



Kate Rowey, Age 11, Grade 6
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Dear Jeanne Wakatsuki,

It was absolutely incredible to read your book, *Farewell to Manzanar*. Feeling your pain and confusion about the internment camp made me put myself in your position. It made me realize how much we take freedom for granted and that it can be taken away in a blink of an eye. Reading about the extremely difficult situation that kept getting worse, and your still doing new things inspired me to go on and do new things just like you did. It struck me hard when I read about the prejudice we had in the U.S. No way could I have dealt with what you went through, one day being a usual human being and the next being pointed at because of race. Racism, alcohol abuse, and lack of freedom stood in your way as a child but now you are an absolutely amazing person with a rich and interesting history behind you. As a reader of your book, I share some of that strength the interment camp gave you.

After reading this book I was looking through a few old history books of the United States and maybe one of 1000 pages was about this important time in history. It represented how embarrassed we, the U.S.A., are for the horrible things we did to the Japanese-Americans. That we are able to see that we did this horrible deed is an accomplishment and made me forgive the U.S. for doing such an unfair and disgusting thing to these people just like us. I hope if the country ever tries to do something like this in the future it will be stopped sooner to make the country that our Founding Fathers set out for this land to be, a land of freedom.

Like no book that I have ever read this gave me a strength and gave me a new perspective on how other people felt about this part of history. Barely ever have I, as a Caucasian Christian, been made fun of because of where and whom I am from, but hearing stories like this makes me stronger and reminds me to treat everyone with the same respect.

I am very committed to school and love all subjects. Not only am I committed, but I am also passionate about whatever I set my mind to. In my free time I like to spend time doing art. I also love to spend time with my family and friends.