January 29, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the true pleasure of knowing Shiloh Warthen for five years, since my initial days as the Teen Services Librarian at the Montrose Regional Library. Even then, Shiloh was unforgettable: brimming with energy, humor, inclusivity, and intelligence. She was an initial member of the library's Teen Book Club, always enriching the discussion with thoughtful and spirited ideas, even at a young age. She is a voracious reader and could easily make connections between books, provide recommendations to others, identify insightful themes, and ask complex questions.

In fact, the library solicited Shiloh to act as an "official" Teen Recommender and host her own shelf of recommendations in the building. She is a book lover in the best sense of the phrase, one who inspires others with her enthusiasm. (In fact, for this alone, I highly recommend Shiloh for any distinction and any academic program. No discussion will lack enthusiasm, insight, and engagement with her in the room.) I vividly remember other members of the book club waiting for Shiloh to arrive, because they had found books they just *had* to share with her. Her willingness to let her enthusiasms lead emboldened others to invest in their passions and to relinquish fears about how they might appear to others. As a librarian trying to establish a space for book nerds to shine and connect, I could not have asked for a better participant.

As soon as she turned thirteen, Shiloh joined the library's Teen Advisory Board, and I immediately was grateful. She brought an infectious spirit to the group and elevated every brainstorm, meeting, and activity. Though she was the youngest in our group her first year, she was not intimidated by working with older students, and she emerged as a natural leader. She has creative ideas *and* possesses the drive and responsibility to bring ideas to fruition. I must be honest: I think this is how she wound up in a purple onesie holding a giant crayon reading *Harold and the Purple Crayon* to preschool-aged children at a library festival, alongside other teens dressed, respectively, as the Pigeon, the Man in the Yellow Hat, Elephant and Piggie, you get my drift.

Thanks to her dedication and reliability, I always could count on Shiloh to complete the work for which she volunteered, whether that meant dressing up to read to kids, acting as an editor on the library's Teen Literary Magazine, presenting to other teens about the Teen Advisory Board, or serving as a teen representative in a focus group on library services.

I always felt comfortable having Shiloh serve in a public-facing capacity to speak on behalf of the Teen Advisory Board or the library. She is respectful, thoughtful, honest, and full of passion—exactly the qualities we sought in prospective Teen Advisory Board members and hoped to foster in community dialogue. I trusted so thoroughly in Shiloh's thinking and ways of engaging that I twice invited her to contribute to the library's column in the local newspaper. I'll never forget the number of positive comments (and emails) I received about her column on why reading matters: she inspired library staff and the community alike. In preparing that column,

she actually interviewed a number of classmates on why reading matters and included their responses in her article. This approach to writing exemplifies many of Shiloh's qualities: creativity, a focus toward community, and scholarly curiosity.

Furthermore, Shiloh is an incredible writer, as the latter comment likely indicates. She regularly contributed to the library's Teen Literary Magazine, writing stories that I continue to think about (often in terror, as she loves to write horror) today. My secret hope is that, whatever career path she pursues, she will always write alongside or as a part of it. Stories, non-fiction, poetry: I have seen her move readers with all three. She likewise is an excellent editor. In her work as an editor on the Teen Literary Magazine, I used her written feedback to writers as examples to share with future editors. She is a meticulous copyeditor but also possesses an ability to provide more holistic global feedback that helps writers hone their craft.

I honestly cannot recommend Shiloh highly enough for any college program or scholarship. She will excel in peer feedback, enrich discussion, take leadership roles, work excellently in groups, and inspire others with her passion and intellectual curiosity. She is also just a lot of fun. Her energy can sometimes feel overwhelming to others, but anyone who knows her long enough ultimately finds it endearing, inclusive, and motivating. I am so eager to see what she does next in her life, and I think any scholarly community would benefit from her presence.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me by phone or email. I currently work as the Regional Services Librarian at the Northern New York Library Network, but Shiloh and I have stayed in touch since I left Montrose a year ago. You can contact me at any of the email addresses or phone number below!

Sincerely,

Amy Dickinson

amy@nnyln.org
amycdickinson28@gmail.com
585-319-7186
315-265-1119, ext. 3