

DANIEL PARASKOS (6th Grade: Dublin, St. Brigid of Kildare)

Level I Semifinalist

Letter to Crockett Johnson concerning his book, Harold's Fairy Tale

Dear Crockett Johnson:

Have you ever read a book that helped you and changed you at the same time? *Harold's Fairy Tale* has changed my ways of sleeping when I used to have trouble going to sleep. Harold would help me make a story while I am going to sleep that would keep developing and changing. When Harold reaches the end of the fairy tale journey, he is ready to go to bed, just like me at the end of my own story. Harold's adventures would distract me in a way that would help me settle down so I could fall asleep. Ever since then, I let my mind and imagination wander like Harold's as a way to get relaxed and sleepy. Harold showed me how to let my imagination run free so I can help myself go to sleep.

Your book *Harold's Fairy Tale* has also changed my view of the world and how I approach problems in my life. This book has made me think of the world as my creation, and then I can imagine things becoming something I can handle. Harold showed me how to take a different look at situations and be creative when making decisions. When Harold didn't want to leave a hole in the castle wall, he gave it a new purpose by turning it into a clock. When I am faced with a difficult choice, I know that the obvious solutions are not the only ones. I need to think of different ways to look at my problems, just like Harold. *Harold's Fairy Tale* is a story about the power of imagination.

As I got older and read more challenging books, I realized that Harold's Fairy tale isn't just a book for little kids. The way Harold draws has taught me about perspective in drawing. Harold draws simple pictures with his purple crayon, but he is able to create impressions about size and the relationships of objects to each other that are complex. I was fascinated when Harold realized he had become too small in the castle, so he drew stairs to make him his normal height again. This has to do with art, but it also has to do with math. Reading *Harold's Fairy Tale* helped prepare my brain for more sophisticated ways to look at everyday objects.

I have also read *Harold and the Purple Crayon* and watched the movie made from your stories. They are not only creative and entertaining but also helpful. You captivate me with your different way of looking at the world. Thank you for giving me a way to channel my imagination, think of alternative solutions to problems and learn about perspective.

Sincerely,

Daniel Paraskos