



## Letters That Linger

**Directions:** Read the letter carefully, paying attention to any repeated words or phrases. **Highlight or underline** those repetitions as you find them. Think about why the writer keeps returning to certain words: what emotion is being echoed? Explain how those repeated phrases reveal the character’s emotional state.

### “Goodbye, My Friend”

Dear Eli,

I keep saying it’ll be fine, but it won’t, not really. The house feels too quiet without your laughter echoing down the hall. I keep checking my phone, expecting a message, expecting *you*. Funny, isn’t it? I said I wouldn’t miss you this much, and yet I do. I *do*.

You told me to be brave. I’m trying. I say the word “brave” out loud every morning, hoping it’ll stick. But brave doesn’t mean not hurting; it just means still moving forward, even when you’d rather turn back.

So goodbye, my friend. Or maybe not goodbye—just “see you,” someday.

—Mara

1. What words or phrases are repeated in Mara’s letter?

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2. What emotions do these repetitions reflect?

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3. How does repeating “brave” and “I do” change the tone of the letter?

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4. What do these echoes reveal about Mara’s inner struggle?

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