

Sayings
of Wisdom



Learning and Teaching Materials on the
“SOW Inspiring”
Book Gifting Competition
(Primary Level)



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Education Bureau
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- **What is a book gift message?**
- **How to write a message for a book gift**
- **Using adjectives and literary devices**
- **Deadlines and reminders**



SOW Campaign 2024/25 &

“SOW Inspiring” Book Gifting Competition

SOW Campaign 2024/25- Theme & sub-themes



Theme: **SOW the Reading Seed: Inspire and Be Inspired**

Sub-themes:

- **Resilience** - enhance resilience through reading stories of people overcoming hurdles
- **Empowerment** - gain strength, skills and knowledge through reading
- **Appreciation** - appreciate the beauty of the world or the small things in life through reading
- **Delight** - enjoy the pleasure and joy of reading

“SOW Inspiring” Book Gifting Competition



The “SOW Inspiring” Book Gifting Competition is organised under the campaign on “Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through English Sayings of Wisdom 2024/25” (SOW Campaign 2024/25).



Entry requirements



To enter the competition, you have to:

- **choose a book** as a gift that echoes the theme and/or sub-themes of the SOW Campaign 2024/25
- **write a message** to the recipient (the person who gets your book) about:
 - why you want to give the book to him/her
 - how the book has inspired you
 - how the book will inspire him/her
- **quote a Saying of Wisdom (SOW) from the book** that echoes the theme and/or sub-themes of the SOW Campaign 2024/25
- **design a piece of 2D artwork** for your message

Word limit

- Lower Primary Parent-child Division (P1-P3): **80-150** words
- Upper Primary Division (P4-P6): **130-200** words





**What is
a book gift message?**



What is a book gift message?

