

Kids:

Dear Mr Hawking

I am writing to you because I like your books. They are brilliantly funny!

My favourite bit was all of it.

I hope you can come to our school because I like your books.

Dear Mr Hawking

I think your books are really great. It is so good that when our teacher stops, everyone says 'Please carry on!' My favourite bit is when Eric gets stuck in the black hole. My favourite character is Cosmos because he knows a lot of things and he is amazing.

Dear Mr Hawking

I vastly love George's Secret key to the Universe. I think this book is 100 out of 100! I could never put it down.!

Indian:

Most Reverend Sir.

After seeing your book "The Grand Design", it seems that you are questioning the necessity of God on the concepts of the God from western mythology and Bible. You have not referred to the Vedic or Indian concept of god, who does not play miracles and couldn't intervene mischievously in the running of the Universe. He creates and runs the Universe on definite laws.

Man/Woman:

Dear Mr Hawking

May God have mercy on your soul, for you are so terribly wrong. I would just like you, Mr Hawking, to know that I am praying for you to see the true knowledge. With all your research and time trying to prove something that can't be proven, you've wasted your life and gained nothing. You have been so enveloped in senseless logic.

Woman:

Dear Professor Hawking

I read some time ago that you have no belief in God. Since then I have given quite a lot of thought to that statement. I myself am a practicing Catholic.

I know that you to be one of the finest intellects, not just in Britain but in the world. Having said that your statement surprised me somewhat.

Why?

I understand you not believing, but having an intellect such as yours and always seeking to advance your knowledge I would have thought your curiosity would NOT allow you to be sure.

Those of us who believe, believe because we have Faith. But persons like yourself must have hidden away in your knowledge some clue, however small to help you to believe that there IS a God.

Indian:

Kind attention Mr Stephen Hawking.

Good day sir.

We have gone through all the cases from all websites with regard to disability by motor neurone disease, which is said to be incurable,. However we believe and assure you that we have a system that can cure your disease, and lead you to a normal condition. Reply soon.

Teenage Boy/Girl:

Dear Professor Stephen Hawking

When I grow up I would like to work as an astrophysicist or a nuclear engineer.

So I thought who should I write to ask about this but the best.

I really admire your work in physics even though most of it I don't understand.

I'm astonished that someone can know so much about a subject as you do. When

I'm older I hope that I can get my name in the history books and discover

something new. Even though by then there will probably be very little left to

discover in the Universe.

How do you come up with all these theories? I can come up with some theories,

but I'm often extremely very tired at night looking out of the window and

pondering the simplest of things – is it in fact possible that space is indeed

endless?

I thank you for your time reading this and hope you know how much you have

influenced the world.

Teenage Boy/Girl:

Dear Dr Hawking.

I am fourteen years old and writing to thank you for your enormous contribution to science. It is extremely difficult to express the depth of the admiration I feel for you and other such extraordinary scientists. You were one of the first scientists I learned about when I was just nine years old and I heard from one of my friends at school that there was someone alive today who was smarter than Albert Einstein and his name is Dr Stephen Hawking!

I cannot understand all of your books, but the few parts that I can, especially in your excellent *A Brief History of Time*, I read with relish. One thing you may enjoy hearing is that on my application essay for High School – in which we were asked to name the four people whom we consider the greatest in history – you were someone that I wrote about. I was accepted into that school!

Man:

Dear Stephen.

I strongly suggest that in the future you refrain from any reference to God and the Hereafter. If He exists, he and his personal world are probably eons above pure energy and not the subject to Theoretical Physics, Astrophysics, Cosmology or any equations, rules or laws. If He exists, he can create, change or eliminate anything he chooses in a breath or less – probably instantaneously.

In short please give up the search for God. A mere mortal will NEVER achieve it.

Boy:

Dear Stephen Hawking.

I am nine years old. I've heard about you many times. I've also heard that you believe in Aliens. I believe that aliens are real too! I believe that most aliens are as intelligent as wild animals today, though I think that aliens who are more intelligent than humans are rare. Anyway, you're one of the reasons why I want to be a scientist!

Woman:

Dear Professor Hawking

Regarding your comment that Science makes God unnecessary, I wonder if this finding of yours could be interpreted that God so marvellously made the world in the first place, a world that would then be able to take care of itself down the ages, and therefore having no need for any further intervention from him. He is at Rest! He has been resting ever since Creation – call it the Big Bang!

