

Letter to Grandmother

CCSSR2—clarify the main/central idea of a passage; analyze a passage to identify relationships; support important ideas with examples.

Dear Grandmother,

Our family has moved to this new place. It is a small place right now, but my father says it will grow. Right now, if we need something we have to make it or trade for it. My mother says we will be able to buy things at a store soon, but there is no store right now.

It took us such a long time to get here. We traveled by wagon first and then we traveled by boat. We carried our things in a big trunk and it was so heavy that it fell off the boat. It was made of wood, so it floated. Father got them to turn the boat back so we were able to go back and get the trunk.

I remember where we used to live. There were stores and we had friends, too. But father said we should move here because we would have a better life. I still miss my friends. I have met children who live near us and I hope they will be my friends. Right now I am so busy helping my family I don't have time to play with them.

I miss you and grandfather very much and I hope you can come to visit us soon. When we first got here, we did not have a home. We built it ourselves. It is not a big home, but mother says we will build another room soon.

My mother has just had a new baby so I am helping to take care of my new brother. He cries at night so I hold him and rock him. Then he smiles at me. You would be glad to see him.

It is going to be warmer soon. Then we will have more food. We will be planting a garden. Mother has some of the potatoes you gave us and she says she can use them to grow more potatoes. I will be learning about growing food.

These are questions you can ask and answer about any story. Write your answers on another page.

1. Sequence: Which event happened first? Which happened last?
2. Character Traits: Name one character. What is one trait you infer that character has? Explain why you think that.
3. Motive: What is something that person does? Why do you think that person does that?
4. Summarize: Summarize the story in four sentences. Tell about the characters and what they do.
5. Main Idea: What do you think is the main idea of the story?