

# Summary

The excerpt from Roald Dahl's autobiography 'Boy: Tales of Childhood' recounts an amusing episode from the author's childhood. When he was nine, Dahl was sent to a boarding school called St Peter's. He feels so homesick there that he thinks of a desperate plan to go back home. Some time ago, one of his sisters had an appendicitis operation at their home; Dahl had the opportunity to observe her symptoms closely. He paints an entertaining picture of that event – how he and his other sisters lurked outside the nursery, where the operation was taking place. When they were allowed to see the appendix, the boy asked curious questions about it to his Nanny. Nanny said that loose toothbrush – bristles, when swallowed could stick in the appendix and make it go bad, thus installing in him a fear of loose toothbrush bristles.

In the school, the boy, confident of his plan, goes up to the Matron's room and complains of being unwell. He also groans and yells and lies about being sick. His act is so convincing that the Matron calls in the school doctor. Eventually, it is decided that the boy will be sent home.

Needless to, this news delights him, though he has to hide his happiness in order to pretend to be ill. Back home in Cardiff, however, when he is examined by Dr Dunbar, who knew him and his family, Dahl is less successful. Doctor Dunbar seize through his act and also understands why he had pretended to be ill. However, like a good sport, he decides to help the boy stay at home for a few days by telling the school that he has a stomach infection. At the same time, he explains to the child why he had convinced his mother to send him to boarding school and why the boy needs to be brave and more patient. Relieved and grateful, the boy promises he will never try any similar trick again.