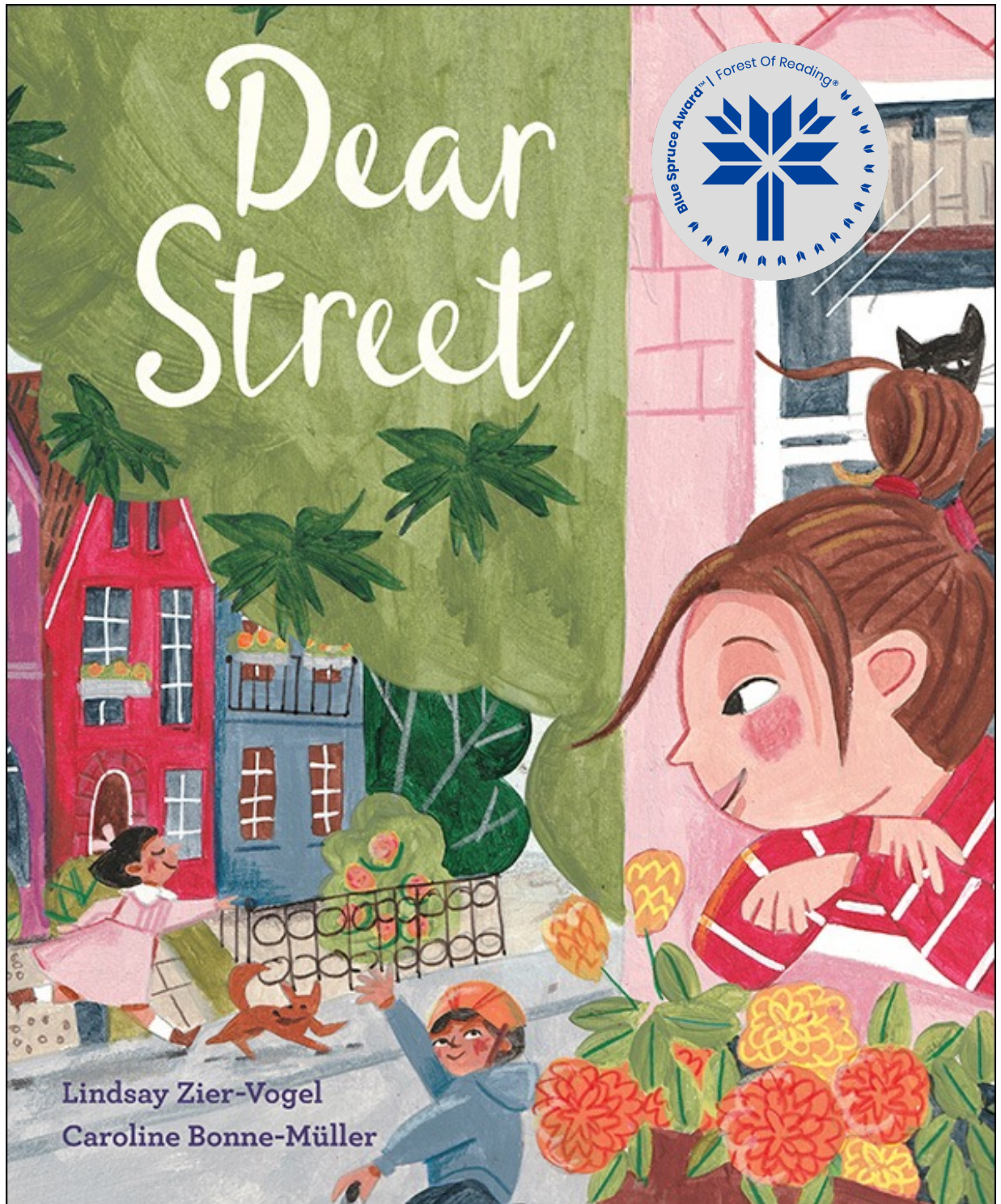


Dear Street: An educator's guide





About DEAR STREET:

Written by Lindsay Zier-Vogel

Illustrated by Caroline Bonne-Müller

Published by Kids Can Press

Ages: 3-8

978-1-5253-0310-4

9 x 11

40 pages

A girl shares her love for her neighborhood, and finds that love multiplies, in this child-friendly story that encourages mindfulness and gratitude.

