

Level I – Grades 4-6

California: Level I First Place Winner

Wonder Smith

Corinne A. Seeds University Elementary School, Los Angeles

Wrote to Dr. Seuss, author of *The Sneetches*

Dear Dr. Seuss,

Every time I read one of your books, I take a new perspective on life. But your book that blew me away the most was *The Sneetches*.

Your picture book helped me answer a question that always sat in the back of my mind: Who am I? I'm mixed, my mom is white and my dad is black. Sometimes I feel like I do and I don't have a star on my belly.

In school right now I'm studying about civil rights, and I get to take a look at what all of my ancestors have done to each other. This only makes me more confused about who I am.

In preschool, when I first read your book, I remember thinking how silly it was for the star-bellied Sneetches to think they were better than plain-bellied Sneetches. And how the plain-bellied Sneetches weren't happy with themselves unless they had stars on their bellies.

But when I read again I was older and your book really spoke to my heart. It told me that you couldn't think of a person based on their outer appearance but how they think and treat you. And when I read it when I was older I realized that one thing is true. A Sneetch is a Sneetch and a human is a human.

Your book has helped me come to appreciate myself, and grasp that I should accept myself for who I am. I now know that there is not a certain part of me that I should value more or that is more important. In fact, there are no parts of me, there is just me and I couldn't be any more

grateful for that. I thank you for writing your book *The Sneetches* and I wouldn't be the same person without it.

Your fan,

Wonder Smith