

Dear Ginger Katz,

I read *Sunny's Story* in my fourth grade class. I learned a lot about drugs reading this book. I feel bad how kids all over the world die from using drugs and becoming addicted. I also feel bad about how your son, Ian, died. I hope this can set an example to everyone else with kids out there. Also parents need to talk to their children about drugs, and not just a little. Drugs can hurt or kill you. Most kids don't know or understand what drugs can do to you.

Sincerely,

Brookside Elementary School Student
Fourth Grade *Sunny's Story* Curriculum

Dear Mrs. Katz,

The Courage to Speak program has taught me a lot about drugs and addiction. Addiction is a disease and now I understand it better. It controls your actions and makes you do things that you do not normally do. Your program taught me to help others that may be addicted. Every friend wants to keep a secret for another friend, but when the secret involves another person's life, tell. I am very sorry for your loss of Ian, due to drugs. I know it must be hard to speak to as many people as you do; but you do it to save as many lives as possible. Thank you for protecting the lives of so many.

With all respect,

Ponus Ridge Middle School Student
Seventh Grade Drug Prevention Curriculum

Dear Mrs. Katz,

Let me first start out by thanking you for coming to our school and speaking to us about Ian and drugs. I can't tell you how amazing I think you are. I know it is hard to talk about your son and how much you loved him really shows when you speak. When I first sat in that auditorium I thought that this was just going to be another sad attempt to stop kids from smoking, but when you got up there and started talking I saw everything. I felt like I was right there with you watching Ian grow into a fine young man then seeing his life being ripped away from him. I have heard about 15 people come into the school and talk to me about drugs, but none of them had as much of an impression as you did. When I walked out I was a whole new person.

During that short amount of time I learned more about drugs and how bad they are than I will ever learn in my entire life. I have been told a million times not to take drugs and how bad they are for you, but the words never actually stuck until now. Fortunately for me I have never had to suffer the feeling of loss. It is so different to hear someone tell the story who has actually seen drugs steal someone's life. You are such a good role model. You have the strength to talk to kids about your dear son Ian and how drugs stole his life and that would be something even I wouldn't have the strength and the courage to do. You dedicated your life to help others stop throwing away theirs and if you had an impression on anyone in that auditorium, you definitely had an impression on me.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Roton Middle School Student
Seventh Grade Drug Prevention Curriculum

Dear Mrs. Katz,

Ian's story is very upsetting. As I listened to Ian's story, I tried to see through Ian's point of view. I've heard many stories about why teens take drugs. Some say its stress. Some say their friends persuaded them. Do you know any other ways teens are drawn to drugs? I've even heard that some people are tricked into drugs. When I listen to Ian's story it makes me think how could drugs affect someone so badly? Sometimes I wonder what do drugs feel like? Then I hear all these stories. Now I don't want to know, at all. Curiosity is a big thing with me. When I left your presentation I was inspired, and hopeful. I was hopeful because now I know what a big result drugs can be. Now I have strength and knowledge to refuse drugs. I think courage to speak means you have a choice to do what you do. If you know something's wrong, don't be afraid to speak up.

I really enjoyed your presentation.

Sincerely,

Side by Side Community School Student
Seventh Grade Drug Prevention Curriculum

Dear Ginger,

Thank you so much for writing *Sunny's Story*. It showed me that I should not do drugs like heroin, crack, weed or any kind of drugs or alcohol. Ginger when I was reading *Sunny's Story* it gave me hope to tell other children to stop doing drugs or don't do drugs. And Ian taught me a lesson. The lesson is that drugs are addictive and once you're on them you can't stop and I know you, Sunny, Larry, and Candi were hurt. This book sends a message to children like me and teenagers. The Courage to Speak Foundation is awesome. I'm so happy to know that somebody wants to keep children from doing drugs. Ginger thank you for coming to speak to us. You are a positive role model to kids and adults. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Beardlsey School Student
Sixth Grade *Sunny's Story* Curriculum