1. *Read the story of* ***Rhoda*** *in* ***Acts 12:12-17****.*
2. *Discuss the features of* ***informal writing*** *(below) with a partner or small group, then underline different parts of the letter and write a number to match each feature:*

Hi Claudia! ☺

How you doing? Hope everything’s good with you. Sorry I haven’t been in touch for a bit. I’ve been run off my feet here! ☺

Oh wow! You won’t believe what I did last night!?!?? What a total salad! They was all upstairs, praying for Peter as usual. Well, it was after midnight – the night before his trial – and I heard a knocking on the door. I got up and ran to see who it was knocking so late, and I heard Peters voice!

Well, I was so happy to hear him that I forgot to open the door! (What a Rhodadendron!) I just ran and told the apostles, you know.

They didn’t believe me and said it was probly his angel. They called me mad. Me! Ha ha. Anyway, Peter keeps on knocking, so we had to let him in. We all had a good laugh about it, I can tell you!

Anyway, have you seen your good ‘mate’ Titus lately? I heard he was in town? Is he still working at the arcade?

Hope you OK, my darling sis! Let me know if you’re coming home for the festival.

All my love, Cloudy, as always. ☺

Your ‘mad’ sister,

Rhoda XXXX ☺☺☺☺

General:

* Format: email / text / note / postcard
* Written in a spoken style
* May be handwritten
* Reason for writing: personal / trivial
* Topic: interesting / fun / emotional
* More use of opinion than fact

1. No date / address / phone no., etc.
2. Addressee: known / intimate
3. Phatic communication (small talk)

Vocabulary:

* Demonstrates level of education
* Non-standard English
* No or little passive voice
* No jargon or archaic language

1. Greeting (salutation) Hi / Hey / Dear, then [first name / nickname]
2. Ending (valediction) All the best / See you / Cheers / Bye for now, then [first name / nickname]
3. Use of 1st and 2nd person
4. Simple well-known vocabulary
5. More Anglo-Saxon words
6. Contractions
7. Idioms
8. Phrasal Verbs *colloquial language*
9. Slang
10. More direct language
11. Private language / in-jokes
12. Use of humour, e.g. jokes and puns
13. Asides
14. Abbreviations
15. Errors are less important

Layout:

* A short text
* Possibly more random / messy layout
* Short paragraphs

1. Simple sentences (one or two clauses)
2. Non-standard punctuation
3. Emojis
4. Historical present