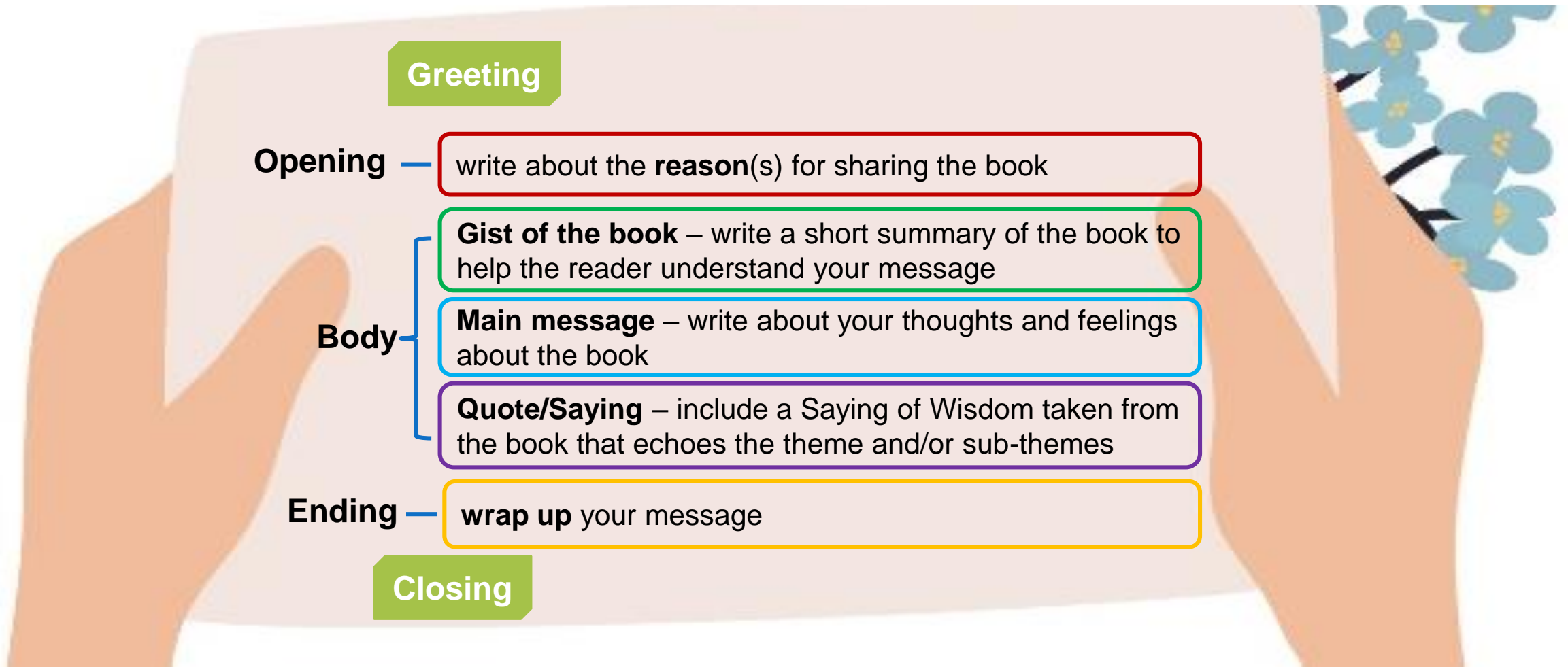


- A book gift message can be in the form of **a letter / an email / a card / a note**. You write it when you give a book to someone dear to you. It **shares your thoughts and feelings** with them.
- A good message can **inspire others** and make the book gift more meaningful. It also **encourages others to read** the book.



Structure of a book gift message

A message usually has an **opening**, a **body** and an **ending**. We write a **greeting** before the opening and a **closing** at the end of the message. This example shows how a book gift message looks like.

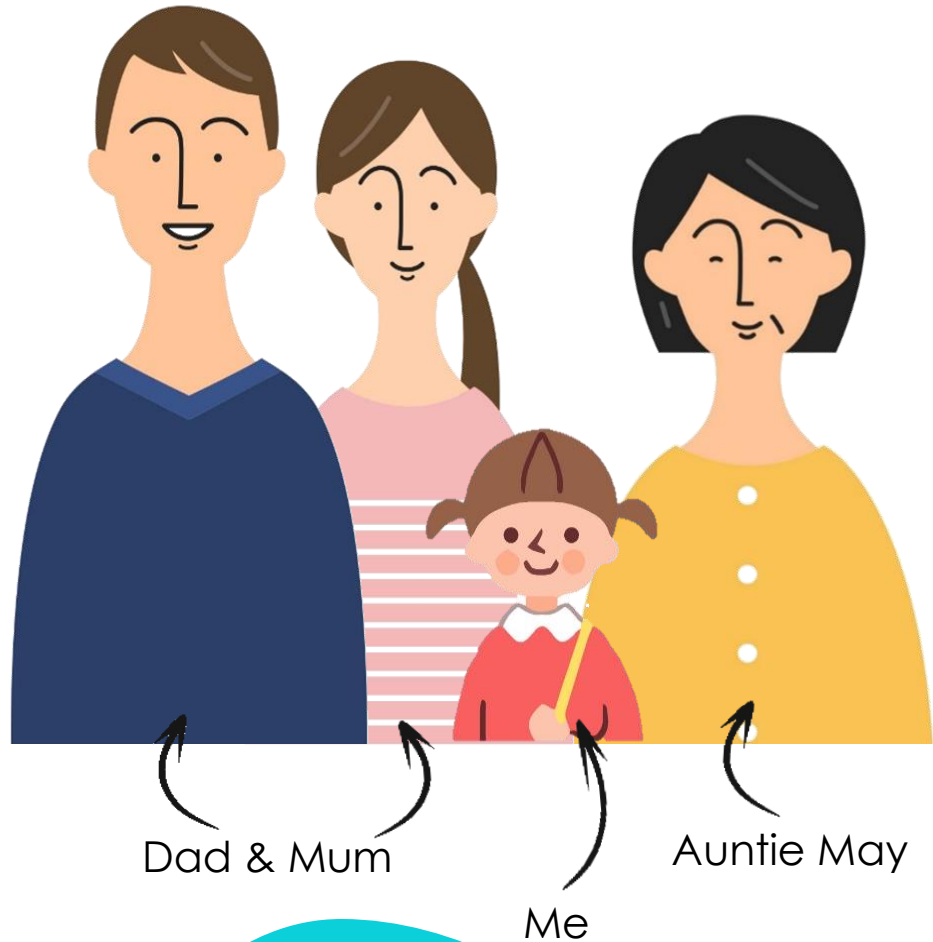




How to write a message for a book gift



Let's write a book gift message together!