Alice loves her street. She loves its tall maple trees and marigolds and its apartment buildings with their colorful balconies. But not everyone feels the same. “Grumble, grumble, more construction, grumble, late, grumble,” she overhears. So Alice decides to write her street a love letter, which she leaves for someone to find. Through the seasons, as Alice encounters people grumbling about other things, she writes those things love letters, too, and leaves them to be found. She writes to her local park, a maple tree and even the snow. Then, one day, when Alice finds herself grumbling, she discovers a letter someone else has written to the spring crocuses. And Alice feels the joy she has been spreading to others come back to her!

Dear Street is nominated for a Forest of Reading Blue Spruce Award and is a 2023 Junior Library Guild pick

Themes:

City Life

Gratitude

Mindfulness

Celebrations

Empathy

Optimism

Urban Life

Celebrating communities

Letter writing

Place-making

Caring



About the author:

Lindsay Zier-Vogel is a writer and arts educator and the creator of the internationally acclaimed Love Lettering Project. After studying contemporary dance, she received her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto. She is the author of the acclaimed debut novel, *Letters to Amelia*, and her writing has been widely published in Canada and the United Kingdom. Since 2001, she has been teaching creative writing workshops in schools and communities. Her debut novel, *Letters to Amelia*, was published in 2021. Lindsay lives in Toronto, Ontario with her family. *Dear Street* is Lindsay's first picture book, and is a 2023 Junior Library Guild pick and has been nominated for a Forest of Reading Blue Spruce Award.

School/community author visits:

Lindsay is available for school and community visits, in-person in Toronto, and virtually for schools and community groups outside of the GTA. Please contact her at: Loveletteringproject@gmail.com

(Note: Lindsay uses The Writers' Union of Canada's fee structure for her school visits).



About the illustrator:

Caroline Bonne-Müller was born in France, raised in the Netherlands and has also lived in Malaysia. After studying fashion design in Amsterdam, she worked as a fashion designer for fourteen years.

She has been fascinated by picture books since she was a child, but the idea to illustrate them one day was planted after she had her three children. Caroline has illustrated several picture books, including *Portrait of an Artist: Claude Monet*; *Beatrix and her Bunnies: The Story of Beatrix Potter*; and *So Much More to Helen! The Passions and Pursuits of Helen Keller*.

Her illustrations have also appeared in magazines, on greeting cards and even on jigsaw puzzles!

Caroline now works and lives near Lucerne, Switzerland, looking over a lake and mountains, with her husband, three kids and four cats.



About The Love Lettering Project:

Lindsay Zier-Vogel is also the creator of the internationally-acclaimed Love Lettering Project, a community engagement initiative. Since 2004, Lindsay has been asking participants in over 300 events to write love letters to their communities and hide them for strangers to find, spreading the love.

The project has been all over the world - from New York City to Whitehorse, Toronto to Teresopolis, Brazil, L.A. to London. The Love Lettering Project has been featured in international media including *The Atlantic's CityLab*, NPR, The Londonist, CBC Television's *The National*, *Global National*, CTV's *Canada AM*, *Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail* and CBC Radio's *Metro Morning* (where she is a frequent guest) and *World Report* and was deemed one of the 50 reasons to love Toronto by *Toronto Life*.

Because of The Love Lettering Project, CBC Radio has deemed Lindsay a "national treasure."

Acclaim for DEAR STREET:

“Gentle encouragement to cultivate Mindfulness that leads by example.”

