

Dear Grandpa,

Hi, how are you? I hope you and Grandma are well. Mum tells me you're off to Spain next month and I wondered if I could come too? I could help carry the luggage and **translate** for you because, as you know, I've been learning Spanish this year. You and Grandma are the greatest grandparents in the world and I love spending quality time with you. I finish school in three weeks so I wouldn't even be missing any lessons – perfect!

Anyway, the real reason I am writing is to thank you for the amazing book you sent me for my birthday. We were learning about the solar system the other day so I was able to take it into school with me to show the class. I used it to produce a PowerPoint presentation on the **phases** of the moon; Mr Johnson was very impressed!

I visited my new school again last Wednesday – I still can't get over how massive it is! I'm definitely going to get lost. They showed us where some of our lessons will be but I've already forgotten which corridor to go down and which flight of stairs to take. Stairs. They actually have stairs! Brilliant! The science labs were ace too. We got to play with **Bunsen burners**; my **current** school would never have trusted us with gas and flames!

Our form tutor seems really nice though. Her name is Mrs Robinson and she reminds me of Grandma! She even wears her glasses on the end of her nose and peers over them when she's talking! Luckily, there are a few people I know in my tutor group: George, Jonnie (that boy you don't like) and Jamie. I'm so gutted that Sam is going to a different school; I'm really going to miss him. It would have been fun getting lost with him. I don't fancy getting lost on my own.

On a happier note though, the **canteen** is totally awesome! They have **vending** machines where you can buy drinks, chocolate and crisps. The food counter serves bacon rolls, pizza and chips so I'm never taking a packed lunch again! At lunchtime some of us played football on a proper pitch with real goals and not just cones on the playground to act as goal posts!

Jonathan Smith's brother told him that bigger kids flush your head down the toilet! I was lying in bed thinking about it the other night; it makes me sick just imagining it! Jennie Jones also said that big kids take your lunch money too; she says it happened to her cousin. Do you think that's true Grandpa? I really wish that Sam was going to be with me. He's so much bigger than me and I reckon they wouldn't do it with him around.

Mum's taking me to buy my new uniform on Saturday. We have to wear a tie and **blazer**! Mum says I'll look really smart and handsome but I think I'll look **scrawny** and stupid! School rules state that we can't wear trainers either! How am I supposed to play football at lunchtime wearing sensible shoes and a blazer? If we break the rules we get **detention**! We are taking bets that Jonnie will be the first one to get it; you've always said he's a bit of a **soundrel**!

Anyway, it's the Leavers' Concert next week. Are you and Grandma coming? I do hope so – it'll be great to see you. Mum says she's going to **blub** horribly so I need you there to stop her from **humiliating** me! I can't wait to break up for the summer but it's going to be strange leaving the school for the last time – I don't think I like change.

Lots and lots of love,

Your slightly **anxious** grandson, Andy xxx

Dear Andy,

Thank you so much for the letter! I do so love hearing from you. I am delighted that you like the book since your Grandmother and I spent an awfully long time trying to choose the correct one; I am pleased we did a good job.

In answer to your first **request**: no, you cannot come to Spain with us. We intend to have a very quiet, relaxing time by the pool (reading and napping) and **consequently** you will be horribly bored. However you are quite correct, we are the best grandparents in the world! As such, we would like to invite you to stay for a week during the holidays. I will telephone your mother to make the **appropriate** arrangements.

Your Grandmother and I believe you to be a very kind, clever and funny young man and yes, I know we are **biased**, but I truly believe you will have a marvellous time at your new school. I know you are very fond of Sam but you can still play with him after school or at the weekends. Do not forget that there will be lots of people starting on the same day as you and they are all going to be nervous; just think of all the new friends you could **potentially** make.

As for people flushing your head down the toilet – that rumour has been around since I was at school! I can safely say that I have never met anyone who has ever had that happen to them and I am **ancient**, according to you! However, I can not guarantee that everyone will be kind to you all of the time: humans are very **complex** creatures and we all do mean things occasionally. All I will say is that you need to tell someone. If Mrs Robinson is anything like your Grandmother, she will do everything she can to make sure you are safe and happy, but only if she knows that there is a problem in the first place.