Dutch Man:

Hi Professor Hawking.

I was wondering whether you are familiar with the thoughts and theory proposed by Zecharia Sitchin concerning the 12th planet and the Annunaki Era in which he proposes that humans origins came from ancient astronauts?

Thanks very much.

Man:

Professor Hawking. I'm sure you get a million of these e-mails but I just wanted to say thank your for all you've contributed to science and the world. And also to say that you are a great inspiration to my family. My wife's mother passed away recently from ALS and I wish she had had the opportunity to meet you .

You are a true inspiration to us all. Thanks for listening.

Boy:

Dear Professor Hawking

I am writing to you because you are my hero. You paved my way because you have physical problems and good cognition. I am ten years old and have cerebral palsy and also use an electric wheelchair, and am writing using my DynaVox communication system.

You have been my hero all my life I saw you on Star Trek and on The Discovery Channel. I read 'A Briefer History of Time' and Georges Secret Key To The Universe. I have always been fascinated by cosmology and theoretical physics. These are exciting times in those fields!

My walls are papered with pictures and news clippings of you.

My teachers never want to believe that I have the capacity to learn the subjects that truly interest me. I love to use your lines from Star Trek 'Wrong Again Albert' when they talk down to me, and 'not the apple story again!' when they want me to do something over and over.

I REALLY know how long it takes us to write. But a letter from you would make all the frustrations go away and keep my goal in front of me. Sincerely and with loving admiration Stanley Hotvedt.

Ps...did you notice we have the same initials?

Woman:

Dear Professor Hawking.

I'm Stanley's mother. He truly worships the ground you roll on sir. This letter took him three hours to type. God bless you for all you've done for Stan without even knowing it. You are a miracle sir – no two ways about it.

Woman – Korean.

Dear Professor Hawking.

I am sure, by now that you have received a great deal of mail regarding your most recent statement about heaven being a fairy tale, probably most of it very angry and hateful by those who profess the name of Christ.

However there are two things I know absolutely and that is that the Truth doesn't have to be believed for it to be the Truth, and that those who profess the name of Christ have a grave responsibility to behave like Christ.

Man: Czech.

Respect Dear Sir.

I am send you my paper entitled "I have defeated Einstein' in which I irrevocably prove that bodies can overcome the speed of light, and that this is enough for "rooting out" Einstein's theory of relativity which is built on the false assumption that the speed of light is not possible to overcome.

I would like you to publish my paper as soon as possible.

Man:

Dear Professor Hawking

I have been interested by the fact that you seem to think that we should not send out radio signals into space in case they are picked up by hostile aliens.

However I have known that since I was a boy that anyone out there who would be able to make a craft to hear these signals from the stars would not need *telling* that we are here. Since they would also be able to detect what I call the 'essence of life' given off by all plants, trees, animals and humans. They would also be able to detect our atmosphere and traces of pollution indicating a civilization.

I've also heard people on TV say 'look what happened to the Red Indians when America was discovered"

But that was humans against humans. Not a one million year old alien civilization against humans.

A advanced alien civilization MAY be still hostile. But when a civilization has evolved over a million years and is capable of monitoring us, surely they would have gone beyond the need for any conquest?! Perhaps that's why we have not been attacked so far.

Swedish Man:

Hello Professor!

I live in Gotenburg Sweden and work as a tour guide. I also import finger puppets from Peru.

I really appreciate the work you do and have great admiration for your determination in life. I can only imagine all the time and energy that you have put in to get where you are today.

I've enclosed a picture of my little Jack Russell dog names Lizzie.

Next time you are visiting Sweden the coffee and strawberry cake is on us!

Boy/Girl

Dear Professor Hawking

I am 10 years old and a fan of your work.

I am writing to you as it is Book Week at school and you are my favourite author.

Do you like Pokémon?

If you do, what is your favourite Pokémon.

When I am older I want to be a successful professor like you!

Dear Stephen Hawking.

I am ten years old.

I very much enjoyed your stories, A Brief History of Time, George's Secret Key to the Universe and George's Cosmic Treasure Hunt. I am a follower of your physics theories and explanations. Your writing has inspired me to study physics. Can you tell me what questions will I be trying to solve in Physics when I go to college?

