Take care of yourself

By Owethu

Dear Lisa,
hi! I am hoping that you are fine there as I am fine here in Swaziland at Loredana's. My name is Owethu, a school going person. I like playing basketball and football.
I have lots of friends, one thing great about me. I like people a lot. I read your letter and discovered that you don't have friends, also that you have bad dreams at night.
I can imagine you as a great person, one thing you should do is to wake in the morning being positive, and be confident with yourself and start your day confidently.
When you have bad dreams at night, just wake up and pray for maybe a second or two, I promise you from there you will peacefully sleep. Sometimes when I have bad dreams I usually remember my mom because she died in a car accident. But this is what I did, I did cry but I told myself that there is a life ahead of me and with time I will be okay, so I must be strong.
I am one person who is lucky because I went to Loredana and it is a great home. I have a meal three times a day which not all of us in our country do, so embrace every situation that you are in and the ones you come across.
I know you are a good person, don't really be into friends because you might even forget about yourself or your future, so first consider yourself and then others later.
Let me tell you something great about my country. My country has got mountains which are good for hiking and

for heights. There are also good places for tourists which are very interesting and attract tourists from other countries.

I hope from this year going on you will be a great person and mingle with people and if they don't want to be with you, carry on with life because gradually they will come back.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed new year.

Lots of love

Owethu

Only you I can tell

By Nolly

Dear friend,
my name is Nolly. I am a 21 years old girl living in Dlokunga with an extended family who are loving and caring. As I woke up today, I was thinking about you my best friend and I wanted to talk about something which I told no one but only you I can tell.

I really love and enjoy listening to music and playing lots of games including volleyball and I would enjoy it a lot if I could play it with you. Everyone is neglecting me as if they do not think I've got an incredible friend who is like a sister to me, who never gets bored of me. I really appreciate the love you have for me.

When I'm done schooling, I want to go to the University to study nursing. As I've got a loving family who are always caring and loving to anyone whether you are a member of the family or not. They are always welcomed with warm hands.

As I live in the very beautiful country which is Swaziland. This is the smallest country but with incredible places and eye-catching mountains, for example Mdzimba mountain and Sibebe Rock. Lots of people love and enjoy hiking, which causes them distress.

I hope you did not get bored of my story, but I look forward to writing many of them for you. See you soon my friend!

Now and… in the next 5 years

By Mphile

Dear Lisa,
I am Mphile, I am a 20 year old boy, living in Eswatini. I live with my mom and my elder brother.
I love reading books and listening to music. Most of the time, I borrow and read interesting stories and comedy. I love traditional music that are songs in siSwati and English, but I follow SiSwati music most. This is because they contain Swazi culture and traditions.
In the next 5 years, I see myself as the owner of a recording studio. I'll be owning the recording studio.

An open-mind girl

By Felicity

Dear friend,

My name is Felicity, I am 20 years old and I live in Eswatini. I live with my lovely sweet mom who is very precious to me.

I am a young girl who is an extrovert and I like to attend all kinds of sporting activities, even those that I do not know how to do. Being an extrovert actually is nice, because you get to know a different kind of people, how they react and their different characters. But what I like most is the character of my beautiful friend Melly which also influenced me to be a good, generous and kind young woman.

Actually this thing of being an extrovert is really helping me a lot, because I want to be a social worker, and a social worker spends most of the time communicating to a lot of different kinds of people. In that way you are able to understand them also by just looking at the way they react.

I would also like to brief you about my country which is very special to me, and I am glad that I grew up in this country. What I like the most actually is the culture, especially the Reed Dance where we get together around other young children like us from different countries, where we also meet a lot of old friends who live in other places, how fun it is.

As a young woman I also have wishes and desires, especially travelling to other countries to experience new things and other persons who are not Swazi and also to learn other different languages.

Dancing for the king

By Zovoi

Dear Lisa,

My name is Zovoi, I am a Form 2 girl, who is 16 years old. I am writing this letter today, to tell you about our beautiful cultured young maidens who dance for the king.

