



TalkforWriting™

Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

One Chance

by Dean Thompson



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Welcome to the One Chance workbook



Inside you'll find lots of things to work through that will help you with your reading and writing skills and build on the work you do at school.

I'm your virtual teacher, so let's explore together and get your journey started

Introduction

"Be careful what you wish for,
you may receive it." – anonymous

Have you ever thought about what this means?

The underlying moral of the wishing tale is often played out in real life. Every week many people dream of winning the lottery – they make a wish. Someone then wins a huge sum of money. While this might seem like great news, the story often leads to misery and unhappiness. The sudden win changes lives. Friends and family may be lost. The 'winner' may lose a sense of purpose as they no longer have to go to work.

This moral message is one that has been used many, many times in stories across the world. It was first thought to have been used in Aesop's Fables. Aesop was a slave and storyteller believed to have lived in ancient Greece.

The aim of this workbook is to enjoy and explore wishing stories, leading to you having a go at writing your own version.

Just one wish



If you had just one chance to make a wish, what would you wish for? Brainstorm some ideas. For example, I might wish for a new car, a dog or a yacht. Or to be a world-famous footballer or not to have to go to school!



The downside

Now try and think about the positives and negatives of having that wish granted.

For example,

I wish I had a bright red Ferrari. I could drive at immense speed and win many great races.

However, I would be adding to the destruction of the planet, be breaking the speed limit and endangering my life and the lives of others.

.....

I wish I had a small, brown Dachshund. I could take it for long, leisurely walks in the countryside.

However, I would have to leave it alone for hours on end while I was at school.

.....

Now have a go yourself:

I wish I ...

I could

However,

I wish I ...

I could

However,



Now try to be a little more magical. Anything is possible! For example: **I wish** I was in Hogwarts and befriended Hermione. **I could** learn some magical spells, play Quidditch and soar high on my enchanted broom.

However, I might let them all know what happens in the story and ruin it for everyone.

I wish

I could

However,

I wish

I could

However,

The Mirror of Wishes



Do you remember how, in *Snow White*, the wicked Queen used a mirror that always told the truth? This poem is about what happens when different characters look into a mirror that shows what you wish for. Make a list of people who might look into the wishing mirror and think about what they would wish to see. Pie decided to write about – *a teacher, a sailor, a superhero, an astronaut, a pirate, a dragon hunter and a writer.*

As you can see, he has written each idea using the same pattern, based on two lines. Copy his pattern but use your own characters and ideas about what they might wish for. Write your poem in your notebook.

The Mirror of Wishes

The teacher looked into the mirror
And saw a class of hard-working children.

A sailor looked into the mirror
And saw the still waters of the Atlantic.

Batman looked into the mirror
And saw a crime free day in Gotham City.

An astronaut looked into the mirror
And saw his capsule landing in the sea.

A pirate looked into the mirror
And saw where a treasure chest lay buried.

A dragon hunter looked into the mirror
And saw the location of a dragon's cave.

A writer looked into the mirror
And saw stories waiting to be told.

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The Mirror of Despair



On the wall, there is also the mirror of despair! This always shows what you fear most of all happening. Either make a new list of people who might look into the mirror of despair and think about what they would most fear to see or write about the same characters to find out what they might most fear. Once again, Pie has written each idea using the same pattern.

Try copying his pattern but use your own characters and ideas about what they might most hate to have happen in their lives. Write your poem in your notebook.

The Mirror of Despair

The teacher looked into the mirror
And saw children throwing paper airplanes.

A sailor looked into the mirror
And saw a tsunami approaching.

Superman looked into the mirror
And saw he was wearing a pair of kryptonite tights!

An astronaut looked into the mirror
And saw an asteroid as big as Bristol approaching

A pirate looked into the mirror
And saw sharks gathering beneath the plank.

A dragon hunter looked into the mirror
And saw that he had picked up a plastic sword by mistake.

A writer looked into the mirror
And saw a library burst into flames.