Scientifically yours, Emilaino

Boy/Girl

Dear Stephen Hawking.

I was watching your show with curiosity about whether God created the universe. When you said that God doesn't exist I thought 'Well, then maybe he didn't create the Universe" My question is "is it possible that the Universe created God?"

Sincerely, a young viewer!

Teenage Girl.

Dear Professor Stephen William Hawking.

I'm writing to you to let you know how much of a hero you are to me. You're so brilliant that I don't even know where to start! Your books have been such an inspiration to me, fascinating me more and more about Quantum Mechanics and String Theory.

Last summer I just started to become interested in Black Holes and the Theory of Relativity and your books were the first that I picked up. Although I'm still young and had some difficulty with the concepts, I continued reading. Now I can grasp the notion of String Theory and I have to thank you for that!

I hope that some day I can make a difference to the world just as you did.

Young Boy/Girl

Dear Stephen Hawking

Can you team up with two other scientists to accomplish the most amazing thing

I ever thought of?

Can you invent me something that will make me not effective to gravity?

In other words make me fly! (But I can still walk and do stuff on the ground)

Man: NY

Dear Professor Hawking

Some ideas have come to mind that I think you'll find relevant concerning the theory of relativity. I believe that there are some difficulties with some of Einstein's contentions. In particular, there is something wrong with the concept that any observer can view himself as permanently at rest.

Once must conclude that there ARE absolute frames of reference. I invite you to comment.

Male: American

Mr Hawking.

I am sure you receive many letters that begin with stating 'I am sure you receive many letters'

And I am sure that these letters follow up with an assurance that 'this is no more special than any other'.

But I'll do it anyway.

I have no intention of asking you a mathematical or scientific question. My question is a question that must be answered by a complete stranger.

It is a question that has been on my mind for so very long.

I love a woman who is a very untraditional female.

Now I truly with all my whole soul 'love' her, for lack of a better word in any language – even physics!

But since I gave her my heart, my life has become drab and sad.

My question is - Why?

Girl:

Dear Professor Hawking

At school in religious studies lessons we are finding out how people's religion have influenced them and have been given free rein on whom to write to.

Your exposure to the scientific world made you the best person to give me a significant insight into these questions..

1. has your knowledge of the Universe influenced your religious beliefs or values?
2. How has your religion or views influenced you?
3. What advice would you give to young people on how to live well in the future.

Male: Australian

Dear Professor

I trust you will excuse my presumption in writing to you regarding your medical problems. I hope my experiences may help you, as I know of a doctor who could cure you. He has proved to my satisfaction that all Motor Neurone diseases were due to viral type diseases and cured them this X-Rays to the patients brain and spinal chord.

Male: Australian

Dear Professor Hawking

In 1988 I constructed an apparatus. This consisted of a garden hose tied in a single-strand Turk's Head knot and water was pumped through the hose. Curtain wire was wound in primary and secondary coils and counter-wound to each other around the hose. 50 Hertz current was run through the primary and the secondary was connected to a 60 watt lamp.

I was amazed that when I turned it on – a mini black hole appeared and then vanished at its focus.

Teenage Boy

Dear Professor Stephen Hawking

Can you help me answer these questions? I am 13 and after learning about Space in science class I have become interested and confused about black holes.

What happened to objects that pass through a black hole?

Do black holes lead to another Universe

Is it possible for humans to pass through a black hole

How do black holes warp space-time

Dear Mr Hawking

I have been learning about gravity and I would like to know why the earth has gravity. Nobody else seems to know and I know that you are very clever.

From Millie (aged 6)

Male: Russian

Hallo Respected Mr Hawking!

I am your faithful fan from Russia.!

I just wanna say that I consider you to be a real man of genius.

In my opinion you're one of the most genius people in the history of Mankind!

You should know that here in Russia many people really admire you and wait impatiently for your next articles, books and films.

For millions of people you're an example of the real scientist!

And a real man!

WE LOVE YOU!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORKS!!

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU ARE DOING FOR THE MANKIND!!!

Dear Mr Hawking

It was with keen interest that I watched your programme concerning the creation of the universe and indeed if there is a God , on television last night.

Let me say that as a yoga practising Christian the aim of my letter is to disprove your theory.

Your basic premise is that two things make a Universe; energy and space.

Fine!

