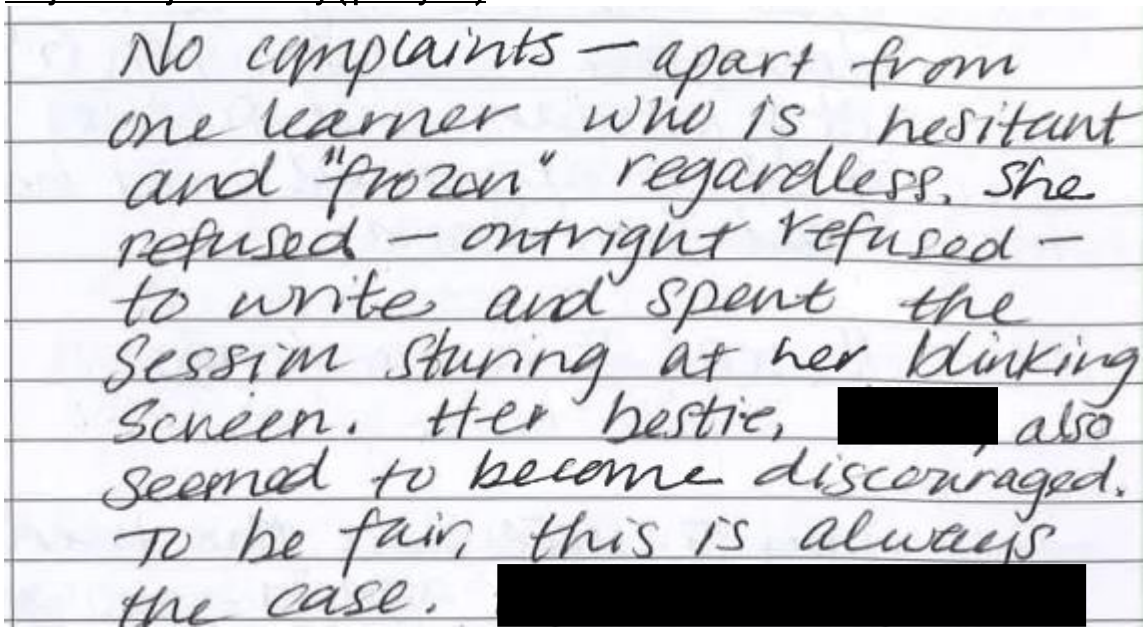
Appendix 3: Project Lead's inspiration and reflection

In my 5 years of teaching Creative Story Writing for GCSE re-sit learners, that word 'helplessness' is the furthest I've come to articulating the state of my learners when we arrive at Component 1. In the classroom, it looks like paralysis. It's as if they physically cannot write. Those who don't even bother to pick up the pen, appear defiant even – they will not write. I found that this helplessness from my learners begot my own helplessness as I aimed to teach what seemed unteachable, feeling around in the dark and joining my learners in a shared feeling of dread when it came to creative writing.

Project lead journal entry ('paralysis')



No complaints – apart from one learner who is hesitant and "frozen" regardless. She refused – outright refused – to write and spent the session staring at her blinking screen. Her bestie, [redacted] also seemed to become discouraged. To be fair, this is always the case. [redacted]