

Fleydo English School

Two Pen Pals, Two Countries

Two Pen Pals, *A Fleydo English School Story*

Two Countries

A Fleydo English School Story

A1 Level • ~~Teens (11-16)~~ • Reading

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Chapter 1

The Letter

Lina receives a letter from a pen pal in Japan

Lina is fourteen years old. She lives in Berlin, Germany. She has short red hair and blue eyes. She likes reading, football, and writing in her diary.

Today is Monday. Lina comes home from school at half past three. She opens the front door and sees something on the floor. It is a **letter**. The **envelope** is light blue. There is a **stamp** with a picture of a mountain on it.

“A letter from Japan!” Lina says. She is very happy.

Last month, Lina’s English teacher, Mrs Weber, starts a **pen pal** project. Every student in the class gets a pen pal from a different country. Lina’s pen pal is a girl called Yuki from Tokyo, Japan.

Lina runs to her room and opens the letter carefully. Inside, there is a card with a drawing of a cat. The letter is in English — because that is the language they both study at school.

Lina reads the letter:

From Yuki — Tokyo, Japan

Dear Lina,

Hello! My name is Yuki. I am thirteen years old. I live in Tokyo with my parents and my little brother, Kenji. He is nine.

I am very happy to have a pen pal in Germany! I don’t know much about Germany. What is it like? What do you do every day? Please tell me about your life!

I like drawing, cats, and green tea ice cream. What do you like?

Please write back soon!

Your new friend, Yuki

Lina smiles. She takes a piece of paper and starts to write.



Chapter 2

Lina’s Day

Lina writes about her daily routine in Berlin

From Lina — Berlin, Germany

Dear Yuki,

Thank you for your letter! I am so happy!

You want to know about my day? Okay, here is my **routine**:

My **alarm** rings at half past six. I get up, take a shower, and get dressed. I don't wear a uniform — in Germany, we wear normal clothes to school.

I eat **breakfast** at seven o'clock. I usually have bread with cheese and jam, and a glass of orange juice. Sometimes my dad makes pancakes on Saturdays!

School starts at eight fifteen. I walk to school with my friend, Anna. It takes fifteen minutes. My favourite **subject** is English (of course!) and I also like art.

We have a **break** at half past ten. I eat an apple or a sandwich. School finishes at half past one on Mondays and Wednesdays, and at three o'clock on the other days.

After school, I usually do homework first. Then I play football in the park with my friends. I am in a football team — we **practice** every Tuesday and Thursday.

For dinner, we eat at half past six. My mum is a very good cook. She makes pasta, soup, and sometimes Schnitzel — that is a German food. It is like a flat piece of meat with breadcrumbs.

After dinner, I read or watch TV. I go to bed at half past nine. On weekends, I go to bed later — at half past ten!

What is your day like? I want to know everything!

Your friend, Lina

P.S. I don't know much about Japan. Is it true that you eat with **chopsticks**?

Lina puts the letter in an envelope. She writes Yuki's address carefully. She puts a German stamp on it — a stamp with the Brandenburg Gate.



Chapter 3

Yuki's Day

Yuki writes about her daily routine in Tokyo

Two weeks later, another letter arrives from Japan. Lina opens it immediately.

From Yuki — Tokyo, Japan

Dear Lina,

Your day sounds very nice! And yes — we do eat with chopsticks! But we also use forks and spoons sometimes.

*My day is **different** from yours in some ways, but also **similar**!*

*I wake up at six o'clock. That is early! I wear a school **uniform** — a dark blue skirt, a white shirt, and a blazer. All students in Japan wear uniforms.*

For breakfast, I sometimes eat rice and miso soup. But on busy mornings, I just eat toast and drink milk.

I take the train to school. The train in Tokyo is very, very crowded in the morning! School starts at eight thirty.

My favourite subjects are art and music. I play the piano!

