

September 5, 1967

Dear Finny,

What can I say? The only thing I can think to say is I'm sorry but how can I'm sorry fix your life. How can two words and two syllables fix the problems you face today. These words don't fix your life and they never will. These words mean nothing.

It's been nearly forty years since the tree incident and there hasn't been a day that I haven't thought about my actions. I don't know what came over me in the tree. I "took a step toward you, and then my knees bent and I jounced the limb" (Knowles 60). I will admit it, I was jealous of you, but taking such an action wasn't the human thing to do.

Over the past years, I've come to realize that there is ignorance in the human heart. Everyone has a little bit of evil in them along with kindness. In the tree, it was the evil that took over me. I didn't realize that you were a true friend or that you would never attack me. I didn't realize that I was attacking an innocent person. I didn't realized that my actions would lead to a friend's death. Finny, I am extremely sorry. My heart thought louder than my brain that day and the ignorance and hatred in my heart was revealed.

Everyone has to deal with the burdens of the day but I, Gene, have to dell with an extreme burden. My burden to carry is knowing that I killed my best friend and there is nothing that I can do to fix the problem. Sorry won't help and thinking about you everyday just drives me mad. I have to deal with the discovery of ignorance in the heart. With all my heart, I am sorry Finny. I know this doesn't help, but it is worth a try.

Sincerely,

Gene