

Isabel Abril King (9th Grade: Fostoria, Ohio)
Level III Semifinalist
Letter to Catherine Ryan Hyde concerning her book, *Pay it Forward*

Dear Catherine Ryan Hyde:

In the summer of 2012, I read your book, *Pay it Forward*. I became inspired page by page while reading this book. Trevor became an amazing example for all adolescents to follow closely. He changed the world for the better even though there were serious obstacles.

I, myself, have been through Hell and back with many challenging situations. I lived in an unstable household for most of my life. With an abusive father, neglectful parents, and a constant-scare illness, I would have doubts that this world would ever change for the better. Let alone, by one person. After the many tears and intense reading sessions, I have realized...I was wrong. Trevor did what I thought nobody was possible of achieving. He had the needed confidence to make the difference that was needed. He created an environment that I would, without a second thought, would die to live in.

I connected in an emotional, and mental way with the characters of this book, I was able to put myself in his shoes and make a connection—as if to see with his eyes. The story more or less touched my heart and I'm sure it did as well to others in my English class. Trevor McKinney had such ambition to do what he was told in his assignment to do...to create an idea that could truly make a difference. Indeed, he fulfilled that and I'm sure he aced that assignment.

The tragic ending hit me the worst. I broke into tears thinking why would such a little boy, only meaning to do well and good for others, have his life end in such a dramatic way. However, after sitting down and truly contemplating the book, I realized that the ending was probably the most intelligent way to get the point across. He died for the sake of doing something to change the world for nothing but the better and that is indeed what he was able to do. His death made the biggest impact on the people of his community, as well as the readers of this book. I commend you on this spectacular writing.

Sincerely,

Isabel Abril King