

Mount Nittany Middle School  
656 Brandywine Drive  
State College, PA 16801

December 1, 2004

Dear Mr. Sachar,

Your book Holes was one of the most inspiring books I have ever read. It taught me some important lessons about life, and it made me realize that people have control over the decisions that they make. It also made me realize that we need to have courage as we make choices about our future.

In your book, Zero was my favorite character. I liked Zero best because he took risks as he tried to learn to read and to write (with help from Stanley), and he believed in himself. Zero conquered his fears, not just with reading and writing, but also on the mountain and with the yellow spotted lizards. I thought the fact that you named him Zero was ironic. Even though society may have thought he was a "zero" and that all he could do was dig, he really wasn't a zero. Instead, he was a "hero," at least to me.

I would hope that other young people will read this book and realize that they do not have to accept labels or names that society places on them. There are many young people today who are considered "zeroes," and they might feel like exiles. However, they don't have to believe this. Even though our country does not give all children equal chances, they can make decisions about their lives that will help to change their future, much like Zero did. In changing their future, they can change our world so that there are no children who are named "zero." We need to have strength to make choices and courage to follow through on our decisions so that the world can be a better place.

When I grow up, I hope that I can write books that will help to inspire people of all ages, like your book inspired me. Writing can help us to think about things differently and from a different point of view, and it can help us to realize that different choices are available to us.

Sincerely,

*Luke Edmondson*

Luke Edmondson, Age 11