

Dear Mr. Rob Buyea,

Two years ago, I read your book, *Because of Mr. Terupt*, and it changed my life. At the time that I read it, life was hard for me, and reading your book helped me through it. Now, things are easier for me, but back when things were harder, I relied on your characters and your book. They helped teach me quite a few life lessons. I am incredibly thankful to you for writing the book, and grateful that I had the opportunity to read it when I did.

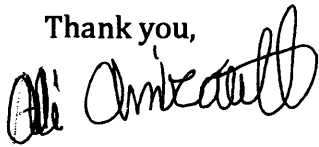
When I was in fourth grade, my dad had just married my stepmom, Amy. She had two kids, Chloe and Daniel. Chloe talks nonstop and follows me everywhere. It's almost impossible to get away from her. Daniel is autistic, and needs some special help. His therapist, Jackie, spent lots of time there helping Amy with Daniel. Then, Amy and Dad had another baby, my little brother Jacob. There were so many people in the house and so much noise there that it was overwhelming for me. It took some time for me to adjust and get used to my new family.

Around the time, I decided to do Battle of the Books at my school, and your book, *Because of Mr. Terupt* was one of the books on the reading list. At first, I thought it might be boring, but once I read the back cover, I decided to give it a try. Then when I started reading, I couldn't stop! There were so many things in your book that I could relate to. Your character James reminds me of Daniel. Like James, Daniel is sweet, but has a hard time changing tasks, and gets frustrated when people don't understand him. I can also relate a lot to the character Jeffrey in your book. Jeffrey would get upset if someone said something mean about autistic kids. I also get defensive when people act strange around Daniel. If I was there when Alexa and Peter called the autistic kids retards, I would have felt the same way as Jeffrey felt, like I wanted to punch them. It's hard to have a little brother that's different. Even going to the store is hard. Almost every time we go, Daniel doesn't understand what we are doing, and when he gets tired of being there, he screams. I know Jeffrey would want to help in those kinds of situations, so I try to help, too.

I never had a teacher who had to stay in the hospital. The closest to that was when a teacher at my school (not even my teacher) broke her foot. But I did have Mrs. Nish. She was my third grade teacher, and she had the same impact on me as Mr. Terupt had on the kids in his class. Mrs. Nish was kind, entertaining, and creative, just like Mr. Terupt. Then, at the end of the school year, she had to leave. She had some family problems she had to go home to help with. At that time, I couldn't imagine going back to school without her there. When I read your book in fourth grade I could then easily understand and relate to how the kids in Mr. Terupt's class felt when he wasn't able to be there anymore.

I am so grateful that I read your book. It changed my view of the world, and taught that me things happen for a reason, you just have to know what that reason is. Reading your book helped me understand things like that. I now know that Daniel is in my life for a reason. He has taught me to be more patient, and not to worry only about myself, but to listen to other people even if they don't quite know what to say or how to say it. Daniel taught me the true meaning of compassion, and Jeffrey and James helped me to understand it. When I had a hard time going back and forth between my mom's house and my dad's house, I thought of Jeffrey, James, and most of all, Mr. Terupt. Reading your book helped me a lot, and now life is a lot easier for me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ali Amirault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small circular mark at the beginning.

Ali Amirault