

(Your address
here)

23 February,
2009.

Dear Gretchen,

I Hope you are doing great. I was thrilled to see your ad in the magazine under the pen-pal section. You are exactly the kind of friend I have been looking for! Your interests match mine exactly!

My name is Maria May. I am a girl aged sixteen from Malaysia. I am the only girl in a family of four. I've three younger brothers. They get to be such a pain sometimes! But anyway, I love them still. My father is a farmer (actually we all live on a farm) and my mom is a teacher. She teaches tenth graders at the school I go to.

I'm doing my eleventh grade. My school is just about thirty minutes walk from home. Mom and I usually go together, and we prefer walking to talking a bus. It is lovely to watch the beautiful green tea plantations and breathe in the fresh air. My school is rather small and has only about a thousand pupils. It is a high school, so this should explain the small number of pupils.

Just like you, I love reading, especially novels. It is no wonder that I was chosen librarian last week! I have a big collection of novels of all kinds! Which ones are your favourite?

I am also a music lover. I spend most of my afternoon days listening to music. I've actually made a couple of songs of my own! Are you into singing as well?

Travelling is one of the things that I really enjoy. I've been to many places. One of the places I visited recently was India. It is a great place and I wouldn't mind living there! The people are lovely and there are many wonderful sights to see. Which places have you visited yourself?

I am so glad to add you to my pen-pal friends. I love writing letters too. I already have six pen-pals! You are going to be my seventh! I really can't wait to get a letter from you!

By the way, after I complete school, I've intentions of coming to further my studies in Germany! I'm currently pushing for a scholarship. So when I'm selected, I'll be totally thrilled! I'll be swimming in happiness! It would certainly be nice to see you in person!

Please write and tell me about yourself and your country. If possible, include some information on some of the colleges you have there, and if they admit foreign students.

Stay blest, Gretchen. I am very much looking forward to hearing from you.

Take care,
Maria May