

Dear Walter Dean Myers,

When teenagers hit middle school, everything changes, for everyone. Some of the kids start to do things they normally would never do, and although they do things that are considered to be horrible things, the "**Bad Boys**" are still very well liked. With them being so popular, the rest of us do things just so we can look like we are one of the "**Bad Boys**", and also so we can be "cool".

Looking for the type of clothes they wear, acting the way they act, (even though you fell extremely uncomfortable). You do all these things just so you look 'cool' in the other student's eyes. Trying to find more ways to make you look even more like them than you do. Yea I have done all these things, but after I read your book **MONSTER** it completely changed my perspective of who I should hang around with, in my mind.

Although I knew I shouldn't still be hanging around with these kids, I couldn't help but to stay hanging around with them. This is because I got so use to doing the things they did; it didn't even bother me any more. This made me believe I would never be able to change.

But when I got to the end of the book, where Steve was released and it explained how his family changed in treating him, it made it so much easier to change my ways. I never wanted to be that person, and I still never want to be that person. Now I can be the great, honest person I want to be. I never would want to have to spend any of my life in jail, not even one single day, never mind "a whole calendar" in jail.

Ever since I have read your book, I have been so thankful. Without it I wouldn't be thinking the way I am today, and I might have gotten myself in a lot of trouble. Just because I hung around with the bad crowd, I could be accused of a serious crime that I never committed, just because I wanted to be one of the "cool" kids.

But ever since I have stopped hanging around with the "**Bad Boys**" I get so many compliments like, thanks for being polite or great chose, because I have chosen my own path instead of just trying to be popular. And because I am being kind and courteous, I am becoming more popular than before, and while I am getting more attention for being good, the "**Bad Boys**" are slowly becoming less popular. So I thank you for writing this story, because if you didn't write this story to be read, I would still be one of the "**Bad Boys**" becoming less popular, when the only reason I wanted to be bad was to be popular.

Thank you,
Garrett Lincoln