

**Title:** Practical Faith

**Synopsis:**

This blog from *The Snark* explores what happens when faith meets hypocrisy in real life. The natural reaction of disgust and anger it stirs, only to realize that carrying bitterness is a heavier burden than the offense itself. The Snark discovers that grace isn't selective – it's not just for people we like or respect. By shaking the man's hand and praying for him, she embraces forgiveness not as approval but as freedom.

The blog challenges the tendency to “other” people whose morals, faith, or work ethic we disapprove of, pointing to Jesus as an example of one who met people where they were without dehumanizing them. For writers, the piece suggests weaving this theme into character arcs: either through a protagonist who learns to extend grace or an antagonist who never does.

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

**Discussion Questions**

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

- **Grace Beyond Preference:** How difficult is it to extend forgiveness to those we dislike or distrust? Why?
- **The Burden of Anger:** Do judgment and resentment weigh us down more than they punish others?
- **The Danger of Othering:** Do we define people as “out” or “less than” simply in order to protect our own sense of superiority, or is it more complicated than that?
- **Freedom in Forgiveness:** Is releasing bitterness an act of self-liberation, or more of a shrug?

**Writer's Prompts**

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

- **Prompt 1:** Write a scene where a character encounters someone they dislike intensely and must decide whether to offer a gesture of kindness.
- **Prompt 2:** Create an antagonist who cannot stop othering people. How does this flaw shape their downfall?
- **Prompt 3:** Explore a moment when your protagonist realizes that forgiveness is about releasing themselves, not excusing another.
- **Prompt 4:** Write a dialogue where one character insists on holding onto bitterness and another argues for letting go.

## **Class Activities**

*These activities will help expand on the themes of the topic:*

- **Silent Heroes:** Students anonymously write down a time they witnessed or experienced a small act of “practical faith.” Share them aloud without names, and discuss what made them powerful.
- **The Hesitation Line:** Roleplay a scenario where someone collapses in public. Half the class imagines stepping in, the other half imagines reasons not to. Then compare the thought processes.
- **Everyday Miracles Debate:** Does faith have to be miraculous to matter, or is the miracle in the everyday act itself?

## **Closing note from the blog’s writer, The Snark**

*Faith doesn’t always wear robes or carry incense. Sometimes it’s just a person kneeling on dirty pavement to help someone who fell. Writers, take note: you don’t have to summon thunderbolts to show faith. Give your characters a chance to do something small, human, and good – and you’ll find the divine sneaks in all on its own.*