

Unit 20 ♦ Something for Home

teacher's page

Objective: Students will consider rich description as they write about a loved object they packed in their suitcases before a significant move to a different location.

Steps:

1. It is common these days for families to move from one place to another. Most of us have had at least one such move – to another house or apartment, a different city, a new country. Invite students to tell how many times they have moved, and how they felt.
2. Ask students to think back to the days before leaving their home. As they packed their bags, what object was so important that they could not leave it behind? A photograph? A gift? A piece of jewelry or a piece of clothing? A letter? Give the class a few moments to reminisce.
3. Request that some students describe their object to the class. Then pair the students to exchange ideas.
4. Distribute the handout. Students will follow the directions at the bottom.

Something for Home

student handout

Last year, when I was alone, I felt very sad. I felt lonesome, and I missed my parents a lot. Every day, especially on weekends, I was almost crying. One day when I was cleaning my closet, I found a blue sweater that was my mom's. It had a special smell that made me remember her. That sweater was impregnated with the perfume that my mother used to wear, and that odor made me feel better. Now I keep that sweater, and every time that I am homesick, I take that sweater with a special odor, and I hug it close to my heart.

*Alejandra, Mexico
(former ESL student)*



What special something did you take with you when you moved from one location to another? Was it a piece of clothing, like Alejandra's mother's sweater? A photograph? A wristwatch from your grandfather? A coin? A letter? A memorable gift? As you write about your keepsake, describe it vividly. Then, tell why it was so important that you had to have it in your suitcase.