



THE FLIPSIDE



ASSIGNMENT: We read When I Was Little: A Four-Year-Old's Memoir of Her Youth, by Jamie Lee Curtis. Write your childhood memories.

When I was little, I was in a stroller. Now I am not in a stroller. When I was little, I did not have glasses. Now I wear glasses. When I was little, I did not like sports, and now I do. My first word was "Ryan." My favorite stuffed toy was a squeaky star. My hair was very white.

JACOB WOLPERT
Second Grade

My first birthday was at a place in New York City where you meet Santa Claus. I still hear his reindeer on my roof. I said, "Noo Yook Citay." When I was little, I had a stuffed animal named Bubbles. He has a Bay Shore Marina sweatshirt. My other stuffed animal is a cow who is a ballerina. Her name is Money Moo Cow. I named her that because I was just learning my words. She wears a blue tutu with blue ballet slippers.

TEAGAN VAUGHN
Second Grade

When I was a baby, I had too much hair. On my first birthday I had it at Chuck-E-Cheese. I had a blanket named "Fuffi." I still have it. I loved to cry. I played soccer. I loved to cuddle. I loved to spit. My mom sang to me. When I was little, I fit in the palm of my dad's hand. I gave my mom big hugs. I never liked pacifiers. My mom used to rock me in a rocking chair.

GRACE DEROSSETT
Second Grade

On the night I was born, my mom's water bottle broke. She went crazy, and she woke my dad. Then he went crazy! They rushed to the hospital. When I popped out, my dad was overjoyed because I looked just like him! When I came out, there was some kind of button on my belly. Boy, that was weird.

When I was little, I got to stay at my grandma's house. Uh-oh. That starts another story. Here I go. One day I was playing in the basement with my favorite toy, the princess tent, and that's when I said my first word. It was "Nanny." Everybody gathered around. Then Nanny said, "What did you say?" Then I said, "Nanny."

Here's another tale I'm going to tell. I hope you like it. It was time to move out of Nanny's house. Of course, I didn't understand what was happening. When we got to the new house, eventually I stopped crying. I got settled in. I didn't sleep well, and that's a story.

When my little sister was in school one day, she told everybody to stand for the pledge. This is the part that gets funny. It was actually not time for the pledge. I know it's hysterical. That's my book.

SARI STRIZIK
Second Grade

I was born in Tokyo, Japan at 3:30 P.M., in 2002. My dad called my grandma, and she came to the hospital within an hour. The next day my grandpa came to see me. Three weeks later my grandma and grandpa came from New York to see me. At six months old, I walked. I moved to New York City with my family. When I came to Long Island, I was two years old. My grandma and grandpa had a party. The cake was huge. It said, "Welcome home, Matthew." I lived at my grandma and grandpa's house for one week. For my first birthday I had a cake with cars on it. When I was born, I had some hair. The day I was born was a Saturday, May 20.

MATTHEW TALLO
Second Grade

When I was little, I used to get into trouble a lot, and now I don't. When I was little, I ran a lot, and now I go 1,000 mph. When I was little, I had a lot of hair, and now I am partly bald. When I was little, I ate soft tacos, and now I can eat hard tacos. When I was little, I ate baby formula. When I was four, I had to feed my little brother. My first word was "duck." My second word was "Mommy."

TYLER BONNER
Second Grade

The hospital room number was 304. My classroom number is 304. I could do all my multiplication when I was a baby. I had a pacifier for two months. My favorite blankets are green and ripped. I still have all four of them. Blanket #3 is so fun to play with because it has a huge rip. It is a great jump rope. I crawled when I was little. I only know math, the very advanced math.

I had very fat cheeks. I would only eat pineapples. My first word was "turtle." My mom asked, "What did you say?" I said, "turtle." My mom just laughed and laughed.

ALEX BRAM
Second Grade

When I was a baby, I had a crib, and I was also very messy. I almost never cried. I had a little stroller. I was cute. My brother loved me. Once my mom was in the kitchen of our old house, and I was on the living room table. I was in a baby carrier, rocking and rocking, and then the baby carrier tipped, and I fell out! My mom told me the whole story when I could understand her. I wore a diaper, but I do not now. I can ride a two wheeler and a scooter. It is fun! I used to be two, but now I am seven.

SARAH GRISHAM
Second Grade

When I was three, I was a big pumpkin for Halloween. When I was one, I used to throw my dinner in my mom's face. When I was three, my sister tripped me, and I cut my eyebrow open. I had to get stitches. It was an accident. I was born with hair. When I was three, I knew how to do ballet. When I was three, I started to learn how to ski. I was a terrible skier, but now I am a great skier. When I was one and two and three, I used to follow my sister around the house.

ARIANA WELTER
Second Grade

Whenever my mom gave me my pacifier, I always didn't like it. I never used a bottle; my mom breast fed me. When it was my first birthday, I never actually knew. Nowadays, I get excited when it's my birthday. When I was a baby, I liked to sleep in my crib. I was born in New York City. I was almost bald when I was a baby. I loved my parents. My parents loved me. I loved to crawl. When I was born, I almost knew nothing. I know a lot now. I was 19 inches when I was born. It was hard for me to walk. When I was two, my mom and dad moved from a huge apartment to my house where I live today. I'm glad I'm a big boy now because I've gained a lot of knowledge.

DANIEL SHENKELMAN
Second Grade

When I was born, my aunt gave me a green blanket. It is light green and frilly around the edges. When I was a baby, I sucked pacifiers. My mom would put 15-20 of them in my crib. When I was sleeping, I would take one and suck it, then I would spit it out and throw it on the other side of the crib. I also got a stuffed lamb when I was a baby. Only its head was a lamb. The rest of it was like a blanket. I called it Lamby. On other events, I got a lot of stuffed animals. I traveled to a lot of places like Italy, Greece, and Hawaii. I went to dog shows too. I love animals. I got a pink hat, and I still have it. My first birthday was at Gymboree. A clown even came, and there were bubbles all over. My third birthday was at White Post Farms. There was an animal cake. There were even pony rides. The animal cake was really awesome. There was a farm on it with different animals. The llamas were hungry that day. In Italy there is really awesome ice cream, especially hazelnut. I went to the town where the Greek people lived. We saw the things they left behind. My first word was "moo." We have a lot of animal books. One time I pointed to a cow and exclaimed, "Moo." My mom and dad were so proud of me. My second word was surprisingly "mother sha-sha," which really was motorcycle. The first time I was carried into my house, I was sleeping. I was carried up the stairs into the nursery. The nursery was huge. It had a crib, a bed, and a big closet. There were two windows and a lot of space. Close to the crib were some baby toys.

AYLA LERNER
Second Grade