

Task for *Grace Beside Me*

Anecdote structure

Below is an example of an anecdote with the main features labelled.

My brother was always the cute one in the family. Being the eldest child, **I** was the responsible one: sensible, careful, and fearful of getting into trouble. **I** wanted so badly to impress **my** parents and receive their praise. People would comment on how mature **I** was, ‘What a little lady!’ but they would never call **me** cute. No, it was **my** brother who charmed people.

First person pronoun: I
me, my

I remember one day, when we were in the shopping centre, my brother got lost. We searched the aisles and called out to him. We requested an announcement over the loudspeaker: **‘Attention, shoppers! We have a little lost boy in the store. He is three years old, has brown hair and blue eyes and is wearing a blue ‘Thomas the Tank Engine’ jumper. If you see him, please bring him to the information desk on the ground floor.’** We waited at the information desk (there were no mobile phones back then, so they couldn’t call Mum if he turned up there). We searched high and low. Mum was frantic with worry and I tried to be brave for us both. Miss Responsible, telling her mum it would be alright.

Dialogue:
direct speech

After a few rounds of the shopping centre, we finally set eyes on him. He was sitting on a bench near a café, happily licking an ice-cream. After giving him a relieved hug, **Mum asked him where he got the ice-cream from.** He pointed to the café owner, a short and stout little woman with rosy cheeks and bright, playful eyes. **Feeling embarrassed,** Mum went over to pay and the woman **waved** her hands, “No, no, no, it’s my pleasure!

Dialogue:
indirect or reported speech

Such a cute little boy, I could NOT resist those puppy dog eyes! He’s adooooorrrrrrrrrable!” she **cooed, waving** at Adam.

Doing and thinking words – verbs

Written in the past tense:
wanted, had given, was couldn’t

I **wanted** to be mad at him. No-one **had** ever **given** me a free ice-cream. No-one would ever say I **was** adorable. I’m sure Mum **wanted** to be mad at him, too, for running off and worrying us sick. But we **couldn’t** be mad. He **was** too cute.

General features:

- Personal details of the writer’s life
- Experiences, memories
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- From the writer’s point of view as a child.

Some Anecdote Prompts...

1. A memorable event
2. An important relationship
3. An improbable relationship
4. A special place
5. 'The day I...'
6. A lesson learnt
7. When I was the boss
8. A favourite possession
9. Dealing with fear
10. Happiness
11. Sorrow
12. Embarrassment
13. Conflict
14. Harmony
15. Laughter
16. Love
17. Victory
18. Defeat
19. In the beginning
20. Near the end
21. Understanding
22. Confusion
23. Dealing with it...
24. Danger
25. Safety
26. Hate
27. Change
28. The unexpected
29. Truth
30. Lies
31. Justice
32. The unimaginable
33. 'But it's different for girls'
34. 'Boys don't cry'
35. Risk
36. 'This I believe'
37. 'Try living in my skin'
38. 'Walk in my shoes'
39. Mind and body
40. Right and wrong
41. Responsibility
42. Innocence
43. The fight
44. Never again
45. Triumph
46. Glory
47. 'I wish'
48. Obsession
49. Obstacles
50. 'Who would have thought?'