

THE SACRIFICE OF BEATRICE



By the Fruit Bowl



THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC
DIVISION: Middle School
SCHOOL/GROUP: St Francis Catholic College (MELTON)
TEAM NAME: SFCC Melton 2
TEAM ID: 1289

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Road worker
Primary character 2 Gymnast Coach
Non-human character Dragon
Setting Bridge
Issue Hospital is full

Random words

swept
dazzling
faded
wrinkled
quirky

Instructions

- Start no earlier than **8am**
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above) as written, and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts)!
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember: **Every** word on **every** page counts. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- **Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

- Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names (how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- Complete the Declaration
- Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

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Dedications

*This story is for children battling illness and
for dragons who did the ultimate sacrifice to
save their people and back flippers too. - The*

Fruit Bowl

-The sacrifice of Beatrice-

Chapter 1: The Outsider

“Alright, class, that's it for today. See you next week.” I told my students as they began to leave. I grabbed my bag and water bottle and headed towards the bridge to practice my backflips and see Beatrice, the guardian dragon of our village. As I made my way there, I stopped when I noticed that there was an outsider.

It was a man. He was a bit shorter than 6 feet but was still quite tall. *What's someone like him doing here?* I wondered as I walked towards him and the bridge.

When I came closer, I realised that he wasn't a tourist or someone who'd lost their way, but instead he was inspecting the bridge. Beside him there was a tool kit filled with equipment that I wasn't able to identify. *Was he called here to do some handiwork?*

“Oh, hey dya 'appen to live here?” the man asks when he sees me.

“Ah! Um. Yeah, I do. Are you from a different country by any chance? I don't mean to sound rude but... your accent sounds-”

“No, not rude at all, I'm from Australia.” he said, cutting me off to save me the trouble of asking him.

“I moved here recently for my job. And well, now I am here doin' my job.”

“I see, and what exactly is your job?” I questioned him with a hint of rudeness in my tone, feeling slightly suspicious.

“I was hired to repair the bridge.” he replied calmly despite how I'd asked him. “The name's Mike. What's yours?” he'd asked me.

“Bella. Welcome to England.”

Chapter 2: Meeting Beatrice

“How long have you been here?” I asked curiously as I start stretching, preparing to start practicing my backflips.

“Not too long, ‘bout three months, give or take.” As he spoke the sun started to shine upon his face, I stared into his eyes; they were shown beautifully like expensive gems. When he covered his face using his hands our eyes met for a moment.

“So did you live here yah whole life?” he asked his ears reddening.

“Yeah, I came here to see Beatrice she’s pretty much my mother.” I said smirking at the fact he was flushed.

“Oh, is she here? I’d love to say a quick hello!” he asked.

“Sure, she's here right now, but you should know that, well, she’s a-” a huge shadow was cast atop the two of us.

“What is that!?” Mike shouted pointing behind me. I turned around.

“Haha.” I chuckled nervously as I do another backflip. “Mike, meet Beatrice. The dragon who is also my...” I pause for a bit “Mother figure, who raised me my whole life.” I continued

“Oh, I see...” he said as he stared in shock.

“Well, who do we have here?” Beatrice asked with her loud and sharp voice. As she looks at Mike, as there was a large shadow cast around him, for she was significantly larger than him.

“Uh, name’s Mike, ma’am.” he stuttered as he was still shocked.

“And what are you doing here with Bella, Mike.” she asked her voice stern and sounding irritated. Her eyes were burning a hole into Mike as she glared at him.

“Well, you see I came here to work on some repairs. And I just happened to meet Bella here. She probably found it sceptical that I was here. I mean I do look very suspicious I guess-” Mike rambled, scared and not wanted to be killed. I laughed out loud. *He looks cute when he’s flustered! Wait, what am I thinking!?* My face turned bright red after I had realised what I’d done and thought, I backflip a few times to get my mind off it.

I looked over at Mike who was also looking over at me, his face was even brighter than mine. Beatrice observed us and she seemed to have been amused at the sight.

Beatrice lets out a sigh "I think I’ll take my leave and leave you two to be then.” As she was about to leave, she turned around and said to me, “I can tell he’s a good one.” she smirked and then gone ahead to fly off.

“Sorry about that, anyways, how old are you? I’m 20.” I asked, panicking and trying to change the topic.

“I’m 21. Oh, what do you do for work? I just wanted to know since you already know what I do.”

“I’m a gymnast coach. So~ tell me about Australia. What’s it like over there?”

Chapter 3: The Landslide

“Did you know in Australia we have a bird called a magpie that would rip your eyeballs out?” Mike said in his **quirky** Australian accent. I chuckled at it for a bit. I watched him fix the bridge, and I decided to build more conversation with him.