You are Emma, an eight-year-old girl from SOW Primary School.

When your dad and mum are at work, you would stay at the home of your mum's sister, Auntie May. She takes good care of you.

You would like to enter the "SOW Inspiring" Book Gifting Competition. Your teacher has asked you to give a book to someone dear to you and write a message for the book gift.

Step 1: decide on the recipient

The person who receives your book is called a recipient. You can give a book to **one person** or a **group of people**. Who do you want to give a book to?

Family

- Father / Mother
- Grandpa / Grandma
- A brother / sister
- An uncle / **aunt**
- A cousin...

Friends

- A neighbour
- A study buddy
- A playmate...

People at school

- A classmate
- The principal
- A teacher
- A teaching assistant
- The librarian
- A janitor...

Groups of people

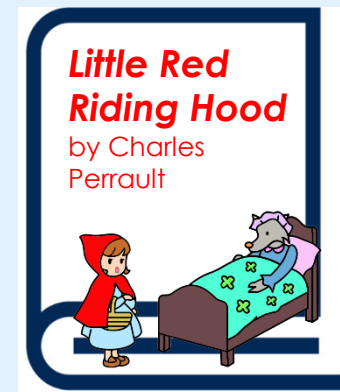
- Hong Kong citizens
- Chinese people around the world
- Members of a club (e.g. Book Club members)
- A fan group (e.g. Harry Potter fans)



Auntie May takes good care of me.
I'd like to give a book to her!

Step 2: choose a book that echoes the theme and/or sub-themes of the SOW Campaign 2024/25

These are my favourite books. All of them are inspiring stories. Which one should I give to Auntie May to show my gratitude?



I've chosen this book because the elves in the story took care of the shoemaker. They remind me of how Auntie May takes care of me every day.

Link to the stories: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cla/eng-edu/references-resources/Lit_Classics_Pri_FT.html



You can choose any types of books, e.g. picture books, fairy tales, poetry books, mystery books, non-fiction books.

Step 3: write a greeting & an opening



Greeting

- Begin your message with a greeting, e.g. **Hello** Auntie May, **Hi** Auntie May.
- To show your respect or closeness to the recipient, you can use these greetings: **Dear** Auntie May, **To my dearest** Auntie May.

Opening

Tell the recipient **why you want to give this book** to him/her. Think about these questions:

- How does the story/character(s) remind you of the recipient?
- Why do you think the recipient will like the book?
- Why do you think the book will inspire the recipient?

Step 3: write a greeting & an opening

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- How does the story/character(s) remind you of the recipient?
- Why do you think the recipient will like the book?
- Why do you think the book will inspire the recipient?



You can use **connectives** to **link ideas together**, e.g. and, or, but, because.

Your turn - write a greeting and an opening for your message.



I've chosen this book because the elves in the story took care of the shoemaker. They remind me of how Auntie May takes care of me every day.



Step 3: write a greeting & an opening

Greeting

- Begin your message with a greeting, e.g. **Hello** Auntie May, **Hi** Auntie May.
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Tell the recipient **why you want to give this book** to him/her. Think about these questions:

- How does the story/character(s) remind you of the recipient?
- Why do you think the recipient will like the book?
- Why do you think the book will inspire the recipient?

