

A large, bright yellow sun with a black outline is positioned behind the main title. To the left of the sun, there are two stylized clouds, one white and one light blue, both with black outlines. The background is a solid light blue.

BIG SUMMER READ

Family Guide



STOP THE SUMMER SLIDE!

When school takes a break, learning can slip—especially in reading. Research shows that even a few books over summer can make a big difference. Join the Big Summer Read and keep kids' minds active, curious, and ready for the year ahead. Visit your local library, choose great stories, and make reading part of your summer fun!

The BIG Summer Read supports families by:

- Encouraging reading for pleasure
- Building lifelong reading habits
- Boosting literacy and language skills
- Offering prizes and incentives
- Connecting families with library programs and resources



Children and teens can take part using:

The online reading challenge:

www.readbooks.au/bsr

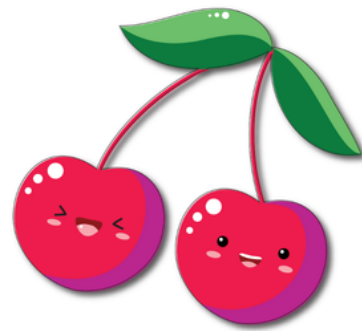
OR

Printed reading logs (pick up and return to your local library)

For more information or help getting started, please contact help@readbooks.com.au or visit your local library.



KEY DATES



Here are important dates to add to your calendar.
Don't miss out on the fun!



1 December 2025



Big Summer Read
begins!

31 January 2026



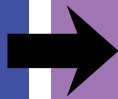
Big Summer Read
ends!

8 February 2026



Paper entries due
back to libraries*

After 23 February 2026



Winners
announced



*Check your local library to see which options are available in your area.

