

You find yourself on the inside of a large and intricate clock tower. Giant gears and levers surround you, full of movement and sound as bits of machinery whir and click into place. You can't see the clock itself, since it faces outward, but you can see the many things that make it go and, sitting at the center of everything, you can see the Griffin.

The Griffin is majestic, a lion's body with an eagle's head and wings, larger than life and somehow standing out against all of the clockwork commotion around it even as it sits perfectly still. It watches you with sharp, piercing eyes, and opens its beak to croak out a question. "Why are you here?"

You try to explain, but the words are caught in your throat. You offer up the letter. "From the Dragon?" The Griffin asks, and you nod. Without a second thought, it snaps up the letter in its beak and tosses it into the gears of the clock, where it is shredded into scraps.

"Hey!" The Skull calls out from within your pack, "We – I mean, the Dragon worked really hard on that!"

"It was just going to be another insult," the Griffin sighed wearily. "I can only take so much. I don't even read them any more. And, it seems, neither does the Dragon – I clearly expressed, in my last letter, that I wanted our correspondence to end at last."

You remember that there had been a whole passage of smudged ink near the bottom of the Griffin's letter that you hadn't been able to read. Noticing tears welling up in the Griffin's eyes, you think you know now how the letter got smudged. Realizing you can salvage the situation, you explain that this letter had been different – it hadn't been an insult, but honest praise and a hope to rekindle their friendship. The Griffin suddenly looks quite exited, and begs of you to say what was written in the letter. You try your best to remember the apology poem that you and the Dragon wrote.

Stalling for time, you show the Griffin the egg you found and ask if it looks familiar. The Griffin just shakes its head.

Look for rhyming words to finish the Dragon's letter:

Every message that I send

Just makes me wish you were still my _____

I don't know how to put my thoughts into a letter

But maybe there's a way I can help you feel _____

BEND  MATTER
LEND BETTER



WETTER FRIEND