

REELIN' In the Jackpot



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Illustrators: Monica Teichelman



THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT

WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC

DIVISION: Upper School

SCHOOL/GROUP: St Francis Catholic College (MELTON)

TEAM NAME: SFCC Melton 4

TEAM ID: 1291

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Fisherman

Primary character 2 Opera singer

Non-human character Eagle

Setting Surf club

Issue Winning the lottery

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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Prologue

CASEY

The warm stage lights hit me, and I bask in it. My dress sparkling against the tan walls of the Sydney Opera House. The applause showering me, further drowning me in the atmosphere. I had finally achieved my dream; what I had wished and prayed for since I was a little girl. The crowd cheering my name, "Casey Donnavan!", "Casey!" but then... it fades, "Casey." The vision of the Sydney Opera House slips away, and I find myself back on the stage of 'Crash n' Cruise.' Crash calls my name beyond the single person clapping.

"Casey, ya' sets done. Get off the stage, mate."

STANLEY (LEE)

The sun hits my skin as I watch along the glistening water, being disturbed by the gentle tug of my fishing rod, beckoning the fish below. The water sways the boat to a calm. Big Betty feels like home. She is the boat I've been dreaming of since I was a little boy. The horn of the ferry blares in my ears, the sun sets, and the boat sinks as rain hits my skin. This brings me back to reality. My old tin boat Betty is nothing like the boat I dream of: Big Betty. My tinny begins to leak, becoming too heavy. I need to go back to shore and drop the fish to the surf club.



Chapter One

Stanley (Lee)

The wooden boards creaked as I walk up the steps to the Crash n' Cruise surf club, one bucket filled with fish in each hand "Oi Lee" Crash says to me as I walk in. My name is Stanley, but everyone calls me Lee.

"How many fish did you reel in today?"

Crash is the owner of the Crash n' Cruise Surf Club, he opened it when he first moved to the town. Crash has sandy blonde hair and tanned skin, and is always smiling.

"67 fish overall," I say to Crash. Crash smiles at me and speaks, "With that many fish you're on your way to winning the Crash n' Cruise lotto, The more fish you catch the more tickets you earn"



“And thank God for that,” I say,

“I’ve been working hard to replace my old boat, Betty,”

Betty has been a good boat to me but throughout my years of fishing good old Betty’s worn down.

“It’ll be good to get a new boat after fishing so long, Lee,”

Everyone at the surf club calls me Lee, I guess I am kind of known around here as the fish whisperer.

“It really will.”

I say, I can already imagine the taste of success after winning the lotto, watching the horizon from the distance and the smell of the salty water engulfing my senses. Crash’s voice snaps me out of my thoughts with an offer

“Lee, you’ve been working so hard. How about an extra couple of tickets?”

“I couldn’t,” I say

“I don’t want to take away someone’s chance if I get special treatment.”

Crash insists, “Cmon Lee you’re already going to win in the end, you have the most fish out of anyone here”

“I couldn’t,” I insist

“I already have the most experience when it comes to fishing here, I don’t want to gain more of an advantage over everyone else.”



An operatic voice comes from the oak wood stage in the clubhouse, standing there in the middle of the stage is a young woman in a dark purple dress with flowing red hair.

"I told her, her set's finished!" Crash scoffs. He quickly runs off to conclude her singing.



Chapter Two

Casey

As I stand in the centre of the stage light, I go to sing another song when Crash walks towards me.



"I told you this before Casey, you can't go over your set time. Besides you're not earning tickets for it." he scorns.

"You can only earn tickets by fishing!" Crash rolls his eyes.

"Can I please just have an exception?"

"Look, I need to win this! My dream is to sing at the Sydney Opera House!"

Crash gives me a stern look.

"I said this to you once, and I'll say it again. You cannot not sing for tickets!"



