

Level 4: Advanced Writers
Runner-Up: Petranila Hettiarachchi
Chula Vista Public Library

Book: *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Author: Delia Owens

November 29, 2019

Dear Ms. Delia Owens,

I am writing to you to express my heartfelt gratitude for your latest novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* because after reading your book, my outlook on life has been reinvigorated. I was very inspired by your book because it has shown me that reconnecting to nature can help me become a creative and sensitive person. In my youth, I used to make scrapbooks out of the various things I encountered in nature, such as feathers, seashells, colorful rocks, and remarkable foliage. As the curtain of childhood came down, so did my connection with nature, and by extension with my creative side.

Most importantly, your book has changed my lonely feeling and isolation. As I continue down the road of my life, at one point, I feel like I was left behind in an empty nest. The poetry is a significant presence in the novel and became one of my favorite parts to read. As an avid reader, I was truly captivated by the poems. As you say in the book on page 49, “poems made you feel something.”

One late October Monday, when I was in my patio, I heard a lot of noise, so I craned my neck and peeped through the lattice to see what’s going on in my backyard. Looking outside, I saw a group of birds migrating away from north. As I was being mesmerized by the birds’ interactions and behavior, my connection to nature blossomed once more and I impulsively jotted down my thoughts. As I continued writing, my creativity reemerged, and my thoughts evolved into a poem. I’d like to share a segment of my poem with you:

Enjoy Winter

Hello! my dearest chattering bird
Yes, your home cold and chill, I heard
Departing south for winter
Are you resting on the way of center?

When you perch on my autumn trees
Songs of joy are wafting in the breeze
Can’t see difference gorgeous plumage
Blend you with colorful autumn foliage

In the wind, you should stay strong
Flying up and down, miles long
You must sing your sweetest song
So wherever, you will never be alone

No matter who is your journey’s guide
Your kin will always fly beside
Flee from cold, looking for warm sand
I’ll bet that it must be my “motherland”

Flowers beckon you, wind whispering song
Showers and twigs bowing all day long.
Walking on air, under the big sky blue
Welcoming embraces comfort you.

The weather will be sublime
See everybody's benevolent smile
Flying around is worthwhile
As much as convey Peace and Love!

Just like the protagonist, Kaya, I realized that I can do more than I think I can. People are capable of spectacular things when they pushed their limit. From now on, writing poems is my cup of tea. I really appreciate you Ms. Delia Owens. This book has really changed my life.

Best Regards,

Petranila Hettiarachchi