Prompt: Write about a time that you had to overcome a difficulty, failure, or setback. How did it make you feel and what did you take away from it? 200-300 words. Make sure to include your own ideas from the story you planned in class.

Disaster at the Blue Mountains (Based on a true story, experienced by Olivia Zhang, which is me!)

On the 19th of April, my family and a couple of my friends went Blue Mountain glamping. We thought it would be so much fun! So our parents planned to go glamping the next day, which was the 20th of April. Straight after I woke up, I loaded the bags up in the back seat of my dad’s HUMONGOUS car. o that afternoon we packed our bags and went to the Blue Mountains! On the way, we passed the city, and we ate lunch there. I had a bowl of Udon; it was simply delicious. Then we continued our way to the Blue Mountains.

Once we got there, we had a tourist map and we started searching intensely for our glamping tents. I decided to waste no time and I plonked right down on the mattress. I you were 1 kilometre away from the Blue Mountains, you probably heard my agonising scream. The mattress was rock hard! My back still hurts from then… My parents decided we should go on a bush walk so we could explore the Blue Mountains a bit better. I thought that was a great idea, until I saw a sign in the middle of bushwalking that wrote ‘Beware of venomous snakes.’ I freaked out and there is a reason why I freaked out, it is because I am terrified of snakes. The instructor/tour guy told us not to be worried, but his words did not sink into me. Soon, we were passing a rock and I heard a hissing noise. I turned around and a snake was following me the whole time. I screamed and the instructor turned around, he saw the snake too. He told me too freeze I did, and the snake slowly slithered away behind a rock. I was soon terrified, and we had to cancel the bushwalk eventually because I was too scared to move. Now, my friends still joke about me freaking out when I snake came out behind a rock.

A few hours later…

Finally it was dinner time, I was so hungry. We had spaghetti and meatballs for the main meal and ice-cream for dessert. After, we had marshmallows around the campfire as a treat. While we were enjoying eating the roasted marshmallows and listening to spooky stories told by more friends Emma and Abbigail. Abbigail is actually 1 day younger than me and is born in the same hospital as me, she prefers to be called Abby though. Suddenly I heard that exact same hissing sound again! I immediately recognised the sound and stayed frozen like I was pressed pause. I tried not to blink my eyes. I knew a snake was behind me, but I learnt that never ever move or make sound when you hear a hissing noise of a snake.

Finally the noise went away, I will never forget what you have to do when you hear that awfully familiar hissing noise.

The moral of the story I told you today is that never move when you see a snake or hear a hissing noise because the snake will notice you are a target and start shooting venom at you.