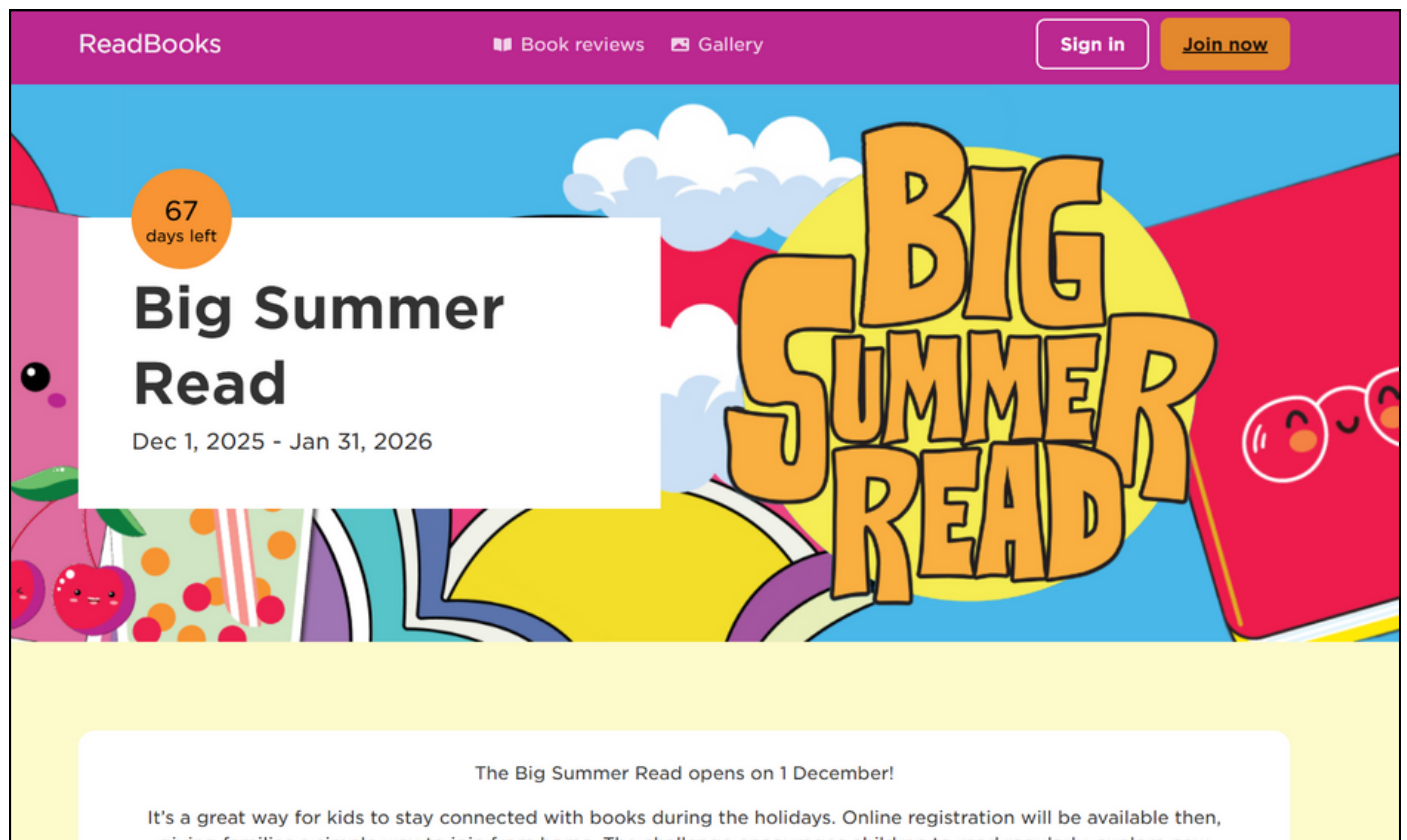
HOW TO ENTER

The BIG Summer Read aims to support every young person with their reading journey. Whether they're just starting to build confidence or already love reading, everyone can join in and read books at a pace that suits them best.

Regardless of which option (online or offline) you choose, children and teens will be able to log their reading either by **books read** or **days read**.

Participating Online

- Online entries on Readbooks enter into state/national draws automatically.
- The national prize includes entries from several states, so winning is not guaranteed.
- After February 23, 2026, if a winner is from your library, your library will contact you directly.



Visit Readbooks.com.au/bsr

Click **Sign In** if you have participated in BSR or Warm Winter Reads before
(purple button)

Click **Join Now** if you are new (orange button)



Join now

 [Big Summer Read](#)  [Book reviews](#)  [Gallery](#)



