

99 WRITING

Henry & Matthew & Santiago

by Henry & Matthew &
Santiago, 826CHI

TYPE
NARRATIVE

Dear Matthew,

Today I am going to write about something that I like to do. I like to read Amulet books. The Amulet books are the best comic books I have ever read (and the only comic books I read).

I wonder if you like any sports like soccer, volleyball, basketball, or baseball. Or, do you like any video games? Do you like watching scary movies or cartoon movies?

Other things I like are songs like “Stressed Out” by Twenty One Pilots. I like listening to the song and thinking about if the song could happen to me. I wonder, which part of the song do you like?

Well, Matthew, I think this is all. Goodbye and read you next time. I mean see you next time!

Sincerely,
Santiago

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Dear Santiago,

I like to watch the Bears play because they're really good. Also, I watch soccer on TV sometimes but not all the time. My three favorite songs are "Hit the Dab," "I Gotta Feeling," and "Thunderstruck."

I like those songs because all of them have a really good beat. Also "Thunderstruck" has a really heavy beat that shakes up my mom's car when we listen to it. What are your favorite songs? Do you like AC/DC? If you like the band AC/DC, that is good because me and you will have something in common.

In conclusion, I hope to see you soon to find out if you like the band AC/ DC and what songs you like, other than the one by Twenty One Pilots that you mentioned in your letter. Also, I hope we can be friends. What brand of shoes do you like?

Sincerely,

Matthew

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Dear Santiago,

Hi, my name is Henry. I'm Matthew's partner in English class for the letter writing assignment. I noticed in your letter that you have a lot in common with us. For example: both of us like sports and music. In my letter, I will tell you a lot about myself.

I'm an avid fan of sports. I especially like cross country, swimming, and downhill skiing. I enjoy cross country, as I enjoy being fast and just getting a good workout. It gives me a chance to get outside and get fresh air. I get motivated to run by the terrific advice from my coach, teammates, and family. Me and Matt also did downhill skiing with our school's Special Olympics team in January. This was especially fun, as we made new friends and tried something we had never had the opportunity to do. I am also on the swim team, which is a great sport to compete in.

I have some questions to ask you as well. What type of music do you like? What do you like to do for fun? Do you have any favorite TV shows or movies? My favorite bands include Twenty One Pilots, Daft Punk, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Slipknot, and The Beatles. When not in school, I enjoy playing video games, singing, and helping cook. My favorite TV show is Doctor Who and my favorite movie is The Dark Knight.

I hope you find me to be a very cool and talented guy. You seem like a cool dude from what I've read in your letter!

Until next time,

Henry

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Dear Matthew and Henry,

I wish I could write you each a letter, but I think you are both so cool so I am writing you both in this letter together. I hope you like it.

The first thing I would want to write to you guys is about my person or place that is special to me. I don't know about you, but my special person is my mom. Why, you might ask? Well, my mom is always cooking for the family (sometimes my dad helps). She gives us a lot of things and we don't even give anything to her. My mom is shy but tough. Why? Well, because when we (me and my brother) get in trouble, it is like she is Bowser and I am Mini Mario from Super Mario Brothers. Sometimes I win in the video game, but in real life it is always like GAME OVER. My mom makes the most delicious food and I smell her cooking every day. YUM! When she makes beans you have to step two feet away from my brother. (I actually don't mean this in a mean way.)

Another thing that I am going to be talking about (well, actually, writing about) is what freedom means to me. To start this up, I think freedom means to me that you can do anything you want. Once on a dark, dark night, me, my brother, and my little sister were in my room playing Wii. My mom was sleeping in her bed and we got to play alone. I

think that was freedom.

Do you both like video games? If you do, which ones? Do you have consoles? Do you like music? How about Legos? I can't think of any more questions. Read you next time.

Sincerely,

Santiago

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Dear Santiago,

I have a lot to tell you about high school and my experience skiing on my school's ski team with the Special Olympics. It's really fun because you get to ski down hills really fast, and you do it with kids just like you who have disabilities too. That is what makes it fun. The coolest part is when you get a medal, and the medals are very shiny and very cool looking. I have never fallen on skis before when going down a hill in a competition, but I have fallen during practice.

Have you ever been bullied at school before? I used to get bullied at school and it was not fun. It also hurt me inside and made me extremely angry. If you get bullied at school, I understand how you feel.

I hope you meet me in person so I can talk to you, so we can be friends, and so I can

walk around with you in the hallways of Amundsen.

Sincerely,

Matthew

P.S. I won three medals skiing this year in the Special Olympics!

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Dear Santiago,

I have an interesting story to tell you today! It's about how I won a gold medal in downhill skiing. I will explain how even if you aren't the best at something, you can practice and keep trying to get better. Follow me down the slopes as I tell you how, with enough practice, you can achieve anything!

