

Your villain, Capricorn, also taught me something about my reality that I never noticed before. In life, as well as in stories, evil and cruelty can stem from a need for power; a need to be a different person. Villains, both great and small, have risen from nothing throughout our history, but despising their true selves, have conspired to create a new face by spinning a “web of fear.” Now, I view my imperfections as a part of me and not as something I need to escape from.

In conclusion, *Inkheart* portrayed my world more intricately than any mirror, and I am proud of my new philosophy. I was particularly inspired by your closing line: “writing stories is a type of magic, too.” *Inkheart* will stay in my mind as I discover new twists and turns in my own exciting tale each day. After all, “who wants to know the end of a story in advance?”—Dustfinger, *Inkheart*

I hope we ‘meet’ again.

*Aubrey Sara Kaye adores books and libraries; she loves reading good stories in a variety of genres, from fantasy to thriller. Insightful authors continually broaden her perspective and inspire her own writing. Aubrey is a member of the California Junior Scholarship Federation, and a Summer Reading Program volunteer for Ventura County Public Libraries. She currently serves as President of the Kiwanis Club and Eighth-Grade Class Representative for the Associated Student Body of Las Colinas Middle School in Camarillo, California.*

## LEVEL TWO



**Leann Lo, Age 14, Grade 8**  
**Hallmark Charter School**  
**Sanger, CA**

**Dear Mrs. Holm,**

I love the book you wrote entitled *I Am David*. I almost didn't finish reading your book because I have an over-active imagination and I didn't want to scare myself when reading about a concentration camp. But I finally finished it, and I have to say that it is one of the best books I've read! This book really made me look at my life and appreciate everything that I take for granted. Your entire book is about hope. David is the smartest twelve-year-old I've ever read about. And while I was reading your book I couldn't put it down because I felt like I knew David. You know, like he was my friend. I was dying to turn the next page to find out what happened to David and to see if he made it to his mother.

You know, I love to smile. It feels good to smile! But when I read the part about David not knowing how to smile, it tore my heart in two! I can't imagine not knowing how to smile. I mean you hear people in church and on TV telling you to think about all of the things you have that many people around the world don't have.

But then I read *I Am David* and the things all of those people were trying to tell me came to life and left a lasting impression on me! You know how people tell you to be thankful for your house and the food you have every day? All of those things are true, but you hear it so much that you forget about it right when you go home to eat dinner!

Thanks to your book, *I Am David*, I'm grateful for the even smaller things that a lot of people don't think about: the ability to smile, being able to read and write, and knowing what an orange is! This book is the most dramatic thing that happened to me when I was twelve years old. I was so excited about this book I was telling everyone who would listen that they have to read your book.

I'm now thirteen and I think that the most important thing that I can take from this book is not only to be thankful and to see how blessed I am, but the most important lesson for me right now is to be like David and not let ANYBODY take away my individuality. Re-reading it I see how comfortable David was in his own shoes and how he wasn't going to let anybody take that away from him. That's a rare quality in today's teens, but this book is inspiring me to be myself and to be happy for who I am. David is the most amazing boy I have ever met. My favorite thing about him is that he thinks before he does anything, and he's considerate about the people around him. David was also able to achieve the impossible! Now, if anything seems impossible I can just say, "If David could do it, I can certainly do this."

*I live with my mom and grandma and am in 8th grade and home-schooled through Hallmark Charter School. I love music and have been playing the piano for three years, and this is my first year playing the violin. On Sunday afternoons, I volunteer at Hope Now for Youth by babysitting the little kids while their parents go to church. My family (especially my little cousins) provides my inspiration for many of my stories. I am so glad I made the top ten in California, and I hope to become a writer someday.*

L E V E L T W O



**Miriam Michelle Million, Age 13, Grade 8**  
**Individual Entry**  
**San Diego, CA**

**Dear Mrs. Rowling,**

"...we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided...we can fight it only by showing an equally strong bond of friendship and trust. Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open."—*Dumbledore*