Example:

Dear Auntie May,

I wish to give this book to you **because the elves in the story made me think of you.**

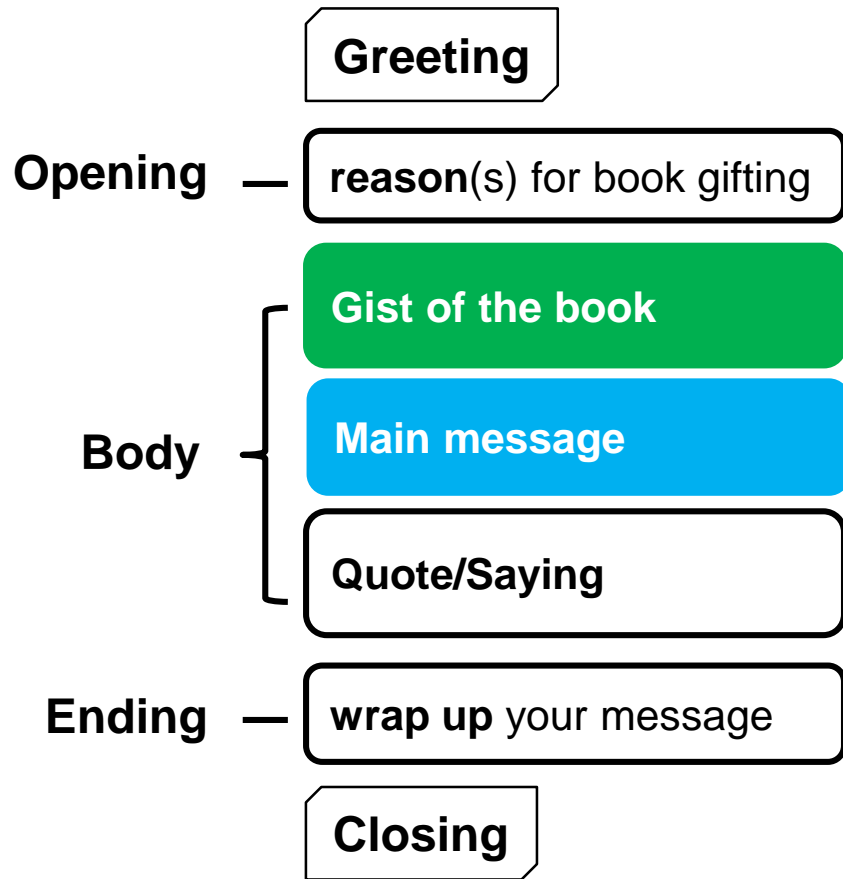
Greeting

Opening



A connective is used in the opening to **give reasons**. Can you find it?

Step 4: write the body of the message



The body of your message can include the **gist of the book** and the **main message** you want to express. Think about these questions:

Gist of the book

- What is the book about?
- What part of the book do you think the recipient will enjoy the most? Why?

Main message

- What is the connection between the book and the recipient?
- What message do you want the recipient to take away from the book?
- How do you hope the book will encourage or motivate the recipient in his/her daily life?



Remember not to disclose the ending of the book, which may spoil the fun of reading!

Step 4: write the body of the message

Gist of the book

- What is the book about?
- What part of the book do you think the recipient will enjoy the most? Why?

Main message

- What is the connection between the book and the recipient?
- What message do you want the recipient to take away from the book?
- How do you hope the book will encourage or motivate the recipient in his/her daily life?



You can break the body of your message into **paragraphs** to make it easier to read. Similar ideas are usually put in the same paragraph.

Your turn - write the body of your message.

The illustration shows a girl with pigtails thinking. Her thoughts are represented by two yellow thought bubbles. The top bubble is titled "The story:" and contains icons of a man reading, a boat, two children, and various shoes. The bottom bubble is titled "What Auntie May does for me every day:" and contains icons of a white shirt, a bag of snacks, a carton of milk, and a blue water bottle. Below the thought bubbles is a large green-outlined box with two horizontal sections for writing, and a blue pencil is shown to the right.

Step 4: write the body of the message

Gist of the book

- What is the book about?
- What part of the book do you think the recipient will enjoy the most? Why?

