

## Closer reading



Let's look more closely at the opening of the story.  
Re-read the opening, thinking about the words chosen by the writer.

What words has the writer used to try to show what Jack and Sarah are like? I have highlighted words that show what Jack is like here:

### Extract from *One Chance 1*.

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.

This is what these words make me think about Jack:

"The word 'stretched' makes me think Jack is lying down and very relaxed. He is reading one of his favourite novels or books which I think he has read many times. In addition, he appears to be happy and content because he has an 'amused smile'."

Now it is your turn.

What words could you highlight that show us what Sarah is like?

### Extract from *One Chance 1*.

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.

What do these words make tell you about what Sarah is like?




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**Challenge:**

**What mood has been created in this opening and how has it been created?**

**Extract from One Chance 1.**

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, slowly 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.



Is there a difference between the outside and the inside?

*Outside* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Inside* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Creating a mood with a sentence of 3 (a)

In the story, I've tried to create an atmosphere or mood by writing a brief description of the setting, using the prepositions 'outside' and 'inside' to start the sentences to contrast the moods and using sentences of 3 to build the description. If you look at the 'outside' sentence below carefully, you'll see that it tells us 3 things that the wind is doing.

Use the weather to create an atmosphere - a storm brewing!

Make the weather seem 'alive' using animal sounds

Select three things that the weather (the wind) is doing

Outside, a squally wind howled, rattling the roof tiles and shaking the window frames.

Have a go at writing your versions of this sentence to create an atmosphere by telling your reader 3 things the weather is doing. **And remember the commas!**

Outside, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Outside, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Outside, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Creating a mood with a sentence of 3 (b)

Now add a second sentence of three. Look at the 'inside' sentence below and you'll see that it gives us three details about the inside of the house.

**Outside**, a squally wind howled, rattling the roof tiles and shaking the window frames. **Inside**, shabby curtains were drawn, a humble fire crackled and Jack read, silently.

Pick out 3 details to create a list sentence of 3

Have a go at writing your own versions of this 'inside' sentence by picking out 3 details. Here I chose **curtains**, a **fire** and **Jack**. Then I added some descriptive detail. Look about you and pick out three things to describe like the **TV**, a **mug** and the **dog**.

*Inside, the TV was muted, a chipped mug of coffee steamed on a small pine table and a white dog slept, whimpering.*

Inside, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Inside, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Inside, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Writing speech effectively

In a bit, you will be writing your own story. Start thinking of two characters who will be in your story. You might want to create a character who was always wishing that he or she didn't have to go to school and is now regretting their wish! The other character warns them against this.

In stories, one character often speaks and another replies. This helps move the story along and should tell the reader something about the characters. We need to make sure we lay out the speech clearly and punctuate the way that they speak so that the reader knows:

- what's said
- who said it
- how they said it.

### There are some golden rules for writing speech:

- 1) Put inverted commas ( " ") around what is actually said.
- 2) Begin a new line (paragraph) for every new speaker.
- 3) Always begin a new piece of speech with a capital letter.
- 4) Always put some punctuation at the end of the speech – . , ! or ?
- 5) To make it interesting, tell us how the words were spoken.

### Have a look at my cartoon example:



With cartoons, you want the words spoken to interest the reader and move the story along and you use the images to help them picture what the speaker is like, how they feel etc. Writing speech in a story is very similar except this time you have to use words to paint the picture of how the speaker is feeling and how they react to what someone else has said. Look at the example below:

The speech marks go around what is said.  
The first word of speech has a capital letter  
The last word spoken has punctuation after it,  
inside the speech marks.

