

## **Level 2: Beginning Writers**

**Runner-Up: Maria Hernandez**

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

Book: *Peace and Bread: The Story of Jane Addams*

Author: Stephanie McPherson

December 3, 2019

Dear Stephanie Sammartino McPherson,

Thank you for writing this book to let us know the life of Miss Jane Addams. She founded Hull-House, to help people in the most poor neighborhood in Chicago, especially children and immigrants.

When Jane was a young woman, she traveled to Europe and had a chance to study languages and discovered how people in other countries lived. In London a missionary took her to see a poor neighborhood. Jane watched one starving man sit down in the gutter and eat dirty cabbage. She felt compassion. Now she wanted to talk with people who helped others in foreign countries. She hoped they might give her some ideas and suggestions for helping people closer to home.

My mother and I also felt compassion for a neighbor in Mexico. When I was a little child, my mom sent me to give milk, bread, and beans to our neighbor. She was a lady who lived alone, and was not able to walk. I saw how she lived: no stove, no refrigerator, no water system. She took the water from well.

Jane Addams and my mother both felt compassion. They also were hard workers. Jane saw that children needed to be taken care of when the parents worked. She used her social connections to meet this need. My mom would meet the needs of others too. When she saw that her neighbors were sick, she would take them to the doctor. She would also share extra food with others that did not have any.

Learning about Jane Addams inspired me to help others in the community. I provide blankets, clothes and meals to the homeless. I also care for senior citizens, who are not able to drive or cook. As a mother, I also model compassion and service to my children the way my mother did for me.

Thank you for teaching me about this wonderful woman, Jane Addams.

Sincerely,

Maria C. Hernandez