Crash walks off and returns to Lee sitting down at the tables near the back. Once Crash walks off and is distracted I pack up the mic and walk outside. The fresh air clears my senses and like a lightbulb, I get the idea to sing outside the surf club. I set the mic back up again and start to sing. I imagine people as they start to crowd me around and cheer, they sway to the melodies as I sing, until finally, I'm up on the bright stage, singing in the Sydney Opera House in a **dazzling** outfit in front of crowds of people. Suddenly someone taps me on the shoulder and snaps me out of it.

Crash looks at me with wide eyes and shouts.

"I told you to stop singing! Your sets done"

"This is my dream! You don't know what \$500,000 will do for me. I want to sing!"

I reply.

"Get out! You will never make it big! Why don't you try fishing for once" Crash tears the mic from my hands, and storms back inside.



Chapter Three

Casey

In the back of my mind, I know it's childish, but I'm so mad that I keep muttering to myself that Crash is just jealous of my voice. I make my way to the docks, but before I make it, I hear footsteps coming from behind. I turn around to see Lee, his face **wrinkled** with age and skin tanned from the Australian sun.

"What do you want?"

I roll my eyes wanting to sit at the end of the peninsula and clear my head, he becomes a little sheepish in response to my attitude.

"I was going to say I could teach you how to fish, help you get a few extra tickets..."

"Thanks, but I haven't got time to waste on finishing, I've got a dream to catch, not fish," I say with determination clear in my voice.

"You'll get more tickets with fish than singing mate, no one is keen to hear opera at a beach know?" I scoff at his words offended

"And like you would know anything? You don't understand music as I do, people just don't understand art here." He shrugs

"Yeah well, they understand fishing. C'mon, just for an hour tomorrow, I have a spare rod you can have to fish."



I think about it for a moment not sure what to do, a few tickets do sound great...
how hard could fishing be?

“Fine, meet here tomorrow?” I roll my eyes, and he smiles nodding as I walk away.

It's the next day, we set off from a beach not too far from Crash N' Cruise, one of the more popular beaches in the area.

“You're supposed to cast out the line unlocked, then lock it so the line stays tight. Like this.” He said whilst casting it out, the bells tied to his rod jingling.

I watched as he did, following his action a little unsure but managing to cast it far enough, smiling proud of myself.

“And always be careful not to tangle with someone Else's rod, it happens to the best of us.” He pauses for a moment and looks at me.

“Y'know, for an opera singer, you've got some potential as a fisherman, you could do well.” I laugh not taking him seriously.

“Yeah well, in another world, my dream is to sing at the Sydney Opera House, so I need the money for plane tickets. I would never dream of fishing on a tinny boat all day, smelling like fish.” I blurt out before gasp with a wave of guilt
“Sorry... that was mean, what would you do with the money...?”

He thought for a moment and sighed, “I would buy Big Betty, my dream boat. One that I could sail for hours and catch so many more fish on.” He said smiling softly and I stared at him, surprised.



“Oh... that... that sounds really nice. ‘Stanley the fisherman, who fishes on big betty’. I chuckle to myself at the thought.

“It does, doesn't it...” he returns the gesture before we both let out gasps of shock, my line beginning to tug as to try to reel it in.



Chapter Four

Stanley (Lee)

Casey and I were out at sea after finding the perfect spot for fishing. She's feeling quite nervous because this is out of her comfort zone. Yet, she is slowly loosening herself up, am an amazing instructor, if I do say so myself, showing her how to cast her line and how to put bait onto the hook. The water rocks my precious Betty along the coastline, the wind running through our hair. All is well and we were catching lots of fish. I explain that when my bucket is full, we will head back to the port at the surf club to drop off the fish and then go back out to fish some more. However, on one of the trips back, Casey and I discover that the fish we caught are not at Crash n' Cruise, our fish are being stolen...But by who?



"Lee, who would want to take all our fish? We worked so hard" Casey said, the situation confusing both of us.

"I'm not too sure Casey, I mean why would someone do that? It's so mean."



We are both very confused but decide not to let it bother us. We row back out on the water and began fishing again. Suddenly we are attacked by Eddie the Eagle, as he **swept** down towards Betty, stealing our fish.

