

## **The Blue Pirouettes**

by

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*The past is such an influential and potent presence in our lives. Sometimes we find ourselves feeling nostalgia, even an insatiable desire to experience it again. Or maybe we dwell on our former life and feel contempt at the mere thought of it. Either way, this adherence to the past can hinder the process of maturing. Instead of trying to seize the withering memories, we ought to hoist ourselves from this limbo of reminiscing and/or mourning the bygone days, and to relinquish the life that once granted comfort to move forward. These are the thoughts we intended to transcribe in our story. Taking into consideration the definition of a fable as proclaimed by John Horgan to be “a means for relaying or teaching a moral or lesson [or as] morality tales [and] allegorical myths designed to highlight both desired and undesirable human behaviors: what to do or what not to do” (2014) and essentially alluding to human emotions, we mulled over our current state of mind while entering university; specifically, the detachment from our childhood and teenage self, and the kindred experience of transitioning to adulthood while commemorating our past. Therefore, we curated this character, a young ballet-dancing meerkat who suffers from a firm attachment to her past and attempts to relive it, something unattainable and in her case very agonizing. The shoes, which become a major character here, function as a metonymy of said past, while the color blue that complements the shoes carries the connotation of sadness to symbolize the nostalgia and sorrow she endures. The meerkat’s increasing physical pain caused by those shoes is a reflection of her deteriorating emotional state and is also where the conflict emerges. According to J.T. Bushnell, conflict is considered a “thwarted, endangered, or opposing desire. It’s basically when a character wants something but something else gets in the way.” In her story, the force that clashes with the bright and successful future she longed for is her past, which ushers us to the maxim, the moral of the fable. One cannot advance and flourish without letting go of the past.*

## **Works Cited**

Bushnell, J.T. “What is Conflict in Literature?” *Oregon State Guide to Literary Terms*, Oregon State U, [liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/what-conflict](http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/what-conflict). Accessed 1 Dec. 2022.

Horgan, John. “Aesop’s Fables.” *World’s History Encyclopedia*, 2014, [www.worldhistory.org/article/664/aesops-fables/](http://www.worldhistory.org/article/664/aesops-fables/). Accessed 1 Dec. 2022.