

**DEAR JUNO**  
by Soyung Pak



**Activities:**

① Students draw pictures to give information they can send in a letter to someone in their family or a good friend. They can either bring a few things from home or draw and cut out some items that will give clues about the student. If possible, students can actually mail the letters.

**Variation 1:** Have students draw names in the class. Draw a letter for a classmate and see if the classmate can guess who it is from.

**Variation 2:** Have another teacher read *Dear Juno* to the class. Have the two classes exchange letters.

② Read *Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells. The students can think of a simple message to send someone. Then they should draw pictures to tell the message without words. These could be riddles. Students would draw pictures on the front of the page with the message written upside-down on the back. The pages can be posted on a bulletin board or out in the hall. After trying to guess the riddle, a person can read the written message by lifting the page from the bottom.

**Variation:** Students can hide the message (written small) under a flap on the illustration. To give students an example, share the book, *Flapstick*, with them.

③ Share rebus books, such as *Rebus Riot*, with the students. Then they can try writing rebus sentences, poems, or stories. The graphic can represent the whole word or a part of the word.

④ Talk about how letters are sent from one town to another. Find Seoul on a map and decide how letters would be sent between Juno and his grandmother. Read the book, *Letters From Felix* and compare the red and blue marks on this book with what Juno noticed on his letter. Decide what method of transportation would be used to send letters between towns like Eugene and Springfield.

⑤ Read *Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea* to the students. The students create postcards showing a place they know. They can write a short description of it on the back along with a message to someone.

**Variation 1:** Write the message using rebus symbols.

**Variation 2:** Exchange postcards with classmates or someone in another class.

**Variation 3:** Mail the postcards to family members or friends.

**Related Books:**

*Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells

*Flapstick* by Jon Agee (who will be a luncheon speaker at the March IRA Conference)

*Letters From Felix* by Annette Langen and Constanza Droop

*My Grandma, My Pen Pal* by Jan Dale Koutsky

*Rebus Riot* by Bonnie Christensen

*Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea* by Vera B. Williams and Jennifer Williams