

Directions

Read this story. Then do Numbers 4 through 12. You may look back at the story as often as you like.

The Sunset in My Mailbox

by Callie Lorentson

UH-OH. JULIEN'S letter was here. I could tell by the way the mail carrier dropped it in my hands and fled. Peering down at the pastel pink envelope, I saw the words **PLEASE REFRIGERATE CONTENTS** printed in bold black letters on the back.

This should be interesting, I thought as I slit the envelope and tipped its contents into my hand. Something sticky plopped into my palm.

It was a Popsicle. A gooey, purple, sticky, slimy, gorgeous-grape-flavored Popsicle that had melted all over my pen pal's letter. I deciphered the letter:

Dear Caitlin,

This Popsicle was so delicious that I wanted to share it with you. It's gorgeous grape, my favorite flavor. Enjoy.

Hugs and smoochies,

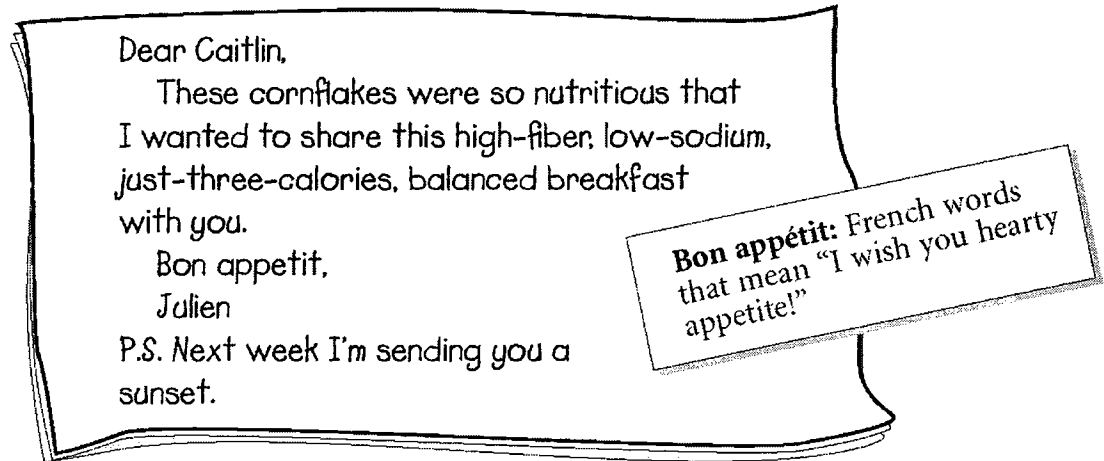
Julien

P.S. Next week I'm sending you breakfast.

As I held the stained Popsicle stick, I thought, breakfast?! Oh no. I could already imagine a cheese omelet traveling by mail.

Ever since we became pen pals, Julien has sent me strange things. Once, she sent her sneeze in a jar. (“I have a cold, can you tell?” she wrote.) Then she sent her fingerprint. (“So you’ll recognize me in a crowd.”) One week she even sent a snowball. Or at least it **had been** a snowball. (“Here’s a souvenir from my ski vacation.”)

Julien sent me breakfast, all right. Cornflakes. Soggy, milky, grainy, crumbly, limp cornflakes scraped from the bottom of her cereal bowl. I lost my appetite, but I read the letter.



“She’s mistaken,” I told my mom. “No one can send a sunset, not even Julien. It’s impossible.”

“I don’t know,” Mom said. “Julien might find a way. After all, she did send you her sneeze.” Mom wrinkled her nose at the memory.

A week later, I waited for the mail carrier. I’d be able to tell from his face if Julien really sent a sunset. But he just popped the letters in our mailbox with a smile and continued on his way.

I checked the mail and found a box with air holes and the words **FRAGILE—THIS SIDE UP** printed in bold black letters on the top. It was from Julien.

I stroked the box with my fingers. It was perfectly dry. I smelled it. It didn’t reek. I held my breath and started opening the package. What if sunbeams spring out and hit me in the face like those fake snakes in a can? I thought.

My hands shook as I lifted the last flap and peeked inside. Where in the world was the sunset? All I could find was a letter and a twisty, gray, papery shell. It looked like a submarine. I read the letter.

