

Dear Frances O'Rourke Dowell,

One day my mom received a message from my 6th grade ELA teacher Mrs. Scola saying that I needed help with my reading. She said I wasn't staying focused in my reading. She also said that having an audio tape would help me stay focused on my reading. So my mom took me to our local library **Coventry Public Library**, I saw a book called *Chicken Boy*. My teacher was right. Having the audio tape had me hooked to *Chicken Boy*. Later on I took out the Audio tape and read it by myself and found out I was still hooked to the book. If it wasn't for *Chicken Boy*, I probably still wouldn't be able to read.

From the beginning I didn't think I was going to like *Chicken Boy*. But I tried. I tried and tried to keep focused, and I started to like it. I noticed that Tobin had trouble staying focused in ELA too. When I heard that in the book that the subject that most people struggle in is reading, I knew I wasn't alone in this situation. The day I reached the end of this book, I knew that Tobin and many others were like me. This made me feel a lot better about myself. I am now reading as a hobby and even reading books that are above my grade level such as Ted Dekker novels, Harry Potter, and even some classics like William Shakespeare books. I now have a 4.0 total grade point average in reading.

Once I read *Chicken Boy* with the audio tape I was hooked to the book. When my mom or dad came in they would say " Colin, that's enough reading for tonight. " I responded "ok." But I lied. When I was sure they were in bed I opened it up, took out my flashlight and read until I was dead asleep. I then learned that if you focus on a book you can fall in love with it. The book *Chicken Boy* was like a miracle to me! I was discouraged when I had to return it to **Coventry Public Library**. At the time it was December, which is also Christmas time. The first item on my list was the book *Chicken Boy*.

I still read *Chicken Boy* all the time for memories. I can tell its going be one of those things in my attic when I'm older, and my kids are going to say " Daddy what's this book? " I'm going to say "This is *Chicken Boy* the greatest book and one of my greatest memories." I hope my future kids will be hooked to this book as much as I am.

Sincerely,

Colin Campbell