

Level I alternate

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Dear Patricia McKissack,

A Picture of Freedom caught my eye for the first time in second grade. For some reason, it seemed special to me. I just started reading chapter books and I knew little about freedom. I thought freedom was just a word.

When Clotee the main character, spells words she gets a picture of it in her mind. The word freedom she could not picture. When she finds out about the Underground Railroad, she helps her friends escape from the plantation. Finally, Clotee is able to picture freedom. I learned about freedom, but still didn't quite understand what it meant.

On September 11, 2001, there were terrorist attacks on some of the most important buildings in our nation. Many people died. President George W. Bush started a war against terrorism. I thought he was seeking revenge.

In March 2003, during Mission Iraqi Freedom, my dad was called to active duty. At first I thought it was terrible, but after I reread A Picture of Freedom, I felt better. I realized that the Iraqi people have never been free. My dad was in Iraq to help rebuild schools. This would give the children a chance to be free to choose their own future.

In second grade, I thought A Picture of Freedom looked special. After the events of the past two years, I know it really is special to me. I now can picture what freedom really means.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Springsguth