

Appendix 10 - Imaginative Writing [Feb 2021]: Final Draft Student B

Write a story about a time when you, or someone you know, forgot something. Your response could be real or imagined. Your writing must include one of the items from the portrait we studied. (40 marks).

-PLAN-

Item - book

- General audience
- Narrative
- Light fiction

Meet a famous person after a conference thing? Can't remember their name, so ask them to sign a copy of their book (joint author?) and trying to read the signature while talking to them and not letting on that you've forgotten their name, turns out they're not the author but someone else you know well.

TITLE (working - will probably change it) "you're who now?"

It had been a long three days of conferencing, the most renowned specialists in their field had been enthusing their subject into the audience letting new ideas and notions spread out and mingled with the young energetic minds. Several of the specialists had performed breakout sessions focusing on the nuances of their particular field and I had attended as many of these as I could.

In all, I had maybe four hours sleep over the three days, so it's possible that the tiredness had added to my absentmindedness, but on leaving the conference to go and meet up with some friends, I spotted a face I recognised. It was one of the specialists who had mentioned a new and exciting theory on the properties of some subject I was becoming interested in.

I couldn't quite remember his name but all the same, I jogged over to where he was without much clue as to what to say to this new idol of mine.

"That was such an interesting and inspirational speech" was my opening line. OK, I admit that I was now a little unsure if this was my new idol, but he was certainly one of the specialists and they were all as inspirational as each other.

"Yeah, it was good" he replied without even stopping to engage me, hum, bit rude but maybe he's not good with having fans. I noticed a small collection of books and papers under his arm, they must be some of the reference materials they were using on stage, and they've probably got his name on them so I fell into step beside him and tried to nonchalantly read the titles and look for clues.

Not wanting to sound like an idiot for getting the wrong specialist, I carried on fishing with open statements that could have applied to any of the guest speakers "there were some great ideas thrown around" I said, hoping he would maybe react when I mentioned his particular idea "lots of ideas to go and develop" - nope, still nothing.

Then I caught a fraction of one of the papers 'presented by chri...' - ah, got it, it's Christopher... Chris, ahm, is he a doctor of something? What was his surname? That's when the thought came to me that if I asked him to sign the conference guide, it would clear up this embarrassing situation and I'd be able to thank him by his proper title, he won't go off thinking I'm a weirdo and if we ever meet again he won't go to lengths to avoid me.

"Look, I know it's a bit odd, but would you mind signing my book" I asked, throwing in a good deal of innocence and some helpless eyes, "it's for my friend" I followed up with, trying to deflect the weirdness of the request.

The man stopped, abruptly. I had to turn right around to see him. I was already getting the conference book out of my bag when I saw his face, it was questioning me directly. "Dave, why do you want me to sign that?" he asked.... 'Dave' he knows my name... then the penny fell. So this new idol of mine was actually one of the group I had come to the conference with, more than that, he was Craig, one of my long time friends who I had known for over ten years now.

I looked at him shaking my head and exuding embarrassment, "I am so sorry" I began, it was clearly obvious that I had not recognised him, but before I could go on he was already laughing. This was not the first time I had forgotten a face, he knew it and I knew it, and we both knew it would not be the last time.

Commentary:

Student B produced a wonderful piece of work here that reflected his own condition of prosopagnosia (impaired ability to recognise familiar faces).

The task took place during lockdown in February 2021 and was conducted using Google Classroom with Teams to interact. When the class were on task, I proceeded to chat to everyone via the breakout room function. The areas for discernible improvement involved the lack of strategies from the toolbox being utilised in the work in progress. The dialogue between Student B and myself circled the importance of using language and structure techniques within the narrative (please see Appendix 12). After this chat, he worked fastidiously to incorporate these techniques and resultantly, improved the quality of his response. By using protocol analysis during our conversation, student B told me that he wanted to reflect on his condition of prosopagnosia, which he finds immensely challenging in his everyday life. He could, however, appreciate the funny side of certain scenarios in which he has found himself. It was pleasant to see this light-hearted but also very personal approach being taken in his writing.