Kerrie Xie

Published Writing Sample

Modified and Adopted from Prompt Assignment

**Classroom Object Prompt**

Why do teachers use red pens to mark stuff? I mean there are teachers who used purple or blue, but that was rare. I personally hate red pens. They stood out so brightly and arrogantly. Specifically, I hated Mrs. Sugarplum’s red pen. She used it almost every day. I didn’t understand how she had that much marking. Her pen had a nice cushion on the end so her hand wouldn’t get tired from writing. She would smear the red ink all over the pages, criticizing and critiquing my work. Not once would I get a different colour pen. I felt defeated getting back my assignments.

One day, I arrived to class early. The room was open but no one was there. No one but me and that red pen sitting at her table. I peeked outside the classroom. Empty. I quickly grabbed the pen and broke it in half. It felt so good hearing it snap. I headed to the washroom after and threw it in the trash. I stayed there until the bell rang to make sure I had a good alibi. I walked back to class and my jaws dropped. Mrs. Sugarplum had a box of red pens out.

Conversation between my cousin (grade 9) and why not to use red.

