

Analysis Worksheet 1 Laura's Letter to the Author

Analyze Laura's letter to the author in detail and fill in the chart.

In groups of three, read and analyze the letter you have been given. Divide the work up by focusing on one aspect of her writing: content, textual coherence or linguistic devices. Then fill in the last column with your personal response. Share your results with the other team members. Discuss your findings.

Part of the text	Textual coherence / purpose How does the passage contribute to developing the thesis?	Personal response/ critical evaluation To what extent do you like/dislike what you are reading? Why?
<p>1 Letters About Literature National Winners 2008</p> <p>Honorable Mentions, Level 2: Laura Wang</p> <p>Dear Mrs. Rowling,</p> <p>"Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive..." Years from now these words will still be ingrained in my brain. They were the start of almost a decade of reading and re-reading, of summers after summers of uncontainable anticipation for the next Harry Potter, and of a mania that still isn't over. I first heard these words when I was six, and it's been seven years since that fateful day. Now the journey is finally over, but I've learned so much on the way. After all, you've taught me about everything from love to death, heroes to redemption, and kindness to prejudice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beginning • describe how she got to know HP • describe how connected she is to HP • how much she like it <p>↓</p> <p>good start for the letter to get into the book (personally)</p>	<p>like because it's a good start let the author know how connected she is to the books</p>

<p>2 One of my favorite theories in Harry Potter is that love can save the world. As I poured over your books, I couldn't grasp how Harry could possibly destroy Voldemort with love. I had always thought love was that unchanging feeling you have around your family or the "true love" you see in Disney movies. To me, love was like a fantasy people only dreamed about. It was just an ordinary thing turned extraordinary and an impossible feat expected of every day people. Which is why I was extremely disappointed when Harry's secret weapon was love. However, you finally got me thinking, and it hit me. If everyone loved, there would be no Voldemort. No wars, murderers, terrorist attacks. Not even those nasty comments you hear at school. If everyone loved, maybe the world could finally be at peace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write about the theory • tell why she's writing the letter • what's fascinating about the book or a special theatre <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">special theatre about the book</p>	<p>I like the way she's writing her own thoughts about love but I not agree with her</p>
<p>3 All my life, I've been afraid of death. My grandfather died before I was one, and as I grew older, death came twice more. This, more than anything else, made my greatest fear dying. These blows made me recognize that you have to be prepared for death because once that stealthy creature steals you from this world, there's no coming back. On top of that, I realized that no one knows what happens once it takes you, and just contemplating this made my blood run cold. But the cure to my fears was printed in black and white: "Do not pity the dead... Pity the living, and, above all, those who live without love." You opened my eyes to the horrors of life that can be far worse than death. The other antidote to my dread was Dumbledore's statement "to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure." Finally I realized that when you</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fears concerned to the theory • why the book helped to ease his fears <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">fears and how the book change the mind or helped</p>	<p>I think the same way as her but I can't change my mind after the book</p>

die, you shouldn't be afraid of the unknown, but eager to finally discover the great mystery of death.

4 Lately new discriminations have infected our minds. After 9/11 and the Iraq War, people started to believe that all Muslims are terrorists. It gets under my skin and makes me sick when I hear this, and that's partly why I thought your series was brilliant. This prejudice is just like the bigotry of Muggle-borns and Slytherins, because Muggle-borns can't help what they are, like Muslims can't help what they believe. And although many terrorists are Muslim, that doesn't mean they're evil, which is also a misunderstanding of Slytherins. Your book instilled into my head that prejudice does nothing but create predicaments for our world.

5 I want to thank you for writing Harry Potter. Words can't describe what they've done for me. Never have I read books as enthralling, fascinating, and genuine, while still teaching me what's important. I wish I could say something better than this, but there's no other way to put it: Thank you for these books. Life just wouldn't be the same without them.

Love,

Laura Wang

<http://www.read.gov/letters/contests/winners/2008/letters/leveltwo-laura.html>

- about terrorists and how the book helped her to understand it
↳
Concern to today concerned to the book

- thank you
- last words
- bye
↳

ends part with thank you and last words you want to say to her (personally)

that part is really like because she concerned the book to today and the terrorist attacks

the ending is very lovely and with many feelings