



August 27, 2012

Dear WHITNEY,

Thank you! Congrats on finishing the first revision of your short story. I would love to read it. Feel free to send it either way, mail or email. Definitely let the story sit for a bit before going back to it. I'm still working on the short story I told you about earlier this summer.

Well, the nice thing about writing my novel by hand was the portability. I could slip the notebook into my purse & write as I waited for new tires to be put on my car. I didn't write the entire draft in a month - which in November I bet my hand will be the permanent claw formation. B/c it's in journal entries, I would write 2 or 3 a day, & only 1 day I wrote 11 entries. Truly inspired that day!! Even though I can type 77 words per minute, I find that writing by hand lets me correct w/ Charlotte b/c she's writing by hand. The sketchbook I'm using is 6" x 6", a square orange. The blank pages have let me be free in **HOW LARGE**

I write or very small, or even if I want to draw or sketch, just like Charlotte would. It would be neat when it's published to be that size & have a font that looks like handwriting. I did figure out how she signs her name:

Charlotte Lynelle Peterson

Which helped me get a further personality sketch. She writes slower to make sure her handwriting is legible & draws out the "t" in Peterson (+ I don't). My hand will probably cramp up from ~~typing~~ typing the novel! Oh goodness, I can't wait to hear your reactions to her adventures. Lol :)

We had 2 pairs of identical twins in my school & a pair of fraternal twins (so easy to tell apart), but I never could get the identical ones straight, even when one of them was in one of my group projects.

My summer reading list definitely over-shadowed "On the Road." I would like to read the same biographies that you read 1st. Then we could read the novel & check out his letters. I have read his book of letters & you should check it out b/c ~~it~~ it's awesome. Lot of cats.

I've read "The Kite Runner" in high school. It was one of my favorite books we read that year. Have you ever read "In the Lake & the Woods" by Tim O'Brien? He does a great job w/ footnotes in the novel. Oh, Othello, thine heart was born so pure, only to crackle into ash. Poor Desdemona. Lol about scribings.

Thank you about my energy, astounding you. I was so surprised myself to look back & see that I did so much in one day. One reason I keep a notebook of what I worked on is so that I can visually see how much writing/reading I am doing. Keeps me honest. Yep, what works for one writer isn't perfectly transferred to another. Plus journaling is part of "The Artist's Way" where they like the students to write a minimum of 3pgs a day & have an artist date once a week (like an activity to do w/ your inner child). It's helping me realize how much I loved art classes in school & how I want to continue making art & writing. I went to hobby lobby & bought watercolor paper, scrapbk paper & pendants to learn how to make necklaces & bracelets. Definitely a dangerous store for me!

It's great that you can run 5k's w/ your Dad. My Dad & I would go for walks around (3) grocery stores so he could exercise & we would

have time to talk. So it's kinda funny that I work in a grocery store now!

It's amazing how cruel kids can be. I agree that ~~it's~~ "it's what we do after the teasing stops that's important." Whitney, you became a running machine who does 5k's + is clearly beautiful. :) You should see that whenever you look into a mirror. You are a great writer who is published + will only get better. Thank you for the encouragement.

I hope your teacher writes back too. I would like to get in touch w/ my English teacher Miss Gorsuch. I had her for both AP English lit + language. We had lunch after I finished my freshman yr @ BC, but I haven't spoken to her since.

I wish I was relaxing on a beach! A baby-pool filled w/ sand would be a great idea in the apartment, though from experience I know sand gets everywhere. I'll settle for bath salts + a mini-vacation in Sept.

I'm glad the mail lady loved the trampoline + stick figure! It was totally inspired by your last letter. What a character!

Have you ever made anything w/ duct tape? I've been waiting to learn how to make roses + whatnot.

① Susy P.S. I'm so glad "Holy Roller" ~~was~~ found a home. Such a great poem + memories of Larissa's class that semester.