

Personal letter-Imaginative 7– 9

21st July, 2012

Mrs. M Nguyen
C/O Phong Nguyen Restaurant
Phu Cuoc Street
Hanoi, Vietnam

Dear Grandma,

I am writing you this letter to tell you that we are safe and I am missing you guys heaps! If you have been listening to the radio you would've heard about the Tsunami. I just hope you haven't been too worried! The great news is we've found my mum, but it's been a lot more of an adventure than we expected.

On the day we arrived in Saigon we didn't know where to start looking for my mum so we decided to settle in to a motel, we found a nice resort right on the beach and went and had a lovely cooked meal (although not as good as your cooking). We went for a swim and then went to bed early so that we could wake up early, ready for the big day ahead.

The next day we woke up got dressed and set off for the big adventure, we started off at the popular market they had along the beach. It was a fantastic market, very different from ours in Hanoi, with so many colourful handcrafted souvenirs! We had already spent a few hours trying to track mum down when we stopped for lunch. That's when it happened. All of a sudden trees started swaying and windows started to shatter. I looked up and water was coming over the trees, I thought to myself, "This is it I'm going to die". I was so scared Grandma.

I must have been knocked out because next thing I know I'm in the middle of nowhere! I was looking everywhere for somebody, hopefully either Andy or Uncle Tuoc, I was stumbling around everywhere when all of a sudden I heard someone calling out my name. The yelling was getting louder and louder, I felt something grab me from behind so I turned around and thank goodness Andy was standing there! You'd be proud of us Grandma, especially Andy,

Structural features of letter writing such as date and address are present

Personal greeting

Outlines the reason for writing and signals what the contents of the letter will be

Informal language suits the audience and purpose

Re-telling recent events using past tense
Brackets show personalisation for the recipient of the letter

Direct reference to the recipient also personalises the letter and differentiates it from a simple recount of events

Detailed description creates imagery for the recipient

Use of exclamation marks highlight emotion

he was really brave.

We started walking through the waist high water quickly because we thought there was going to be an aftermath, I was walking behind Andy and I saw blood pouring out of his leg, turning the water red. I tried to get closer to him so I could get a better look at it, there was a huge gash. I told him and he was about to faint, we got some leaves and wrapped them tightly around his leg so he wouldn't lose any more blood. Andy asked some villagers where the closest hospital was with hope of finding his father in there, they said it was a few miles away and that they would take us there.

Within a couple of hours we arrived at the huge hospital full of thousands of people that had been hurt during the tsunami, we thought we had no hope of finding Uncle Tuoc in this place! As we entered the hospital. Andy asked everyone if they had seen a man with the name Tuoc Nguyen, we walked past a room with a lady standing at the end of the bed. Andy tapped her on the shoulder because she was one of the nurses. When she turned around I looked at the name tag on her top and it said 'Lang Nguyen'. It was MUM! I cried. Mum squealed and hugged me so tightly. She told me she was so sorry for leaving. I felt so relieved and happy; I don't think the smile has left my face since!

Oh, by the way, we DID find Uncle Tuoc in the hospital, he is ok, just a few scratches and cuts like the rest of us.

As you can probably imagine, it has been one of the scariest moments of my life and also one of the best!

I hope everything is ok back home. I'll see you really soon. For now I'm going to make the most of this time with my mum. Give my love to Grandfather.

Lots of love from Minh.

Longer sentences indicate the hectic nature of the experience while shorter sentences add emphasis to important events

Use of capitals for emphasis

Personal message and sign off to conclude, shows the recipient how the sender feels about them

From: Modified student work sample Craigieburn S.C 2013