

LAL Level I

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Gutierrez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Grace Gutierrez

Wheeler Elementary

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Dec 15, 2014

Dear Mrs. Wiles,

I really enjoyed your book *Each Little Bird that Sings*. I'm not going to lie, I myself have never been to a funeral, none of my relatives have died, and I do not know much about death. Your book really made me think about how I would feel if one of my loved ones died. Obviously I would feel sad but would there be any more feelings? Would I think it was my fault? Would I spend hours in my closet like Comfort?

The relationship between Peach and Comfort, really made me think about the relationship I have with my own cousins. We fight like cats and dogs, but like Comfort deep down I love them. Comfort spends lots of time in the book talking about how much she despises Peach. Which is usually how I feel about my cousins, but every once in awhile life throws a curve ball, and I find myself caring and even protecting them. For

example, when one my younger cousins gets hurt, I feel this kind of motherly sense that I shouldn't just stand there, and that I should help.

I think the moment near the graveyard with Comfort, Peach, and Declaration really related to my life. Many times before have I found myself going against my friends to defend other people. No matter how hard I tried I could not shake this moment from my mind. I found myself rereading over and over, trying to get a better understanding of how they were all feeling, and how things played out. It really made me think about what kind of person I want to be. Comfort is a kind of spunky, independent, and just an all around kind girl; she really cares about her family to the point where she would risk losing her best friend, to defend her family. This is defiantly the kind of person I want to be., and Comfort's character made me think about how I can do that.

Going along with that thought was the fight between Comfort and Declaration. Since I have had many fights with friends, I could really relate to this part of the book. Fortunately, my fights are not as large as the one Comfort had, but nonetheless, a fight with friends is bad.

Usually I find myself so angry I hardly look at them, let alone talk to them. I also sometimes find it hard to forgive them, I don't know quite how Comfort forgave Declaration, but that just shows that Comfort is a kind, forgiving girl. Sometimes I wish I could be like this. After reading your book, I find it easier to forgive people.

The death of Great, Great Uncle Edisto made me think about how I think about death in comparison to Comfort. Although Comfort didn't talk much about it, I feel like it really meant a lot to her. Comfort is taught to embrace death with open arms, but I really don't think that's what Comfort does. Which is kind of the way I feel about things other

than death. For example, like Comfort when my dog ran away. My mom kept telling me and telling me he was gone, and I refused to stop looking.

Over all this was a great book that really made me think about how about my own life, it changed the way I think about death, friendship, and just life in general.

Sincerely,

Grace Gutierrez 😊😊😊