

Synopsis

Dear Mr. Kilmer

by Anne Schraff

Dear Mr. Kilmer is a story about Richard Knight, a sensitive and sympathetic young farm boy who has a talent in writing poetry. His inspiration to write poems is sparked when he is reading the poem *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer. He corresponds with Joyce and develops a special bond with him. Joyce encourages Richard to overcome his loneliness and fears at home and in school through positive comments and suggestions. Richard has a difficult time during World War 1 with his peers. His relationship with his father is strained, however, he finds comfort at the home of Hannah Schermer, his classmate, who helps him with his poetry. After Mr. Kilmer's death, Richard writes a special poem about him. Mr. Schermer encourages Richard to send his poem to be published in the local newspaper. Later, Pa and Richard's relationship improves.



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