

I Will Always Write Back

by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch

The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place.

Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only 10 letters, and 50 kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.

That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends — and better people — through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.

There is a discussion guide in the back of the book to help families and groups have conversation and reflection. This is a good tie-in for the Teach · Reach · Bless Campaign that is committed to improving the education and wellness of women today for a better Africa tomorrow.

Visit the link, <https://www.eocumc.com/teachreachbless>, to learn more about Teach · Reach · Bless as well as the history and future of Africa University. God wants to do a new thing there with you and me!

Possible ways to use this book:

- Parents could read a chapter book to their children and discuss it as a family.
- Have a book study with young people. Students in grades 5-12 could appreciate this book.
- Adults could also learn from this book and from Caitlin's and Martin's experiences to understand life in Zimbabwe.

<http://www.iwillalwayswriteback.com>

These thoughts and resources compiled by the Rev. Kathy Dickriede.