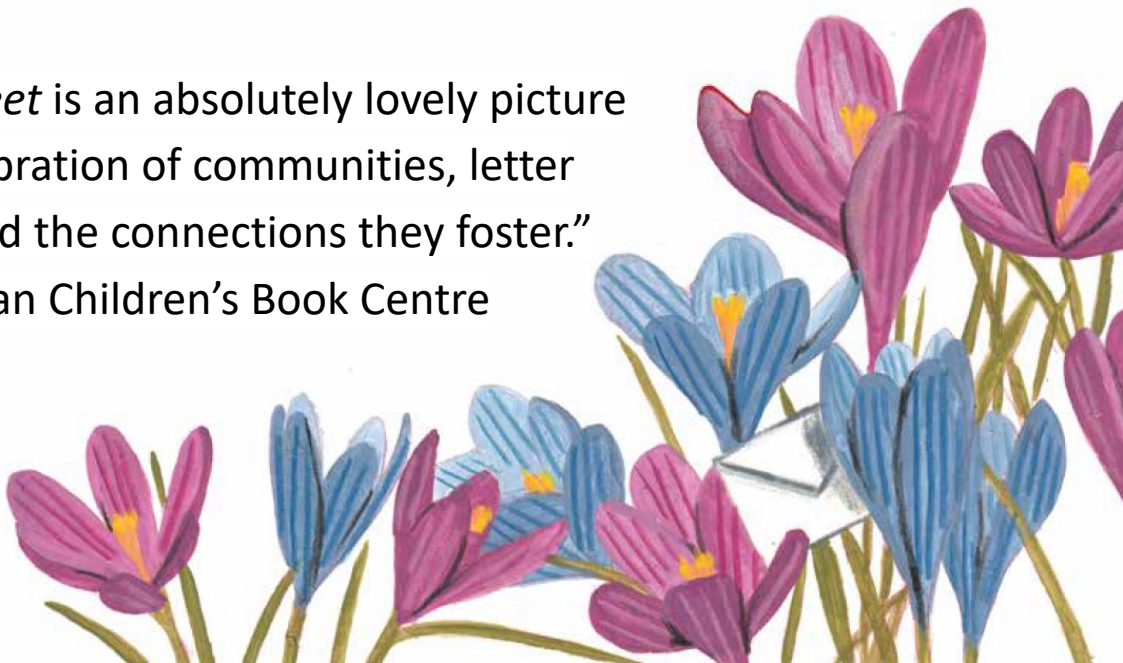
— Kirkus Review



“Lindsay Zier-Vogel has created a delightful, uplifting story that celebrates how small acts by a single person can make a difference in a community. It inspires readers to pay attention and appreciate what they encounter every day.” — Junior Library Guild

“A girl’s inventive method of celebrating her neighborhood has a domino effect in Zier-Vogel’s affectionate picture book debut.” — Publishers Weekly

“*Dear Street* is an absolutely lovely picture book celebration of communities, letter writing and the connections they foster.”
— Canadian Children’s Book Centre





COMMON CORE curriculum connections:

Social Studies and Language Arts Core curriculum (K-Gr. 6):

Themes: City Life | Gratitude | Mindfulness | Caring | Celebrations |
Empathy | Optimism | Urban Life | Place-making |
Celebrating communities | Letter writing

Interrelationships

This concept requires students to explore connections within and between natural and/or human systems, including how they adapt to and have an impact on one another. Students explore various components within a system, interactions between components of a system, and relationships between systems.

Perspective:

This concept refers to the ways in which different individuals and/or groups view something (e.g., an issue, event, development, person, place, process, interaction). Students learn that different groups have different perspectives, which depend on factors such as beliefs, social position, and geographic location, among others. Students also learn the importance of analysing sources to determine whose perspectives they convey and of gathering sources that reflect multiple perspectives.

