***Torn Away* Final Journal**

We have just finished reading the novel Torn Away by James Heneghan. Pretend you are Declan. You have just decided at the last minute not to return to Ireland as you had intended. Write a letter to Brendan Fogarty (the head of the Holy Terrors) explaining your decision to stay in Canada.

In your letter, you should discuss at least 2 of the following:

1. Why you have decided not to return to Ireland to avenge our mother’s and  sister’s deaths as you promised you would,
2. What you have found out about your father and his death, and
3. Explain your relationship with Matthew, Kate, Ana and Thomas, and why you can’t leave them.
4. Explain how Canada is different from Ireland.

**Your letter must be in proper friendly letter format and be at least ¾ of a page in length. You will write a rough copy, EDIT, and then produce a final copy. ALL work will be submitted.**

**Friendly Letter Format**

Return Address Line 1 **1**  
Return Address Line 2  
Date (Month Day, Year) **2**

Dear Name of Recipient, **3**

http://www.letterwritingguide.com/images/space.gif**4**Body Paragraph 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

http://www.letterwritingguide.com/images/space.gifBody Paragraph 2 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Closing (Sincerely), **5**

Signature **6**

P.S. **7**

**Note:** see back for details on the different parts of a friendly letter

In the friendly letter format, your address, date, the closing, signature, and printed name are all indented to the right half of the page (how far you indent in is up to you as long as the heading and closing is lined up, use your own discretion and make sure it looks presentable). Also the first line of each paragraph is indented.

**1 Your Address**  
All that is needed is your street address on the first line and the city, state or province and zip or postal code on the second line. (Not needed if the letter is printed on paper with a letterhead already on it.)

**2 Date**  
Put the date on which the letter was written in the format Month Day Year e.g. August 30, 2003. Skip a line between the date and the salutation.

**3 Salutation**  
Usually starts out with Dear so and so, or Hi so and so. Note: There is a comma after the end of the salutation (you can use an exclamation point also if there is a need for some emphasis).

**4 Body**  
The body is where you write the content of the letter; the paragraphs should be single spaced with a skipped line between each paragraph. Skip 2 lines between the end of the body and the closing. *NOTE: In this case, you should focus one one family member per body paragraph!!*

**5 Closing**  
Let's the reader know that you are finished with your letter; usually ends with Sincerely, Sincerely yours, Thank you, and so on. Note that there is a comma after the end of the closing and only the first word in the closing is capitalized.

**6 Signature**  
Your signature will go in this section, usually signed in black or blue ink with a pen. Skip a line after your signature and the P.S.

**7 P.S.**  
If you want to add anything additional to the letter you write a P.S. (post script) and the message after that. You can also add a P.P.S after that and a P.P.P.S. after that and so on.

**Grade 7 Read Aloud Activity –Torn Away NOVEL Reflection**

**CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**For a description of the categories, see reverse.**

Rough draft with clear evidence of editing (includes a minimum of 5 improvements in word choice) **\_\_ /10**

Content: 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /10**

Organization 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /10**

Sentence Fluency 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

Voice 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

Conventions 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

Word Choice 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

**Total Writing: \_\_\_/ 50= \_\_\_ / 100**

**Grade 7 Read Aloud Activity –Torn Away NOVEL Reflection**

**CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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Voice 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

Conventions 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

Word Choice 5 4 3 2 1 0 **\_\_ /5**

**Total Writing: \_\_\_/ 50= \_\_\_ / 100**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **5 - Outstanding** | **4 - Strong** | **3 - Adequate** | **2 - Limited** | **1 – Very Limited** |
| **Content** | The events are very well described & supported. | The events are well described & supported. | The events are described & supported. | The events are somewhat described & supported. | The events are not identifiable & not supported. |
| **Organization**  **(paragraphs)** | The letter is very well organized & follows the proper format. | The journal is well organized & follows the proper format. | The journal is organized & follows the proper format. | The journal lacks organization and/or does not follow the proper format. | The journal is not organized and does not follow proper format. |
| **Sentence**  **Fluency** | Sentences are a mix of long and short and flow very well. | Sentences are a mix of long and short and flow most of the time. | Sentences are a mix of long and short, but mostly short. | Sentences are mostly short and often choppy. | Sentences are short, choppy, and many are fragmented. |
| **Voice** | Voice is outstanding & consistent throughout. | Voice is strong & consistent through most of the letter. | Voice is apparent, but could be improved. | Voice is limited and lacks enthusiasm. | Voice is very limited and unenthusiastic. |
| **Conventions** | Use of writing conventions is outstanding; there are little to no mistakes. | Use of writing conventions is strong; only a few minor errors. | Use of writing conventions is adequate; errors do not distract the reader. | Use of writing conventions is limited; errors sometimes distracts the reader. | Use of writing conventions is very limited; errors often distracts the reader. |
| **Word Choice** | Word choice is outstanding & creative. | Word choice is strong & suits purpose. | Word choice is adequate, could be improved. | Word Choice is limited, needs to be improved. | Word choice is very limited and repetitive. |

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| **Content** | The events are very well described & supported. | The events are well described & supported. | The events are described & supported. | The events are somewhat described & supported. | The events are not identifiable & not supported. |
| **Organization**  **(paragraphs)** | The letter is very well organized & follows the proper format. | The journal is well organized & follows the proper format. | The journal is organized & follows the proper format. | The journal lacks organization and/or does not follow the proper format. | The journal is not organized and does not follow proper format. |
| **Sentence**  **Fluency** | Sentences are a mix of long and short and flow very well. | Sentences are a mix of long and short and flow most of the time. | Sentences are a mix of long and short, but mostly short. | Sentences are mostly short and often choppy. | Sentences are short, choppy, and many are fragmented. |
| **Voice** | Voice is outstanding & consistent throughout. | Voice is strong & consistent through most of the letter. | Voice is apparent, but could be improved. | Voice is limited and lacks enthusiasm. | Voice is very limited and unenthusiastic. |
| **Conventions** | Use of writing conventions is outstanding; there are little to no mistakes. | Use of writing conventions is strong; only a few minor errors. | Use of writing conventions is adequate; errors do not distract the reader. | Use of writing conventions is limited; errors sometimes distracts the reader. | Use of writing conventions is very limited; errors often distracts the reader. |
| **Word Choice** | Word choice is outstanding & creative. | Word choice is strong & suits purpose. | Word choice is adequate, could be improved. | Word Choice is limited, needs to be improved. | Word choice is very limited and repetitive. |