

The Legend of Me – an Epic Adventure Starring Myself

It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword. It's true. A sword can only destroy. A pen creates. Anybody can wave a sword around and hit someone. But to put words on paper in just the right order, to take the dull truth and gild it with the first layer of legend, that takes real talent. (Cassie O'Pia)



TASK NUMBER 1 – ABOUT STORIES

Read this extract from the start of *The Accidental Pirates*.

Chapter 1

Laws of Motion, Number One

A moving object will continue in a straight line unless something happens to knock it off its course. Some say this is also true of stories.

Aldebran Boswell's Book of Scientific Knowledge

Brine sat at the driftwood table in Tallis Magus's library, her chin propped on one hand as she read. Aldebran Boswell could have been describing her life, she thought. A long, straight line of cleaning the magician's house, cooking the magician's food, washing the magician's disgusting socks. Nothing ever changing.

Brine Seaborne's life will continue in a straight line . . .

There was one big difference, of course. A moving object might have some idea of where it came from, but Brine had no idea at all. She had one clear memory of waking up in a rowing boat three years ago, surrounded by people, and that was all. They'd asked her her name and she couldn't remember – she couldn't remember anything. So they named her Brine because she was crusted head to foot in sea salt, and Seaborne because that's what she was. Sea-borne. Sea-carried.

She'd been so ill that no one had expected her to survive, Magus told her often. Lucky for him that she had recovered or the magician would have had to do his own cleaning all these years.

Brine crumpled up the cloth she should have been using to dust and threw it at the door. As Boswell predicted, it flew in a straight line.

Unless something happens to knock it off its course.

The duster bounced aside as the door opened.

Questions

What does Aldebran Boswell say about how stories begin? What do you think he means?

What do we know about Brine Seaborne so far? Do you think her life will continue just the same?

If you could star in your own story, what would you be – a pirate, an astronaut, a detective, or something completely different?

And if you could go anywhere you wanted (a real or imaginary place) where would you go? Why?



TASK NUMBER 2 – WRITE YOUR STORY

All legends begin with a grain of truth – so says Aldebran Boswell, the legendary scientist and explorer, and he should know.

We are going to write a legend in which you are the star!

Let's start with a few true bits. Make a list.

- Your name
- Where do you live?
- Three of your favourite things
- Three of your least favourite things



Now, let's begin.

My name is... I was sitting at the table, when...

(Something unexpected happens. What is it?)

Before I knew it, I was off on a quest to...

(The place you'd like to go to on an adventure.)

I had to...

(What do you have to achieve on your quest? e.g., find treasure, rescue someone, solve a mystery)

And if I failed...

(What's the worst thing that can happen if you don't achieve your quest?)



Moving on, we come to the middle of your story.

Think of...

- An enemy or obstacle you have to defeat (it could be one of your least favourite things)
- Someone who helps you
- Something you discover along the way that may be useful (it could be one of your favourite things)



And finally, the end!

How do you achieve your quest?

(You may want a big battle, or to find your way through a maze or solve a puzzle. Tip: maybe you have to defeat your final two least favourite things at the same time – double the danger!)

And so I become the hero known as...

(You're a hero now, so you need a new, heroic name!)

Until next time, the end.



Congratulations, you have written your own legend. The great thing about stories is you can be anyone you want, go anywhere you want. Please keep making up stories. People need stories, and stories need people like you to carry them on.

Claire Fayers

ps. I love hearing from readers. You can visit me on my website at www.clairefayers.com