Lauren Cross

Dear Karen Cushman,

The Ballad of Lucy Whipple was an encouragement for me to write. I love the way Lucy tried to write in a diary. It encouraged me to write in a diary that is now flooded with memos, poems, short stories, and little excerpts of my life. I feel that she had a great personality she expressed through helping her family with the boarders and her siblings. I loved to think about the moments Lucy shared with the Indian child she met. I still have a vivid picture of the Indian child and Lucy playing and rolling around in the field.

Lucy Whipple tried to keep her thoughts in a journal. It wasn't kept up-to-date, but she wrote in it when she wanted to pour out her feelings. I have always tried to keep a diary up-to-date, but the notebook would become a notebook for homework or games of hangman.

After reading the book, I signed up for a week of writing classes at Butler University. I found that the more I wrote, the better my writing seemed. I love to see the words and letters marching across my screen as if some uptight general led them like that every day.

I felt like a sister to Lucy, and I could relate to her every feeling; confusion, anger, and bliss. Thank you for touching my life with such a wonderful story with such vivid characters.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cross