

Week 21: Clause

Day 1

Read the book review below.

The Door in the Wall by Marguerite D'Angeli A Review

Have you ever thought that a crippled boy could be a hero? In the story *The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite D'Angeli that is just what happens. In this story, set in Medieval England at the time of the plague, a young boy, Robin, has lost the use of his legs through a mysterious illness, and he is very bitter about it. Through the events of the story he learns to accept his situation and make good use of the parts of his body that are not crippled. In the end he becomes a hero by getting word from his uncle's besieged castle to allies who come to lift the siege. The best part of this story, however, is the relationship between the boy and a monk, Brother Luke, who takes him in and shows him a way to live through the disappointment his crippled legs have brought him. He helps Robin see that there is a door through the wall of his handicap.

(1) The first thing Brother Luke does is treat Robin's physical as well as his spiritual wounds. He feeds and bathes Robin, and then he takes him to the monastery where he can recover and become a useful part of a community. He understands and comforts Robin when he is missing his parents and wondering what they will think of him now that he is lame. Brother Luke also constantly gives Robin gentle reproaches for his spoiled-child behaviors and follows them up with advice for overcoming the anger that brought on the behavior. For example, when Robin, in anger, throws the wood he had been whittling, Brother Luke merely tells him that they will now divide their days between work of the hands and work of the mind so that "weariness does not give way to discouragement." Robin is shamed by his behavior without Brother Luke having to speak harsh words to him.

(2) Another thing Brother Luke does is teach Robin that he can still do many things even though his legs are useless. He teaches him to use his hands to whittle wood. He teaches Robin how to swim, which strengthens not only his legs but also his confidence in himself. He teaches him how to read and write, saying that reading is another door in the wall. All these things help Robin to feel that he can be useful even though his legs are not.

(3) Brother Luke helps Robin most, however, by not babying him because of his handicap. Instead he allows him, even encourages him, to take on big challenges. For example, he lets him start to swim when he's not quite strong enough yet. He accompanies Robin on a dangerous trip from the monastery to the castle of Robin's uncle and then finally encourages Robin to take the perilous mission to bring help to the castle.

The story of Robin's recovery and acceptance of his crippled condition hinges on the relationship he has with Brother Luke. Without Brother Luke's encouragement and care, Robin would never have had the confidence to take risks and to improve himself. In

the end he becomes a better person as he stops feeling sorry for himself and finds many doors through the wall of his crippled legs.

M.D. 2004

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Write your first impressions of this review. If you have read the book reviewed here, tell what you like best about the book. If you have not read this book, does this review make you interested in doing so? Explain why or why not.



For Thinking and Conversation

The story *The Door in the Wall* shows the beauty of monastic life and the peace enjoyed while living a life ordered to God's will. Although the boy in the story struggles with the cross God has given him, he learns to accept it and see its beauty. Read these two quotes and think about them. Discuss your thoughts with your teacher.

Take the cross *He* sends, as it is, and not as *you* imagine it to be.
Mother Cornelia Connelly, Source Unknown

One ounce of patient suffering is worth far more than a pound of action.
From *The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales* by J.P. Camus

Grammar Study

The Clause

A clause is a group of words as part of a sentence that contains a subject and predicate.

There may be more than one clause in a sentence.

You know that Mark Twain wrote *Tom Sawyer*.

One clause is “**you know**” and another is “**that Mark Twain wrote Tom Sawyer.**”

For your information: “**You**” is the complete subject of this sentence.
The complete predicate is “**know that Mark Twain wrote Tom Sawyer.**”

Exercises

A. There are two clauses in each of the following sentences. Copy the sentences onto your paper. Underline the first clause once, and the second clause twice.

Example: Man proposes, but God disposes.

1. The book that we read last year was our favorite.
2. Before George Washington became the commander of the Continental Army, he had fought in the French and Indian War.
3. We shall meet him again, but we shall miss him in the meantime.
4. When we go to the library, we take hours and hours looking at books.
5. Winter has come, and the fields are covered with snow.
6. Whenever I want to feel at peace, I make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

B. Write two sentences – each of which should contain a clause in addition to the main subject and predicate. (Refer back to the sentences in Exercise A for ideas.)

Day 2

Reread the book review of *The Door in the Wall*.

