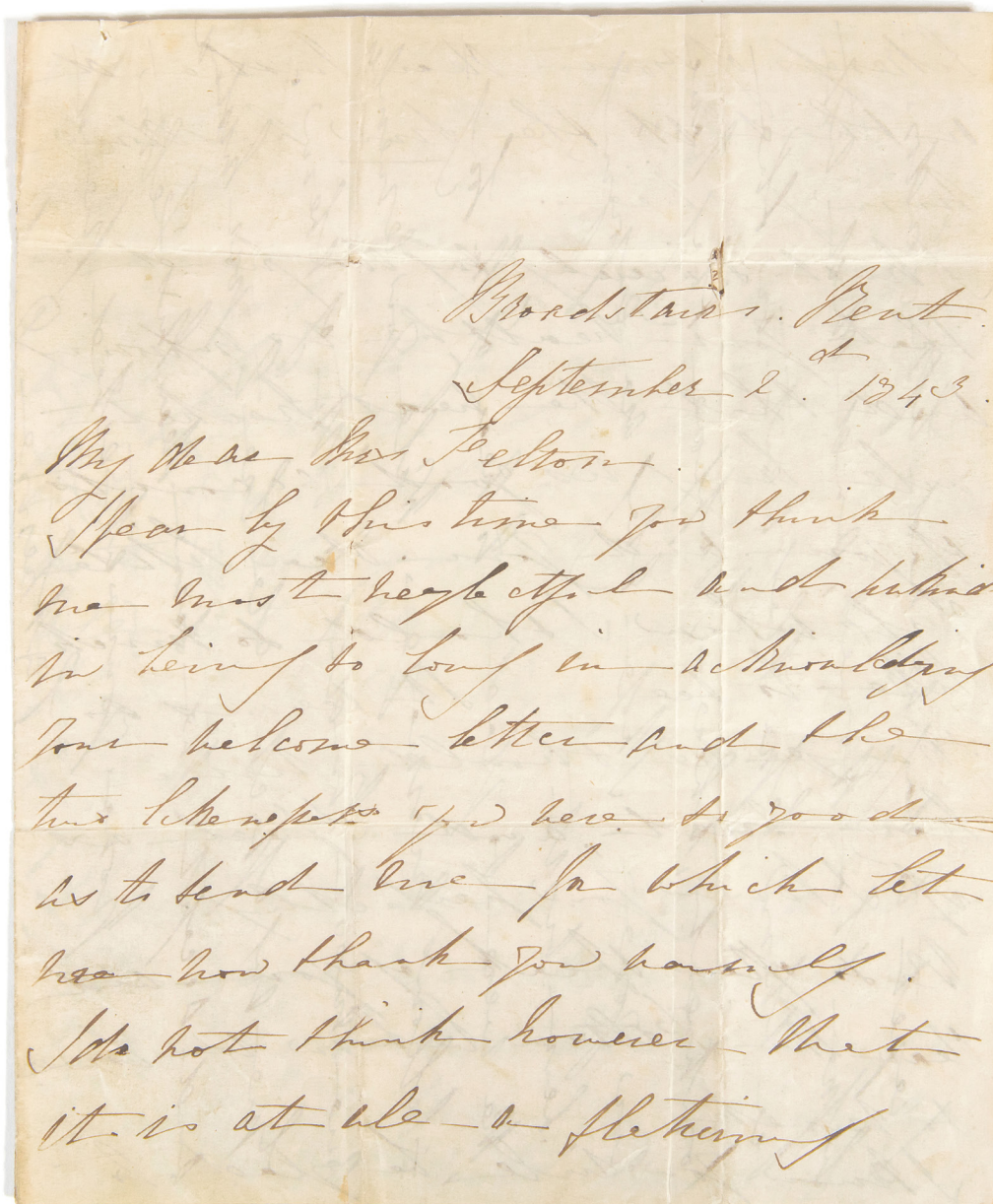


# I will never complain about my teacher's handwriting again!

You are the cook, and just like the other servants, you have joined the Dickens family on their holiday to the seaside in Broadstairs (no holiday for you though, still work, work, work!).

Walking past the hall table, you notice a gossipy-looking letter Mrs Dickens has been writing. You take the weight off your feet for ten minutes and have a quick peek, even though you know you shouldn't ...





dear good so counts of us all.  
I have been written to your husband  
and thanks for himself. My  
children are all well and  
living themselves very much  
as at present we are staying here  
in the bathing, and they are  
entirely at play, on the beach  
and fishing on Conches, and  
play lots of new hide movements.  
I had the measles before  
I left town, but have  
perfectly recovered.  
I shall not make this a long  
letter as I fear ~~it~~ is long  
and as we are living here so  
much at present, I have no  
time to write while I am here.



## Charles Dickens Museum

You had forgotten how tricky Mrs Dickens' writing is to read – can you manage to decode it and fill in the gaps below before she comes back in from the garden?

Broadstairs, Kent September 2, 1843

My Dear Mrs. Felton,

I fear by this time you think me most neglectful and \_\_\_\_\_ in being so long in acknowledging your welcome letter and the two likenesses you were so good as to send me for which let me now thank you heartily.

I do not think however that it is at all a flattering likeness of your dear \_\_\_\_\_ or that the Artist has done him justice. I trust sincerely my dear friend that your health is improving and that the next packet will bring us good accounts of you and your dear \_\_\_\_\_ whom I should so much like to see. It seems so strange we should never have met and I feel as if I knew you perfectly. We so often speak of you and dear Mr. Felton whom we love so much. I know you will be glad to hear good accounts of us all. \_\_\_\_\_ has written to your husband and speaks for himself. My children are all well and enjoying themselves very much as at present we are staying here for sea bathing, and they are out nearly all day on the \_\_\_\_\_ and riding on \_\_\_\_\_ and all sorts of seaside amusements. They had the measles before they left town but have perfectly recovered. I will not make this a long letter as I fear it is a very stupid one as we are living here so quietly at present, I have no news that will amuse you. I regret to say that we had left \_\_\_\_\_ before the Howes and did not see them before they went on the Continent, where I suppose they have now gone. I hope they are enjoying their visit. We were glad to hear of the Longfellows \_\_\_\_\_. Will you remember me most kindly to both of them. Give my affectionate love to your husband and accept the same dear Mrs Felton from your attached friend Catherine Dickens I hope this has not fatigued you and that if you are well enough you will soon write to me.



## Answers

- 1 unkind
- 2 husband
- 3 little
- 4 girls
- 5 Charles
- 6 beach
- 7 donkeys
- 8 London
- 9 marriage

