

COASTAL COUNTY

Written and illustrated by And Leland





Write a Book in a Day



THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT

Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: VIC

DIVISION: Middle School

SCHOOL/GROUP: Catholic Regional College Melton (MELTON)

TEAM NAME: CRC Melton Junior Team 1

TEAM ID: 1280

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 Lifeguard

Primary character 2 Mysterious stranger

Non-human character Necklace

Setting Rockpool

Issue Ability to be invisible

Random words

..... Tiptoe

..... Fresh

..... Community

..... Delight

..... Bruised

INSTRUCTIONS

- Start at 8am
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above), 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**

Team: Junior Team 1 CRC Melton

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Dedication and Acknowledgments

This book is dedicated to everyone in the world actually, we're not exclusive like that. And Leland would like to thank our mums. We would like to thank butchers, bakers and candlestick makers across this beautiful country. We would like to thank our radical teachers for supporting us through the day. We would also like to thank our mums. Love life, or don't, do you boo. On behalf of And Leland we would all like to thank all that donated to support The Kids Cancer Project and all the super star kids. We hope you enjoy our book.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land which we live and work on today. We pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Reviews:

“Wow, this book is actually really good, like no cap you guys”

- Alanis Furtado (your swagger guru)

“I heart Leland”

- Shekinah Cabral (a true companion)

“Pretty good”

- Ollie “the visionary” Emin

“4 and a half stars”

- Karina with no last name

“Wow guys this book is like so totally “fetch”

- Tra My “DogFrog”

Chapter 1: Coastal County's Hero

Coastal County is described as a lot of things, cute, cozy, mundane and boring. The close-knit **community** knew everything about everyone around them, it was impossible not to. But there was something they didn't know, a secret that had protected their beloved town for years...

The year was 1951, Sam Leland was the new lifeguard at the town beach, 'Coastal County's Hero' they used to call him,

"Gee I'm not all that" he'd say with a wide grin across his face. Sam walked along the rock pools by the beach, it was his favourite spot in all of Coastal County. He sat there, keeping a close eye on some of the town's youngsters splashing each other by the shore, not very many people needed saving at the beach since all the townspeople were practically raised in the sea, so he tried to help out as much as he could around the town. One day, Sam spotted something sparkling in one of the rock pools, he gently picked it up and examined it. It was a conch shell necklace, although he'd never seen one quite like this before. He picked it up, held it to his ear, and listened to the ocean,

"Chosen," it whispered. He was startled at first,

"The Sun's getting to me" he laughed and then slung the necklace around his neck unaware of the fact that he was now invisible.



Chapter 2: The Lifeguard

“Coastal County,” read the faded blue-yellow sign swinging on the sturdy, but tired wooden frames. The town was filled with cutesy mum-and-pop shops that welcomed you in with open arms. When you entered the town, it felt like a dreamy haze swept you up and let you down gently onto the soft, sun-kissed sand. The clear blue waves swayed with the wind, back and forth, back and forth, a quick breeze brushed sand into Keira’s eyes which were like the reflection of the sun shining down on her. Keira was used to sand being in her eyes now, as she spent most days working as a lifeguard at Leland Beach. She loved her town’s beach, and she loved her town. She was awakened from her daydreaming, not even realising she was swaying in time with the waves, losing her balance she toppled to the ground. It was almost like she was in synch with the beach. She felt the sand on her scalp, it she was used to it by now. She smiled to herself, laying on the ground for a while, she then noticed her leg, **bruised** up from hitting the rock-pool rocks. She laughed to herself, fondly remembering all the times she had told the local kids to be careful near the rock pools.



Chapter 3: Shell

As she continued wandering through the rock pools, a glimmer in between the dark, grey, cool rocks caught her eye. Hiding in between the rough, jagged rock pools was a beautiful and pristine conch shell. The warm cream and peachy colours stood out amongst the gloomy and dark rocks, it would have been impossible to ignore. The shell intrigued Keira, it drew her in subconsciously, she couldn't resist its pull. The conch was hypnotic and mesmerising, its magical pull infected her brain, and its calling was not able to go unnoticed by those it wanted to draw in. Keira wasn't aware that she was reaching toward it, her mind was blank as the shell whispered to her.

“Chosen”

Before she knew it the shell was in her hand. As she examined it more closely she noticed it was attached to a long piece of rope which was tied to be worn as a necklace. The shell continues whispering to her, convincing her to wear the necklace. But she knew, even through all of the shell's hypnotic persuasion, that it wasn't right. She was able to snap out of the shell's spell and come back to her senses. This wasn't her necklace, a person must have been exploring the rock pools earlier in the day and dropped it without noticing. She was not a thief and besides, what if it's owner came back the next day to look for it? She turned around with the shell in her closed fist and began to **tiptoe** around the sharp rocks to make her way to the life guards tower to put it with many other lost items in the local lost and found box.

