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ENGL 2150-001

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Creative Assignment

Lesson Learned

John is an average guy with an average car, average house, and average income. He is a struggling actor who cannot seem to get his career off of the ground. John spends day and night searching for new roles to fulfill. He is so caught up in his career that he has no time for friends, family, or even his childhood hobby which was collecting comic books. His ultimate dream is to be a lead actor in a blockbuster movie in Hollywood. This is how the next few weeks went for John as he learned to focus on the more important aspects of his life.

“Crap, it is already 9:05 am, only fifteen minutes before my audition for a local toothpaste commercial. Now I really have to rush out of bed, get dressed and hopefully not get a ticket on the way to my audition.” However, the intense LA traffic is not on his side. Just as John pulls up, the audition closed. “Oh great, another missed opportunity to make it big.” Disheartened, he drops his head and drives back to his apartment where his roommate/good friend, Dave, is sitting on the couch stuffing his face with cereal.

John walks in and throws his keys on the counter and walks by Dave without saying a word. Dave already knows the answer to the question he is about to ask but he asks it anyways, “How did it go?” John without a word, walks to his room and slams the door. Through the door Dave can hear things breaking and screams of

frustration. Thinking it might calm him down, Dave asks John to get out of the apartment for a while and have a few drinks. A distraught and stressed John, with one word, replies with a stern "NO." "It might be fun and you work too hard anyways," replies Dave. To which John says "Apparently I do not work hard enough, I don't need people like you who spend most of their days on MY couch eating all of MY cereal telling me that I work too hard." Dave has seen his friend like this before and knows not to take it personal. While walking away Dave clarifies, "the invite still stands."

The next morning, after a night of sulking, John realizes he has to start from the bottom again. "I guess I will have another day full of reading ads and searching the Internet for auditions." While in the middle of reading the ad to be a stand in for the next Kevin Hart movie, John's father calls. John's father receives the familiar 'leave the message after the tone' line that everyone seems to be getting these days. Through the speakers John hears his father's voice, "I know you are there son, please pick up the phone" which John decides to do. "Hey dad, what's going on?" "Nothing, just wanted to talk to you. How was the audition?" "It went like all of the others did." "So not that great, huh?" "No. Look dad I am really busy, can we just talk later?" "But son I really needed to tell you..." "Dad, I am sorry I have to go. I will call you later. Bye." What John doesn't know is that his father was put into the hospital just yesterday due to extremely high blood pressure.

John decides to try out for the stand in position in the new Kevin Hart movie. He puts all of his time and dedication into preparing for this role. This is exactly what he has been looking for to make it big.

It is the morning of the big audition, John's big chance to finally score a role that will jump-start his career. He had a great night's sleep combined with a good breakfast, which set him on his way to start his future. While walking to the audition area, he was paying too much attention to his phone and bumped into a beautiful, young aspiring actress named Rose. "I'm sorry," John quickly fumbles out. "It's okay." Their eyes met and there was an instant connection between the two. John's usual reserved personality faded into a warm and charming one. John is close to speechless and manages to babble out, "Hi my name is John what is yours?" "Rose", this is it that moment where John is used to blowing it, normally he would choke like he has done at countless unsuccessful auditions before. However John musters up the courage deep from within himself to somehow get another line out, "That is a very pretty name" "Thank you," says Rose, "It was my great grandmother's name." The ensuing conversation was not long and contained the usual small talk between two people who had just happened to bump into each other, however there was something different, something the two of them had never felt before. John almost stopped caring about the audition and realized that he was almost late, again! John once again apologized for bumping into Rose and then asked if he could call her sometime. And in that moment it was as if John's whole world was hanging in the balance. Rose smiled and said "Why not." This gave John such a confidence that he felt like the world was his.

John made it on time to the audition and he thought he killed it. He thought to himself "I met the most beautiful girl in the world and I am going to get this job, this is a great day." Normally John would wait a few days before he called the girl, if

he called her at all, but this time was different. By 9:00 pm (the same day) the two were headed for a celebratory night out on the town. "I feel as if nothing else matters when I am with you Rose, I have never felt this strongly for someone I just met. I do not even need to get the part in the movie to be happy right now." Thankfully he had met Rose that day because he was about to be let down once again.

The next morning John was piddling around his apartment waiting for the important call. "Is that the phone, David? DO NOT ANSWER THAT! It is for me!" John exclaimed as he ran to grab the phone. "Yes, this is he. Okay I understand. Yeah, thanks for calling back so quickly. Have a great day." John felt like he wanted to yell at someone and unfortunately Rose called shortly after. David had already gotten out of dodge when the phone rang for the second time. "Hey John, have you heard about the audition yet?" "Are you just calling to make it worse, Rose? I don't get the job and you call to rub it in my face. I bet you are the one who told them not to hire me. I knew it, I will never have a successful career because of people like you." "Wait a second, I did not know any of this before I called you and I certainly would not tell anyone not to hire you. And what do you mean when you say people like me? What am I like? You are in for a rude awakening John and you can call me when you do." Needless to say that conversation was over and he pushed another person away because he is so consumed in his career.

Unfortunately the phone rang for a third time in what seemed to be seconds but were really hours. This time there was an unfamiliar voice on the other end telling John he needed to come to the hospital immediately because his father

experienced a severe heart attack and did not know if he would make it or not. Speechless, John dropped everything and rushed to the hospital to be with his father. When John's father came to, John was sitting right beside him. After talking with the doctors and clarifying his father will be okay for now, John felt as if his whole outlook on life was changing. While seeing his father lying in the hospital bed after he had ignored his phone call, he felt horrible and as if it was his fault. "Maybe there was something I could have done to help him before he got to this point if I wasn't so consumed in making it big. How have I let something so small become such a large part of my life?" thought John as he peeked through the glass looking at his father. After a few minutes John went back into the room and talked to his father. "Dad, I am so sorry for not listening to you the other day. I am sorry I have not been checking on you more often. I guess I just got so consumed in my career that I did not think anything else was important and now I have pushed my best friend, possibly girl friend, and even father away from me." "You have a girl friend?" "Yeah. Well maybe not now but we can talk about that later." "Son all of that can be fixed, you have not pushed me anywhere. Anyone that cares about you would never allow you to truly push them away. And as for your career, I have been meaning to ask you something." "What is that dad?" "Well I know how much you love comic books and my good friend is looking to sell his very well known comic book store and thought you may be interested." "That would be so awesome but there is no way I can afford to buy it, I mean I can't even get a job for a silly toothpaste commercial." "I was thinking we could go in together and be partners and then when I am no longer able to help, it can be all yours. What do you say?"

Several months after John gained a new outlook on life, he and his father were working in their comic book store when he caught a glimpse of Rose across the street. He quickly picked up the phone and began to apologize as soon as she answered. He told her everything that happened and that he was truly sorry. They began seeing one another again and the only thing that would make John's life complete is to have Dave work at the store with him. It did not take much to get Dave to agree to work with him, as he knew not to take John's silly outbursts personal. The gang was all there and as these typical stories go, they all lived happily ever after.