

Stephanie Chan  
Johnston Horizon Elementary

Dear J. K. Rowling,

When I was young, I was very shy. If somebody took my animal cracker I wouldn't say anything. In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry took lots of risks, and he wasn't scared. After reading your book, I felt like I was crawling out of my turtle shell.

Reading your book made me participate in a lot of things and helped me to become less shy and scared. When Harry and Ron saved Hermione from the mountain troll, I wanted to help other people and take more of a risk in life. I started to raise my hand in class more often, and I did things I never imagined doing.

One day I went to the swimming pool. My friends wanted me to go to the deep end, but I was too scared. I just remembered Harry Potter, so I did it. By the time we were done swimming I had already gone off the diving board more than once in fifteen feet of water and I wasn't scared. From then on I was never scared.

Sincerely yours,  
Stephanie Chan

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