

“The Ransom of Red Chief” – Ransom Letter Assignment Handout

Remember, this letter is supposed to be humorous. You are writing with the goal to make your audience laugh. You are pretending to kidnap an item from someone. DO NOT actually take this item—I will not defend you if you get in trouble!

These are the requirements for producing a quality ransom letter. The letter/poem must:

___ begin with a greeting to your “victim” (“My Dearest Dora ...”)

___ be written in poem form with every two lines having the same rhyme scheme

___ have between 10-20 lines total (Yes, it can have more!)

___ include the reason you chose the person to be your “victim”

___ explain what object you are holding for ransom

___ explain how you know the object is important

___ clearly state your demands—what conditions must be met

___ must explain what will happen if your demands are not met—what you will do with the item if the person does not comply

___ must be signed with a clever alias (fake name)

___ be in cut-out letters on the final draft

___ Final draft should be written into the shape of the kidnapped item (if including art in exercise)

___ should follow correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization

Rough draft is due: _____

Final draft is due: _____

SEE SAMPLE POEM FORMAT