

## Honors English 10

Summer Literacy Assignment 2024

*I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda

[Link to purchase text](#)

### Overview

“Caitlin and Martin seemed to have nothing in common—except a curiosity about the world outside their own and a willingness to reach out to each other. With a lot of postage and a lot more hope, these two pen pals changed each other's lives and the lives of everyone who knew them. An inspiring story that will change your life, too.” - Patricia McCormick

### Before Reading

Directions: Write a number between 1-5 to indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement. Then, explain your opinion on the lines below.

1. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why. “It is uncomfortable to share our struggles with others. We would rather conceal them to appear normal in the minds of our peers.”

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2. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why. “In some cases, it would be fair to say that it is immoral to be too rich.”

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3. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why. “Live simply, so others may simply live.”-Gandhi

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4. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why. "You have no idea how powerful [one small act of kindness] can be, whose lives it can change, including your own" (395). -Caitlin Alfirenka

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During Reading

Directions: Answer the guiding questions using details from the text by either directly quoting or paraphrasing.

1. Does Caitlin understand Martin's life? How is her idea of his life different from reality?

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2. Why does Caitlin feel bad about telling Martin her teen drama? Should she feel bad? How do you keep your everyday problems in perspective?

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3. How does 9/11 change Caitlin's perspective on the world? Does it have an impact on Martin's as well?

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4. List some cultural differences between the US and Zimbabwe. Which ones do you think are the most notable, if any? Why?

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After Reading

When you return from summer vacation, be prepared to discuss your biggest takeaways from the novel at length. Did any of your opinions change from the "Before Reading" anticipation guide? Were any of your original ideas reinforced by events in the novel? What have you learned about the power of kindness? You should also come with two questions of your own to pose during our discussions. (Hint: Close-ended questions like yes or no questions won't be strong enough for this activity.)