



Do you think love can change the world? We like to think so! Another word for love is the Irish word *grá*.

There are lots of different kinds of *grá*. We can have love, for someone or something—like our family, our home, and our planet. We can love to do things, like spend time with friends, play outside, and make art. We can share and spread love, too—by showing kindness, compassion, and care to all living things, everywhere. **Grá has the power to make the world a better place to live.**

This year, we're asking everyone to share their wishes for a better world and send them with Grá.

You can send your wishes to someone you care about in a letter or a postcard. Ask them to write back with their wishes and let's see just how far our hopes for the world spread.



An Post Writing Competition

To participate in the *An Post Wishes for a Better World* Writing Competition, complete the steps below. You can use our **Teacher Guide** on the following pages to help your 3RD-4TH class pupils craft the perfect letter!



Step 1: Send your Wishes for a Better World

If you were granted **three wishes** to make the world a better place, what would they be? Write your wishes in a letter or on the back of a postcard. Send it to someone you care about and ask them to write back with their three wishes!

Step 2: Writing Prompt

Encourage pupils to choose one of the prompts below and write a handwritten letter. They can write in cursive or print and can draw a picture illustrating their better world, too.

- **Prompt A:** Choose **one** of your three wishes. Think about small actions or good deeds you could take to make that wish come true. Write a letter telling us about the action or good deed you hope to do.
- **Prompt B:** Imagine that one (or more) of your wishes for a better world have come true! What does the world look like now? How has it changed? Write a letter to your future-self describing what the world is like.

Step 3: Check your Work

Encourage your pupils to use our handwriting checklist to self-edit their work!

Step 4: Send it in!

- Fill out our entry form for each pupil and attach the handwritten copy of their letter.
- Send it to **An Post Junior Writing Competition - PO Box 13287, Freepost FDN7461, Dublin 1.**
- The deadline for entry submission is **18th March 2022.**





We hope you're excited to participate in An Post's annual Writing Competition. We've put together some activity ideas to help you facilitate letter writing/handwriting in your class.

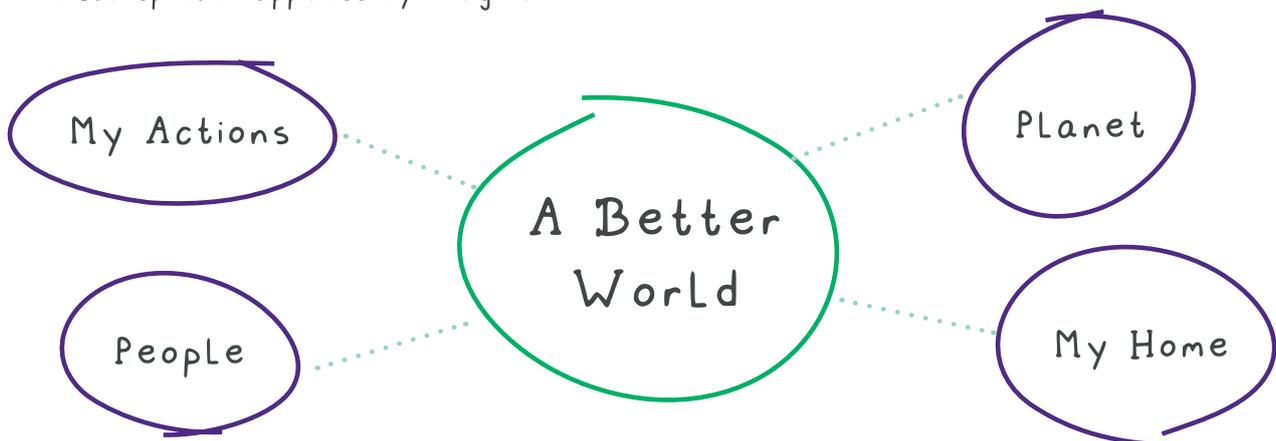
A Better World Brainstorm

Before pupils start thinking about their **three wishes**, engage in a whole-class brainstorm about what it means to have a better world and what we can do to create a better world.

