

2013 Letters About Literature Level 1 Honorable Mention

Blake Peeler's letter to R. J. Palacio, author of *Wonder*

January 4, 2013

Dear R. J. Palacio,

When my teacher first told us we were going to read your book, I was already wondering why you wrote it. I soon found out that every book has a purpose. After the first couple of pages I wanted to keep reading. "Wonder" gave me butterflies every time we read from it. I actually felt kind of guilty knowing August is so afraid to go to school. Your book made me overlook my past.

I found out it is not right to judge people by the way they look, and I know I have done it before. This book has personally changed my point of view about other people. As we keep reading, I learn to love August as a person and not for his visual appearance. Nowadays I look for what is on the inside and not on the outside.

When August got made fun of by Julian, I felt like I was there, in that part of your wonderful story. Reading that made me dislike Julian, but I understand what August felt. Now as I read, I understand how he feels and treat everyone the way I want to be treated. Once we got further into your book I realized how much it was like my own school. Kids at my school who may have something wrong with them or are of a different culture are as normal as any other child. I also understand why we are taught not to bully other students.

This is what made me like Jack-Will and Charlotte. They obviously know August is different, but treat him like anybody else. For example, Jack-Will is a very popular kid and is willing to risk that so he can become August's friend. Charlotte and Jack seem to understand that everyone is different on the outside, but all connect on the inside. This part is also when the amount of butterflies in my stomach tripled. I was on the edge of my seat, until I heard that somebody stand up for August. Like when Jack tells Julian to be quiet because Julian is making fun of August. This shows Jack's perseverance. Hopefully, in the future when an event comes up like this, I will be able to stand up for the kid being bullied.

Every character in this story has different feelings. All of these thoughts come and serve as a common purpose. I believe that those feelings help create the theme of your text. To me your book has multiple themes that are all great life lessons. One of them I have been taught growing up, "treat others the way you want to be treated." Your book has inspired me to do that.

Thank you so much for writing your heart-stopping story. It truly has changed my life for the better! "Wonder" has impacted my life and my point of view in so many ways. To this very day, I do not judge a book by its cover, because I never know what the pages hold. I WONDER what your next inspiring book will be.

Sincerely,

Blake Peeler