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Dear Mr. Ben Carson,

I am a 14 year old girl from Omaha, Nebraska, and I just moved to the U.S. this summer from Zambia, Africa. My name is Victoria Kolala; I am in eighth grade at Holy Name Catholic School. I love to read mystery and inspirational books.

Think Big, really changed my point of view of books. I came from a poor country with poor education facilities. I moved to the U.S. to seek better education. I was raised in Chingola, Zambia by my grandmother. I used to have low grades but my grandmother kept telling me I was smart. She would always tell me I can do better. My teacher always gave me books to read after school but I never read them.

One day my aunt gave me a book titled "Think Big", to read. I loved the book and, I started enjoying reading. When I was reading the book I realized there was more to me than just the girl who fails tests in class, just like what happened to Ben Carson, he found the smart kid inside of him. I found the smart girl inside me with the help of this book. "Think Big" made me realize what I could do if I put my mind to it. The part that made me push myself to do better is when Ben Carson changed from being the dummy to the smartest kid in class, which really made me think if he did it, I can also do it. By the end of the school year, my grades were better. I also realized that my family won't always be there for me, so I had to do the best I could.

I was surprised about what I could accomplish on my own and with the help of others. The things I could do in class like ask question, have better grades, being the student of the month, which meant a lot to me. One day my science teacher asked if anyone can mention some of the internal organs in the human body. No one wanted to try, so I tried and my answers were correct; my teacher was impressed. That made me

think of what happened to Ben Carson when he was the only one who could answer the question about the obsidian rock and how it was formed.

When I took the national test in Zambia, I was surprised I passed it, which meant I could go to high school. When I was reading this book, I thought about who I would become in life if I work hard. I wanted to find out who I was when it came to school work. The character in the book helped me understand the importance of school because without school, Ben Carson could not be who he is today. The book also helped me understand that I can be whoever I want to be as long as I work hard. When I read "Think Big" it makes me work hard and try my best. They are parts in "Think Big" that make me do my best, like when Ben's grades got better, and what he accomplished in life.

Yours Truly

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