The Letter That Came Back

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Have you sent a letter?
2. What does an address tell us?
3. Why might a letter come back?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Ben finished a letter for Grandma.
He drew their new classroom below it.
Dad brought a clean envelope.
Ben folded the paper carefully.



He wrote Grandma's name across the front.
Then he copied her street address.
Dad helped him add the stamp.
They posted it after lunch.



Ben waited for Grandma to call.
He wanted her to see the classroom.
Two days passed without a call.
He wondered if she was busy.



On Thursday, a letter came home.
Ben saw his own drawing through it.
His envelope had come back.
There was a label on its front.



Dad read the label aloud.

The address needed more information.

Ben looked at Grandma's name.

He had spelled it correctly.



He checked the street name next.

It matched the one he remembered.

The town name looked right too.

What else did the letter need?



"Did Grandma move?" Ben asked.

Dad shook his head gently.

"She still lives in the same flat."

Ben looked at the envelope again.



He remembered her tall brick building.
There were many windows in it.
Grandma waved from one upstairs.
Her window had a red curtain.



"How will the post worker know?"
Ben pointed to the street number.
"Lots of people live in that building."
Dad brought a box from the shelf.



The box held cards from their family.
Ben found one with a beach picture.
Grandma had sent it last month.
Her writing filled the other side.



Dad turned the postcard over.
Grandma's own address was at the top.
Ben put it beside his envelope.
They compared the first lines.



Both had Grandma's full name.

Both had the same street number.

Both had the same street name.

But Grandma's card had another line.



The extra line gave her flat number.
Ben had left that line out.
He looked back at the building picture.
One street door led to many homes.



"I sent it to the building."

Ben traced his incomplete address.

"But not to Grandma's own flat."

Dad nodded beside the two papers.



They checked the rest as well.
The town and postcode matched.
Only the flat number was missing.
Ben found a fresh envelope.



"Can I just guess the number?"

He remembered several doors upstairs.

Dad pointed to Grandma's postcard.

"Use the address she gave us."



Ben copied every line in order.

He paused at the flat number.

Then he added the town and postcode.

Dad checked each line with him.



The new envelope was complete.

But Ben had another question.

"How did the old one find us?"

Dad turned the returned envelope over.



Their home address was on the back.
Dad had added it before posting.
"That is our return address."
Ben touched the small neat lines.



"It helped the letter come home."

He looked at both envelope sides.

One address was for its journey out.

The other helped it come back.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What did the return label say?
2. What did the postcard help them find?
3. Why did the flat number matter?
4. What helped the letter come home?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What should Ben check next?
2. How could Grandma help confirm it?
3. What could he add to his drawing?
4. How will he know it arrived?



Ben added their address to the new back.
Dad checked that one as well.
They put Grandma's postcard away safely.
The new envelope stayed on the table.



Ben opened the returned letter carefully.
His classroom picture was still inside.
The paper had only one small crease.
He smoothed it with his hand.



He wanted to add one more thing.
He drew the library by their classroom.
Grandma liked hearing about his books.
He added a short line below it.



Dad called Grandma before they posted it.

Ben told her what had happened.

She read her address aloud slowly.

Ben followed each line with his finger.



The number matched her postcard.
It matched his new envelope too.
"I missed the flat number before."
Grandma thanked him for checking it.



At the post office, Dad waited nearby.
Ben showed the new envelope at the counter.
The worker checked its size and stamp.
Then it went into the mail tray.



Ben watched it leave his hands.
This time, all the lines were there.
He hoped the picture would arrive soon.
Dad held the door for him.



At school, Mina asked about Grandma.
Ben told her about the returned letter.
He did not show her private addresses.
He drew a pretend building instead.



His building had six little doors.

Each door had its own number.

Mina pointed to one upstairs door.

"The street number is not enough."



Ben drew an arrow to that door.

He added a made-up flat number.

Max drew a post bag below it.

They followed the pretend letter's route.



"A missing line changed the trip."

