Dear Mr. Tolson,

I am writing to you to plead with you to allow Year 6 to visit the beautiful coastal town of Whitby. It is a place of significant historical importance, and a place which I strongly believe would benefit, not only our learning, but our personal development as well.

Let me begin by explaining the main reasons why I think we should be able to visit Whitby. Firstly, as you are aware we have been studying Dracula as part of our Whole Class Reading and a key location in the book is Whitby. It is the place where Dracula first arrives and where the first attacks happen. In order to help bring the book and story alive, I believe it is vital that we are able to visit so we are able witness first-hand the settings which we have been reading about and which have captured our imaginations. Also, the derelict and now ruined abbey is a haunting reminder of Whitby’s gruesome past. It stands as sentinel perched high on the cliff top, overlooking the perilous seas below. By allowing Year 6 to visit we would be able to experience this awe-inspiring building and wander the vast grounds in which it is set. It has been a place of religious devotion since 657 AD and it would be a special place to visit. In addition, the church at the top of the cliff, which can only be reached by climbing 199 stone steps, is a place of serenity and peace and it will provide a moment of reflection for us in our hectic lives.

Moreover, we have previously read and investigated Captain Cook and his mighty vessel: The Endeavour. I don’t know if you are aware but Captain Cook was born in Whitby and there are several monuments which honour the brave and adventurous explorer, such as the Captain Cook statue and The Captain Cook Museum. Did you know that Captain Cook travelled all over the world and achieved many great and noble achievements? I strongly believe that we should be able to pay our respects to this great and intrepid traveller by visiting Whitby. Furthermore, the RNLI museum is a charity run museum dedicated to raising funds to maintain the lifeboat. The lifeboat is a vital resource which maintains the safety of the local fishermen and sailors. By visiting we would be able to donate some money and keep this much needed and valuable service going.

Finally, Whitby has a long and illustrious history for fishing and in particular whaling. Whilst whaling is now prohibited it remains a key feature of Whitby’s past. As a testament to the brave crews who set out to capture these leviathans of the deep there is a peculiar yet intriguing monument: a replica set of whale jaw-bones. They stand at the top of the West cliff, looking down over the town. The legends goes that if a boat had been successful in their hunting they would attach the whale’s jaw-bones to the mast of the ship as a symbol of their success. The people of Whitby would stand on the cliffs and search for this sign, cheering the successful crews as they returned. Whilst whaling is no longer occurring, fishing is still one of the main employers of the people of Whitby. It is an industry steeped in history and is one of the main attractions of Whitby. The fishermen of Whitby risk their lives to provide fresh fish for the people of the UK and I feel we should be able to pay our respects and give thanks to them by being allowed to visit them.

In conclusion, I whole-heartedly believe we should be able to visit Whitby. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope that you understand and agree to let Year 6 visit Whitby.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Spivey