It began in January 2016. I was on my way to the ski resort in Galena, IL. It was my first day skiing with my school's Special Olympics Ski Team. After a three-hour-long bus ride of eternity, we made it. Within an hour, I would be skiing! The first challenge, however, came when we were getting into our ski gear. Getting on the bundles of clothes was okay, but it was the boots that were the main challenge! After getting bundled up, we walked down to the equipment room, where the boots and skis were. Me and my teammates Matt, Noel, and Henry all struggled to fit the boots on! After

help from coaches Mr. Ward, Mr. Craig, and Mr. Binder, we learned how to walk in the boots. Boy, was it painful. They were heavy and felt like they were made of lead! After that, we learned how to take our skis off and how to fall. Both were equally a bit challenging, but getting up took a while, as we had to slowly move our arms backwards and walk backwards to get up.

Then, the second day came along. That day we learned how to do a “pizza” with our skis to slow down and “french fry” to go fast. We went down the Bunny and Rookie’s Ridge trails. Going down the hills and learning how to slow down was a breeze for me. I also learned how to turn, which I wasn’t as good at. I kept crashing and nearly hurting others! However, after getting help from Mr. Ward and Mr. Craig, I slowly got better. I even got to do down a bigger hill. It was kind of scary, but I’m used to it now. After a long day of skiing, we were just one day away from the competition.

After an exhausting day and a night of restless sleep, the competition was finally here. I was confident that I would win some gold. Me, Matt, Noel, and Henry were all a little nervous, but we all hoped to go on to the championships. We all were allowed an hour of practice before the games began, so I went over to my usual Rookie’s Ridge trail for a few laps. Mr. Ward, Mr. Binder, and Mr. Craig were all confident we’d do great!

When I was ready to compete, I got a little more nervous, as I felt I was going to do badly. However, after racing down and avoiding the colored flags, me, Matt, and Henry

made Amundsen proud by winning gold! Unfortunately, Noel didn't qualify, but we still cheered him up and told him he did great anyway. In the end, I've learned that with enough practice and confidence, you can achieve anything!

Sincerely,

Henry

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Dear Matthew and Henry,

Some weeks ago in a school not very far away, it was Valentine's Day. And on Valentine's Day, we had a dance. Do you guys have a dance when it is a holiday?

My Valentine's Day started fine. I usually come late to school and I forget things and my day is not the greatest, but this day started okay. It was Tuesday, so I knew 826CHI was coming to write with us during literacy class. Time passed fast with them in our class, then I had to finish my social studies project on the computer before I could go to the dance. Then Ms. Ramirez said, "Okay, students. Line up." I checked the clock: 1 p.m. The dance! I was almost done with my project—only two more sentences and then, I was finally done!

I was happy because at the end of the hall I could hear the loud music coming from the

gym. Outside, I saw my classmate Balta and he told me, “Crystal is waiting for you.” I said, “Okay, thanks.” When I went inside the gym, the music was even louder. I asked my friends Jacob and David if they’d seen her. “Nope,” they both said. A few minutes later, my brother came toward me. “Hey, bro.” I had totally forgotten about him. He was with our neighbor, Heriberto. Heriberto is a cool kid. I couldn’t find Crystal, so for a lot of the dance I was mostly hanging out with my brother and Heriberto.

I finally found Crystal, and we got to talk and dance for what felt like five minutes. I did not bring the card that I was going to give to her. Instead, I bought her candy. It went fine for me. Oh, I forgot to tell you: if you were wondering who Crystal is, she is the girl who I’ve been going out with for three weeks.

See you in June, I think.

Sincerely,
Santiago

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Dear Santiago,

I think it was very cool and brave that you were able to dance with Crystal. I was never that brave in eighth grade. The one time I was brave was when I sang and performed

with my school's rock band. I had to work up a lot of courage to sing, but I had a ton of fun, even with a couple of mistakes.

This was in eighth grade, a month before I would graduate from middle school, and it was the day of my school's variety show. One of the performers was the school rock band, for which I was one of the singers. We'd been practicing for months. I got to sing on a couple of songs, "Sunshine of Your Love" by Cream and "Do I Wanna Know" by the Arctic Monkeys. I typically get nervous singing on stage, but I felt a lot more confident that day.

It was showtime and I was on stage, singing casually for the first song with two other singers who were sharing a mic. It was a little uncomfortable because the stage was so small. Then, on the second song, the other mic broke! I was the only one singing. I quietly and nervously sang more of "Do I Wanna Know," but remembering that the show must go on, I gathered confidence to continue singing! By the end, I felt a lot more relaxed and the crowd even cheered me on, seeing that I sang bravely no matter what happened. What do you think of my story of bravery? To answer your question about if Amundsen holds holiday dances, the answer is no. However, we do have fun homecoming and winter dances! Hope you are well!

Henry

P.S. Good job again on dancing with Crystal! ?