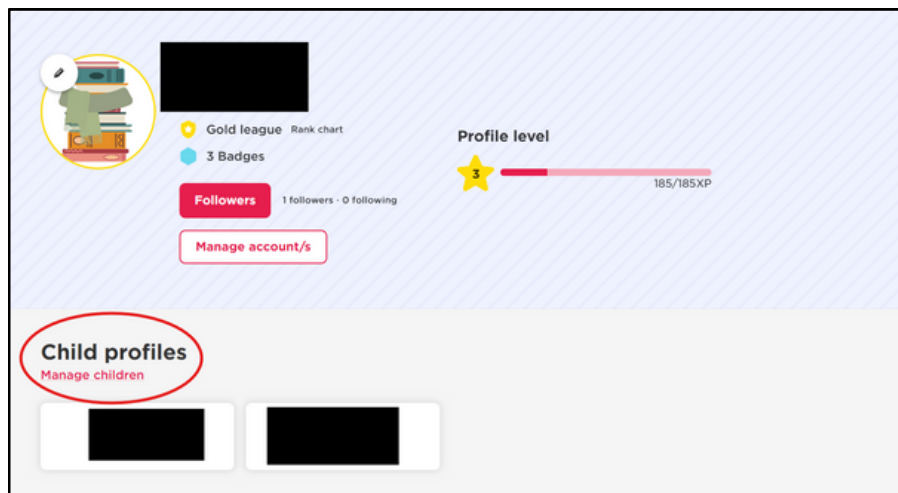
Nickname will be public

Name will be used to identify you for prize draws



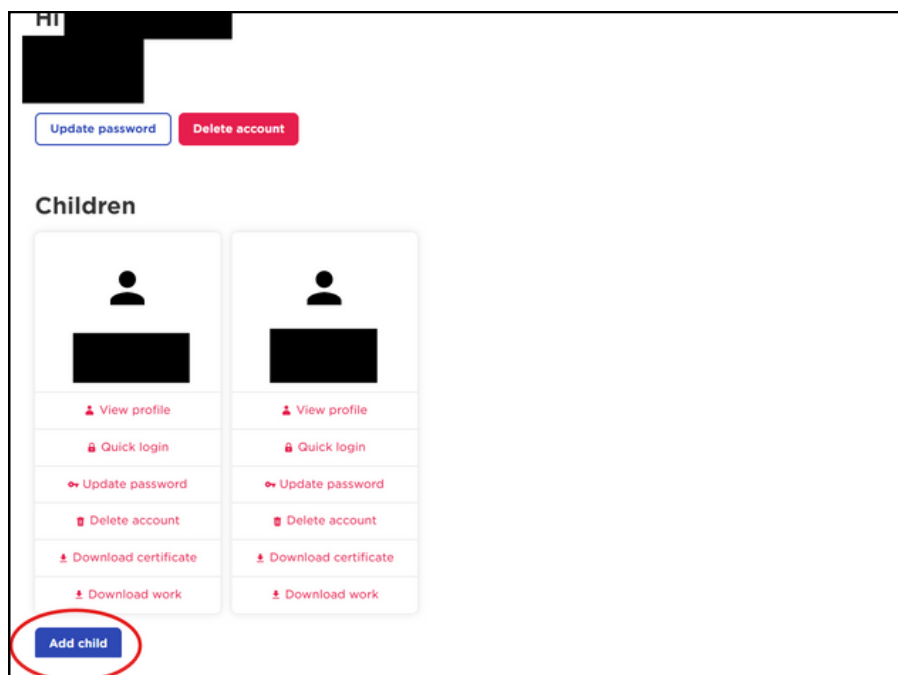
Create account

Join Now - Enter your details to create an adult account. You will get the chance later to add your child(ren) or teen(s).



Once you Sign In/Join Now you will be directed to this screen

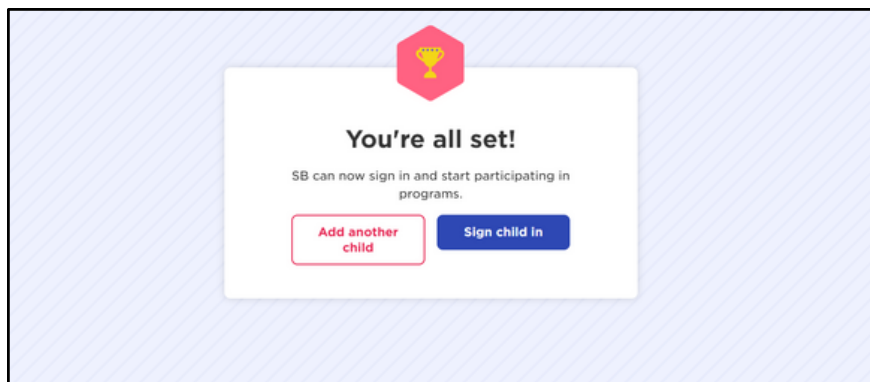
Click **Manage children** to add any child(ren) or teens to your account (circled in red)



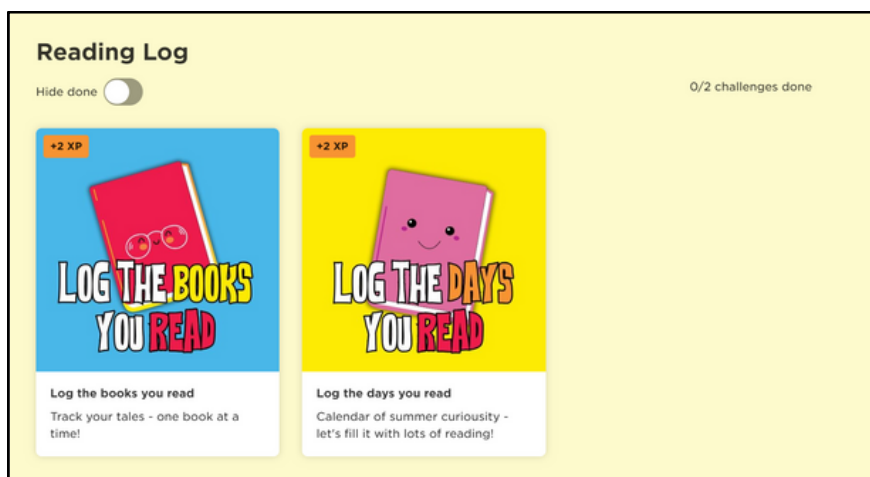
To add a child/teen, select **Add child** (Blue button, circled in red)