Curriculum connections:

Social studies and Language Arts

Kindergarten

- Belonging and contributing
- Laying the foundations for citizenship and environmental stewardship

Grade 1

- Our Changing Roles and Responsibilities
- The Local Community

Grade 2

- Changing Family and Community Traditions
- Global Communities

Grade 3

- Living and Working in Ontario
- Letter writing

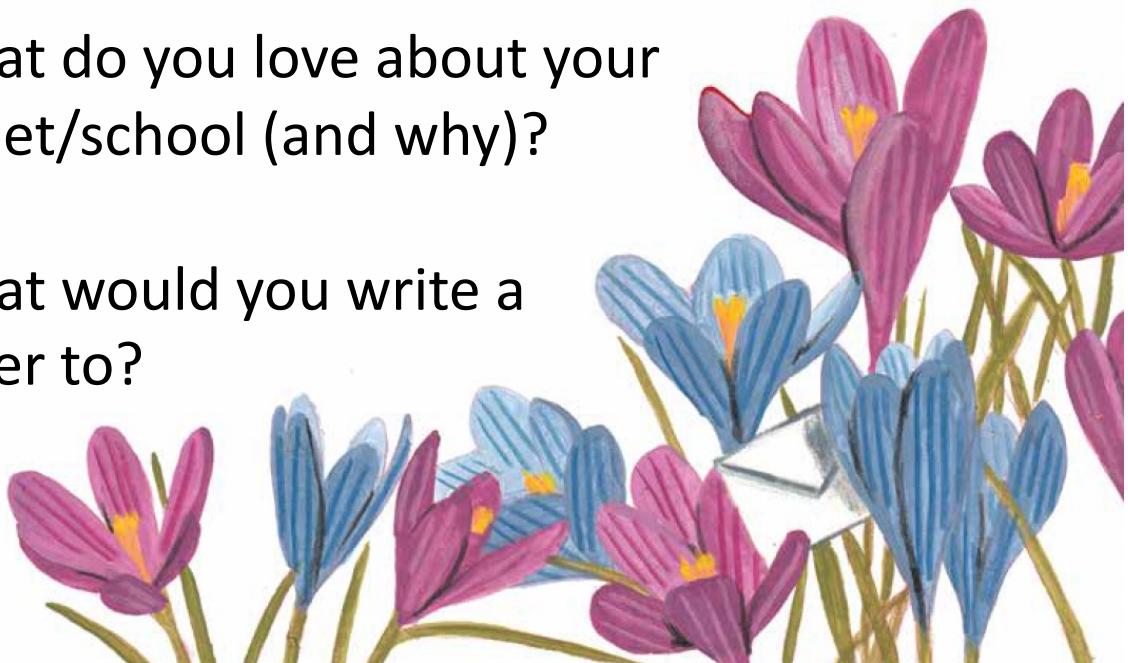
Grade 4

- Letter writing



Questions to ask

- Why does Alice start writing letters?
- What happens when a grumbling grown-up finds one of Alice's letters?
- What happens when Alice is feeling grumpy?
- How would you feel if you found one of Alice's letters?
- What do you love about your street/school (and why)?
- What would you write a letter to?



