

Elle Sillitoe – Writing sample

Context

This writing sample was written for a medieval fantasy kingdom management game. In this game, petitioners approach the king with a request for aid that the king can either accept (resulting in success) or reject (resulting in failure). Each request can be resolved with a variety of solutions; therefore, the success lines have to be fairly generic and non-specific. For this writing sample, I wrote three generic quests and two quirky quests.

Generic Quest 1

Petitioner: Sorry to intrude, Your Grace, but I come seeking aid.

King: Speak your case.

Petitioner: Well, it's my sister, Your Grace. She's fallen terribly ill.

Petitioner: She's in such awful pain. Her screams... they're as if she's possessed.

Petitioner: She never stops wailing... day and night... thrashing in her bedclothes.

Petitioner: But the strangest thing is, there's not a scratch on her!

Petitioner: I'm at my wits end. Please, Your Grace, can you aid us?

Success:

King: I'm glad you brought this to me.

Petitioner: My prayers have been answered!

Petitioner: A thousand words of gratitude will never be enough.

Petitioner: I hope this means she will return to health soon...

Petitioner: Thank you, sincerely, Your Grace.

Failure:

King: Unfortunately, that's out of my hands.

Petitioner: Oh... I understand.

Petitioner: I'm sorry to have wasted your time, Your Grace.

Petitioner: I'll just keep praying... I suppose.

Generic Quest 2

Petitioner: Greetings and salutations, King.

Petitioner: I hail from a distant, dusty land.

Petitioner: During one of my many travels, my caravan fell into disrepair.

Petitioner: The wheel snapped on a crag and was lost to the wind.

Petitioner: I have no tools to fix it, and no means of return.

Petitioner: I miss my wife. I miss my people. I miss my country.

Petitioner: Please... guide a wayward soul back home?

Success:

King: Happy to lend a helping hand.

Petitioner: Good fortune be upon you, King.

Petitioner: This won't ever be forgotten.

Petitioner: Time to return home! Ah, how I've missed the heat.

Failure:

King: Sorry, there's no way I can help.

Petitioner: Ah, the Kings of this land aren't so kind, I see.

Petitioner: Alas, I pay it no heed.

Petitioner: Selfishness is repaid only in misfortune.

Generic Quest 3

Petitioner: I— We— desperately require help, Your Grace!

King: Calm down, boy. State your issue.

Petitioner: A monstrous wolf... It stalks my father's cattle.

Petitioner: We've lost two sheep already—

Petitioner: Any more and we will surely starve!

Petitioner: My father, he— he's all I have left in the world.

Petitioner: Please help us, Your Grace!

Success:

King: Tell your father that help is on its way.

Petitioner: Thank you, thank you, thank you, Your Grace!

Petitioner: You have no idea what you've done for me—

Petitioner: For us.

Petitioner: I will be forever grateful.

Petitioner: I can't wait to tell my father!

Failure:

King: I'm sorry, boy, but I can't help here.

Petitioner: But— But I came all this way...

Petitioner: What am I to tell my father?

Petitioner: ...Fine. I'll leave.

Petitioner: Just know that you've sentenced us to die.

Quirky Quest 1

Petitioner: Hewo, Yew Gwace.

King: How old are you, child?

Petitioner: Five and fwee quarters.

King: And why have you come?

Petitioner: Found a flower by the wiver. It's vewwy pwetty.

Petitioner: Just fwee gold. Yew wan it?

Success:

King: Of course!

Petitioner: Thank yew for yew bidness!

Petitioner: Wow... fwee whole gold.

Petitioner: Mama's gonna be so pwoud of me!

Failure:

King: Who let this child in?

Petitioner: I'm not a child! I'm five and fwee quarters!

King: Take your leave now.

Petitioner: Aw... but the flower was so pwetty...

Quirky Quest 2

Petitioner: You! Yes, you!

Petitioner: Number one threat a King faces? You tell me.

King: [Choice: Resources/War/Politics/Economy]

Petitioner: Wrong! It's lack of preparation! Yes, indeed!

Petitioner: Wildfire, plague, floods, hurricanes. Impossible to predict!

Petitioner: Fear not! Insurance protects you from these atrocities.

Petitioner: And my insurance is the best of the best. Yes, 9 out of 10 Kings agree!

Petitioner: I'll even give you a special discount, Kings only.

Petitioner: Once in a lifetime opportunity. Yes, indeed!

Success:

King: That can be arranged.

Petitioner: Correct decision. Yes, best you've ever made.

Petitioner: I knew you were intelligent. I can tell. Likeminded souls.

Petitioner: Gotta dash to a meeting. Important people. Can't be late!

Petitioner: [Quietly] *Heh. Easy pickings.*

Failure:

King: Find someone else to swindle.

Petitioner: Swindle? Terrible accusation. Terrible.

Petitioner: And to think I offered you the special discount?

Petitioner: I'll be taking my business elsewhere. Yes, indeed!