

Feb 8, 2014 (January letter)

Dear Samantha,

Your letter fell out of the stack of bills in my mailbox yesterday. It was a lovely and welcome surprise!

I was sorry to hear that you were suffering the same cold that I have had for the last month. Maybe I picked it up from you! I'm only now beginning to feel like I have got rid of it. I hope you are also feeling better.

What do you mean by "Kitchen is just as fun as always"? Is this a subject at school or do you mean your own kitchen?

Your comment that I "always seem to send back a novel" got me thinking about different forms of writing. Do you know that there are many forms of writing that have rather strict "rules" about their structure: like novel, short story, sonnet, limerick, or haiku?

Just to prove that I don't always have to write a novel, here is a much shorter letter for January. It's a haiku about finding your letter in my mailbox:

More bills in the mail
The small blue envelope dropped
My day-tired heart leapt

A Haiku poem is not about meter and rhyme, but with the number of syllables per line. It begins with a line of 5 syllables, then has a line of 7 syllables, followed by a line of 5 syllables. Usually they are about nature, but many of them written in English can be on any topic. They are also usually written so that the last line provides a surprise twist to what was said before or makes the reader think about things in a new way.

At the times when "nothing is happening" I suggest you try your hand at writing a limerick, haiku, or sonnet. They are a lot of fun and can turn something that looks uninteresting into an exciting thing. I will also be thrilled to see them! Here's a fun website with some other examples:

<http://www.gigglepoetry.com/poetryclass/Haiku.html>.

Love,