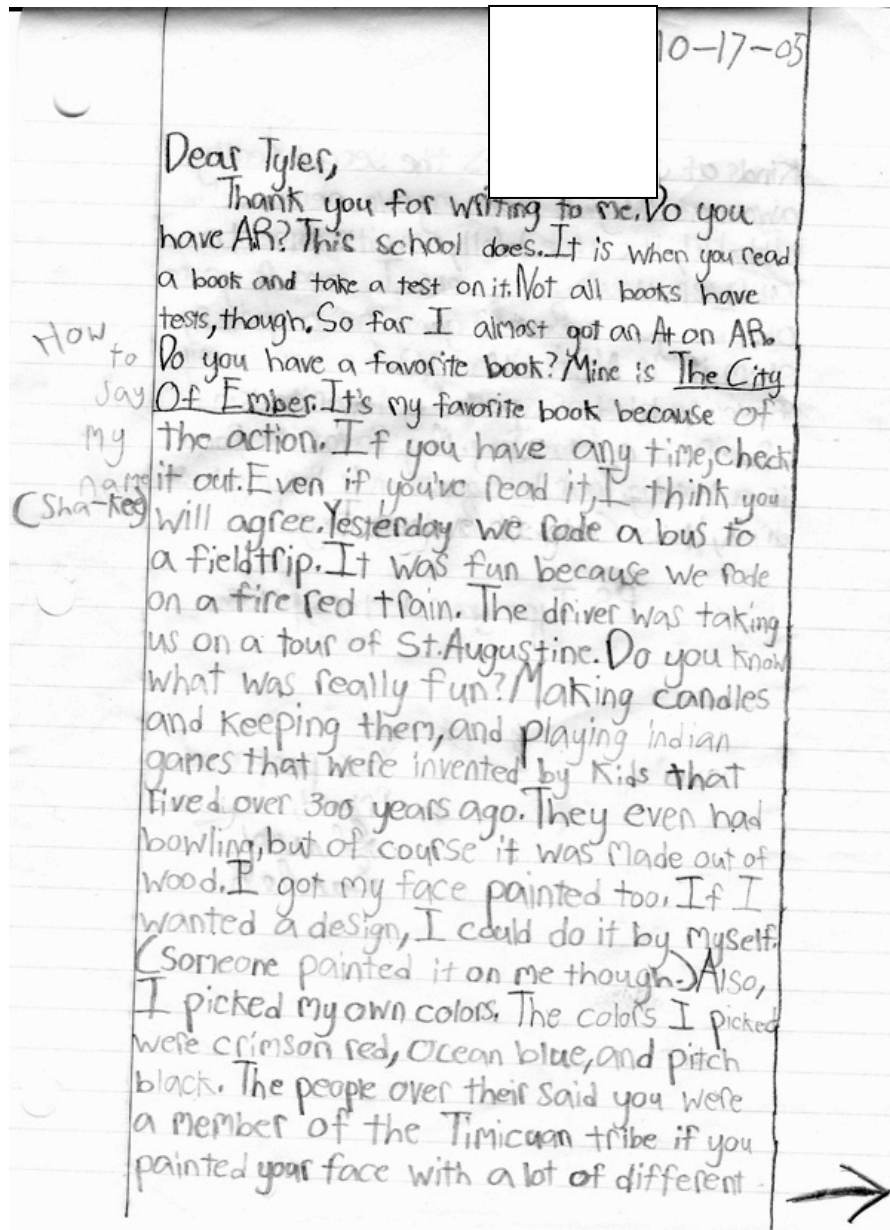


PEN-PAL RESOURCE PACKET

FIRST, VIEW THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS EXAMPLE LETTER:



A GOOD PEN PAL LETTER HAS AT LEAST TEN SENTENCES AND ASKS QUESTIONS. ON THE NEXT PAGES, YOU WILL SEE SOME TOPICS THAT YOU CAN DISCUSS.

Topics to possibly discuss...

<p>Your age and your date of birth</p>	<p>How many brothers and sisters you have (their names and how old they are)</p>	<p>Something about being in fourth grade (including your teacher's name)</p>	<p>Your favorite foods</p>	<p>Which type of music do you enjoy listening to? Who are a few of your favorite music artists?</p>
<p>Which sports do you play? Do you play on a team? How long have you been playing the sport?</p>	<p>Are you involved in any organizations outside of school (for example, sports, scouting, or religious organizations)?</p>	<p>What is something that you have done in your class so far this year?</p>	<p>Describe your family. Do you have a humorous moment that you can share?</p>	<p>Did you just move here this year? If so, how is your current town different than the place you moved from?</p>
<p>Where is your city located on your state's map?</p>	<p>Have you been Student of the Week or Student of the Month?</p>	<p>What are some of the specials you have been to this year? They change specials every day and you do it every week, so explain that to them.</p>	<p>What is something that interests you (scuba diving, dolphins, dinosaurs, going to the beach, football, motor racing, Chicago Cubs, etc.)? Explain your interest and share facts about your interest!</p>	<p>What is your favorite sports team and player(s)?</p>

<p>What are a few of your favorite video games?</p>	<p>Where have you traveled? Which states? Which countries? Explain what you liked about your travel experience.</p>	<p>Which bodies of water in your state are near the place where you live?</p>	<p>Describe your classroom and what types of centers we have in our room. Tell about our microscope.</p>	<p>Tell about a science experiment your class completed.</p>
<p>Tell your pen pal where you have been in your state.</p>	<p>Which subject are you best at, and why?</p>	<p>If you could try anything new, what would it be?</p>	<p>Describe your school.</p>	<p>What are some of your favorite books to read? What is a book you may want to try reading?</p>
<p>Ask your pen pal questions about the place where he or she lives.</p>	<p>Mention anything that you have written about in class.</p>	<p>Write about something that is particularly special to you. Have you received a gift from your family that you cherish? Describe that cherished item.</p>	<p>Do you collect items? If so, what is in your collection? How long have you been building your collection?</p>	<p>ANY OTHER TOPIC...</p>

Then remember to ask questions! (Yet don't overload your pen pal!)

The best personal questions to ask are ones that require students to reflect a little before they answer—this **develops critical thinking skills**. Sometimes people call these types of questions **open-ended**. **Open-ended questions don't have one correct answer and can't be handled with a simple one-word response**. Here are some examples.

- **What three words describe you best? Why?**
- **What makes you special?**
- **What do your friends like best about you?**
- **If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you call the book? Why?**
- **What do you like to do during the weekends?**
- **What kind of person would you like to be when you grow up?**
- **What do you like best about reading?**
- **What do you like most about your school?**
- **What is your favorite part of the school day? Why?**
- **Do you have any brothers and sisters? If so, how would you describe them?**
- **What is the hardest thing you ever did? How were you able to do it?**
- **What are three things that are very important to you? Why are they important?**
- **Who are three people who are very special to you? What makes them special?**
- **What do you look forward to doing in school this year?**