

Level 3: Intermediate Writers

Runner-Up: Tanya Jauregui
A.K. Smiley Public Library

Book: *Becoming*

Author: Michelle Obama

12/4/2019

Dear Mrs. Obama:

I admire your book "Becoming," on the best seller list. You are an extraordinary individual. You are a true activist of my time. You are a gracious and down to earth individual and you wrote your truth in your autobiography.

At a young age, your parents allowed you and your older brother to ask any questions. This impacted me because at a young age I was not encouraged to ask many questions. As a child I was told what to do. This impacted me because you help me increase my awareness of how important it is to ask questions at a young age. This encourages leadership and critical skills. It was clever when you found an alternative solution because you weren't thrilled to eat eggs for breakfast. You asked your mother why you needed to eat eggs every morning, and your mother said, "Because they have protein." You decided that you would find an alternative way to get protein. You ate peanut butter sandwiches daily for nine months. You were ahead of your time at a young age. You listened to your parents but decided to find a solution.

Like you, I was raised by both parents. This made a huge impact in my life and the person who I am now. My parents taught me to work hard and keep striving. They instilled the gender roles of a man and woman. This made me an independent woman. Even though I have a different perspective on gender roles now. I could relate to your story; you didn't have a problem seeking more answers when something didn't make sense. You worked hard from a young age. When you found yourself not being happy at your current career as a lawyer, you decided to pursue fulfillment. I can relate to this. I was working at my old role not feeling fulfilled so that's when I decided it was time for me to move on to a new role.

You are an inspiration. After reading your book, you gave me the courage to find my voice and speak louder for the Adult Literacy program. I have spoken at Adult Literacy Program events. I also was a presenter and speaker at ALLI. I need to keep using my voice to advocate for such an amazing program. You had many challenges throughout your life, this never stopped you from being an advocate. After reading "Becoming," it is clear to me that you live with a purpose. I have learned many things about you in your book. As a result, I would say you are a mentor who has given me new perspective on leadership and education. You didn't just talk about it you did it.

Respectfully,

Tanya Jauregui