Daedalus

**What Is This?**

This is a story about a boy who struggles with daily challenges and learns to overcome them in his nightmares. Each night he must defeat a new fear such as these ones:

**Bully’s:**

Daedalus is bullied everyday by a group kids in his school. This makes him afraid to go to school everyday and leads to him having his first lucid nightmare. The nightmare he must get away from the bullies and is then stuck in a room with the worst bully “Minos” another Greek kid in his school who makes fun of his name. Daedalus learns to accept his name by piecing the letters in his name together to show where the key is and allows him to escape the nightmare. The next day when he goes to school and ignores the bullies making them bored of bullying him.

**Parents:**

But when he comes home after getting over the bullies, he listens to his parents arguing about paying their bills and he runs to his room but he can still hear through the night arguing and as he falls asleep he enters another nightmare where he can hear his parents arguing. (mentioning of water bill leads to flooding of the room). He reaches the master bedroom to see them shouting at each other and he must avoid them seeing him sneaking around the room. When he wakes up the next morning, he tells his parents he loves them and that he will try do good in school to help pay for stuff this reminds the parents that he can hear them, and they stop arguing. Parents names are Athena and Hephaestus.

**Teachers/principal:**

Daedalus comes to school tired the next day and fails one of his exams. He is then given out to by one of his teachers and is sent to the principal’s office for sleeping in class. He is given out to and gets work to do for his lunch time the next day. Later that night he goes to sleep early ready for the nightmare this time. As he enters the nightmare, he knows he must face his principal but first he must get passed his teachers who are roaming looking for kids without a hall pass. He must find the hall pass to get to the basement where he must use his dad’s old schoolbooks to get the key on a shelf, but he must use the books to distract the principal too. The next day he uses what he learned from the books to pass his test

**Dogs:**

The punishment he was given for falling asleep in class where he must help at the local dog shelter for an hour at lunch. But while he is there, he gets jumped on by a lot of big dogs and runs away crying. He wouldn’t go back in, so the principal told him he must go back the next day. When he returned home, he prepped for the nightmare and he tried to remember where everything is in every room. As he entered the nightmare, he could hear dogs barking and got to the garage where he had to try feed the dogs and give them water to find the key on one of their collars. The next day when he returned, he fed the dogs and was able to rub them as they were calm.

**Heights:**

After getting over his fear of the dogs, as it was the weekend, he met up with his friends and he explored the local forest with them. All his friends started climbing one of the big trees and he followed them but as soon as he looked down, he panicked and fell out of the tree and hurt his leg. So, as he went home, he rested his leg in bed and fell asleep early leading to another nightmare. But in this nightmare, he is way smaller than usual and is up high on some shelves in his house. He must navigate through the house at this crazy height and must retrieve his bedroom key in the kitchen on top of the cupboards. But he has also lost his jump ability due to his sore leg so he must use objects to help him. The next day after completing the nightmare he goes out to the tree himself and climbs it to the top.

**Peer pressure:**

But as he is walking home, he is approached by a bunch of older guys in his school and they try making him drink alcohol and offer him a vape. He keeps saying no and they keep blowing the smoke in his face. He runs off home and later that night he is angry and wants to have the nightmare. He then enters it ready to beat it. But this nightmare is strange as he keeps seeing shadows walking around holding bottles and blowing black clouds. He must try avoiding all this darkness and stay in the light. He does so, using his flashlight. But he must keep finding batteries for it to keep it on. The attic is the darkest room in the house, and this is where he must find his key will fending off the shadows. Then the next day he goes out and takes note of where all the bad teens hideout and learns to avoid them.

**Himself:**

As he enters school the next day, he feels like a new person he can walk around confident and see’s a child being bullied and calls him a coward that the kid should stand up. He then sees a kid scared on top of the slide at school and he pushes them down telling them to stop being afraid and the child runs off crying. As he returns home, he sees his parents arguing again and tells them to shut up and heads to his room. His parents pass it off as him being a moody teen. Then he spends the night happy that he has no more nightmares to worry about. But as he falls asleep, he is in a nightmare and is really confused. He walks around and sees images and flashbacks in each room of all the fears he has conquered and he notices his bedroom door is wide open and he walks in and looks around and as he looks in the mirror he sees the shadows of all his fears disappearing but as he looks at himself he notices an evil grin appearing and he then steps out of the mirror. This is where Daedalus realises, he is his own worst enemy. He must use his knowledge of the house to escape and he must find the key to get into his room and lock it from the inside.

**Where’s the structure in all this?**

The Story is told in a three-act structure which is split between the 3 stages of character development. With the first act being, when Daedalus was still an innocent kid with all these fears. The second act being, when Daedalus starts to understand his ability to defeat his fears. Then the third act being, when Daedalus himself becomes the bad guy and must learn to defeat himself.

Characters

**Main Characters:**

**Daedalus –** A boy aged 12, who struggles with daily issues in school and life at home. He has many fears in life. He is known as a nerd and he must learn to be confident in himself. He does so through the power of lucid dreaming in the form of nightmares. But he must also be aware that he doesn’t become the enemy he is avoiding.