

I am S.'s calligraphy pen. She uses me to write heaps of letters to her family and friends. Even though her handwriting is awful she tries very hard to produce readable letters. That's why she's always using me for letters. When she's writing with biro or pencils she's usually the only one who can make out her words. A reason for her bad writing is that she holds me a bit below the actual handle - a strange habit developed in primary school that leads to funny dents in her fingers and sometimes inky fingertips. She can't get rid of it.

S. likes to formulate her letters in a nice and special way. She may write them in verse - which is (as she hopes) amusing for her friends, or pretend to be writing from another time using really old German. She thinks it's hilarious. But usually she is rewarded by a reply in kind, so her friends can't think it completely boring.

For letters, S. usually doesn't have to plan: she's got a broad idea of what to write in her mind before starting, but then she just lets it flow. The flow is however occasionally interrupted by events around her, which she usually comments upon, e.g. a professor saying something funny or incomprehensible during a boring lecture, or her making herself a cup of tea when she's writing at home.

But I, the purple calligraphy pen, do not only assist Sara in writing letters, I also come in handy for writing crap poetry. It's not serious poetry - Sara isn't quite that talented - it's more making fun of stuff and then (sometimes) reading it out to friends. For example, Grob fahrlässige Übersetzungen Shakespeares. Her other artistic writing (novels and children stories - all for non-publication, just for the fun of it) is written on her laptop. It doesn't have to look pretty, and it's so much easier to change stuff on the screen. And writing on a laptop is a lot faster. For that kind of writing S. also goes through a lot more planning. She believes that you start a novel before you know its end or you'll get lost in the middle and will never finish the bloody thing - a frustrating experience. In the process of the artistic writing I only get used occasionally, when S. is sorting through her notes and rewriting the still useful ones (she often takes ages to make up her mind about e.g. a character's name and then changes it ten times...). The rewritten notes are usually important enough that it's worth being able to read them after a week (which is sometimes impossible with other pens due to S.'s wonderful handwriting)

Academic writing is also done mainly on the laptop and I don't play any part in it. S. is usually not enthusiastic enough about the topics that she'll write her notes in a pretty way (with one exception: a term paper about her favourite actor playing Hamlet). The laptop is obligatory anyway as S. has to hand in printed versions of her term paper anyway.