



# Continued This Year: “Letters about Literature” Special Submission Opportunity!

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Again this year, we invite your learners to submit a written piece on a special theme called “Letters about Literature.”

Here is the story of one *Journeys* 2020 author, **Farhiya Mohamed**, who wrote a letter to the author **Jacqueline Woodson**.

“Letters about Literature” is an opportunity for learners to select and read a piece of literature, reflect on it, and write a personal letter to the author explaining how it changed their views of the world and/or themselves.

## **“Journey”**

FARHIYA MOHAMED, MINNEAPOLIS

Dear Jacqueline Woodson,

I like your poem “Journey” from your book *Brown Girl Dreaming* because it is about a difficult journey, and I remember when I was apart from my mother. My journey was from Africa to America. My journey was very long. I took an airplane from Kenya to Amsterdam and Amsterdam to Minneapolis, so the journey took sixteen hours. The journey was tiring, but I was happy because I was going to see my mom. I hadn’t seen her for three years. I got to see Mom when I arrived in Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

Farhiya Mohamed

Farhiya Mohamed is 31 and originally from Somalia.

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See the next page for the full Letters about Literature submission guidelines.



## **“Letters about Literature” Special Submission Guidelines:**

1. Select a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem, essay or speech (excluding song lyrics) that you have read and which has impacted you.
2. Imagine sitting down with the author of this work and sharing your personal thoughts. Your letter should be personal and sincere, more like a private conversation than a book report or fan letter.
3. Share specific details both about the work and about your reaction to the work. Write honestly and from your own perspective.
4. Keep in mind that this is a reflective writing contest. Think about what you read and the meaning you gleaned from the author's words.
5. Type your letter, which should be no more than 400 words.
6. Make sure your letter includes a date, greeting, body, closing, and your name or signature. Please do not include a return address on your letter.
7. Submit your letter using the *Journeys* 2023 submission webform.