



**Kathy Camenzind, Age 10, Grade 5**  
**Individual Entry**  
**San Ramon, CA**

**Dear Erin Hunter,**

One day, I picked up *Into the Wild* at a bookstore, looking for something new to read. By the end of that day, I had finished the entire book. Afterwards, I eventually have read all of the *Warriors* and *New Prophecy* series up to *Starlight*. In that time, I've realized that Firestar has led me through life, both in good and bad ways.

He's taught me determination, for he never gave up. He's shown me courage, for all the times he did great things because he thought they were right. He's given me bravery, because if he had a desire to do something he always did it, no matter how dangerous. Most of all, though, he's told me that I am myself, and that no matter how many people want me to act differently, I should never change from the person I am.

Sometimes, in desperate situations, I'm about to do something stupid, but then I think of what Firestar might've done. Most of the time when I do what I think Firestar might've done, I get out of the sticky situations, but even more, I get in trouble. In the doing of this, I've realized that Firestar and I have been changing together. He started as a shy, out-of-place kittypet that had crazy dreams of living in the forest, but then he met the ThunderClan and his true self, and turned into a courageous, loyal ThunderClan warrior. I started as a shy, out-of-place tomboy that has crazy dreams of being an Olympian. Then, I met Firestar and *my* true self, and I've turned into a determined, loyal friend. Not only has Firestar helped me through life, but because of him changing me, I've changed the lives of my friends.

Without him, I couldn't live life the way I do. I used to be a shy tomboy who had crazy dreams, including becoming an Olympic runner. Now I've achieved some dreams, and haven't given up on anything until I've done it. (That is, except beating my brother's record of 31 pullups.) Firestar has shown me that I'm not just a girl who's just another person, but I am myself, a powerful being. Thank you for creating Firestar so I can live life.

P.S. If you were wondering one of the bad things he's done, now sometimes I accidentally say "seasons" instead of "years" or "leaf-bare" instead of "winter."

*I really like to play sports and do other active things like rock climbing, canoeing, cross-country skiing, soccer, hiking, running, wrestling with my brother, biking, and horseback riding. I also love to read and do science experiments. I hope to become either a scientist or a sports professional when I grow up, and I want to possibly publish a book. Some other activities*

*I enjoy are Girl Scouts, playing the alto sax and piano, Math Olympiad, climbing trees, playing video games, solving difficult puzzles, and playing board games or Connect Four with my older brother.*

L E V E L O N E



**Nate Entz, Age 9, Grade 4**  
**Individual Entry**  
**Three Rivers, CA**

**Dear Mr. Jacques,**

I have read four of your books: *Redwall*, *Martin the Warrior*, *Mossflower* and *Salamandastron*. I am on my fifth, *Mattimeo*. I have really enjoyed your books. In this letter, I'd like to talk to you about *Mossflower*. The characters really affected me. They are loyal friends and have qualities that I admire. I also really love the world I get to go into when I open any of your books.

One of the things that I like about your books is that they make me really hungry. I love how you describe the food at the feasts. For example, when Abbess Germaine and the residents of Loamhedge come to Brockhall. The plum cake, the meadow cream, the maple syrup, it all sounds so delicious then my mouth begins to water. It feels like a dam is broken and a river just comes gushing into my mouth.

Your stories and characters make me laugh out loud. Gonff is so funny whenever he brags. I love it when he makes up songs about himself and how he's such a great mouse thief. I feel sorry for the other characters when he does that, but it's true. He is a really good mouse thief. It was so funny when he ended up dancing with the crab! I laughed very hard at that. The robin spy, Chibb, also made me laugh. I love how he's so fat because they reward him with candied chestnuts. I laugh at the way he clears his throat before he says anything.

Then there's Dinny. I couldn't imagine the difference between what an old mole and a young mole's voice would sound like because you don't write them any different. I would sit for a while, imagining, until I got their voices in my head, and then it sounded really entertaining. I love the way all the moles talk and laugh with the "hurr, hurr, hurr." I like how Dinny and Gonff are such good friends. They're two of the funnier characters in the book, I think.

Tsarmina is evil, but I like her as a bad guy. (Bad girl?) I like how she's one of the smarter and more organized villains. She's very proud and doesn't like to lose her dignity. Most books don't have a woman as a villain.

Boar the Fighter is really the only character who I think died in the way of the warrior, and the way he wanted to die. I think he's really one of the only characters that died in a good way.