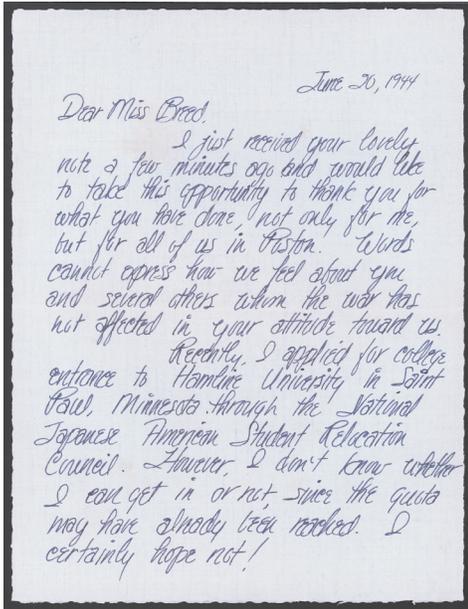


Write to Me Activity

Take inspiration from JANM’s collection to write to someone meaningful in your life.



Collection Connection

Clara Breed was the children’s librarian at the San Diego Public Library from 1929 to 1945. She was a friend to many young Japanese American patrons. After the issuance of Executive Order 9066, which forcibly removed Japanese Americans from their homes, Breed was outraged at the injustice. Demonstrating friendship and support, she gave penny postcards (blank cards with paid postage) to the Japanese American patrons of her library as they were sent to concentration camps. She encouraged them to write to her.

Over the next four years, Miss Breed sent hundreds of letters, books, and art supplies—sustaining lifelong friendships within the Japanese American community. During a time when it was not popular to support those of Japanese ancestry due to widespread fear and hatred associated with anything Japanese, Breed stands out as an example of friendship.

This is the first page of a letter and envelope to Clara Breed from Aiko Kubo, Poston, Arizona, June 20, 1944. Japanese American National Museum, Gift of Elizabeth Y. Yamada, 93.75.31AD.

To read the entire letter and see more, visit janm.org/collections/clara-breed-collection

Now it’s your turn!

Take inspiration from this letter from Aiko Kubo to Miss Breed in 1944 and write a short note to someone whom you may not have seen or talked to in a while. Informal letters don’t need to follow any specific format: add personality to your letter with stationery, drawings, and stickers. You might include what you’ve been up to, what your favorite way to spend free time is, or a quick anecdote. Make sure to ask a question or two. You might even slip an empty envelope with a stamp into your letter so you get a response right away!

Share your creations with us on social media using the hashtag **#JANMinspired**