

Name: _____

Jon Benet Ramsey Case - Handwriting

Use a highlighter or colored marker to indicate portions of the letter or samples below which match.

Mr. Ramsey,

Listen carefully! We are a group of individuals that represent a small foreign nation. We ~~don't~~ respect your business but not the country that it serves. At this time we have your daughter in our possession. She is safe and unharmed and if you want her to see 1997, you must follow our instructions to the letter.

You will withdraw \$18,000.00 from your account. \$100,000 will be in \$100 bills and the remaining \$18,000 in \$20 bills. Make sure that you bring an adequate size suitcase to the bank. When you get home you will put the money in a brown paper bag. I will call you between 8 and 10 am tomorrow to instruct you on delivery. The delivery will be exhausting so I advise you to be rested. If we monitor you getting the money early, we might call you early to arrange an earlier delivery of the

money and hence a earlier ~~delivery~~ pick-up of your daughter. My deviation of my instructions will result in the immediate execution of your daughter. You will also be denied her remains for proper burial. The two gentlemen watching over your daughter do ~~not~~ particularly like you so I advise you not to provoke them. Speaking to anyone about your situation, such as Police, F.B.I., etc., will result in your daughter being beheaded. If we catch you talking to a stray dog, she dies. If you alert bank authorities, she dies. If the money is in any way marked or tampered with, she dies. You will be scanned for electronic devices and if any are found, she dies. You can try to deceive us but be warned that we are familiar with Law enforcement countermeasures and tactics. You stand a 99% chance of killing your daughter if you try to outsmart us. Follow our instructions

and you stand a 100% chance of getting her back. You and your family are under constant scrutiny as well as the authorities. Don't try to grow a brain John. You are not the only fat cat around so don't think that killing will be difficult. Don't underestimate us John. Use that good southern common sense of yours. It is up to you now John!

Victory!
S.B.T.C

John Ramsey

v. John B Ramsey Defendant(s)

The Defendant(s) John B Ramsey answers(s) the complaint as follows.

1. The amount of damages claimed to be due to the Plaintiff by the complaint in this action are not due and owing for the following reasons:
This project has not been completed satisfactorily. The contractor was notified of the discrepancy on two separate occasions. I will be pleased to settle this account when the project is completed.
 the personal property claimed by the Plaintiff should not be ordered to be turned over for the following reasons:

Patsy

Patricia Paugh Ramsey
765 Fyfeanch Street
Boulder, Colorado 80303

Wednesday, June 4

Dear Miss Kit,

We can't thank you enough for the Crash Course in vocal performance you gave JonBenet last week. She did quite well with it - placing tops in overall talent among a field of multi-age contenders! (She still has a long way to go with it... but she was sure having fun herself!)

Analysis:

1. One or two letters is NOT enough to convict someone. Can you find more than 2 letters which match? _____

What are they and from whom?

Now we will analyze the handwriting a little deeper the way Forensic Scientists do. These characteristics help us determine a forgery. Use the chart below which is partly from our textbook. Use the reference sheet examples of each characteristic as a guide.

Put a check mark for the handwriting sample that has the characteristic. Make comments where appropriate.

| 12 Handwriting Characteristics | Ransom Note | John Ramsey | Patty Ramsey |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Line quality is smooth. (Writing stays smoothly on a line) | | | |
| 2 Words are spaced evenly. | | | |
| 3 Capital letters and small letters are sized consistently. The ratio of small to capital is the same throughout the writing. | | | |
| 4 The writing is continuous (only applies to cursive). | | | |
| 5 Capital and lowercase letters are connected | | | |
| 6 Letters are fully formed (as opposed to someone who writes sloppily and does not completely form their letters) | If not, which letters? | If not, which letters? | If not, which letters? |
| 7 Writing is all in cursive (or a mix) | Which words? | Which words? | Which words? |
| 8 Pen pressure is consistent (inconsistent pen pressure is a red flag for forgery) | | | |
| 9 Letters slant to the right. | | | |
| 10 All letters are written on the line | | | |
| 11 Person adds fancy curls or loops | Which letters? | Which letters? | Which letters? |
| 12 All the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed. Note where they are - high, middle or low | | | |

Name: _____ Date: _____

You will hand this in. Please make sure you do not write the same words as the person you are discussing this with. You may think together but write separately.

Conclusion: Whose handwriting most matches the ransom note if either does? _____

If you think neither matches, defend them.

Explain as if you are defending your evidence to a jury. What characteristics are the MOST significant?

Mr. Ramsey,

Listen Carefully! We are a group of individuals that represent a small foreign faction. We don't respect your business but not the country that it serves. At this time we have your daughter in our possession. She is safe and unharmed and if you want her to see 1997, you must follow our instructions to the letter.

