

一段作文的素材运用实录：从堆砌到化用改三处

下面这段假设的五年级作文，写的是答应同学还书却忘了带的愧疚。先看堆砌版，再看三处修改。

堆砌版原文：那天我言而有信地答应了小宇，结果忘了带书，我脸红心跳、无地自容、羞愧万分、恨不得找个地缝钻进去。小宇却一诺千金地没有怪我，我下定决心以后一定说到做到。点评：一段五十七个字里塞了七个成语，全是现成的，没有一个属于这篇作文。逐处改。

第一处，删成语。言而有信地答应这个搭配本身不通，答应就是答应，改成我拍着胸脯答应小宇周五一定带书。拍着胸脯是动作，比言而有信准，因为拍胸脯恰恰暗示了后来的靠不住。删掉无地自容、羞愧万分、恨不得钻地缝三个，只留一个身体反应。

第二处，换身体反应。脸红心跳太常见，全班一半人写愧疚都用它。改成：小宇问书呢，我耳朵先热了，眼睛落在他鞋带上。点评：耳朵热和看鞋带是两个只有愧疚的人才有的动作，读者自己就能读出脸红心跳，不需要你说。这就是化用：素材本里的词被拆成动作，藏进句子里。

第三处，改一诺千金。小宇却一诺千金地没有怪我，成语用错了地方，一诺千金说的是守承诺，小宇这里根本没承诺什么。改成：小宇只说了句没事，明天也一样。点评：明天也一样四个字比任何成语都重，它写的是小宇没把失信当回事，友谊照旧。结尾我下定决心以后一定说到做到是空头保证，改成：周五放学前，我把那本书从书包最底层抽出来，抚平卷了边的封面。决心不用宣布，还书前抚平封面这个动作就是决心。

三处改完，段落里成语只剩零个，字数反而多了二十个，多出来的全是动作和对话。素材运用的标准就一条：你的好词好句是写在纸上的，还是藏在动作里的。藏起来的才算会用。

A Live Record of Using Material in One Paragraph: Three Fixes from Stacking to Blending In

The paragraph below, written as if by a fifth grader, is about the guilt of promising to return a book and then forgetting it. Read the stacked version first, then the three fixes.

The stacked version reads: That day I promised Xiao Yu with a true-to-my-word promise, but forgot the book, and I blushed and pounded, was utterly ashamed, felt extremely mortified, and wished the ground would swallow me up. Xiao Yu, a man of thousand-gold promises, did not blame me, and I resolved that from now on I would surely do what I said. Review: seven idioms crammed into fifty-seven characters, all off the shelf, none belonging to this essay. Fix them one by one.

Fix one: delete idioms. The phrase with a true-to-my-word promise does not even collocate; a promise is just a promise. Change it to: I thumped my chest and promised Xiao Yu I would definitely bring the book on Friday. Thumping the chest is an action,

and more accurate than the idiom, because a thumped chest quietly hints at the unreliability that follows. Delete utterly ashamed, extremely mortified, and wished the ground would swallow me, keeping only one physical reaction.

Fix two: swap the physical reaction. Blushing and heart pounding is too common; half the class writes it for guilt. Change it to: When Xiao Yu asked where the book was, my ears went hot first, and my eyes dropped to his shoelaces. Review: hot ears and staring at shoelaces are two actions only a guilty person performs; readers read the blushing and pounding on their own without being told. That is blending in: the notebook words are broken into actions and hidden inside the sentence.

Fix three: fix the thousand-gold idiom. Xiao Yu, a man of thousand-gold promises, did not blame me uses the idiom in the wrong place; thousand-gold promises is about keeping a promise, and Xiao Yu promised nothing here. Change it to: Xiao Yu only said it's fine, tomorrow's the same. Review: those four words, tomorrow's the same, weigh more than any idiom; they say Xiao Yu refused to treat the broken promise as a crack, and the friendship stands. The closing I resolved to do what I say from now on is a bounced guarantee. Change it to: Before Friday dismissal, I pulled that book out of the very bottom of my schoolbag and smoothed its dog-eared cover. Resolve needs no announcement; smoothing the cover before returning the book is the resolve.

After three fixes, the paragraph contains zero idioms and somehow twenty more characters, all of them actions and speech. The standard for using material is one line: are your good words sitting on the paper, or hidden inside the actions? Only the hidden ones count as skill.