- a. Identify the parts of an opinion paper in this book review: Introduction with opinion statement, Body with support of the opinion, and Conclusion. If you are using the consumable supplement, label the parts in the margin.
- b. On your paper, write the main idea of each paragraph in the *body* of the paper labeled (1), (2), (3). Then list one detail from each paragraph that supports the main idea of the paragraph. Write the transition word or phrase from the beginning of each paragraph.

Writing Opinion Papers

Up to this time when you have written an opinion paper, you may have expressed your liking or disliking of something and then supported your opinion. Perhaps you said *I like popcorn because it tastes good and makes a pleasant crunch*, and then went on to describe the popcorn and explain your opinion more fully.

Now, you will further develop your opinion paper writing skills, moving to a more sophisticated way of writing. In this opinion paper, you will state your opinion as an **assertion** about something. In such a paper, your opinion is stated as if it is a fact although your claim is still your opinion. Your opinion about the popcorn becomes a statement like this one: *Popcorn is the best snack*.

Here is an opinion about the story of the “Three Little Pigs” stated as a fact:

The main idea of this story is that hard work pays off.

Here is an opinion about the story of “Noah’s Ark” stated as a fact:

The best part of this story is when God sends the rainbow as a sign of the covenant between God and man.

Look at the review of the book *The Door in the Wall*. See if you can find the opinion sentence in the introduction. Write it on your paper and discuss this idea with your teacher.

You will write your own review of a book this week. In this kind of book review, you don't have to tell every part of the story, or even tell it in order chronologically. You pick what is most important for supporting your opinion and write it in a logical sequence. But of course the story must make sense to the reader, or he won't know what to think of your opinion. So you will need to briefly outline the story. See the first paragraph of the book review on *The Door in the Wall*.

Prewriting

You must start by choosing a book that you know well, perhaps one you have read recently. Today you take the first step by writing a **short summary** of the story that includes the author, title, setting, and main action of the story.
(If you need help getting started, reread the sample on Day 1)



*It is our duty to live among books; especially to live
by one book, and a very old one.*

From *Tracts for the Times* by Cardinal Newman

Grammar Study

Independent and Subordinate Clauses

There are two kinds of clauses.

An *independent clause* expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. When two independent clauses appear in a sentence they are called *coordinate* clauses.

Example: The bell rang, and the train moved on. (Both “the bell rang” and “the train moved on” can stand alone as complete thoughts.)

A *subordinate*, or dependent, clause has a subject and predicate, but cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Example: War was declared with Spain while McKinley was president.
 (“While McKinley was president” does not express a complete thought.)

Exercises

A. For each sentence below, label it as either having two coordinate clauses (COR) or a subordinate clause (SUB). Then write any subordinate clauses on your paper.

1. We advance in freedom as we advance in years.
2. Summer was now coming with hasty steps, and my twelfth birthday was fast approaching.
3. I tried to figure out the math problems, but I just couldn't get them right.
4. As he approached the stream, his heart began to thump.
5. King Alfred was silent as he heard the story of the invasion.
6. He struggled on, though he was very tired.
7. The sails were drying, and they flapped lazily against the mast.

B. Write one sentence that features two coordinate clauses and another that features a subordinate clause.

Day 3

Reread the book review of *The Door in the Wall*.

Grammar Study

- A. In the book review, find two sentences with coordinate clauses. Write them on your paper.
- B. In the book review find two sentences with a subordinate clause. Write them on your paper.

Writing

Today you begin to write your book review.

Prewriting

- a. Reread the short book summary that you wrote on Day 2.
- b. Decide on one principal thought or feeling that you have about the book. For example, in the sample paper, the main point the author wanted to express was that the best part of the book was the relationship between Brother Luke and Robin.
- Your opinion or **claim** may be positive or negative. You could claim that the author's use of description makes the story so vivid in your mind that you feel you are actually there. You could claim that the dark tone of the story might keep readers from enjoying the story. You could claim a particular passage is the best or the worst part of the story. You could claim that a specific event is the most important part of the story. You could claim that this story makes people reconsider their opinion about the topic.
- Think carefully. Then write the one thing you want to say about the book you are reviewing on your paper. This statement is your opinion stated as an assertion, or fact, about the book. It will become the controlling idea of your paper.
- c. Next you will have to find examples in the story to support your opinion. Copy the chart on the next page onto your paper. Search the story to find events that support your claim. Use the chart to record the evidence you will use in your paper.

