

VCE ENGLISH – CREATIVE RESPONSE TO *LAHOF*
Improving our introductory passages

STORY STIMULUS: 'Flexion'
Perspective: Frank Slovak

First draft writing:

"I awoke, well – more came to again, and all I could hear was the throb of the tractor engine roaring as if it were out of control. I tried to gather my thoughts and concentrate on the situation in which I found myself, but it was to no avail. All I could think about was what had happened in the past few weeks – that was in fact what I had been doing when the tractor rolled rather than actually keeping my mind on furrowing the paddock for the next season's wheat crop. If only I had kept my mind on the job."

ACTIVITY:

- Look for sections that could be improved – **highlight these**
- Have a couple of attempts to rework those sections

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Second draft writing:

“ What was that sound? I recognise it, but can’t quite put my finger on it. Damn – it’s so familiar, it’s part of my day to day existence. I awoke, well – more came to again, and all I could hear was the throb of the tractor engine roaring as if it were out of control. I tried to gather my thoughts and concentrate on the situation in which I found myself, but it was to no avail. All I could think about was what had happened in the past few days, few weeks – that was in fact what I had been doing when the tractor rolled rather than actually keeping my mind on furrowing the paddock for the next season’s wheat crop. If only I hadn’t let my mind wander.”

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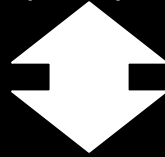
Third draft writing:

“ “Bloody idiot!” a faint voice said inside my skull “What the hell do you think you were doing? And what was that sound?” I knew that I should recognise it, but can’t quite put my finger on it. Damn – it’s so familiar, I hear it every day – it’s part of my day to day existence. I awoke, well – more came to again, and all I could hear was the throb of the tractor engine roaring as if it were out of control. I tried to gather my thoughts and concentrate on the situation in which I found myself, but it was to no avail. My mind was on auto pilot – all I could think about was what had happened in the past few days, few weeks. It was like I was watching a DVD – fast forward, rewind, play – over and over again – it had become all consuming. That was in fact what I had been doing when the tractor rolled rather than actually keeping my mind on furrowing the paddock for the next season’s wheat crop. And the only constant that I could come up with was the question “Who’s to blame? – I mean someone’s got to take the blame!!” ”

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