*For lunch, I eat a **bento**. My mum makes it every morning. It has rice, vegetables, chicken, and sometimes a little octopus sausage! The bentos are very pretty — my mum puts the food in nice shapes.*

School finishes at three thirty, but I stay for “club activities” until five o’clock. I am in the art club. We draw and paint. Some students are in sports clubs — baseball, swimming, or kendo (Japanese sword fighting!).

I get home at six o’clock. I do homework, eat dinner with my family, and take a bath. In Japan, we take a bath every evening — not a shower, a real bath! The water is very hot.

I go to bed at ten o’clock. I am always tired!

Your friend, Yuki

P.S. What is Schnitzel? It sounds funny! And what is the Brandenburg Gate?



Chapter 4

Food and Family

They compare meals, families, and weekends

The letters go back and forth. Every two weeks, Lina finds a letter from Japan in her letterbox, and she writes back the same day. They write about everything — food, family, weekends, and funny things that happen at school.

From Lina — Berlin, Germany

Dear Yuki,

Schnitzel is a thin piece of pork or chicken. We put breadcrumbs on it and fry it. It is delicious! We eat it with potatoes and salad. The Brandenburg Gate is a famous building in Berlin. It is very old and very beautiful.

I love hearing about Japanese food! Bento sounds amazing. My lunch is boring — just a sandwich!

Tell me about your weekends. What do you do on Saturday and Sunday?

In Berlin, on Saturdays, I sometimes go shopping with my mum. We go to a big market and buy fresh bread, fruit, and flowers. On Sundays, my family has a big breakfast together. We eat bread rolls, eggs, cheese, and jam. It is my favourite meal of the week!

In the afternoon, I play football or go to the cinema with Anna.

Your friend, Lina

From Yuki — Tokyo, Japan

Dear Lina,

Your Sunday breakfast sounds wonderful! We don’t have a special breakfast like that.

On Saturdays, I have piano lessons in the morning. I practice for one hour. I like playing Chopin — he is my favourite composer. In the afternoon, I sometimes go to Harajuku with my friends. It is a place in Tokyo with many shops, cafes, and interesting fashion!

On Sundays, my family goes to the park or to my grandmother's house. My grandmother makes the best sushi! She teaches me how to make it. My little brother Kenji always eats too much and gets a stomach ache!

Lina, I have a question. What is the weather like in Berlin now? In Tokyo, it is very hot in summer. The temperature is sometimes 35 degrees! In winter, it is cold but it doesn't snow very much.

Your friend, Yuki

Lina reads the letter and laughs about Kenji and the sushi. She thinks Yuki's life is very interesting. Everything is different — the food, the school, the weekends. But some things are the same. They both love their families. They both like spending time with friends. And they both like writing letters.



Chapter 5

Hobbies and Dreams

They share what they love to do

From Lina — Berlin, Germany

Dear Yuki,

The weather in Berlin right now is cold! It is November and the temperature is about 5 degrees. Sometimes it rains. I don't like rain, but I like snow. Last winter, we have a lot of snow and I make a snowman with my little cousin!

*You ask about my **hobby**. I have three: football, reading, and baking. Yes, baking! I like making cakes and cookies. Last week, I make a chocolate cake for my mum's birthday. It is not perfect, but my family says it is delicious.*

What about you? I know you like drawing. What do you draw? Do you want to be an artist when you grow up?

I want to be a journalist. I like writing and asking questions. Maybe one day I write about Japan!

Your friend, Lina

From Yuki — Tokyo, Japan

Dear Lina,

A chocolate cake! You are amazing! I can't cook at all. I can only make rice and instant noodles!

You ask about my drawing. I draw manga! Manga is Japanese comics. I love manga very much. I draw my own characters and my own stories. I have a big notebook full of drawings.

My favourite manga is about a girl who travels to different countries and makes friends everywhere. Maybe that is like us!

Yes, I want to be a manga artist. I want to draw stories that people all over the world can read. My art teacher says I am good, but I need to practice more. So I draw every day — on the train, at lunch, before bed.

Your dream is great too! If you become a journalist and I become a manga artist, maybe you can write about my manga one day!

