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Task for *The Divine Wind* by Garry Disher

Writing an ‘author’s note’ – example

A few years ago I was boasting to my friends about how good I was at skateboarding so they dared me to do some tricks at my school at the weekend. My school has some good spots for skateboarding: lots of steps and handrails but of course my headmaster didn’t encourage skateboarding around the grounds and because it’s a boarding school there were always teachers and security staff at the school, even on weekends. Still, one of my friends made me a bet so I accepted.

Actually, not much happened. I did go into the school grounds and did a few tricks but no-one chased me out of the place although I did feel a bit guilty. Therefore, to make my story more interesting I had to add some details that didn’t really happen. I decided to make it sound as if I had almost been caught by the headmaster and the deputy during an important school meeting. The conflict in the story is my fear of being caught and expelled from the school just because I was silly enough to accept a dare from my friends. The theme is about learning an important lesson about life: be responsible and don’t let yourself down.

I’m going to start the story in the middle at a point of tension. I thought that I was going to be caught and publicly shamed. Then I will provide a bit of background and after that I will move forward to the climax and resolution. I want to give the story a quirky ending so I am going to refer to the statue of the school founder and his dog and pretend that the narrator thinks that they are real and looking at him while he tries to escape. I’ll reveal in the last sentence that the narrator then realizes that they are just part of a statue.

I wanted to use figurative language in my story so I:

- Began with a simile: “My guilt made me feel like a criminal”

Then I turned the simile into a metaphor:

- A fog of guilt shrouded me