As she turned around she saw an old man wearing outdated yellow board shorts walking slowly in her direction. She didn't think much of it and thought he was just a local going for an evening walk on the beach which is very common at this time of year, the weather is perfect and all the noisy families have gone home. She smiled and waved to him and he waved back. As she got closer he started walking directly towards her as he began to start a conversation.

“Hello young lady. What's a girl like you doing out on the beach at this time? Don't you have a boyfriend's house you should be at?” He asked Keira, slightly giggling at his own attempt at a joke. Keira didn't find it amusing at all, there was so many other funny and more creative jokes he could have made but to be polite, she laughed with him.

“No, no boyfriend for me but I don't need one. I love the beach more than I could ever love a person. I'm actually a lifeguard here and I'm just packing up. I'm nearly done, all I have to do now is put this bad boy in the lost and found and then I'll be on my way.” She explains while holding up the necklace for the old man to see.

“That's nice darling. I'm out here looking for my necklace that I lost earlier and I think you might've found it for me. Mind if I have a closer look?”

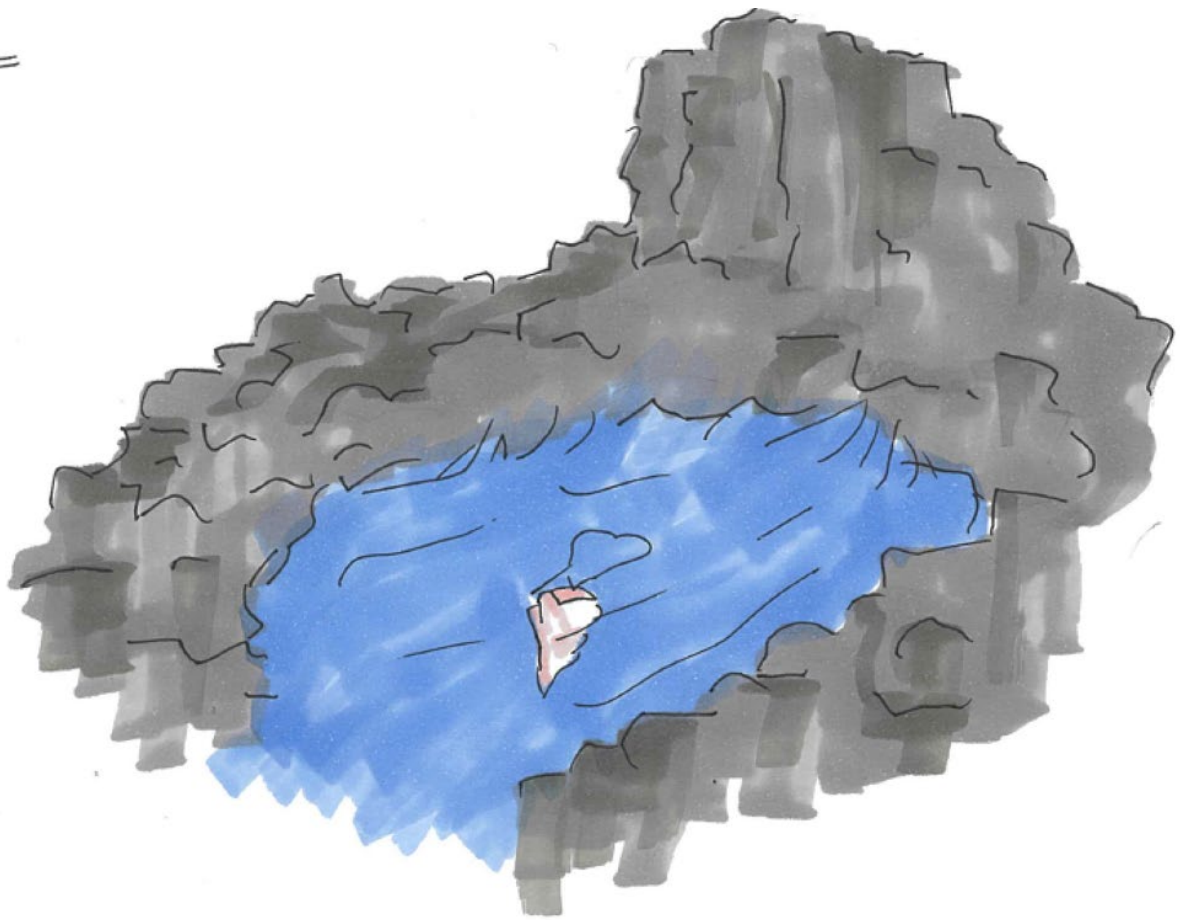
“Yeah go for it,” Keira replied as she handed the necklace to him

“Deary I think you might've done my work for me. Thank you for saving a old man's time and his back.” He said gratefully as he laughed at his own terrible joke again.

