



Summer Reading

Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 6

Dear 6th Grade Students,

For your summer reading assignment, you will first read [*Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*](#). After reading the book, you write your first letter to your new pen pal at Sophia Primary School in Wamunyu, Kenya. This letter should be addressed “To my friend in Sophia Primary School,” and you’ll be paired with a student who will write back directly to you. Your next letter will then be directed to that specific student. *Your letter should be at least three paragraphs long (6-8 sentences each), and no longer than a page (at 11-point Arial font).*

These students can’t wait to correspond with you! Remember that the point is to make connections with these students and that their access to technology is very limited. You can find more instructions, see sample letters, and find some helpful hints at <http://www.kenyaconnect.org/pen-pal/> (Kenya Connect is the organization helping to connect us with our pen pals).

Please bring a printed copy of your typed- or handwritten-letter on the first day of school. Do not send your letter yourself, we will send the letters as a group in the first week of school.

Instructions for the letter:

- 1) Please make sure that the heading of each letter includes the following information:
 - “To my friend in Sofia Primary School”
 - Your full name and the name of your school
 - Your age, grade, and gender
- 2) You may want to include a few of the Kiswahili words listed below in your letter. The students you are writing to know three languages: Kikamba (a tribal language), Kiswahili (a general language used in the region), and English.

<p><i>Jambo</i> = hello <i>Habari</i> = how are you? <i>Mzuri</i> = I am well <i>Asante</i> = thank you <i>Asante sana</i> = thank you very much <i>Kwaheri</i> = goodbye <i>Karibu</i> = welcome (you are welcome)</p>

- 3) Always sign your letter at the end. You may write *Sincerely*, *Best regards*, or *Best wishes* before you sign (or type) your name. Sign the letter with your first name only, but use your full name in the letter’s header. Please let us know if you have any questions!

(continued on the next page)

- 4) Although the assignment requires the reading of only one book, we strongly encourage reading for fun throughout the summer (parents can find more specific suggestions for learning throughout the summer months [here](#).)

If you have any questions, please let us know!

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