

**Ministry of Education**  
**Secondary Engagement Programme**  
**September 2020**

**WEEK NINE: Lesson Three**

**Subject:** English Language

**Grade:** Eleven

**Topic:** Short Story Writing

**Sub-topic:** Character based stories

**Objectives:** Using the sample as a guide, students will write an effective character-based story in 35 minutes.

**Concept:** Character-based stories teach morality as it highlights ones strengths and weaknesses that can either aid or hinder our progress.

**Content:**

In character-based stories the emphasis is on the development of the character (the plot becomes secondary). Focus is placed on

- ❖ Strengths and Weaknesses - The inner conflicts of the character, their attitudes and personal evolutions or setbacks and decisions and how these decisions in turn change the plot and the story as a whole. E.g. CruellaDeVil ‘101 Dalmatians’ - plays a villainous character who all of a sudden began displaying positive qualities
- ❖ How it drives the physical problem i.e. if the character did not have an internal/emotional problem they would not have a physical problem E.g. If Troy Billing “Fat Kid rules the World’ did not feel so terrible about himself he would not have been standing on that subway platform, waiting to jump

The pace (rhythm) of such stories seem slow to the reader because they are experiencing the growth of the character throughout the story.

Example of a character-based story (summary):

## The Story of The Prodigal Son

There was a very rich person. He had two sons. The first son was hard working. He always obeyed his father. He was very good and nice person. But the second son was totally different from the first son. He was lazy. He did not work in his father's field. He was disobedient to his father. He wanted to lead a gay and free life.

One day, the younger son said to his father. "Father, give me my share of property." The father felt very sad. He divided the property. The second son took his share of property. He left home with his share. He went to a distant land. There he made a lot of friends. He spent his property lavishly on his friends, foods and drinks. He had many bad habits too. He wasted all the money. Soon he was left with no money. His friends saw this. They all deserted him one by one.

AT that time, there was a famine in that land. He could not get any job. None of his friends gave him food or money. He was forced to take up a very mean job. His job was to feed the pigs. Very often he ate the food kept for the pigs. He was very sad about his present conditions. He soon began to think of his father and his brother. He said to himself, "In my father's house, even the servants have enough food. They get good shelter too. But here, I am struggling for food and shelter. I will go back to my father. I will beg him to take me as his servant."

So decided, the prodigal son set out for his father's house. In the meantime, his father was always thinking of his second son. He would sit near the windows. He would look out at the road, expecting his son to return home.

One day his father saw his son coming at a distance. He ran out of his house in great joy. He met his son on the way. His son knelt down. He said, "Father, I am not fit to be your son. Take me as your servant."

His father lifted him lovingly. He embraced him. He turned to his servants. He said, "Bring the best robe. Put it on my son. Put a ring on his fingers and shoes on his feet. Kill the fatted calf. Prepare a feast. Let us eat and enjoy. My son was lost. Now he is found."

The elder son was returning from his work. He heard the sound of the music and dancing from his house. He asked one of his servants about it. His servant told him, "Your brother has come. Your father is rejoicing at his return. A fatted calf has been killed to prepare for a delicious feast and the celebration."

The first son was angry. He refused to enter his house. The father came out. He begged his elder son to come in for rejoicing. The elder son said, "I have obeyed you all these years. I have done all your works. But you never gave me even a kid to enjoy with my friends. This son wasted all your money and property. And you order a fatted calf for him!"

His father replied, "My dear son, you are always with me. All my property is yours. Your younger brother was dead. Now he is alive. He was lost. Now he is found. Therefore should we not rejoice?"

The elder son understood the love behind the words of his father. He forgot everything about his younger brother. He decided to take part in the celebration. He was happy.

### **Bad Temper**

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day, the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry. The wound is still there."

**A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.**

--Anonymous

### **Activity:**

In 400-450 words, write a story entitled:

1. "A changed heart"

**OR**

2. "Kadmiel's insecurities"

**Points to note:**(I have noticed that it is helpful to set up a set of questions to guide you with the development and I usually ask my students to do the same. This, they have found very helpful and only takes 3 minutes)- space has been provided for you to add to the list.

<b>A changed heart</b>	<b>Kadmiel's lies</b>
No more than 3 characters Who is the protagonist? Who/What caused the change? What was the protagonist general attitude? What caused the change? How did the protagonist feel about it? (emotions) Did he/she try to handle it positively or negatively? Did the change happen spontaneously?	No more than 3 characters Was Kadmiel a habitual liar? What lies did Kadmiel tell? Who did Kadmiel lie to? What was the general outcome of Kadmiel's lies? What was the outcome of this specific lie? How did people feel about Kadmiel and the lies told? What drives Kadmiel to lie? Did Kadmiel change His/Her ways?