

Ian Fischer  
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Dear James Lincoln and Christopher Collier,

I know the gunshot feeling. Not the action, but being stunned. You hear and see it, but you are frozen in time and are incoherent to your surroundings. You don't know what's going to happen next; in fact you don't care what happens next. Ben and I have shared this feeling, although we fought and struggled to get out of it. I have always had pictures of battles from back then in my head but your book has brought them alive. I always hear of people saying "books will take you to far away dreamy places", but it has always been kind of difficult to place my self there. You showed me how to relate and "be" in the book.

I find that I relate to Joe the (free) slave. We have many similarities, but we have some differences as well. Joe works hard for things but he doesn't question what it's for. I work hard, but usually I have to know what's going on. Joe and I both enjoy the feeling of solely depending on ourselves to survive in the wilderness. I used to always go back into my woods and pretend I was a trapper. I tried to find food and prepare stick weapons.

The tenacity of Ben's father reminds me of my own dad. They both try as hard as they can at something that they don't even know will be around the next day. They both put a lot of life into the work for their family, and approval of themselves.

The situation that the Buck family faced was very difficult, Ben was forced to grow up to quickly. He jumped from being a child, to being a man with many responsibilities. I have never been faced with even close of this type of tragedy. I can never imagine losing my mom at this age.

Your book has taught me many things to apply to life. The first one I can think of is work as hard as you can because you don't know if you or anyone else will be there tomorrow. The next one is tragedies can happen. You can take time to grieve, but if you take too long to grieve you will be left behind. You must remember the past, and you must prepare for the future.

Without your book and its characters I would have much less knowledge and morals of this world. You have described the gunshot feeling and have made it more understandable to me. Even though the times and places have changed your book has moved me to becoming a better person. I have learned finally to "be" in the book. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Ian Fischer

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