

A Letter to Your Class from Mary Pope Osborne

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Dear Class,

When I was growing up, I was often afraid. I remember when I was seven, I saw a little white dog standing in the middle of a field that I was crossing alone. I climbed into a tree and stayed up there for at least an hour until the dog went away!

I didn't like being so fearful—which is why I did like reading about characters who were especially courageous. I would often pretend to be one of my two favorite heroes—Laura in the *Little House on the Prairie* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Sara Crew in *The Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

I hope that kids who read Magic Tree House sometimes pretend to be Jack or Annie. Once a teacher sent me a letter telling me that a girl in his class was afraid of many things. But if he just whispered “Be Annie” to her, the girl would gain courage and try things that she'd never tried before.

The letter proved to me what I suspected all along: that books can complete us. They can stretch us—encourage us—and inspire us to jump out of that tree and greet that little white dog. What a great reason to read!

Keep Reading,



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