

## Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 2-Data Collection Sheet

As a group, share the information you have each collected about the five different letter writers. Have one person in your group complete the chart below:

	Letter 1	Letter 2	Letter 3	Letter 4	Letter 5
Gender of writer	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>girl</i>
Age of writer	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>10, 14, or 15</i>	<i>13</i>
Request	<i>Bus to take students across river to school</i>	<i>Money to buy clothes and furniture for their house</i>	<i>Some of Mrs. Roosevelt's old clothes</i>	<i>Easter suits for herself, sisters and mother</i>	<i>Coat to wear to school</i>
Where the writer lives	<i>Duquesne</i>	<i>Clairton</i>	<i>Brownsville</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>North Philadelphia</i>
Tone of letter	<i>Apologizes for not writing well; appreciates the things that Mrs. Roosevelt has done for the country; hopeful.</i>	<i>Extremely sad and despairing; has been crying herself to sleep; apologizes for poor writing; hates life; wants to be loved and show kindness.</i>	<i>Grateful for any help; despairing and sad.</i>	<i>Life is dull and unpleasant; sorrowful, but appreciative of any help she may receive.</i>	<i>Hopeful; Wants to be helpful and generous; appreciative.</i>
Attitude towards Mrs. Roosevelt	<i>Calls her a Santa Claus; thinks of her love and kindness towards the poor; says she has done a lot for the country and that she will remember her as she does George Washington; will pray for her.</i>	<i>Writer confides many secrets to Mrs. Roosevelt and asks her not to tell anyone; Trusting like a friend.</i>	<i>Has heard of Mrs. Roosevelt's good deeds for the miners and their families.</i>	<i>Tells Mrs. Roosevelt that she will pray for her and may God bless her a thousand time; trusts her to keep a secret.</i>	<i>Pleads with Mrs. Roosevelt to help her. Uses the words "prayerfully yours" at the end.</i>

Study the table you have created. Do you find anything in common between the letters? Describe them here. Be specific and give details from the text to support your response.

*All writers are girls; most are teens; all are poor and most ask for some type of clothing; all express great appreciation for the things they have heard that Mrs. Roosevelt does; all suffer from great hardship of some kind, such as having to walk long distances in the winter in order to get to school without the proper clothing. Two apologize for poor writing skills. Several writers ask Mrs. Roosevelt to keep their letter a secret, perhaps due to embarrassment.*

What conclusions or generalizations can you make about what life was like for children during the Great Depression?

*Answers may vary, but should contain some of these items:*

*Young people were deprived of many of the things that children today take for granted. Many children were filled with despair and embarrassment about their poverty. Going to school was important to young people, but they often could not afford the things they needed to get to school safely.*

What character trait could you assign to Mrs. Roosevelt based on the attitudes the writers had towards her?

*Answers may vary, but may include these character traits:*

*Generous; caring; friendly; kind; compassionate; responsive; trust-worthy*