

Letters About Literature Entry
Mrs. Richards Class
6th grade LMS

Dear Gordon Korman,

Your book Schooled has had a major impact on my life that I will remember forever. I live a very different life from Capricorn Anderson who lived on the dirt roads and plentiful gardens of Garland, but I have faced some of the same obstacles that Capricorn faced. I too walked into the doors of a middle school for the first time and have been confronted by peer pressure and misunderstandings. I have forever viewed the middle school years as the years that everyone wants to forget; I now see that there can be sunshine behind every cloud. I have experienced many sleepless nights, wondering how it will all turn out.

You transformed my perspective of the world and of my own life by helping me to understand that change is sometimes good and can lead to better opportunities in the future. For example, it can help you to be exposed to things that can change your opinion, thus change your actions. When Capricorn embarked on a trip to middle school while Rain recovered, he did not know that it would be for the better. He did not know that this would change his perspective of the outside world that he had always seen as bad. Middle school has proven to not be as scary as I first imagined. I have become a more optimistic person and am able to bring out the good in difficult situations with family, friends, school, and life experiences.

After reading Schooled, I have referred to your writings when I face a stressful situation and have used your lessons to try and make good decisions. I have used Capricorn's actions to certain events to guide me in what I should do. Capricorn was always discovering the peaceful answer and way to do things. That is what I strive for.

I am now able to comprehend why people do things and act certain ways. For example. Capricorn was acting and thinking like he was towards the beginning of the book because of his upbringing. I believe this is why certain kids bully and criticize other people. I see that now some of them were treated the same either at home or by another person and this makes them treat others the same way.

I choose your book over all of the others because it is the one that I can relate to most. I have recently started attending a new school and have faced the same issues that Capricorn experienced. I was placed in a new school that I knew nothing about and had to learn everything about my new school. I also had to make new friends. I was confronted with these same adversities and didn't know which way to turn. I was in the same place Capricorn was. After reading your novel, the lessons of Capricorn's life experiences can help readers to learn more about how to deal with the hardships in life.

Sincerely,
Caroline Pyle