

# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

MASSACHUSETTS LEVEL I HONORABLE MENTION 2009

Dear Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third,

I was alone and scared. My life was being torn apart because my parents were going apart. Every night I felt sadness to the brink of running away. Every day I ran away further from my home with my mom. No good thoughts came back to me; there was no dash of hope in me. Just sad, sad thoughts came into my head. When I went to school each and every day, I was shy for the first time and hid away from everybody. When I read *How to Train a Dragon*, it changed me for the rest of my life.

Your book made me laugh and giggle all day and night. It gave me that dash of hope I needed to keep myself at my home. Your book also showed me ways to be me, how I can be myself. Every day at my school I do many things differently. I stand out from the crowd by being a rebel, even in a private school. Now I make friends with the rebel spirit in me.

I am now in a much better state than I was before. My parents stayed together, and I've become a braver person than I was before. I sometimes wondered what would have happened if my parents had split up. I sometimes wondered what would have happened if I had run away. But I guess the dash of hope you gave me was just enough to save me.

Sincerely,

*William*

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