

Wednesday, September 23rd

Dear Friend,

Hello from 7th grade. My name is Raquel, and I am excited for the opportunity to write to you today. My teacher said that you lived at Carolina Meadows and I am looking forward to becoming your pen pal so that I can know you better. Recently, we read a short Japanese folktale called, "The Wise Old Woman." In it, a young ruler demanded that all of the elder people in the village must leave to live in the mountains. He didn't realize the wisdom that seniors possessed, and had to learn his lesson. Ultimately, the theme (point of the story) is that people who have had more life experience are more wise. I am hoping that I become more wise through my friendship with you, and I look forward to speaking with you about events I might not understand.

Now, I'll tell you a little bit about me! I have one sister, live in Chapel Hill, and enjoy reading and writing for fun. I also really like nature and take a lot of photographs of trees and the sky. My family and I also like traveling to the mountains and the ocean. I used to live in Illinois, where the land was flat and dry. North Carolina is such a beautiful state. Sometimes, I feel like I am happier when I am near the ocean or in the mountains because it makes me remember that my problems are small and the earth is old. There is a quote I really like from John Lennon that says, "It'll all be okay in the end, if it's not okay, then it's not the end." When I see the world's beauty, I know that somehow, it'll all be okay.

So, I am really looking forward to hearing back from you. What is it that you like to do for fun? What are some of your favorite places that you have visited? Do you have any wisdom you'd like to share with me? Or do you have any quotes that found a special place in your heart? Are you reading any good books? I am really glad for this assignment, because I am really looking forward to being your friend. My teacher says we are going to write about once a month, so I promise to write back when I get your letter.

Your new friend,

Raquel