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Letters About Literature
Competition Level 2
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Dear Barbra Park,

Where do I begin? First I want to thank you. Thank you for writing me a good story, making me laugh, and for creating me a friend in Junie B. Jones. The Junie B. Jones books have taught me so many things, and I can honestly say those books have influenced the person I am today.

I was in kindergarten, very shy, and wasn't very open with people. My mom is a language arts teacher so she would always try to teach me to read and read to me. So after we finished reading all the books on my shelf, I went and checked out my brother's book shelf. He had a wide variety of books, but I picked out the one that had the most comical cover, it had a girl with messy hair and had the title Junie B. Jones. I brought it to my mom to read and I became in love with the series.

I began reading them so rapidly that I was reading one book per day. I had memorized the beginning of every book; I still know it to this day: "Hi, my name is Junie B. Jones. The B stands for Beatrice, except I don't like Beatrice. I just like B, and that's all." My mom started making me check out the books I haven't read from the library to save money since I was reading them so fast.

I can remember taking those books with me everywhere, literally. I took them to the dentist, to restaurants, car rides, long and short, the beach, even the bathroom. I was what you would call a little bit attached to them. All of Junie B. Jones's adventures came with me everywhere. They taught me lessons, with laughs all the way.

I've come a long way from being that shy and un-social kindergartener. Junie B. Jones has taught me to be funny, to let go of bad things, to laugh, to be loud and most importantly to never take things too seriously. So thank you for teaching me all of these things and thank you for helping me become the person I am today. I will never forget the lessons in all of the Junie B. Jones books. 😊

Sincerely,

Emma Smith