

Lesson 7: Letters from a Battlefield

SHEET C: Letters from soldiers to their families

I finally got *Masayuki's* photo for which I have been waiting for a long time. I opened it immediately after I saw the envelope. He has grown very fast. Thank you for raising him up. Please take care of him and yourself too.

He is cute and looks very smart. I got happy after I saw his picture and showed it to my mates. They said he looks like me. I immediately made a photo frame and put it on the shelves that I've made. Since he is so cute, I've almost burned a hole through the photo by looking at it a lot!

(Isaku Kobayashi)

In the evening, I always feel relaxed when I imagine our children happily having dinner. It sometimes makes me want to talk to *Nobu*, who is sitting in front of me and having a nice meal.

Reading *Jun* and *Hiroshi's* writing, I always feel it's getting better and better. Parental love is really blind, isn't it? These letters make my day happy and heart-warming.

(Shoji Egawa)

Father, Mother, Torao, Kei, Eizo, Tadashi, Otaka, Sueharu, Tatsumi, Fumiko, and Tatsuko, I would like to wish you all good health and long life. Father and Mother, please take good care of yourselves as you are getting older.

I only regret that I have not been able to see the splendid new house that you built through all your hand work so far. I have no other regrets.

(Unknown writer)

Gloss:

envelope (封筒)

mate (仲間=兵士)

shelves (棚) burned a hole through the photo (写真を見すぎて穴が空く)

parental (親の)

blind (盲目)

regret (後悔)

splendid (すばらしい)

TASK:

✚ What was the soldiers' message to their family? Summarize the message.

✚ Imagine you are one of the soldiers. What would you be feeling when you wrote these letters?

Adjectives: sad / glad / mad / proud / in pain / lonely / nervous / angry / upset / grateful / comfortable / uncomfortable / anxious / furious / calm / delightful / respectful / supportive / serene / excited / interested / tired / afraid / scared / shocked / worried / surprised / moved / amazed / confused / touched / impressed / frustrated / disappointed / annoyed ...