

Creative Writing Essay for Non-Native Speaker of English – Third Place
The Boy Who Lost a Friend

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Once upon a time, in a small, quiet village called Epsom, there lived two boys who were so different yet so close. One, Matt, was tall, markedly handsome, with thick brown hair and deep blue eyes, and the other, Eric, was rather on the short side, with blonde hair and innocent, green eyes. Matt was fond of basketball with height to his advantage, loved a life of danger and was always seeking an adrenaline rush. Eric, by contrast, was more into drawing and dancing, and basically anything that would allow him to express his artistic self. Eric derived immense satisfaction from the simplest and safest of activities.

Matt and Eric, however, were very close... So close, in fact, that the people of Epsom would often mistake them for brothers. They had known each other ever since they were little kids, and would always do everything together. They were quite inseparable.

For all their closeness and genuine devotion to one another, though, there was a side to Matt that Eric didn't know about. It was as if Matt was leading a double life that he wanted to keep a secret. Not that Matt worried about what Eric would think if he knew. Eric had always followed him.

One morning, Matt and Eric met and decided to go to the movies and have an amazing and fun night. The two young men planned out the whole day, from the beginning all the way to the end. They started off by heading out for breakfast at their favorite place Pantella. Pantella was famous for its scrumptious pancakes and scrambled eggs, and that is exactly what they ordered. After Matt and Eric were done eating they got up and decided to go for a long morning jog. They headed to their houses, got dressed in their jogging suits and grabbed two other outfits, one for swimming after they jogged and another for their late night activities.

They headed out together and started jogging. Side-by-side they jogged until noon. At around twelve, they finished jogging and went to the swimming pool. The pool was busy and there were a few people there that Matt and Eric didn't recognize. While people looked at the two handsome men entering the pool area, Matt glanced at a mobile phone that lay beside a deck chair. It was obvious it belonged to one of the people there, but when Matt waited to make sure that no one was looking, he decided to take the phone. Not only was it the new brand that he had been wanting for a while, but it also gave him a rush to quickly pick up the shiny metal object and hide it inside his bag sure that no one noticed.

Eric was too busy swimming to notice what Matt did, so Matt wasn't worried. After all, Eric was not the type of person to suspect anyone of any wrongdoing. When it was starting to get dark, Eric got bored and suggested that they should go watch a movie at the cinema. So the two friends showered, got dressed and started walking to the cinema. Eric was looking forward to watching the new release that he had been wanting to watch for a while now but had not yet got the chance to do so. It was a comedy that got a high rating in the box office worldwide. Everyone inside the hall was very focused on the screen.

Matt didn't really care about the movie and as soon as Eric began to relax and enjoy the show, he started looking around. Matt was trying to see if he could find something else to steal. He looked left and right for a while when he suddenly glanced the man on his right stand up and head towards the exit. Matt noticed that there was a wallet stuffed with money on his chair and it seemed like the man wasn't aware that he dropped it. Matt decided to take it. He excused himself and told Eric that he was going to the washroom, but while he passed by the man's seat he reached down and picked up the wallet. Matt deftly took out all the money that was in the wallet and then slipped it into his pocket. Then he left the hall and went to the washroom.

In the washroom, Matt sat with a grin on his face as he counted the money. This was much more exciting than the movie! But after a while Eric noticed that Matt had been gone for quite a bit so he followed Matt to the washroom and called out for his name. As soon as Matt heard his name, he quickly hid the money in his pocket and came out. They exchanged a few words then went back to the movie. After the movie finished Matt claimed that he was tired and wanted to go home so they took their bags and walked back home together. Eric chatted about the movie but Matt only answered in monosyllables.

The next day while Eric was walking to school he stopped on his way at the spot where he his friend always met up but Matt was not there. Eric frowned but walked to school by himself. When Eric reached their classroom, he saw that everyone was in a circle surrounding one of the students. As he got closer, he noticed that the student was Matt. He was standing in the middle of all his classmates holding the new phone in his hand and bragging about the things that he bought with the money that he stole.

Eric just stood there and watched Matt as he bragged to his classmates. He waited until school was over. Eric approached Matt and asked him where he got the phone because just a few days back Matt told him that his dad got laid off work and could not afford to buy him anything. Matt quickly made up a story but Eric did not believe him. Eric knew that Matt was lying so he stopped talking and left. Later on during the day, Eric had to go to the police station to deal with something that his dad has asked him to do when he saw two gentlemen at the reception filing for a missing phone and the missing money. Eric listened in quietly until he was sure that the items went missing on the same day that he had been out with Matt.

Eric knew he had to do something. He quickly left the police station and went to Matt's house, where he confronted his best friend about the thefts. Matt kept on denying it. Eventually Matt told Eric the truth, and Eric was very disappointed. Eric told Matt that if he did not return those things then Matt would lose him as a friend. Matt got angry and asked Eric to leave and told him that he was not planning on returning anything. "You're boring!" he said to Eric. "You never want to do anything exciting."

Eric left Matt's house, sadder than he had ever been in his life. As the days passed, Matt noticed that he did not have anyone to talk to or anyone to hang out with because he decided to choose his new gadgets over his best friend. Matt began looking at the shiny new phone so smooth in his hand. It had seemed so valuable at first. Now Matt was not so sure anymore.

Feeling very guilty, Matt finally went to Eric's house. At the beginning Eric was not really interested in seeing Matt but with a few convincing words from his dad, Eric finally came around. Matt apologized to Eric and told him that he has made a big mistake and wanted to make everything right again. Eric forgave him but told him that the only way to make things right was to return the things he had stolen. Matt was reluctant because he was scared that he would have to face the police. It was his best friend Eric who reassured him that he would stand by him along the way.

"Let's make it right," said Eric. Matt knew then what he might have lost. He knew then that if you want something then you have to work hard for it and get it yourself.

The next day, Matt and Eric met up and went looking for the two gentlemen that Matt had stolen from. After hours of looking, they finally found both of them in the park. They approached the two men and told them everything that happened. At the beginning, the man who had his money stolen from him was upset and wanted to call the police but Eric calmed him down. Matt promised that he would work as hard as he could to pay back the man. As for the other guy, he was just happy that he got his phone back. At the end of the day, all of them came to an understanding, and everything was back to the way it had been – but not quite. Matt learned a valuable lesson from this whole situation and that is never to steal because what you get will never balance against the loss of a true friend.