

Third Place Winner, Level I
Charlotte Musselman

Letter to author Catherine Ryan Hyde concerning her book *Pay It Forward*

Dear Catherine Ryan Hyde:

I am writing this letter to share my feelings about your book *Pay It Forward*. Although I read the junior edition, this book was phenomenal. It sent a message of kindness and compassion. *Pay It Forward* was inspiring in many ways. It inspired me to reach out to those who are less fortunate and spread kindness wherever I go.

Pay It Forward showed me that one small voice can make a difference. In the book, a whole world of kindness starts from a small boy's Social Studies project. After reading this, a whole new world of opportunity opened up to me. I saw that I could change the world with one small idea. After all, there are precedents: Thomas Edison with his light bulb, Benjamin Franklin with electricity, and Alexander Graham Bell with the telephone.

Reading *Pay It Forward* makes me want to start my own movement of kindness—even if the kindness only spreads throughout my local school. *Pay It Forward* showed me that I can do whatever I set my mind to. In your book, Trevor's plan doesn't work at first, but then he still keeps trying. In the end, after all his hard work, he succeeds. This is telling me that although a new idea might take some work I can still achieve my goal.

Overall, the main message that I took from *Pay It Forward* is to be kind. So many people are kind to me every day, so it is my turn to pay it forward. After reading this book, I realized that most of the world's problems can be solved with kindness. If we all band together and try to spread the kindness, who knows what can happen. There will be less crime or war. Our Earth could be peaceful.

Thank you for writing this inspiring novel. You have taught me that it is our job to put kindness into the world. Although it might be difficult at first, we should keep trying to make a kinder world. I enjoyed *Pay It Forward* very much and I will treasure it for years to come.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Musselman