You will withdraw \$118,000.00 from your account. \$100,000 will be in \$100 bills and the remaining \$18,000 in \$20 bills. Make sure that you bring an adequate size attaché to the bank. When you get home you will put the money in a brown paper bag. I will call you between 8 and 10 am tomorrow to instruct you on delivery. The delivery will be exhausting so I advise you to be rested. If we monitor you getting the money early, we might call you early to arrange an earlier delivery of the

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Victory!
S.B.T.C

Examples of the 12 Handwriting Characteristics:

1. Line Quality

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| Line Quality | Look for flowing script or shaky/wavy line formation on letters | <p>1. Line quality:</p> <p>Smooth- <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill.</i></p> <p>Shaky or nervous- <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill</i></p> <p>Juvenile or deliberate- <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill</i></p> |
|--------------|---|---|

2. Spacing between words or margins

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Spacing | Look for spacing between letters, words, lines of a paragraph, paragraph to paragraph | <p>2. Spacing:</p> <p>Left margin is even:</p> <p><i>Our business in Switzerland is great. We are grossing over one million dollars a year. We know this will double by the next decade.</i></p> <p>Left margin is jagged:</p> <p><i>Our business in Switzerland is great. We are grossing over one million dollars a year. We know this will double by the next decade.</i></p> |
|---------|---|--|

3. Size consistency

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| Size consistency | Look for size consistency or variation on the lower case letters versus Capital letters. Calculate the ratio | <p>3. Size and proportion:</p> <p>Height of overall writing: <i>Jack and Jill went to the hill.</i></p> <p>Height of short to tall letters: <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill.</i></p> <p>Evidence of diminishing strokes: <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill.</i></p> <p>Evidence of increasing strokes: <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill.</i></p> |
|------------------|--|---|

4. Continuity

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| Continuity | Look for obvious pen lifts, if none there, it's continuous | <p>4. Penlifts:</p> <p>Removes pen entirely before starting new word: <i>Jack and Jill went up the hill.</i></p> <p>Pen continues on paper close to next word: <i>Jack and Jill... went up the hill.</i></p> |
|------------|--|--|

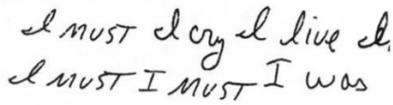
5. Connecting Letters

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Connecting letters | Look for letter combinations that consistently appear | <p>5. Connecting strokes, ending, and beginning strokes:</p> <p>Do they begin as flourished or embellished? <i>My</i></p> <p>Do they end abruptly? <i>Cat</i></p> <p>Do they begin as inflexible and straight? <i>M</i></p> <p>Do they end flourished? <i>My</i></p> |
|--------------------|---|--|

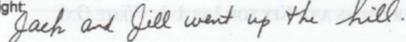
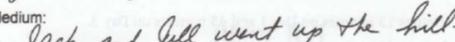
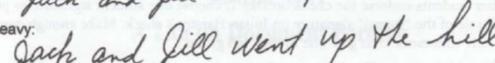
6. Letters complete

| | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Letters complete | Look to see if the letters are completed when formed | <p><i>dog</i></p> <p><i>dog</i></p> |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|

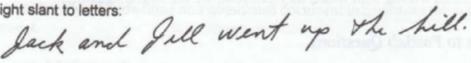
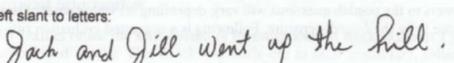
7. All cursive or a mix?

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Cursive and printed letters | Look to see if the author is writing in cursive, print, or a combination of both |  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|

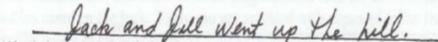
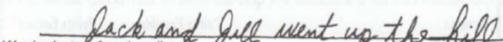
8. Consistent pen pressure

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Pen pressure | Look for variation in thickness of line on the down strokes of letters versus the upstroke | <p>8. Pen pressure:</p> <p>Light: </p> <p>Medium: </p> <p>Heavy: </p> |
|--------------|--|--|

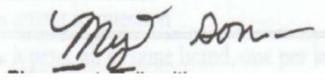
9. Slant

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| Slant | Look for word or line slant, helps to hold the paper away from you to see it better | <p>Right slant to letters: </p> <p>Left slant to letters: </p> |
|-------|---|--|

10. Does the writing stay on the line?

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Line habits | Look to see if the author writes above the line, on the line, or crosses over the line | <p>Straight on line: </p> <p>Words leave baseline below it: </p> <p>Words slant up from baseline: </p> |
|-------------|--|--|

11. Fancy loops and curls

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Fancy curls or loops | Look to see if the author uses fancy embellishments on certain letters that appear consistently | <p>Any unusual strokes?</p>  |
|----------------------|---|---|

12. T's crossed and I's dotted

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Placement of crosses on t's and dots on i's | Look to see where the crossbar on the T is placed and what direction it might slant, look to see if the author dots their i's at all and where the dot may lie in relation to the vertical bar | <p>Are i's dotted?</p> <p>Lightly? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firmly? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Left of stem? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right of stem? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circular pattern? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Jabbed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No dot? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Are t's crossed?</p> <p>Lightly? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heavy? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Left of stem? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right of stem? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concave? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convex? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Uncrossed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short in proportion to stem? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
|---|--|--|