All this you say was compacted into a super dense black hole which exploded in the Big Bang, creating the Universe.

Fine!

You claim that the reason there is no God is because there is no time in a black hole and that without time a creator could not have made the universe.

Ridiculous!

American (Michigan) Older Male:

Seasons Greetings Professor Hawking.

Hello Sir. With your permission I would like to properly introduce myself to you.

My name is Randy Wheeler and much to my personal embarrassment and shame

I genuinely feel obligated to inform you that I am a state prisoner held captive in the State of Florida in the United States.

If I can be very honest and straightforward with you sir, I just could not seem to overcome the irresistible impulse to write to you because of a particular article about you in Discover Magazine, that revealed that you are very deeply committed to the research, study and teaching of cosmology.

And from what I could read in your eyes from the photograph of you caused me to revisit and flash back to a delightful time when I was much younger and possessed an insatiable hunger to learn as much as I possibly could about the infinite wonders and mysteries that laid so far out from my mortal reach and comprehension, a truly remarkable place that us humans refer to as "outer space". And now, all because of you fine sir, you have managed to reawaken these once intensely fond memories from me, and for the past several weeks now, you have given me good reason to be a very happy and reinvigorated fellow in spite of the miserable and unforgiving environment that I have found myself imprisoned in.

You see my dear Professor Hawking, I am now a 58 year old gentleman that grew up in upstate Michigan and as a young boy I developed a deep inquisitive

fascination for science and curiosity for what lay beyond this fragile planet of ours. I explicitly remember being flooded with an endless amount of questions with really nowhere to turn for any intelligent or adequate answers. From a very young age I was absolutely convinced within myself that it was only logical that there had to be other life that existed beyond our tiny solar system, and back in those days whenever I talked to other kids my age about the subject, they thought I was loony and weird because I had no basis in fact to support such a belief. I even silently played with the thoughts that there could be such a thing as a “parallel universe” out there somewhere where a young boy just my age was going through the same identical motions that I was hearing on Earth.

Anyway, my dear Professor Hawking, when I turned about 13 years old, my parents bought me an amateur telescope for Christmas. At that particular time in my life it was simply the best Christmas present in the whole world. I can still recall hugging, kissing and thanking both of my parents so repeatedly that Christmas morning that I had completely ignored the other Christmas presents that they had bought for me.

As twilight approached that evening my father and I, telescope in hand, headed outside and he fiddled with the tripod stand and focusing lens as I anxiously stood awaiting my first close up glimpse of the cosmos. When my father had finished making his adjustments he stepped back, and with a big grin on his face he simply said, “Take a look, son” and when I did I became virtually speechless and awestruck because I could not believe what I was beholding through that tiny eyepiece. Before my eyes in all its splendour and majesty was the lunar

surface of the moon. I felt as though I could actually reach out and touch it. Do you know I mean Professor? IT was like an absolute miracle to a young boy my age and I couldn't tear myself away. Several minutes later I turned to my father and said "Its awesome dad!"

I mean put yourself in my shoes for a brief moment Professor Hawking, I was the happiest I lad in probably the entire state of Michigan.

Anyway Professor Hawking, one thoughts I have repeatedly fought with for a very long time now is that I find it very very disturbing that this poor distressed planet of ours seems to be inhabited by billions of earthlings that are so predisposed and obsessed by wealth, war and wickedness that they never for a moment stop to consider that if our Sun was to go into a supernova right this very minute, it would be the end of mankind and everything else as we know it, forever.

Please correct me if I'm wrong my dear Professor, but if our Sun did go into a Supernova, would it also create a black hole?

Anyway Professor without taking you through a long drawn out and somewhat boring story of my life searching for elusive answers to numerous questions about deep space that sadly evades me today, let me just say that I am very, very honoured to be in your presence through the pages of this letter to you today sir, and I sincerely hope that I haven't' pre-emptively invaded your privacy or distracted you from more pressing matters. If I have done so I sincerely

apologize for your forgiveness. But I really enjoy writing and I have no one else to correspond with.

I hope that this letter and card reaches you before the holidays as if you celebrate Christmas in the UK, I want to wish you a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Male: American (Texan) – slightly over the top proud

Dear Dr Hawking;

This letter is to ask for your assistance in recognizing the achievement and service of :

Bradley William Appleyard

He completed the requirements for, and having been examined by an Eagle Scout Board of Review for Boy Scout Troop 75, was found worthy of the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts of America.

