

Dear Lauren Wolk,

I enjoyed reading your book *Wolf Hollow* because it helped me process some things about death, emotions and truth. I've never been in a situation exactly like Annabelle and Betty's, but four years ago, my dad died. I miss him a lot. He was in a car accident. In the novel, and like my father's death, one little action affected every single person from then on. If Annabelle never ran into Betty on the trail to school, NONE of the book's events would have ever happened. And what if Annabelle never figured out Betty was down in the well...would Betty just be left there to die alone, too weak to cry for help? If Betty never went snooping at Toby's place, she wouldn't have died. If my dad didn't go out that night, he wouldn't have died. Every single moment and every little thing we do could affect us in many ways later.

In the beginning of the novel, Annabelle wishes for bad things to happen to Betty, but as the book continues, she learns that even after all the things Betty had done, no one deserved what she went through. I learned from this book that no matter how much you hate someone, no one deserves very bad things, because what if that was you? I think the lesson of empathy is a very important part of this book and is what helped me change. I never thought about what it's like to lose someone who you think you hate, but once they're gone, you realize how much you want them there. There was never the chance to resolve things between them, or to become friends, because Betty died before they could ever see each other again.

My dad doesn't know anything about me now because I've changed so much. He doesn't know what music I like, he doesn't even know what school I go to. When he died, he never knew I would go to the school I go to now. But, I have learned whatever comes my way, I just have to live with it. I didn't know my last goodbye until it was too late, a lot like Annabelle. She never knew that when she saw Betty get rescued, that was the last time she'd see her at all. When she said bye as Toby walked away, she didn't know it would be the last time. Like her, I didn't know the last time I saw my dad was for the last time ever. I have learned from him and your book to not take anyone or anything for granted, nothing at all. I am thankful for the people that love me and try to show them as often as possible

Sincerely,
Vivien Kaplan