Stuart McClorey

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Dear Andy,

My name is Stuart McClorey and I am a year six teacher teaching at St. Jerome’s Primary school in Munster W.A. (yes just like Herman & Eddie!). I am writing to you today to express my thanks to you for all the wonderful books you have written and to let you know how much my students and I love them.

I began my career teaching year four in 2012 in the mining town of Kalgoorlie. I can still remember my first class (as I’m sure you can too) and I remember how reluctant many of my readers were; especially my boys. As a child I grew up on the short stories of Paul Jennings and loved being able to share these stories with my students, but my they just couldn’t get into them the same way I did.

I was delighted to discover your ‘Just’ series of books after one was shared with me by one of my students. After reading a few stories from ‘Just stupid’ I knew I had my kids hooked. We ordered the entire set and slowly but surely, more and more of the kids in my class embraced reading and came to enjoy it as much as I had hoped.

I have no doubt this would never have occurred if it wasn’t for your ‘Just’ series of books as well as the ‘Treehouse’ series which has also proven very popular. You seem to have a way of writing that just sucks the reader up – your stories are irreverent, full of humour and plot twists, and they are totally entertaining. I think you have a remarkable gift.

I don’t know if you ever set out to change the reading habits of young minds but you certainly did so in my class. Many of my students were surprised to learn you were also a teacher – I guess they think we must be pretty boring right? – but I for one will always be grateful that you pursued your passion and took the time to write in a way that has positively influenced so many children.

I know you get a lot of fan mail and your time is very precious, but if you do get the chance to reply one day, my students and I would love to know how you felt when you had your first set of stories published and if you ever thought you would write so many books?

Your stories have inspired the students in my class more than you know. Thank you all you have done, and good luck with your next project. We can’t wait to read the 78-storey Treehouse!

Best wishes

Stuart McClorey