

Shelter Essay

By Anne Lee

What's a shelter? It may just seem like a place with walls and a roof, but there's more. A shelter means something, or someplace, that comforts you. It makes you feel better. My shelter is a book.

My first reason why a book is my shelter is because when I read a book I feel understood. There's also characters in a book who have realistic problems and realistic feelings. When I read about characters that have problems like me, I feel heard and I feel cared. I know that I'm not alone. Then, when characters come up with solutions, it gives me hope that one day, I will come up with a solution, too.

For example, I remember when I was scared to say something to my friends because I was afraid that they would not like me if I said it. I read the book, "Just Jaime" by Terri Libenson, which has a character named Maya, who was scared to tell one of her friends that she did not like how the friend treated another friend. This reminded me that I was not the only one who was facing this problem. When Maya got courageous and came up with a solution for this problem, it gave me hope.

Another reason why a book is my shelter is because it is an escape from my bad days. When I read a book, it takes my attention away from worry. After I read some chapters of a good book, I feel calmer. This way, I have a chance to come up with a solution for my own problem.

I remember when me and my sister were having a fight. I felt like nobody was on my side which made me feel angry. I decided to read some chapters of my favorite book and after, I was calm and relaxed. I first asked myself, why was I feeling so mad? The answer was that I thought nobody was on my side during my fight with my sister. After I reviewed my problem, it turned out that what my parents were doing was something good for me. My parents were talking to my sister, preventing her from bothering me by giving her a distraction.

My last reason is, I feel proud of myself when I read. When I'm having a bad day and I read, it reminds me of my talent. Sometimes, I feel jealous of someone because of their talent. When I go into my shelter, it reminds me that I have a talent too and that I'm special. For example, when I felt jealous of someone's talent, I read a book. In the book, a character won class president. This reminded me of how I'm good with people, and I got voted as secretary for my school's student council.

In conclusion, reading is my shelter, a place where I feel comforted and a reason to walk away from my bad days.