

Dear Robert Lipsyte,

Your book, *The Brave* helped me with my understanding of my own self-confidence. I didn't have a working understanding before, but I had enough. Once I read *The Brave* it taught me much more than I had already known, and what I learned helped me with several decisions that I made in the future.

Through the book when Sunny was going through his rough patches, like becoming a mule, made me think to myself, Sunny, "You're an idiot. You don't know these people. Why are you doing this?" and made me sad. But once he gained the courage to train under the rules of Johnson, and Alfred Brooks I thought that if he can make such a powerful decision than I can too some time. If you think about it, it is hard to follow the rules of an adult when you are going to be one in a matter of months. When Sunny made that decision it taught me that self confidence is the better half of you.

The day that I finished half of the book someone got me really mad and all I wanted to do was just bust them up. And I mean a full force beating. Right before I made a move, I thought back to the book and what may happen to me if I were to hit him. So I made the decision to be the bigger man and walk away. What do you know it worked! And I wasn't in trouble. From that day forward every thing I learned from the book helped me in my everyday life decisions.

Before I read *The Brave*, if I was heated like that I would of taken that kid right to the ground. But after reading your book it changed the whole way of thinking and the way my self confidence works. My life decision are completely different than they were in many, many ways. For example, when my brother was being **SO ANNOYING**, I just wanted to through him through a wall. but I knew the consequences, and I wouldn't have thought about them if I hadn't read your book.

After I read your book my knowledge of my own self-confidence grew tremendously. All the decisions that I made have been influenced from Sunny's understanding of self-confidence changed my life. Without your book I would be making decisions that would make my life horrible. But now since I read your book my life will be a whole lot better. **Thank you!**

Sincerely,  
Zachary Deutsch