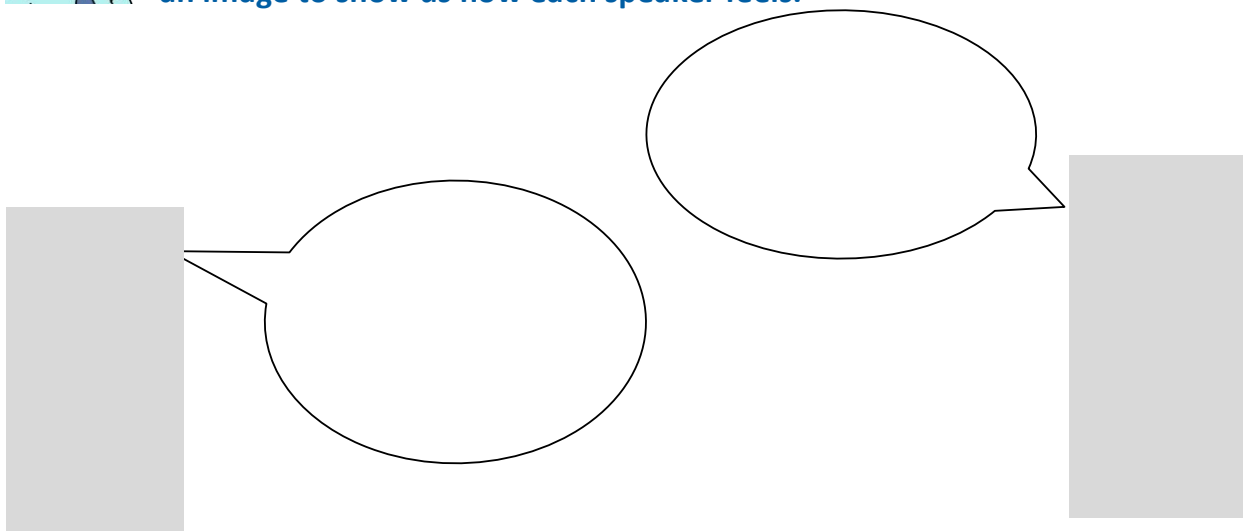
This is what his  
mum replies  
(new speaker = new  
paragraph)

That morning, Dwayne was endlessly  
muttering under his breath, "If only I  
didn't have to go to school."  
"Bet you'd miss it if it wasn't there!"  
retorted his mum, tired of his endless  
grumbling.

This tells us who  
said it & how  
they felt when  
they said it.



Now it's your turn. Decide on your two characters. Make character 1 wish something and character 2 react. Let the reader know how each character feels. Write what they say into the speech bubbles and draw an image to show us how each speaker feels.



Now turn your cartoon into a short dialogue from a wishing story. Use the pattern and punctuation that I used on the previous page to help you. Use the words you select help the reader picture the scene.

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### Now decide on what happens in your wishing story

In my story, the wish arrived in the form of a lucky scratch card or golden ticket. Here are some objects that have been used in stories before:



### What other objects could be used?

#### Some ideas

You might want to pick an interesting object you could use in your story and then think about how this might arrive and how this could link to a setting and different characters. Try to have two characters who are different. One could be cautious and ignore the warning, the other will not, causing something else to happen that they did not expect – be careful what you wish for! Think about the mood or atmosphere. How might you make the weather reflect the bad news that is coming?

#### If you want some help, try reading some other wishing tales:

Sausage Nose, a Swedish Folktale retold by Dianne de Las Casas 2008

<https://professionalstoryteller.ning.com/m/group/discussion?id=1984817%3ATopic%3A18302>

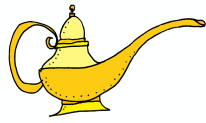
The Golden Touch

[http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/metamorphoses/kingmidas/Midas\\_Part\\_1\\_transcript.pdf](http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/metamorphoses/kingmidas/Midas_Part_1_transcript.pdf)

## Now plan your own wishing story

Here is the underlying pattern of the story to help you plan a new version. Jot down some ideas in note form before starting so that you know where your story is going. You can always alter the plan a bit to fit your story and remember, you can always change your mind as you write.

Underlying story pattern	Plan for your story
Main characters in a safe, homely setting: one dreaming of a fortune or change	
An object arrives with a 'too good to be true' promise or wish	
One character warns against, but the other character ignores the warning and makes a wish. Nothing happens. Yet!	
Wish comes true but with unforeseen consequences.	
Character wants to use another wish to put things right, but the object has disappeared.	