“Do you always talk that funny?” I said to him giggling. He turned around to face me.

“How do you mean?” he asked. I looked at him with big bright eyes hoping he’d notice me, but he wasn’t paying attention. He was so focused on building the bridge. *I’m right here, look at me!* I said to myself. It was getting a little dark out and I was getting cold. I was shivering from the cold when he turned to me and smiled.

“You cold?” he asked.

“Yeah, a little bit” I said still shivering. I watched him walk towards me. He reached for his jacket in his backpack, and he offered his jacket to me, I did a backflip so he wouldn’t see how red I was.

“Here.” He said, as he handed me the jacket “Put it on, its cold out here.” I smiled at him and took the jacket from his hands.

“Thank you, I appreciate it” I said as I put the jacket on. He then walked away to his tool kit and picked it up.

“Well, I’m all done here, it was really nice meeting you Bella, I hope to see you again soon.” He smiled and soon left; I stared until he faded away. I began to walk back to the village. As I was about to leave the bridge, I heard a large rumble in the distance, and I saw a huge landslide begin to take over the town. Clouds of dirt and dust start to cloud the village and all I can smell is dirt. I tried to squint my eyes, trying to find something to help me keep my balance. I grabbed onto the side of the bridge to keep steady when I felt a pair of hands around my waist. *It was Mike!*

“Hold on tight!” he yells. I listened and held onto him, as we waited for the landslide to finish, I could feel the earth around me shaking and I didn’t know how much longer I could

hold on for. Soon, the landslide had settled, I looked around at the town and saw that it was destroyed. I turned around to Mike looking worried.

Chapter 4: Rescue Amidst the Ruins

Mike and I ran from the bridge all the way to town. I scattered across the village and started to gather people in one place. Mike and I worked together to get everyone taken care of before the doctors arrived. People were in pain, and I didn't know how to take care of them. I did my best while we waited for the ambulances and nurses to arrive. I was helping a person needing aid as they were injured when Mike came up to me.

“Do you need me to lend a helping hand?” he asked, seeing how worried I was for the townspeople who were affected by the landslide. I turned to him and cracked a smile.

“Nope” I sighed “It is just a bit stressful that's all” I said sounding a bit worried. He walked up to me and tapped my shoulder then I did a backflip to cool my head a little.

“We'll do this together, okay? Right now, there's people who need more help than us, but all we can do is care for them until the doctors arrive. Can you do that?”. He said softly. I nodded and we walked back to the temporary campsite we had started to set up.

Chapter 5: The Overflowing Wards

I helped any remaining residents out of the soil and get them onto the back of Beatrice so they can be taken to the hospital. The firefighters and I **swept** the soil off the victims of the landslide. I got the rest of the people onto a bus and rushed them to the hospital. As I was finishing helping all the citizens get to hospital. A doctor ran up to me and pulled me aside.

“What’s wrong? Is everyone okay?” I asked frantically

“We’re terribly sorry but, our hospital rooms are full, we cannot take everyone in.”

“I’m sorry, what?” I stared at him in disbelief. “So, we’re just on our own? It’s your job to help citizens in need!” I shout, feeling myself get more and more frustrated.

I did a backflip to try and calm me down. I walked through the halls to see if there were any empty rooms. As I entered the **dazzling** lights rendered me blind and the sounds of babies crying made my ears ring. I overheard a few nurses talking to some patients.

“I’m sorry mate we can’t treat you because that hospital is full. Unless you want to pay extra for priority care.” a nurse suggested.

“But please, we are poor, we don’t have any money.” the patient begged desperately.

“Then wait.” she said as her forehead **wrinkled** out of frustration. The patient went back to his seat in the waiting room.

I asked the nurse “How many empty spaces are left?”

“None in basic, fifteen in the ICU and twelve in admission.” She says in response.

“And how many people are waiting?”

“Just about 67 patients.” She replied after quickly doing a head count.

“Can you leave at least 3 in priority care and fill the rest in with the people waiting since the beginning.” I called for.

“No! Why?! We will lose an opportunity to gain money!” she screamed

“You won’t get any money if they all die!” I screamed back as I gone ahead to walk away out of frustration.

“Hmph, that’s true.” She went and got the first 12 people that got here and moved them into priority care. Soon some of them came out because there were no doctors left.

“What happened?” I asked, “Why are most of them coming back?”

“Sadly, there are no more doctors” she replied, pity in her tone.

“WHAT! There are no doctors?!” I screamed as I was doing a backflip. I went to check, and all the doctors were taking care of two people at the same time.

Chapter 6: The Aftermath

What was once a lively, bustling city, is now surrounded and destroyed by mud and dirt. I glanced at Beatrice and her shiny green scales; she had a sombre look in her eyes and for some reason they made me feel uneasy, like she was aware of something that I wasn’t aware of.

