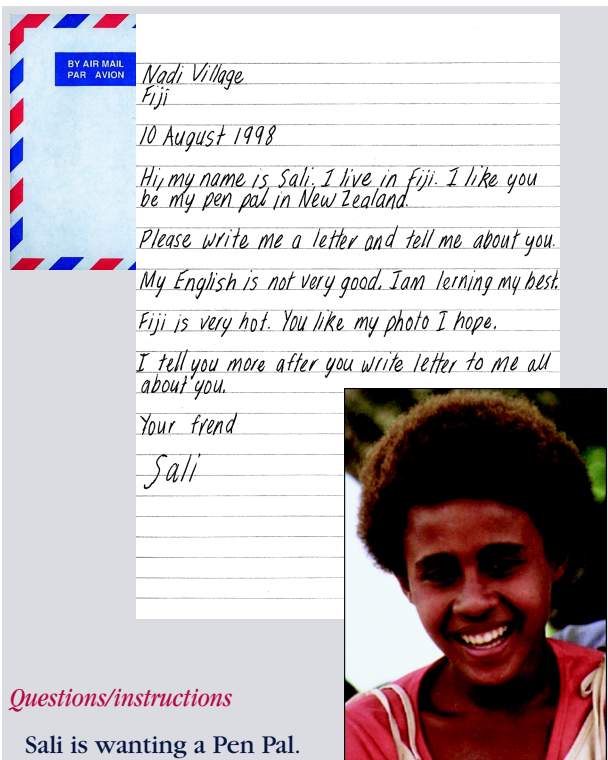


## Pen Pal

**Approach:** Station

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Resources:** Letter from Sali, photograph of Sali.



BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Nadi Village  
Fiji

10 August 1998

Hi, my name is Sali. I live in Fiji. I like you  
be my pen pal in New Zealand.

Please write me a letter and tell me about you.

My English is not very good. I am learning my best.

Fiji is very hot. You like my photo I hope.

I tell you more after you write letter to me all  
about you.

Your friend  
Sali

### Questions/instructions

Sali is wanting a Pen Pal.

Read Sali's letter, then write a  
letter back on the next page.

Try to make your letter interesting  
for Sali to read.

**Appropriateness to audience:** *e.g. simple sentences*

	% responses	
	y4	y8
very good	5	26
good	32	55
moderate	55	17
inappropriate	8	2

**Inclusion of personal information:**

	% responses	
	y4	y8
substantial	16	39
some	38	40
little/none	46	21

**Clarity of expression:** *makes sense*

	% responses	
	y4	y8
very good	5	23
good	37	60
moderate	49	15
not clear	9	2

	% responses	
	y4	y8
<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b> 7-8	5	24
5-6	25	44
3-4	33	26
0-2	37	6

### Commentary

About two thirds of year 8 students, and about one third of year 4 students produced letters which had several positive features.

### HIGH RANGE

*street address*

New Zealand

Monday 31st August

Hi! My name is *name*. I am 12 years old and  
have brown hair and brown eyes.

My favourite hobby is sports. I also like sewing  
and baking.

I have no pets. I wish I had a kitten. Do you  
have any pets?

I live in New Zealand and it's cold. It is in Au-  
gust.

Can you please write back soon.

Your friend

*signature* (YEAR 8)

*street address*

Auckland

New Zealand

31 August 1998

Dear Sali,

Hi, my name is *name*. I am 12 years old. I have  
green eyes, blond hair and white skin. I am  
quite tall. I have three pets - two cats called  
Marble and Lightning and one budgie called  
pineapple. Do you have any pets? I live with  
my mum, dad and little brother. Do you have  
any brothers or sisters? Your English is very  
good I'm sure you are learning quickly. New  
Zealand is sometimes hot and sometimes cold  
it depends on the seasons. I like your photo  
alot.

Thank you for writing. Please write soon.

Your Pen Pal

*signature*

P.S. You can call me *name*. (YEAR 8)

*address*

Hi sali, I Heard you wanted me to be your penpal and to know a lot about me, well my name is *name* I am nine years old, I heard it gets hot in Fiji sometimes it gets hot here to, I also like playing Rugby I have one brother who is 17 I have one sister who is 19

Do you have any brothers or sisters? I'll be looking forward to your next letter bye bye.

your freind

*name* (YEAR 4)

*address*

27 September 1998

Dear Sali,

My name is *name* and I am 12 years old. I live in Auckland which is in the North Island of New-Zealand. You're the first Pen Pal I have ever had.

I have 2 sisters, a mum & dad. I also own 1 fish. I go to *name* Intermediate School, but next year I'm going to college called *name*.

Do you have any hobbies? I do. I play Netball for the school and made it into a North Harbour Rep team. I also do Rhythmic Gymnastics full time. As you can tell my favourite hobby is sport.

Over in New-Zealand it's just about the end of winter so it's been a bit cold.

Recently I've been to Australia for a gym competition and I got a bronze medal. That was quite cool. Well I've got to go now. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely *signature* (YEAR 8)

#### MID RANGE

*address*

1/8/98

Hi my name is *name* I live in *name* it is in New Zealand. I play rugby. so, I hope you like my letter.

you freind

*name* (YEAR 8)

Dear Sali I live in Timaru I like your photo and I like video games playing cricket and tennis. I have five cousins I'm eight years old I live in a small house. I like maths and my mum and dad don't live together I hope you are having a nice time in Fiji.

from *name* (YEAR 4)

*street address*

8 September 1998

Hi my name is *name*. I like you to be my pen pal I live in New Zealand and it is cold. I really like you photo.

I am 13 years old. I have a Mum a dad and sister.

Please write back soon.

Your pen pal

*name* (YEAR 8)

Dear Sali

My name is *name* and come from *town* - New Zealand. In *town* it is hot and cold depending on the season. My hobbies include drums, TV, toys, food, Playstation. I also love the TV program South Park. My favourite subject is Maths. What's yours? I have a Mother and Father who are separated and an annoying sister, I live at *street address*. At the moment I'm in the school play. My character is a bishop.

Yours Sincerely

*name*

P.S: Write back please (YEAR 4)