

# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

MASSACHUSETTS LEVEL I HONORABLE MENTION 2009

Dear Natalie Babbitt,

Words are powerful. Words have different meanings and evoke distinct emotions in people. In *The Search for Delicious* I learned that the word “delicious” means different things to different people. I learned that to communicate effectively, I have to choose my words carefully.

When I talk to my grandparents, I have to explain things to them in a different way. Although they are knowledgeable, they are not as current with technological information as I am. There are some things about computers they do not understand, such as how a USB drive is like a closet for files or why the printer does not work. When I tell them to see if the printer is USB or not, they do not understand what I am saying.

It is important for me to communicate thoughtfully in school. With my classmates I try to calmly express my ideas even when I am very excited about them. I am passionate about my inventions, and I need to communicate correctly for my classmates to understand and share my enthusiasm. Words can connect people.

To the contrary, the misuse of words can cause communication to break down. Words can start conflicts and end them. They can influence people’s emotions to make them like you or dislike you. If you use the right words, you can do anything; words are powerful.

Sincerely,

*Matthew*

Matthew Germanowski  
Pine Cobble School  
Grade 5