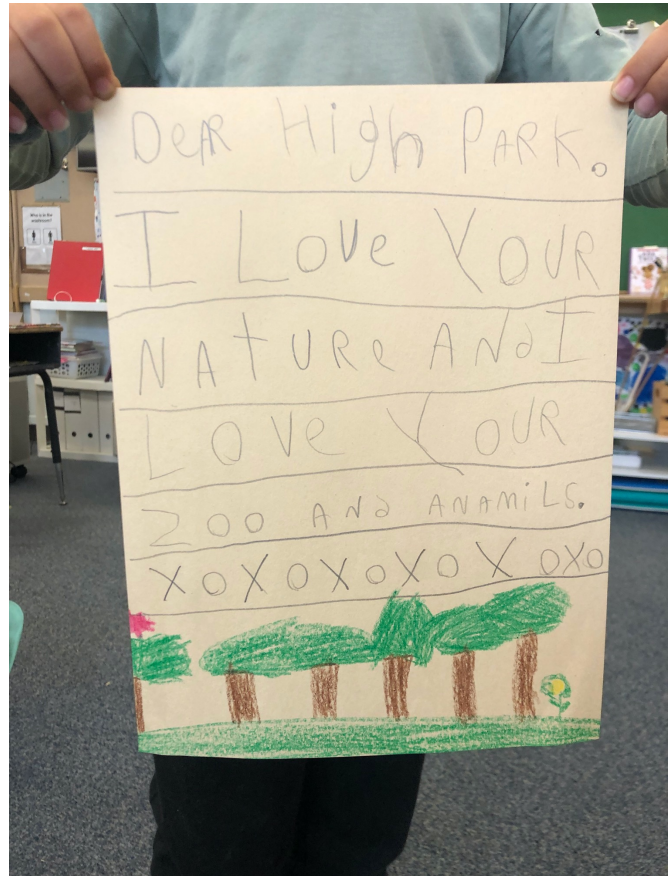
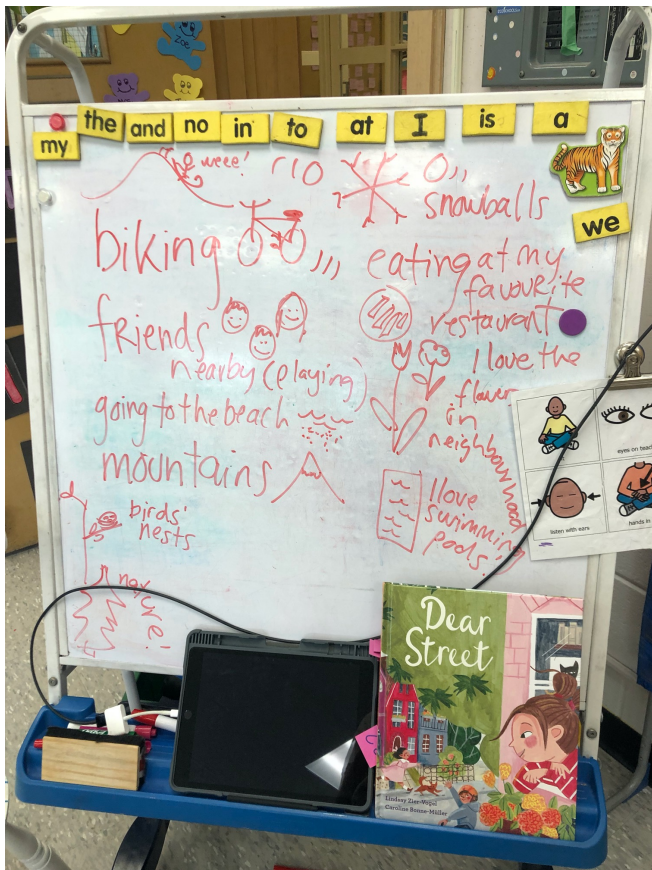
Activities

Writing community-based love letters

Ask students what they love about where they live. (Note: This can also be done about a school or a neighbourhood).

Ask students to write letters to things they love about their neighbourhood/school. Hide these letters for others to find.

(Printable how-to guide on next page)



the love lettering project.

