

MH MODEL PARAGRAPH TEACHER GUIDE

Original sentence -

“Jim, darling,” she cried, “don’t look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn’t have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It’ll grow out again—you won’t mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say ‘Merry Christmas!’ Jim, and let’s be happy. You don’t know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I’ve got for you.”

First Revision

Say, “This story was written in 1905 and the language they use and the way they speak is very, ‘old school,’ so, we’re going to make some changes! Let’s look at this first sentence for example. Me, I wouldn’t call my significant other by his first name and add darling after, that is something my great-great-great grandmother might do. I call my significant other ‘honey’ so I am going to go ahead and make that first change. I also would change the second part to sound more like I speak from ‘don’t look at me that way,’ to ‘don’t look at me like that.’ This feels more natural to how I speak.” Then make the change on the handout or chart paper.

“~~Jim, darling~~ **Honey,**” she cried, “don’t look at me ~~that way~~ **like that.** I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn’t have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It’ll grow out again—you won’t mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say ‘Merry Christmas!’ Jim, and let’s be happy. You don’t know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I’ve got for you.”

Second Revision

Say, “now, I want to change this next sentence to match what people value more nowadays. Hair used to be something women tied to their identity and cutting it was an extreme measure, but now it’s used more to express oneself and anyone can buy a wig for cheap online. So, I want to make the change to match an item that is expensive, has meaning tied to it, and might be something a married woman would not want to get rid of. I think the wedding ring symbolizes this really well. I also think changing the event from Christmas to Valentine’s Day would be a more updated event for a wife who wants to go out of her way to get an extravagant gift. I also think when we talk, we speak in shorter sentences, rather than longer run-on

sentences. So I am going to make that change too.” Then make the change on the handout or chart paper.

~~“Jim, darling Honey,” she cried, “don’t look at me that way like that. I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn’t have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. I had to sell my wedding ring. I just couldn't stand not getting you a present for Valentine’s Day. It’ll grow out again—you won’t mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say ‘Merry Christmas!’ Jim, and let’s be happy. You don’t know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I’ve got for you.”~~

Third Revision

Say, “since I changed what Dell sold from her hair to her wedding ring, I need to take out the next three (3) sentences and rewrite them to match the original changes.” Cross out the sentences.

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Fourth Revision

Say, “in the original sentences she was trying to make the situation better by reassuring Jim that her hair would grow back. But, since I changed it to selling her ring, I need to find another way to make Jim feel better. I know a lot of people have those plastic or silicon rings that they wear when they work out or because it’s cheaper than wearing their expensive rings so I think I’ll have Dell suggest that she just get one of those for now.” Then make the change on the handout or chart paper.

~~“Jim, darling Honey,” she cried, “don’t look at me that way like that. I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn’t have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. I had to sell my wedding ring. I just couldn't stand not getting you a present for Valentine’s Day. It’ll grow out again—you won’t mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. We can get a silicone wedding band that’s~~

cheaper for now. Say ‘Merry Christmas!’ Jim, and let’s be happy. You don’t know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I’ve got for you.”

Fifth Revision

Say, “the last two sentences need to be rewritten because I changed the holiday from Christmas to Valentine’s Day, and because it just doesn’t sound natural to how a woman would talk nowadays. So I am just going to make a couple of quick changes there to reflect this.” Then make the change on the handout or chart paper.

~~“Jim, darling~~ **Honey,**” she cried, “don’t look at me ~~that way~~ **like that.** ~~I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn’t have lived through Christmas without giving you a present.~~ **I had to sell my wedding ring. I just couldn't stand not getting you a present for Valentine’s Day.** ~~It’ll grow out again—you won’t mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast.~~ **We can get a silicone wedding band that’s cheaper for now.** ~~Say ‘Merry Christmas!’ Jim, and let’s be happy. You don’t know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I’ve got for you.~~ **Say, ‘Happy Valentine’s Day!’ Jim, and let’s just enjoy our night. I can’t wait to give you your gift.”**