

Date: 1/15/25

Author: J.C. Cervantes

Level one (6th grade)

Letters about literature by Benjamin Camacho

Dear J.C. Cervantes,

Your book *Storm Runner* has significantly changed my life for multiple reasons. Although some of my family heritage is Mexican, I hadn't really thought about Mayan culture before I read your books. It was very interesting learning about Mayan culture because I was so used to hearing about gods like Zeus and Poseidon, not Hurakan and Ah-Puch. Your book has taught me all about Mayan gods, places, the invention of time according to the Mayan culture, and a lot of the creatures of the underworld which was truly fascinating. Another reason your works have changed my life is that they display incredible amounts of bravery and intense decision making that can help you in life. An example of this is when Zane knows that he has to take down Ah-Puch by himself even if it's dangerous.

Furthermore, your writing has inspired me to write my own stories and legends in my free time. I must have created dozens of storylines by writing fantasy novels. It is remarkable to learn all about the Mayan culture and about the adventures of Zane, Brooks, Rosie, and Hondo. Your

story has so much detail about the colors of the places and the personalities of the characters that I almost feel like I am there. Your books have opened my eyes to the world of Mayan mythology including the beasts of the underworld I had never heard of before. I never even imagined demon runners and hellhounds before I read *Storm Runner*. I found it amazing to discover what the gods ruled. For example, I learned that Hurakan is the god of wind, storms, and fire, and Ah-Puch is the god of the underworld.

Another piece of knowledge I found intriguing was the nicknames the gods had, like Hurakan being “serpent leg”. Before reading your book I assumed that gods and goddesses were always friendly, but in the Mayan culture, most gods and goddesses like to destroy things and wreak havoc on anyone who is standing in their path. I also learned about the vast variety of supernaturals in Mayan culture. Before reading your book, I never knew about shape-shifters, magicians, trolls, and all the other beasts in Mayan culture. By reading *Storm Runner*, I feel that not only did I dive into another world but also learned actual Mayan history along the way. Thank you again for changing my life by writing *Storm Runner*.

Sincerely,
Ben