

Done Differently

The idea behind this prompt is to use an existing creative work as a scaffold for rewriting a short story's outcome by adding in heavenly influence. Students will see a very worldly character through a biblical view, thereby contrasting the Christian life with a broken one.

(Reading taken from "The Hit Man" by T. Coraghessan Boyle in Richard Starkey's *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief*)

In the opening paragraph of "The Hit Man," the protagonist is described as being tormented by "the captain of the football team, who pins him down and attempts to remove the hood. The Hit Man wastes him." This is the beginning of a life of professional killing. This is obviously a dark and cynical story, though a bit tongue-in-cheek. Time to shine some holy light into that hood. Imagine an early-life encounter between The Hit Man and the Holy Spirit. Students will write a one page reworking of the story describing how the events of his life would be different if he had accepted Jesus before pursuing his life of murder. What would his job be? Would he still get married and have a baby with Cynthia? Would they stay together? Be creative in his plot arc.