

THE COURAGE TO SPEAK® FOUNDATION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Courage to Speak® Drug Prevention Education for After School Programs Grades 4-8 Based on the book *Sunny's Story* by Ginger Katz

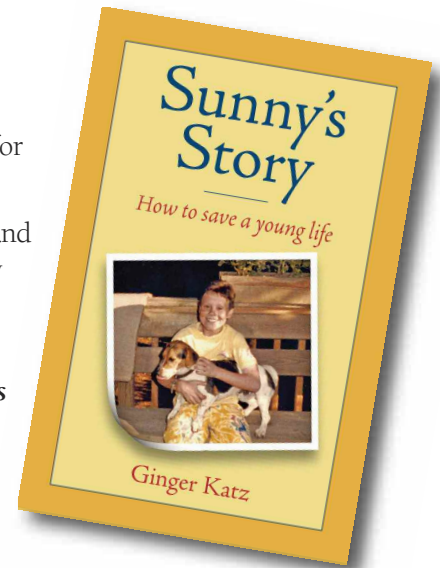
If only...

If only our pet could talk – could warn us we'd lose our son to drugs.

This is *Sunny's Story*. It looks deceptively like a children's book when, in fact it's for everyone who loves someone who might become addicted.

Sunny's Story is narrated through the eyes and mind of Sunny, the family beagle, and tells of the ups and downs of his life with his young master, from the moment they met at an animal shelter to Sunny's anguished yelps watching his best friend succumb to drugs.

Written by Ginger Katz, a mother who lost her son Ian to a drug overdose, *Sunny's Story* helps families talk openly about the dangers of drugs.



The Story

“My name is Sunny. I'm a white, brown and black Beagle with short legs and long ears that blow in the wind when I run. I live with Ginger and Larry in a house by the ocean. We are all very sad because once we had the best boy in the world. His name was Ian, and this is the story of how he was taken from us.

“I thought this story was serious not to take drugs and inspiring... ..I know I will never take drugs.”

-4th Grade Student, Norwalk CT

When I was a puppy I had to go to the animal shelter to find a family...”

Ms. Katz tells her story through the family's soulful beagle and her son Ian's special friend. Sunny is a perceptive non-human narrator with very human feelings and a gentle buffer that allows young readers the necessary distance needed to deal with this difficult subject. Sunny gives us all a message of hope, which led to the founding of the Courage to Speak Foundation.

The Courage to Speak Drug Prevention Education for After School Programs is adapted from the scientifically proven Courage to Speak Drug Prevention Curriculum for Elementary Schools. After reading *Sunny's Story* students take part in art and creative writing activities that support children in avoiding alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Madison School 6th Grade Class of 2009 Yearbook (Bridgeport CT):

Class of 2009 Favorite Book: *Sunny's Story*
A Favorite Lesson: When we read *Sunny's Story* – B
Best Book I Read: *Sunny's Story* – D

“I loved Sunny's Story. It taught me how not to keep secrets from my parents. I will never do drugs because I know what will happen to me.”

- 6th Grade Student, Bridgeport CT

“Educators and parents need to be as strong in voice as Sunny is in the story. This story has to be told and it will save lives.” – David Hay, Brookside Elementary School Principal, Norwalk CT