

Like A Good Friend

By Marilyn Reeves

A good book is like a good friend. It sits and waits until I'm ready to give it my full attention and listen to what it has to say.

There are many kinds of books. Some are light-hearted and entertaining. Others educational or enlightening. But the books I love the most are the ones that take me away from the cares of the day. They make me think. They make me feel. They open my eyes to new experiences.

I feel compassion for the twin brothers – one who suffers from psychosis and the other who tries to hold firm in Wally Lamb's masterpiece *I Know This Much Is True*.

I experience relentless fear as I trudge along the trail, having escaped from the Siberian nightmare of my Russian captors, only to be faced with death at every turn from freezing, starvation or heat exhaustion. But Slavomir Rawicz holds me in his grasp, step after agonizing step, throughout the impossibly long journey to freedom in his gripping story of *The Long Walk*.

I quail at the horror of lost boys turned savage in William Golding's raw and unforgettable tale, *The Lord of the Flies*.

I sob at the heart breaking fate of poor, innocent Lennie in John Steinbeck's masterpiece, *Of Mice and Men*.

I am saddened by the tragic misunderstanding towards a good man who happens to be deaf in Carson McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*.

I see the world through the eyes of a young boy living in a small town with a struggling single mother who is being taken in by the crafty deceptions of the flimflam man who intrudes into their lives in Mary McGarry Morris's charming *Songs in Ordinary Time*.

These are just a few of the friends I've discovered in the wonderful world of books. I continue to search the shelves for new ones to add to my collection, and can hardly wait to curl up with the next one and listen to what it has to say.