

A Books To Treasure Lesson Starter: How to Share with a Friend

Book: [It Came in the Mail](#) by Ben Clanton

In a Nutshell:

What kinds of things do we tell our friends when we have a story (to put in a letter)?

- Pets-tell a funny thing your pet did
- Imaginary creature (is it friendly or scary?)
- Nature (what did you find on a walk around your neighborhood, on vacation, or at the park?)
- Story (make up a totally crazy story!)
- Snack (tell a friend about a favorite meal or snack)
- Song (share a favorite or make up a new one)

Are there things you shouldn't tell a friend in a letter? Discuss.

Sharing stuff? Sometimes, the very best letters have something other than stories inside: very small, light items, like a feather or a sticker, a friendship bracelet, a perfect leaf you found on a walk. What else could you put in a letter?

Pen pals within the classroom, pen pals with other classes, with a librarian friend

Do This:

Read [It Came in the Mail](#) by Ben Clanton and discuss things the main character finds in his mailbox. Discuss other things you might find in a letter (topics, inserts, etc.).

Think about a pen pal program to encourage letter writing.

Use This Printable:

- Pets
- Imaginary creature
- Nature
- Story
- Snack
- Song