Complete the details to **Add a child**

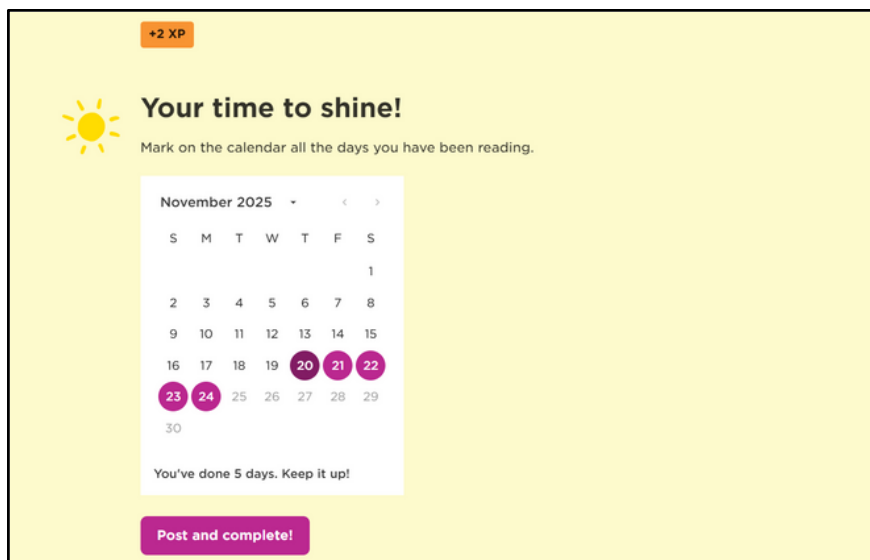
Details with an asterick * are required to sign up for the Big Summer Read



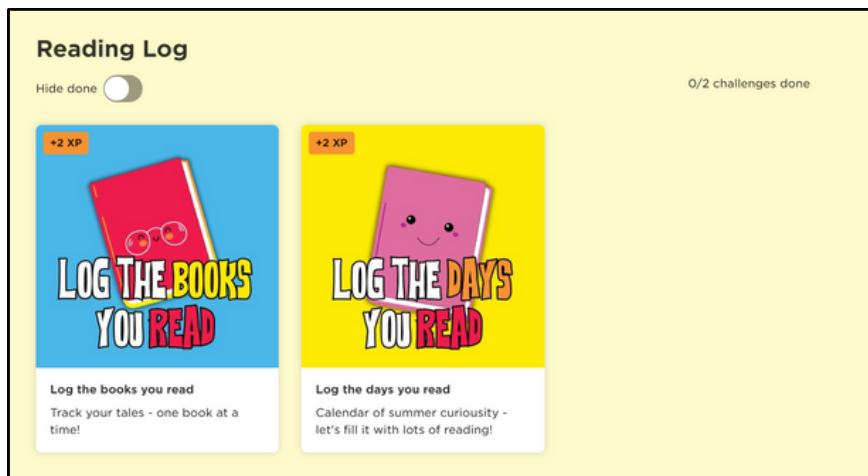
Once you see this screen you can **Sign child in**. Select **Add another child** if you need to add more children/teens.



Scroll down until you see **Reading Log** (black text). From here you can **Log the books you read** or **Log the days you read**.



To log a day read, select the days read from the calendar. Miss a day? That's okay! You can select days from the past. Remember: 5 days logged = 1 entry. **Click Post and complete!** to save your days read (purple button).