“That's it, that's who has been stealing our fish!” Exclaims Casey.

Suddenly it begins to bucket down with rain. The wind grows stronger, and the water becomes restless. Eddie takes another dive at my boat stealing more of our fish which we worked hard to get. Eddie squawks proudly at his accomplishment knowing that now he has the most fish out of everyone in town. With one final swoop, Eddie goes to take the last of the fish, but he hit Casey out of the boat in the process, This sends her into the cold ocean without a life jacket.

“Lee this is all your fault! If you didn't have a run-down boat with no safety equipment I wouldn't be floating in the middle of the sea!” I scream. I can't believe what just happened.

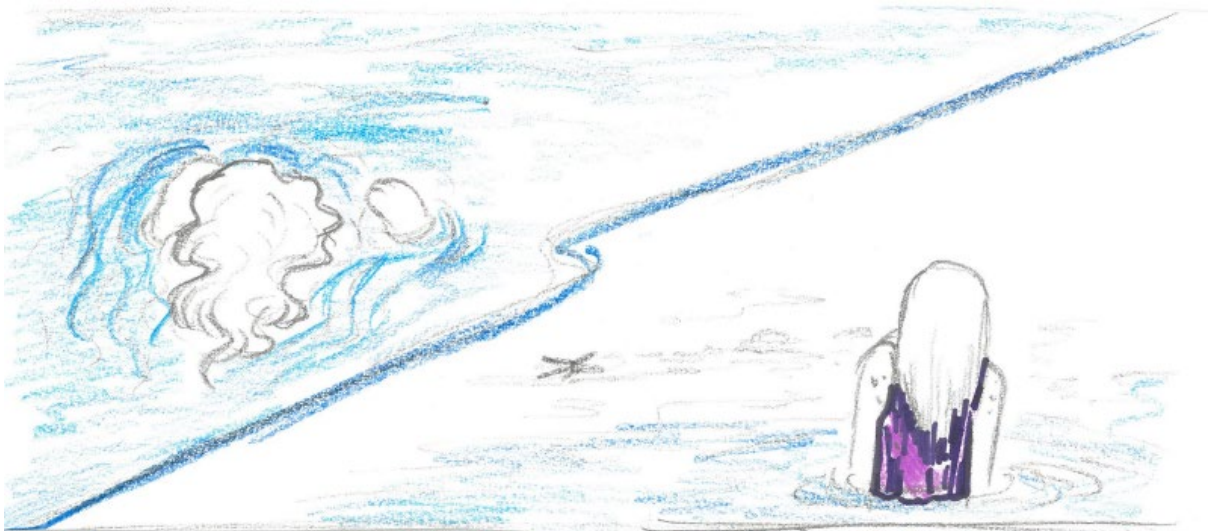


Chapter Five

Casey

"I'm done with fishing, and I'm done with this dumb boat!"

With that, I start to swim and swim and swim. Lee tries calling out to me but with my head underwater, it was no use. I'm furious at what just happened. I got knocked out of a tinny by Eddie the Eagle and now I'm forced to swim back to the beach in the freezing water.



My new purple dress will be ruined by the salt water, and it's all Lee's fault. My beautiful purple dress. I finally reach the shore, and I'm just so exhausted I can't move. I'm lying all alone on the beach, sand stuck in the sequins of my dress, before I hear a familiar sound in the distance. It's Eddie. The second last thing I want to see.

"What do you want Eddie?"



Eddie squawks. He may not be able to speak but I can still understand him.

“Look, Eddie, I don't want to talk to you right now. I spent all my money on my new dress, I got told that my dream of going to the Opera House is silly, and you took all my fish so now I won't be in the running for the prize money. I need more fish, but you already took them all.”

I have a sad look on my face, but sigh and get myself up. I pace on the beach for a bit to understand my emotions. I'm still so angry at Lee. It's his fault that I fell in, his boat sucks and it's not very safe. I'm stuck on what to do until an amazing idea pops up in my head.