Main message

- What is the connection between the book and the recipient?
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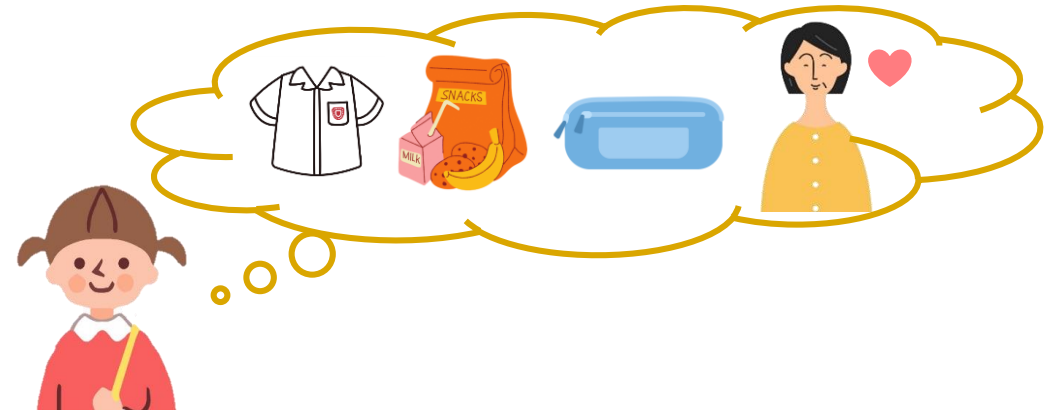


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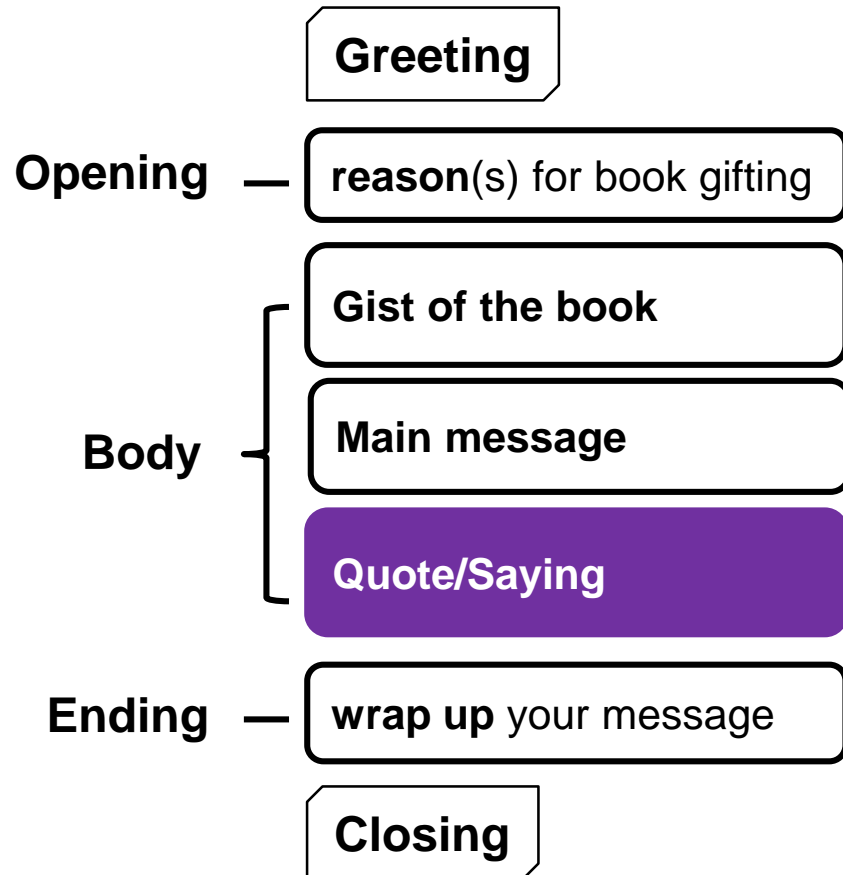
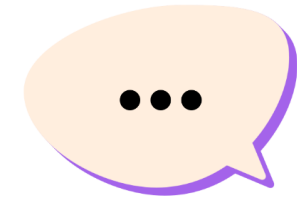
Example:

In the story, the elves helped the shoemaker make shoes every night. Like the elves, you take care of me all the time. The shirts I wear to school, the snacks I enjoy at recess and the markers in my pencil pocket all remind me of your love and kindness.

