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## 2nd Place, Prose, Grades 7-9

### *“Reality,” Jonathan Cohen*

Dear Reality,

Let me come clean. The way you've been running this place has been problematic. I know we are friends, but friends can have disagreements, can't they? So don't take this too personally, but everyone else and I think you need to make some changes. There's been a lot of unhealthy stuff going on without any explanation, so we were hoping that you could fix that immediately.

Please reply as soon as you see this.

Sincerely,  
Humanity

Dear Reality,

Maybe my first email didn't go through. You haven't replied after a week and you usually reply right away. I'll send this message just in case. I've been having some issues with the way you run things here. The foundation of the living world is beginning to crumble. That's not just my opinion. Everyone seems to be against your system right now. If you'd just clean up your act, that would be great. Please respond.

Sincerely,  
Humanity

Dear Reality,

Why are you ignoring me? I talk to you about making a better world, and you just block me out? It has been another week now. I know you're there. People on Earth need you to step up to the plate and handle all that's going on. It seems as though you've left everything to chance, even events concerning life and death. You're making a bad example of yourself. Just please, fix this mess. Do it for me. Respond to me, please.

Sincerely,  
Humanity

Dear Reality,

You are disgusting. Another two weeks have gone by. You haven't replied to any of my messages. You are making this world a pile of garbage. I feel as though you're doing it on purpose. You have been putting people through sickness, injury, poverty, rape, drugs and sometimes even death. I don't know why you're doing this. Please just respond to my email. Everyone is pretty sick of your agenda, and that shouldn't be taken lightly.

Sincerely,  
Humanity

Dear Reality,

I hope you're happy. I really do, since a lot of people aren't. Everyone cracked and is now living in a fantasy world. Everyone is now pretending that there's nothing going on and nothing to do. They're using whatever they can to distract themselves from what you've done. And who can really blame them? After all of this, I've got one question for you: what is wrong with you? The ones who aren't distracted are torn apart, and the ones who are distracted are on the verge of collapse. So really, what is wrong with you? I'd really like to know. The way you've made this all turn out makes one thing clear about what goes on in your head. No need to respond anymore.

Go torture another planet.

Sincerely,  
Humanity

Dear Humanity,

You guys really are a bunch of idiots. Whatever I do, it's because of logic, rationality and reason. A lot of the time things may not go your way, so when they do, it's up to you to fix them. And sure, a lot of things that happen probably make no sense to you. So it's up to you to get past it. You've been whining to me forever about how I've caused all your problems, but you've never talked about how I gave you many solutions that you annoyingly passed on. You think it's my job to fix my mess. That's not how this works. What I do you clean up because that's how the system works. That's how this planet will grow and become better. It's not my fault when faced with a challenge, you all looked the other way. So if you really want to take a stand and change the world, I'm not the one you should be writing those letters to. That person is yourself.

Insincerely,  
Reality

*Jonathan Cohen is in 8th grade at Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School. Jonathan loves geography, volleyball, astronomy, and his two dogs Moishie and Ruby.*