

Katie Jensen  
Des Moines IA Merrill Middle School

Dear Wendy Mass,

Synesthesia, what an interesting name for such an interesting condition, a word I didn't know about before this year. I had never heard of people who saw their sister's name as an ugly brown color, or saw streams of color coming out of their cat's mouth when it meowed. I had just seen a news special about it and wanted to know more. Soon after I saw your book and knew I just had to read it.

Your book *A Mango Shaped Space* informed me about this interesting condition. As I read the book, I wondered what it would be like to live with synesthesia. I found myself in Mia's shoes and was amazed that people actually lived like this. I realized that even though I don't see colors for numbers and sounds, that I was like Mia in other ways. I was right next to her when every thing happened, all the sad, joyous, and touching moments in the story.

I was devastated when Mia's beloved cat Mango died. She thought that he was in his favorite spot. When she reached out to touch him, it was just a Mango shaped space. I was worried that the same thing would happen to my cat, so I reached under my bed to make sure she was still there.

I know how Mia felt to lose Mango, because a few years ago I had a cat named Cosmo. I had to give him away, and I miss him. I'm also like Mia because I like to paint. I could just imagine Mia's painting of Mango and her grandfather. In my mind it was beautiful and I was saddened when she left it out in the rain.

This book has taught me some very important lessons, like not to judge people by their differences. It gave me a different perspective of how others live in the world. I have learned not to judge people because of how they live and see things in the world. The world is a place where we all must live together. It shouldn't matter where we live, or how we live. It is just important that we have respect for each other and our differences.

As soon as I finished the book it seemed like it left me hanging. I yearned to know more about what would happen next. What would happen with Mia's family, or will they get to keep Mango's son Mustard? I guess these things aren't meant for me to know, but for my imagination to decide. Thank-you for giving me many answers about synesthesia in the form of such a touching story.

Sincerely,  
Katie Jensen

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