

Dear Andy Weir,

Your book *The Martian* has inspired me in many ways. It has helped me enjoy space more, strengthened my love for literature, and taught me to be thankful for the important people in my life. Overall, I think your book has changed me more than a few ways. I believe it has made me a better person as well.

First off, I love space. Ever since I was about eight I always wanted to pursue some sort of career involving space. Whether it be an astronomer, astronaut or more recently an astrophysicist, I always wanted something to do with space and space travel. *The Martian* gave me a brief idea of what life in space might be like in the worst possible case. It made me realize space could be more dangerous than I thought. But that didn't slow me down, in fact, I think I want to go to space even more because I love danger! But I won't go to deep into that. I just love the suspense of never knowing what's going to happen.

In my advanced literature class this year my classmates would always talk about how much they love reading. I never really understood what they were talking about until I read our book. I was always more of a by the numbers type person that didn't really enjoy reading things. Then this year we started having an independent reading mod so I had to have a book to read. So, I chose *The Martian*. I instantly fell in love with it. Before long I couldn't put it down until I had finished it. Twice. I guess, you could say it opened my eyes to how great books can be. It made me realize that books can combine imagination with REAL science. Before I thought all science fiction books were just fiction. But after I read *The Martian*, I found out good ways to integrate real-life science into writing.

Also, I have never been the most social person. I always thought I was better off doing things by myself so nobody could mess up but me. After reading *The Martian* I realized that it is a gift to have people in your life. I'm not like Mark, I don't have a strong personality like he does. If I were stranded somewhere with no contact with another person, I, well let's just say that I probably wouldn't cope with the loneliness as well as Mark does in *The Martian*. So, what I'm saying is that if you don't have special people in your life, you wouldn't be very happy with how your life had turned out. You would always feel like you were missing something by have no idea what until it was given to you, a people who actually want you to succeed and will be there for you no matter what happens.

So, your book has g the way I see things in more ways than one. Now, after reading the book, I have a strengthened love for space and space travel, strengthened my enjoyment of literature, and taught me to value people in my life a little bit more. Thank you for opening my eyes to the magic of reading and changing me for years to come.

Sincerely,
Ethan Morrow