

Horizon Elementary  
Johnston, Iowa

Dear Mr. Smith,

Your book, A Taste of Blackberries, inspired me to do new things. One of these things include helping people in need. Even though Jamie died, the main character (I don't know his name) was mad at himself even though it wasn't his fault. This made me make a connection to once my great grandpa died and he had a stroke while I was there and I thought it was my fault.

The main speaker in this story reminds me a little of myself. Even though I'm a girl, we both seem to have the same personality. Kind of like how even though the person died, we still believe they're alive, but after a while, you know they're not coming back. This made me want to do something absolutely special for other people who's family member(s) died or are dying from a natural disaster or disease (or even an allergy).

A friend and I then decided to do something about it. We started a lemonade and cookie stand to help those who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Some people cared a lot too by giving us \$5.00 and telling us that they don't need the cookie or lemonade, that they just wanted to help. This showed me that people care for other people that are in need sometimes even if they don't know them.

Your book helped me to understand that when you lose a loved one, it might take a while to get over it, but there are other people that are going through it too. You should also think of how happy that person would feel if they knew how much you care for them. Your book has let me know that when there's a sad time, just let it out. Like how the main character was when Jamie died. He acted like it was no biggy, but finally he realized it's okay to cry when you miss someone.

Your book has taught me a valuable lesson of life. Your book also let me know more about myself. Thanks for writing such a great book.

Sincerely,

Madison Boes