



## Letter and Diary Writing

### Overview

One Hen is the story of a young boy, Kojo, who lost his father and had to leave school to help his mom earn money to support the family. While the book is not explicit about his age, it is easy to imagine him as eight or nine, a similar age to the children reading the story.

### Learning outcomes

- Students should have a clear understanding of what Kojo has done and why. Students should be able to understand his reasons and be able to make comparisons to their own lives.
- Students should also have completed a written task that demonstrates this understanding and ability to write from another point of view, imagining themselves as Kojo.
- Students will have learned about the structure/layout of a letter/diary entry.

### Objectives

- Develop letter writing and diary writing skills
- Develop empathy in the writing and understanding of Kojo's life

### Lesson structure guidelines

#### Starter

- Select a section of the book to focus on, read it, and discuss it as a group. For example:
  - The start of the book about Kojo's life and home: whom Kojo lives with, what he spends his day doing, what he does with the coins his mother lends him, how he feels to have lost his Dad and to have left school
  - Kojo's life when he returns to school - about his school, what he learns, about his uniform, how he feels.

#### Development

- Students to write a letter to Kojo asking him about his life and telling him about their life.

#### OR:

- Students to write a diary entry from Kojo's point of view, exploring events in his life and explaining how he feels

#### Plenary

- Come together as a group and discuss what they have done, how Kojo feels; children could read out their letters/diary entries.

### Resources

- *One Hen* by Katie Smith Milway;  
[www.onehen.org](http://www.onehen.org)

