

# YOU'VE GOT MAIL

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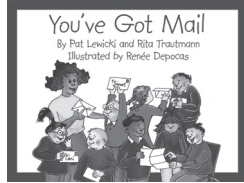
Illustrated by – Renée Depocas

Genre – Recount, Letter

Set 13 - 179 Words

## Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Show the students a piece of mail. Invite them to identify the envelope, stamp, address, etc. With the students, brainstorm a list of words having to do with mail such as: *letters, mailbox, mailman, cards, stamps, post office*, etc. Tell them if necessary. Make a chart of mail words that can be used for word sorts later. Tell about a time you got some mail or sent some mail.



## Introduction

Tell the children that this is a story about children sending mail to each other.

Picture walk the first few pages to introduce the children's names. Teach students a strategy for reading the names in the story that might be difficult.

State the purpose for reading: *Now read the story yourself to find out what kinds of letters these children get.*

## Discussion – Book Talk

Here are some suggested three level questions that can be used during discussion. Guide students as they make up their own questions at each level.

*Right there questions:*

- Find the sentence that tells why everyone in the class was happy.
- Find the sentence that tells how old Jason is.

*Think and search questions:*

- Why do you think Jason got to deliver the mail on this day?
- What do you think James wrote in his letter to Lani?

*On your own questions:*

- What kind of mail do you like to get? Why?

## Creative Response – Independent Practice

You may want to introduce students to email if they don't already know how to use it.

Children can:

- learn how to write a letter using the letter outline on the reproducible master. Talk about the parts of a letter: Beginning (Dear . . .), Middle (Message), End (Your Friend . . .).

## Read Aloud Connections

*The Jolly Christmas Postman* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, William Heinemann Ltd., 1991.

*The Post Office Book: Mail and How it Works* (non-fiction) by Gail Gibbons, Encore Editions, 1976.

*The Post Office Cat*, by Gail Haley, Scribner, 1976.

*There's Something at the Letterbox*, by Jez Alborough, Walker Books, 1998.

## Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words	why, started	Find these words in books or on the word wall. Take the <i>ed</i> off <i>started</i> and find that word.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	Silent <i>w</i> - write  Review double letters.  <i>ay</i> family - day, hay, may, way, say, today, tray	Make a list of words with silent <i>w</i>  Word hunt - find all the words in the story with double letters.  Make the <i>ay</i> family with magnetic letters.
Structural Features of Words	Compound words: <i>mail</i>  <i>You've</i> - contraction	Explode a word with <i>mail</i> - <i>mailbag, mailman, mailbox</i> etc.  Write the two words for you've.
Text Features	Dialogue - quotation marks	Write a sentence with quotation marks.