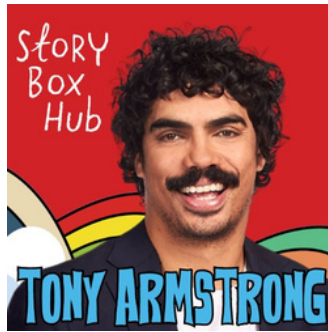
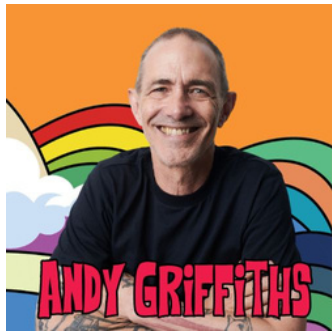


To **Log the books you read**, scroll down to **Reading Log** (black text) Select **Log the books you read** (Red book on blue background)

The screenshot shows a form titled 'Log the books you read' on a yellow background. Below the title is the subtitle 'Track your tales - one book at a time!' and a '+2 XP' badge. A sun icon is next to the heading 'Your time to shine!'. Below this is a prompt: 'Just finished another book, great job! Tell us the title and author of your recent read.' There are two input fields: 'Book title' with the text 'Coolest book ever' and 'Author' with the text 'That awesome author'. At the bottom is a purple button labeled 'Post and complete!'.

To **Log the books you read**, enter the Book Title and the Author into space available. Click **Post and complete!** (purple button) to log books read

Take on extra challenges in Readbooks—can you complete them all and rack up experience points?



Author Ambassador Badges

Read books by or recommended by:

- Andrea Rowe (ages 0-4)
- Laura and Phillip Bunting (ages 5-8)
- Andy Griffiths (ages 9-12)
- Amie Kaufman (ages 13 +)



Sponsor Badges

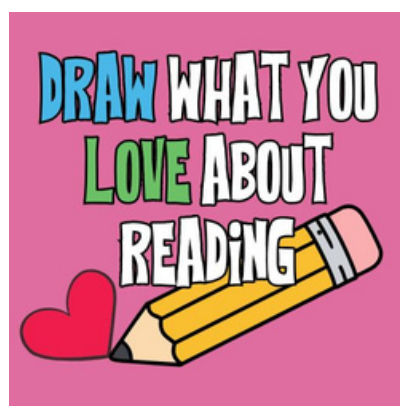
Read or stream stories online from our Big Summer Read partners



Bonus Badges



Read and log the winning titles in the 2025 Children's Book Awards



Take a literary road trip! Explore stories set in different parts of Australia and discover the voices that bring our country to life. Complete this challenge to earn your 'Read Around Australia' badge!



Participating Offline

Paper and bookmark logs can be picked up at your local library.*

*Check with your local library to see if they are offering paper logs and bookmarks.

COLOUR IN ALL THE DAYS THAT YOU READ

Name: _____

Age (0-18): ____ ☐ Tick to confirm parent/guardian consent to enter

Library card number: _____

Library branch name: _____

Email/phone: _____

You can find details online about national prizes, and you can ask your favourite library about local prizes too! Joining online also lets you review the books you've read. You can also enter by reading and logging at least five books, either online, or by asking your library for entry form/s.

SCAN ME:

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Record at least five days to enter the prize draw!

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Don't forget to return your log by 9 February!

- Paper logs record each day your young person reads.
- Each day you read to your child or young person reads independently, they colour in a box.
- To be eligible to enter the statewide/national prize draw and local prize, at least 5 boxes need to be coloured in the paper log.
- 5 boxes coloured = 1 entry in the prize draw.

- Bookmarks record each book your young person reads.
- To be eligible to enter the statewide/national prize draw and local prize, at least 5 books need to be recorded on the bookmark.
- 5 books read = 1 entry in the prize draw.

Return your paper log/bookmark to your local library by Feb 8, 2026 to enter the state/national draw, and any local prize draw your library might be running.**

** Check with your local library to see if are running a local prize draw.

BIG SUMMER READ

JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!

Join online or at your local library! Borrow books! Read them! Then track your reading from 1 December to 31 January.

Every five days that you read and/or every five books that you log is a chance to WIN!

Find out more by scanning the QR code or by asking at your local library...

SCAN ME:

Name: _____

Age (must be 0-18): _____

Library card number: _____

Library branch name: _____

Email/phone: _____

☐ Tick to confirm parent/guardian consent to enter

Return this to your local library before Monday 9 February 2026 to enter the prize draw. Multiple entries welcome.

