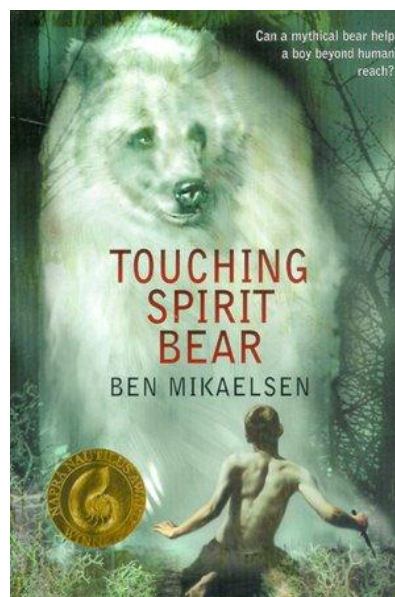
The characters in Touching Spirit Bear were very well written. Cole was a very sketchy character that often kept me wondering what he would do next. I felt a bit frustrated at the beginning of your book when Cole was struggling to discover how to get over his anger, but by the end I was cheering him on. Garvey was my favorite character in the book. He is my favorite because he was very persistent and clever in dealing with Cole's attitude. I would have liked more to be revealed about Garvey's past. I liked when Garvey was teaching Cole with the cake ingredients and taught Cole something nice. I liked that Mrs. Matthews towards the end of the book began to be more of a parent, whereas, Mr. Matthews stayed the same and was still pretty rotten. I also favored Edwin because he is wise because he used to be on the island and has now changed his life around and is now helping Cole. Peter's character kept doing something different and it really kept me on my toes. When Peter punched and kicked Cole, I really did not see that coming. I enjoyed the characters in this book and they really taught me something.

Furthermore, the plot in the book was extremely interesting and thought out. When I started reading the book I was very confused when you kept jumping back and forth in time. When you stopped doing that the book started to clear up for me. Even though I was slightly confused I liked reading about Cole's past and it gave me a better understanding of who he is. I would have liked if you would have specified with a different section or something in that nature during that time. I really take an interest in the location of the plot, especially the remote island in Alaska; additionally I really liked the way you went into to detail about how the island looked and how it made Cole feel. When you set-up the book in the beginning, I understood that Cole was very unkind by the way he was talking to Edwin and Garvey. Overall, I am very pleased by the plot although it had a patchy beginning for me.

Lastly, the theme of Touching Spirit Bear has taught me and many others numerous things. One thing it has taught me is forgiveness and how it not only comes from the person who was hurt but also the one that inflicted the pain. Another thing it taught me was that physical pain might take weeks or months to heal but the mental pain takes much, much longer. Cole's trials and tribulations taught me that forgiveness is not just given to you but you have to earn it. Another point that your novel has demonstrated to me is bullying, which affects many children in schools everyday. Your story taught me that bullying might even affect people to the brink of suicide as we saw in Peter's case. Peter was bullied just because he did the right thing and it might take the rest of his life to heal even with Cole's help. The theme of Touching Spirit Bear has taught me many such as the effects of bullying and how long it takes to forgive.

Cole hurt Peter and is on the road to recovery to forgive himself. The characters, plot, and theme of Touching Spirit Bear really showed me a new outlook on things. Bulling is inadmissible and the damage that may have taken a few minutes will take a long time to heal. We should all learn from Cole's mistakes and use them to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,
Kendall F.





PRODUCED BY THE
STUDENTS OF
ST. PETER SCHOOL

Theme: Letters

Date: December 2011

