



LITERACY

Resource 1

School Camp Thanks

Letter of thanks



READ



WRITE

Student	
Teacher/Class	

Reading

Read the text below, then complete the activities that follow.

Dear Mr Kereama,

Introduction

My parents said I have to write you a thank-you letter, so I want to say thanks heaps for all your work with our school camp last week. It was an awesome time at Lake Tarawera, and I reckon all my mates liked it too.

Paragraph 1

I know that you have a family of four young children, so it must have been difficult for your wife to do everything at home herself for five days. Please say thank you to her as well. My mum says it's hard to work all day then come home to washing, kids' homework and cooking. She says she'd find it almost impossible without my dad to work on those things with her. Please share these chocolates with her!

Paragraph 2

The favourite part of camp, for me, was the sketching. I thought it was marvelous. Don't tell my mates or they'll think I'm crazy! I thought the mountain-biking would be my favourite part and lounging around in the water at Hot Water Beach would be second, so I surprised myself. My Dad said that's the good thing about things like school camps – you get to experience things you might not have experienced before or that you might never have thought to have a go at yourself. It's my birthday next week, so I've asked for a sketch pad and some good pencils. I even talked to our school dean this morning to see if it's still okay to change my options for next year to move from Computer Programming to Art. I'm rethinking what I want to do when I leave school. I'm now thinking that perhaps I'm interested in careers such as graphic designing. It's amazing how a school camp might have changed my whole life!

Paragraph 3

I also want to say thanks for arranging all the transport. The bus we took from school to Lake Tarawera and back was amazing – very flash with its large seats, armrests, Wi-Fi and an entertainment system. My mates and I couldn't believe it! Also, the shuttles between all the activities must have been a mission to arrange. Thanks so much for all of that.

Paragraph 4

Dad suggested I give you some feedback for this year. I know you told us to select our tent groups wisely, but perhaps this could be emphasised a bit more to the students next year. Honestly, I was in a tent group of four with one terrible cook and one disorganised mate who we kept having to lend our gear to. Camp could have been much better without them in my group. Still, they're mates, so what can you do, right? I guess I learned about how to be patient and tolerant on camp. My parents would be rapt to hear that!

Anyway, thanks again for such a brilliant experience.

Ngā mihi,
Sam

Qn 1. Summarise the text by completing the table below. The first paragraph is done for you.

Paragraph	Main idea	One detail that helps us understand this. (Quote or describe a detail from the text.)
1	Thanks to the teacher's wife.	It's hard to work all day then come home to chores like washing, homework and cooking.
2		
3		
4		

Reading skills continued

Qn 2. Vocabulary

Which word **could replace** the word surprised in the sentence below:

...so I surprised myself. (paragraph 2)

A	impressed	
B	delighted	
C	disappointed	
D	amazed	

Qn 3. Vocabulary

In paragraph 4, the word rapt means...

A	moderately pleased	
B	overwhelmed	
C	delighted	
D	annoyed	

Qn 4. Genre

This text could best be described as...

A	A type of essay	
B	A review	
C	A letter of gratitude	
D	A 'quick note'	

Qn 5. Style

Which option below **doesn't seem to match** the **style** of the rest of the text.

A	Please say thank you to her as well.	
B	I thought it was marvelous.	
C	... – very flash with its large seats...	
D	Still, they're mates, so what can you do, right?	

Qn 6. Style

The **tone** of this text could **best** be described as...

A	Casual and appreciative	
B	Casual and humourous	
C	Formal and impersonal	
D	Melodramatic and sarcastic	

Reading skills continued

Reading ON the lines



To answer these questions look at the text. You'll find the answer, right there, **on the lines of the text!**

Qn 7. What activity was Sam **most** enthusiastic about?

A	Sketching	
B	Mountain-biking	
C	Swimming	
D	Lounging in the warm waters of Hot Water Beach	

Qn 8. True or false? **Highlight/circle** your option.

1	Sam enjoyed absolutely everything about his school camp.	True	False
2	Sam is rethinking what he might do for a career when he leaves school.	True	False
3	There is a beach on the shore of the lake that Sam went to for his school camp.	True	False
4	The students had to walk between activities.	True	False

Qn 9. As a result of his experience with sketching, what **three** things did Sam do when he returned home?

1.	
2.	
3.	

Qn 10. What skills did Sam learn on camp that **he** thinks his parents would be **most pleased** about?

A	Sketching and mountain-biking	
B	Patience and tolerance	
C	Sketching, mountain-biking, patience and tolerance	
D	Self-management	

Reading BETWEEN the lines



To find answers for this section, look for **clues** in the text. The answers are hidden there **between the lines.**

Qn 11. True or false? **Highlight/circle** your option.

1	Sam is not open to new ideas.	True	False
2	The teacher has a busy life.	True	False
3	Sam would probably look forward to another camp.	True	False
4	Sam's father is encouraging.	True	False
5	The students had to cook their own food.	True	False

Qn 12. Sam's letter suggests that...

A	school camps are good at setting students up for life.	
B	Sam's parents are teaching him good manners.	
C	Both A and B above.	
D	None of these answers is correct.	

Reading skills continued



Reading BEYOND the lines

*These section refers to the text, but you won't find answers there. Instead, you must use what you understand about **people and the world** to answer them, thinking **beyond** the text.*

Qn 13. Sam says that one of his mates was disorganised on camp (paragraph 4). What might he have meant by that? Choose the **best** option.

