

## EMOTION BY LETTERS

By James Collins

### *A challenge to write a story including three words; Cloud, Yahoo, and drone*

Boeing aircraft was one of the major customers of Kollsman Instrument Company. We had to interact with the Boeing firm and the company sent me for an indefinite period to the great Northwest. I thought this would be a vacation and an opportunity to see a different part of the American continent. Having spent the last 40 years of my life in New England I figured I was getting bored of this four seasons variation. Of course, in the Northeast it is really closer to three seasons because we do not really have much of a summer.

The flight was uneventful and when I got to the airport, retrieved my luggage and went outside to get the rental car, it was raining. New England had been suffering a bit of a drought so the rain was a pleasant interlude. I had to drive three hours into the mountains to get to the town where the facility I was supporting was located. During the entire drive it rained. When I got there, it rained. I was rapidly becoming annoyed at the rain. It had raised my stress levels because I was driving on narrow mountain roads in the dark. The area was unfamiliar. The road was slippery and the oncoming lights were blinding. When I got to the hotel, my blood pressure was up to the ceiling. I figured I would get a good night's rest, meet my customer tomorrow and have a leisurely day. I was mistaken.

It rained the next day and every day thereafter for a full two-week period. I was rapidly becoming depressed at this dreadful rainy season in the Northwest. When I woke up, I was wet because the humidity in the room was desperate. When I went out to the car, I got wet. My shoes were wet. My outlook was wet and it was difficult to breathe with the humidity that never fell. The third week was no better but now my attitude was wet. I had difficulty sleeping because I would wake up gasping for breath feeling that I was drowning. There was water all around me all the time. My mental state started to deteriorate. Words, like swarms of insects released from a swamp, infested my head and they all started with the letter D. Have you ever noticed how many depressing words start with D. I have already mentioned depressed, dreadful, drowning, and deteriorate. Add to that, deprived, dejected, derelict, dampened, decreased, disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, demoralize, and finally down. I was beginning to suffer from massive depression. When I looked out the clouds hung over us like dark futons and the ducks flew low because each cloud looked solid enough to impede their progress. This began to affect my interaction with my customer. When we started, our conversations were vibrant, rapid-fire and we successfully completed and solved many problems. Now in my mind both of our voices droned on in a dark and laborious manner. We no longer solved any problems. My visit was becoming unproductive and my customer recognized that.

Yahoo I am going home. My customer called my boss and told him that it looked like I was entering a depression that they had seen many times in visitors from the East Coast during

their rainy period. Boeing has learned from experience that the people from the East Coast cannot handle their weather and after a certain time, they have to be sent home. That was to be my fate. I was ecstatic. Have you ever thought about how many happy words start in E.? I have already ready mentioned East, experience and ecstatic. Add to that elated, excited, eager, enthusiastic, energized, empowered, enervated, and in my case exhausted. New England here I come and I never want to leave.

THE END