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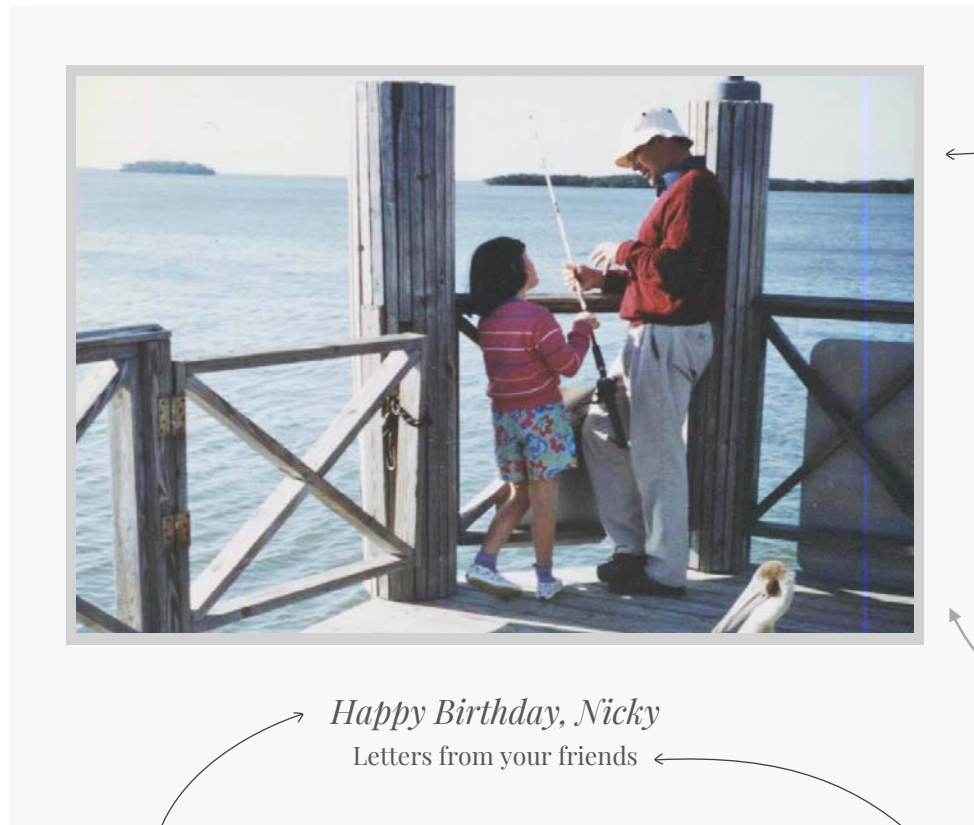
## OVERVIEW

Here is how the book is organized...



# Cover page

Here is the cover page. You can customize the photo, the title and the subtitle in your book's Admin pages on our website. Make sure the cover photo is of a high quality, and has a resolution of 240 dpi (600 dpi for graphics) at 9 inches across the longest side.



Cover  
image

NOTE: Cover image, title and subtitle are all optional. For instance, you may upload cover graphics that already have a title included; or you may want a title (and perhaps a subtitle) on the book cover, without an image.

White background and  
space around the cover  
image

Title

Subtitle

# *Title page*

Title

Happy Birthday, Nicky

Letters from your friends


Subtitle



FROM A BIRDIE

# First page

Here is the first page where you can include an intro text before the letters  
(this intro text is optional)



*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut pretium risus sit  
amet dictum dictum. Vestibulum accumsan pretium varius. Nunc non odio  
turpis. Aenean iaculis cursus lobortis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur  
adipiscing elit. In dictum velit at nunc convallis placerat. Fusce non nulla erat.  
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interdum. Integer et nulla vitae mi blandit pharetra vel et nulla. Donec  
vulputate pellentesque odio vitae malesuada.*

Shorter intro text is on the right hand side of the first page spread. We can accommodate a longer intro text too, and let it spread over more than one page.

# Letter page *(the most common size)*

Letters may be printed in one of multiple font sizes, in one of two font styles, and span one or more pages, depending on its length.

*Name of the person  
who wrote the letter*

*Bill Waterson*

---

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter. Here are some general comic strip cartooning tips that I've tried to make helpful for people at all levels of advancement. I hope these will apply to your work.

1. Materials are not important, so long as your work reproduces and reduces clearly. It's what you do WITH the materials that counts.
2. I think characters are more important than jokes. Any cartoonist ought to be able to come up with funny gags, but the best strips have rounded, complex characters that readers can care about. Cartoon characters should be more than standing props to deliver jokes.
3. Don't imitate other strips. Editors are looking for something new and original.
4. Most importantly, have fun with your work, and practice writing and drawing all you can.

Good luck,  
W. B. Watterson

(This is a variant of a letter written by W. B. Watterson to photographer and Calvin and Hobbes fan Todd Church. 1980's)

*The letter  
itself.*

# Letter page (bigger font size)

And a bigger size like here.

Name of the person  
who wrote the letter

*Sophia*

---

*NICKI,*

*I JUST WANTED TO SAY YOU REALLY INSPIRE  
ME, AND I HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL  
BIRTHDAY. YOU MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER  
PLACE.*

*SOPHIA*

---

The letter  
itself.

# Letter page (the biggest font size)

And the biggest font size for really short letters.

Name of the person  
who wrote the letter

Laura Longley

*HOPE YOU HAVE A  
VERY HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!!!*

The letter  
itself.

# Image page

Images go on a separate page (one ore more per page). You can include a brief caption under each image, but if you want us to combine images into grids it's best not to include captions.

The image



Mauris luctus gravida turpis, vitae molestie sem dignissim vel.

The caption



# Letter and Image page spread

Writer's name appears here, but only above the first page of their letter

*Since our last birthday together, four years ago, you've grown in your heart, mind, body, and smile. Your kindness is contagious, you have a peaceful spirit, take such good care of Mom and Agus, and seeing you blossom inspires me to go back home and put all my effort into being the best person I can be to make the World a better place, because I know one Day soon, you'll be up to great things. Right now, you uplift our hearts, so it only goes to reason that as your voice grows, so will your bright and positive influence on the people that love you, and look up to you.*

*The World of Love,  
Your big Brother,  
-Tins*

One photo per page by default, at maximum image size 5.5h x 8.5w inches



Wherever possible, letters face their attached image(s) on the same page spread.

# Letter and Image page spread

Writer's name appears here, but only above the first page of their letter

*Since our last birthday together, four years ago, you've grown in your heart, mind, body, and smile. Your kindness is contagious, you have a peaceful spirit, take such good care of Mom and Agus, and seeing you blossom inspires me to go back home and put all my effort into being the best person I can be to make the World a better place, because I know one Day soon, you'll be up to great things. Right now, you uplift our hearts, so it only goes to reason that as your voice grows, so will your bright and positive influence on the people that love you, and look up to you.*

*The World of Love,  
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Do not include captions with photos that you want to be printed in groups



We can combine multiple photos into a simple grid of 2, 3, 4 images per page...

# Letter and Image page spread

Writer's name appears here, but only above the first page of their letter

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*The World of Love,  
Your big Brother,  
-Tins*



....or, for a sleeker look, combine your photos into collages using tools like Powerpoint or web-based tools such as Photocollage.com, and upload them as single image(s)

# Last page

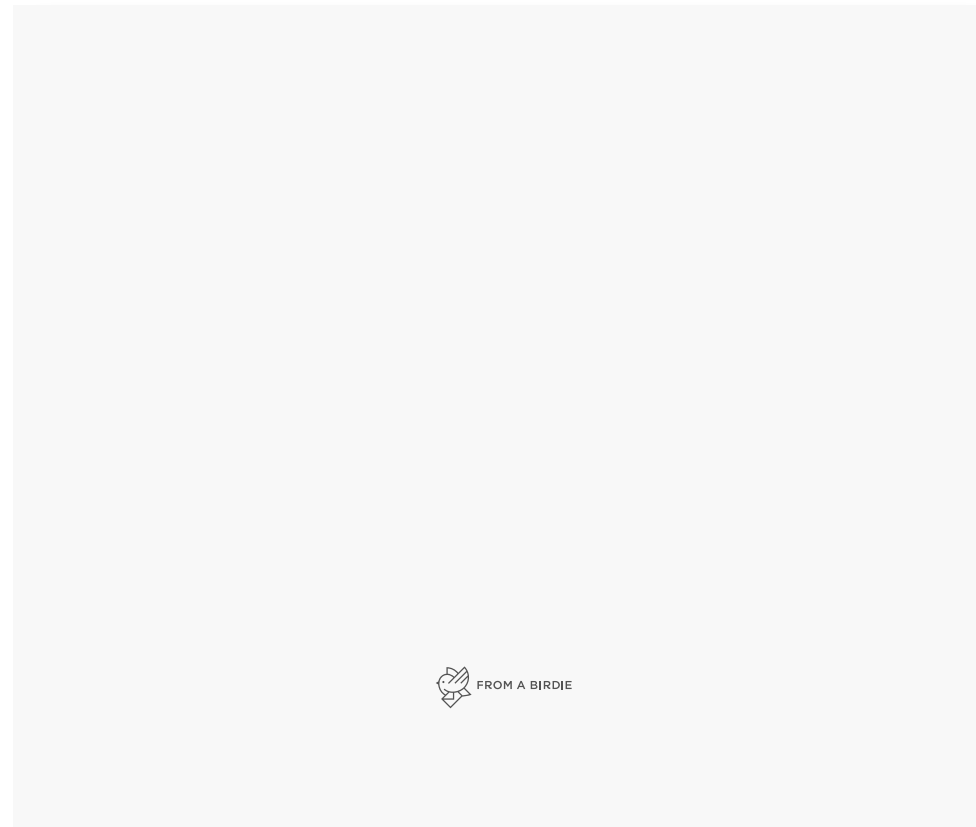
Here is the last page where you can include a personalized text before closing the book (this text is also optional)

