

Dear Lois Lowry,

I sometimes feel like my whole life has been a war. When I was 5, I was taken away from my mother, brother and sister. I was sent away to a foster home because I was being mistreated by my mother and stepfather. To my surprise my first foster parents weren't much better than my real parents. They didn't beat me, but they were really mean. I remember one night when I wanted a cup of water my foster mother said I could drink the pee out of the bed. I don't understand how people can be that way.

Like the kids from *Number the Stars* being separated from their families I, too, am separated from my family. I liked *Number the Stars* because it makes me think that my life isn't any harder than the characters in the book. Their problems were similar to mine because they got separated from their family just like I was separated from my family.

After reading *Number the Stars* it made me grateful about my family now. They make me feel like I'm a person. My real mother physically and mentally abused me until I was 5. My mother adopted me at the age of 7 after being in many abusive foster homes before that. The reason why I feel so much about this book is because after reading it I started to appreciate the life I have now and I don't feel sorry for myself anymore.

I'm just proud of who I am, and I give thanks to you for writing this book. It just really helped me open up. Not only open up and share about the way I feel but feel ok about my past.

Sincerely,

*Emanuel Guzman*