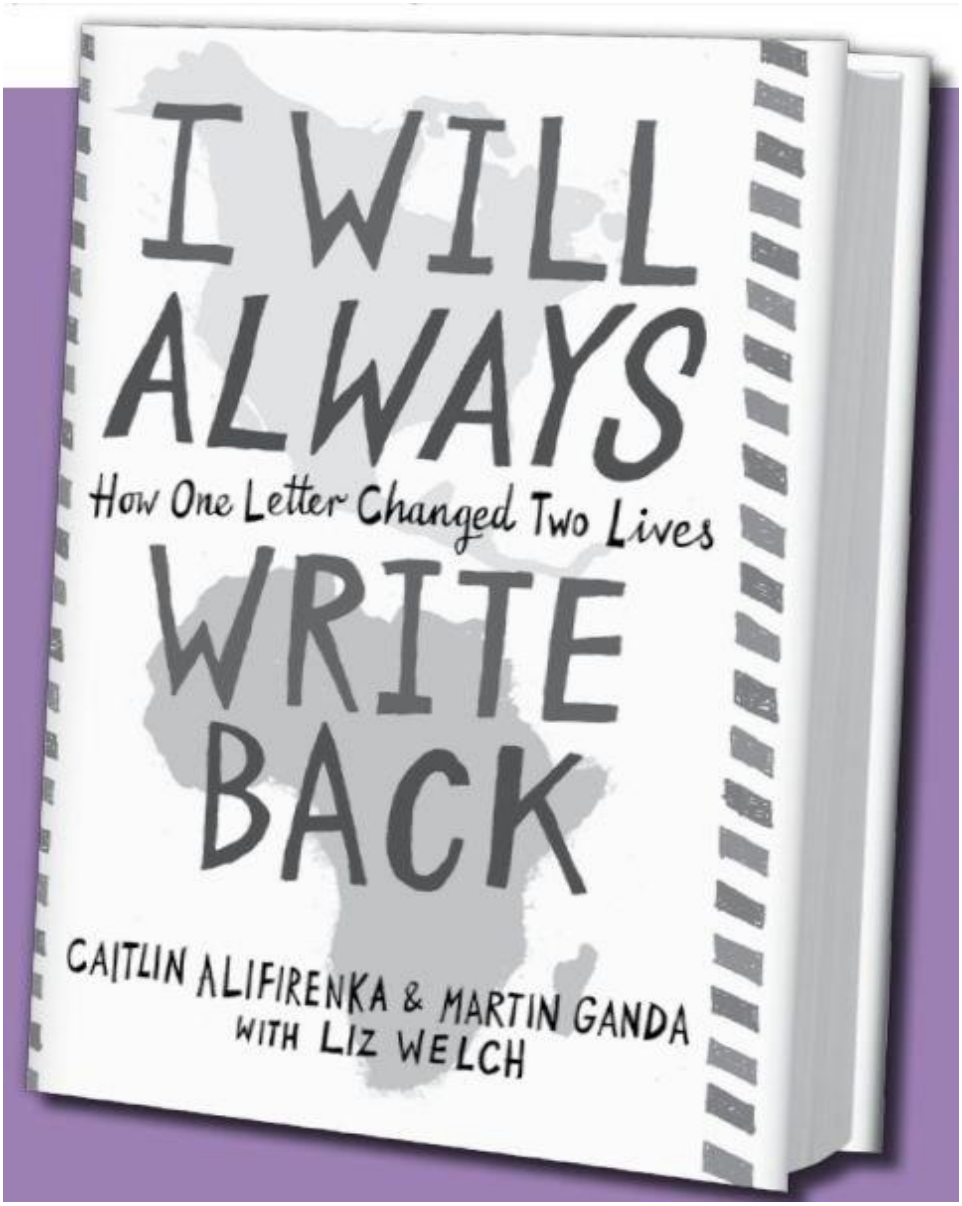


I WILL ALWAYS WRITE BACK

Anticipation Guide

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. What is a memoir?

