



## A Letter to Amy

*Ezra Jack Keats*

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Generations of children have read, re-read, and loved Ezra Jack Keats's award-winning, classic stories about Peter and his neighborhood friends. Now, for the first time, *Peter's Chair*, *A Letter to Amy*, and *Goggles!* are available in paperback exclusively from Puffin. A master of ingenious collages, Keats has made brilliant variegated pictures -- *The Horn Book*. Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) was the beloved author and/or illustrator of over eighty-five books for children.

## A Letter to Amy Details

Date : Published August 1st 1998 by Puffin Books (first published 1968)

ISBN : 9780140564426

Author : Ezra Jack Keats

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Realistic Fiction, Cultural

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## **From Reader Review A Letter to Amy for online ebook**

### **Tasasha Battle says**

Keats's book is about a boy that invites a girl to his birthday party. On his way to mail his letter his accidentally bumps into her knocking her to the ground. Terrified that she would see the letter and spoil the surprise he quickly mails it, but before he knew she had ran off crying. The party was a success however the girl had not come. Get the book to find out if she arrives. This book has excellently expressive illustrations. It can be used to help students practice their writings by interpreting the images and create their own stories.

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### **Maria says**

A quick word on book clubs. I think they are a really great thing. A number of my kid's books are from the Children's Choice Book Club by Scholastic. Now this means that they have ugly, if durable binding. But it also means that I was exposed to a number of authors that I probably wouldn't have picked out on my own. I had a bit of a penchant for really girly stuff like Angelina Ballerina. Anyway, I have always been a voracious reader and I think the fact that my parents signed me up for a book club was a huge factor. (Other factors included, frequent trips to the library and their willingness to read to me for hours. ) Seeing these books now actually makes me think about joining a book club as an adult because I suspect that it could have the same result. But enough about that and more on A Letter to Amy. Beautiful art again, a much brighter and more sharply delineated than Pet Show. There is a wonderful picture of Peter with his dog and their reflections on the wet pavement. I really love this collage style for artwork.

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### **Jermeria Daniel says**

This book can be useful for introducing the topic of parties. Children can write their own invitations to the classroom party and then deliver the letter to their parents.

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### **Michele Stalmer says**

This book brings in the beauty of friendship and making choices. This book also opens up a wonderful way to expose children to connect reading to writing. Children can also get creative ideas on how to make their own invitation to their birthday or other special parties. When I've read the book in my classroom, that's exactly what we did. We wrote letters and then "sent" them to friends.

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

Amy gets a mailed invitation to Peter's party. Will she show?

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## **Agn? says**

An endearing story with stunning collage and paint illustrations of a vibrant and gritty urban landscape on a stormy day:

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## **Rohit says**

Peter realized that he should never lose hope on anything because there's always a chance that your wish might happen. The lesson of the story is to never give up Hope.

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## **Christina Mallory says**

### **Text-To-Self Connection**

This story reminds me of the time I had a birthday party in the 3rd grade and in school we had learned how to mail letters correctly. I went to school with just about all of my friends but since I learned a new skill on how to mail letters I wanted to mail my invitations to my friends, who probably only lived about 15 minutes from my house. I begged my mom to allow me to write out my entire address as well as my friends' addresses in the front of the envelope to mail the invitations to my friends. We walked to the post office to purchase stamps and drop the invitations in the mail. I was so excited that my mom allowed me to enjoy that experience growing up.

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## **Ebookwormy1 says**

My friend introduced me to Ezra Jack Keats, a white guy who writes stories about african people in urban settings, and I thought, "I could really like his work."

So I read the book she had on hand, "A Letter for Amy". I was intrigued with how the unique art style captured a cityscape setting. The story was engaging, told in an appropriate manner, yet alluding to older themes by illustrating the challenges children face (in this case, how does a boy ask a pretty girl to his birthday party?).

Not only is the urban setting and respectful treatment of a minority a refreshing addition to children's books, but thought the story was excellent. Themes of loyalty, awkwardness, compassion and desiring to do something nice for others were addressed.

I will look for more of his work in future library trips.

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## **KIMBERLY JEAN says**

### Text-to-World Connection

In the story a letter to Amy a little boy has a crush on a little girl and wants to send her an invitation to her party. In this book you can introduce children to the process of mailing a letter and explain that people receive mail all over the world. Your class could discuss where the little boy lives and compare him to another child that may live in another country and decide how you would mail a letter from that country back to the United States.

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## **Lisa Vegan says**

Well, I liked Peter very much, and Amy, and the story (though I wish there had been some sort of rebuttal response to the "A girl, ugh!" comment). But my very favorite parts of this book are the wonderful collage illustrations and the character of Willie the dog. I love Willie the dog!!! The parrot is kind of cute too, and definitely pretty. This is a very sweet story. But it's the pictures and Willie that have me really liking this book. 3 ½ stars, 4 if the ugh girl comment had been properly addressed or, better yet, left out entirely.

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## **Amy says**

I would venture a guess that few adults can recall one of the first books they checked out from the library as a child. I am probably a rare breed as I can recall the book quite easily. It was "A Letter to Amy" by Keats. As a 4 yr old child discovering picture books in the early 70s, I adored the artwork of Keats and loved to trace the watercolor images with my little fingers. What made his book even more important to me was the fact that my own name was in the title! I notice that my students love this too. This is one thing that hasn't change in the heart of a child over time. They still enjoy hearing their own name in books as well.

A Letter to Amy explores the emotions of a child from panic to peace as Peter takes a risk inviting a girl to his birthday party. Willie the dog makes an appearance too. Looking forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Snowy Day with my students coming in January as well.

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## **John says**

I like this book because the card (a postcard, not like a game card) blows away, and it doesn't have a stamp. The mother gives instructions to the little boy named Peter (the boy, who, you know, was out in the snow) : Put the stamp on it, and your address and the place you live and your street and the zip code! That would be a good way to get it to Amy! And that's how it blew away: a strong gust of wind blew it out of hand. I guess the storm thought that was a good way to get it to Amy, but she [spoiler alert] even came without him needing to send the card to her.

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### **Ben Truong says**

*A Letter to Amy* is a children's picture book written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats, which tells a story about a boy named Peter as he writes an invitation to his birthday party to a girl named Amy, hoping that she could come. It is the fourth book of seven books in the *Peter* series.

The text is rather simple, straightforward, and had an innocent vibe to them. It is a story about a black boy named Peter who wants to send a birthday invitation to Amy and his adventures to the mailbox in stormy weather. It has a childlike innocence vibe as Peter chases his letter throughout his neighborhood in attempts to mail it. The illustrations are wonderful done and is reminiscent of cut and paste art and depict the text exceptionally well.

The premise of the book is rather straightforward. Peter wants to invite a girl named Amy to his birthday party, but was too embarrassed to ask her in person, so he wrote her an invitation. It's rainy and windy outside and the letter blew out of his hand, so he managed to chase his letter all over the neighborhood, only to catch it when he bumps Amy to the ground. The invitation was mailed, but he doubts Amy would want to come to his birthday party now. In the end, Amy did come – fashionable late and all is well.

All in all, *A Letter to Amy* is a wonderful children's book about friendship and not paying attention to what others may think about you.

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### **Lindsay Bunchman says**

This book is especially great to use with older kids who are beginning to deal with the dynamic of male/female relationships. They can relate to young Peter who wants more than anything for Amy to come to his birthday party. As always, Keats' illustrations are wonderful. Art teachers could use any of Keats' books along with Martin's Big Words to teach collage.

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