

Franklin Middle School
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Paul Zindel,

I read your book The Gadget. I myself ponder a lot about the consequences that have and could have occurred due to the actions that were taken during the Second World War. This book has really helped me to appreciate what happened during those few years as the United States was on the race to create the atomic bomb.

One topic that I read about in your book was the freedom to take risks. I feel as though this is a topic that can strengthen me as a person. Many risks were taken in this book. A few included making the atomic bomb, discovering what the big project was on the base, and the risk that Steven takes to trust anyone on the military base. I think that you can't be afraid to take risks. If you don't take risks, how will they ever payoff?

Your book gave me an extreme sense of what happens in a war, the thoughts, the feelings, and the overall sadness that takes place during and after a war. This book takes place at a crucial time in history. My dad has a friend whose father survived the Holocaust, and it scares me to think that neither his father nor he would be alive at this moment if Germany had won the race to create the atomic bomb. The only reasonable conclusion that I can draw for war is that it should try to be avoided at all costs.

The last conclusion that I drew from this book was to not invest my trust in just anyone. Stephen finds out at the end of this book that he trusted the wrong person with extremely valuable information, and he put himself and all Americans in danger. I think that I have trusted valuable things with the wrong people at times but I think that if you live your whole life in fear of others than you will live an extremely lonely life. My dad deals with this every day, his clients expect him to do the right things with their money so they trust him enough to make valuable decisions for them. I think that your book has really put this topic in very good perspective for me.

This story has moved me in many ways. I really hope that the points that I have just discussed will strengthen me as a person. This story will change anyone's life forever.

Sincerely,

Connor Steele