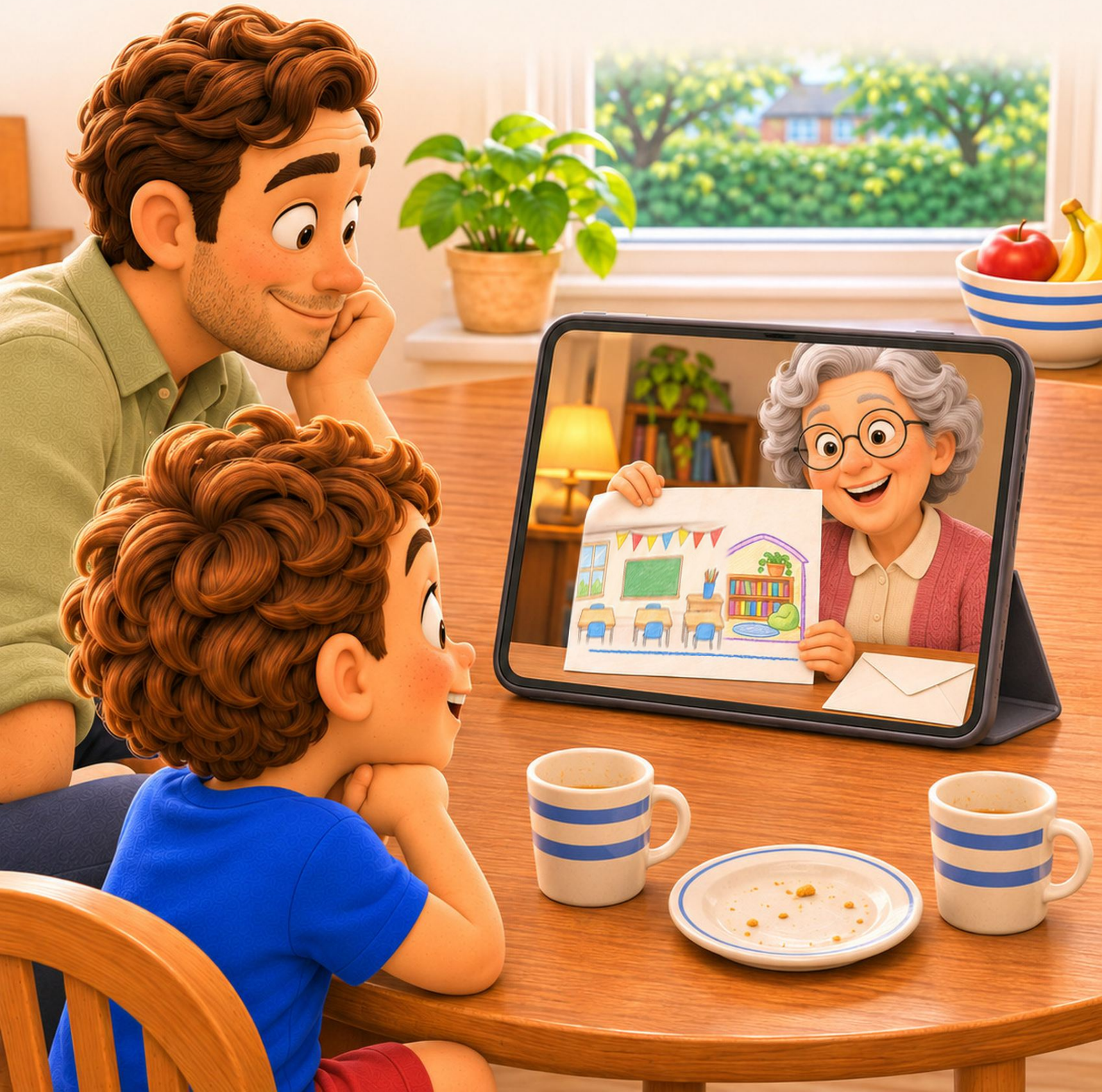
Ben looked at the little arrow.

"It did not change my picture."

Mina drew the letter arriving safely.



On Monday, Grandma called after tea.
She held Ben's letter near her phone.
He could see his classroom drawing.
The new envelope was beside her.



"I like your library corner."
Grandma pointed to the added shelf.
Ben told her about the animal book.
Dad sat nearby and listened.



Grandma showed him her own book.
It had a picture of the sea.
Ben remembered her beach postcard.
He was glad they had kept it.



After the call, Ben found the old envelope.
He put it beside his pretend building.
The missing line was easy to spot now.
He drew a small arrow beside it.



Dad gave him a little address book.
They copied her full address inside.
Ben left space between each line.
He kept the book in a drawer.



A week later, another card arrived.
It showed a bright red boat.
Grandma had written about her walk.
Ben checked the back before reading.



Her return address had every line.
Ben found the flat number at once.
Then he read about the boat.
It had passed the beach that morning.



Ben wanted to send another drawing.

He chose a clean sheet of paper.

His address book waited beside him.

This time, he knew what to check.



He drew the boat beside his classroom.
Then he found a fresh envelope.
He copied the address line by line.
Dad checked it before they went out.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Which address line was missing?
2. Why did Ben compare the postcard?
3. What did the return address do?
4. What helped with the next letter?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. How can you check copied details?
2. Why should you avoid guessing?
3. Who can help with private addresses?
4. What message would you send?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Check a Pretend Address

Draw an envelope with made-up details.

Show where a missing line could go.

I need to check _____

A missing line could _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

