

## Lessons From The Afterlife – Aidan

Meandering through the graveyard it felt like something was watching me. I glanced around quickly but saw nothing, just a shadow of a nearby tree, withered and shrivelled, which appeared like it had been planted in a time long gone. Trepidly, I tiptoed between the rows of graves, careful not to disturb the eerie silence that engulfed me. Finally, I found my father's tombstone, encrusted in gold, a perpetual reminder of his own elevated sense of self-worth and grandiosity.

As I was mourning his death, I reminisced back to the times when he was still alive. Was he **really** a good father? After all the times he had pushed me to do those eight-hour sessions grinding in front of the piano, or all the times he dismissed my concert performances by highlighting **each and** every little mistake and imperfection, did he **really** not deserve any other punishment other than death?

While pondering this question, a loud rustling of leaves behind me snapped me out of my trance. I slowly turned around and saw a shadow of my lean, pale white father. His hands were trembling as he surveyed me, with a forlorn face, and remorseful eyes. He pleaded that I forgive him, as he said the practice would pay off and one day I would become as good as him. He told me that he was proud of me, words that he never uttered while he was alive.

I contemplated what he said, and after reflecting on the immeasurable strength, resilience and determination I acquired through my father's callous parenting techniques, I decided to forgive him. We embraced in an awkward hug (as my hand went right through him) and said our goodbyes. He disappeared into the shadows while I made my way back home with a sense of closure I never thought I needed, and my heart felt a peace I had never felt before.

*This piece is well executed and shows the potential you have got.*

*You need to add more literary elements to this piece to make it juicier, otherwise, you did an exceptional job! Avoid utilising the filler words redundantly!*

*Keep up the hard work!*