



**O' Level
Foundation
Week 4**

The Write Tribe

PERSONAL RECOUNT



14. Write about an individual who has impacted your life positively.

In our lives as social animals, we meet and interact with new people every day, be it the shop owner downstairs, the bus driver, or our friends. Through interacting with others, we understand others better and might even be influenced by others, be it in positive or negative ways. In this life of mine, there is one person I've met who has entirely changed me for the better, and positively impacted me in more ways than one. He was my third language teacher in my secondary school days — Mr Orimitsu.

Mr Orimitsu, affectionately known to students as "Teacher Osamu", was a man of few words. His grim and extremely stern face always looked displeased. He was big on discipline and would also stress its importance, which explains why students gave him the nickname "Teacher Osamu".

"Osamu" means "discipline" or "study". He was almost unapproachable, and whoever stood even a foot from him would find it hard to breathe due to the terrifying aura that he exuded. If a pupil was brave enough to ask him a question, **his brows would knit together angrily** and his face would contort as if he was frustrated. He was six feet three inches, and stood **tall and imposing**, towering over all of us students. In our eyes, he was one who was feared and unapproachable. When I found out that he was assigned to be my teacher in my third year, I was rather nervous at the thought of having to see him regularly. However, as the year progressed, it turned out that Teacher Osamu was not the man I imagined him to be.

It was at that time that I truly appreciated the phrase "looks are superficial". As a student, I was more of a wandering loner, one who had very few friends. Most of the time, I sat by myself and the only regular contacts I had on my mobile phone were my parents. My teachers approached me out of concern but all they could do was give empty encouragement words and solutions to what seemed an unsolvable problem.

I was simply invisible to the people around me, as if I were a lost spirit wandering.

As soon as Teacher Osamu noticed my situation, he immediately came up to me, like every teacher I knew before they gave up on me shortly after several failed attempts. I followed along with him, certain that he would eventually give up on me as well.

However, that was not the case.

He kept pestering me every day and refused to give up even after I brushed him away. When I feigned sickness to avoid him or school, he would call me repeatedly and ask if I was doing fine. At first, I felt that he was absolutely creepy and should be avoided at all costs. Gradually, as time passed, I eventually opened up to him and would blabber on and on about how meaningless life was during recess break. He would then get angry and start arguing with me until the end of recess. Funnily enough, recess break ended much faster compared to the days before I met Teacher Osamu.

As the days progressed, Teacher Osamu would continue to counter my nihilistic views with his optimistic personality, gradually changing my view of the world.

The one incident that **introduced colours into my black and white life** for the first time was when Mr Orimitsu introduced me to his son, who was the same age as me. He was annoying, noisy and storky. At first, we did not get along due to our differing views and would often quarrel. However, I began to accept him and soon befriended him. It was the first "real" friend I ever had. Although we argued all the time, it was then that I understood the joys and drawbacks of having friends, and **colours started trickling into my world**. Before long, I **came out of my shell**, sharing stories with the friends I made, going to my CCA and enjoying my youth to the fullest.

Mr Orimitsu changed me from a non-entity into someone that fitted into society, a feat that turned my life around. I am and will be eternally grateful to him for everything he has done for me.

As famous actor Jackie Chan once remarked, "Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life." This was Teacher Osamu to me.

Write about an individual who has impacted your life positively

WRITING ORGANIZER - Recount

Orientation: - *Introduction – Setting the scene.*

Events: - *What happened – in chronological order.*

Conclusion: - *Personal Comment (Optional)*

FORMAT YOUR ESSAY PROPERLY!



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