

Letter to President Theodore Roosevelt, July 17, 1903

Mother Jones

How does Mother Jones turn respect for presidential authority into pressure to act?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Opening appeal - child labor and the textile strike

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Being citizens of the United States of America, we, members of the textile industry, take the liberty of addressing this appeal to you.
END	Perhaps the crime of child slavery has never been forcibly brought to your notice.
PASSAGE ID	sec-mj-roosevelt-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how an argument uses the audience's role as part of the claim

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The appeal begins respectfully, but the respect is strategic. By naming Roosevelt as chief executive, father, and leader, the letter creates an obligation: a person with that role should notice and respond to the suffering of children. The audience's identity becomes evidence for the action being demanded.

MARK

Underline titles or roles assigned to Roosevelt. Circle words that sound deferential. Box the phrase that names the central injustice. Draw an arrow from Roosevelt's role to the responsibility the writers imply.

NOTICE

- Why identify the writers first as citizens?
- What does calling Roosevelt a father and leader add to the appeal?
- How does the phrase about child slavery change the tone of the opening?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Mother Jones turn respect for presidential authority into pressure to act? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Mother Jones turns respect into pressure by defining Roosevelt’s authority as a duty. The letter flatters his position as national leader but then uses that position to argue that he cannot remain unaware of children being exploited.

EVIDENCE

Use one phrase naming Roosevelt’s role and the sentence that introduces child labor as an urgent national wrong.

WATCH FOR

Do not describe the opening as simple politeness. Explain how the respectful language creates an obligation for the audience.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 7 · LESSON 280

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WORK	Letter to President Theodore Roosevelt, July 17, 1903
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Opening appeal - child labor and the textile strike
PASSAGE ID	sec-mj-roosevelt-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Being citizens of the United States of America, we, members of the textile industry, take the liberty of addressing this appeal to you.

END

Perhaps the crime of child slavery has never been forcibly brought to your notice.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline titles or roles assigned to Roosevelt. Circle words that sound deferential. Box the phrase that names the central injustice. Draw an arrow from Roosevelt’s role to the responsibility the writers imply.

2. NOTICE Why identify the writers first as citizens? What does calling Roosevelt a father and leader add to the appeal? How does the phrase about child slavery change the tone of the opening?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Mother Jones turn respect for presidential authority into pressure to act?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.