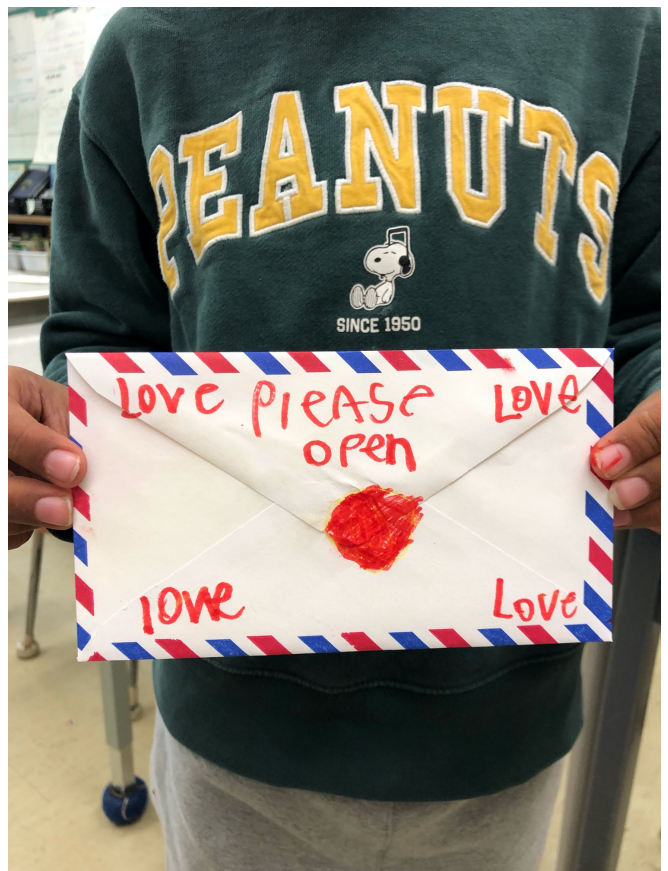
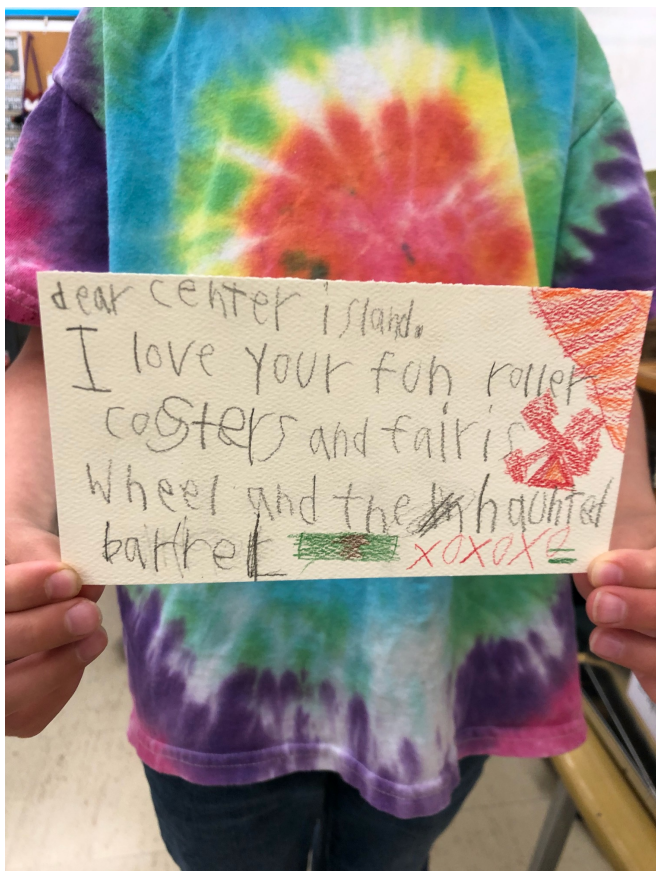
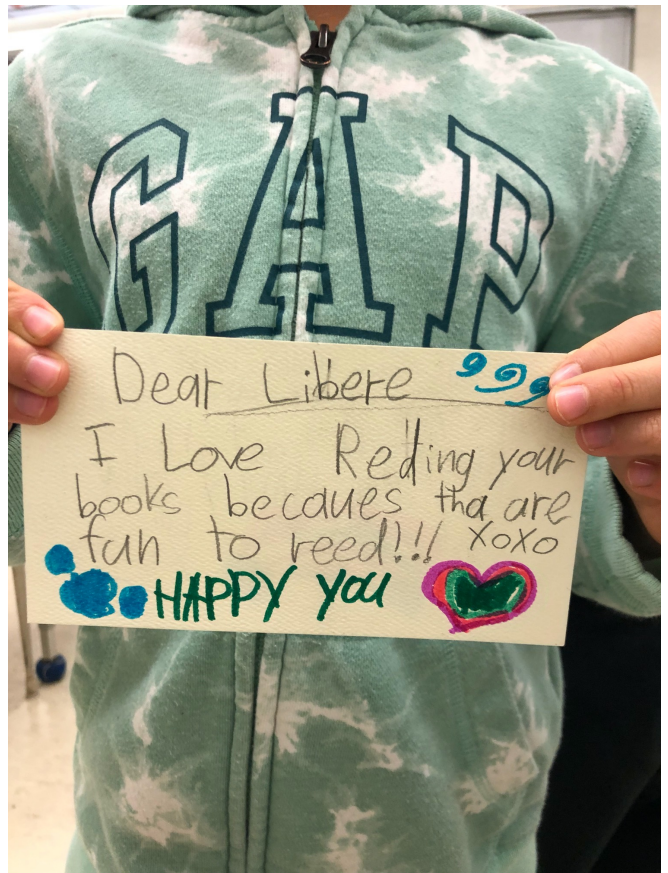