*I also want to tell you something **exciting**. But I wait for my next letter...*

Your friend, Yuki

Lina is very curious. What is the exciting thing? She writes back immediately: “TELL ME! Don’t make me wait two weeks!”



Chapter 6

A Surprise Plan

They decide to have a video call

From Yuki — Tokyo, Japan

Dear Lina,

Okay, okay! Here is the exciting news!

*Mrs Tanaka (my English teacher) talks to your teacher, Mrs Weber. They have an idea: the pen pal classes can have a **video call**! Your class in Berlin and my class in Tokyo — on a big screen — at the same time!*

*But there is one problem. The **time zone** is different. When it is 9 o’clock in the morning in Berlin, it is 5 o’clock in the afternoon in Tokyo. That is 8 hours difference!*

So we need to find a time that works for both classes. Mrs Tanaka says we can do it at 4 o’clock Tokyo time. That is 8 o’clock in the morning Berlin time. Is that okay?

*I am so **excited**! But also a little **nervous**. My English speaking is not very good. What if I make mistakes?*

Your friend, Yuki

From Lina — Berlin, Germany

Dear Yuki,

YES! A video call! That is amazing!

8 o’clock in the morning is fine. We always have English class first on Wednesdays!

And please don’t worry about your English. Your English is great! Look at your letters — I understand everything. And I make mistakes too. That is how we learn, right?

I am also nervous. What if I say something stupid? What if the internet doesn't work? But I am more excited than nervous. I finally get to see your face!

I have an idea: let's each prepare something to show. I can show you a photo of Berlin and my football team. You can show me your manga drawings! What do you think?

See you on the screen!

Your very excited friend, Lina



Chapter 7

Same Sky, Different Time

Their first video call

Wednesday morning. Lina's class is in the computer room at eight o'clock. In Tokyo, it is four in the afternoon. Yuki's class is in their school library. A big screen shows the video call.

"Can you see us?" Mrs Weber asks.

"Yes!" Mrs Tanaka answers from Tokyo. "We can see you! Hello, Berlin!"

"Hello, Tokyo!" Lina's class says together. Everybody laughs.

Lina looks at the screen. There are about twenty Japanese students in uniforms. She looks for Yuki. Then she sees a girl with long black hair and a big smile, waving at the camera.

"Lina! Lina!" Yuki calls.

"Yuki!" Lina waves back. Her eyes are full of tears — happy tears.

The classes talk for thirty minutes. Each student says hello to their pen pal. They show photos and drawings. Lina shows a picture of her football team. Yuki holds up her manga notebook. Lina can see the drawings on the screen — they are beautiful.

"You are really, really good!" Lina says.

"Thank you!" Yuki says. Her face goes red. "Your football team looks so cool!"

Before the call ends, Mrs Weber has one more surprise. "We are planning a school trip," she says. "Next spring, our class is going to visit Tokyo for one week!"

Both classes scream with excitement. Lina and Yuki look at each other through the screen.

"I am going to meet you!" Lina says.

"For real!" Yuki says. "Not just a letter. Not just a screen. For real!"

"I am going to try your bento," Lina says.

"And I am going to try your Schnitzel... wait, you are coming to Japan. I am going to make you sushi!"

They both laugh. The call ends, but the friendship is just starting.

That evening, Lina sits at her desk. She doesn't write a letter this time. She writes in her diary:

"Today I see my pen pal for the first time. She is exactly how I imagine — kind, funny, and talented. We live in different countries. We eat different food. We go to school at different times. But we are the same in many ways. We both love our families. We both have big dreams. And we are both happy that a letter from a stranger becomes a real friendship."

