Dear P\_\_ Students:

I am so excited to be your language arts teacher! This will be my twenty-first year teaching at Anderson County Middle School, twenty of which have been right in this room. I became a teacher because I love reading, writing, and helping people. Also, I couldn’t imagine graduating college and then never going back to school, so I’m in the perfect job! I have lived in Anderson County all my life, and I went to ACMS too, only it was where Christian Academy is now. I actually went to school with some of your parents, and taught some of your parents too!

The most important thing to me is my family. I am married to Darrell Hardin, whom you might have seen during seventh period last year. He’s a custodian here and they always start in 6th grade. Courtney is my oldest daughter. She’s 24 and is a teacher at Anderson County Head Start. She has started her associates degree in early childhood education at Eastern Kentucky University. Danielle, my middle daughter, is 18 and a waitress at Pizza Hut. She will be attending BCTC in a couple of weeks, majoring in something medical related (she’s still making up her mind exactly what). Jackson, my son, is twelve and a seventh grader here at ACMS. As you can tell from my room, I love the water – and so do my kids. This summer the youngest two and I went to Virginia Beach, where I parasailed for the first time. Next time I’ll have to get Jackson to do it -- he was deep sea fishing with Darrell when Danielle and I went.

Second, I love to read. I will really increase my reading time now that school started -- I am determined to meet the Forty Book Challenge this year! Third time’s the charm! My favorite book I read this summer was *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro about what might happen if cloning becomes commonplace. Obviously it was science fiction, which is my favorite genre. My favorite book of all time is also science fiction -- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. I have always really loved to read, and even got in trouble sometimes for reading in class when I was supposed to be working on something else. The biggest competition for reading, to me, is Netflix. But even when I watch, I have the closed captions on… sort of like a graphic novel, right?

I’m going to let you in on a little surprise. I do not live at school and have other interests too! I have a part time job with Events Imaging, so if you play rec sports you might see me on picture day selling pictures! My favorite radio station is Hank 96.1, which plays old country. My kids hate when I listen to it, almost as much as they hate when I listen to talk radio. I’ve just discovered podcasts, and my favorite is “Stuff You Should Know.” My favorite T.V. show is “America’s Got Talent”. I love to vote for the best acts and feel like I have a say in who wins. Something I just started being interested in last summer is Reds baseball. Darrell loves baseball and is always watching. I used to just tune it out, but recently I decided to actually watch and it is pretty exciting, especially when they have a come from behind win.

How would I like to be thought of? I hope that my children think of me as a parent who tried to instill the right values in them. I hope that students, past and present, think of me as a teacher who cares about them both academically and as a person. Overall, I try to be hard-working and kind. Now that I’ve shared this letter about myself, I can’t wait to read about you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hardin

Dear Class:

Paragraph 1: Explain who you are. For example, your name, age, what you look like, who your family is, and what you are looking forward to in seventh grade, or any other information you think would be good for us to know.

Paragraph 2: Write about the most significant object/concept to you and explain why/how this is meaningful to you.

Paragraph 3: Write about the second significant object/concept to you and explain why/how this is meaningful to you.

Paragraph 4: Write about some of your favorite things. Each one individually probably wouldn’t warrant a paragraph, but together they can.

Paragraph 5: You are always asked what you want to be, but how many times have you been asked who you want to be? This is not about how you will make money, but how you will live your life. In this paragraph, please explain what kind of person you would like people to think of you as. What qualities do you hope to develop so that people can see them reflected in your life?

Sincerely,

Your name

\*Each paragraph should have AT LEAST 4 SENTENCES. You certainly may write more!

\*Write NEATLY on your own paper; other people will be reading it. You *may* type it, but don’t have to.

\*If you get stuck, look at my example. Remember, you’re an expert on the subject. Who knows more about you than you?☺

Rubric Focus

Demonstrates **depth of idea development** with **specific, sufficient details/support**; applies characteristics of the genre.

Paragraph 1: an overview of who you are 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Paragraph 2: a significant concept/object 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Paragraph 3: about another significant concept/object 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Paragraph 4: several other things you are interested in 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Paragraph 5: how you want to be thought of 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10