Dear Caitlin,

The sunsets at my house are so beautiful that I had to give you a piece. I counted at least five different colors in one yesterday. Can you find more?

Hugs and smoochies,

Julien

I looked again at the gray shell. That's no sunset, I thought.

"You must mean the **submarines** at your house, Julien," I said. Without reading the postscript, I laid the letter and the submarine on the kitchen table. Then I left the room to find a pen so that I could cross out "sunset" and write "submarine" above it.

When I returned, I stared in shock at the submarine. A creature was oozing out of it! Was it a sea monster? I looked closer. It was a winged creature . . . an insect . . . a butterfly. An orange, blue, purple, red, and gold butterfly. It looked like . . . a sunset!

While the sunset opened and closed its wings to dry them, I read Julien's postscript. It said, "P.S. Next week I'm sending you Japan."

Uh-oh.

postscript: a message at the end of a letter, usually beginning with a "P.S."



SESSION 3 Reading
THE SUNSET IN MY MAILBOX
Item 11 (Page17)

At the end of the story Julien writes, "P.S. Next week I'm sending you Japan." How might Julien send Japan to Caitlin?

Use information from the story to support your answer.

Acceptable Responses:

Julien could send something real to Caitlin from Japan, which would be similar to when she sent a real sneeze in a jar.

Julien could send Caitlin something that would make Caitlin think of Japan, as she did when she sent the butterfly that had colors of a sunset in it.

Other relevant, text-based response.

Score Points

- 3 points** Response is a complete explanation of how Julien could send Japan and is supported by relevant, text-based information.
- 2 points** Response is a general explanation of how Julien could send Japan and is supported by little relevant, text-based information. The explanation is missing some key elements.
- 1 point** Response is a limited explanation of how Julien could send Japan and includes irrelevant or no text-based information.
- 0 points** Other

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 4

Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

Benchmark 4.d: Make predictions and draw conclusions about stories.

Subcontent Area: fiction and poetry



At the end of the story Julien writes, "P.S. Next week I'm sending you Japan." How might Julien send Japan to Caitlin?

Use information from the story to support your answer.

I think Julien might send Caitlin something from Japan, like a glass doll, because, in the book it said that Julien had sent Caitlin a snowball from her ski vacation, so the doll might be from her vacation to Japan.

4 READING

ITEM: 11

3 POINT ANCHOR

Response completely explains how Julien could send Japan and includes relevant text-based information.

4-10-07

CB

11

At the end of the story Julien writes, "P.S. Next week I'm sending you Japan." How might Julien send Japan to Caitlin?

Use information from the story to support your answer.

Well, how I think Julien might send Japan to Caitlin is, maybe Julien had gone to Japan and brought Caitlin a souvenir. Or she might have a picture of Japan and send that to Caitlin. Why I think that is because, she always sends something that is or looks like it.

4 READING

ITEM: 11

2 POINT ~~5~~ ANCHOR

Response provides a general explanation on how Julien could send Japan and a little text-based information.

4-10-07
CB

11

At the end of the story Julien writes, "P.S. Next week I'm sending you Japan." How might Julien send Japan to Caitlin?

Use information from the story to support your answer.

She might give her a map of Japan.

4 READING
ITEM: 11
1 POINT ANCHOR
Limited explanation on how Julien could send Japan. No text-based information.

4-10-07
CB



At the end of the story Julien writes, "P.S. Next week I'm sending you Japan." How might Julien send Japan to Caitlin?

Use information from the story to support your answer.

Probley by sending something
from China.

