

Quick Project Ideas

Grammar and Gratitude K–6

As students return from Thanksgiving, gratitude may be fresh in their minds. Capture their ideas in friendly-letter format, and encourage them to edit, revise, polish, and publish illustrated letters.



“Thank you!” with a Capital “T”

Point out that the end of the year is a great time to say “Thank You” to people in the community or even in history who may have inspired you.

Activity: Creating a Thank-You List

Offer some words of thanks to your students and encourage them to share stories about people, for whom they are thankful. List ideas as they brainstorm. If students suggest one-word nouns, ask them to think of a moment, action, or reason that gives a complete picture.

Activity: Putting the “Friendly” in Friendly Letters

As your students brainstorm their thanks, have them identify one person to whom they will send a “thank you letter.” Walk through the steps. Have a student write the date. Brainstorm salutations—or greetings—that precede the name of the letter’s addressee, and closings—or sign-offs—that precede the signature.

Distribute page 2 and have students draft and illustrate their letters. Encourage sentence variety. The first sentence might be a question, the next, an exclamation, and so on.

Activity: National Letter-Writing Day (Dec. 7) and Letter-Writing Week (Second Week in Jan.)

Tie letter-writing to any topic you are studying in class. Discuss the differences between letters vs. emails, texts, or even post-cards. For example letters to other students travel to new parts of the world.

Prompts and Projects

- **Grati-Tuesday Bulletin or Blog**
Have students write things that inspire gratitude each week. Have them pick their favorites to elaborate and illustrate for a holiday or year-end bulletin board. Use the **“Journal Excerpts”** StorySpark.
- **Gifts “For and By Nature”**
Discuss gifts students received all year from the Earth. Then pick a project to give back to nature—birdfeeders, handmade recycled paper, and so on.
- **Projects as Parent Thank-Yous**
Publish students’ friendly letters, in the **“Our Heroes,” “Ask an Expert,”** or **“Suggestion Letters”** StorySpark at **TikaTok.com**. Send any project directly to parents digitally to share students’ work.



Instructions: Write a friendly letter thanking someone for something they've done for you.

Friendly Letter



Date: _____

(Greeting and name)

(Closing and signature)