

To the teachers and students at the Anvil Academy,

my name is Margaret Steward, and I am the leader of the people of Whittle. I wanted to write to say thank you for your kind letters and drawings that you sent us recently. They really meant a lot to us.

As you have probably heard, it is a difficult and sorrowful time for us. Many of our beloveds died in the recent assault on the Mournwold by the Jotun, and while we cannot deny our joy at taking the fight to our hated foe, we are sad too. Friar Robin, a trusted friend of mine who was much loved here, also recently passed away. At times like this, it is support like yours that really makes all the difference.

Children: you may know that we in Whittle do not quite get on with other people because of what we believe. I won't give you an account of what we believe here - I am sure you can ask an adult. But I wanted to say that whatever you believe in, it is important to stand for it whatever happens. When I think of young people like you all, it makes me happy for the future of our Empire. Your parents and guardians must be proud.

Teachers: thank you for giving the children the opportunity to write those letters. You as adults will understand the difficult position we in Whittle find ourselves in, cleaving to what we know to be true - and yet despite this you chose to allow the children to reach out to us. Thank you. Even as conflict rages within and without, it is good to remember our common cause and shared values that unify us.

Virtues be with you all,

Margaret Steward