

Kevin Saalwaechter

Dear Mr. Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket),

I think that your works, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, has inspired me to see the world in a different way. Your series has also taught me a couple of valuable lessons that I think are important for everyone to know.

You have shown me that what may seem depressing or sad can always be happy if you can just see the glass half full, or you can always be optimistic. I think your characters, the Baudelaire orphans, are good role-models in the sense that they always stay optimistic no matter how treacherous conditions may seem. While some would refer to the Baudelaires' epic journey as misadventures, your characters have taught me that their journeys were really adventures. I think that optimism is a very valuable thing when you are feeling blue.

You have also shown me that teamwork and friends are invaluable, especially in what may seem to be hopeless situations. When the orphans were in the elevator shaft of 667 Dark Avenue, or when Sunny was locked in the birdcage in your first book, the orphans were saved because they used teamwork to help each other. Teamwork is also priceless.

And lastly, you have taught me that happy endings are not always the best endings. The ending of your series was not really the end. There is obviously more, but it is never written. I have learned that an ending like this is one of the best kinds, because it makes the readers think. You allow each of your readers a chance to create an ending for themselves. I think this kind of ending is more

interesting than a "...and they lived happily ever after" happy ending. Your series has taught me this.

Although I am fortunate enough not to have as horrible experiences as the Baudelaire orphans, I can still relate to some of their feelings. I think the lessons taught in your series are very important to children and adults everywhere. Thank you for writing your books, and helping me to see that if you just look at the bright side, you can get through any situation, no matter how hopeless it may seem.

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