

February 10, 2005

Dear Mary,

How can I adequately express my feelings to you... It is the day after your visit to Manitou Springs Middle School. I have so many thoughts. How about a list?

Thanks for making yourself available and approachable.

Thanks for the comfortable way you relate to students. You respond to each question and person with interest, respect, and wisdom. They must have all felt very special.

Thanks for sharing so much of yourself, so openly. By relating the ups and downs of your writing process you gave students a wonderful dose of reality.

Thanks for your honesty. I'm guessing that the students won't forget your story about the French trapper and how painful to you it was when he exited the story.

Thanks for raising such interesting questions in my mind. I have thought a bit more about why things like a skull working its way into your story happened.

Thanks for letting the students ask you questions. I thought the first hour when we talked as a group and you shared so many stories and thoughts was an amazing period of time.

Thanks for acknowledging that Ian might have been right about the cannon. How neat for a young person to be such a sharp reader!

Thanks for being flexible. You were wonderful to go along with the flow and made the most of 15 minutes in front of the all-school assembly. Having the student panel on stage with you to ask questions is a nice format.

Thank you for the stories you write.

Sukie Jackson,
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