4 READING
ITEM: 11
0 POINT ANCHOR
Response does not contain
key elements or reference
to text.

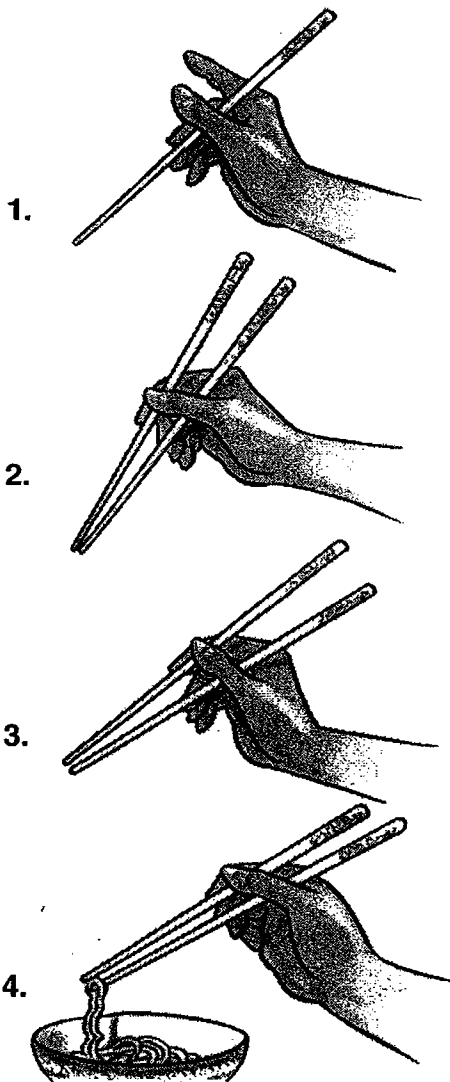
4-10-07
CB

Directions

Read these instructions. Then do Numbers 103 through 106. You may look back at the instructions as often as you like.

How To Eat With Chopsticks

by Nancy J. Valentine



Here are some tips for using chopsticks.

Before you begin, however, you need to know a few important rules:

- ✪ Never lay your chopsticks across one another.
- ✪ Never use your chopsticks as drumsticks at the table.
- ✪ Never point with your chopsticks.
- ✪ Never leave your chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice or noodles.

1. Clasp your thumb and last three fingers together, with your index finger up in the air. Place one chopstick along your straightened middle finger and against the base of your thumb, holding it firmly with your middle finger.
2. Place the other chopstick on top, holding it between your index finger and the top of your thumb.
3. Now move the top chopstick up and down while holding the bottom one still.
4. Try picking up a small bite of food. If you drop it, just start over again!

illustrated by Tim Foley

Complete the list to show the steps to follow when using chopsticks.

Clasp one chopstick with thumb and three fingers.



Blank writing area with four horizontal lines.



Blank writing area with four horizontal lines.



Blank writing area with four horizontal lines.

SESSION 6 Reading
HOW TO EAT WITH CHOPSTICKS
Item 103 (Page 67)

Complete the list to show the steps to follow when using chopsticks.

Exemplary Response

Clasp one chopstick with thumb and three fingers.



Put the other chopstick on top.
OR
Hold the other chopstick between your index finger and thumb.



Move the top chopstick up and down and hold the bottom one still.



Pick up some food. If you drop the food, try again.

Score Points

- 2 points** Response provides three steps in correct sequence.
1 point Response provides two steps in correct sequence.
0 points other

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 4

Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.
Benchmark 1.e: Identify sequential order in expository text.
Subcontent Area: nonfiction

103

Complete the list to show the steps to follow when using chopsticks.

Clasp one chopstick with thumb and three fingers.



Place the other chopstick on top, holding it between your index finger and the top of your thumb.



Now move the top chopstick up and down while holding the bottom one still.



Try picking up a small bite of food. If you drop it just start over again!

CSAP
4th Grade Reading Item #103
2 POINT ANCHOR
3 STEPS IN CORRECT SEQUENCE.
Exemplary Response

CB
4-10-07

103 Complete the list to show the steps to follow when using chopsticks.

Clasp one chopstick with thumb and three fingers.

Clasp your thumb and last three fingers together, with your index finger up in the air.

Place one chopstick along your straightened middle finger and against the base of your thumb, holding it firmly with your middle finger.

Place the other chopstick on top, holding it between your index finger and thumb while holding the bottom one still.

CSAP 4th Grade Reading Item # 103
1 POINT ANCHOR
"Place One Chopstick along
straightened middle...Place the other
on top"
2 Steps in correct sequence.

CB
4-10-07

103

Complete the list to show the steps to follow when using chopsticks.

Clasp one chopstick with thumb and three fingers.



Never use your chopsticks across one another.



Never use your chopsticks as drumsticks at the table.



Never point with your chopsticks. Never leave your chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice or noodles.

CSAP 4th Grade Reading Item 103
0 POINT ANCHOR
STUDENT FAILS TO SEQUENCE
STEPS. listed important rules.

CB
4-10-07