“Eddie! I have an idea. You stole the fish from the boat, right? So why can't you take some more fish from Lee? If you do it means that I have a chance to win. If I do win, I will happily spare some fish for you. This is perfect”

With that, I make a deal with Eddie and we set off with a common goal. To win the lottery.



Chapter Six

Casey

I followed Eddie as he flew above me, constantly turning back for me to keep up with him. He led me to a secluded area under the peninsula, probably 10 rock pools all filled with dead fish. Eddie knew what he was doing apparently.

"This is perfect, Eddie, absolutely perfect." I say pointing at our plan. I make my way up to the surf shop, trying to convince Crash to lend me some buckets so I can cash in my newfound treasures for another kind of treasure, one I would like more.



"Casey, I don't know what you need the buckets for, you're not a fisher" Crash says with a slight eye roll.

"No, I swear, I only need a few buckets. Please." He sighs and nods. Victory. I make the trek back down to the rock pools where Eddie waits, happily snacking on a fish. I begin pilling the fish into the buckets, scrunching my nose and my hands tense, my dress is already ruined, not much else to lose now.



“You’ll be rewarded nicely for this Eddie, I promise” I get a ‘squawk’ back before he starts to fly around the peninsula, swooping under it and right by my head.

“All the fish you want,” I promise as I attempt to wipe my hands off the fish slime onto my dress, only to be met by dry sand and a wet dress. Why did this friendship have to start with me falling into the water? And why did it have to be my new dress? But that’s not the point, the point is that with Eddie getting his fish and me bringing these buckets in, I’ll be set to win.



Chapter Seven

Stanely Lee

As I walk up the dock, the bucket in my hands is lighter than usual. I walk towards Crash n' Cruise's, I look down knowing there isn't nearly as much as there normally. Seeing the measly number of fish in my bucket I keep my head down, I walk past the other fishermen and their filled buckets.

"Lee! You got a big load today?"

Asks Todd, one of the friendlier fishermen.

"Mate, I haven't had this little fish since I started fishing back in 54"



I shake my head slowly and try and laugh it off, but we all know it's the truth. He looks back at me and pats me on the shoulder, I give him a half-smile. I walk into Crash n' Cruise, I look around for Crash so I can trade my fish in for the tickets. Out of the corner of my eye, I spot Casey getting ready to perform here tonight This surfer's club isn't much compared to where she wants to be, performing at the Sydney Opera House, but I think it's good that she is working towards her dream. I focus my attention back on finding Crash, I spot him as he walks past a couple of tables nearby. So I quickly catch up to him, Crash has always struck me as a bit odd and **quirky** for opening this place up all those



years ago, but he's a good guy to have as a mate. I hand him my pitiful bucket of fish; it really is not much compared to my usual overfilled buckets.

"Only three? You feelin' alright mate?" He asks out of genuine concern, I shrug.

"Felt like I caught more than this but... I guess not." I say as I look back down at my bucket.

"Not much I can do about it now anyways, today is the last day to get tickets, isn't it?" I ask even though I already know it is.

"Yeah, it is mate, sorry, I can only give you three tickets..." he says as he also looks back down at the three fish I gave him. I look around and I see a big bucket of fish sitting just next to the door, I wonder who caught all of those fish.

"Who caught those fish?" I ask curiously, glancing between the bucket and Crash.

"Casey did!" He says excitedly, I look back at him in a slight shock

"Casey did?" I ask confused.

"Yeah mate, all those lessons you gave her must have helped her." He says proudly, looking at her.

"What?! She... she didn't do the lesson fully, she... what?" I stare at him in shock.



Chapter Eight

Casey

Lee walks to me looking deflated. He knows something's not right. I kept singing, finishing my song. I step off the stage and am face to face with Lee. Honestly, I feel bad that I'm hurting him. This whole time I had been so caught up in winning that I don't know why I'm feeling this guilty about cheating, But I am.

"I see you've improved on your fishing," Lee says.

"I couldn't have done it without you," I remark.

His face **faded** and I knew I had to tell him the truth. Lee knew I couldn't fish. I thought this whole ruse with Eddie would help me win, but it's not making me feel like a good person.

