

Avi

May 3, 2006
859 S York St
Denver Co 80209

Dear Children of Maine:

How surprised, excited and honored I am to learn that you have chosen *THE END OF THE BEGINNING*, as your favorite published book from the 2005-2006 Student Award List.

Though I have visited Maine--and a beautiful place it was to see!--you are a long way from my home in Denver, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. If Avon and Edward had taken a trip to Maine, I'm not so sure they would have ever reached you. Happily we do better with books.

What pleases me most about your choosing my book is that in many ways it's a silly, funny story--a book meant to make you laugh. I don't know a better sound than the laughter of children. The world *never* has enough of it. But then I don't think kids know how important you are to us grown ups. You bring new hopes, new eyes, and new hearts to the world--things the world very much needs.

You will grow up--you will become adults--but do me and the rest of the world a very big favor: stay a little silly, laugh a lot, and keep reading.

Thank you so very much.
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