

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

MASSACHUSETTS LEVEL I HONORS 2009

Dear Kenneth,

Your book, *Asperger Syndrome, The Universe and Everything*, changed my understanding about how I react to the world. It showed me that I have a whole lot of potential in me and that I can do some things that normal people cannot. It also showed me that normal people can do some things that I cannot do. If you asked me before I read this book “How do you operate?” I would have said “Normally.” If you asked me the same question after I read the book, my answer would have been very different.

This book changed my thinking like this:

If you think about the way normal brains are wired, they look like Macs. Macs are more “user friendly.” If you look at my brain, it looks like a Windows computer. With my Windows brain I can run more programs at a time, but I get a lot more viruses. I am used to my Windows brain and I personally like my brain. If anyone tried to change the operating system, I would not let them.

Your book has helped me to realize that I am not lousy and that I have a whole lot of potential. It helped me understand that I have some special talents, and I realized that without my brain wired the way that it is I would not have those special abilities. I am just one person with a brain the size of a soccer ball and the consistency of chocolate pudding, but I can do many more things with that hunk of grey and white matter than many other people. According to some other books, Einstein, who is world-renowned for his smarts, and Andy Warhol, the famous pop artist, had what you and I have. It is exciting to think that we could grow up to be like them.

Your book also helped me understand how I react to other people. You might think that I know best what I do, but sometimes it is helpful to have multiple perspectives.

Kenneth, you and I are two smart cookies. I wonder if I wrote a book, what would I write? So much swirls around in my head at all hours of the day and night that I would have to pick the top ten subjects that I know the most about and draw one out of a hat!

Sincerely,

Jacob

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