I am giving this book to you to show that I am grateful for all the things you do for me. I hope the book brings you joy and inspiration, just as you do for me every day.



Step 5: include a quote/saying



A **quote** contains words that someone has said or written. The quote you include in your message **must be taken from your chosen book**.

When looking for a good quote, think about these questions:

- Does the quote **echo the theme and/or sub-themes of the SOW Campaign 2024/25**?
- Can the quote help you express your main message?
- Is the quote interesting or catchy? Will it make the reader remember your message better?
- Will the quote inspire the reader to think about and reflect on their own experiences?

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- Will the quote inspire the reader to think about and reflect on their own experiences?



Your turn – which quote will you take from the story to show your gratitude? Include it in the body of your message.



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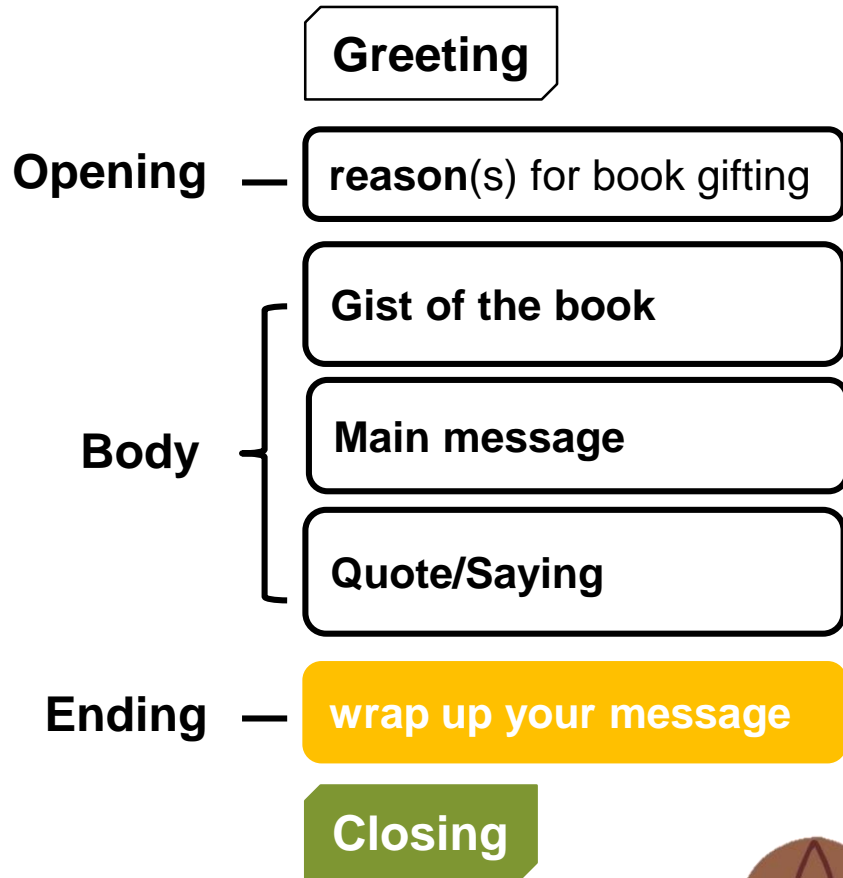
Example:

As the shoemaker's wife said in the story, **"We ought to show them our gratitude."** I am giving this book to you to show that I am grateful for all the things you do for me. I hope the book brings you joy and inspiration, just as you do for me every day.

The SOW echoes the sub-theme "Appreciation".



Step 6: write an ending & a closing



Ending

You **wrap up** your whole message in the ending. Here are some questions that may help you write your ending.

- How has the book inspired you? / How do you think it will inspire the recipient?
- What is the last thing you want to say to the recipient? You can:
 - give compliments – e.g. **You are an inspiration!**
 - show gratitude – e.g. **Thank you for the support!**

Closing

Some common ways to **sign off** your message include: **Yours, Love, With love.**

Step 6: write an ending & a closing

Your turn – write an ending and a closing.

