# The Call of the Wild
# Letter Writing

**Directions:** Your task is to write a friendly letter home from the list of characters below. Expand on details from the text and use good organization along with the elements of a letter.

**Characters:**

Perrault
Francis
Scottish Half-Breed (the mail sled)
Hal, Charles or Mercedes
John Thornton

**Grading Rubric:**

| Excellent | Good | Unacceptable |
|---|---|---|
| Letter correctly uses the elements of a letter, include sender and recipient addresses, greeting, body paragraphs and closing. | Letter correctly uses most of the elements of a letter, include sender and recipient addresses, greeting, body paragraphs and closing. One or more may be incorrect or missing. | Letter correctly uses few of the elements of a letter, include sender and recipient addresses, greeting, body paragraphs and closing. Two or more may be incorrect or missing. |
| Letter uses 2-3 well-organized and structured body paragraphs. | Letter uses some organization and structure in 2-3 body paragraphs, but could use more. | Letter uses little or no organization or structure in the body paragraphs. May have less than 2 body paragraphs. |
| Details from the text are accurate. The letter expands on ideas from the text logically. | Details from the text are generally accurate. Letter attempts to expand on the ideas from the text but connection is not always clear or consistent with the text. | Details from the text may be inaccurate. Letter fails to expand on ideas from the text— may only summarize the text or may expand in a way that is inconsistent with the text. |

# Sample Letter

Sender's Address (optional)

Mary Smith
1234 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345

January 5, 1902 ← Date (full or partial)

Dear Brother, ← Greeting Line

Body paragraphs Includes organization of ideas

I have been eagerly waiting for the next letter from you. The conditions you described in the Yukon– the cold and the dangers–give my much to worry about. Sometimes I wish you would just return home, where you belong, safe and warm. I know you have said you are not a farmer, but it pains me to think of you dying alone in the cold.

New topic, new paragraph

The family is well. Leonard is now old enough to help with the plowing, which is a great help. The younger two are doing well in school. Matthew in particular has a great affinity for the sciences and discusses becoming a doctor. He hasn't much interest in farm life, either, but at least he is not heading to God-forsaken wastelands like his uncle.

New topic, new paragraph

Susan Perkins was asking about you. She is a charming woman from a good family. She would make a good wife for any man. I'm sure she would love to receive correspondence from you.

I hope to hear from you soon. I will worry until you return from the frozen wasteland. Be safe, brother.

Sincerely, ← Closing Line
Mary Smith

Signature