

Allison Berkley
Dubuque, IA, Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School

Dear Margaret Peterson Haddix,

Luke had to make a big decision in your book Among the Hidden. He had to decide whether to play it safe and through Jen's eyes be a coward, or risk his life to fight for his freedom. We make decisions everyday, maybe not as big as Luke's, but we all have to make them. His choice strongly affected the outcome of his life. Our decisions affect the outcome of our life too but in different ways.

I think a good book should fill the reader with all kinds of emotions. Your book did just that. First I felt bad for all the shadow children because of the way they had to live their lives. I wanted to jump in the book and help them fight for their freedom. Then I felt curious about what would happen next. Your book also made me enraged at the Population Police for killing children just because they are a third child. When I was finished reading I was disappointed that it was over.

I can relate to the character Jen because if I was in her shoes I would want to fight for my freedom too. I can also relate to Luke because he saw Jen's face in a window and it was the start of a great friendship. When I was about six years old I was at my grandparents house and I was friends with one of their neighbors and I first saw her through a window.

Your book changed my outlook on life. I've learned to appreciate my life more, not because I'm a third child but because my mom is one child of seven and my dad is one of three children. I wouldn't be living if the United States was like your book. I've also learned to appreciate my education and my friends more because the shadow children couldn't go to school and they usually didn't have friends.

I make decisions everyday even though they may not risk my life. Luke chose not to risk his, but Jen did. The outcome of her decision was horrible, death. Most of the decisions we make don't risk our lives, but some do. The outcomes of our decisions usually aren't death, but they can be. I really want to read the rest of the books in your series. Thank you for writing such a wonderful book.

Sincerely,

Allison Berkley

“Copyright © The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Used by permission.