Letters from Authors

Compose a letter as the author of a novel or non-fiction text.

Grade 4: Writing 4W3

Goal: I can create a timeline to organize and share my important life events in order.

1. Read or listen to an informational text or novel.

2. Open and read the document titled E. B. White Author Letter. Read the details carefully and notice how he answers the following questions (and adds a few other details):
   ~ Where did you get the idea for the book?
   ~ Why did you write about this topic?
   ~ When did you start writing or when did you realize you wanted to be an author?
   ~ What things about your life will you share?

3. Consider the point of view of the author and compose a letter as the author. Tell the person you are writing the letter to the reason for writing the piece.

4. Be sure to use a proper letter format. To review the specifics of the letter format, watch the BrainPOP Jr. movie titled Sending a Friendly Letter
   http://www.brainpopjr.com/readingandwriting/communication/sendingaletter/

   Date
   July 12, 2005

   Dear Editor,

   The article on July 10 said that the school board is thinking of canceling recess. As a recess-loving sixth-grader in Sunnyvale Junior High, I would like to remind everyone why recess exists in the first place.

   We work hard at school. Our young minds and bodies need a break. Recess gives us a chance to play, to breathe fresh air and just be ourselves. We talk with our friends, we run around and we relax. After recess, we return to our classes with new energy.

   Some people might argue that recess is a waste of time. They believe that we should spend all of the school day in class. Well, I disagree. Recess is an important part of our school day. Don’t take it away!

   Sincerely,
   Alice Brown

   Closing

   Your signature