

# Massachusetts Letters About Literature Honors, | 2011 Level I

---

Dear Mrs. MacLachlan,

My name is Haley Jean. I am a fifth grader at Swift River School in New Salem, Massachusetts. I enjoy taking dance classes, playing with my dog, caring for my chickens, but most of all I love READING!

Every year my school hands out a list with Massachusetts Children's Book Awards (MCBA) books on it. This year *Edward's Eyes* was on that list. My goal is to read all twenty-five MCBA books. I haven't finished them all yet, but I know that *Edward's Eyes* will be one of my favorites. I was surprised to find out that I had something in common with Jake and it wasn't baseball.

A couple years ago, my Uncle Bernie was coming home from a trip. He was struck by a severe illness in an airport. The illness was Epiglottitis. His throat closed up and he could not breathe. He was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Maryland. My Dad went to the hospital to be with him and so did my uncle's family and my grandparents. They stayed with my uncle for many days while he was on life support. He never got better. The doctors said his brain was terribly damaged. He would never be the same Uncle Bernie that we knew and loved. It was very sad when the family decided to take him off life support. He died on April 29, 2008.

When my Dad came home he told me that my uncle was an organ donor. He explained that my uncle wanted to give his organs to others to help them. I thought it was very kind. Just like Jake's family, my family got a letter, too. The letter was from an eye bank. It said that my uncle's corneas were given to two blind people. They are now able to see thanks to my uncle. This made us very happy.

I could relate to how Jake felt. I had many questions about death and organ donation. Do the people who got my uncle's eyes ever wonder about us? Do their eyes look like my uncle's? I think Jake was very lucky to have met Willie. I have not the people that got my uncle's eyes, but I wish I could.

Thank you so much for writing this story. I will remember it for the rest of my life.

Haley

**Haley Jean, Grade 5  
Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange**