



# **The Ella Collection**

<http://www.theellacollection.com/>

## *My Letter to President Barack Obama*

*Author: Lana Dajani*

The book is about an 8 year old girl – Ella – who is passionate about the environment. As she rides the bus to school, Ella notices that her community is polluted. At school, she finds that students leave trash behind on the playground after lunch. Ella leads by example and encourages her classmates to clean up and pick up trash off the playground.

Ella wants to create a National Cleanup Day so that children and adults across the United States can get involved and help protect the environment. She writes a letter to President Barack Obama because she realizes that he has access to a larger audience.



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## Instructional Ideas

The Ella Collection believes it is important to build reading, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Below are instructional ideas related to *My Letter to President Barack Obama*. All tasks are appropriate for students aged 5-10 (Kindergarten to grade 5). These strategies, skills, and graphic organizers will facilitate student understanding of the text and can be implemented based on your grade level standards in English Language Arts.

<p><u>Before Reading</u></p> <p>Anticipation Guide Ask and Answer Questions KWL Chart Prediction Frames</p> <p><u>During Reading</u></p> <p>Author's Purpose Cause-Effect Chart Sequence Chart Story Maps Think and Mark Strategy</p> <p><u>After Reading</u></p> <p>Ask and Answer Questions Book Discussion Questions Character Description Character Web Compare and Contrast Ella and yourself Fact and Opinion Reader's Theatre Reading Comprehension Questions Reading Comprehension Questions Answer Key</p>	<p><u>Reading Strategies</u></p> <p>Verbal Responses for Reading Strategies Making Connections Making Connections: Pictures and Quotes Asking Questions Questioning Visualizing What I See Inferring Inferring from Pictures</p> <p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <p>Vocabulary Building Vocabulary Word Map Word Bank Word Castle</p> <p><u>Writing</u></p> <p>Letter to the President Literature Log Responses Tic-Tac-Toe Writing Writing Ideas</p> <p><u>Websites</u></p> <p>Do Something White House Earth Day Network Kids F.A.C.E. Global Youth Service Day</p>
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KDSL

[kdsl.wordpress.com](http://kdsl.wordpress.com)



# National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association Standards

<http://www.ncte.org/standards>

*The Ella Collection Instructional Ideas meet the National Council  
of Teachers of English and International Reading Association  
Standards listed below.*

Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.

Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.

Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.



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### Writing

Letter to the President  
Literature Log Responses  
Tic-Tac-Toe Writing  
Writing Ideas

KDSL

[kdsl.wordpress.com](http://kdsl.wordpress.com)



## Letter to the President

Date

Dear President \_\_\_\_\_,

You should first briefly introduce yourself.

Explain why you are writing this letter to the President. Perhaps you have a question, a suggestion, an opinion, a request, a concern, or a criticism for the President. Or you may simply want to send your congratulations or well-wishes to the President.

Remember to thank the President for reading your letter.

Regards,

(Student name here)

You can also visit

<http://www.chebeague.org/powellmcgillicuddy/socialstudieslinks/penpa/letterformat.html> for a friendly letter template.

Mail the letter to:  
President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

## Literature Log Responses

Directions: Select one of the responses and write a response *My Letter to President Barack Obama*.

I wonder why...

I began to think of...

I know the feeling of...

I noticed...

I was surprised...

I thought...

I can't believe...

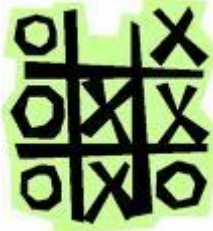
If I had been...

What if...

It reminds me of...

I think the author...

I wonder what would happen if...



## Tic-Tac-Toe Writing

Directions: Select three topics based on interest to write responses to *My Letter to President Barack Obama*.

What do you think of the book?	What questions would you like to ask the author?	Write a sequel to the story.
What does the story mean to you?	How did you feel as you read the book?	Write a letter recommending the book to a friend.
Write a different ending to the book.	Write a diary entry as if you were the main character.	Write questions you think everyone should be able to answer after reading the book.



## Writing Ideas

- Create an advertisement for the book
- Write an email to Ella
- Update Ella's status on Facebook about the National Community Clean-Up Day
- Tweet to your friends about what Ella did on the playground (Remember only 140 characters)
- Create an illustrated timeline with 5 events from the book
- Write a diary entry as if you were Ella
- Write a name poem using ELLA
- Write a summary of the book
- Write a letter to the author of the book
- Blog about the book
- Write a letter to your school principal or headmaster convincing them to host a National Community Clean-Up Day
- Research and record facts about litter and pollution. Share the facts with your class.
- Write what you learned after reading the book.