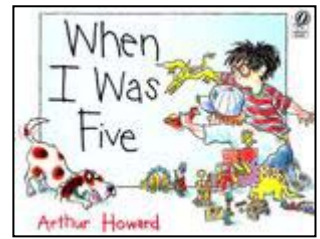


Borrowing from mentor text's *structure* for narrative/memoir writing

## When I Was Five

by Arthur Howard



### **Part 1:** When I was [insert any age here].

After beginning with this first sentence, write interesting and vivid details of things you remember from being this age.

*When I was twenty-two, I strut across my college's campus as if I knew more than I actually did. I wore cynicism on my sleeve like Holden Caulfield, and I mocked my professors when they disagreed with my outlandish statements. I cut class sometimes to listen to Rush Limbaugh on my portable radio outside the library. I wasn't the only student who did this. I worked two jobs to pay my way through that school, and sometimes I read the Cliff Notes instead of the actual novels assigned to me. It was hard for me to admit I was wrong...to myself or to anyone else. I did all of these things when I was twenty-two.*

### **Part 2:** Now that I am [insert different age here].

After beginning with this first sentence, write interesting and vivid details of things you remember from being this age. Try to link some of them back to your first paragraph and show the differences. The final item should be something interesting that you still do at this different age.

*Now that I'm forty-two, it's hard for me to strut anywhere anymore. My bones creak like my grandmother's attic used to. As a teacher, because it's my job, I correct my students, and then see them mocking me when my gaze shifts to another part of the room. I've found ways to assign detention to my students who do this repeatedly. I grew tired of Rush decades ago, so I now download NPR podcasts, citing them almost recklessly during my workshops for teachers. I still work two jobs, but the most important thing to me is the time I spend alone with my wife and best friend. Should Dena and I ever argue, it's hard for me to admit that I am wrong.*

**Conclusion:** Some things never change.

*Some things never change.*

--written by teacher [Corbett Harrison](#)