



English Language Out Of Hours Writing Intervention



Short Story –
If Only



THE HARDER
YOU WORK
FOR SOMETHING,
THE GREATER
YOU'LL FEEL
WHEN YOU
ACHIEVE IT.

Which word?

- The sound _____ through the room, _____ those around.
 - The sight took my breathe away – I stood _____.
 - Rain _____ down, _____ away the fear I had felt.
- Echoed
 - pounded
 - Motionless
 - washing
 - Haunting

Add full stops to create some effective short sentences in these extracts.

- If only words which echoed through my head why me? Why me? It was so close yet so far away.....
- If I had held on tighter if I had shown more faith if I had listened. Everything could be so different – I would now never know.
- Everyone said it time will fly if only I had listened now regret is tattooed on my soul -forever.

Add semi colons into these extracts –
these will also give you inspiration...

- The hours flew by it took over my mind. Books mounted up in front of me and sleep eluded me. It was all, the only thing, I could think about. Would the time thinking pay off?
- He froze. I froze. Would I get there quick enough it was a race against the clock. The pressure was on. It was done to me – me only. Questions flooded through my mind confusion invaded my soul.

Read these extracts from a sample answer. Write beside them what is good / bad

- If only I had paid more attention. This is a short story about focus. I did not have focus. Will you have focus?
- It was Year 11 and everyone was panicking about their exams. This was it. The end of school was approaching like a tiger hunting their prey. My mother kept saying 'If only you can get your C. If only'. Her doubt in me angered, frustrated and irritated me. How dare she?!
- I'll show her. I'll show them. I'll show them all!

Read these extracts from a sample answer.

DO NOT SAY THIS!!

- If only I had paid more attention. This is a short story about focus. I did not have focus. Will you have focus?
- It was Year 11 and everyone was panicking about their exams. This was it. The end of school was approaching like a tiger hunting their prey. My mother kept saying 'If only you can get your C. If only'. Her doubt in me angered, frustrated and irritated me. How dare she?!
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Nice simile

Triplet of emotive language

Nice link to title

Nice repetition

Read this sample answer

- The golden gates loomed. Dominating, overpowering, intimidating me. The gleam of the gates did nothing to reassure me. This was it. The moment I'd know if I was in, accepted. Would the list hold my name or would I be faced for all eternity pondering 'If only...?'
- It hadn't been a horrendous life. But had it been the best? Thoughts rushed madly past as I contemplated the actions, words, deeds and thoughts I had exhibited during my short life. Words said in anger. Raging actions when I lashed out like a lion at those who I loved. I always thought they knew I never meant it. If only I could tell them how I really felt.....
- His brow furrowed and a puzzled expression was planted on his face. He flicked between page after page, rapidly scanning the names, looking for me. This was it. My moment of truth. Where would I be spending the rest of the afterlife? If only I had deliberated sooner.....
- His eye caught mine and I took a deep sigh. If only they let me in, if only I can see those who I so desperately wish to see. I would go back and undo all those foolish actions, those thoughtless deeds. The weight of my actions was a burden on my shoulder. If only I had not let the weight get so heavy.
- When his eye caught mine, I noticed the smile start to spread across his face. It was infectious. A warm glow flooded through my body as the gate which previously dwarfed me swung open. There she was; right before my eyes after all this time. I ran to her, joy vibrating through my new body. If only we had not had to ever be separated by death. Together now. Forever.

Think about the sample story you have just read

- Good word choices used

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- Other positive features

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- How it could be improved

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- The train surged towards us – it was out of control.
- The water trapped me, overpowered me, dominated me.
- He looked at me; if only I had seen that look in his eyes before.
- Look at how a single line paragraph could be used to add extra effect.
Don't forget to take a paragraph to show something different happening in your piece.

Your plan – Give yourself 30 mins on the clock!

- Intriguing opening
- Paragraphs to show development
- Bring to a close – this could be a cliff hanger or link to something from the beginning.
- Use
- Punctuation - ! ? - ;
- Alliteration + triplets
- Short sentences

Finished?

- Could you insert a single line paragraph?
- Check your punctuation – have you used full stops? Can you add ;?
- Could a descriptive word become a triplet?
- Ensure you have fully checked!!