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Now read or listen to this story:

You can listen to it here:

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/one-chance/s-A3SQppItbOx>

One Chance

Outside, the evening was cold and wet. A **squally** wind howled, rattling the roof tiles and shaking the window frames of 13 Wager Road. Inside, **shabby** curtains were drawn, a **humble** fire crackled and a couple sat in silence. Jack stretched out on the tired couch with an amused smile, turning the page of his favourite novel. Sarah **scowled**, silently **seething**. She scanned the room, noticing the worn-out furniture, peeling paint and, in her opinion, a pointless, idle husband. She deserved so much more than this.

Suddenly, the letterbox jangled and there was a solitary but decisive knock on the door. Hope, the Labrador, barked. Sarah pulled back the curtain and watched as a hooded figure slipped silently away up the road. Puzzled, she stared down at a golden card that had appeared, glinting on the frayed doormat.

Tentatively, she gathered it up and read it out loud:

Golden Lottery Ticket Ltd.
Congratulations!

You have been selected as one of our lucky lottery winners.
This golden ticket entitles you to receive one of three exclusive wishes.
Simply, scratch the card and make your wish.
Once you have claimed your wish, pass on the luck!

<i>Wish 1</i>	<i>Redeemed</i>
<i>Wish 2</i>	<i>Scratch here</i>
<i>Wish 3</i>	<i>Scratch here</i>

Small print: Remember to use your precious wish wisely - wealth is not the root of happiness.

What next? We've stopped at an interesting part of the story. Summarise below what you think could happen next.



I predict...

Now let's find out how close your predictions were. Read on!

Sarah gasped. This is just what she was looking for - another chance. Maybe lose the idle husband as well, she thought, shaking her head.

"I am going to give this a go. I am thinking lots of money to buy expensive clothes and maybe you can finally sort this house out," she said to Jack, **rummaging** desperately in the drawer for a coin.

"Utter nonsense," muttered Jack, glancing up from his book and taking in the room. "I love this old house and you just the way you are. Even if all that did come true, there'll be a catch. No one gets something for nothing. Just throw it away."

Sarah stopped and nodded **sullenly**. He was right. She made to throw the ticket on the fire, but something stopped her. Furtively, she **stashed** it in her pocket.

Later that evening, as Jack slept, Sarah retrieved the ticket and greedily scratched 'Wish 2', dreaming of **immense** riches or, to be precise, £100,000. Outside, a squally wind **howled**. Inside, nothing happened. Bitterly, she tossed the ticket into the bin.

The next day, the wind died down to a cool, whispering breeze. Jack prepared for his early morning walk with Hope. Pulling his woollen hat firmly down over his ears, he called out to Sarah that he wouldn't be out long and left. Sarah **scowled**. She could barely respond.

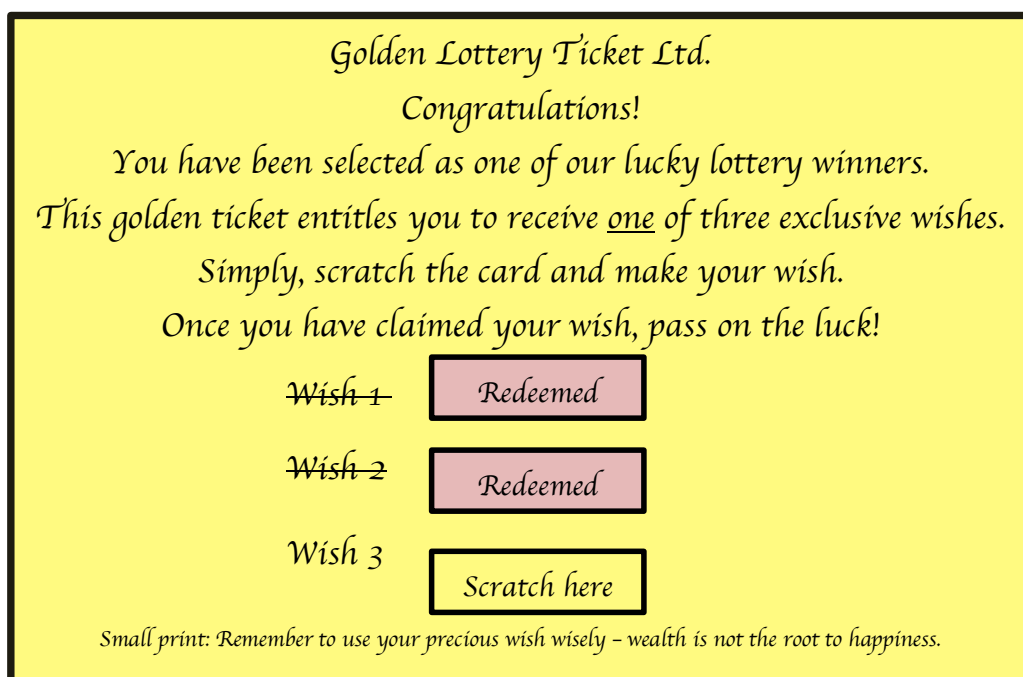
Eight hours passed and Sarah began to worry - where were Jack and Hope? Shaking with fear, she dialled 999, hoping for the best but fearing the worst.

