



**Ann Taylor, Age 11, Grade 5**  
**Individual Entry**  
**Templeton, CA**

**Dear Mrs. Gannett,**

I just finished reading the trilogy, *My Father's Dragon*, for the third time. I like reading *My Father's Dragon* because although I know it is not true, I feel like I'm in the story. I can picture the jungle, people, and animals and almost taste the tangerines from the Island of Tangerina. It is exciting to imagine being startled by a rhinoceros, lion, or gorilla. The stories are very creative, and Elmer is so resourceful.

My brothers and I like to play Store Game. The names of people and places in your books gave my brothers and me ideas about how to name the streets and stores in our play town, Waterville. I like how you name people after normal items: Elmer Elevator and Mr. Wagonwheel. We tried to name our city places after normal items, too. We named one street Palm Avenue because the stores on that street had a tropical theme with paper palm trees, pineapples, and parrots decorating the walls. Our Grandmother, who teaches us art, taught us how to draw simple tropical plants by looking at the illustrations from your books. The plants in your illustrations aren't all real plants, but they are easy to draw and create a wild tropical jungle scene. Our stores looked great. Lots of people came to my store when I had it decorated like Wild Island.

I love the way you have Elmer use everyday items such as lollipops, hair ribbons, and toothpaste to set up a great adventure. In Waterville, we use everyday items to create our game. We once took some leftover PVC pipe and made a telephone system for our town. Pipes ran from store to store and downstairs to Mom in the kitchen. If we talked in the pipe, we could hear each other even if we were in different rooms. Sometimes, we set up our train to carry orders and letters around town. The best games start with everyday items.

I appreciate the *My Father's Dragon* trilogy because I like adventures. It is fun to take a break from life and visit imaginary lands in books or games. Thank you for writing these books; I thoroughly enjoy them.

*I enjoy playing violin, drawing, painting, hiking, and climbing trees. In the winter, my brothers and I have fun creating and recreating Waterville, our play town. In the summer, we have an outdoor community, Mudtown. I'm looking forward to visiting our Japanese exchange students in Japan this spring.*