

December 4, 2025

Dear Jeff Kinney,

Your series of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* has been very important to my life. The books have sad, happy, and fun moments. It has changed my life in many ways. I used to have issues with me being a perfectionist. However, the books in the series have taught me that things go wrong a lot, but that is okay. I am very hard on myself. It helps knowing that it's not just me and others feel the same pain. I have struggled with being bullied due to wearing a hard scoliosis brace under my shirt at school and even had kids poke holes through my shirt to see my brace. So, I relate to Greg about being bullied and lacking in self-esteem. Things like failure, punishment, bad friendships, and more have happened to both Greg and me.

Greg is funny, weak, wimpy, and introverted. That is also a description of me except unlike Greg, I am smart and make good grades. I have a muscle disorder that makes me skinny and weak. Greg is weak too so I can see how he works through it, and I can learn from him. In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot*, Greg goes to the gym with his dad. He tries to work out, but he failed miserably. He got kicked out of the gym and quit. I had a similar situation, but I didn't get kicked out. Instead, I stopped and gave up on myself. After a month or so, I wasn't gaining anything at all so I decided to stop. The book series helped me realize that, even if I wasn't gaining strength or seeing physical progress, it's what is inside that really counts. Just like when Greg predicted that if people in the future were skinny, then they would be more attractive and popular.

Unlike most main characters who are superheroes or have exceptional talents, Greg is average, very average. He lives in an average house, average family, and is middle class. If anything, he should be a very boring side character, not the main character. It proves that anyone, even me, can have an in-depth story or life that is worth exploring. Most people would think reading some random person's diary would be really boring, but you found a way to make it very interesting and engaging. You added unique moments and subtle, but appreciated, details that add life to the story and make it relatable. Your writing perspective helped an average kid like me connect to the character and storyline.

I also enjoyed the sense of humor used throughout the series. Greg is a smart aleck, a slight prankster, and his replies were comical to me. I am sarcastic in my daily life and I think of myself as a bit of a comedian and prankster. I loved the funny lines that were used by Greg and the way he pushed boundaries. When Greg was being contrary and took a photo of an elbow for the "Guess Who?" picture contest, his goal was to win using a strategy of something no one would guess correctly. However, it made his teacher think he used a body part that was strictly prohibited. It brings a smile to my face how your writing uses a unique sense of humor and makes the outcomes so hilarious and pleasing. I appreciate you showcasing the average kid of America in this memorable series, so a kid like me doesn't feel alone in the struggle.

Sincerely,

Relic Foster