

A Letter to Your Class from Author of the Month

Jeff Kinney



When I was a kid, my house was jam-packed with books—books on shelves, books in boxes, even books in the bathroom. You couldn't go anywhere without being within a few feet of a good read.

There were a few books that held a special kind of magic for me. Books that I read and re-read, whose stories and characters never got old.

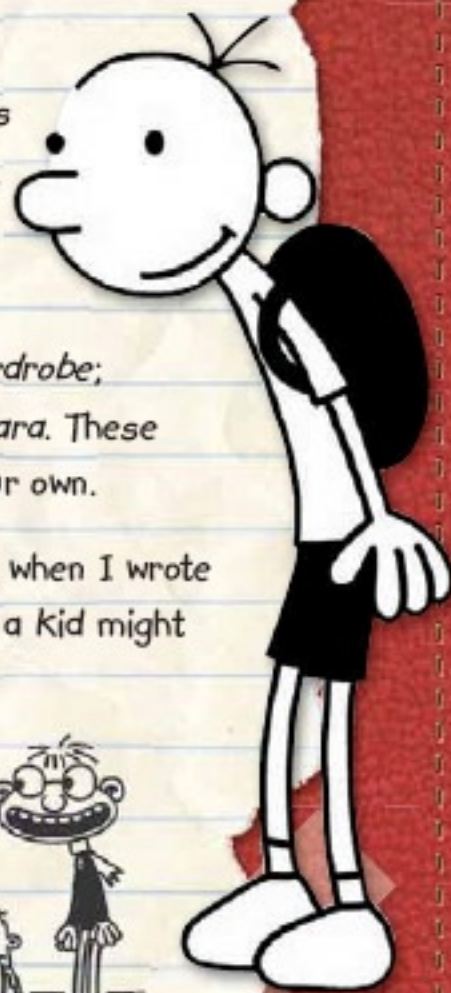
When I was younger, my favorites were *Freckle Juice* and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, both by Judy Blume. Blume's characters seemed like real kids, and they were always funny, which was the most important thing to me.

When I got older, I made the switch to fantasy. Some of my favorites in that genre were *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *The Hobbit*; *A Spell for Chameleon*; and *The Sword of Shannara*. These books took me away to new worlds that seemed as real as our own.

I don't know what it is that made these books so special, but when I wrote *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, I was trying to write the kind of book a kid might treasure the way I treasured my favorites.

In other words, the kind of book that never makes its way out of the bathroom.

Keep Reading,
Jeff



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