

Dear Igor... Persuasive Letters

The kitchen,
First door on the right,
This flat

Igor's bed,
Somewhere among the mess,
This flat

Dearest son,

We, your parents, are writing this letter to implore you to clear the mess that has become your bedroom. Ordinarily, this would not have become such an issue but a series of recent events have led us to this point.

Firstly, we are becoming increasingly concerned for the welfare of your carpet. Rumours are circulating that it's actually left your room and has travelled to a different house. Until you remove the heaps of dirty clothes and disused toys – revealing the floor below – we will be unable to confirm or deny these claims.

Secondly, we are worried about the level of danger that your room currently presents. Imagine being able to walk from the door to your bed without stubbing your toe or having to stretch to find a safe foothold. You may be thinking that nobody noticed when you stumbled over that toy car last week but we saw the way that your arms waved around as you tried to regain your footing. Surely, you don't want to risk that level of danger every time you need to retrieve something from your bookcase.

Luckily, we have an easy solution: tidying. Simply, place your dirty clothes in the provided bag and put your toys back in the box. Not sure which box to use? We suggest the one that says 'TOYS' on the top. Not only is it within easy reach but it's also spacious enough to hold every one of the toys currently living on your bedroom floor. I think you'll find that this quick, simple and easily deployed method will yield almost immediate results.

Please, for the safety of all who live here, tidy your room.

Yours sincerely,

Your concerned parents

Igor's room,
Second door on the left,
This flat

The kitchen,
First door on the right,
This flat

Dearest parents,

Thank you for your letter of concern. While you have made some good points, I would like to clarify a few things.

Firstly, my carpet is safe: there is no need to be concerned for its welfare. If my carpet had decided to travel to a different house, don't you think that at least one of us would have noticed? For years, it has enjoyed sitting beneath my various possessions and I see no reason for that suddenly changing.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to the conversation that we had last week. In this conversation, you suggested that I step away from my computer and 'stretch my legs'. However, it now seems as though you are against me stretching my legs for a safe foothold! In my opinion, the daily exercise and challenge that navigating my bedroom floor presents is ideal. In short, I have a makeshift gym in my own bedroom and I don't understand why you would want me to dismantle it.

Lastly, you mentioned my small stumble last week. I know you saw; you're not as good at muffling your laughter as you might think. However, I'm disappointed that you didn't notice the soft pile of clothes that I landed on – these undoubtedly shielded me from harm! Surely, you wouldn't want me to put them in a basket therefore leaving myself with no safe landing in the future.

In conclusion, I will not be tidying my bedroom for the multiple reasons mentioned above. I'm sure that you (my parents, who value my safety above all else) will agree.

Yours sincerely,

Igor

The living room,
Second door on the right,
This flat

Igor's bed,
Near Sock Mountain,
This flat

Igor,

Thank you for your recent reply regarding the state of your bedroom and how you feel as though it should not be cleaned.

As your parents, who value your safety above all else, we must now insist that the room is tidied. It has gone beyond 'dangerous' and is now in the realm of 'perilous'. Last night, I scarcely managed to navigate my way back through the door after your bedtime story.

Next week, your grandmother will be visiting. I assume that you don't wish to subject her to the sights (and smells) of Sock Mountain.

Please, for the safety of everyone, do what's right and tidy your room.

Yours sincerely,

Your slightly fed up parents



Questions

1. ...the way that your arms waved around as you tried to regain your footing.

Which of these is the closest definition of the phrase **regain your footing**? Tick one.

- stop yourself from falling
- stick your foot out
- grab onto your feet
- reach the bookcase again

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred in.

- Igor was told that his grandmother will be visiting.
- Igor's parents expressed concern for his carpet.
- Igor tripped over a toy car.
- Igor said that he will not be tidying his bedroom.

3. Name two different reasons that Igor gives against tidying his bedroom.

1. _____

2. _____

4. Look at Igor's reply.

Find and copy one word that means the same as **belongings**.

5. Why do Igor's parents want to reveal the floor that is below the heaps of dirty clothes and disused toys?

6. Compare the letters written by Igor to those written by his parents. How are they similar?

7. Explain how Igor's response might have been different if his parents had spoken to him instead of writing a letter.

8. **Firstly, we are becoming increasingly concerned for the welfare of your carpet. Rumours are circulating that it's actually left your room and has travelled to a different house.** Why do you think that Igor's parents have chosen to personify his carpet?

9. Summarise Igor's parents' concerns using 30 words or fewer.

10. Imagine that you are Igor.

Write a short response back to your parents based on their last letter.

Answers

1. ...the way that your arms waved around as you tried to regain your footing.

Which of these is the closest definition of the phrase **regain your footing**? Tick one.

- stop yourself from falling**
- stick your foot out
- grab onto your feet
- reach the bookcase again

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred in.

- 4** Igor was told that his grandmother will be visiting.
- 2** Igor's parents expressed concern for his carpet.
- 1** Igor tripped over a toy car.
- 3** Igor said that he will not be tidying his bedroom.

3. Name two different reasons that Igor gives against tidying his bedroom.

Accept any two of the following: his carpet is safe; he is able to stretch his legs; his bedroom is like a makeshift gym; the piles of clothes make it safer if he falls; his bedroom would no longer be safe.

4. Look at Igor's reply.

Find and copy one word that means the same as **belongings**.

possessions

5. Why do Igor's parents want to reveal the floor that is below the heaps of dirty clothes and disused toys?

They want to reveal the floor so that they can check that the carpet is still there.

6. Compare the letters written by Igor to those written by his parents. How are they similar?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Both of the letters are set out in the same way and have an address for the sender and the receiver. They also both write their points clearly and explain why they think that they are right.

7. Explain how Igor's response might have been different if his parents had spoken to him instead of writing a letter.

Pupils' own responses, such as: If Igor's parents had spoken to him, he might not have had time to think up all of the excuses. This means that he might have had to tidy his bedroom because he couldn't argue against it.

8. **Firstly, we are becoming increasingly concerned for the welfare of your carpet. Rumours are circulating that it's actually left your room and has travelled to a different house.** Why do you think that Igor's parents have chosen to personify his carpet?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Igor's parents have done this for effect and to exaggerate how messy his bedroom is. They are trying to make the letter seem a little bit funny so that Igor will listen to them.

9. Summarise Igor's parents' concerns using 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: They are concerned that Igor's bedroom is dangerous, that they can't see the carpet and that his grandma will see and smell Sock Mountain when she comes to visit.

10. Imagine that you are Igor.

Write a short response back to your parents based on their last letter.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Thank you for your reply. You make some good points. However, there is no need for grandmother to visit my bedroom. Instead, I will be spending time with her in the kitchen and the living room. Therefore, I will not need to dismantle Sock Mountain. Yours sincerely, Igor.