1. Display a mind map, reading 'A Better World' in the center of your whiteboard or slides. You might wish to use the categories People, Planet, My Home, and My Actions as we have done below to help kick-start ideas!

- I can be mindful of... my food waste, plastic use, etc.
- I can collect plastic and bottles from the beach and recycle them
- I can be friendly to everyone in school
- I can tell a teacher or a parent if I think someone is being bullied
- I can spread happiness by being kind

- We stop destroying forests
- We plant lots of flowers and trees
- We end climate change
- Everyone Loves the earth



- Are happy
- Feel Loved
- Are equal
- Everyone is accepted
- No bullying

- Everyone shops Local
- Everyone keeps the town tidy / Our town becomes a Tidy Town!
- We build a community garden
- All pupils and teachers cycle to school!



2. Inspire your pupils with some of the videos below. After watching, see if pupils can add to the mind map on the board.

- [Kid President: How to Change the World](#)
- [Kids explain how to make the world a better place](#)

Want more of a sustainability focus? Check out [What's all the buzz about?](#), [Wales Tale](#) and [Rocket Says Clean Up](#). Ask pupils to think about what they could make better based on these resources and videos.

My Wishes - Thought Starters

Now that pupils have gathered ideas for what makes a better world. It's time to focus on their wishes. Encourage them to think of specific things they want to see improved. You might suggest that they choose one wish related to 'people', 'planet' and 'other' as demonstrated from the semantic map brainstorm. Use some of the thought starters below to help pupils get started!

I'd Love to see a world...

where no one is hungry
where everyone gets along
where we don't harm animals
where there is no pollution
where there is no bullying

I'd Love the world to...

be kind to everyone
be filled with lots of trees and plants
Love the planet and care more about climate change
stop using so much plastic!



Letter Example and Thought Starters

Share the example letter to help your pupils get some ideas for how to structure their letter and what to include.

PROMPT A: Example Letter

Dear An Post,

One of my wishes for a better world is to stop using so much plastic. I'd really love if everyone cared more about our planet, and it seems like plastic is on everything these days! When I go to the market with my mum, I see plastic everywhere. Even all our food is wrapped in it, but it doesn't need to be. Plastic is hurting our planet and our animals. Many animals try to eat plastic because they think it is food, or they get themselves stuck in it somehow! I don't think this is fair.

If we had less plastic in the world, I think it would be a better place. That's why I hope to do a beach clean-up with my family this year. We can pick up all the plastic and other rubbish on the beach. I'll recycle the plastic and the beach will be nice and clean! This is one small way I can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Your name

Prompt A Sentence Starters

- One of my wishes for a better world/place is...
- I'd really love if...
- If we had in the world, I think it would be a better world
- That's why I hope to...
- One small way I can make a difference...

PROMPT B: Example Letter

Dear Future Me,

It's been two weeks since my wish for a better world came true! I wished that no one in the world would go hungry. I didn't think it was possible, but now everyone has enough food to eat...seriously! People are eating three big meals a day. We have tons of gardens all over the town now. Everywhere you walk you can see and pick fresh fruit. It smells so nice all the time!

Every Friday we cook a community meal. Each family takes turns cooking for the entire town (mom's lasagna is still the best!). It's so much fun eating all together. I've made lots of new friends this way (I hope you are still friends with them now). We also get to have as many snacks as we want. Yup, even crisps and sweets. I think zero cavities is a bonus to my wish because I don't have a single one yet. Or maybe I do 15 years from now? I guess I'll find out then.

Sincerely,

Younger You

Prompt B Sentence Starters

- It's been ... since my wish for a better world came true!
- My wish for a better world has finally come true!
- I didn't think it would be possible but now...
- For the first time ever...
- Everywhere you go, you can see...