

ARIANNA'S LETTER
ACTIVITY 5

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January 8

Dear Marcus,

Greetings from the Orient Express—one of the most famous trains in history! As I write this, we are steaming southward through Thailand on our way to Malaysia. Our final destination is Singapore. This is the first full day of my three-day journey aboard this historic train and it is amazing! Yesterday when we started out, we passed rice paddies, rubber trees, farms, and villages. I even got to see my first water buffalo. In the afternoon, the train stopped for a while. I took a boat trip to see the famous bridge that spans the River Kwai. What a sight!

The food they serve on this train is incredible! Amazing! Delicious! Did I mention amazing? I hadn't even heard of half of the things we ate at dinner yesterday, but everything was delicious. The conductor told me that today's meals would be even better! Since I'm here on this adventure to look for more great foods to add to The Five Star Bistro's menu, I thought it would be good if I write a little about each meal, while I am eating it. Breakfast is in about 15 minutes, so I'll "see" you there.

Okay, here I am at breakfast. The waiters are serving other passengers and they are only a few tables away. My food should be here any minute. I don't know what's coming, but it smells amazing! While I'm waiting, I should tell you that the dining car is beautiful. There are wood panels on the walls decorated with beautiful carved designs. The curtains are velvet and lace. Oh, wait, here comes my waiter—please stand by.

He just put down my breakfast and I've taken my first bite of the scrambled eggs. Wow! Okay, I know what you're thinking—everyone makes scrambled eggs, right? Well, not like these, they don't. These are lightly spiced with dill and very fluffy. The waiter told me that there is also Swiss cheese melted in. The eggs are served with slices of fresh tomatoes and the two tastes really go together. There is a fresh roll, still warm from the oven, and mandarin orange slices on the side. They also gave me a tall, frosty glass of milk, which was great—you know how much I like having milk, especially in the morning. So, now that I've described it all to you, it's time for me to dig in. "See" you at the next meal.



ARIANNA'S LETTER (CONTINUED)
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I'm back in the dining car for lunch and I've made some friends. They are a couple of girls from England and they're really nice. They're our age. We met in the observation car. Oh, they say "hi," by the way. We just finished our first course—eggplant with Thai noodles—and now the waiter is bringing us the rest. It's rice with some sort of special sauce. Delicious! Okay, my new girlfriends and I are going to eat and chat for a while. I'll write more in a bit.

Okay, I'm back. It's a couple of hours later now, and we're in Malaysia. The train has stopped and they are taking us on a tour of colonial Georgetown. We had a choice: we could run with the rickshaw driver or ride in a rickshaw. I chose to run with him. I really needed to move my body after all that sitting on the train. Jackie and Annabelle (my new English friends) are with me. They say "hi" again. We stopped at a really neat bazaar where we all bought some interesting snacks. I got some sweet rice cakes. They taste really good, but they're kind of squishy and weird. I also bought a slice of pineapple. I'm glad we all got something to eat because it's going to be a while until dinner.

Hey, I'm back. While we were in Georgetown we walked to Fort Cornwallis. The girls and I met a very nice couple from Minnesota. The five of us are now all together in the dining car. The waiter just brought us our food. I'm glad, because we're all really hungry! Before I dig in, let me give you a rundown of everything. For the main course, I have beef slices and a papaya salad. Both look delicious. There is also baked squash that smells wonderful. They gave us a loaf of fresh baked bread to share. I'll let you know when dessert comes, but for now, it's time to eat!

They just brought dessert—two shortbread cookies. They were the perfect end to a perfect dinner. To be honest, I've been having so much fun that I forgot to check if I've gotten the right number of servings from each food group. Maybe after you've read this letter you'll be able to tell me. Until then,

Your friend,

Arianna