

Beaver Creek Elementary
Johnston, Iowa

Dear Carol Kendall,

When I read your book, The Gammage Cup, I understood the consequences and what it takes when you stand up or out.

When you stand up, most kids, like me might think it's like when someone says that they don't like something. And if you stand out in school, you're classified as a weirdo. Well, that's all I thought about when it came to standing up or out before I read your book. Now it's different.

I understand when you stand up to your community; everywhere you go in that community people see you with this invisible atmosphere. You've got to have spirit. Spirit and courage. It takes a lot of belief in yourself, and I admire those who stand up, maybe not their ideas, but just for standing up. Their self-esteem, I bet is in perfect condition.

Then the consequences are ridiculous. Tickets are handed out for just how your car looks, outlawed, left out ...UGH! Why can't people be special? It's good to have colorful people in the world. Everyone's different and extraordinary. So why reject them when they're who they are? Though I have to say, some aren't that good. But those people have talents of bravery, character, boldness, and an idea of who they are. *Who they are.*

I don't think I'll ever wish to stand up or out too much, but I won't tease those who do.

Sincerely,

Joy Yang