

NOTES

Dear Batman is a work of fiction. It should be performed by a male and entered in Prose Interpretation. Raymond, our protagonist, is a young man dealing with the pressures of undiagnosed depression. It is important to portray Raymond's likeability. The audience must like Raymond, in order to empathize and root for his success throughout his struggle with clinical depression. Because Raymond actually believes that Batman exists, there should definitely be a sense of naivety on the part of the performer. Raymond's asking of favors and advice from Batman are heartfelt; therefore, the performer should tap into that innocence and show Raymond's earnest attempts of connecting with his favorite Super Hero. There are a myriad of emotional levels found within this selection—humor, fear, sadness, confusion, embarrassment, and love. Really bring out the appropriate emotions in each letter to Batman. Play the moments with honesty. The iconic nature of Batman should immediately give the performer a sense of connection with the audience. Build that rapport by making everyone in the audience fall in love with Raymond. The drama mask icons are simply visible to show the performer where to turn his pages.

Dear Batman,

A few weeks ago, my younger sister was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. Everyone in my family cried; that is, everyone except my sister. She just smiled, but she *always* smiles. She smiles no matter what's going on in our family. Some kids at school call her 'retarded,' but Mom says they're wrong. She's 'mentally-challenged.' I asked Mom if they didn't really mean the same thing, but she said, 'No. There's a difference.' I was just wondering if you had anything that could help her. You seem to have a gizmo for everything, and I thought maybe you had something that could cure her. I hope things are going good for you in Gotham City. If you can help in any way, I know we would all appreciate it.

Your friend,
Raymond



Dear Batman

By Jake Barton

Dear Batman,

Do you ever cry? I only ask, because lately, I've been crying a lot. And not just because of my sister, but that makes me cry too. I can't stop myself sometimes. I'll just be sitting at my desk in school, working on my vocabulary words or some math problem, and then bam! My shirt is wet, my eyes are red, and I *try* to hold back the tears, but that only makes matters worse. Usually, some girl in my class will slip out of her desk and tell the teacher. That's when the teacher quietly walks to my desk, taps me on the shoulder, and asks me to follow her into the hallway. She asks if there's anything she can do for me. Then she tells me to get a drink of water and go to the restroom for a few minutes. I think she called my parents, but they haven't said anything to me about it.

Your biggest fan,
Raymond

P.S. Just so that you know I'm not making any of this up, the two little spots on this letter aren't where I spilled something. They're my tears. I was hoping they'd disappear after they dried. Unfortunately, they stained the letter. I was going to apologize for them, but then I thought, "Hey, Batman's human, too." Right?



Dear Batman,

How do you do it? How do you juggle fighting all those criminals in Gotham City and still find the energy to run a multi-million dollar enterprise at the same time? Does it depress you that everytime you put one criminal behind bars, another one just pops up and takes his place? Doesn't that depress you, Batman? I wish I knew of a magic potion that would just make my sadness go away. You know, like how Poison Ivy and Cat Woman sometimes try to come up with some sort of potion that will make you fall in love with them or something? I know they're not nice women and cause you a lot of grief, but do you think one of them might have a potion that would help me feel happy again? The next time you catch one of them and put them behind bars, will you ask them for me?

Thank you,
Raymond

