

## **Level 1: Emerging Writers**

**Runner-Up: Marisela Casillas**

***A.K. Smiley Public Library***

Book: *Seedfolks*

Author: Paul Fleischman

December 4, 2019

Dear Paul Fleischman,

I loved reading "Seedfolks." It was the first book I could read by myself! The people who grew the garden are like me. I am an immigrant too and I have a community of friends in Redlands.

I related best to the character Sae Young. When I came here the English language was hard. I didn't understand and couldn't communicate with others. People who come to Redlands come from many countries and this makes it harder to understand their cultures and traditions. "Seedfolks" is like my experience as an immigrant.

Like Sae Young, I work hard at a restaurant six days a week. While my husband hasn't died, we have divorced which is like a death. I live alone like Sae Young.

In the past, I was angry, sad, worried and scared. One day I thought it would be easier to die because my whole life I had depended on my husband. I had many emotions.

Now it is different. I am more stable and positive. Today I can work for myself. I have a future. I can do anything.

Thank you, Mr. Fleischman, for sharing your ideas in "Seedfolks." Your book helped me with my emotions. I feel better in a garden because a garden is beautiful and gives us food. A garden is like music which is a universal language. Planting in a garden connects us with each other even when we don't speak the same language.

With gratitude,

Marisela Casillas