Dear Class,

I am enjoying the book *A Long Way from Chicago* written by Richard Peck. Joey and Mary Alice are the main characters. In this book they are visiting their Grandma who lives in a very small town. The book tells about the children’s adventures when they visit each summer as they are growing up.

Joey and Mary Alice visiting their Grandma every summer helps me make a personal connection to the book. Every summer since I was 9, I have gone to visit my Great Aunt. Many of these summers, I have gone by myself just like Joey and Mary Alice do.

I think Grandma’s character is great. She always does very creative things. One of my favorite chapters is “Things with Wings.” I think it’s funny when Grandma makes everyone in town think that she has Abraham Lincoln’s hat and Mary Todd Lincoln’s quilt. It was very sneaky of her to use these items to help Effie Wilcox get her house back.

I think that Grandma’s way of speaking also adds a lot to the book. When Grandma talks, she is very blunt and critical of others. One example is when she says, “Never trust an ugly woman.” Her speech helps me picture what she is like. I think it’s also funny when she says Shotgum Cheatham “couldn’t hit a barn wall from the inside.” Her descriptions are very vivid.
I am enjoying reading this book. I can’t wait to read the sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*. I hope you are enjoying your books too!

Love,

Mrs. Henry