Book Review Chart

Assertion or Opinion Statement
Reason # 1 You Think Your Opinion is True Examples or Details from the Story That Show This
Reason #2 Examples or Details
Reason #3 Examples or Details
Reason #4 (if needed) Examples or Details
Conclusion

Save this chart to use on Day 4 when you write your book review.

Day4

Writing

Today you will use your notes to write a review of a book you have read.

Prewriting

- a. Reread the book review of *The Door in the Wall*.
- b. Review the chart you made on Day 3. Make additions or deletions based on your view of it today.
- c. Review the short summary you wrote on Day 2. This will form the basis of your introductory paragraph.

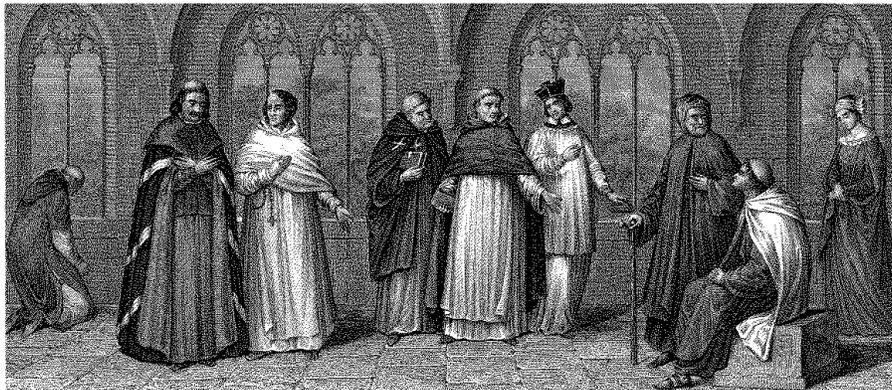
Writing

- a. Using the chart and your story summary as your guide, write your book review. Each box in the chart is a new paragraph for your paper.
- b. Be sure to use transitions so the paper moves smoothly and easily.

Revising

- a. Read your paper out loud to someone and ask him to answer the following questions to help you evaluate your work.
 1. Can you tell what opinion I'm trying to get across? (See if he can tell you.)
 2. Was there enough information about the story to understand the paper? (If not, what more would he need to know?)
 3. Were the reasons for my opinion clear? (Ask him to tell you what they were.)
- b. Based on this discussion, make any changes that will improve the clarity of your opinion.

Save this paper in your Writing Drafts Folder.



Grammar Study

Exercise

Read the passages below. Then copy down any sentence that contains coordinate independent clauses. Label them “COR.” Copy any subordinate clauses onto your paper. (There may be several in any given sentence.) Label them “SUB.”

1. Bowser had hung around all night, so Peter had not dared to try to go home. Now it was daylight, and Peter knew it would not be safe to put his nose outside. By and by he saw Farmer Brown and Farmer Brown’s boy come out into the orchard. Right away they saw the mischief which Peter had done. He could tell by the sound of their voices that they were very, very angry. They went away, but before long they were back, and all day long Peter watched them work putting something around each of the young peach trees.

From *The Adventures of Danny Meadow Mouse* by Thornton Burgess

2. The consequences of sin are bitter and hard to bear, and they must accompany man as long as life lasts. To suffer and to endure, therefore, is the lot of humanity. Let them strive as they may, no strength and no artifice will ever succeed in banishing from human life the ills and troubles which beset it.

From *Rerum Novarum* by Pope Leo XIII

3. “Money is a good and useful thing, Jo; and I hope my girls will never feel the need of it too bitterly, nor be tempted by it too much. I should like to know that John was firmly established in some good business, which gave him an income large enough to keep free from debt and make Meg comfortable. I’m not ambitious for a splendid fortune, a fashionable position, or a great name for my girls. If rank and money come with love and virtue also, I should accept them gratefully, and enjoy your good fortune. But I know by experience that happiness can be had in a plain little house, where the daily bread is earned, and some privations give sweetness to the pleasures. I am content to see Meg begin humbly, for, if I am not mistaken, she will be rich in the possession of a good man’s heart, and that is better than fortune.”

From *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

4. “Bodily suffering makes wicked souls miserable, but borne with fortitude it purifies souls that are good.”

From *De Agone Christiano* by St. Augustine

5. “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for sake of his body, that is, the church” (Col. 1:24).