

You will write a letter to your younger self about an incident that deeply influenced you. Your writing should be modeled after Sandra Cisneros' style in "Eleven."

Directions:

- Write a Letter
- Begin your assignment as a personal letter to your younger self. Address yourself directly.
- Choose one important incident in your life (big or small) that changed how you see the world, taught you a lesson, or influenced the person you are today.

Use Cisneros' Style

- Stream of thought: Write in a way that feels like thoughts spilling out, sometimes circling back, sometimes repeating. Don't worry about perfect grammar in every sentence.
- Simple, childlike language: Even if the topic is serious, try to describe things the way your younger self would feel them—direct, emotional, and honest.
- Repetition: Use repeating words or phrases to show the strength of a feeling (like "you feel like you're eleven, you feel like you're three, you feel like you're all the ages").
- Similes and metaphors: Use comparisons to everyday things, simple but powerful. ("It feels like when your sweater itches too much, and you can't take it off.")
- Mixing feelings with the incident: Let the memory blur with the emotions, just like Cisneros blends the birthday with the red sweater in "Eleven."

Length: About 1–2 paragraphs .

Checklist before turning in:

- Is it written as a letter to your younger self?
- Does it focus on one key incident?
- Does the style feel like Cisneros in "Eleven" (stream of thought, repetition, similes, childlike honesty)?
- Does it show not just what happened, but how you felt?

Example Starter (in Cisneros' style):

Dear me when you were ten,

You think you're brave but really you're small, smaller than the words that came out of her mouth that day, and I want to tell you it won't always feel like that. It's like when the sky presses down heavy before it rains, that's how it felt in your chest. You wanted to cry, and you did, and you thought crying meant weak, but crying just meant you were still human. You'll remember that day the way you remember the smell of your old backpack, old and worn and yours.