

The Meaning of Home Haibinh Nguyen

I - Who is writing the letter? Why? (global understanding)

A young American girl of Vietnamese origin writes to her parents to thank them for everything they have done for her. She describes her feelings.

II - Study of the letter

Note 1: Adjectives: the adjectives in italic are suggestions made for the teachers to use as they wish.

Note 2: The use of tenses is just explained once for Present Simple, Simple Past and Past Perfect. Teachers may use other examples of the use of these tenses for the other paragraphs.

The reason for writing	Structure of the letter	Tenses	Adjectives		Expressions/Verbs
	<u>Header</u> → <u>Formule de salutation</u>				Dear Mum and Dad
<p>"... now that I am on the verge of being an adult, I feel that you need to know and understand me." <i>The young woman feels the time has come to express her feelings towards her parents</i></p>	- <u>introduction</u> → explains the main purpose of the letter	<p><u>Present Simple</u> know/I am/I feel <i>to talk about what she feels/experiences at this very moment (letter-writing)</i> <u>Simple Past</u>: wasn't/were <i>going back to the past and describing her attitude then</i> <u>Past Perfect</u>: I have grown/I have changed/I have learned <i>Bilan présent d'actions passées (assessment)</i></p>	<p><u>Attitude</u> <i>Girl</i> <i>Parents</i></p> <p>- wide-eyed /not smooth - understanding</p> <p><i>Matured/grown (during the past years../grown tremendously..)</i></p>	<p><u>Feelings</u> <i>Girl</i> <i>Parents</i></p> <p>scared proud/spirited/impatient</p>	<p>Dear Mum and Dad</p> <p>- a hear-to-heart - talk/discussion - to be on the verge of sthg - to mature</p>
Determined to tell her father how much she learned from him	<u>2nd paragraph</u> dedicated to her father		- determined/self-motivated - steadfast	<i>Grateful to her father</i>	- To be grateful to sbdy To be thankful
Needs to tell her mother how much she's also learnt from her	<u>3rd paragraph</u> dedicated to her mother			<i>grateful</i>	the meaning of home to be grateful/thankful

	<u>4th paragraph:</u>	Futur: (twice) projection into what is lying ahead/opening "You will always be there.." "I will always come back"	<i>Lonely/excluded</i> <i>Generous</i> <i>courageous</i>	<i>tired/discouraged</i> <i>weary/not discouraged</i> <i>ostracized</i> <i>lonely/resilient (elastic-lively)</i>	You've helped me create my life (l.33) to be uprooted/to feel one doesn't belong to cross a culture to feel ostracized
<i>She realizes how important her home is to her. She carries the history of her family and Vietnamese culture.</i>	<u>Conclusion (last paragraph)</u>		<i>Reconciliated with herself/her origins</i>	<i>Supportive</i> <i>Loving</i> <i>Peaceful</i>	Reconciled with the fact that the girl is Vietnamese-American. to be supportive. Dreams that have been instilled. to make one's dream come true.
Salutation to her parents	<u>Letter ending</u>				With all the love that you have given me. Fondly, your daughter who loves you.

Text Vocabulary:

Paragraph 1

l. 2 To be on the verge of sthg = to be ready to do sth

l.5 smooth (adj.) = calm, peaceful (context)

Paragraph 2

l.15: steadfast = constant/dependable, someone you can rely on

l.16: college=university

Paragraph 3

l.21: to pace back and forth=to walk back and forth (aller et venir)

Paragraph 4

l.30 weary = tired

to be uprooted=to feel one doesn't belong

to feel ostracized=to feel rejected

