



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- Does anyone in your family, or any of your friends write letters?
- Do you think there any reasons to write letters nowadays? Why / Why not?
- What do you think is the best way of communicating with family and friends when you are away from home for an extended period?
- Can you think of any situations in which someone might write to somebody they have never met?

- Read the text. As you read the text think about this question.
How is Judy's life different now she is living in the college?

Daddy-Long-Legs Jean Webster

Dear Daddy-Long-Legs,

I'm in the basketball team and you ought to see the bruise on my left shoulder. It's blue and brown with little orange lines. Julia Pendleton tried for the team, but she didn't get in. Hooray!

- You see what a mean personality I have.
College gets nicer and nicer. I like the girls and the teachers and the classes and the campus and the things to eat. We have ice-cream twice a week and we never have corn **mush**.
You only wanted to hear from me once a month, didn't you?
- And I've been sending you letters every few days! But I've been so excited about all these new adventures that I **MUST** talk to somebody; and you're the only one I know. Please excuse my eagerness; I'll **settle** pretty soon. If my letters bore you, you can always throw them into the wastebasket. I promise not to write another till the middle of November.
- Yours most talkatively,
Judy Abbott

Dear Daddy-Long-Legs,
Listen to what I've learnt today.

- The area of the convex surface of the frustum of a regular pyramid is half the product of the sum of the perimeters of its bases by the altitude of either of its trapezoids.*



Judy Abbott lives in a home for children who have no parents – an 'orphanage'. When she is seventeen, she is told that someone has offered to pay for her to go to college, but the identity of this person is a secret. She is required to write a letter to him every month. When Judy sees a tall man visiting the home she decides he is the person who is helping her, and she invents a name for him – 'Daddy-Long-Legs'.

It doesn't sound true, but it is – I can prove it!

- You've never heard about my clothes, have you, Daddy? Six dresses, all new and beautiful and bought for me – not **handed down** from somebody bigger. Perhaps you don't realise what a climax that marks in the career of an **orphan**? You gave them to me, and I am very, very, VERY grateful. It's a fine thing to be educated – but nothing compared to the amazing experience of owning six new dresses. Miss Pritchard, who is on the visiting committee, picked them out – not Mrs Lippett, thank goodness.

I suppose you're thinking now what a **shallow** little thing she is, and what a waste of money to educate a girl?

- But, Daddy, if you'd been dressed in dull clothes all your life, you'd appreciate how I feel. And when I started to the high school, I entered upon another period even worse than the dull clothes.

The **poor box**.

- You can't know how I **dreaded** appearing in school in those miserable poor-box dresses. I was perfectly sure to be seated in class next to the girl who first owned my dress, and she would whisper and **giggle** and point it out to the others.

GLOSSARY

mush	food that is unpleasantly soft and wet, usually because it has been cooked for too long
settle	become quiet and calm
handed down	when a child is given toys, clothes, books, etc., belonging to older children in a family
orphan	a child whose parents are dead
shallow	not showing any interest in serious ideas
poor box	a box where people leave clothes for the poor
dreaded	felt worried or frightened about something that has not happened yet
giggle	laugh in a nervous or silly way

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- Find examples of comments where Judy criticises herself. Do you think she is right to make these criticisms?
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- Why do you think Judy chooses to tell Daddy-Long-Legs about something scientific she has learnt?
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- What impression do you get of Judy's personality from these letters?
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- How would you describe the way Judy writes her letters?
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VOCABULARY

3 Complete the sentences with the correct word from the box. There is one word you do not need to use.

giggle mush orphan shallow settled

- Many books and films have a/an as the main character.
- Sam and I a lot about silly things when we're together.
- Although the children were very excited at first, they as soon as the film began.
- I used to think Jan was a person but I now know I was wrong; he's actually really deep.

4 Complete this extract from a book about London with the correct word from the box. There is one word you do not need to use.

dreaded handed mush orphan poor box

In those days it was unusual to get new clothes. Coats, trousers and even shoes were usually
¹ down from older to younger children. Another option was the ², although many people were too proud to accept charity. People ³ the winter because many houses had no heating. As for food, you were lucky to have more than a bowl of
⁴ as your daily meal.

WRITING

5 Work with a partner. Discuss how people might feel in these situations.

- Moving house
- Starting a new school or college
- Going to live in another country
- Doing a summer course away from home

Choose ONE of the situations to write about. Imagine you are writing an email to a friend or family member describing the situation and how you feel. For example, you can tell them about the place, people you have met, what you are doing at the moment and anything interesting or unusual you have seen. Write your email in around 200–220 words.

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SPEAKING

6 Look at the five statements and decide to what extent you agree with them. Work in a group and compare your ideas and opinions.

- Your handwriting reflects your personality.
- A handwritten letter is more personal than an email.
- Images/emojis can often communicate better than words.
- It is very important to have clear, tidy handwriting.
- Getting a recorded message is better than getting a written message.