

LOOKING TO WRITE GRADES 4–8

Writing Letters to Communicate Kindness



“Always be kind...you never know what others are facing.”

—Vincent van Gogh

VAN GOGH AS LETTER WRITER

All his life, Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890) was a passionate letter writer. After Vincent and his brothers and sisters left home, they often wrote to each other and to their parents, sharing not just news but ideas and feelings.

In fact, Van Gogh wrote more than 2,000 letters during his lifetime. By far, the most letters were written to his brother Theo, his best friend and loyal supporter. Theo’s replies reassured Vincent and helped him to believe in himself as an artist. His was a kind and loving voice that quieted Vincent’s self-doubt.



IN HIS WORDS

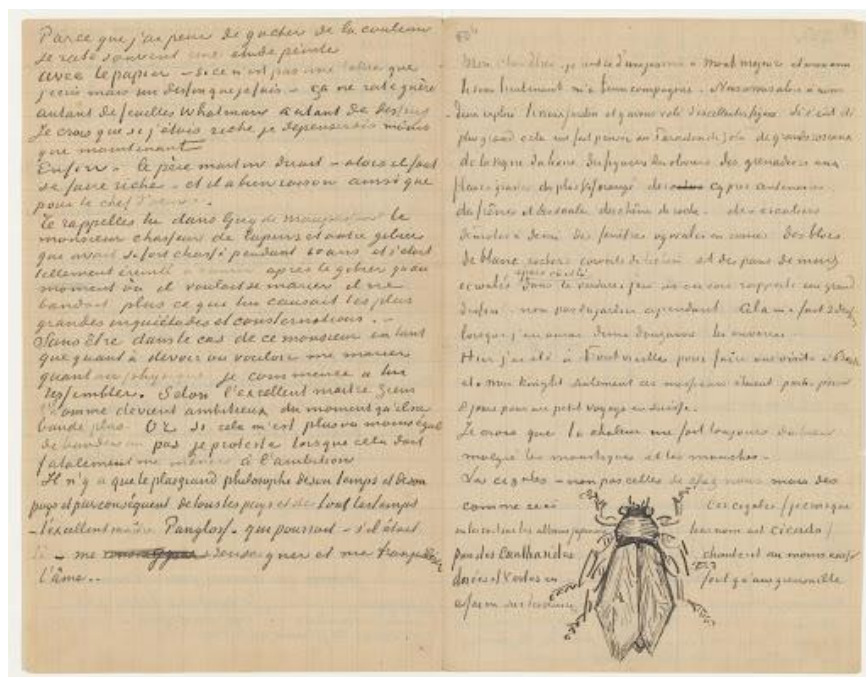
“Close friends are truly life's treasures. Sometimes they know us better than we know ourselves. With gentle honesty, they are there to guide and support us, to share our laughter and our tears. Their presence reminds us that we are never really alone.” —Vincent van Gogh

“Admire as much as you can. Most people do not admire enough.”
—Vincent van Gogh

YOUR TURN: WRITE A LETTER

Do you sometimes think about all the nice things you wish you had told someone when you were with them? Here is your chance to let them know. Write a letter to someone special in your life, someone important to you. Include at least three positive things about them that they can read when they are feeling down.

Add sketches if you like, as Vincent did. You might even add a drawing of the person to whom you are writing. Then, give or send the letter to them.



“What is done in love, is done well.”
—Vincent van Gogh

Image: (Top Left) Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853–1890), Portrait of Dr. Gachet (Auvers-sur-Oise), May 15, 1890. Etching. Lent by the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Gift of Bruce B. Dayton, 1962, P.13.251. Image: (Bottom Right) Letter from Vincent van Gogh to Theo van Gogh with sketch of Cicada, July 1888. Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam.