

March 2007

Dear Deb,

What a thrill to hear that *Eragon* won the 2007 Ohio Buckeye Children's Book Award and *Eldest* won the Teen Buckeye Book Award! I am honored that *Eragon* and *Eldest* are such favorites with students.

Please extend my thanks to everyone who participated in this project. Enclosed is a letter to the students readers, which I hope you can share with them.

Three cheers for librarians and teachers who year after year introduce youngsters to books and encourage them to read!

With gratitude,

Christopher Paolini

Dear Students,

Greetings from Montana, where snow adorns the craggy Beartooth Mountains. Thank you for choosing *Eragon* to receive the 2007 Ohio Buckeye Children's Book Award and *Eldest* for the Teen Buckeye Book Award!

I'm delighted to know that you've discovered the joy of reading. When you read a book, you are transported into strange new worlds where anything is possible. You can battle Icelandic warriors from Njal's Saga; stand upon Venus, as imagined by Robert Heinlein; or watch enormous spice worms plow through the cinnamon-scented sands of Frank Herbert's planet, Dune. You can learn how Native Americans made horns and antlers into bows. And you can read the words of Benjamin Franklin as he wrote them in his autobiography, and see the world as he did.

A good book makes you think. I hope that reading becomes a lifelong quest for all of you. Stories can change your life.

You might be interested to know that I am currently writing the third book of the Inheritance trilogy, which is still unnamed. No release date is set, for I have many plot points to explore, but every day Eragon and Saphira draw closer to their final destination.

Once again I thank you. May you soar on dragon wings, and, as my hero, Eragon, would say . . .

May your swords stay sharp!

Christopher Paolini