Your recent letter has given me some cause for concern, in particular this gambling habit you seem to have developed. I would like you to know that I do not approve of placing bets on specific outcomes. Although in the case of Jonnie receiving the first detention of the term, you have my full support (I don't mind betting on a sure thing – just don't tell your Grandmother).

I have to agree with your mother; I am certain you will look very dashing in your blazer and tie. It is impossible for any grandchild of mine to look scrawny and stupid – it is just not in our **genes**. However, I am concerned that your blazer will not fit you for very long due to the amount of pizza you plan to **consume**!

Please do not worry about starting your new school. I know that it is nice to be with the same people every day and to follow the same timetable week in and week out: it is familiar and safe. But you should see change as an exciting **opportunity** to meet new people and to learn new things; you will soon get used to your new environment and I know you will meet some amazing people who might just turn out to be lifelong friends.

I will talk to you properly next week when we come to the Leavers' Concert. You are quite correct – I do fear that your mother will be an emotional wreck. I feel that she would benefit from our support!

I will see you presently,

Your very proud Grandpa xxx

When does Andy finish school?

‘You and Grandma are the greatest grandparents in the world and I love spending quality time with you.’ Why does Andy say this?

What type of text is this?

Identify 3 features of the text which suggests it is written in an informal style.

Why did Andy actually write the letter?

‘George, Jonnie (that boy you don’t like) and Jamie.’ What is the purpose of the brackets?

Who do you think is Andy’s best friend?

Identify 3 things that Andy is looking forward to about his new school.

Who doesn’t Grandpa like and why?

What does his new school uniform consist of?

Why do you think Mum might ‘blub’ at the Leavers’ Concert?

What were Grandpa’s reasons for not letting Andy go to Spain with them?

What did you think Grandpa meant when he said that ‘...humans are very complex creatures...’?

Do you think that Andy and his Grandpa have a good relationship and why?

Do you think that Grandpa’s response has helped Andy feel better or worse about starting a new school?

Write the meaning of each of these words.

translate _____

phases _____

Bunsen burner _____

current _____

canteen _____

vending _____

blazer _____

scrawny _____

detention _____

scoundrel _____

blub _____

humiliating _____

anxious _____

request _____

consequently _____

appropriate _____

biased _____

potentially _____

ancient _____

complex _____

genes _____

consume _____

opportunity _____

Dear Grandpa – Vocab 2

Select four words from Vocab 1 and use them in an interesting sentence.

These informal phrases have been selected from the letters. Use the word bank to identify their formal alternatives.

<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
awesome	
gutted	
you've	
reckon	
kids	
blub	

Word Bank

children

you have

weep

tremendous

imagine

devastated

A relative clause allows the writer to add additional information to the main clause. It is usually marked with commas e.g. *The toddler, who was tired and hungry, had a tantrum in the shop.*

Add commas to the sentences below to help separate the relative clause.

1. The clouds which were white and fluffy floated through the sky.
2. The singer who had lost his voice had to cancel the show.
3. The dragon which was scaly and ferocious stomped through the village.
4. Sam a young boy of five was excited about starting school.
5. The mouse who was trying to escape from the cat raced through the hole in the fence.
6. The lady who was old and fragile tried to cross the road.

Now have a go at adding your own relative clause to these sentences. Top Tip – Relative clauses often begin with the words who, which, that or with.

The car raced along the track.

The bird flew through the sky.

The baby cuddled his mother.

