



About the Author - Amanda Bennett

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"Ethanol: With a Side of Trouble, Please"

My name is Amanda Bennett; I am a freshman day student at Deerfield Academy, a beautiful boarding school in Western Massachusetts. I prefer being at school more than being at home! I love reading, especially realistic fiction and nonfiction books. My favorite subject in school is Spanish.

I enjoy volleyball as well as step team and pole vaulting, both of which I began this year. Stupid puns crack me up, as do music jokes. I play mallet percussion (xylophone, marimba, etc.) and am very bad at the violin; music is one of the greatest joys of my life. I also love to eat, especially since Deerfield has the best dining hall in the world.

I live in Sunderland with my mother, father, sister, and two dogs. One dog is a German Wirehair Pointer, and the other, her daughter, is a German Brittany Pointer (a cross with a French Brittany).

In her Afterword Amanda Writes:

"I've gained a lot of knowledge in writing this story. To make it as realistic and educational as possible, I completed some research on ethanol (my main sources are cited in footnotes) and drugs. Both substances confront us with difficulties today.

Ethanol is a fuel that is a blessing and a curse at the same time. The good news: ethanol is from a renewable resource, such as corn or any other starchy plant. The bad news: ethanol really does take more energy to create than it eventually gives out. Despite this relatively unknown drawback, ethanol quickly climbs the charts as a favorite fuel of the future (and of today) for environmentalists.

I thought that ethanol was a great option too when I began writing this essay, until I started my research and encountered some startling facts. Ethanol production creates a lot of wastes, because only the starch from the corn is used. Fortunately, I also found many articles boasting new options developed for the recycling of that waste, including a unique venture: as heat for greenhouses."