

Name:

Date:

Section:

Score:

10-Sentence Story Challenge: “Beyond Said”

Instructions: Write a short story in exactly 10 sentences. Each sentence must follow the directions below. Your goal is to use a different word instead of said in every sentence.

Sentence 1 – Introduce the Situation: Begin with a sentence of dialogue that sets up your story. Use one of these words: **whispered, begged, or pleaded.**

Sentence 2 – Add a Response:

Include another line of dialogue using one of these words: **claimed, retorted, or denied.**

Sentence 3 – Add Emotion: Show how a character feels through dialogue.

Use one of these words: **shouted, groaned, celebrated, or cried.**



Sentence 4 – Add Action:

Write an action sentence that shows what’s happening around the conversation (no dialogue).

Sentence 5 – Build Tension:

Include a dialogue sentence using one of these words: **insisted, argued, reminded, or warned.**

Sentence 6 – Add Reflection:

Use a verb like **thought, murmured, or wondered** to show what the character is thinking or realizing.

Sentence 7 – Introduce a Twist:

Write dialogue that surprises the reader using a tone word like **gasped, claimed, or announced.**

Sentence 8 – Add Conflict:

Use **replied, retorted, or objected** in a heated exchange.



Sentence 9 – Start to Resolve the Story:

Use a calmer tone word like **explained, responded, or agreed.**

Sentence 10 – End with Insight:

Finish with one final line of dialogue using a reflective word such as **promised, decided, or confessed.**

Example Story: 1) “We have to find it before the bus leaves,” whispered Juan as he searched under the bleachers. **2.** “It’s not my fault you dropped it, bruh” retorted Ben. **3.** “Of course it’s your fault—you were the one holding it!” shouted Juan, his face looking red as apples. **4.** The wind picked up, scattering papers across the field and rustling through the empty bleachers. **5.** “We’ll never make it if you keep blaming me,” argued Ben, glancing nervously at his watch. **6.** “Maybe it rolled somewhere,” Juan wondered, scanning everywhere he could. **7.** “Wait—I think I see something shiny!” Ben gasped, pointing toward the fence. **8.** “That’s not it—it’s just a soda can,” Juan objected, his voice full of disappointment. **9.** “No, look closer,” Ben explained as he reached behind the fence and pulled out a familiar blue strap. **10.** “I’ll never doubt you again,” Juan promised, hugging his backpack tight.