

Tricia Shi  
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Dear Cynthia Kadohata,

What makes one fully appreciate life? Most of the time, it's the death of a loved one, or your own near-death experience. Yet, somehow, your book, *Kira-Kira*, made me appreciate life more completely. My fish's death a couple weeks ago finished it.

In the book, Lynn said that many things were "kira-kira," glittering. The day after I finished the book, I looked around, and I saw that she was right. The more I paid attention, the more I saw the glittering things, the sky, people's eyes, even my favorite stuffed animal was kira-kira when the sun shined on it at the right angle.

More and more I saw that life was beautiful. Not necessarily only what you see in your eyes, but also the passion coming from the people you care about. When people took time out of their days to make others' better, I could sense the care coming from them.

Next year I'll be going into junior high, and I know that I will remember what this book has taught me. Reflecting on my elementary school years, I see some times that I could've been more like Katie, helping my friends out when they needed it. In third grade, when my best friend's mother died, I should have been more like Katie, showing her all of the kira-kira things there were still in life, instead of being jealous of all the attention that she was getting. In a way, I felt like I was getting outcast by my best friend, and all others around me.

I'll put the past behind me, but I will carry my appreciation of life forever. Thank you for teaching me that no matter what happens, life always has something kira-kira to appreciate.

Sincerely,  
Tricia Shi

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