

November 26, 2025

Dear John David Anderson,

Your book, *Posted*, really changed my point of view, and opened my eyes to see middle school from a whole new perspective. As a middle school student, I know all about the drama. The fluctuating friend groups, the bullies, the hurtful words. I think it's safe to say, middle school can be a scary and somewhat overwhelming place. Everyone is trying to figure things out – to find *their* place in the world. But in middle school, it's certainly not an easy thing to accomplish.

In *Posted*, I feel like you really capture the true essence of it all through Frost's point of view. To begin with, the analogy said by Frost's mom, about finding "your pack", is very meaningful to me. I have been fortunate enough to find "my pack". I remember feeling very similar to Rose; alone with no friends. One day, I took a risk and sat with some people I didn't know. I sat with them again the next day. Then I started hanging out with them out of school. Suddenly, I didn't feel so alone anymore. Even though I didn't know it at the time, I had found "my pack". With them, it didn't matter what others thought, I had them, and they had me. We had *each other*.

But, as middle school started, so did the drama. There are a lot of kids, and everyone isn't your friend anymore. You have to stay clear of "the wolves". And with that, friends suddenly weren't so easy anymore. My friends and I got separated. Put in different classes. We didn't spend as much time together as we had used to. They started making new friends, and things started to change. I felt as if we were growing apart. Similar to what Frost felt. I just wished things would just stay the same.

They didn't stay the same. But after reading your book, I realized that that's ok. Things *do* change—more specifically speaking: Friends change. As much as I don't want to believe it, it's how the world works. Although change can be scary, it can also be a good thing. Just because my old friends made new friends, doesn't mean we aren't friends anymore. We still talk and hang out. We still defend each other. We are *still* friends. In fact, if I hadn't accepted the change that came my way, I never would have made new friends. When I made new friends, my old ones didn't get replaced, "my pack" simply grew bigger.

One of my favorite aspects of *Posted* is the way you describe the importance of words. Words are very powerful things. Some can hurt people, others can encourage people. Some can be downright stupid.

Whatever they are, they mean something to someone. Whether you mean what you say or not, they can hurt someone.

Our school, much like the fictitious school in your book, has banned phones from school grounds. But, even with phones banned, word still gets around. Rumors form, like the one about Wolf. You may only tell one person; they may only tell one person. But after a while, whether you intended to or not, the whole school knows. After that, there's no turning back. What's said, has been said. Like a permanent tattoo, it's going nowhere. You can try to forget it, but it's still there. Waiting for the perfect time to come back and attack. The words you say never truly go away; they will *always* be with you.

Once they are said, they are like ghosts. They follow you around wherever you go. I know I have my fair share of words that I didn't mean. But, I can't take them back; I've said them. I've hurt people, whether I meant to or not. Your book, *Posted*, really showcases words' unique power over people.

As the year goes on, I have made it my goal to think about my words before I say them. I need to remember their importance, how a person might interpret them, and if I *truly* mean them. After all, once they are said, they are permanent.

Although our school may never have a posted-note war, the concept is still there. Everyday, countless kids get bullied. As much as it's painful to think about, we need to remember this. *I* need to remember this. So, after reading your book, I have a new goal for myself. This goal is to share *your* message. "Keep your head up, Keep your eyes forward, and don't let go." – If this simple message can help just *one* person, it will all be worth it. I want to make a difference in the world. And from what I've learned from your book, all it takes is a few words.

Sincerely,

Anna Corfidi