Hi Leo, I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you as a student in Strasbourg University who went to see your conference. I worked on your album *Een Huis voor Harry*, and it deeply moved me. I understand that it is a very personal album for you, and the themes it tackles are universal. I enjoyed your conference, and it gave me clues to analyse this album, but the true goal of this letter is to thank you for the experience I lived.

I knew nothing about children’s literature before reading your work. At first, I must admit that I was a bit sceptical as to the depth of it. Then, I realised my error. I began to understand how children’s literature was – in fact – a complicated and meaningful craft. Although you prefer to identify yourself as an illustrator, I like the way you weave kindness and tolerance in your drawings, and it showed me how a story – without many words – can actually tell many things.

If the themes you include in your work are universal, they are also the reflection of our own lives and experiences. I chose to work on *Een Huis voor Harry* because I have two cats, and one went missing when he was three months old. He disappeared for three weeks, and I was absolutely terrified. I knew he got lost because he was scared, as he saw a big dog who chased him. When he came back, I was so relieved to see he was still alive and in pretty good shape. Yet, I could not stop wonder what things he saw and experienced while being outside. As Harry, it was the first time he ever went outside.

Needless to say, then, that your album worked as a plaster for this unpleasant memory.

However, I quickly understood that it was the surface of what it had to offer. As I read it and prepared my presentation on it, not only did it comfort me about my own cat’s experience, but I realised how meaningful and important children’s literature could be for anyone, not just kids.

As simple as it may seem, the story you created can be analysed in so many different ways that I enjoy reading it again and again, and I find myself still finding interpretations that I hadn’t seen when I read it the time before.

I am a student in English literature, and, although I always tried not to be, I realised that a part of me was in fact snobbish and quite elitist when it came to literature.

Then, your albums – as we studied more than one – totally changed my perspectives. I truly thank you for that.

I think that this letter is coming to an end. I would like to express my gratitude one last time and tell you that – however unexpected – it was an amazing experience to work on your albums. It brought me far more than a “simple” understanding of literary techniques.

Thank you for your work !

Léna