

Prompt: "It is the encounter with conflict that brings out either courage or cowardice in a character"

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The loud noise rang out as shoes slapped against the ground. Sam breathed heavily as he made his way ~~away~~ from the crime he had just committed. He dove into a bush where he tried to keep his breathing down and contemplated his actions. Sirens. Sam's face perked up as the loud whirring approached his vicinity. He pushed off hard out of the bush and jumped a nearby gate leading into the backyard of the suburban home he was using for ~~his~~ refuge. The sirens stopped as Sam rested his back on ~~the~~ cool brick wall of the house. He would stay here till they left. This gave him time to think.

Sam was just a regular teenage boy. He went to school, hung out with friends and had a loving mum and dad who, since he was an only child, spoilt him. School is where it all started, what sent Sam over the edge. More specifically year 11, English, Mr Lam.

The bell rang and the class fell silent as Mr Lam marked the roll. Giggles could be heard giggling in their groups making Mr Lam pause and look up, before continuing his task. Soon the roll was done and Mr Lam announced they ~~would be~~ ~~in~~ the recently completed exams ^{would} be given back. Sam wasn't too excited about this as ever since he had dated Mr Lam's daughter, he felt that this had hindered his efforts to do well in Mr Lam's class. The sheets were handed around until one fell on Sam's desk face down. He looked up to acknowledge Mr Lam but was not even given a ^{look} ~~glance~~ from him. His attention turned back to his paper. Sam lifted up the edge and flipped the sheets.

F. A single letter, but more than enough to set Sam off. In his rage he got up and walked out leaving Mr Lam and his class stannned in the class as he slammed the door shut.

He grabbed his bag and stormed home, his iPod blaring in his ear as he released some rage. When he arrived home he collapsed on his bed and composed himself just enough to think up a plan to get back at Mr Lam, and perhaps ~~to~~ put an end to the personal vendetta ^{the teacher} Mr Lam had for Sam. He closed his eyes and thought about the exam. The Crucible. Sam didn't even like the book but he worked really hard to ensure a good mark. It was like the people of Salem he thought. No matter what they did, the accused either had to confess to something they didn't do. They either had the courage to stand for what they felt and hang or show cowardice and confess. Sam thought about this for a while, what decision would he make? Is it really cowardly if your only other choice is certain death? These things all ran through Sam's head until he finally dozed off with these thoughts running around his head.

Thoughts ran around his head as he slept and Sam dreamt that he was in Salem. He had been accused and voices and yelling could be heard all around. ~~as~~ Abigail led the town's girls into a fit of yelling and screaming as they pretended to be witched. He stood there and blocked out all the noise and just thought. Do I confess? Is all this really worth ~~doing~~ ^{dying} for? He fell to his knees and confessed, realising the fact that he was a coward, and in our modern society most people ~~are~~ ^{are} we are not willing to give up our lives for beliefs and the goodness of our name like John Proctor. We would much rather our life and be considered a coward than no life at all. But there are still many people in our world willing to stand up for their beliefs, and ^{who} no matter how much they are opposed, stick with them.

Sam woke up in a cold sweat. He checked his clock to see he had slept all day. Slowly getting up he

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switched on the TV to the news which he sat up and watched. A story came up which made him reflect on his dream some more. It was about a lady in Burma standing up for her beliefs. Aung San Suu Kyi had been under house arrest for 13 of the 19 years after ^{her party} she won the election to govern Burma. The existing government decided not to recognize ^{the result of the} their election and as a result took control and basically took Ms Suu Kyi's life by putting her under house arrest. It is these people that make our world great. Aung San stood up for her beliefs and is still fighting for what she believes in. When the conflict started it was her choice of courage or cowardice. She picked courage which is a truly great act. John Procter also had to choose between death and his good name and through his choice chose hung. It is conflict and disagreement that will inevitably test one's courage. ^{People} They can choose to fight for what they think is right or they can back down and let others control their ^{lives} life. Although Sam's conflict was on a much smaller scale he knew what ~~to~~ should be done. With that he grabbed his cricket bat and headed to Mr Lam's house.

Make this
Sam's thought,

eg write it
explicitly, 'Sam
thought'