*"A good friend can live on the other side of the world.
All you need is a pen, some paper, and a little courage."
— Lina and Yuki*



Key Themes

- Friendship across cultures
- Daily routines and telling the time
 - Food and family traditions
- Hobbies and dreams for the future
- Courage to communicate in a new language

Vocabulary List

20 key words from the story

Pen pal	A person in another country who you write letters to and become friends with	Letter	A written message you send to someone by post
Envelope	A flat paper cover for a letter	Stamp	A small piece of paper you put on a letter before you post it
Routine	The things you do every day in the same order	Alarm	A clock or sound that wakes you up in the morning
Breakfast	The first meal of the day, usually in the morning	Uniform	Special clothes that all students at a school must wear
Subject	A topic you study at school, like maths, English, or science	Break	A short time to rest between lessons at school
Chopsticks	Two thin sticks used for eating food, especially in East Asian countries	Bento	A Japanese packed lunch in a special box, with rice, vegetables, meat or fish
Hobby	An activity you do for fun in your free time	Practice	Do something many times to get better at it
Different	Not the same as something else	Similar	Almost the same, but not exactly
Time zone	A region where everyone uses the same time; different countries have different time zones	Video call	A phone call where you can see the other person on a screen
Nervous	Feeling worried or scared about something that is going to happen	Excited	Feeling very happy and full of energy about something

Grammar Points

Key grammar structures from the story

Present simple for routines

I wake up at seven o'clock. She eats breakfast at home.

Telling the time

It is half past six. School starts at eight fifteen.

Adverbs of frequency

I always walk to school. She usually takes the train.

Like + verb-ing

I like playing football. She likes drawing manga.

Comparisons with 'but' and 'and'

In Germany it is cold, but in Japan it is warm.

Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word from the word bank

alarm • bento • chopsticks • excited • hobby • nervous • pen pals • subject • time zone • uniform

1. Lina and Yuki are _____. They write letters to each other.
2. Lina's _____ rings at half past six every morning.
3. Yuki wears a school _____ every day. It is dark blue.
4. In Japan, people eat with _____ instead of a fork.
5. Lina's favourite _____ at school is English.
6. Yuki brings a _____ to school for lunch every day.
7. Lina's _____ is playing football. She practises twice a week.
8. The _____ between Berlin and Tokyo is 8 hours.
9. Yuki is _____ about the video call. She worries about her English.
10. Both girls are _____ about the school trip to Tokyo.

Comprehension Quiz

Choose the best answer for each question

1. Where does Lina live?

- A) Tokyo, Japan
- B) Berlin, Germany
- C) London, England
- D) Paris, France

2. How do Lina and Yuki communicate?

- A) By phone calls
- B) By text messages
- C) By writing letters in English
- D) By email

3. What time does Lina's alarm ring?

- A) Six o'clock
- B) Half past six
- C) Seven o'clock
- D) Half past seven

4. What does Yuki wear to school?

- A) Normal clothes
- B) A red dress
- C) A school uniform
- D) Sports clothes

5. What does Yuki bring for lunch?

- A) A sandwich
- B) Pizza
- C) A bento
- D) Rice and soup

6. What is Lina's hobby besides football?

- A) Swimming
- B) Drawing manga
- C) Playing piano
- D) Baking cakes and cookies

7. What does Yuki want to be when she grows up?

- A) A teacher
- B) A manga artist
- C) A journalist
- D) A piano player

8. What is the time difference between Berlin and Tokyo?

- A) 5 hours

- B) 6 hours
- C) 8 hours
- D) 10 hours

9. Why is Yuki nervous about the video call?

- A) She doesn't like cameras
- B) She is sick
- C) She worries about her English speaking
- D) She doesn't have a computer

10. What surprise does Mrs Weber announce?

- A) A writing competition
- B) A visit to Tokyo next spring
- C) New pen pals from France
- D) A video game project

Answer Key

Fill in the Blanks — Answers

1. pen pals
2. alarm
3. uniform
4. chopsticks
5. subject
6. bento
7. hobby
8. time zone
9. nervous
10. excited

Comprehension Quiz — Answers

1. B) Berlin, Germany
2. C) By writing letters in English
3. B) Half past six
4. C) A school uniform
5. C) A bento
6. D) Baking cakes and cookies
7. B) A manga artist
8. C) 8 hours
9. C) She worries about her English speaking
10. B) A visit to Tokyo next spring

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