



## A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader

*Maria Popova (Editor) , Claudia Bedrick (Editor) , David Remnick (Preface) , Rebecca Solnit (Contributor) , Regina Spektor (Contributor)*

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**A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader** Maria Popova (Editor) , Claudia Bedrick (Editor) , David Remnick (Preface) , Rebecca Solnit (Contributor) , Regina Spektor (Contributor)

In these pages, some of today's most wonderful culture-makers—writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers—reflect on the joys of reading, how books broaden and deepen human experience, and the ways in which the written word has formed their own character. On the page facing each letter, an illustration by a celebrated illustrator or graphic artist presents that artist's visual response.

Among the diverse contributions are letters from Jane Goodall, Neil Gaiman, Jerome Bruner, Shonda Rhimes, Ursula K. Le Guin, Yo-Yo Ma, Judy Blume, Lena Dunham, Elizabeth Gilbert, and Jacqueline Woodson, as well as a ninety-eight-year-old Holocaust survivor, a pioneering oceanographer, and Italy's first woman in space. Some of the illustrators, cartoonists, and graphic designers involved are Marianne Dubuc, Sean Qualls, Oliver Jeffers, Maira Kalman, Mo Willems, Isabelle Arsenault, Chris Ware, Liniers, Shaun Tan, Tomi Ungerer, and Art Spiegelman.

This project is woven entirely of goodwill, generosity of spirit, and a shared love of books. Everyone involved has donated their time, and all profits will go to the New York Public Library systems.

Preface by **David Remnick**, editor, The New Yorker; Edited and introduced by **Maria Popova**, who has been writing since 2006 about what she reads on Brain Pickings (brainpickings.org), which is now included in the Library of Congress archive of culturally valuable materials; Edited by **Claudia Bedrick**, publisher, editorial and art director of Enchanted Lion Books.

### A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader Details

Date : Published September 12th 2017 by Enchanted Lion Books

ISBN : 9781592702282

Author : Maria Popova (Editor) , Claudia Bedrick (Editor) , David Remnick (Preface) , Rebecca Solnit (Contributor) , Regina Spektor (Contributor)

Format : Hardcover 160 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Writing, Books About Books, Childrens, Picture Books, Language

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## From Reader Review A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader for online ebook

### Dessislava Ivanova says

This book is everything. It was love at first sight and it was love til the last page. I fell in love with every story and I loved how similar and at the same time completely different they all are. We are all readers and being able to read is pure magic - I have never been more sure in anything in my life. I want to quote the whole book however I will not do that. I will do something even better - I will reread Velocity of being every time I need solace, advice or a friend. I finally found the book (or it found me because it was a gift) that truly is my happy place.

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### Joanne says

Don't miss this. Worth the price. While I didn't love all of the letters, the ones that are spectacular make the book worth it.

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### Liz says

Very powerful and inspiring! I do recommend this book since one of my patrons recommend it to me! Full of beautiful illustrations and the importance of why it is important to read!

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### Deb Pellerin says

This book is such a treasure for the joy and transcendence of reading paired with intriguing artistic interpretations of each reflection. I am slowly savoring the essays and art. Can't wait to share with colleagues and young readers!

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### WaitingToFade says

This book contains letters and illustrations from over 200 very interesting people, addressing young people in particular as to why reading is important. There are letters from people who read voraciously from an early age and people who started reading later in life. They come from all backgrounds and write from all different points of view. Some tell personal stories in prose about a book that meant a lot to them, others use poetry, and still others tell it using comic strips. No matter who you are, a child just beginning to learn to read or an adult that has read more than 5,000 books, you will find a letter that speaks to you. One of my favorites discusses how reading is like time travel, where the writer is the past and the reader is the present and the reader can go back in time by reading the words of that writer, which is a perspective that I hadn't really considered before.

Whether you enjoy reading, or you find it too difficult or boring, you need to read this book.

## Marie Antoinette says

**Oh, I wish i had this book when i was a kid.**

When we are kids, is easy to believe that dreams come true, is easy to daydream because we don't know better, so rules and expectations do not apply to us. The only thing we need is our imagination and everything is possible.

But at some point we stop being kids.

*"A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader"* is a 250 page love letter to the kid we used to be, written and illustrated by people whose character has been shaped by a life of reading.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

P.S: All the proceeds from this book will be donated to the New York public library system.

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## Ellen says

Glorious. Spectacular. As a bookstore mama, I'd even go so far as to say that this book should be considered a publishing event. Though it was a late addition, I'd give it a proud spot in my top 5 of 2018. Also, if you don't already follow Maria Popova on Brain Pickings, please do. It's the smartest blog around, if I may.

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## Shilpa says

Flip through the pages of A Velocity of Being and you'll marvel how much depth is covered; while keeping the format of the book very simple. A letter a page, paired with an illustration that simply adds to extend the reader's appreciation for books. Don't let the crayon drawings fool you; there is an ineradicable appetite for travel into the unknown. Words and ideas will linger in the imagination for a lifetime, and the young reader is destined to become a voracious consumer of words.

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## Joel says

Everyone, at any stage of their reading journey, needs to read this book! I started marking pages with particular letters that I wanted to remember and share with friends, family and students, but too quickly I ran out of post it notes. This is a book I will continue coming back to for affirmations and inspiration. The beautiful and fascinating artwork complements each letter perfectly. This book reminds me that I am very fortunate to be a school librarian.

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## Hannah says

While I was only able to read excerpts from this book, what I did read (and the illustrations that complement the text) completely blew me away. We are living in a time in which learning, understanding, and empathy are urgently needed “to keep our very humanity alive.” Books open doors, provide refuge, create connections, and reflect acceptance. Odes to books and reading are myriad and can often become monotonous and hollow, but each excerpt I read in this collection sings with unique truth and calls readers, even those who are immersed in their love for books, to discover that love anew. A VELOCITY OF BEING is a clarion call to the brave, hopeful, transcendent world of reading.

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## L says

Charming collection, both letters and art. This is a worthy addition to anyone's library, especially if one collects children's literature (as I once did before I had kids - I wish this were around back then)...but now I have grandchildren to look forward to (eventually), so it will be the cornerstone of my new collection of children's books!

I read it quickly - something I don't recommend because many of the letters describe similar benefits and experiences of reading... Read too close together, they begin to echo and reverberate, reducing each letter's uniqueness. Savor each letter individually instead. However...

A rewarding discovery is that a few dominate themes emerge here to convey a larger, unified truth, that reading is a wondrous, imaginative escape, true time travel through a symbolic means unique to humans. Books are a perfected technology. Nothing I've yet seen improves upon a book.

So, viva la BOOK!

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## schерzo? says

Quotes liked:

Rebecca Solnit Nearly every book ...

Regina Spektor When you're near books, ...

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