

“Home in Hong Kong” Solution

Hi Mom!

How are you? I miss you a lot, but I have to say that I’m loving travelling. Can you guess where I’m writing you from? I’ll give you a hint— it’s also known as the Pearl of the Orient.

That’s right! I’m in Hong Kong now. Can you believe it? Do you remember the **date** of the last time we all were in Hong Kong? I was trying to figure it out. I thought it was before my graduation, but the **dates** weren’t really **matching up!** It feels like all my memories are **scrambled** between the **two** trips we’ve gone to Hong Kong! Also, mom, you can stop telling me my Cantonese is bad. I’ve actually learned so much Cantonese so far, like how it has **-9 (minus)** tones!

Anyways, I have so much to tell you about my trip! I’ve been learning so much about Hong Kong history— it’s crazy. I had no clue about any of the history like the **Treaty of Nanking (August 29, 1842)** during the First Opium War or **Black Christmas (December 25, 1941)** during the Japanese occupation era.

Last Friday, I went to visit the Kowloon Walled City Park. The history of the Kowloon Walled City is pretty wild! Can you believe how people felt on the **date when the British and Chinese government declared they were going to tear it down? (January 14, 1987)** I feel like it’s such a shame— there’s so much history behind the Walled City.

I’ve also been watching a lot of Hong Kong films, like **Ip Man 4 (December 20, 2019)**, **The Child’s Eye (October 14, 2010)** and **Cook Up A Storm (February 10, 2017)**. I wanted to watch older Hong Kong films, but I think the **release dates** of all those movies are pretty recent.

My Cantonese has improved so much. I don’t use subtitles watching movies anymore! I’ve been listening to a lot of Cantonese music too. One of my favorite’s is **Raymond Lam’s Self-Portrait (August 17, 2012)** album. You should listen to it! I can’t remember when the **release date** was, but I think it was a while ago.

I’ll be home soon! Maybe I’ll come surprise you at home. I’ll give you a hint on when I’ll be back: **the month and the year doesn’t matter, but the date does.** Can’t wait to see you again!

With love,
Natalie

Solution Walkthrough

The solution of this puzzle is: The Peak

Above is the puzzle with important clues bolded and highlighted. The bolded words are the clues to the puzzle. The highlighted yellow are the specific dates that should be used to figure out the puzzle.

Step 1: How to Solve the Puzzle

Paragraph 2: The second paragraph of this letter provides the instruction to solve this puzzle. The word “date” is mentioned multiple times. It should be inferred that dates are important and should match up to something. Furthermore, the word “two” has been underlined. This is a clue to the fact that the answer has two words and is “scrambled” up. It should also be noted that “-9 (minus)” has been underlined and holds significance.

Paragraph 7: The hint is “the month and the year doesn’t matter, but the date does”. So it means, that only the date matters.

Step 2: Finding the Clues

Paragraph 3: There are two clues in this paragraph: the Treaty of Nanking and Black Christmas. If we remember from the previous paragraph, the dates are important. So let’s do a quick Google search on the dates of these two historic events. The Treaty of Nanking took place on August 29, 1842, and Black Christmas took place on December 25, 1941.

Paragraph 4: There is one clue in this paragraph. The Kowloon Walled City is mentioned a lot, but what date is significant? The date is mentioned as the “date when the British and Chinese government declared they were going to tear it down?” Some research will show that the date is January 14, 1987.

Paragraph 5: There are three clues in this paragraph. Three movies are mentioned: *Ip Man 4 (December 20, 2019)*, *The Child’s Eye (October 14, 2010)* and *Cook Up A Storm (February 10, 2017)*. Research the release dates of these movies and jot them down.

Paragraph 6: There is one final clue in this paragraph, which is Raymond Lam’s *Self-Portrait*, released on August 17, 2012.

Step 3: Deciphering the Clues

Now, we have seven dates:

- August 29, 1842
- December 25, 1941
- January 14, 1987
- December 20, 2019

- October 14, 2010
- February 10, 2017
- August 17, 2012

If we use the hint we got from the last paragraph, we can determine that only the date matters. So we are left with seven numbers: 29, 25, 14, 20, 14, 10, 17. Maybe the numbers correspond to a letter! But wait, there's only 26 letters in the alphabet and our first number is above 26.

We can use the hint from the second paragraph "-9 (minus)". If we subtract 9 from each of our numbers, we get: 20, 16, 5, 11, 5, 1, 8

If A=1, B=2, etc. we can decipher letters from these numbers: T, P, E, K, E, A, H.

Since we have a hint about "two" also being important, we can take a guess that the answer is two words. Unscrambling it, we get the words "The Peak".

Answer Key:

THE PEAK
20 08 05 16 05 01 11

Plus nine:
29 17 14 25 14 10 20