He organised and recruited fellow Scouts to stripe a cement basketball court, paint the school logo in the center and add nets!

In honour of this achievement, we have scheduled an Eagle Scout of Honour for March 23rd and would welcome your presence at this event for this fine young man to help us recognize the personal service of Eagle Scout Bradley William Appleyard – my son.

If you could talk to Albert Einstein, what would you say? —

I would ask him why he didn't believe in black holes. The field equations of his theory of relativity imply that a large star or cloud of gas would collapse in on itself and form a black hole. Einstein was aware of this but somehow managed to convince himself that something like an explosion would always occur to throw off mass and prevent the formation of a black hole. What if there was no explosion?

Do you think our civilization will survive long enough to make the leap to deeper space?

I think we have a good chance of surviving long enough to colonize the solar system. However, there is nowhere else in the solar system as suitable as the Earth, so it is not clear if we would survive if the Earth was made unfit for habitation. To ensure our long-term survival, we need to reach the stars. That will take much longer. Let's hope we can last until then.

Do you feel that your physical limitations have helped or hindered your study?

Although I was unfortunate enough to get motor neuron disease, I have been very fortunate in almost everything else. I was lucky to be working in theoretical physics, one of the few areas in which disability was not a serious handicap, and to hit the jackpot with my popular books.

Which scientific discovery or advance would you like to see in your lifetime?

I would like nuclear fusion to become a practical power source. It would provide an inexhaustible supply of energy, without pollution or global warming.

Favourite Memory

It was when I visited Antarctic in 1997. The Chilean airforce flew a group of theoretical physicists down to their base on King George Island off the Antarctica peninsula. My wheelchair didn't have snow chains but they took me round on a snowmobile.

Does the universe end? If so, what is beyond it? —Paul Pearson,

HULL, ENGLAND

Observations indicate that the universe is expanding at an ever increasing rate. It will expand forever, getting emptier and darker. Although the universe doesn't have an end, it had a beginning in the Big Bang. One might ask what is before that, but the answer is that there is nowhere before the Big Bang, just as there is nowhere south of the South Pole.

Does it feel like a huge responsibility to have people expecting you to have all the answers to life's mysteries? —Susan Leslie, BOSTON

I certainly don't have the answers to all life's problems. While physics and mathematics may tell us how the universe began, they are not much use in predicting human behaviour because there are far too many equations to solve. I'm no better than anyone else at understanding what makes people tick, particularly women.

ABC Q&A:

Can you prove that God does not exist or that the Universe could have been created without one?

One can't prove that God does not exist, but science makes god unnecessary.

The laws of physics can explain the universe without the need for a creator.

Why do so many human beings seem to need a god.

People want to think that there is something that they can relate to and make them think that they are not isolated but part of a larger whole, They seek it as an authority for an ethical system and lifestyle they aspire to but not necessarily achieve.

Are we alone?

Life appeared spontaneously on Earth or nearby within the last 10 billion years so one would expect life to appear elsewhere in the U. but it might be a long way away. There don't seem to be any advanced Aliens in our region of the galaxy or we would have heard their radio signals

When will the human race meet its end?

Life in the U will cease to be possible when the U become **cold dark and empty** in 15 B years. But the real danger is that the human race will destroy itself on a

much shorter time scale. To have a chance of long term survival we would have to spread out into space.

Is yours the greatest mind of our time

I certainly don't claim to be the greatest mind of our time. Its only after the passage of time that we will see who were the outstanding figures.

Will you in your lifetime find the TOE?

Science is a co-op effort if we find TOE it will be because of the work of many people over many years.

How do you read/write research.?

The Internet was set up by scientists in my field to share papers. So all the scientific papers I need are on line and I read them on my computer screen. Fiction used not to be available in e-form so I like to be read to. I still prefer this even though one can still buy it online. Writing is still very slow but that gives me time to choose my words carefully.

How does your knowledge impact other areas of your life...?

Physics may explain the mystery of the U but it is cold and unemotional. SO I try not to allow it to affect my family life. I think the primary purpose of music is to induce emotion to I like composers like Wagner who does this well. Other areas of arts are a mixture of reason and emotion and I judge them accordingly.