

August 31, 2007

Dear Fifth Grade Class,

This year, you and I will write letters to each other about books, reading, writer's and writing. Our letters will help us learn together. The letters will help you learn more about reading.

When you write letters in your reading journal, do your best work, and share your best thinking.

For example, you might:

- Tell what you like or dislike about a book and why.
- Tell about parts of your book that puzzled you or made you ask questions.
- Tell what you noticed about the characters, such as what made them act as they did or how they changes.
- Write about something in the book that surprised you or that you found interesting.
- Write your predictions and about whether your predictions were right.
- Ask for help in figuring out the meaning of your book.
- Tell about the connections you made while reading the book. Tell how it reminds you of yourself, of people you know, or of something that happened in your life. It might remind you of other books, especially the characters, the events, or the setting.
- Write about the author's style and how it makes you feel.
- Write about the language the author used and why you think the author wrote this way.
- Write about the author's craft-what was effective about the way the author wrote.

Write a letter to me once a week. The completed letter is due on your assigned day. Use a letter form and include the title and author of your book. It is important that your letters are neat and easy to read so I can understand what you are thinking. Read through your letter to make sure it says all you want it to say before you turn it in.

When I read your journal, I will learn from you, and we will learn together about books. What fun we will have getting to know each other and books!

Looking forward to your letter,

Mrs. Persinger