

**Actuele lesbrief Engels – Dear Europe**

**Voor de docent**

Bekende Britten schrijven ieder een brief aan Europa, waarin ze terugdenken aan het Europa van voor de Brexitgekte, wat dat voor hen heeft betekent en wat het nu nog betekent om Europeaan te zijn.

**ERK-niveau**

*Lezen B2 – Correspondentie lezen: Kan correspondentie lezen met betrekking tot zijn of haar interessegebied en daarbij meteen de wezenlijke betekenis vatten. (LEB2-1a)*

*– Lezen om informatie op te doen: Kan literaire en non-fictie teksten lezen met een redelijke mate van begrip voor het geheel en voor details. (LEB2-3b)*

Leesstrategieën – *Kan gebruikmaken van uiteenlopende strategieën om tot tekstbegrip te komen, waaronder het letten op hoofdpunten.* – *Kan van minder frequente woorden en uitdrukkingen de betekenis controleren door gebruik te maken van websites, (online) fora en eentalige woordenboeken.*

**Intro**

With Brexit looming, some in the UK are reflecting on their lifelong relationship with Europe.

Assignment 1

For this assignment you may use a dictionary or English-language Internet sources to help you.

a How many countries are joined in the European Union? 28

b Name one or more European countries that are not in the European Union.

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, ...

c Write down the names of the European countries you have visited.

**The reading text for this assignment can be found** [**here**](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/oct/26/dear-europe-letters-from-jk-rowling-neil-gaiman-may-beard-and-more)**.**

Read the first letter, “Writing home” by JK Rowling.

Assignment 2

For each definition, find the word or expression it describes in Rowling’s letter and write it down.

a people who you exchange friendly letters with, but usually have not met

b belonging to Wales

c smooth and shining

d to go with someone, to keep them company

e just a little knowledge of something

f without injuries or damage

g lists of the times when buses, trains, and planes leave and arrive

h to sleep lightly or briefly

i to move around in a relaxed way or without any clear purpose

j a short journey for pleasure

k a small case, often made of leather, for keeping money, credit cards, etc.

l great sadness

m improved the quality of something, made it better

n breaking, end

o a phrase taken from literature

p western Europe without Great Britain and Ireland

Assignment 3

a What effect did exchanging letters with other European students have on JK Rowling?

1 She became more and more curious about Europe and ended up loving Europe.

2 She discovered that everybody speaks English and decided never to learn any other language.

3 She ended up hating Europe because she lost all her money and then her mother died.

4 She got to taste many different European foods, but still liked her mother’s cooking best.

b For each statement, write down if it is true or false. Each time, also underline or copy one or more sentences in the text that confirm your choice.

1 As a writer, JK Rowling likes to use special words to say everyday things.

2 Their schools thought that this meant that the two girls would get along well.

3 Only girls were interested in writing letters to people they had never met.

4 You had to be really good at school to get a pen pal in another country.

c The title of this letter is “Writing home”. What does JK Rowling mean with “home” here?

1 The city of Porto, where she lived for a while and which she still loves.

2 The house in Stuttgart where her friend Hanna lives.

3 The places where she has friends, in this case all of Europe.

4 The town on the Welsh border where she grew up.