

Title: The Perils of Doing It Again

Synopsis:

In *The Perils of Doing It Again*, The Snark reflects on a powerful conversation with an elderly writer who, after decades of writing, declares: "No, I wouldn't change anything... but I wouldn't want to do it again." This moment serves as a wake-up call for The Snark, who's still in the stage of chasing that hopeful, dreamy vision of writing—the one that promises fame and glory. The older writer's response shows that writing is a tough life full of grind, struggle, and repetition, and the real victory comes not from writing something perfect, but from simply surviving the process. The blog challenges young writers to understand that success is not always about the big dream of fame but about accepting the exhaustion, the frustrations, and still finding value in finishing what you start.

The Snark's Blog: [here](#)

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:

- **Surviving the Grind:** The Snark talks about the optimism of youth when you first start writing. How does that dream of creating something amazing clash with the reality of what writing actually involves? Why is it important to accept the grind, even when it feels exhausting?
- **The Elderly Writer's Wisdom:** The elderly writer says, "No, I wouldn't change anything... but I wouldn't want to do it again." What do you think this means about the true cost of writing? How can you relate to the idea of looking back on your work with no regrets but also knowing you've "done your time"?
- **The Value of Finishing:** In the blog, the idea of "finishing" is celebrated, not perfection. Why is finishing important in writing, and how can we learn to embrace the satisfaction that comes with completing a project—even if it's not perfect?
- **Facing the Exhaustion of the Writing Life:** The elderly writer's words are a reality check for young writers, offering an honest take on the fatigue that comes with constant writing. What do you think writers can do to survive the emotional and mental exhaustion that comes with long projects? How do you push through when you're tired or uninspired?
- **What's Your 'I'm Done' Moment?** Everyone has that moment in their creative process when they finally say, "I'm done." What would that moment look like for you? Do you feel ready to embrace the idea of finishing, even if it's not perfect, or are you still chasing the dream of creating something flawless?

Writer's Prompts

Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:

- **Prompt 1:** The Writer's Endurance. Write a scene where your character, a writer, has spent years working on the same project. They're burned out, mentally exhausted, but they finally come to terms with the fact that the work is done. How does this realization hit them, and how do they handle the pressure of being finished?

- **Prompt 2:** The Price of Success. Create a conversation between a young, enthusiastic writer and an older, seasoned writer. The younger writer is still hopeful about the possibility of changing the world with their writing, while the older writer has made peace with the reality that writing is tough and exhausting. How does the younger writer respond to this?
- **Prompt 3:** The Writer's Farewell. Imagine a character who's just completed their final manuscript. They know they'll never write again. Write the scene where they take one last look at their work and reflect on everything they've been through to get to this point. Do they feel a sense of accomplishment, relief, or even regret?

Class Activities

These activities will help expand on the themes of the episode:

- **Group Discussion:** The Cost of Writing: Split the class into small groups and have them discuss the real-life cost of writing. How does the pressure of perfectionism or the constant struggle to finish projects affect writers over time? Do they think it's important to finish what you start, even if it's not perfect? Afterward, each group will present their ideas to the class.
- **Write Your Own "I'm Done" Moment:** Have everyone write about a time in their life when they were exhausted and finally said, "I'm done." This could be in the context of a project, a relationship, or a personal goal. How did they feel when they finally let go and finished what they started? What did it teach them about themselves?
- **Debate:** The Struggle vs. The Glory. Organize a debate on whether the struggle of writing is worth the eventual reward. One side will argue that the grind of writing is the true test of a writer's worth, while the other will argue that writing should be about passion and not the exhausting journey. After the debate, the class will vote on which argument is more convincing.
- **Collaborative Story-Building:** Finishing the Unfinished. In small groups, students collaboratively write a story about a character who's spent years working on a project, only to feel completely burnt out. The group will focus on getting the character to finish their project and explore the internal conflict that comes with deciding to move forward. The class will then discuss how the character's decision to finish relates to the themes of acceptance and endurance.:

Closing Note from the blog writer, *The Snark*:

Alright, here's the thing—writing is the gritty, ugly, soul-sucking process you never signed up for, but here we are. It's not all glamorous book tours and signing autographs; it's staring at a blinking cursor until you question every decision you've ever made. Don't believe the hype about "writing your magnum opus"—because let me tell you, after a few years of revision, you'll be begging the universe for a simple "done" stamp. The grind isn't pretty, and spoiler alert: it's never going to be. But guess what? The real victory? FINISHING. Yeah, that's it. Not writing something revolutionary, not getting that literary award, but simply getting to the end of the d**ned thing.

So, accept the chaos, the grind, and the fact that you'll probably never write anything as "perfect" as you imagined. Who cares? At least you're not sitting there with a half-finished mess of a "phantom novel" you'll never show anyone. Get through it, look at your finished work (no matter how ugly), and *actually* move on. That's the true secret. No need to write another chapter of SUFFERING. Because guess what? There's no do-over. You got one shot, so make it count. Or not. It's your misery.