I really love talking and listening to the stories of others. Often my stories are always interesting, because people I tell about always love my stories. I love people a lot, I always befriend people and I don't have a stable friend, everyone around me is my friend.

On the 19th of September, we went to the river to cut the reeds with some other girls, being accompanied by a few boys to help us in cutting the reeds. Then, on Friday we went to the *inkhundla* in big trucks, we were singing all the way. From the *inkhundla* to Mbangweni, where in the royal family we danced in front of the king, we took a bus.

On Saturday we were in our traditional clothes. On top of our body we wore a yard that has the king in it which is called *lihiya* and we tied it on the left shoulder. Then we also tied a yard that is called *Sidvwashi* and danced in front of the king and it was cold and freezing. Some of the girls were wearing small miniskirts.

When I grow up I would like to be a heart surgeon. I want to help people with health issues. I also want to donate some

of my salaries to orphanages to help children like they are helping me.

I hope you've liked my story and my culture. Before I forget, we go for a reed dance twice a year between September and August.

Lazy or pragmatic?

By Yolla

Dear Lisa,

Hey girl! This is Yolla, a Swazi girl from Eswatini. I write this letter to share with you my boring part of life just like you did.

I have loads of friends unlike you. I spend a lot of time with them since I stay with them at home. We are becoming more like sisters. Having them around me is the best thing of my life. We share our stories either sad or bad, having friends in your life is important.

When I was a small kid I wished to be old one day and now I am. I used to watch people playing basketball and I would love their jump as if to catch the sky.

This was my wish since childhood, but the thing is I am too lazy to play, it is better when I am watching.

I go to school and I spend a lot of my time there. My favorite subject is physical science because I wish to become an engineer. I also wish to be an agronomist. I like being practical yet I am lazy but I'll make a way.

Live and let live

By Abby

Dear Lisa,

My name is Abby. I am a Swazi young girl living in the Loredana house.

I have friends but sometimes I feel like not having friends is the best option. Being in a friendship where you are three in number is stressful. Sometimes you get jealous when your best friend spends too much time with the other. Usually you start to hate the other girl.

Being in Loredana house taught me a lot of things. I came to the house when I was doing Form 1 and now I'm doing Form 4. Before I came to the house I stayed with my grandmother and my younger sister. I was not used to living with many people.

Coming here, staying with other people made me understand life. Meaning when you hear someone else's situation and you compare it to your situation you feel better.

My father has a short temper and we didn't get along because I have so much anger.

My mother died a long time ago, I was very young at the age of 8 years old. I had to stay with my granny and it was really hard. My family didn't like my dad at all because of his anger issues. So they talked about my dad and it was really hard. I used to get angry but my anger never helped me.

Now I have four roommates and we are getting along greatly. They are like my sisters. I'm studying so that I can support my little sister.

My life is not that much. I've learnt that in life, you have to let go of the past and live life to the fullest.

I hope my story did not bore you.

Alone but not lonely

By Baby

Dear Lisa,

This is Baby, I am a girl who is living in Eswatini. I am just a funny girl who has lots of dreams.

I am a nice girl who brings diverse contributing experiences to the team's success. I am pro-active and an adapted professional in problem-solving and delivering high quality result, I feel whole and fulfilled within myself. I do not feel compelled and fulfilled through having another person as a partner, I feel fine alone and I mostly listen, ignore and move on.

As I've just said earlier that I am a girl of dreams and wishes, I want to be an independent self-employed person who wants to make other people like me have a better life. But at the same time I want to study more about living things because I really like Biology. My only wish that I want to fulfill before I perish is to make my parents proud of me and become successful.

At home I live with my siblings, two sisters and one brother. I like my small family because we are just simple and happy. The only thing I like about my home is that it is huge enough for us to feel free because in December we invite our friends to have maybe a sleepover and have fun.

A big future

By Wonderboy

Dear Lisa,

My name is Wonderboy. I stay at Eswatini, I'm a student learning Form 3 at Mbukwini High School and I'm 17 years old. At home I stay with my siblings and my parents, I like playing cards and word search in order for the brain to think much better. I have friends in school and in my area, so I feel sorry for you that you don't have friends and nothing else. At home I have my own big room and that makes me excited.

