

Dear 7th Grade Students,

For your 2020-2021 summer writing assignment, you will first read [*I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*](#). After reading the book, you will 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).

Your typed- or handwritten-letter is due on the first day of school!

- 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.

Jambo = hello *Habari* = how are you? *Mzuri* = I am well *Asante* = thank you
Asante sana = thank you very much *Kwaheri* = goodbye *Karibu* = welcome (you are welcome)

- 3) At the end of your letter, write *Sincerely*, *Best regards*, or *Best wishes* before you sign your name. Sign the letter with your first name only, but use your full name in the letter’s header.
- 4) Are you wanting to read more about African culture? Do you desire to gain a better understanding of the context found in your required reading? Check out one (or more) of the **optional** books below:

[*Home of the Brave*](#)

[*A Long Walk to Water*](#)

[*Facing the Lion*](#)

[*Running with the Kenyans: Discovering the Secrets of the Fastest People on Earth*](#)

If you have any questions, please let me know!

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