Sylvie Downin

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Dear Jeanne DuPrau,

When I started to read your book The City of Ember, I was astonished by how well I got a picture in my mind. I am not sure if it was how good the book was, creative words, or both at the same time! The book had a really interesting topic about how the lights always would go out and that when they went out there was no light at all. This book opened up my eyes to the world and what is going on in it. The parts that stood out to me were whenever someone helped each other in the book, it made me feel good.

During the reading of this book it made me think of other people in other towns, states, countries, and continents who didn’t always have light. When I say light I don’t just mean the light of a light bulb, I am talking about having food and water and somebody who loves them and cares for them. In other countries and states people don’t have as much as we have. Like in the book, Luna and Doon don’t have light. Also in the book when the lights begin to flicker, It would be like people in a storm and their hut was going to blow over. When that is the only thing they have and need. I wonder what your life was like, maybe you were rich and had lots of things or you were poor and didn’t have as much as other people. In my town we aren’t rich but we are not poor either. Our town is an easy town and we don’t have a lot of things going on at the same time. Most of our town is farms and woods and we have to do jobs like Lina and Doon have to do. Except younger children don’t have work in the piping areas. We have people come to our home to do that.

I was thinking about how different our lives would be if we had no light. And whenever the lights went out everyone would panic and get hurt. We wouldn’t have a TV or an iPod to play on. We would feel strange because you would not know your surroundings or what’s around you. You wouldn’t know if there was another town or a lake of a dark, dark, dark forest. Also there wouldn’t be as many things to do when you are bored. I wouldn’t want to have that type of life and it made me appreciate what I have.

This book told me to treat other the way you want to be treated because you don’t know what is going on at that person’s house or the place that they live at. Maybe you stole a poor girl’s lunch money and you didn’t realize that that money that you stole was to buy their only bit food. I wouldn’t want that to happen to me. Maybe if people treated each other nicely this world we be a better place to live.

We watched this movie in the gym about how people will help each other and it will come back at you. Maybe if people in the city of ember helped each other they might be able to fix the lights or find out what is past the town all together. Even in the line of adventure, people would be helping each other.

Thank you for writing your wondrous book. It is one of the best books I have ever read.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Downin