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Small Victories

As a kid, I spent a lot of time with my cousin Mikey. Mikey was an average-sized boy with very large ears. He could get very angry pretty quickly, and I usually made it worse considering I loved getting a rise out of him. We were basically siblings. We spent most of our time riding around the neighborhood thinking we were so cool. We often times tried to form an 8 year old's idea of a "gang". We were just average neighborhood kids.

One mild winter day, Mikey and I went outside to find Donte Patterson, Justin Smith, and Adam Rogers all on their bikes ready to take on the world. Donte was our best friend who lived a couple houses down. He was a small kid with a big bottom lip that caused his mouth to always hang open. Justin was the cool kid that everyone knew in the neighborhood. He was tall so he was good at basketball, but he was also strong so he was good at football. With no fat lips or big ears, Justin was the one everyone envied. Adam Rogers was known as "the white kid". He had a slim body, but that did not make him awkward. His hair was a bright blond color if you ever got the chance to see it. He always had that old, black beanie on his head. He always followed Justin around. Adam was just the kid that always hung out with the black kids. That earned him some respect though. We turned around and pleaded to Mikey's mom to let us go. It wasn't easy considering we had just gotten out of being grounded for breaking a neighbor's window.

"Can we go please!" exclaimed Mikey and me.
"No, ya'll need to get back in here. You know you're both grounded," replied my aunt.

"But we told that lady we were sorry for breaking that window, and we did all of our chores," said Mikey.

"Yeah, we cleaned our room and the basement, Te Te," I said.

"No, you have until the end of the week until you aren't grounded," argued Te Te.

"But-

"Oh fine, just go. Ya'll better be back when it starts getting dark though," she said, finally giving in.

We ran to the garage, kicked aside our helmets (we were too cool for those), and hopped onto our bikes. We wandered around contemplating what the adventure of the day was going to be. We soon found ourselves at a very steep grassy hill. The guys were all very excited to take on this fresh challenge. I, on the other hand, was okay to pass this one up. "C'mon Ray Ray," they said.

"Yeah c'mon Ray," I thought to myself.

As I stood there mentally preparing myself for this leap outside of my comfort zone, Mikey said respectively, "You don't have to if you're scared." He wasn't mocking or teasing me. He genuinely meant it. I, however, was going to ride down that hill. This wasn't just to step outside of my comfort zone or face my fears. I couldn't let them think they are in any way better than me. I was in a constant battle to prove that I was just another one of the guys. Therefore, I tightened my grip on my handle bars, took a deep breath, said a short prayer, and pedaled down that hill. My eyes started to water as the frigid wind blew against my face. I kept my eyes focused on the ground while blurred strips of the area around me zip by. I could feel my heart
pound as the adrenaline rushed through my veins. I don't think I took a single breath. Once I got to the bottom, I shrugged it off and took off on my bike to find the next challenge.

Great ending! I also really like the way you set the scene.

Overall, an excellent paper - I enjoyed reading it!
Remembered Event Essay

10/10 pts Your remembered event is significant, unique and captivating, and it reveals something internal about you.

10/10 pts You included two scenes or snap-shots that illustrate your point.

10/10 pts You used vivid details and appropriate dialogue.

10/10 pts You revised to make your narrative clean.

9/10 pts You paid attention to English grammar and usage.

49/50 pts Total