

Letter Writing – Top Tips

1. Your letter should be in the first person (it can be from Sean or Annie).
2. It should be in an informal style – they are writing to their father who they are very close to.
3. It should have an introduction where it is explained where they are and briefly what they are doing (in Boston and they are coming to find him).
4. It should explain how they got there. This should be logical and in chronological order: the famine, the deaths of their siblings, meeting Will and him helping them, him persuading them to leave, their mother insisting that they go etc. Don't spend too much time explaining about the journey and losing the torc.
5. The letter should be written as if it is Sean or Annie speaking to their father – you could use contractions or even try and get over to the reader their accent (e.g. Annie calls America, “merica”)
6. The letter should be emotional – you need to try and explain, as Annie or Sean, why they had to leave their dying mother. You might also convey to him how worried and scared they are and how much this miss him and their mother.
7. You will need a final paragraph where you recap and explain what you (Sean or Annie) are going to do next (try and find him in Grass Valley).
8. Try and compose a strong, emotional final sentence.
9. You will need to use paragraphs to organise your letter.
10. You need to keep it relatively short.
11. REMEMBER – the letter should have an emotional impact on the reader! Try and make you reader cry!!

LO: to write a personal letter in an informal style that provokes an emotional response

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