

Question ????

Have you ever had to glue your shoes to hold them together? Cut your own hair or make your own clothes? Watch as your older sister becomes pregnant at sixteen? Or, with sirens screaming and lights flashing, watch an ambulance take your mother to the hospital after she tries to commit suicide? And, after all this would you have the strength to go on?

These memories, dark and piercing, are from my mother's childhood.
(Emily Coleman)

BAD

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to come from a poor family? Wonder what your clothes and food might be like? Ever wonder what problems a family like that might have? Well, my mother experienced a number of these things.

WHY

The effect of the hook is lost. This lead lacks specific detail and fails to turn on the reader's imagination. The question lead must paint specific images that provoke curiosity.

Mystery

The mysterious malady began so quietly I could hardly believe there was anything wrong. There was nothing strong enough to dignify with the word *pain*, nothing except a slight dull ache in my left leg when I walked upstairs. I did not dream it was the stealthy beginning of a seven-year siege during which I would face a word totally new to my vocabulary- incurable. (Great Reading from Life, 471)

Embarrassed. That's the only emotion in the English language to describe a scenario that I shamefully remember as The Ballpark Incident. (David Haile)

Grandma Mingo taught me to play poker when I was seven. (Liz Mesok)