

## TPS @ DePaul University

April 2012 – National Card and Letter Writing Month

Greetings educators, welcome to April!

This will be a busy month for your school libraries as it's National School Library month. Be sure to check your school library for special events or activities this month. April is also National Poetry Month with many events focused on discovering or rediscovering the poetry in our lives. Be sure to check out our April 2011 newsletter for plenty of resources regarding these month-long celebrations.

This April we are focusing on the celebration of National Card and Letter Writing Month, which is a national effort to promote literacy and celebrate the art of letter writing. Cards and letters have been tradition for several hundred years; they are tangible, personal, and historical recordings. Examining the letters of a historical figure reveals rich details of their life, thoughts, and experiences that one often misses in textbooks. Whether writing a letter to a friend, or to a person from our nation's past, present, or future, the experience encourages using our imagination and knowledge to connect with someone. Please explore the lessons, presentations, and collection connections below for ideas about bringing letter writing into your classrooms this month.

Important dates to remember this April:

- National Library Week, April 8 - 14, 2012
- 100 year anniversary of sinking of RMS Titanic, April 15, 2012
- Poem In Your Pocket Day, April 26, 2012
- Support Teen Literature Day, April 12, 2012
- Earth Day, April 22, 2012

April 2011 Newsletter

[http://condor.depaul.edu/tps/Newsletters\\_April\\_2011.htm](http://condor.depaul.edu/tps/Newsletters_April_2011.htm)

### Lesson Plans

Nineteenth Century Women: Struggle and Triumph (Grades 6 – 12)

Students will draw conclusions by analyzing primary source materials; write a persuasive letter.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/triumph/index.html>

From the “Unsinkable” to the Unthinkable: Analyzing Historic News Coverage of the Titanic (Grades 9 – 12)

Students will analyze a primary source, express their opinion based on their analyses, and write a fictional letter from a historical perspective using primary source findings

[http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/quarterly/ps\\_formats/pdf/secondary\\_activity.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/quarterly/ps_formats/pdf/secondary_activity.pdf)

Thomas Jefferson's Library: Making the Case for a National Library (Grades 6 – 12)

Students examine a letter written by Thomas Jefferson and identify techniques he used to persuade Congress to purchase his personal library.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/jefferson/>

### Presentation

Pages from Her Story

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/herstory/toc.html>

### Collection Connection

#### Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers at the Library of Congress, 1862-1939

Collection consists of correspondence, scientific notebooks, journals, blueprints, articles, and photographs. The papers document the invention of the telephone, the first telephone company, Bell's family life, interest in the education of the deaf, and aeronautical and other scientific research.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/alexander-graham-bell/>

#### A Civil War Soldier in the Wild Cat Regiment: Selections from the Tilton C. Reynolds Papers

The online collection includes 164 documents, primarily letters written between 1861 and 1865. The collection also features several photographs.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/wild-cat-regiment/index.html>

#### The Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress

Included within this collection are copies of Douglass's writings, correspondence with noted abolitionists including Henry Ward Beecher, Ida B. Wells, Gerrit Smith, and Horace Greeley, and scrapbooks documenting his activities. Also included is a biography of his wife of forty-four years, Anna Murray Douglass, written by their daughter, Rosetta Douglass Sprague.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/frederick-douglass/>

#### The Hannah Arendt Papers at the Library of Congress

Included in this collection is her correspondence, drafts of books and articles, lectures and speeches. Much of the material documents her life in Germany prior to the war, the persecution she faced due to her support of the Jewish community and her career as a professor once she escaped from Nazi Germany.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/hannah-arendt/>

#### Prairie Settlement: Nebraska Photographs and Family Letters, 1862-1912

This collection illustrates through photographs and letters the lives of the Oblinger family, who settled the Great Plains during the latter part of the 19th century. These personal accounts provide information on the joy and sorrows of life on the plains and include love letters and correspondence on financial issues, crop development, religious meetings and the work involved in establishing a home on the Nebraska prairie.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/prairie-settlement/>

#### Trails to Utah and the Pacific: Diaries and Letters, 1846-1869

Documents life for those pioneers heading west during the mid-1800's. Included are the experiences of Mormons heading west in search of religious freedom and those who headed west as part of the California gold rush.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/trails/>

#### Woody Guthrie and the Archive of American Folk Song: Correspondence, 1940-1950

Collection contains correspondence from Woody Guthrie written while he lived in New York.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/woody-guthrie/>

#### The Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers at the Library of Congress

Collection document the lives of the Wright Brothers and their work to develop the first powered and

controlled aircraft. Included within this collection are their scrapbooks, images of their activities, diaries, drawings and letters from a variety of people including their mentor Octave Chanute, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, and Alexander Graham Bell.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/wright/>

#### Other Letters of Interest

Correspondence between Washington to John Jay, August and September 1779

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/south/jay.html>

Thomas Jefferson's Letter to Samuel H. Smith dated September 21, 1814

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/jefferson/pdf/letter.pdf>

Letter from Abraham Lincoln to Charles Sumner, May 19, 1864

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/civilwar/aasoldrs/letter.html>

John F. Kennedy Letter to Clare Booth Luce - For Teachers (Library of Congress)

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/postwar/election/jfkletr.html>

Letter to President Roosevelt

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/depwwii/depress/letter.html>

Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt, March 1936

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/depwwii/race/letter.html>

Letter to Mary Todd Lincoln from Queen Victoria, April 1865

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/scsmbib:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28scsm000727%29%29>

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