

LaSalle Middle School
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Lisi Harrison,

The Clique books have inspired me in a lot of ways. The way that the girls are so confident in who they are, and what they do made me a lot more confident in myself. When Claire deals with Massie and her clique's horrible tricks by telling herself that she doesn't need them, she is fun to be with and if they don't see that then it's their loss. That really inspired me. She was so brave to do things like that, but at the same time she was so stupid to think that if Massie said that she was out, that the girls would actually still try to be her friend. I never knew how much I loved to perform, to be in front of everyone, until I read these books. I never wanted to sing or perform in front of people because I was nervous, I guess I thought that I wasn't good enough and people would laugh at me. Now I don't feel that way anymore.

Before I read it always felt like my friends would always assume I would be there for them, but they were never there for me. I had one friend who was my neighbor. I always tried to be a good listener, funny, and keep secrets and promises, just generally be a good friend. Soon I felt like I was always with her. I was always there for her, but I felt like when I needed her there, she just wasn't interested. She was constantly competing with me, always trying to show me that she was the boss. It felt like if I accomplished something, she always had done something better. I was always unhappy when she left, or if I came home from her house, but I was so dependent that I couldn't just tell her that she was constantly hurting my feelings. I thought she would get mad and she wouldn't want to be my friend anymore.

Then I read about Claire, and about how Claire wouldn't let Massie and her friends walk all over her. She wouldn't let them, because she knew that if they were the kind of people who were going to treat her wrong, then she doesn't need to be around them. But of course it makes you feel bad just the same. So when my friend just all together stopped wanting to be around me, I thought the same thing as Claire. For a while I was upset, just like Claire was, and I tried to become friends again, but I soon figured out, like Claire, that I didn't need to. It was her loss, not mine, and if she didn't want to be my friend, then I didn't need her.

So now, after reading these books, I am more confident in my self and respectful to my friends. Now that this has happened to me, I don't want my friends to feel the way that I did then, so I am always as nice as I can be, but I'm not always trying to agree and be the same as them. I know how to handle it if any situation like that happens again, plus I also learned a lot about fashion, and having a quick and smooth attitude.

Sincerely

Rachel Flaherty