



Natalie Roodman, Age 11, Grade 5
Individual Entry
Simi Valley, CA

Dear Kate DiCamillo,

I absolutely adored *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Now whenever I look at my bear Toughy I face him towards the window so he doesn't have to look at the wall. When I read this book it made me feel so depressed whenever he lost someone he loved, especially when Honey died. When he fell to the ocean floor I felt bad for him when he started to realize he was the farthest away from the stars as he had ever been. I also read another good book of yours, *The Tale of Despereaux*. I have a few tips for you, I think your stories need to be longer because I hate it whenever a good book ends. It makes me feel that because I finished the book that a world has ended and I want someone else to take a journey through the world I lost.

My favorite book ever was *Where the Red Fern Grows* [no offense]. I cried when I finished the book because the journey was over for me. But I got 3 more people to read it so that made me feel better. Because I finished *Where the Red Fern Grows* I had trouble getting into another book because I didn't think anything could top it with caramel syrup, whipped cream, and a cherry on top like *Where the Red Fern Grows* did [those are my favorite ice cream toppings]. I mean it had so much flavor!

I love fiction books. I'm picky about books. They have to be just right, all of yours are perfect for me. I've been having trouble finding a good book lately, first I tried *The Hobbit*, too violent and confusing. Then I tried *Star Fisher*, too realistic for me. Then I found *The Tale of Despereaux* and I got hooked right away. Now I'm reading *Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism*, it is great! But also I am going to read a diary of a girl on the Titanic. But it is kind of funny because that is nonfiction. But I'm pretty sure I will like it because my teacher, Mrs. Treese, is reading a diary of a person who traveled on the Mayflower to the class and I like it, so I'm weird about books. When I grow up I want to be just like you, writing wise. I am going to go to college for 5 years, then become a choreographer and dance teacher, then write books. I think I will first start out with a children's book, to a kid's chapter book, to a 900-page novel! My dream is to write an exciting fantasy book, and I'm going to make sure it's long so the person reading will get to partake in the journey for as long as possible. Well, I just wanted to write, give you a few tips, and tell you a little about me, so I hope you liked my letter.

I love writing and reading because I feel as though I can travel wherever I want to, in the comfort of my own room. I also like dancing and singing. When I grow up, I hope to be a choreographer on Broadway and a great writer.