



## TEACHING TIP

Ask the students to note that in the illustration Erasmus is writing something. Ask them to speculate about what he might be writing. Try to elicit the answer that he is writing a book. Inform the students that Erasmus in fact was an author and did write books. See p. 191 of this teacher's manual for a list of Erasmus's writings. Then ask the students what else authors sometimes write besides books. Help the students arrive at the conclusion that authors sometimes write letters to their friends. Erasmus wrote so many letters that they became a collection. See p. 190 for information on the twelve volumes of his letters. Erasmus wrote to friends who have become famous in history such as Thomas More and Martin Luther but also wrote to less well-known people such as William Mountjoy to whom the letter in this chapter is written. Also ask what Erasmus's facial expression indicates. He is serious about what he is doing and he is concentrating on his writing. Finally instruct the students to look at the illustrations on p. 190 and 201. These two pictures show winter storms which is the topic of Erasmus's letter to Mountjoy. The teacher may choose to ask students what winter storms they remember most clearly from their own experience (if the students live where winter storms occur).

## PAGE 192

Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.2

### TRANSLATION OF LATIN READING PASSAGE

#### Erasmus of Rotterdam greets the English Count William Mountjoy.

After a very difficult trip we arrived at last. Now what Ulysses will seem greater than I? The gods fought against us with winds, very fierce cold, rain, snow, hail. In the first night it had rained for a long time; then the rain was changed into snow; the strength of the snow(s) was enormous; after that hail was added; then suddenly it began to rain again. As soon as the rain would touch the earth or the trees, ice was created there. Everywhere on the earth ice could be seen, and the earth was not even, but in many places seemed higher. The trees were dressed in ice, by which weight they were oppressed. And so their tops were touching the earth, their branches were torn, the trees were falling and lying on the ground. People whom we saw in the fields were saying that they had never seen a similar thing in <their> lives. The horses were trying to advance through ice and snow(s).

Maybe you will ask what was in the mind of your Erasmus at that time. I was sitting on <my> horse and as soon as it raised <its> ears, I was dejected; as soon as it prostrated itself on its knees, my heart (chest) jumped. But listen to this! You will think that you are hearing words from a fairy tale (story). While we are going down through a mountain <slope>, I began to be carried by the winds and to slide, just as though I were sailing. I tried to direct my course with a staff. A new type of sailing!

And so we advanced. Hardly on the fourth day did we catch a glimpse of the sun. But I am feeling well now.

You also, my best William, be in good health!



#### TEACHER BY THE WAY

Mountjoy was a young English nobleman who had met Erasmus in Paris and had invited him to England to serve as his instructor. While in England, Erasmus was introduced to the leading English scholars and intellectuals through Mountjoy, and Mountjoy was instrumental in arranging Erasmus's second trip to England in 1505.