

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

MASSACHUSETTS LEVEL I HONORS 2009

Dear Angie Sage,

Your series *Septimus Heap* pulled me in from the very first page of the very first book. Septimus is an extraordinary character. At the beginning of the story, Septimus and I didn't appear to be anything alike aside from the fact that we were both boys and the same age. I was mesmerized by the fact that Septimus went on these great adventures while I was just going to school and doing my homework. These adventures weren't just exciting outings; they had an impact on the wizard world. This reinforced my thinking that it doesn't matter what age you are; anyone can make a difference.

Two years ago, while I was reading your books something extremely sad happened to our friend David. He was diagnosed with a rare disease and he needed a transplant. This was a very expensive, experimental procedure, and it wasn't covered by insurance. When I heard this news, I was devastated and I really wanted him to be able to pay for the transplant. I was thinking about what I could do, and then I realized I'm only a kid and I can't make a difference. I thought back to Septimus and remembered that he never questioned what he could do because of his age. It occurred to me I actually could make a difference. I started organizing fundraisers at my school to raise money for the transplant. We had bake sales and set up a restaurant and raised over seven hundred dollars. This money helped pay for the transplant, which was a success.

More recently, I worked on the presidential campaign by going to one of the candidate's offices during the election. At first I saw all the ads that said you can make a difference by voting. I thought, I'm too young to vote; I can't make a difference. Then I thought back to what I did for David, then about Septimus. Septimus never thought "I'm too young to fight the Darke"; he never thought "I'm too young to find Nicko and Snorri in the house of Foryx." No matter what, he always found a way to make a difference, so I found another way I could "make a difference." I helped convince people to vote for my candidate. It made me feel good to see how much I helped during the election. This got me excited; I helped make a difference in the world at such a young age.

The *Septimus Heap* series was inspiring and taught me no matter how old you are, you can always make a difference. So I thank you for writing a series that not only let me enjoy it, but also let me live it.

Sincerely,

Adam

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