

Mackenzie Glaser-Addison (7th Grade: Brooklyn, Ohio)
Level II Semifinalist
Letter to Cynthia Lord concerning her book, *Rules*

Dear Cynthia Lord:

There have been many times when I do the wrong thing rather than the right. Then there are times when I think for a while and wonder how this world would be if everyone were treated the same. Your book, *Rules*, has showed me that no one is perfect. You shouldn't judge a book by its cover. What really matters is what is on the inside. After reading your book, I was suddenly struck with awe.

After reading your book, I realized that I was someone who did judge a book by its cover. There is a kid in my grade who has a type of Autism. Every day, he tells his teacher interesting facts that most people never heard before. The facts were about everything from insects to the presidents of the United States. After realizing how smart he was, I wished I could take back all the mean things that I ever said or done to him. There are some people who don't care that the words they say can hurt somebody's feelings in a tremendous number of ways. When people get hurt in some way, they feel like they are living in a world of black and white. I see people who want to break out of their shell and live their life without bullies being in their way. Now, when I see people with disabilities being treated like scraps on the side of the road, I get all steamed up like a pot of boiling water on the stove.

When I picked your book out, I thought it was just another book I had to read for class. I never thought it was going to be one of those books that would inspire me to make a difference. While I was reading *Rules*, I thought in my head that it must be hard for Catherine to have a brother with Autism. She gets frustrated, but, at the end, she truly does love her brother and wouldn't change anything about him.

Yes, this world isn't perfect and I know that, but who do people have to be treated differently? That was one question I asked myself while reading your book. Everyday people around the world try to be someone they're not, but they will soon realize there are people who like them for who they are on the inside. In my mind, I think of people as bubbles. I say that because one word can easily pop someone's bubble and they will have a hole in their heart. What I try to do now is help cover up those holes and help prevent them from coming about. The world needs change. Why not start now? I know I already have.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Glaser-Addison