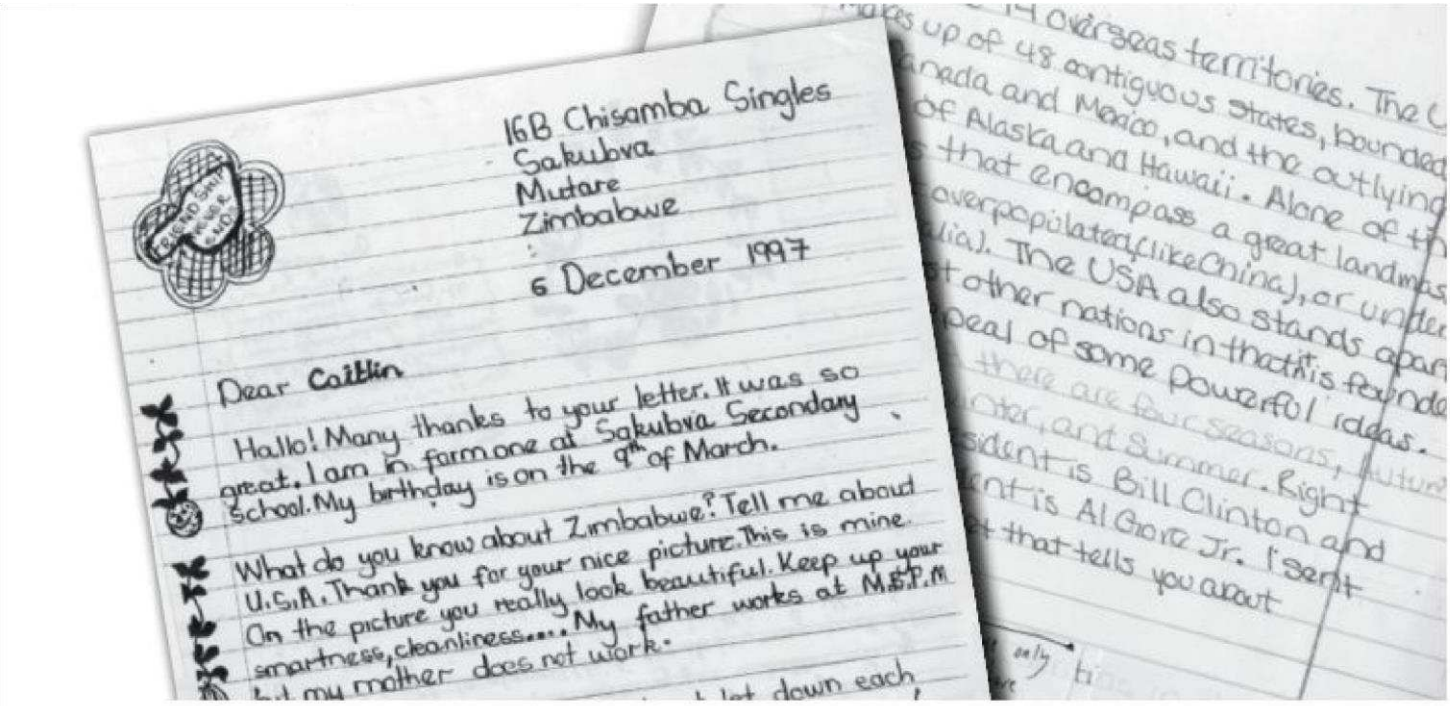
What do you know about pen pals? Have you ever had one? If so, explain. If not, would you think you would like to have one? Why or why not?

What do you know about the word *culture*? What comes to mind when you hear that word?

Key Components of Contrasting Cultures.

Complete the following chart, filling in what you know and what you want to know about the cultures of America vs that of Africa. Toward the end of the book, our authors show us the stark contrast and we will return to this topic.

	What do you know?	What do you want to know?
America		
Zimbabwe		



Rate the following using this scale:

1-never 2-rarely 3-sometimes 4-frequently 5-all the time

1. _____ I think about what life would be like if I was born in a different time period.
2. _____ I wonder what life is like for teenagers in other parts of the world.
3. _____ I wish I had someone to communicate with who was my age and with whom I could share everything, but who lived somewhere else so they had an "outsiders" perspective.
4. _____ I think about travelling to other places, and I want to make a difference in the world outside of the United States.
5. _____I read international news and I know what is going on outside of my own country.
6. _____ I feel empathy/concern for those less fortunate than me.
7. _____ I am concerned about my own problems only and my immediate family and friends.
8. _____ I communicate with someone outside of my own country.
9. _____ I volunteer my time to help others.
10. _____ I willingly give things I own away when I hear that someone else is in need.

