

Ryan Ostrander
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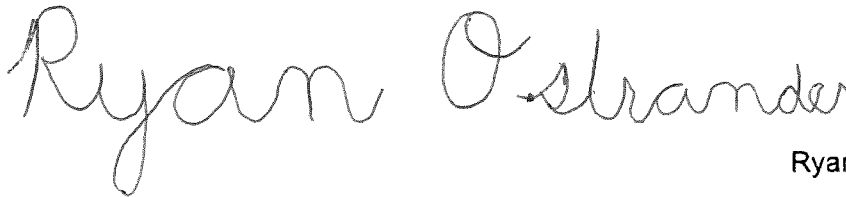
Dear Katherine Applegate,

I loved *Crenshaw* from the first chapter--thank you for writing this wonderful book! I love to read, and my mom and I read *Crenshaw* together, though at first I chose this book because I saw a giant animal and got curious. But as I read, I soon found much more in it. This may be because I live in a comfortable house, I have two parents, a sister, and a Maine Coon cat. But by reading about Jackson and the things he and his family went through, my mom started crying. I knew there and then your book would change my life and view of the world.

Crenshaw showed me life can be hard and poke you in the back but when you use your imagination things brighten up. I have trouble in life, too, not like Jackson's, but smaller problems like losing or breaking favorite objects. I've had arguments with family and friends, but I know imaginary friends will always be there even if they are forgotten. I use imagination for acting and theater, but I realize it can be used for so many other things. By reading *Crenshaw*, I found that I related to it in many ways. Jackson wasn't in theater, but for him imagination was helping him be a better person.

If I faced some of Jackson's challenges, a friend like *Crenshaw* would help me, too. Reading *Crenshaw* made me see how imagination can help everyone get through hard times. I have many things Jackson didn't, but Jackson and I have things in common. We both imagine a way to a better life, even when it is cloudy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Ostrander". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Ryan Ostrander, Grade 4