“What should we do?” I whispered in a low tone while backflipping, but Beatrice was still able to hear me.

“What do you think we should do?” she paused “My healing powers are not as strong as they were 3000 years ago, I don’t know how to treat the entire village all at once.” I nodded and there's a slight cold breeze in the air and some of the dirt flew away. Some of my hair got caught in my mouth as I backflipped and the breeze became stronger. I saw more and more dirt and debris covering the remains of the village. All the memories got buried within it and I felt my eyes turn glossy knowing I may not be able to see the several acrobats' awards that both my students and I earned ever again. I turned my body slightly and saw Beatrice smiling happily, as if she's relived.

“Beatrice?” I called out. “Have you figured out a plan?” I said with some hope rushing back to me.

Will we be able to heal everyone in need? I asked myself. “Yes!” Beatrice announces blissfully and I feel myself rise from the pits of despair. “Oh my gosh! I knew you’d have a plan, Beatrice!” I smiled widely

“What’s the plan? Anything I can do to help?” Beatrice rested her eyes and started shaking her head

“I’m afraid not, Bella” Beatrice’s eyes looked more determined now and for some reason I felt a shiver go down my spine.

“Ah.” I paused, a little confused at the dragon's sudden change in tone “Okay, the entirety of the village trusts you.” I smiled.

“I’m afraid I must go and conduct the plan, I appreciate you and everything you have done, Bella, really.” She flashes me a warm smile and vanished into the air before I could say anything back.

It’s not unlike Beatrice to say sweet stuff but this time, I feel a slightly odd feeling that I can’t seem to shake off. The bridge I’m standing on creaks after every small movement I make and I saw tiny graffiti engraved onto the wooden parts of the bridge, most of them have **faded** due to the extreme landslide and I couldn’t help but think that multiple people’s core memories could be lost in such an amount of time.

But I knew Beatrice knows what she's doing, and I wouldn’t ever doubt her knowledge and solutions.



Chapter 7: The Sacrifice

The clouds set aside and the sun hovers closer to the horizon. The area is quiet, which makes me feel uneasy. Usually at this time, the children would go up a tiny mountain and watch the sky fade from blue, to orange, to black. Giggling and talking. But ever since that landslide, it feels like everyone, not just the children, have lost their spark. And now we're all relying on Beatrice once again to help us. I see a few cars park near the villages temporary camp site and I see everyone who didn't make it into hospitals.

The children look lost, confused, scared. Everyone else looks drained and tired and I feel myself start to get upset at the sight of it. I clap my hands together and backflip to gain the attention of everyone.

“Guys! Let's gather around and spend some time together before Beatrice comes, okay?”

A few children start cheering and running up to the middle of the camp and shortly after, majority of the village has joined and I can't help but smile, knowing I'm bringing happiness and hope to the once miserable children.

The sun sets more but not completely, and the sky has now turned into a hot pink colour. Suddenly, one of the children points up into the sky, I think nothing of it until 1 child turns into 10 people gazing into the sky. I finally look up and see a silhouette flowing gracefully in the sky. The silhouette I soon recognize is Beatrice. Her beautiful green scales go nicely with the sky, and I can hear children exchanging 'Oohs' and 'Ah's'. Suddenly I see Beatrice flowing towards us, twirling around us swiftly, and I don't think I've seen her been this fast. Shes an old dragon after all.

As she gets closer her movement speeds up, and if you listen close enough, you can understand how much she's struggling to keep up with her own speed. “Beatrice!” I shout. She's using way too much energy! As I watch Beatrice become weaker, I see everyone else

become stronger and healthier. Like she's giving her spark to them. Suddenly a big POP! Goes off, and Beatrice is no longer there, instead, there are light green sparkles scattered across the campsite. The same green Beatrice had for her scales. And suddenly I feel a sharp pang in my chest.

Chapter 8: The Stars

I slowly made my way to Beatrice's bridge as the streetlights cut out.

"Beatrice. No, Beatrice. You can't- You can't leave me." I whimpered. I kneeled on the ground begging for Beatrice to come back as tears were falling down my face. I cried and cried and then Mike came along and comforted me.

"Are you okay, Bella? Mike softly asked.

I was quiet for a while staring at the bridge which Beatrice lived under for thousands of years.

"No." I quietly responded, "I'm not."

Then Mike slowly leaned towards me and gave me a warm hug which made me cry even more. "It's okay, there, there, let it all out".

I cried even louder than before. "I miss her so much! I don't know what to do without her!" I cried. Mike hugged me even more tightly, we stayed liked this for ages until something caught his eye up in the sky.

