

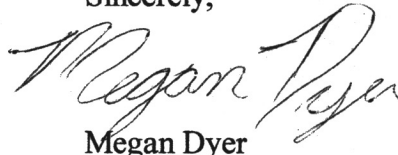
Dear Mr. Hiaasen,

My whole life I have lived on seven acres in a somewhat rural area. We have plenty of "critters", as my dad calls them, ranging from deer to flying squirrels. Of course, they mean a lot to us and are speaking points at dinner-table conversations. That is why the environmentally conscious book Hoot interested me from the start.

As soon as I began reading Hoot I could relate to your main character, Roy Eberhardt. First of all, I am an only child, like Roy, and would often enjoy having a sibling. I can also notice things that others either can't or won't, and I am usually immersed in a book on school bus rides. As I was reading Hoot, a subdivision was being built in the fields behind my house, and I would stand back by our old stone wall watching rabbits scurry past piles of rubble and hawks circle, looking for now-dead trees. Cigarette butts and candy wrappers litter eroded man-made hills. Once common over-the-wall hiking trips have become only fond memories. Crickets no longer sing on decaying soybean stalks, and raccoons no longer sit with nurslings in the silver moonlight, making feasts of forgotten beans.

This simple book has mirrored my thoughts, feelings, and ideas. I have realized how much people's actions can influence what is around them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Dyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Megan Dyer