*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut pretium risus sit amet dictum dictum. Vestibulum accumsan pretium varius. Nunc non odio turpis. Aenean iaculis cursus lobortis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. In dictum velit at nunc convallis placerat. Fusce non nulla erat. Nullam interdum nunc et ex bibendum suscipit. Praesent iaculis a sapien non interdum. Integer et nulla vitae mi blandit pharetra vel et nulla. Donec vulputate pellentesque odio vitae malesuada.*

As with the intro text, we can accommodate a longer closing text, and let it take up multiple pages.

# *Back of a book*

And here is how the back of the book looks like.







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BOOK SAMPLE

Now, have a look at the actual book!



# *Side of a book*

The book title is also shown on the side of the book.







*Happy Birthday, Nicky*  
Letters from your friends



# Happy Birthday, Nicky

Letters from your friends





*Nicki.... because we love you!!!.....*

*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut pretium risus sit amet dictum dictum. Vestibulum accumsan pretium varius. Nunc non odio turpis. Aenean iaculis cursus lobortis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. In dictum velit at nunc convallis placerat. Fusce non nulla erat. Nullam interdum nunc et ex bibendum suscipit. Praesent iaculis a sapien non interdum. Integer et nulla vitae mi blandit pharetra vel et nulla. Donec vulputate pellentesque odio vitae malesuada.*

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*Bill Waterson*

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Good luck,

W. B. Watterson

(This is a variant of a letter written by W. B. Watterson to photographer and Calvin and Hobbes fan Todd Church. 1980's)

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calvin and hobbes

## *Kurt Vonnegut*

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Dear Xavier High School, and Ms. Lockwood, and Messrs Perin, McFeely, Batten, Maurer and Congiusta:

I thank you for your friendly letters. You sure know how to cheer up a really old geezer (84) in his sunset years. I don't make public appearances any more because I now resemble nothing so much as an iguana.

What I had to say to you, moreover, would not take long, to wit: Practice any art, music, singing, dancing, acting, drawing, painting, sculpting, poetry, fiction, essays, reportage, no matter how well or badly, not to get money and fame, but to experience becoming, to find out what's inside you, to make your soul grow.

Seriously! I mean starting right now, do art and do it for the rest of your lives. Draw a funny or nice picture of Ms. Lockwood, and give it to her. Dance home after school, and sing in the shower and on and on. Make a face in your mashed potatoes. Pretend you're Count Dracula.

Here's an assignment for tonight, and I hope Ms. Lockwood will flunk you if you don't do it: Write a six line poem, about anything, but rhymed. No fair

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tennis without a net. Make it as good as you possibly can. But don't tell anybody what you're doing. Don't show it or recite it to anybody, not even your girlfriend or parents or whatever, or Ms. Lockwood. OK?

Tear it up into teeny-weeny pieces, and discard them into widely separated trash recepticals. You will find that you have already been gloriously rewarded for your poem. You have experienced becoming, learned a lot more about what's inside you, and you have made your soul grow.

God bless you all! Kurt Vonnegut

(In 2006 Ms. Lockwood, an English teacher at Xavier High School, asked her students to write a letter to a famous author. She wanted them discuss the author's work and ask for advice. Kurt Vonnegut (1922 - 2007) was the only one to write back.)

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*Kurt Vonnegut's awesome signature*



*Vonnegut: passionate about human connection. Photograph: Edie Vonnegut/AP*

*Audrey Hepburn*

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Dear,

I have just seen our picture - BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S - this time with your score.

A movie without music is a little bit like an aeroplane without fuel. However beautifully the job is done, we are still on the ground and in a world of reality. Your music has lifted us all up and sent us soaring. Everything we cannot say with words or show with action you have expressed for us. You have done this with so much imagination, fun and beauty.

You are the hippest of cats - and the most sensitive of composers! Thank you, dear Henry.

Lots of love,  
Audrey

(Upon hearing the musical score for her latest fi , Breakfast at Tiffany's, Hepburn immediately penned the following letter to composer Henry Mancini who would go on to win an Academy Award fore the film.)

