



Catherine Amezcuita, Grade 8
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Love You Forever, Robert Munsch

Dear Robert Munsch,

Your book *Love You Forever* made me wonder, ponder and even learn a few things about the mysterious emotions of love. The relationship between the son and his mother made me realize how mutual love is, and will always be, one of the most powerful and enlightening forces in this world's and even beyond's existence. I learned how a mother's most genuine, pure love may be mirrored by her child and back to herself, so that she may feel the love she once gave.

I was very surprised in retrospect, when my seven-year-old self started tearing up in the folds of the beanbag I was sitting in reading your book. Back then, I thought to myself about how the mother loved her son so very dearly, and that same kind woman fell ill. I cried because I imagined if that happened to someone close to me, and how it would feel like. Now, as I have grown older, I remember your book time to time and reminisce about the loving gestures I have received. Had I always somehow repaid the loving gestures? Have I showed those who have given me the loving gestures how much I love and appreciate them? If the mother had not shown her son her affection, would the son find it in his heart to reach out to her in a time of weakness and show compassion? Or did the son want to repay his mother's gesture to show how much he loves her, too, just as I wondered in terms of the people around me?

So there is my conflict: Have I shown mutual love just as the mother and the son have to each other? And now, as I am writing this letter to you, perhaps I have, or perhaps I haven't. But I want to repay those kind and compassionate words in which I have received, taken for granted, and never have thought about. Perhaps not repay them directly to the giver of those words but maybe to others so that they may, hopefully, pass words of endearment onwards. Because now I know to love those who hold a special place in your heart, no matter how big, nor how small, because you never know how much time they, or maybe even yourself, have left to offer.

Sincerely,
Catherine Amezcuita

In the future, I wish to go to an Ivy League university and receive a doctorate degree in the behavioral sciences. Then, I want to work at a hospital to help as many patients as I possibly can manage.