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Dear Mr. Ellison,

I have always thought that a person's identity and conscience partially consists of the beliefs of his own family and few significant others. After reading your novel, *Invisible Man*, my thoughts on this have intensified. I believe that this book embodies the complete affirmative to my rationale. Your main character supports the fact that people identify and evaluate themselves according to the prevailing traits and actions of their family. Seeing from the perspective of the main character, the narrator, who remains nameless throughout the entire book, allowed me to witness the remoteness and insecurities of a man that had no idea who he really was.

Identity is defined as a set of behavioral or personal characteristics by which an individual is recognizable or the distinct personality of an individual. Yet, even though identities and personalities are unique and individual, factors outside the person influence their ultimate persona. I know that my personality and behaviors are greatly affected by the opinions of my family. Without this powerful guidance, I would be unsure of how I felt about any of my actions, not to mention controversial issues, much like the dilemma faced by the narrator in this manuscript. Although I have unique beliefs held only to myself, as I'm sure the narrator did as well, the most basic traits of a personality come from those whose opinions you value. The narrator was constantly haunted by the "golden rule" left behind by his grandfather. But, being unclear of its true meaning he was forced to act like expected by the dominating white society. This "curse" left every action of his immediately followed by extreme chaos. In result, he was then unsure of what decision or action to take next, which fulfilled this disastrous cycle.

I could not help but to feel overwhelming sympathy towards the main character. No matter how many times he tried to set things right, something or someone would once again do him wrong. I cannot imagine what it must have felt like to be in the situations and conflicts that the narrator was put in. When asked about his destiny, he was deeply bothered and annoyed because he had no way of knowing while his insecurities and aloneness proliferated his uncertainty.

In the epilogue, when the narrator found himself comparing him to his grandfather he too realized that he could never really abide by his grandfather's rule and do his work while he was unsure of his humanity, responsibility, and purpose in life.

From this reading, I have learned that you have to find the courage within yourself to believe in what you think is right. No matter how challenging it may be, you must develop your own outlook on life and a position on certain issues. Your position must be sought from being utterly honest deep in your conscience, not from propaganda or the "popular thought." I must treasure the power knowledgeable adults have over me and apply what they teach to the life that I will at some point have without them. However, I must also remember that life experiences will also teach me important lessons and

uncover traits that I have in order to overcome obstacles ahead and preserve my dignity while tolerating them with grace. Because of your honesty and truth, Mr. Ellison, I believe many others will be inspired to find their own identity and conscience and in turn, find their function and role in society.

Sincerely,
Emily Huber

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