1. Think of something you LOVE about your community. Maybe it's a specific corner, or a restaurant, or the twirly slide at a park. Maybe it's the kindness of your neighbours...anything at all!
2. Write a letter to this thing you love so much. *Dear Twirly Slide...*
3. Slip your love note into an envelope
5. Take the envelope out into the neighbourhood and hide it for a stranger to find! Spread the love!



DEAR STREET is available wherever books are sold

Twitter: @lindsayzv
IG: @lindsay.ziervogel



Activities

Creating a map (group)

After a discussion about what makes a neighbourhood/school great, unroll a large piece of kraft paper and get students to make a collective map of their most significant landmarks—swings, baseball diamonds, swimming pools. Note: the map can be an actual map, or more art than map.

Creating a map (individual)

After a discussion about what makes a neighbourhood/school great, get students to make individual maps of their most significant landmarks. Note: the map can be an actual map, or more art than map.



Activities

Community thank you letters

Brainstorm the different community members who make a neighbourhood great—librarians, crossing guards, lifeguards, etc. Ask students to write thank you letters to community members who make a neighbourhood great, then deliver them.

Design an ideal neighbourhood

After brainstorming the best parts of a neighbourhood, get students, individually, or in groups, to design their perfect neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood poll

After brainstorming the best parts about a neighbourhood/school, ask students to poll each other about the best parts, and graph their results

What teachers are saying:

“*Dear Street* and Lindsay’s Love Lettering project served as the mentor texts to inspire a love lettering campaign for our school’s centennial celebration. Instead of hiding letters, we hung the students’ bilingual (English & French) love notes in the form of postcards in a display for all the guests to see. Former students of all ages were able to share in the love and memories evoked by the display.”

— Sabrina Musa, Core French teacher, TDSB



“Lindsay brought so much joy and excitement to my Grade 2 class when she visited and read her book, *Dear Street*, a wonderful and inspiring story about the transformational power of community and connection. She had the children share all the places and things they loved in their community (the list was long!), and then write their own love letters to plant somewhere (best homework ever). Lindsay reminded all of us that we can change the world into something more beautiful by paying attention, reaching out, and expressing our love and gratitude.

— Sayaka Yajima, Toronto District School Board

What teachers are saying:

“My students were thrilled to take part in Lindsay's workshop. They were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the workshop, brainstorming about what they loved about their neighbourhoods and communities and writing their letters. It was a great creative writing exercise, and even got the most reluctant writers writing.

Lindsay has a gift to engage and connect with those around her to find their creativity and express themselves in their own unique ways. Her workshop was powerful and transformative for both the students and for me and my fellow educators.”

—Jessica Romero, Waterloo Regional District School Board

“My students and I love chatting with Lindsay! She is honest and open about her process, and inspiring to young writers with the real-world story of how she found success as a writer. She is fun and engaging and kept my students laughing.”

— Lauren Simmons,
Toronto District School
Board



What teachers are saying:

“Writing letters for community members to find after reading *Dear Street* brought our kids closer to our neighbours and encouraged them to be noticers of their surroundings. The kindness they infused into their messages after being inspired by the story was incredible to be witness to. I am so grateful we took the time to connect to our community in this special way”.

—Laurie McIntosh, Holy Spirit School Division, Lethbridge, AB

“Lindsay Zier-Vogel’s visit to my classroom was a highlight for my students and myself! She enthusiastically read her story to the class, taking the time to ask questions to the students and listening to their responses. She was engaging and entertaining!! I would love to have Lindsay visit my class again!!”

—Amanda Bujdos,
Toronto District School
Board