"Well, good luck. Although, you won't need it seeing how things are going with you and your expert fishing skills" I can tell Lee is lying he turns away.

"Wait!" I call, Lee looks back at me.

"It was me," I sigh "I stole your fish!"

"I'm sorry... I just wanted to win... and have the money to go to the Opera house."



Lee looks back up at me, There is disappointment in his eyes as he hands me his fishing rod. Lee shakes his head, I feel myself begin to cry. I think he's going to explode, but he doesn't. Instead, he continues to shake his head.

"Well mate, you gotta learn how to fish now. Gotta earn what you stole," he laughs.

I smile and wipe the tears away. I take the tickets out of my pocket and give them to Lee.

"You should have these. They're your fish. You caught them anyway," Lee takes the tickets and looks me in the eyes.

"I mean, with the effort you put into stealing my fish, could've caught them yourself."

We both laugh.

"What are you going to do with the money?" I ask.

"I think I have an idea..."



Chapter Nine

Stanley (Lee)

“Heads” I call out, as Eddie comes swooping down, Casey ducks her head. Eddie squawking is all we hear before another fish lands in the pile we’ve been collecting since the early morning hours, Big Betty sure does have a whole lot more room than my beloved Betty.

“C’mon Eddie, Go and grab some more for us, yeah?” Casey yells out as Eddie flies away again. She’s come a long way, and she knows it.

“Casey”

She spins around, a smile plastered on her face, she had caught a fish by herself for the first time today and she’s still on a high after it.

“You’ve been doing so well lately. This past month has been great for you” She nods along with what I’m saying, still smiling.

“I know you miss singing at the club during the lunch rush, so I got you something”

I reach into the pocket of my overalls and pull out an envelope that is sealed in a plastic bag, don’t want it to get wet on a day like this. Handing it over I see her smile widen.

“Really?!” She squeaks, written on the envelope is: *‘Follow your dreams kid’* And that only means one thing to her.



“You’re going to Sydney kid” She hugs me as the last words escape my mouth.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you!” She squeals as she jumps up and down around the boat. The fish Eddie had dropped off before falling to the floor with a sudden movement. Then she lets out a different type of squeal, one of slight disgust and amusement, Eddie had come back with no warning and dropped a fresh fish right on top of her head. All I can do is laugh as she runs around the boat, Eddie flying in a circle, clearly thinking it’s a game. Oh, how far she’s come.



Epilogue

Once again, I feel the stage lights warm the room. My new bright purple dress, flushed against the tan walls as I bask in the crowd's energy, the applause pushing the energy toward the stage. I may not be up there but for once, I feel at home. The little girl in me is beaming as the audience stands to give the singer a standing ovation. I smile proudly, one step closer to my dream.

My new boat Big Betty shines in the afternoon sunlight as the water glistens at me. I watch the boat's reflection against it with 'Big Betty' painted on the side. The sea salt hits my nostrils as a fish splashes out of the water. I try to reel in it, the little bugger's fighting me when suddenly, Eddie swoops in, the fish flying into the boat as he returns to my side. "Y'know, you aren't so bad, are you mate?" I smile, chuckling as he squawks in reply. Eddie nuzzles his beak into my shoulder. We both know we will fish for years to come.



Reelin' in the Jackpot

Down at the 'Crash n' Cruise Surf Club' the Quirky surfer, Crash is raising money with a lottery worth a whopping \$500,000! Everyone thought the local fisherman Stanley (but everyone calls him Lee) would win due to the number of tickets his fish bought him, and his wrinkled hands carrying in buckets a day, Lee was beginning to think his once-faded dreams of owning a new boat would come true.

That was until Casey the opera singer and Eddie the eagle swept in and decided to take the "chances" of the lottery into their own hands...

follow Stanley and Casey on their journey to win the prize and make their dazzling dreams come true through a tale of betrayal and cunning plans that lead to an unlikely friendship and a trip to the Sydney opera house.

