Read the short essay “A Defence of Rubbish,” available on the website of British Children’s author Peter Dickinson: <http://peterdickinson.com/a-defence-of-rubbish/>. In a 1-1.5 page informal response, put Dickinson’s thoughts into conversation with the early (and current) reading experiences you wrote about in your Autobiography of a Reader.

Dickinson writes, “I have always believed that children ought to be allowed to read a certain amount of rubbish.” How does he define “rubbish,” and do you agree with his criteria? What uses does he see for rubbishy reading, and what are the potential pitfalls? What points you agree, disagree, or identify with?

Finally, if you had to make a similar declaration about your philosophy of reading (this one is specifically about children’s reading habits, but yours needn’t necessarily be) what would it be?