A massive search was launched but there was no sign. Jack and Hope had simply vanished. Sarah was **distraught**. Deep down she worried if their disappearance had anything to do the golden ticket.

Days later, as the wind whipped up again, a woman in a black cloak knocked at the door. She told Sarah she had been sent to offer some **compensation** for her sad loss. Sarah was feeling desperate so asked, "How much?"

"Shall we say... £100,000?"

Shocked, Sarah recalled the greedy sum she had wished for. Could it be true? Had her selfish wish actually been granted? Quickly, she raced outside and **rummaged** desperately through the bin, trying to locate the **discarded** ticket. With sickening dread, she smoothed out the crumpled ticket and gasped in horror. It was true. The second wish had been redeemed.



Sarah leaned against the bin for support, her head spinning, her thoughts in **turmoil**. Then she **gathered herself together**. There was still one final wish left ... Could she use it to try and bring Jack and Hope back? She needed a coin, quick.

Just then, without warning, the squally wind howled and snatched the ticket from her hand. It spiralled, higher and higher like autumn leaves in a storm and then, like the mysterious woman herself, it was gone. Sarah cried out of helpless pain.

Inside, the shabby curtains were drawn and a humble fire crackled.

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What do the words mean?



Have a look back at the story. All of the words below are in bold. See if you can work out what they mean from the context of the story and jot your ideas down here.

If you are stuck, there is a list of matching words below to help you. If you are still stuck, you could ask someone else in your home to tell you, or use a dictionary or the web.

Target Word	Definition that fits with the story
squally	
shabby	
humble	
scowled	
seething	
tentatively	
redeemed	
exclusive	
rummaging, rummaged	
sullenly	
stashed	
immense	

howled	
distraught	
compensation	
discarded	
turmoil	
gathered herself together	

Similar words help box

upset sulkily uncertainly searching confusion
 roared damages furious frowned became
 calmer enormous small threw away put away
 claimed unique stormy tatty



Challenge: Many words can mean different things depending on the context they are used in. Investigate whether there are other possible meanings for the word using a dictionary or the web. Jot your findings in the grid above.

Similar meaning or opposite meaning

Now investigate words that are similar (synonyms) or opposite (antonyms or near antonyms). Fill in the grid below

Target word	Synonym	Antonym or near antonym
squally	stormy, windy, <u>tempestuous</u> , blowy, blustery, breezy	calm, pleasant, serene, <u>tranquil</u> motionless, undisturbed
shabby		
humble		
scowled		
rummaged		
stashed		
distraught		
discarded		
turmoil		

Challenge: For some words, is there an order from the 'weak' to 'strong'?

For example, **seething**



Some synonyms for seething:

irate *cross* *livid* *furios*
 'weaker' → 'stronger'

If you have managed to put a number of alternative words in the grid above, circle the words that are the strongest alternatives in each box. I've done the first one for you.



Now try and use some of your favourite words from the list above in a sentence.

For example, **seething**

Sarah's **seething** resentment finally reached boiling point.

At the end of the match, the **seething** mass spilt out of the football ground.



Likes, dislikes, puzzles & surprises!

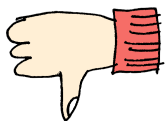
Now you have read the whole story, what did you like and dislike?

I liked ...



I

I disliked ...





What puzzled you (what questions do you have – Why? What? How?)
and what other stories did it remind you of?

I would like to know ...



The story reminded me of...

I

