

## **Level 3: Intermediate Writers**

**Runner-Up: German Nunez  
Los Angeles Public Library**

Book: *Kindred*

Author: Octavia Butler

November 30, 2019

Dear Octavia E. Butler,

My name is German Nunez, and I am so fortunate to be part of the Adult Literacy Center, where I am learning how to read and write. Now I have words to express my admiration to you as a writer, as a woman who stands out, when most of the writers were men. I understand how difficult it was for you to open the door, especially for being a black woman among white men. When I started to read your book "Kindred," it wasn't that interesting to me, but once I understood the story I couldn't stop reading it. This book was so gripping in every chapter that I could not stop until I finished it.

One of the chapters in "Kindred" really made me practically feel the pain of people who lived during slavery. When Rufus had dengue fever and his parents didn't have the right medicine for him, that situation made me travel back in time. I didn't go back centuries. I only went back decades. I saw myself and two older brothers with measles at the same time. My mom was crying. She didn't know what to do, so she went to ask for help from the midwife that we had at the time. The midwife told her to rub us with pig butter and red rose petals and use red blankets to cover us. That is how she saved us. At the same time my father's sister-in-law was facing the same disease but she didn't have the same luck as my mom. One of her sons passed away and the family went to bury him, but when they came back the other sister was dead. Three of the children passed away in less than a week. The event that my mom and her children went through is very similar to what Dana went through with Rufus and the slaves, but in a different time. "Kindred" made me realize that all individuals could face something like that during his or her life even now in our time.

Reading your book was a pleasure. The way you described the scenes and the descriptive words you used made me feel like I was part of it. I could hear the noise of the water when Dana saved Rufus from drowning. I could hear the sound of whips when Master Thomas whipped Dana. The most intense part was when Dana fought Rufus. I could feel her anger, but I could also feel the relief when she sank her knife into Rufus's body.

I have to thank the people who made my improvement possible. To the professor who set me free to read. To the woman who gave me the information about the Adult Literacy Center. To Mrs. Beverly Pichardo who enrolled me in the program. To my tutor Aliya Dari who shares her precious time to teach me how to read and write.

Sincerely,

German Nunez