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Mauris luctus gravida turpis, vitae  
molestie sem dignissim vel.

## *Keith Richards*

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So sorry not to have written before (I plead insane) in bluebottle voice. Exit right amid deafening applause.

I do hope you're very well.

We have survived yet another glorious English Winter. I wonder which day Summer falls on this year?

Oh but my dear I have been soooo busy since Christmas beside working at school. You know I was keen on Chuck Berry and I thought I was the only fan for miles but one mornin' on Dartford Stn. (that's so I don't have to write a long word like station) I was holding one of Chuck's records when a guy I knew at primary school 7-11 yrs y'know came up to me. He's got every record Chuck Berry ever made and all his mates have too, they are all rhythm and blues fans, real R&B I mean (not this Dinah Shore, Brook Benton crap) Jimmy Reed, Muddy Waters, Chuck, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker all the Chicago bluesmen real lowdown stuff, marvelous. Bo Diddley he's another great.

Anyways the guy on the station, he is called Mick Jagger and all the chicks and the boys meet every Saturday morning in the 'Carousel' some juke-joint well one morning in Jan I was walking past and decided to look him up. Everybody's all over me I get invited to about 10 parties. Beside that Mick is the greatest R&B singer this side of the Atlantic and I don't mean maybe. I play guitar (electric) Chuck style we got us a bass player and drummer and rhythm-guitar and we practice 2 or 3 nights a week. SWINGIN'.

Of course they're all rolling in money and in massive detached houses, crazy, one's even got a butler. I went round there with Mick (in the car of course Mick's not mine of course) OH BOY ENGLISH IS IMPOSSIBLE.

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"Can I get you anything, sir?"

"Vodka and lime, please"

"Certainly, sir"

I really felt like a lord, nearly asked for my coronet when I left.

Everything here is just fine.

I just can't lay off Chuck Berry though, I recently got an LP of his straight from Chess Records Chicago cost me less than an English record.

Of course we've still got the old Lags here y'know Cliff Richard, Adam Faith and 2 new shockers Shane Fenton and Jora Leyton SUCH CRAP YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD. Except for that greaseball Sinatra ha ha ha ha ha ha ha.

Still I don't get bored anymore. This Saturday I am going to an all night party.

"I looked at my watch

It was four-o-fice

Man I didn't know

If I was dead or alive"

Quote Chuck Berry Reeling and a Rocking

12 galls of Beer Barrel of Cyder, 3 bottle Whiskey Wine. Her ma and pa gone away for the weekend I'll twist myself till I drop (I'm glad to say).

The Saturday after Mick and I are taking 2 girls over to our favourite Rhythm & Blues club over in Ealing, Middlesex.

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They got a guy on electric harmonica Cyril Davies, fabulous always half drunk unshaven, plays like a mad man, marvelous.

Well then I can't think of anything else to bore you with, so I'll sign off goodnight viewers.

BIG GRIN

Luff

Keith xxxxxx

Who else would write such bloody crap

(Back in 1962, a then 18-year old Keith Richards wrote a letter to his Aunt Petty about a number of things including a chance reunion with his childhood friend Mick Jagger. Three months later, The Rolling Stones played their first gig at the Marquee Club in London.)

All letters in this sample book courtesy of <http://twistedsifter.com/>

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*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut pretium risus sit amet dictum dictum. Vestibulum accumsan pretium varius. Nunc non odio turpis. Aenean iaculis cursus lobortis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. In dictum velit at nunc convallis placerat. Fusce non nulla erat. Nullam interdum nunc et ex bibendum suscipit. Praesent iaculis a sapien non interdum. Integer et nulla vitae mi blandit pharetra vel et nulla. Donec vulputate pellentesque odio vitae malesuada.*

*Mauris luctus gravida turpis, vitae molestie sem dignissim vel. Fusce imperdiet hendrerit libero, quis porta sapien mattis et. In volutpat justo at leo vehicula, nec sollicitudin est eleifend. Maecenas orci turpis, iaculis sit amet ligula a, fringilla eleif- end elit. Cras luctus rhoncus dictum. Phasellus mauris turpis, luctus vitae sollicitudin eu, bibendum pellentesque lectus. Curabitur malesuada velit et erat e citur, id sodales ex tincidunt.*





FromABirdie.com is a web service and art project that enables a group of people to write letters for a shared friend. Pairing modern technology with ancient habits, FromABirdie.com aims to help restore the disappearing tradition of letter writing: the intimacy, the introspection, the time taken to find the right word, the gradual awakening of that precious sense of connection with the other.

All letters are kept private, delivered slowly, and forever preserved in a physical book, thus encouraging users to write personal and meaningful messages.

# Create a timeless book of letters for a common friend.

You organize. Friends contribute. We print & ship your book.



GET STARTED