PRIZES

With more prizes than ever, this year's challenge gives children and teens extra motivation and the chance to be rewarded for their reading

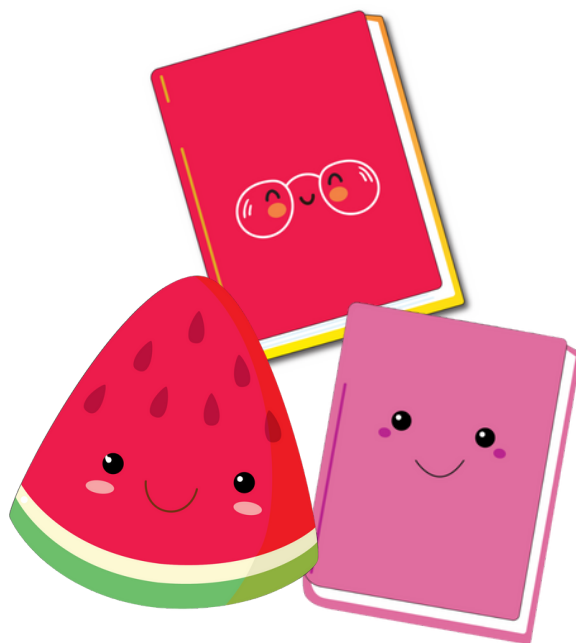
National Prizes

0-4 years old: Picture Book Bundle Pack

5-8 years old: Books and Activity Pack

9-12 years old: Bluetooth Headphones

13-18 years old: Kobo eReader



Local Prizes

Check with your local library to see if they're offering prizes.

Terms and Conditions

You can find the full terms and conditions for prize draw entry, along with details on privacy, cookie use, and the Big Summer Read participant code of conduct at the following links:

[PRIZE DRAW TERMS & CONDITIONS](#) | [PRIVACY & CODE OF CONDUCT](#)



WHAT COUNTS?

Librarians often are asked what classifies as reading in the Big Summer Read. There are so many ways children and teens can engage with reading that counts towards their days/books read:

Books and Print

Board books | Picture books | Chapter books | Graphic novels or comics | Manga | Non-fiction books | Magazines
Newspapers | Re-reading a favourite book | Reading books in any language



Listening and shared reading

- Listening to someone read aloud (family, siblings, librarians, etc.)
- Reading together with an adult, sibling, or friend
- Reading along while listening to an audiobook
- Looking at the pictures while someone reads the words
- Reading subtitles or closed captions (Storybox Hub)

Digital

- eBooks on a phone, tablet, or eReader
- Digital comics or graphic novels
- Listening to eAudiobooks or audiobooks
- Watching videos of stories

Explore our sponsors' fantastic digital reading options—and check with your library to see which ones you can access.



FAQS



Do we have to visit the library to participate?

No. The BIG Summer Read is designed to be participated in wherever you are. Reading can be logged from home, and paper logs/bookmarks can be taken wherever you go. Visiting the library is a great way to discover new books and other activities at the library.

Can siblings share one ReadBooks account?

Each child needs their own account or reading log so they can track their own progress, and increase their chances of winning.

I'm worried this will create competition between my children. One is a more confident reader than the other. What should I do?

We understand that every young person is on their own reading journey, and we want the BIG Summer Read to feel positive for all children—no matter their reading ability. Both ways of entering give each child an equal chance to win, so everyone can participate in a way that suits them.

Do you recommend any particular books?

Our ambassadors are a great place to start! We have an ambassador for each age range 0 - 4, 5 - 8, 9 - 12, and 13 - 18yrs. Each ambassador has shared a title of their own, plus recommendations from fellow Australian authors. You can pick up a bookmark at your local library to see the list, or check out the Ambassador Badge Challenge on Read Books.

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

Creative ways to keep kids motivated to
read during school holidays



Set a Reading Routine

Schedule 15–20 minutes
daily for reading.

Make it part of bedtime or
morning rituals.



Offer Choice

Let children pick books
they enjoy.

Include fun formats like
graphic novels or
audiobooks.



Model Reading

Read your own book while
your child reads theirs.

Share what you're reading
to spark conversation.



Make It Social

Organise mini book clubs
with friends or family.

Visit the library together
and let kids explore.



Use Rewards Wisely

Celebrate progress with
small incentives
(stickers, certificates).

Focus on praise and
enjoyment rather than
competition.



Integrate Reading into Daily Life

Read recipes, signs, or
instructions together.

Encourage journaling or
writing letters to friends.