"Hey, I know what else could help you remember Beatrice, look up at the stars" Mike mentioned, softly. As I looked up at the stars there was a constellation of a dragon, and I felt my eyes tearing up again. "Every time you need to think about Beatrice, just look up at the sky find this constellation and then all your problems will be gone". Mike said.

Mike words moved me, and I felt much better. “Thank you for all you have done Mike, I really appreciate it.” I smiled at him, and he smiled back. Then he took my hand and we both rushed back to town where everyone was still grieving. I went over to my neighbour in which I’ve known for many years. I sat beside her as she was weeping over the death of our dearly beloved Beatrice. I hugged her tightly then stood up.

“Everyone! Please, listen to me.” I start to say.

“Beatrice, loved, and I mean loved us, all of us. She loved us so much that she even gave her life to saves us! She sacrificed herself so that we could all live. She wanted us to have a life. A life where we would be happy and continue to be happy. We-” I hesitated, “We can’t waste what she’s done for us. And we certainly can’t forget what she’s done.” Tears fell down my cheek as I spoke.

“So, what are we going to do?!” Someone from the crowd called out.

“I’ll tell you what we’re going to do! We’re going to rebuild. We are going to fix our home and we’re going to make this place what it was before, no...” I paused, “We’re going to make it better!” I said full of emotion and passion.

Mike stood next to me, and I held his hand tightly. *We are going to make it through this.*

Chapter 9: Dragon Festival

“So that’s how I got to know your dad, and I must say he is very supportive, without him I could never make it this far”, I was so lost in my thoughts that I didn’t even realize that I backflipped and that Mike was standing at the doorway watching me backflip while leaning against the door, smirking. He fake coughed trying to get my attention, but failed as expected, then he decided to break the silence “Bella, why don’t you tell Luke about the Dragon

festival since we're leaving for the Dragon festival in like 30 mins", as soon as Mike started to speak, I hit reality and tears started to build up on the word 'Dragon', even though I was feeling very upset I still tried to explain the purpose of Dragon festival.

"The reason why we celebrate Dragon festival is so we can commemorate the sacrifice that Beatrice made for us. She raised me like her own daughter ever since your grandparents passed away, leaving me orphaned with no family." My voice became deep and grim, as I started to remember the nice moments I had with Beatrice. I can still picture her figure, her shiny green wings and her amber eyes, everything about her is so perfect, but I can't help being mad at her because the fact that she sacrifices her life and didn't even think about how I would feel to hear that she is now no longer going to be with me.


"I remember that when Beatrice was about to pass away, she told me to promise her that I would become a big gymnast and look now, I am London's number one gymnast," I had a big smile on my face but that smile faded as I said "What if Beatrice was here? She would be so happy." Mike came up to me as soon as he saw my eyes turn crystal clear because of the tears that were forming in my eyes, he sat next to me and rubbed my back in circles. It's been 7 years since Beatrice passed away and ever since that day Mike has always been by my side, he is my true love.

Chapter 10: The Show

I was looking at Mike with loving eyes while backflipping, but I could see the confusion on Mike's face which made me chuckle. "What, why are you laughing?". "Mike said completely confused, "Nothing, It's just..." I paused and took a deep breath and said, "I love you", he smirked at me, by the look he was giving me I could tell that he had something naughty going on in his mind, so before he could lay me down and hover over me I stopped him and

reminder him that Luke was still in the room as well. A few minutes later I got a call from my manager “Yes?” I answered, “Hi ma’am, are you ready? everyone is waiting,” my manager on the other end of the phone said as he was a little curious, “Yes I’m ready, we are coming,” I hung up and told Mike to start the car. In the car I do a backflip.

We got to the place and, my gosh, there were so many people, at one point I thought my heart was going to pop out of my chest, but as usual the love of my life grabbed by hand indicating me to not be so nervous. I went to the back of the stage and grabbed my outfit that I would be wearing for my performance today. I went to the changing room and as I was putting on the dress, I could feel the cold silk touching my soft skin, the silk was sending shivers down my spine. Once I was finished, I came out of the changing room and went to my manager, “Hey, am I late?” I said to my manager “No ma’am, you’re just on time.” As soon as he finished his sentence, the host called my name, I took a deep breath, went up on stage and did a backflip. A few seconds later the music started, my body was moving to the music’s beat and the lights were flashing according to the rhythm of the music. The entire world was watching me, but I didn’t let that push me down because I want Beatrice to be proud of me no matter where she is.



This bittersweet story is about a girl named Bella aswell as her losses and gains in life. As she experiences traumatic events and finds her significant other. The story also has multiple scenes in which we read about her incredible gymnastics skills. (Do not attempt what is contained in the book)

Recommended age for this book is 10+