**Entry #2**

Should have ended your sentence here.

All ready to start your sentences with ‘forbidden’ words?

Stay your hand... Observe how others do it (well) before trying on your own.

I **recently** saw ~~the~~ **an** advertisement shown on Channel 5 ~~recently~~ featuring the seven hours of non-stop year-end partying to celebrate 2013 hosted by Gurmit Singh and Joanne Peh, I wished they had one for kids like me. Maybe, I can organize the party and the tickets can be priced around $15 each. Children all over the country can purchase these tickets at all shops and the proceeds will go to me. I will be rich! ~~But~~ alas, this is only a dream. Here I am, back in reality doing reflection about the year that has passed by me so quickly. Looking back at 2012, I reminisce **about** all the successes and failures I have experienced. Moving forward to 2013, all I can think about is that dreaded PSLE paper.

Good attempt at using the word. However...You should use new words in practice situations.

Or, at least, make sure you know how to use them before doing so.

An ill-used word betrays your true mastery of the language

Hypothetical situations are always in past tense.

Awkwardly phrased.

“It is - especially since I do not have tuition. However, I am doing all I can.”

I do want to go to a good secondary school. My ultimate ~~but~~ yet distant goal for PSLE T-score is 250. Far-fetched? Especially since I do not have tuition but I am doing all I can. Together with my mom, I am planning a proper study routine and this time I must adhere strictly to it. I also want to try to have adequate time for other things like ~~setting aside time for~~ recreation and spending time with the family. The proverb, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy is so true. I am living proof of it.

“The proverb ‘all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy’ is so true.”

You want to have adequate time... So you can spend it on setting aside time for things?

My mom is my pillar of strength. She has identified ~~my~~ **a** learning style that helps me learn better. In school, the teachers may explain concepts in ~~one~~ **a** way ~~and while~~ everyone else seems to understand~~, I sometimes do not~~ **except for me**. I have tried asking questions when I am still uncertain about what was covered in class, however the teachers ~~would~~ just explain it again exactly the same way but only louder! Like that worked? Nevertheless in 2013, I would **will** still try to ask more questions in class hoping that the teachers would **will** explain stuff in another way for me to get it through my thick skull. Or else there is always mom as my backup. I am independent when it comes to completing assignments from school. It is often followed by my mom’s usual gentle reminder, “If you don’t understand, please ask.” Another favourite line of hers is, “Checking is very…?” I ~~would~~ end up finishing that sentence for her all the time, “… important!” However, I am always too lazy to do so resulting in bad grades. Every year, when I tell my mom that I ~~would~~ **will** try to do well next year she ~~would~~ simply ~~reply~~ **replies**, “Actions speak louder than words, darling.” So I suppose this time I will just have to prove it.

Future tense

Should have ended your sentence here.

Reflecting on 2012 was painful in parts. I have come to ~~realize~~ **realise** that my mom was right all along with regards to choosing the right friends. There ~~have been~~ **were** many different groups of friends **(cliques)** when I first transferred to this school. I felt that I needed to belong somewhere and very quickly I made the mistake of joining the popular girls in school. I later found out in a miserable way that they were actually wolves in sheep’s clothing. They made themselves out to be ~~like~~ a big gang with an influential and a very popular gang leader. ~~Everywhere the gang went,~~ the cronies ~~would be following~~ **followed** the obnoxious gang leader **wherever she went**, ~~like~~ **as if**  she ~~was~~ **were** ~~the~~ master. I used to be one of those cronies. Yes, I was that dumb. I found out too late that all the time they were pretending to be my friends, they spread lies and rumours about me to other schoolmates. It was too late to repair the situation. My blessing in disguise was that this was the time I ~~realized~~ **realised** who my true friends were. Three wonderful friends found out about the untruths spread all over the school and they came to me with pieces of useful advice and told me that I can always hang out with them anytime. So, while indeed I was popular back then, I am even more popular now but ~~all~~ for **all** the wrong reasons. I failed my SA2 Mathematics Paper badly and for that I was demoted to one of the worst classes. This is the biggest regret ~~I have experienced~~ in my 11 years of life. I am determined to change for the better next year. Yes, I know. Actions speak louder than words.

British spelling, please.

Regarding synonynms, you need to be careful. I suppose it is alright to use them interchangeably when you are in primary school. However, most synonyms have very fine differences that distinguish them from each other. As you grow in the language, you will become more aware of these differences.

As I was rewarding mom with a full body massage earlier today, I finally ~~realized~~ **realised** how important she is in my life and how I have taken her for granted all this time. While mom was in half a daze quipping, “I’m in heaven”, towards the end of the massage, I was no longer able to hold back the tears that ~~was~~ **were** glistening in my eyes.

Inappropriately-used word

I whispered in her ear, “Thank you for everything, mom. I love you more than any words can say.” I broke down almost immediately after telling her that. In my heart, I ~~knew~~ **know** that with mom by my side I can survive 2013 and PSLE with confidence.

**COMMENTS**

*I applaud your attempt at trying out new words and expressions. Were I to hazard a guess, I would say that this is your first attempt at something so long. Quite a noble attempt.*

*Nevertheless, one major flaw stands out – your grammar. Grammar is the backbone and foundation of your writing. Without it, everything crumbles. No matter how wonderful your descriptions or how vast your vocabulary, the essay cannot stand without a solid control of grammar.*

*Also, you attempted several interesting words. This is good. However, many of them weren’t used to their full potential. I suggest you get a good dictionary and check out how to accurately use the words before placing them in your essay. I use dictionary.com in my iPhone. When I was younger, I bought the thickest dictionary I could find. You can do either; I suggest the former (dictionary.com is, like, free).*

*With regards to the style, be careful: this sort of conversational tone runs the risk of being rambly. You want to be selective with what you include in the essay and what you don’t. Your introduction was not effective in this respect. I felt it did not connect to the main bulk of what you wanted to address (the future... your mother...)*

*It was nice, however, to read about your relationship with your mother, as well as the trials you endured regarding your friendships. I am glad you learnt something about how to choose good friends. May the coming year see you more successful in both facets of your life.*