Life treats me well because I have parents at home, so nothing I may suffer from and I like learning so much. My dream in life is to be a doctor of animals and I'm a well-mannered person. I wish to help people when I'm old and working. In life I handle some little challenges by telling my mom and friends because they advise me well and guide me too.

I like communicating with others whether I know them or not, it doesn't matter for me because my dream is to be an entrepreneur, so I have to be known. I'm popular because I'm a poet and most people like me because of my talent.

Smile my best profile

By Charles

Dear friend,

My name is Charles, I am a boy who lives in Swaziland. I'm a boy who is short in body size but longing to be next to you the way you're everything to me.

I always love to tell jokes and make people laugh each and every day. I love telling stories. What is interesting about me is that I'm always laughing in contact with many people. Truly speaking, I don't have a best friend in school but I'm a friend of everyone. I resolved in my heart that I will always smile even if to me it is difficult because laughing is the medication of depression, stress and anything more.

My dream is to be a radio presenter and an author. I am also a poet. When I recite I make people laugh and forget about their stress.

In Swaziland where I live it's a unique country with big mountains, gorges and a peaceful country. Even natural disasters are not in Swaziland such as earthquakes, volcanoes so it's a blessed and fantastic country.

Many people (visitors) come to Swaziland and hike mountains such as a Mahamba and refresh their minds, enjoying and creating friends.

I hope I have not bored you by telling you more about myself and country but I look forward to seeing you soon my friend!

An overpowering writer

By Alondwe

Dear friend,
My name is Alondwe. I am a 20 year old girl living in Masibini. I couldn't stop thinking about you because you're dearly part of my life.
I really love public speaking and listening to stories based on young children. I haven't written stories of my own because my surroundings discouraged me from being an author, that made me give up and underestimate myself as an author.
All that is a washed away issue. I've got so many perceptions about myself on being someone great. Throughout my childhood I've been stuck with a dream of being a doctor, if that one fails I am going to work on my own and be a business woman.
As I am writing to you I think of the different varieties of vacations we should take around this country. By the way, Swaziland is known to be very small but has got many beautiful things to explore around it. I start to imagine how fantastic it could be to explore the world with you around me. This might be a way of sharing a friendship bond between you and I.
I hope and I wish to explore the world with you even abroad. I hope you'll enjoy reading my book.

A big festival

By Sipha

Dear Lisa,

Hey dear, how are you? I hope you are fine. I have just read your letter and it is so amazing to know that there is someone outside thinking about me.

In my country there are a lot of activities taking place like celebrating some ceremonies where we all come together and celebrate. We also have a music festival where people in different parts of the world come to celebrate, known as Bushfire Festival.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sipha

A big Italian-Swazi family

By Sno

Dear Lisa,
This letter serves to tell you about my place of residence.
I live in the Loredana children's house together with 23 children of my age. I really enjoy their company because we live as brothers and sisters. We have our two aunties who take very good care of us.
Every year during summer time we usually have visitors who come from Italy to spend some quality time with us here in Eswatini. We use this time profitably as we learn a lot from each other. They teach us their language and we also do the same. We also play a lot of games and have some fun with each other.
Catch you next time with more news!
Sno

Happiness in a helping hand

Dear Lisa,
I am kindly writing this letter to tell you about my future.
In my future I want to be a doctor just like the doctors who usually come here to do their job. I want to be a doctor because it is my favorite thing to help people who need help from me. When I help some other children I feel happy because it makes me feel like a doctor who helps people.
I will always continue helping people so that my future will be as I wanted it to be.

Italian style tour

By Yolla

Dear Lisa,
I hereby write this letter to share to you the moment we had with Italian friends here at Eswatini. We travelled to the gorge to have fun together outside the house premises. It was such a wonderful time together as we toured around the gorge. We took a view over the waterfall and the waterfall was so beautiful with white flowing water from a steep mountain and a plunge pool underneath. We also enjoyed ourselves inside the water as there was sunshine.
It was so nice having them around. I just hope we meet them again so that we can travel to the gorge again.
Cheer for now.
Yolla