A	His mate was usually able to find the things that he needed and sometimes ready when he needed to be.	
B	His mate lost all his belongings.	
C	His mate was unprepared for camp, lost some of his gear and made a mess of the tent.	
D	His mate made a mess of the tent.	

Qn 14. Why do you think Sam's mate is such a terrible cook?

Qn 15. Which of the options below should Sam probably **not** have included in his letter of thanks?

A	<i>It's amazing how a school camp might have changed my whole life!</i>	
B	<i>It was an awesome time at Lake Tarawera, and I reckon all my mates liked it too.</i>	
C	<i>My parents said I have to write you a thank-you letter...</i>	
D	<i>Dad suggested I give you some feedback for this year.</i>	

Qn 16. Explain why you chose the option you did for question 15 above.

Reading BEHIND the lines



*To answer this section, you must think about who is **behind** this text. Imagine the writer typing away there, and think about who they are, how they're feeling, what their experiences might be, what they're trying to do here...*

Qn 17. Sam wants his teacher to feel... (Choose the answer you think is **best**.)

A	thankful	
B	appreciated and overwhelmed	
C	that he is a polite student	
D	appreciated and valued	

Qn 18. Which option below describes Sam **best**?

A	Thankful	
B	Open to new ideas at times	
C	Honest, thankful and enthusiastic	
D	A reluctant writer	

Writing Activity

Writing prompt

Think of any school experience you've had that was an extra part of normal school lessons and that a teacher, parent-helper or somebody else from the community might have put a lot of effort into. For example:

- A school camp.
- A day-trip to an expo.
- A tour of some kind.
- A trip to hear a guest speaker or perhaps a guest speaker coming to speak to your class/school.
- A school gala, athletics sports or swimming sports.



What you must do

- Write a **formal** thank-you email to one of the adults involved in this event (organising, speaking, showing you around...).
- Write 250-350 words.
- Use the format and structure of a thank-you email. Eg: Think about how to begin and end, and how you might paragraph your writing.

In your writing, you could include:

- Your understanding and appreciation for the things that were organised.
- What you liked most and why.
- How this helped change your views about something.
- What you learned.
- Feedback that might help them with future trips.
- Examples to help your recipient understand you better.



Plan your writing here. For example, plan the main points of your paragraphs.

Complete your writing here.



Remember to proofread your writing.



Writing Skills

Qn 1. Rewrite these sentences to correct the **mistakes** in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation.

Incorrect sentences	Your corrected version
Being away at a school camp is more better than been in class.	
The student's enjoyed they're time at camp because there was a large amount of activities to be doing	

Qn 2. A preposition is a word or phrase that tells the position (time or place) of something. Rewrite this sentence so that it **begins with** the preposition. **Remember to proofread your writing, paying particular attention to your punctuation.**

Original sentence	Your new version
The students had fun swimming before dinner.	

Qn 3. This paragraph is difficult to follow because sentences are **poorly sequenced**. Rewrite the paragraph, **rearranging the sentences** to make it easier to understand. **Remember to proofread your writing.**

Confusing paragraph	Your corrected version
It's a wonder we didn't get food poisoning. For example, the sausages were burned and the chicken was undercooked. One thing that I did not like about camp was Jack's terrible cooking. Next time I'll check on everyone's skills and experience before I choose my camp group!	

Qn 4. Turn this rhetorical question into a statement. **Remember to proofread your writing.**

Rhetorical question	Statement
Still, they're mates, so what can you do, right?	

Qn 5. Make these sentences/phrases sound **formal**. **Remember to proofread your writing.**

Original sentence	Your new version
...so I want to say thanks heaps for all your work...	
It was an awesome time at Lake Tarawera, and I reckon all my mates liked it too.	

Writing skills continued

Qn 6. Rewrite this sentence so that **the opinion is stronger** but **you remain polite**. Remember to proofread your writing.

Current sentence	Your sentence showing a stronger but equally polite opinion
I know you told us to select our tent groups wisely, but perhaps this could be emphasised a bit more to the students next year.	

Qn 7. Rewrite the sentence to give it the **opposite** meaning. Remember to proofread your writing.

Current sentence	Your sentence with an opposite meaning
I was disappointed with the mountain-biking because I didn't enjoy getting wet and muddy.	

Qn 8. Which word in this sentence is **redundant** (not needed)? Cross it out.

Sam said sketching was his most favourite school camp activity.

Qn 9. Highlight, colour the cell or tick the box to show which passage you think is written **accurately** (has no errors).

A	Interestingly, 89% of New Zealand students say their experiences at school camps were overwhelmingly positive.	
B	89% of students say their experiences nationwide at school camps were overwhelmingly positive.	
C	Overwhelmingly in New Zealand positive experiences were had by students at school camps.	
D	According to statistics 89% of students in New Zealand find overwhelmingly school camps are a positive experience.	

Qn 10. Highlight, colour the cell or tick the box to show which sentence uses commas **accurately** (correctly).

A	The teenagers who were all in year 10, voted to keep abseiling, mountain-biking, and orienteering, as camp activities.	
B	The teenagers who were all in year 10 voted to keep abseiling mountain-biking and orienteering as camp activities.	
C	The teenagers, who were all in year 10, voted to keep abseiling, mountain-biking and orienteering as camp activities.	
D	The teenagers, who were all in year 10, voted to keep abseiling, mountain-biking, and orienteering, as camp activities.	