

Date: 1/10/19

Dear: Mr. Spinelli

Your book Manic Magee has helped me to deal with racial stereotyping. As a young 10 year old child of color I was affected by the killing of young black people by police. Many of the victims were unarmed and the killings seemed senseless and brutal. Whenever I turn on the news it is as though something bad is always happening to people of color. This made me feel fearful and upset of the world around me. Everyone had a viewpoint some of which were dub conspiracies and it was very confusing. When I read Maniac Magee I encountered Jeffery who chose not to react based on color and stereotypes but with compassionate humanity for people. He did not ignore what was going on around him but at the same time he did not allow racial stereotypes to dictate how he was going to treat people. Magee helped me realize that each racial group will have their own perceptions of other racial groups and that one proper way to transcend racial stereotypes is to focus on people's needs whenever you interact with them. And if the people I'm interacting with still choose to be suspicious because they wouldn't let go of the stereotype, then like Magee I may have to do the only wise thing and run.

Maniac Magee also help me see that while people look through the lens of stereotypes, at the heart people are searching for acceptance. Wherever Magee went, his presence asked the question "can we just get along" and his actions said "I'm giving it a try". He made no excuse for who he was and was bold. His self-confidence and boldness encouraged me to accept that I am unapologetically a person of color and to stop being fearful of what I think other racial groups are thinking about people of color.

Finally Mr. Spinelli, Maniac Magee let some fresh air in my confusion. Not everyone that Manic met put their fears in front of human compassion. They went against the stereotypes and treated him like their own and gave him an address he can rely on as home. It was fresh air to know that there are people everywhere who do not fearfully respond based on stereotypes. And though the police in these instances was not one such person, I will breathe this fresh air even if I have to run.

Yours truly,

Anthony Charles