

brilliant minds don't think alike

intelligence should not be based solely upon test scores and grade point averages. i sit in math class next to sally with a four-point-oh, and feel like slamming my head against a desk every time she answers a question correctly, and gets that smug look of satisfaction on her face. i'm happy for her, i really am. but some of us aren't fluent in the art of speaking out loud. if you're going to grade us, at least grade us at something we're good at. i mean, everyone is good at something, right? there's a quote by albert einstein that says *everybody is a genius. but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.* i find this to be true. and while public speaking and mathematics are not and have never been my forte, writing comes easily to me as though i had ink in my veins rather than blood. my brother is all math and hard numbers. my best friend is more amazing at music than anyone else and some kids excel at sports. your grades should not reflect your intelligence. some people do not work well under the pressure of a test. they could be the smartest person in the world, but crack in a stressful situation. to live in fear of messing up one time is torture. i hate thinking that because i failed one test, i will never get out of here. so grade me on how fast i can write a poem. i wrote this one in five minutes. test me on my use of literature, and my ability to quote something from every single book i've read. but don't ask me to tell you the method for solving a quadratic equation.

i.n.w.