Which of the ten things above would you be willing to do more frequently?

Explain why you chose that one AND how you believe it would impact you.

Rate the following global issues on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the MOST important and 10 being the LEAST important to you. 1 would be the one that you would most be interested in finding a job or volunteering to help people who have suffered from that problem.

_____ homelessness
_____ hunger
_____ lack of clean water
_____ broken families
_____ war/violence
_____ religious persecution
_____ natural disasters
_____ climate changes
_____ addictions to alcohol or drugs
_____ sickness and disease

What other issues are you aware of that are of global concern? How could you do something to help?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Please answer the following in complete sentences and make sure to answer all parts of the question. You may either hand-write or type your responses. If you type your responses, you must PRINT them at home.

1. Why does Caitlin choose Zimbabwe for her pen pal, and not somewhere more relatable, like Germany or England.
2. Describe Martin's day to day life. In what ways is it similar or different to Caitlin's?
3. Explain what Caitlin learns from Martin's second letter.
4. Why is Martin's father impressed with Martin's correspondence to Caitlin and her picture?
5. Does Caitlin understand Martin's life? How is her idea of his life different from reality.
6. How does Martin feel about Caitlin's dollar? Why? Does this make you think about the money you have right now differently?
7. Describe some of the struggles Martin faces just to send his letters.
8. Why does Caitlin keep disregarding some of the things Martin says like how one shirt "greatly increased [his] wardrobe"? Why do you think she misses these details?
9. Describe some of the things the boys in Zimbabwe are enamored with from the American letters.
10. Why does Caitlin feel bad telling Martin so much teen drama? Should she? How do we keep our everyday problems in perspective?

11. By January 1999, how has Martin's life changed? Why does Martin decide to tell Caitlin the truth about his life?
12. List the ways Martin proves he is a hard worker. What could you learn from his examples? What do they make you appreciate?
13. Cite evidence which reveals Martin's feelings toward Caitlin and her privileged life.
14. Paraphrase some of the problems Caitlin faces in trying to get Martin the first care box. What are some of the things Martin receives from it? Classify the items from the most important to the least and defend your answers.
15. Compare and contrast Stephie and Caitlin.
16. What aspects of Martin's photos accurately represent his life and what aspects are embellished, if any?
17. Describe the boys from Martist Brothers School and compare them to Martin.
18. Compare and contrast the Zimbabwe clinic to the one found in America. What can be done about the inequality?
19. How does 9/11 change Caitlin's perspective on the world? Does it impact Martin as well?
20. Describe some of the ways the Internet helps Martin. Can you imagine your life without it now?
21. What might some colleges (like Gwynedd Mercy) decline Martin's request? Why was Martin so surprised at how easily he acquired a passport?
22. Explain why Caitlin disregards Damon's concerns about her studying too much and wanting to go to college.
23. In what ways is Wallace similar to Martin? In what ways is he different?
24. List the struggles Martin faces in trying to get to America.
25. How has Martin's attitude toward Caitlin and her family changed throughout the years?
26. Compare and contrast Damon's and Caitlin's attitudes toward learning and college.
27. Describe Chigodora and the villagers that inhabit it.
28. Is Caitlin's mother optimistic about Martin's future? Explain.

29. List some cultural differences between the USA and Zimbabwe. Which ones do you think are important, if any? Why?
30. Explain how Martin manages to get into Villenova with a full scholarship. How does this change the trajectory of more than just his own life?
31. Describe Martin's feelings toward his trip to America and the lost airplane ticket.
32. How does Martin greet Caitlin's family? Why?
33. Describe some of the culture-shock Martin faces in America.
34. Summarize Martin and Caitlin's life as it's described in the epilogue.

Gesu School- Summer Reading 2019

Requirements:

Students entering grade 7 are required to read

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives By: Martin Ganda, Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch

- **As you read, complete the packet on the following pages. You will hand this in for a grade when we return to school in August.**
- **The anticipation guide must be completed on the worksheet.**
- **You may handwrite or type the comprehension questions.**
- **Be prepared to take a test on the novel during the first few weeks of school. The test will include comprehension questions as well as short responses.**

- **It is recommended that you purchase a copy of the novel to bring to class in August. If you choose to check-out a book from your local library that is fine.**

- **Enjoy your reading!**