

**Editor:** Brooke Harrison (bh14d)

Dear Alex,

I can't believe that you are already in college. It seems like just yesterday you were starting high school. I miss you so much, I miss your annoying laugh when we watch Psych together and I know I always get mad at you, but I miss all your unneeded commentary when we watch TV or movies. It is the little things that make it so different without you around. As you know school is just around the corner and I am rushing to do my assignment, the big procrastinator that I am. I really wish you were here to help me with my essays. So you may not know but I have recently gotten back into reading. My favorite books right now are cheesy romance novels, but I am gravitating towards more appropriate books for my age level. Since I have been missing you, and haven't heard you nagging me to read, I started to read the books on our kindles. So far this year I have read 25 books. I am what you would call a reading machine. I don't know why my mind has been corrupted to think that I do not enjoy reading. When I was a little girl, I loved reading books. I remember at night, you, dad and I would lie on the futon and dad would read to us. Oh, what about when we read the whole Narnia series together? Those books were so good! We would snuggle up next to dad before bedtime and he would read the books to us. Once we got a little older, we started reading our own books, only occasionally reading a book together. You guys would always get mad at me because I whisper the book out loud because it was easier for me to understand it. Thankfully I have outgrown that habit. When I was about ten or eleven I started believing that reading was uncool, so I stopped reading. I would tell people that you read and wrote enough for the both of us! I guess the thought kind of stuck in

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:38 PM

**Comment [1]:** Insert a comma after "know"

As you know, school...

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:49 PM

**Comment [2]:** This is a great place to indent – begin a new paragraph.

While letters do not necessarily need to be structured like the standard 5-paragraph essay, it's easier to read when broken up into smaller chunks.

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:04 PM

**Comment [3]:** Ha, ha! This made me laugh. 😊

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:18 PM

**Comment [4]:** Simplify by condensing to one word:

I started READING the books...

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:05 PM

**Comment [5]:** As the name of a product, this should be capitalized.

...the books on our Kindles.

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:17 PM

**Comment [6]:** Add a comma before the conjunction (this is necessary in lists!).

You, dad, and I

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:07 PM

**Comment [7]:** This should be past tense to be consistent with the rest of the sentence.

whisperED

my brain and now I have to conquer it by reading nonstop! I may begin to enjoy reading again, but I don't think I will ever outgrow my hatred towards libraries and bookstores. I don't know what it is about those places but they give me the creeps. There is a specific smell that I cannot take. Well the whole concept of the library freaks me out. The thought of touching and reading out of the same book that a million other people checks out sounds like a germ fest. Who knows what those people have done with the book. I do really enjoy reading on my kindle and phone. I do want to thank you for turning me on to books, and writing for that matter. You and dad are always encouraging me to read books and to write. You actually turned me onto my favorite series ever. Do you remember the Gallagher Girls series? There are 6 in the series and I have read them at least three times each. What about when I was in fourth grade and I won my school Tropicana speech, do you remember helping me with that? I love to write freestyle, be able to write whatever I want. You always tell me how creative I am, tropicana speech allowed my imagination to run wild! enough of my babbling, how is college going? You must be having such a wonderful time!! You are so grown up, just don't forget me when you become a famous writer and live in New York in a gorgeous penthouse.

Love,

#### MY THOUGHTS:

Dear Author,

This is a very sweet letter – really enjoyable read. You have an original voice – colloquial, honest, humorous(!). Your transition from an apathetic reader to an appreciative reader definitely

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:39 PM

**Comment [8]:** This is quite hilarious...

I love bookstores and libraries! I'm sorry you feel this way. ☹

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:07 PM

**Comment [9]:** Insert a comma after "well"

Well, the whole concept...

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:08 PM

**Comment [10]:** Simplify by deleting "out of"

The thought of touching and reading the same book...

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:39 PM

**Comment [11]:** This word should be past tense:

...checked out

OR

...have checked out

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:51 PM

**Comment [12]:** I feel as though you've digressed here.

Just keep your purpose/overall goal in mind to stay focused!

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:09 PM

**Comment [13]:** Capitalize "kindle"

...reading on my Kindle

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:39 PM

**Comment [14]:** Spell out "6"

(#s 1-9 should be spelled out)

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 10:41 PM

**Comment [15]:** The Tropicana speech bit feels a little out of place. I just think it v... [1]

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 2:59 PM

**Comment [16]:** TO be able to

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:20 PM

**Comment [17]:** This should be capitalized, as it's the title of a competition.

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:40 PM

**Comment [18]:** Add a conjunction for fluidity. ... [2]

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 4:20 PM

**Comment [19]:** Capitalize "enough"

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 10:36 PM

**Comment [20]:** Great word choice!

Brooke Harrison 2/8/15 8:46 PM

**Comment [21]:** So there are quite a few exclamation points in this piece – consi... [3]

comes across. While you've clearly identified your father and sister as the people who influenced your change of heart, I'd suggest really making their contribution to your "reading journey" the focus of the piece. You offer vague thanks in the body of the letter, but it might be a good idea to conclude the piece with a final "thank-you" to truly hammer it home.

Also, consider taking another look at the structure of your letter. Currently it is one large body of text – it might make for an easier read if you break it up into smaller paragraphs. This is a simple enough fix. Whenever you transition into a new topic, indent to begin a new paragraph.

Overall, very well done. I hope my comments are not overwhelming, and that my suggestions help you strengthen the piece while also maintaining it's integrity. ☺

Let me know if you have any questions! I'd be happy to discuss.