

Week 4 Day 3 Challenge 3

I Asked My Dad Again

In his rocking chair, gently swaying forwards and backwards, an old man sat with his grown son. The man's son had begrudgingly visited his father after a long day at the office. He was an important businessman who didn't have a lot of time. He had meetings to attend, phone calls to make and crucial business deals to attend to. He thought that visiting his dad was a waste of his time.

Unexpectedly, a magpie perched on the garden gate. The father asked his son, "What is that?" The son replied, "It's just a magpie." The father went back to rocking his chair. After a few minutes, the father asked his son again, "What is that?" The son replied, "Dad, I have just told you. It's a magpie."

After a little while, the old father again asked his son for the third time, "What is that?" This time the son was really irritated with his father asking the same question. He replied to his dad with anger in his tone, "It's a magpie, it's a magpie, it's a magpie!"

Sometime later, the father again asked his son, "What is that?" This time the son, who was annoyed by his dad's repetitive question, shouted, "Why do you keep asking me the same question again and again, even though I have told you so many times, IT IS A MAGPIE!"

The old man stopped rocking in his chair, slowly stood up, and went to his room. He returned with an old, threadbare diary. This was the diary that the old man had kept when his son was born. He had begun writing on the day his beloved wife had told him he was going to be a father. It was the greatest day of his life. He documented every milestone and momentous occasion of his son's early life. He clumsily thumbed through the diary and stopped. He handed his irritated son the delicate book and asked him to read the entry. This is what it said:

"Today, I spent time with my three year old son outside in the garden. A beautiful magpie busily swooped around collecting twigs for its nest. Seventeen times, my gorgeously inquisitive son asked me "What is that?" I replied to all seventeen questions with, "It's a magpie." I smiled at him and held him close, hugging him lovingly each time he asked the same question, again and again and again. I did not feel at all irritated by his questions, instead felt affection for his innocence and thirst for knowledge. I'm so proud of him and what he may become."

The son stopped reading and looked into the wrinkled, tear-filled eyes of his father. The father he had taken for granted and not realised how old he had grown.

As the realisation washed over him like a wave of salty seawater, the son felt sorry. He felt sorry that he had allowed himself to feel irritated and annoyed at the one person who truly believed in him.

From that day, the son vowed to see his father happy forever. His father had cared for him since he was a little child and shown him endless love and support. It was time for the son to treat his father the way he had treated him.

Challenge 3

I Asked My Dad Again – Challenge Activity

Section A

These words have been taken from the text. Match each word to the correct meaning.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1. begrudgingly	a) a musical/vocal sound with reference to pitch/quality/strength
2. attend	b) curious or inquiring
3. tone	c) give reluctantly or resentfully
4. threadbare	d) a lack of guilt, with respect to any kind of crime/wrongdoing
5. inquisitive	e) becoming thin and tattered with age
6. innocence	f) be present at an event, meeting, or function

Section B

Tick the most appropriate word:

1. An _____ man sat with his grown son.

elderly

inexperienced

immature

2. He was a _____ business-man.

meaningless

worthless

significant

3. He documented every milestone and _____ occasion of his son's early life.

insignificant

important

unusual

4. He had allowed himself to feel _____ and annoyed.

aggravated

pleased

annoyed

I Asked My Dad Again – Challenge Activity

Section C

Use a dictionary to help you write the meaning of each of these words:

Word	Meaning
crucial	
irritate	
repetitive	
momentous	
annoy	

Section D

A simile directly compares two things using 'like' or 'as'. Create a simile that expresses each of the following.

The son is selfish	
The son is busy	
The son is important	
The father is lonely	

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

Answers: