

Here, two sixth graders, inspired by [Dear Mrs. LaRue](#) and the [Unusual Friendly Letter](#) assignment at WritingFix, worked on their voice and word choice skills as they wrote and revised the following letters. Read both letters, then discuss with your class where you see each writer's strongest evidence of **voice** and **word choice** skills.

21 Lumber Lane  
Black Bear Forest, NJ 07937  
October 14, 2010



Dear Larry, the Lame Lumberjack,

Over three-percent of trees in forest areas are cut down each winter! Our forest community understands that wood is essential during these cold months; however, hear us out before you begin to gather your axes and chop!

First of all, your process of taking down our trees can severely impact our lives. Hundreds of animals hibernate in Black Bear Forest each winter. While we are deep asleep, you take down our homes and when we awaken, our environment is destroyed! In addition, food supplies will diminish due to the fact that many forest animals will not survive under these conditions. Finally, bird watchers and animal lovers enjoy coming to these woods during fall months. If the trees are taken down, the beauty of this spot will be destroyed.

I think we both agree this is an unjust act. We must come to a compromise in which both of our species will thrive. Relocation is always an option. Tree Tower Woods, located about half a mile northwest of here, is unoccupied. Of course, there are other options, as well. Set aside a space where no animals currently live and you will be free to take as many trees down as needed.

The residents of Black Bear Forest will not simply standby. If needed, hostile actions will be taken. We will attack! You must understand how shocking these acts are to our council and community and what horrendous results they bring upon us. So please stop cutting down our trees!

Yours Truly,

Berry, the Bear  
(and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Dennis)

The backyard of  
47 Bertain Road  
East Hills, NJ 07937  
October 24, 2010



Dear Leah,

What ever happened to me? I feel like you don't care about me anymore. Why have you stopped giving me crunchy and delicious carrots and noisy green lettuce? My teeth are growing rather long because you haven't gave me a stick to chew on and grind down my really long teeth. If I don't get a stick soon, I am going to look like a gopher with a ragged edge at the bottom my teeth. I'd like to add that with long untrimmed teeth, it makes it a whole lot harder to eat my food and drink my water. The thing I used to look forward to every afternoon was a delicious carrot or even some lettuce. A little treat would make me feel a whole lot better. It's the little signs of love I care about. And a carrot a day keeps my long soft black fur looking so shiny and clean.

I am very confused too. To start off with, when you first got me, you pampered me as if I was a princess. Slowly the pampering shrunk. Now when your mom tells you to feed me, you say "All right," as if you reluctantly want to do it. Then, when you care for me, you give me food, water, and maybe a baby carrot or a little strip of lettuce. I deserve more than that. I am not being unappreciative here. It's just that I want to have more veggies. Without a cool and crunchy carrot, I feel unloved.

By the way, my teeth grow rapidly so get on moving' with my stick. I am standing up for myself and every other pet. We love to be pampered and loved. I hope you take my thoughts into consideration. Thank you.

You long-toothed pet,

Midnight the black rabbit  
(and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Kara)