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Example:

The story inspires me to become a person like you. Thank you, Auntie May!

Yours,
Emma

Ending

Closing

Closing

Some common ways to **sign off** your message include:
Yours, Love, With love.



Final step: design an artwork

Design a piece of 2D artwork that can help you express your message. It can be hand-drawn pictures, digital illustrations or a collage of photos.

Example:



Dear Auntie May,

I wish to share this book with you because the elves in the story made me think of you.

In the story, the elves helped the shoemaker make shoes every night. Like the elves, you take care of me all the time. The shirts I wear to school, the snacks I enjoy at recess and the markers in my pencil pocket all remind me of your love and kindness.

As the shoemaker's wife said in the story, "We ought to show them our gratitude." I am giving this book to you to show that I am grateful for all the things you do for me. I hope the book brings you joy and inspiration, just as you do for me every day.

The story inspires me to become a person like you. Thank you, Auntie May!

Yours,
Emma



Using adjectives and literary devices



Example 1: using adjectives

The Elves and the Shoemaker by the Brothers Grimm



You can enrich the message by using adjectives to **describe things, people or places**, e.g.

- The shirt is clean.
- She is a nice person.
- I live in a big city.

Your turn - use the following adjectives to enrich the message:

“neat”

“kind and helpful”

“new”

“colourful”

“delicious”

“little”



Dear Auntie May,

I wish to share this book with you because the (1)___ elves in the story made me think of you.

In the story, the elves helped the shoemaker make (2)___ shoes every night. Like the elves, you take care of me all the time. The (3)___ shirts I wear to school, the (4)___ snacks I enjoy at recess and the (5)___ markers in my pencil pocket all remind me of your love and kindness.

As the shoemaker’s wife said in the story, “We ought to show them our gratitude.” I am giving this book to you to show that I am grateful for all the things you do for me. I hope the book brings you joy and inspiration, just as you do for me every day.

The story inspires me to become a (6)___ person like you. Thank you, Auntie May!

Yours,
Emma

Example 1: using adjectives

The Elves and the Shoemaker by the Brothers Grimm



You can enrich the message by using adjectives to **describe things, people or places**, e.g.

- The shirt is clean.
- She is a nice person.
- I live in a big city.



Example:

Dear Auntie May,

I wish to share this book with you because the **little** elves in the story made me think of you.

In the story, the elves helped the shoemaker make **new** shoes every night. Like the elves, you take care of me all the time. The **neat** shirts I wear to school, the **delicious** snacks I enjoy at recess and the **colourful** markers in my pencil pocket all remind me of your love and kindness.

As the shoemaker's wife said in the story, "We ought to show them our gratitude." I am giving this book to you to show that I am grateful for all the things you do for me. I hope the book brings you joy and inspiration, just as you do for me every day.

The story inspires me to become a **kind and helpful** person like you. Thank you, Auntie May!

Yours,
Emma



More adjectives

Try to use them to describe people's feelings and characters.

Feelings / Emotions

- excited
- grateful
- happy
- loved
- surprised
- sad
- disappointed
- lonely
- helpless
- angry
- annoyed
- jealous

Characters / Qualities

- brave
- caring
- cheerful
- clever
- confident
- creative
- determined
- diligent
- fearless
- friendly
- funny
- enthusiastic
- generous
- helpful
- honest
- imaginative
- intelligent
- joyful
- kind
- knowledgeable
- loving
- optimistic
- persistent
- playful
- responsible
- resilient
- supportive
- sympathetic
- understanding

Example 2: using literary devices



Read the following message written by Peter

Dear Hong Kong citizens,

I wish to share this book about Thomas Edison with you because his story is really inspiring. Although he faced a lot of challenges, like being partly deaf and having trouble in school, Edison never gave up. His story shows us that perseverance can unlock the door to amazing achievements.

Edison once said, “Genius is one per cent inspiration, ninety-nine per cent perspiration.” This reminds us that hard work is the key to success. His inventions, such as the light bulb, have brightened our lives, just like how your hard work makes our community shine brighter.

