

Week 15 – Opening Work

Freshmen English

Mrs. Hess

Day 1

- Use of comma to set off appositive
- Use of hyphen with compound adjective
- Elimination of comma in compound predicate

Day 1

- 1. James Thurber, the author of “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” saw life as naturally humorous and ironic.
- 2. Thurber wrote many funny and thought provoking stories and essays, and drew hundreds of amusing cartoons.

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Day 2

- Elimination of double comparison
- Correction of commonly confused words
- Correct past participle of irregular verb
- Use of dash before explanatory information

Day 2

- 1. “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” is one of Thurber’s most finest short stories.
- 2. In it, Thurber created a character who’s name has become part of our language, *Walter Mitty* appears in most American dictionaries.

Day 2

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- 2. In it, Thurber created a character **whose** name has **become** part of our language—*Walter Mitty* appears in most American dictionaries.

Day 3

- Elimination of double negative
- Elimination of *you* without a clear antecedent
- Use of end punctuation: question mark

Day 3

- 1. Mitty is so caught up in his daydreams that he can't hardly manage real life, but you feel sympathy for him.
- 2. Who wouldn't retreat into daydreams to escape Mrs. Mitty's nagging.

Day 3

- 1. Mitty is so caught up in his daydreams that he **can hardly** manage real life, but the **reader** feels sympathy for him.
- 2. **Who** wouldn't retreat into daydreams to escape Mrs. Mitty's nagging?

Day 4

- Correction of commonly misspelled words
- Use of correct form of reflexive pronoun
- Pronoun agreement with antecedent

Day 4

- 1. The genius of Thurber's story is that readers can recognize themselves in the daydreaming Mitty.
- 2. Everyone has a little of Walter Mitty in them.

Day 4

- 1. The genius of Thurber's story is that readers can **recognize themselves** in the daydreaming Mitty.
- 2. Every**one** has a little of Walter Mitty in **him or her**.

Day 5

- Elimination of comma before subject complement
- Inclusion of closing quotation marks
- Use of ellipsis points to show omission
- Correct use of conjunction *as*

Day 5

- 1. A critic once said that Thurber's work is, "a form of humor which is also a way of saying something serious."
- 2. Perhaps in "The Secret Life" Thurber is saying that we all need our dreams, just like Walter Mitty does.

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- 1. A critic once said that Thurber's work **is** “a form of humor which is also a way of saying something serious.”
- 2. Perhaps in “The Secret Life...” Thurber is saying that we all need our dreams, just **as** Walter Mitty does.