

Essay #2 Anecdote/Allegory for Children

Revising your story:

Check your Exposition. Underline the setting, **Highlight the Characters, **Circle the Conflict****

Once upon a time, in a village near a crystal blue lake that glittered in the sunlight and shimmered under the stars, there lived a **family of cats that had three kittens**. Although the kittens were generally well-behaved and happy kittens, they did have one flaw and that is that they ~~always wanted more toys and gifts~~. No matter how many presents Mama Cat or Papa Cat brought home, the kittens were sure to want more.

Check your Development, Organization and Style. Underline Dialogue, **Highlight Style, make sure it all makes sense.**

{skipping ahead here}

Suddenly there was **a loud CRASH** and the **shiny new snow globe exploded into about a million pieces**.

Kirk said, “Oh no! We broke it. We’re going to get into so much trouble now.”

“I doubt it,” scoffed Katy. “I’ll just tell Papa it broke and he can get us a new one.”

“Are you sure?” asked Kristy. “Papa told us not to even play with it yet, it was supposed to be for Christmas.” An **unease silence** filled the room. Although Papa had warned them not to open the present, they had disobeyed him. And now, the new gift was broken.

{skipping ahead here}

Papa was **getting red in the face**, and one by one the little kittens were beginning to realize that they had really gotten into trouble this time. Right before Papa was about to yell, Mama Cat spoke up.

“Kittens, you and I are going to go on a short trip to see the Wise Old Owl. We’ll see what he has to say about your behavior today.” Mama Cat looked at Papa and said, “Maybe he can talk some sense into them.” **Papa nodded and opened the door for his family before getting the broom and mop to start cleaning up.**

“Don’t come back until I’ve finished cleaning up and have had a chance to relax,” said Papa as the kittens went out the door.

Check your Conclusion. Do you have a resolution to the conflict? Is the lesson clear?

{skipping ahead here}

As the Owl finished telling the kittens about the Gift of Gratitude, **they became very quiet**. They were all thinking it would be nice to have a gift that could never get stolen, lost or broken.

Kirk spoke first, “This kind of gift only exists in the heart, doesn’t it?”

Little Kristy asked, “How do you play with a gift in your heart?” Before Mama Cat or the Wise Old Owl could answer her, Katy piped in.

“With Gratitude in your heart, you can play with any other toy and have an even better time. You will have more fun because you realize that you can be happy playing with any toy—it doesn’t have to be the newest and bestest of them all.” Katy smiled up at Mama Cat and the Owl. **“That’s it, isn’t it? Being happy with what you have makes everything else better.”**

Mama Cat smiled and said, “That’s right, now let’s head home and tell Papa what we learned today.” All the kittens thanked the Wise Old Owl and followed Mama Cat home.

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For that day on, although they occasionally had to be reminded about it, the kittens did their best to keep focused on the Gift of Gratitude they each had in their hearts, and they were much happier because of it.