

A Thank-You in Their Own Words



Letter templates and reflection pages that help a child say something specific to a teacher — by drawing, telling or writing.

3-12

AGES

3

WAYS TO WRITE

11

PAGES

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Grown-up guide
- Draw & Tell letter
- Sentence-starter letter
- My own letter
- Because of you, I can...
- A favorite classroom memory
- The best thing you taught me
- Younger and older versions

Before You Start



Choose a page for the writer, then help them find one true detail

PAGE	WHO IT SUITS	HOW IT WORKS
Draw & Tell Letter	Ages 3–6, or anyone who prefers to draw	Draw first. A grown-up writes the child’s exact words.
Sentence–Starter Letter	Ages 6–9, early writers	Four starters; the child finishes each one.
My Own Letter	Ages 9 and up	Open lines, with questions to try if they get stuck.

HOW A GROWN-UP CAN HELP

- 1 **TALK BEFORE WRITING**
Ask about one real moment instead of “what do you like about your teacher?” — “What is something your teacher helped you do?” “When did you feel proud in class?”
- 2 **WRITE THEIR WORDS, NOT YOURS**
If you scribe, write exactly what the child says, small grammar and all. Read it back so they can change it.
- 3 **ONE TRUE DETAIL IS ENOUGH**
A single specific memory means more to a teacher than a page of compliments.
- 4 **KEEP OTHER CHILDREN PRIVATE**
Leave classmates’ names, family matters and anything about grades or behavior off the page.
- 5 **FINISH TOGETHER**
Let the child decorate, sign or add a fingerprint, then deliver the page flat in an envelope.

A GENERAL COMPLIMENT

You are the best teacher.

Thank you for everything.

You are so nice.

A SPECIFIC DETAIL

You showed me how to carry the one when I was stuck.

Thank you for saving me a seat at the reading rug on my first day.

You let me help feed the class fish when I was sad.

The right-hand column shows the difference a detail makes. The child’s own words — not these — go on the page.

Draw & Tell Letter

Ages 3–6 · draw it first, then tell a grown-up what to write



Dear _____,

MY PICTURE FOR YOU

WHAT I WANT TO TELL YOU · A GROWN-UP CAN WRITE MY WORDS

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three sets of horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

From _____ my name, or draw me

Sentence-Starter Letter

Ages 6–9 · finish each sentence with something that really happened



Dear _____,

I remember when you...

You helped me...

Because of you, I can...

Thank you for...

From _____

My Own Letter



Ages 9 and up · in your own words, about one real thing

IF YOU GET STUCK, TRY ONE OF THESE

- What did you learn this year that you could not do before?
- When did this teacher help you, even in a small way?
- What is a moment from class you will still remember next year?
- What do you hope your teacher knows?

Dear _____,

Handwriting practice lines for the letter body.

From _____

Because of You, I Can...

Younger writers · draw each step, then add a few words



1 · BEFORE

Before, it was hard for me to...

2 · WHAT HELPED

You helped me by...

3 · NOW I CAN

Now I can...

4 · THANK YOU

I want to say thank you for...

Because of You, I Can...

Older writers · one skill, from before to now



Write about your own skill — big or small. It can be about reading, a sport, making friends or not giving up.

THE SKILL I LEARNED

BEFORE

Before this year, I could not... (or I worried about...)

WHAT HELPED

What you did that helped me:

NOW I CAN

Now I can... (and here is when I did it)

THANK YOU

What I want to say to you:

My Favorite Classroom Memory

Younger writers · draw the moment, then tell it



WHEN WAS IT? (OPTIONAL)

THE MOMENT

This is what happened...

It made me feel...

FOR (TEACHER)

FROM

My Favorite Classroom Memory

Older writers · one moment, told so your teacher can picture it



WHEN WAS IT? (OPTIONAL)

WHERE WERE YOU?

A QUICK SKETCH (OPTIONAL)

WHAT HAPPENED

Tell it like a short story: where you were, what happened, how it ended.

WHO WAS THERE

Say "my table group" or "the whole class" instead of other children's names.

WHY IT STAYED WITH ME

What made this moment different from an ordinary day?

FOR (TEACHER)

FROM

The Best Thing You Taught Me

Younger writers · draw it, then finish the sentences



WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME

The best thing you taught me was...

I use it when...

FOR (TEACHER)

FROM

The Best Thing You Taught Me

Older writers · what you learned, and where you use it now



CIRCLE ONE, OR WRITE YOUR OWN

Reading

Writing

Math

Science

Art or music

Making friends

Trying again

Being brave

Something else

WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME

The thing you taught me that matters most is...

HOW I USE IT NOW

I used it when...

A MESSAGE FOR YOU

I want you to know...

FOR (TEACHER)

FROM
