Domains:
Access to information from written texts
Written presentation

Benchmarks:
Understand the general meaning, main ideas and sequence of events in a text and use this knowledge as needed
Describe people, places, things, and events

Description:
In this task, pupils receive a letter from Grandpa Henry, who lives in New Zealand. Grandpa Henry has decided that he is too old to travel, so he sits in his armchair and writes letters to schools in faraway places, asking the children to describe the places and people around them. Pupils are asked to write a reply to Grandpa Henry.

Rationale for choice of topic:
By describing their own surroundings in this context, pupils become familiar with the world of possibility that imagination and communication skills open for them. This topic offers a slightly unusual perspective on the task of describing oneself and one’s surroundings.

Suggestions for implementation (prior to and/or during):
Have a class discussion about things to do and places to go with a visiting friend. Encourage children to observe and describe their surroundings. You may want to play some perception games (such as “I Spy”) and memory games that require children to pay attention to color, order, quantity, etc. Practice the use of adjectives and prepositions.

Suggestion for further assessment: Working in pairs, pupils role-play telephone conversations with Grandpa Henry. They should take turns playing Grandpa Henry. This role-playing should be assessed in the same way as other oral tasks (see “Let’s Talk About...”).

Note: It is very important to teach pupils how to use a checklist before they are give this performance task.

Suggested time allotment:
One lesson

Prerequisites:
◆ Ability to use adjectives and prepositions correctly
◆ Ability to describe personal surroundings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Part One Reading Comprehension*</th>
<th>Part Two Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5      | ♦ Answered all 3 questions appropriately | ♦ Wrote at least 5 sentences  
♦ Letter includes all required elements (items 3-7 in the checklist)  
♦ Writing is well organized  
♦ Vocabulary is varied  
♦ Skillful use of basic language (spelling; word order; singular/plural forms; verb forms; capitalization; punctuation) |
| 4      |                                  |                     |
| 3      | ♦ Answered 2 questions appropriately | ♦ Wrote 3 sentences  
♦ Letter includes some of the required elements (items 3-7 in the checklist)  
♦ Writing is fairly organized  
♦ Vocabulary is basic  
♦ Adequate use of basic language (spelling; word order; singular/plural forms; verb forms; capitalization; punctuation) |
| 2      |                                  |                     |
| 1      | ♦ Answered 1 question appropriately | ♦ Wrote 1 sentence  
♦ Letter includes few of the required elements (items 3-7 in the checklist)  
♦ Writing is not well organized  
♦ Vocabulary is limited  
♦ Limited use of basic language (spelling; word order; singular/plural forms; verb forms; capitalization; punctuation) |

* Do not take off points for spelling and grammar in Part One.
Dear Grandpa Henry

My name is A. I live in Baqa, Israel. I am in Class 6A. I go to Ibn Khaldun School. Come to Baqa to visit our City, Baqa and see the beautiful Mosque and the football field and then you can shop at the Market. I want you to meet my friend Mahmood. He is a my best friend I enjoy his company.
Grandpa Henry
the Armchair Traveler

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Part One:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part Two:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher’s Comments

Very good!
You followed the instructions and wrote a very nice letter to Grandpa Henry. You included places to visit and something to do. You wrote about your friend. You started the sentences with a capital letter. Make sure that the period is at the end of the sentence.
Dear Grandpa Henry

My name is Daniel. I live in Holon. I am 12 years old. I like soccer and baseball and computers. I love going to school for play soccer. I like to work to solve problems. Mickey is my friend very good.

your friend
Grandpa Henry
the Armchair Traveler

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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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**Teacher’s Comments**

Good!
You followed the instructions and wrote a letter to Grandpa Henry. You started with a greeting and ended with your name. You wrote about something to do near your home and about a friend.

Note: I like to go to the schoolyard to play soccer.
Mickey is my very good friend.
What is Sokolos and what do you do there?
Do you walk to Sokolos or work at Sokolos?
Grandpa Henry
the Armchair Traveler

Date: 3/6/04

* I am going to jail
* A ride I on gen totdall melf foareds
* I on foareds Aiv
Grandpa Henry
the Armchair Traveler

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Good start → → → → → → Well done!

Teacher’s Comments

You wrote a letter to Grandpa Henry.
You wrote the date and a greeting and
ended with your name. You wrote about
your friend.

Say it like this: I have a very good friend.
His name is Ram.

You also need to write about:

* a place to visit
* something to do near your home.

Good start. Try to add some more
sentences.