

# Decoding 'SECRET' Writing: An Idea for Guided Composition

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The October 1978 issue of The English Teacher contained a Secret Letter reprinted from BBC Modern English. This letter prompted me to produce my own secret exercises for use as guided composition exercises. The three samples given below have been graded for:

a weak class: 'Rani'

a good class: 'A Visit to the Circus'

and an advanced class: 'A Secret Letter'.

They are very similar to word picture games and should be fun for your class. You may need to modify some of the clues if you feel they are too difficult.

Sample 1:

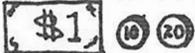
## RANI

Write out this composition with the help of the pictures.

Rani is a  . She lives near the  in  .

She likes to  . Her father sells  . On Fridays,

when she has no  , she helps her father to sell it. On public

holidays, they make a lot of  . She studies at the Merdeka Beach

Secondary School. Every morning, she wakes up at  and  .

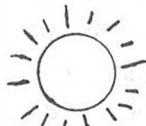
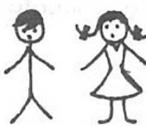
to school. In the evening, she plays  . She hopes to be a

player one day.  .

Sample 2:

### A VISIT TO THE CIRCUS

Write out this composition with the help of the pictures.

It was a  day. Encik Rashid took his two 

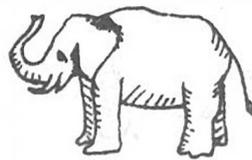
to the . They went to the  show.

They enjoyed the programme very much. Best of all, they liked the animals.

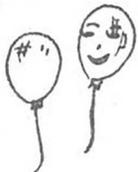
One  made a funny  when they fed him

 They were a little afraid of the  which roared as it paced

back and forth in his  The circus man said they could feed

 to the little  whose name was Haathi.

Father bought some popcorn and  The funny antics of the 

made them laugh.  After the show, Encik Rashid bought  for his children to

take 

Sample 3:

### A SECRET LETTER

How good are you at decoding? Write out this letter simply by decoding the letters, numbers and pictures given. Base your decoding on the sounds as well as the spellings. For example, the address should read:

80, Hillview Street,  
Sungai Patani.  
3rd October 1978.

A-T,  view S  t,

 gai Patani,

3rd October, 1978.

D ? L-C,

Thank U 4 your secret  . I like it because my sister, D-D, is a B-Z

body and she likes 2  my letter. N  she  't, as it isn't E-Z

4 her to D code your letter.

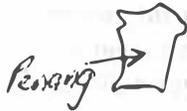
L-C, I have learnt your tr  2! Would U like 2 know w  I did

yesterday? My friend, AN-G, and I s  t a D  ful day in *Penang* 

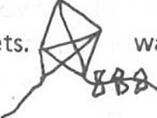
Her father t  us there by  We left  at 7 o' 

in order 2 avoid a Q  the pier in  worth. We were right. The f 

 quite M T as it was st  very  ly.

 *Rowing*  , we went 2 the c side for a  . The 

was very c  but L-C.  r, we  "  W  "

at the   Cinema. We b  1st c  tickets.  was

a very g  d show. Have u seen  yet?

If U have N E X tra pictures of our favourite  , please s 10 d some 2

me.  , I must s  here N do my  work. I have N SA

2 write. Hope U R not 2 B Z 2 give me N  ly reply.

Your  pal,

CT

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**APOLOGY:** *Dulcie Abraham's* article, mentioned in the Editorial, will appear in the next issue of The English Teacher. — Ed.

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