Dear Grandpa – Oral Teacher Questions

When does Andy finish school? **In three weeks time**

‘You and Grandma are the greatest grandparents in the world and I love spending quality time with you.’ Why does Andy say this? **He is trying to persuade them to take him to Spain.**

What type of text is this? **Letter writing**

Identify 3 features of the text which suggests it is written in an informal style. **Use of Dear and first name, signed off with love, very personal points discussed, use of contracted words, casual, chatty language, use of kisses**

Why did Andy actually write the letter? **To say thank you for his book**

‘George, Jonnie (that boy you don’t like) and Jamie.’ What is the purpose of the brackets? **They add extra information to a sentence.**

Who do you think is Andy’s best friend? **Sam, because he is upset they aren’t going to the same school, we know he is going to miss him and he feels safe around him.**

Identify 3 things that Andy is looking forward to about his new school. **The science labs, Bunsen burners, Mrs Robinson, that some of his friends are in his tutor group, the vending machine, the canteen and playing football on the pitch**

Who doesn’t Grandpa like and why? **Grandpa doesn’t like Jonnie, he thinks he’s a bit of a scoundrel who is most likely to get detention first.**

What does his new school uniform consist of? **A tie, blazer and smart shoes (no trainers)**

Why do you think Mum might ‘blub’ at the Leavers’ Concert? **He has been at the school a long time, so it is the end of an era for both of them. She can see that he is growing up and she is probably very proud of what he has achieved so far.**

What were Grandpa’s reasons for not letting Andy go to Spain with them? **He knew Andy would be bored because they would be doing lots of reading and napping.**

What did you think Grandpa meant when he said that ‘...humans are very complex creatures...’? **Complex means complicated, so he understands that nobody is completely good or bad, we are all capable of doing kind or mean deeds for a variety of reasons.**

Do you think that Andy and his Grandpa have a good relationship and why? **Yes, because Andy feels that he can confide in his Grandpa, and tell him things he is worried about. Grandpa is obviously very proud of his grandson, and attempts to support him. They also enjoy spending time together because they are arranging future visits.**

Do you think that Grandpa’s response has helped Andy feel better or worse about starting a new school? **Answers should recognise that it is Grandpa’s intention to make Andy feel better, by squashing rumours, reminding him of how lovely he is and by highlighting the positives of starting a new school e.g. new subjects and friends.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

translate – turn words into a different language

phases – stages of development such as the form of the Moon as seen in the sky

Bunsen burner – equipment that produces a single open flame, used for heating and sterilising

current – happening or existing now

canteen – a place where food is served

vending – to sell something from a machine

blazer – a jacket bearing the badge of a particular school

scrawny – thin and bony

detention – a form of punishment where students must miss break time or stay in after school

scoundrel – a dishonourable or unprincipled person

blub – to weep noisily

humiliating – to damage publicly, somebody's dignity or pride

anxious – feeling nervous or worried

request – to ask somebody for something

consequently – because of this

appropriate – fitting, suitable for the occasion or circumstances

biased – unfair preference for something

potentially – possible, but as yet not actual

ancient – very old

complex – complicated

genes – basic unit of heredity which transmits characteristics from one generation to the next

consume – to eat or drink

opportunity – a chance

classroomsecrets.com

Dear Grandpa – Y5m/Y6s (Black) – Vocab **ANSWERS**

Like this? Find more
differentiated Transition
activities [here](#).

Dear Grandpa – Vocab 2

Select four words from Vocab 1 and use them in an interesting sentence.

These informal phrases have been selected from the letters. Use the word bank to identify their formal alternatives.

<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
awesome	tremendous
gutted	devastated
you've	you have
reckon	imagine
kids	children
blub	weep

Word Bank

children	you have	weep	tremendous	imagine	devastated
----------	----------	------	------------	---------	------------

A relative clause allows the writer to add additional information to the main clause. It is usually marked with commas e.g. *The toddler, who was tired and hungry, had a tantrum in the shop.*

Add commas to the sentences below to help separate the relative clause.

1. The clouds, **which were white and fluffy**, floated through the sky.
2. The singer, **who had lost his voice**, had to cancel the show.
3. The dragon, **which was scaly and ferocious**, stomped through the village.
4. Sam, **a young boy of five**, was excited about starting school.
5. The mouse, **who was trying to escape from the cat**, raced through the hole in the fence.
6. The lady, **who was old and fragile**, tried to cross the road.

Now have a go at adding your own relative clause to these sentences. Top Tip – Relative clauses often begin with the words who, which, that or with.

The car raced along the track.

Various answers

The bird flew through the sky.

The baby cuddled his mother.
