

Dear Julie Anne Peters,

While reading your book *Define Normal*, I felt that Antonia and I related in many ways. We both try to be the best of everything we do. We also try to make everything perfect, even though in life, there is no perfect.

When I was in third grade, I used to hang out with a group of girls that would make fun of everyone because they weren't "normal." We walked around trying to find something wrong with every person, even ourselves. We thought to be considered "normal" you had to be like us. This group thought that there was no other way to live a good, full life.

After reading *Define Normal* as a book club book at my school, I realized that everyone thinks of themselves differently, and that everyone has a different "normal category."

I now believe, as I did in early fifth grade when I quit the group, that what we were doing was wrong. Of course, at the time I thought it was funny and entertaining to watch people be hurt emotionally. I was being a bad person for even thinking that, but even worse for doing it.

Everyone thinks of themselves as their own "normal." Jazz, Antonia, and I all underestimated the other people. If someone didn't fit onto our category we were immediate to stereotype, or categorize them. This was wrong, because we never know what they are really like until you talk or hang out with them.

Around the end of fourth grade, I "dropped out" of the group. I realized that it wasn't the place for me. I sat on the steps of our schoolyard, all alone crying. Some of the other kids came over to me, but surprisingly it was not the ones I was in the group with. Instead it was a group of girls that I had made fun of in the previous years. Instantly, I knew it was wrong what I thought about them. Right then I realized that I'd do anything to fit under their "normal category."

I am grateful that I read this book because it completely related to my life in many ways. *Define Normal* was one of the best books I've ever read because I felt like you really got your point across to the readers. I also learned many lessons, some being that it is wrong to stereotype, and that everyone is special in their own way. God made us the way he wanted us to be, and we can't change that about ourselves. I believe that there is not, and never will be, a "normal."

Sincerely,

*Maeve Foley*