

(This is the heading we will be using all year.  
It is also one of the headings you will most likely be using in college.)

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Mrs. Looney (teacher's name)  
Writing 5 (class name)  
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### A Little Bit About Me

What can I say about myself in only five short paragraphs? This will be hard, since most of us know ourselves so well that we could probably write a book about ourselves! I love words, I love being outdoors, I love learning about different peoples and cultures, I love my students, and I love my family. I am a writer, a nature-lover, a traveler, a teacher, and most importantly, a mother. And so much more.

I love to read, and I love to write. I collect words in journals, in scrapbooks, and on walls that surround me. I have so many favorite authors. I love to read about gardening, about religion, and about how to live a more peaceful life. I love to read in front of a fire in my home, or outside in a hammock near the back field. As a writer and a reader, one thing that is helpful for me is to enjoy reading and writing in silence. So, one thing that you can do to help me is to work quietly during the important writing and reading times in our class.

Being outdoors and hearing the sounds of nature really bring me joy and peace. I love the sound of the raining pounding down on the tent that I slept in this summer. The sounds of the fisher cat screaming in the distance is intriguing. The sounds of the coyote in the yard are a little scary to me. I feel so at peace when I am working in my flower gardens listening to the birds, enjoying the company of my three cats named Tiny, Avery, and Millie as I remember all of my friends and my grandma who gave me flowers over the years.

If I had a million dollars I would travel to other countries. I love meeting people who still remember what is important in life, who might struggle to feed their families, but who still have the light of hope in their eyes. I would go to them, live with them, and ask them what I could do to help them. Would it be helpful to have a well in their village, so they don't have to walk for miles each day just to get clean water like Ryan did? Do they need a loan in order to buy seeds to plant trees like Wangari? Would it be helpful to have money to build schools like Malala? I would hope to learn their songs and learn their dances as well as ease their pain just a little bit.

I absolutely love teaching. It is such a huge part of my life. I love everything about it. I love our discussions, I love seeing students progress as thinkers and writers, I love sharing songs, and poems. When we were all home in March because of COVID I loved the Kairos time with my family. But I quickly started missing our students and couldn't wait to get back in the classroom. I learned several things during those Kairos moments. I treasure the fact that I learned so much more about my students, your parents, and your families during that time. What a gift that was. And I look forward to getting to know you even better this year.

There are five of us in our family. My husband, Doug, is a social worker, is a really great guy, and is a fantastic cook. How lucky am I! My oldest son, Aidan, goes to school in Myrtle Beach (poor kid!), works at a boat club, and wants to be a captain on a fishing boat. If I have taught my kids anything, I hope it is to follow your dreams. My daughter Nora goes to school in Vermont and is also a writer and a hammock-er, and an artist at heart. She is studying Public Health (excellent choice, given the times we live in). And Maeve is our youngest and is a senior in high school. She is also an artist, an incredible athlete, and a math whiz. She wants to go to school for Accounting with her sister in Vermont.

My vocation is being a mother. It is the hardest job in the world. And any parent out there knows that we are all doing the very best that we can. And sometimes that doesn't feel good enough. But I have to keep reminding myself that I am enough. And my students are enough. And my family is enough. And that All is Well.