Ettabetta’s Pen Pal
You and your child can enjoy this book together.

The words to the right appear in the text. Tell your child the Story Words and read them together. Have your child practice saying the Memory Words and sounding out the other words. Then have her read the entire book out loud. Have fun talking about the pictures on each page.

**Story Words**
- letter
- days
- from
- Japan

**Memory Words**
- said
- like
- you
- put
- for

**Words to Sound Out**
- just
- address
- box
- back
- yes
- six
- next
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“I just got a pen pal in Japan!” said Ettabetta. “I will send him a letter, and I will get a letter back.”

“Fun!” said Cass.
Ettabetta had a pad and a pen.
Ettabetta printed a letter.
I am Ettabetta.
I am six.
I like to swim.
I like dogs and cats.
I like comics.
I am glad you will send a letter back.
Send it fast!

From, Ettabetta
Ettabetta printed the address and put a stamp on the letter.
Ettabetta put the letter in the box. “I bet I will get a letter back fast!” said Ettabetta.
“Yes!” said Cass. “I bet you will!”
But days and days
and *days* went past.

Ettabetta did not get a letter.
“I bet the letter you sent got lost,” said Cass.
“Send a second letter.”
“O.K.” said Ettableta.
Ettabetta printed a second letter and sent it off.
But days and days and days went past.
“Still no letter?” said Cass.
“No,” said Ettabetta. “I cannot stand it!”
Cass felt sad for Ettabetta.
The next day, Cass ran onto the bus.
“Did you get a letter?” said Cass.
“No,” said Ettabetta.
“No,” said Ettableta. “I did not get a letter. I got 2 letters! I got 1 letter from Japan…”
“And I got 1 letter from you!”
A Note to Families — After Reading

Talk about how far mail sometimes has to travel to get to its destination. Ask questions about the story such as the following: “Why do you think it took so long for Ettabetta to get a letter from her pen pal? Did you guess what Cass was going to do when she took the paper? Would you like to have a pen pal?”

Go through the book again, drawing your child’s attention to specific sounds and letters. For example, ask her to look at the pictures and name something that contains the letter x, y, or z, such as box, yellow, or zipper.

Ask your child to find and read words that contain the letter x, y, or z: six, box, yes, buzz, next.

This book includes the Memory Words said, like, you, put, and for. Ask your child to find the words said, like, you, put, and for and read the sentences.

Encourage your child to read the book to you again. Most children love to reread books, and rereading makes them stronger readers.