As teachers, we often wonder about children’s impressions of literacy. I interviewed Sophia Kazee, a kindergartner who was learning to read and gaining new thoughts about literacy every day. I started by asking Sophia about her favorite books. She pointed to the library, “I really like Amelia Bedelia books.” When I asked her how reading helps us, she said, “By learning and seeing other things, like doctors and bugs . . . learning about stuff.” She sees words around her, even “in stores and on awnings.” Sophia described where she reads in the classroom—on the carpet, at her desk—and the special places where she reads at home—on the couch, in her room, and in her mom’s bedroom. She was so excited about describing these places that I asked her to draw what reading looked like at school and at home. I soon had two beautiful drawings from the eyes of a kindergartner. The first shows literacy in the classroom—children reading books and Sophia reading to her teacher, Ms. Cresse. Her images of literacy at home included reading to her mom, her dad’s table with books, and a television with story videos. Drawings like Sophia’s give us a glimpse into children’s minds as they reflect on the possibility of literacy having real purposes that affect their lives.

Author Biography

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