

Dear Grandpa

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 **scoundrel**!

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

Complete these questions based on the two letters.

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?

Remind yourself of this writing feature by completing this task.

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.
