

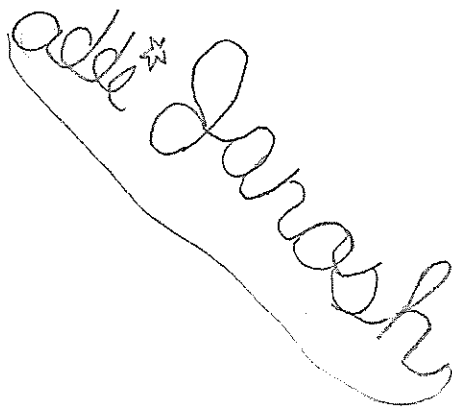
January 5, 2020

Dear Sharon M. Draper,

I have read and recently reread your book "Out of My Mind", and it really opened my eyes. Normally people don't think about people with disabilities that closely. Mostly people just completely ignore them, or assume that they are stupid. I use to be like that, but after reading this book, I realize how wrong that is. No one ever pays attention to people with disabilities like Melody's. Just because they can't talk doesn't mean they're dumb! They could be smarter than you or me, but we wouldn't know if we automatically put them down. I've never really known anyone with cerebral palsy personally, but after reading Out Of My Mind, it feels like I've really come to know and love the characters in this book like they're my best friends, like Melody or Ms. V. These characters have made me feel mad, like when the doctor in the beginning recommended the parents get rid of Melody and put her in a nursing home. They have made me feel happy, like when the Whiz Kids group made it to nationals. They have made me feel a mixture of feelings sometimes, like when Melody says "I love you" to her parents for the first time. But overall, it's really made me think. It's made me think about how we look at these people, and how we SHOULD be looking at these people. All though this book is no doubt entertaining, I feel like it has made more of an impact on the readers than that. Out of My Mind is a masterpiece, and I think that kids and adults should read this book.

Sincerely,

Addi Jarosh

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addi Jarosh". The signature is written in black ink and is enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval outline. There is a small star symbol above the letter 'i' in "Addi".