

January 10, 2019

Dear Sharon M. Drapor,

I have witnessed people with disabilities. However, I didn't know very much about them and come to find out, I have assumed things that were wrong. For example, I didn't know as much as I thought I did about Cerebral Palsy. I do know a boy in my school with Cerebral Palsy and he can walk and talk. I didn't know that there were different stages of Cerebral Palsy, and some more extreme than others. Melody's more extreme case that you wrote about in "Out of my Mind" really changed my perspective of people with disabilities.

There were a couple very mind changing moments in your book for me. One of them is when Melody gets a Media-Talker. When Melody gets a Media-Talker, it reminds me that we should never take having the ability to talk for granted. For instance, when she didn't have it she couldn't communicate. I felt really bad for Melody when she couldn't tell her mom about her sister Penny being outside. I mean, I have always been told to be thankful. For example, how I can walk, I have a roof over my head, I have food, clean water, and for my family. Yet, until I read your book, I honestly don't think that I thought about being thankful for having the ability to talk. I can't imagine not being able to say I love you to my parents, or tell people what was on my mind.

The second part in the book that changed my point of view of people with disabilities, is when Melody makes the quiz team with one hundred percent. I was so excited when Melody got one hundred percent on the quiz team test! I was also surprised considering that she struggled on the math problems. I would have probably doubted that Melody could do it by herself before I read your book, like her classmates and her teacher did. However, it made me feel sad when everyone thought that Melody had cheated somehow. It shows me that, just because you are disabled that doesn't mean that you're not smart.

After reading your book, I now realize I shouldn't take the ability to talk for granted. Your book gave me more to be thankful for. It also showed me that just because people are disabled on the outside, doesn't mean they aren't smart. Melody's story of her living with her case of cerebral palsy is proof of that.

Sincerely,

Maybrie Denison