Thank you for your dedication. I hope this book will inspire you to be resilient, celebrate the small victories and find joy in your life journey. Remember, each little step we take is like planting a seed that will grow into something wonderful!

With appreciation,
Peter

Type of book:	biography
Theme:	SOW the Reading Seed: Inspire and Be Inspired - Resilience and Delight
Recipient:	Hong Kong citizens



Who was Thomas?

by Alva Edison



Example 2: using literary devices



Read the following message written by Peter



Literary devices

You can use literary devices to make your message more creative and interesting, such as **metaphors** and **similes**.

A **metaphor** makes a statement that says one thing is another, without using the words like “like” or “as”, e.g.

“**A teacher is a gardener** who always nourishes and nurtures students, providing the most favourable environment for them to grow.”

A **simile** compares something with something else, using the words “like” or “as”, e.g.

“A good teacher **is like a compass**. He always shows students the correct direction and guides them out of darkness when they are lost.”

Your turn – circle a metaphor in paragraph 2 and a simile in paragraph 3.

Dear Hong Kong citizens,

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With appreciation,
Peter



Other literary devices

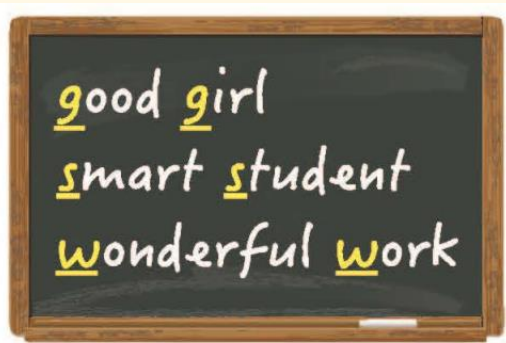
Try to use them to express your ideas in a creative way.



Alliteration

Repeating the same consonant sounds at the beginning of words that are near each other, e.g.

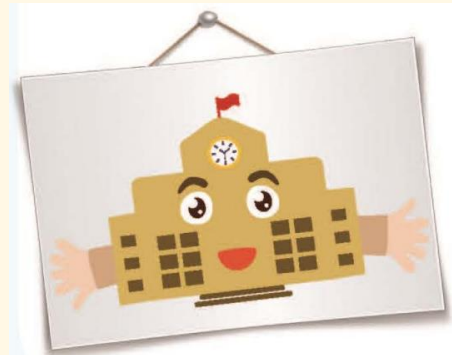
“I am thankful to the **t**ender **t**eachers who **t**ouch my heart with their hands of love.”



Personification

Giving some human characteristics to something that is not human, such as animals, objects and non-living things, e.g.

“The school is **overjoyed** when we are back. It **spreads its arms wide** to **welcome** us.”



Hyperbole

Making qualities of people or things stand out by exaggerating them, e.g.

“My class teacher is the best teacher **in the entire universe!**”





Deadline and reminders

Deadline and Reminders

- All entries must include **a saying of wisdom (SOW), a message, and a piece of 2D artwork**
- Awards:
 - For schools: the **Active Participation School Award** for schools with 80% or more students participating in the Competition
 - For students: 3 **Outstanding Awards** and 10 **Commendable Awards** for each division
- Deadline: **31 March 2025, 6:00 p.m.**
- Webpage: <https://www.edb.gov.hk/BookGifting>



Self-assessment Checklist

Content

I have...

- chosen **a book** and **a quote** from the book that **echo the theme** and/or **sub-themes** of the SOW Campaign 2024/25.
- included the **quote** in my message.
- written about
 - the **reasons** for giving the book,
 - a **gist** of the book, and
 - how the book **has inspired me** or **can inspire others**.
- created a piece of **2D artwork** for my message.

Organisation

I have...

- written a **greeting** and a **closing**.
- written an **opening**, a **body** and an **ending**.
- written in **paragraphs**.
- used **connectives** to link ideas together.

Language and style

I have...

- used **the simple present tense** and **the simple past tense** correctly.
- used **adjectives** to describe things, people or places.
- used **literary devices** to make my message more interesting.

