

Dear Walter Dean Myers,

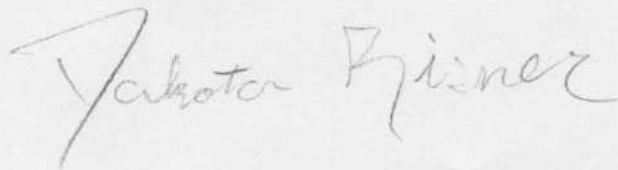
I, Dakota Risner, am a big fan of basketball. As a result, I have read many books about basketball. I have read two books that you have written, which were both about basketball. They were titled Hoops and Slam. I am not a big fan of reading so I was only reading your Hoops book because my English 9 class was required to read one book every grading period. I expected Hoops to be boring and stupid, but I was very wrong. It was the best book I had ever read. I liked Hoops so much that I found myself reading it whenever I had the time, which I had never done before in the past. As soon as I finished your book, I returned to the library to look at your other books. That is when I found your other book, Slam!, and I found myself engulfed in it just as much as I was in Hoops. Hoops and Slam! Will always be two of my favorite books. They are both books that I would recommend to anyone, especially children interested in basketball.

I am a basketball player myself, so Hoops and Slam! inspired me on a different level than the normal reader. I always used to dog it at basketball practice and do take the easiest way out of everything. Your books have made me realize that you only get one chance at life, so you better give it your all. Now I always push myself to the limit during basketball, and I even train out of season. I am a much better basketball player than I used to be, and I credit that to the inspiration your books gave me. Now when the team is down two in the fourth quarter with a minute to go, I'll have what it takes to step up and get my team a victory. Your books affected more than just my basketball game. I no

longer take anything for granted in life. I give everything my best effort because you never know if it could be your only chance to do something great. Slam! also taught me to go with your instincts. If you think your friend might be involved in something bad, then you need to talk to them before it is too late. It showed me that the consequences of drugs and alcohol could be devastating to you, your friends, and your family. Drugs and alcohol can and will ruin your basketball career and most other goals that you have in your life. I will never use drugs or drink alcohol because of the lesson your books have taught me.

Hoops and Slam! are both great books that have inspired me greatly. I learned many valuable lessons from these books that I will remember for the rest of my life. I would recommend Hoops and Slam! to any reader, especially those interested in basketball. I thank you for writing these wonderful books that have touched and changed my life in numerous ways.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dakota Risner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the typed name.

Dakota Risner