

Hairy Nightmare

by Kim Minseo, Primary 6
Queenstown Primary School



WRITERS AT WORK Model Composition Showcase : Primary 6

The harsh sun beat down on the hard, burnt ground maliciously as I halted in front of the barber's shop near my block. I narrowed my eyes in suspicion and apprehension began to swell in my chest as this was my maiden voyage to the barber's shop alone.

The moment I entered the barber's shop - Snip Avenue, I immediately sensed that something was amiss. Instead of the usual hairdresser, three unfamiliar faces were tending to the customers' requests. As I surveyed the three hairdressers carefully, I counted my lucky stars, hoping that I would get tended to by the hairdresser, who was well-dressed, gentle with his customer's hair, and in addition, extremely polite to them.

However, today, to my utmost consternation, Lady Luck was not smiling at me. The hairdresser furthest away from me managed to finish his customer's hair the fastest, and I was called upon to go and sit on the chair. I had my misgivings the minute I sat down, the barber's thuggish demeanour and roguish appearance just made matters worse.

Show not Tell
Action tag

Variation
5 senses

5 senses - Sight
Character thoughts

Impressive phrase

Way of saying

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My hopes of getting a cool, new haircut was dashed when I found out that he only spoke a Chinese dialect, which I did not even comprehend at all, while the hairdresser did not know even the simplest of basic conversational English. Everything that he said was pure gibberish, there was no way I could comprehend all the weird intonations of the dialect he was using. My heart was sucked into a black hole, I felt so defeated because I was totally lost in translation. I was marooned on Snip Avenue and there was no one to save me from this impending hair storm.

Every tendon in my body got tighter and tighter as the barber moved his scissors around my head. After approximately half hour of talking, we finally reached a unanimous agreement, but I still had my suspicions about whether he had really understood me. I took off my glasses, took a leap of faith and left my crowning glory in the hands of the hairdresser. As the barber ran the clipper along my scalp, I saw my hair slip off my shoulders. In that instant, I was like a blind sheep being sheared for her wool, a lamb on a chop board. I felt like a lone scrawny soldier facing off a burly old uncle who was wielding a pair of razor-sharp weapon. He was so full of himself and the policy of 'the customer is always right' did not apply.

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Character thoughts
5 senses - Hearing

Speech Tag

Show not Tell
Character feelings

Show not Tell

Character thoughts

5 senses - Sight
Simile

Simile



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He was getting officious in pushing his ideas to me, and whenever I made a request, he just simply gave me a patronising smile and brushed off my requests with a peremptory wave of his hand. It was a losing chess game and there was no way I could walk away triumphant. However, I still put up my best fight. I fidgeted, squirmed, winced, narrowed my eyes, growled inaudibly, shrugged my shoulders and sighed. Alas, the barber turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to everything that I did. In the end, I dared not even dream of walking out looking like a human and not a show poodle.

After what seemed like eternity, the barber finally finished cutting my hair. As the heat from the hair dryer fried my hair follicles, I was very sure I was going to go bald after this cataclysmic episode. When I finally put on my glasses and got a look at my new hairstyle, I could not look at my reflection and think that we were the same person. My whole head was almost bald except for a thin line of hair that ran through the middle of the scalp, separating my head into two equal parts. As I stared at the new chicken hairstyle, my temper was skyrocketing while my patience was wavering. My eyes became a pair of supernova as I glared at the hairdresser. Fuming mad, I angrily shoved the ten-dollar note into the hairdresser's hand, then turned and stormed away.

Action tag

Metaphor

Action tag

Idiom

Impressive phrase

Character feelings

5 senses - Sight

Character feelings

Show not Tell

Character feelings

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After the unforgiving episode, I would never ever visit a barber without an accompanying adult. Always remember, you should never visit a barber with a language barrier, unless you want to end up with three months of bad-hair days and screaming like a 'chicken' on a death row, just like me.

Conclude with
reminder /
Lesson learnt

W@W

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Minseo, you did an amazing job crafting this story! Your use of imagery made the scenes so vivid, and I could clearly picture everything happening. Your writing has a wonderful flow—keep up the fantastic work!

