

## 2013 Letters About Literature Level 3 Honorable Mention

Maggie Rhoads' letter to Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*

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January 8, 2013

Dear Lucy Maud Montgomery,

I remember the first time my grandmother started reading to me your first book out of the *Anne of Green Gables* series. Right away I was hooked; there was something different about your books that I really enjoyed. There was certain truth to your stories that I wasn't used to because the other books I read were not like that. The character you created, Anne Shirley, was so similar to me that I could relate with almost anything she did.

My mother at the time when I was reading the series was trying to help with my writing which definitely needed improvement. Unfortunately, this required me to write what seemed to be a lot of stories to me at the time. Writing stories made me miserable until I started reaching the part of the series where Anne is becoming enthusiastic about writing these magical and fictitious stories. She was such a role model to me that I started to consider trying to enjoy writing stories and to try something different than writing accounts of my day and special events in my life. There is only so much a nine year old can write about when it comes to their life especially since nothing really big had ever happened to me. Fiction allows people to show other people what only goes on in their head. I wanted to try to create different worlds that only existed in my mind through my writing like Anne did.

In the beginning, I was having a hard time making up stories and transferring them to paper. I was an imaginative child, so I had no problem thinking up ideas to write about, but I couldn't figure out how to make them into a story on paper. None of my stories compared to the ones I had read. In your book, Anne did not start out being a successful author, and though it is obvious she had talent for writing, she did have her own struggles. When I became frustrated with the stories I was writing, I just remembered how Anne Shirley did not give up. She started out as some orphan that no one wanted and became a successful author and teacher.

As I got older, my style of writing developed and though I still write fiction stories, I prefer journalism. I am even interested in becoming a journalist and an anchor on a news station. Though Anne did not become a journalist, I owe all this to her. I would have never become interested in writing, if you hadn't of created this character. She not only made me enthusiastic about writing, but she inspired me to go beyond what is expected of me. Not a lot of people expected Anne to become anything important, and they never expected her to become a successful writer. People in my life know that I could become a news anchor if I wanted to, but I want to go even farther than that. Working as an anchor for Good Morning America or the Today show is my dream, and these high expectations I set for myself are somewhat similar to Anne's expectation of becoming more than just the orphan who never accomplished anything.

Sincerely,

Maggie Rhoads