Use your plan to draft your new wishing tale.

## Challenges

### Try to use:

- words carefully to build up the picture you want to create of how the characters feel, what they do and what happens;
- the outside/inside opening to create an atmosphere or mood and have the weather hint at the terrible events that are coming;
- speech to show how the characters are opposite through what they say and what they do and feel as they speak.

Edit your draft as you go along. Once you've completed your draft, read it through and give it a final edit.

Well done! Now that you have a new wishing tale, why not publish it?

Below are some simple instructions for making a mini book from a piece of A4 paper.



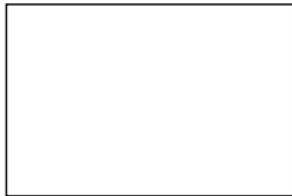
If you have access to the Internet, type this into Google:

<https://cutt.ly/QtvAkwq>

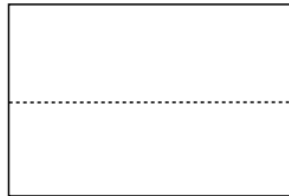
**Here, you can watch a mini-book being made and follow the instructions.**

**Or try this:**

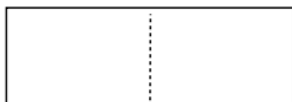
### How to Make a Six-Page Book With One Sheet of Paper!



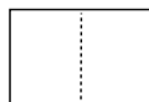
1. One sheet of white paper.  
12" X 18" is a good size to use.



2. Fold in half lengthwise. Also known as a "Hotdog Fold".



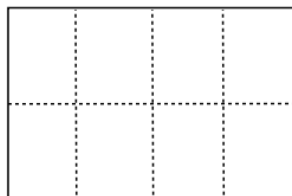
3. Fold in half again.



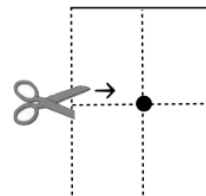
4. Fold in half again.



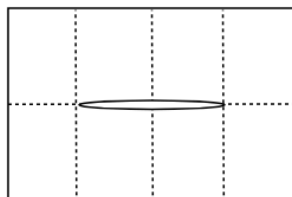
5. Now you have a very small folded sheet of paper. But it isn't a book yet.



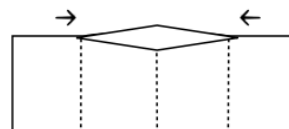
6. Unfold everything. Now it is a big sheet of paper with lots of fold lines.



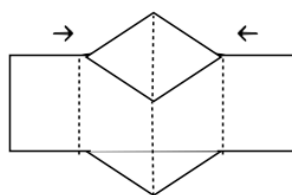
7. Fold in half in the middle- this time a "Hamburger Fold". Make a mark with your pencil in the center of the folded sheet. Take your scissors and cut from the *folded edge* to the center dot. Stop cutting at the dot!



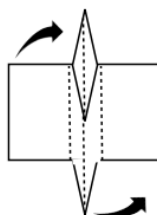
8. Unfold your sheet of paper. It should look like this with an open slit in the middle. Fold it in half length-wise again. (Hotdog Fold.)



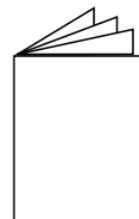
9. Push folded edges towards center allowing the slit to open up into a diamond shape.



10. Keep pushing edges together until diamond becomes a slit again, perpendicular to folded edges.



11. Fold one edge toward slit and the opposite slit toward folded edge.



12. Be sure to go over the creases to make them sharp. Now you have a small six-page book!

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**Make your book and illustrate it – enjoy!**

*We've reached the end of our journey and I hope you've had fun!*

This workbook has helped me learn ...

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**Dean Thompson, former teacher and Programme Director for Primary School Improvement with the National Strategies, now works with Talk for Writing to help schools develop the approach.**

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