

 A LETTER TO YOUR CLASS FROM AUTHOR OF THE MONTH 

# Pam Muñoz Ryan

DEAR CLASS,

The summer before fifth grade, my family moved across town and I became the new kid at school. I was the youngest in my grade, yet one of the tallest. My feet were too big and my clothes weren't right so I was teased and bullied.

The library became my shelter and I became a compulsive reader. Books took me away from my insecurity and embarrassment on the playground. When I lost myself in a book, I became as brave and adventurous and determined as the characters. I was Anne in *Anne of Green Gables* and Jo in *Little Women*. I was Laura in *Little House in the Big Woods*, Jim in *Treasure Island* and Alec in *The Black Stallion*. (I went through a stage of reading every horse story I could find.) I lived my characters' lives more easily than I lived my own. As so often happens, as the characters in the books evolved, so did I, growing more confident.

Today, I am still a reader. And sometimes in my mind, still a girl again, filling my bike basket with books, and pedaling home to escape into another world.



Pam and her favorite horse, Smokey



KEEP READING,

*Pam Muñoz Ryan*



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