

Dear Margaret Peterson Haddix,

A young girl sitting in front of me and her wig started to sway from side to side. Your book, Because of Anya, has taught me many things. These things will help me become a better person and a better friend. This book taught me that it's ok if you're different. It also taught not to make fun of others that are different.

One day on the bus these girls were talking and I heard them saying, "Look at her." And pointing at me and laughing at me. This made me feel bad and scared and very afraid. The next day I go to the library and read your book and I was not afraid to be different. I knew that I was special and Anya didn't. That's why Anya was always so sad. Anya was my friend throughout her long journey.

This book also taught me not to make fun of others that are different. You may be the one that is going to be made fun of in the end. I know this because of Stef. She made fun of Anya and latter she was begging for forgiveness. I used to be kind of bad about that myself. Your book has helped me become better about that. This book has taught me many things and will help me become a better person.

If you are going through a hard time you need a friend. That friend will always be there even if you don't think so. I knew Anya had a friend all along. I know that everyone else will too. Thank you for the gift of this book. Your book is one I will always remember. Your book will help me for a better tomorrow.

Your favorite reader,

Tonya Summerlin, Grade 4