

# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

MASSACHUSETTS LEVEL II HONORABLE MENTION 2009

Dear Elie Weisel,

Throughout my entire existence, I have always been a nervous yet quiet girl. My mother had always told me to try to rid stress of not being unable to reach the expectations that I want to. Before the age of twelve, I was afraid of what my peers thought about me that I became so obsessed I began to shut down and stop living and having fun. I was so afraid to make mistakes that I stopped cracking jokes because I thought that people would think I was weird.

After I read your book *Night* for the first time in the summer of 2006, I realized that death could come at any moment, and I should take any chance I can to make my life memorable and worthwhile. After reading this book, I thrust back into reality and appreciate every moment. I couldn't imagine death, and I motivated myself to erase my tense and nervous habits. This book helped me to escape my own problems with my self-esteem so I won't be living mentally in a concentration camp.

After coming out of my apprehensive and troubled shell, I began to be more friendly and welcoming to others. Not only did I become warm to others socially, but also my popularity began to rise. I was elected and nominated for many leadership positions. I began to have the confidence to drive for better grades. I had always struggled in math class. Instead of receiving my usual "B" in the subject, I presently receive an "A" in the class and attend an advanced class.

For my whole life, I never understood what it was like to be discriminated. Our racial problems have torn cultures apart, forcing them to live in agony. After when you were in the ghetto in the climax of the story, I was astonished to find that your own community had done nothing to rescue your family. Why is it that humans are so shallow and they cannot embrace everyone's distinctiveness?

After surviving the camp, your dreams were broken and you believed that God's presence was no longer guiding your way. *Night* has helped me to drive and pursue all of my dreams. The Nazi Army may have stripped your childhood dreams; however, your powerful writing has motivated many to make their own visions true by motivating them to never back down, no matter how hard it is. Thank you for your amazing story.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen*

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