“No problem sir, it's my job. Have a nice evening.” Keira said cheerfully as she continued walking back to the town streets.

“*What a nice way to end the day*” Keira thought to herself, smiling.

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Chapter 4: Rico & Heather

The wind was howling as the waves were clashing against each other, today was a pretty laid back day, barely anyone was at the beach. Keira was sitting on her lifeguard post just waiting for some action to happen and then she saw two kids waddling along the sandy beach. There was a little girl with a red cap trying to control her wild, brown, frizzy hair and a little boy hiding behind a huge afro. Keira yelled to them saying

“Hey, what are you doing? It’s not good to swim or make a sandcastle under these conditions!”

The little girl replied

“Um we are doing a school project and we need some shells to complete it,” she said as she waved around a blue bucket.

Keira got off her lifeguard post and went up to the two kids and called out to them

“I’ll help you out!”

She started walking towards them and she asked what their names were, the little girl replied

“My name is Heather and this is my little brother Rico.”

“They have the cutest, biggest grins across their faces” Keira thought to herself.

They started collecting seashells and Keira began to admire how beautiful they were with all their different shapes and colours. As they were walking with their bucket with only 5 shells, the waves washed over an assortment of shells, it was almost like the ocean was helping them. Rico and Heather rushed down to grab all of them and put them into the bucket. Then Keira realised that all the shells were the same, they were all conch shells. She was a bit stunned, but shrugged it off. They had only walked a few steps when another wave washed over some more shells, all conch shells.

“Look at all these shells, Rico! We are going to have the best project ever!” squealed Heather.

Rico and Heather didn’t really notice or care that they were conch shells because in the end they just wanted some shells for their school project but Keira was very confused. She then realised that the shells looked exactly alike from the one she found at the rock-pool.

She turned to look at the waves and saw a flash of bright yellow and just stood there in confusion.



Chapter 5: Sunny Side Up

Sunny Side Up Diner was the heart and soul of the town, a popular hang out spot for all of the towns folk. It has the cutest little green plants hanging at the entrance and made you always feel at home. Keira sits next to the window looking out to all the families sitting together at the rustic wooden chairs and all the kids sitting at the tall wobbly stools. She wondered what to order, the options are endless from toast with bacon and egg to the sweet pastries and other tasty **delights**. She felt a happy and relieved feeling while she ordered a coffee alongside Luke's famous pancakes with **fresh** fruit. Memories of her younger self swept across her mind filling her with warmth and comfort like a giant hug. The diner hasn't changed since she was a kid. The unsecured wooden sign with the faded painted words 'Sunny Side Up Diner' was still there as well as the painting of the Leland beach which her grandfather drew for the diner when she was 7 was also still displayed.

"Here's your coffee and pancakes" says Luke.

"Thanks Luke!"

Luke then frowned and said

"I need to go out and pick my son up from school, could you mind the diner? You're the only one that I trust."

Keira replied

"Of course, don't worry about a thing, tell George that I said hi."

Keira was then left alone in the diner and a customer came up to the register.

"Hi could I please get a mushroom soup please?"

Keira told the customer,

"Luke isn't here at the moment but I could definitely make that for you."

Keira then went to the kitchen and then started preparing some mushroom soup. The aroma enticed her and she wanted to taste a spoonful so badly but she resisted. She served the customer and then went back to her seat.

While she ate she thought about all the kids at the beach and how much it made her happy when she helped them collect seashells. Tired, she yawns, looking around at the people in her **community**. she smiles and sips her coffee. Helping people gave her so much joy. She turned her head to the empty table, she hadn't seen an empty table at Sunny Side Up Diner ever. She tilts her head with confusion. She blinked her eyes for a quick second and she noticed coffee being poured into mug with the jug floating in the air.

"Maybe I'm just tired" she whispered under her breath while wiping her eyes. She looks at the clock checking the time.

"Back to work" she said rushing out the door.



Chapter 6: Banana yellow swim trunks

Keira watched the waves, back and forth, back and forth, it was hard not to get hypnotised by the rhythmic crashing of the sea.

“The waves are are sick today, ey?” She says to herself, surprised more people weren’t out on the surf. She finally spots a vintage wooden board tearing up the waves,

“sick, ey?” She whispered to herself. Trying to get a glimpse of the surfer, she then see’s the bright banana yellow swim trunks.

“Far out...” she exclaimed.

“Surfs up Keira! Cowabunga!” Said a deep douche voice.

“*Nahhhhhh, can’t be*” Keira thought to herself.

“I must be delirious.” She said out loud, her hand on her forehead.

“Did you see that!?” Kiera almost jumped

“Um, what?” She asked

“Tanya Tanner, the County Gazette” explained the stranger, aggressively shaking Keira’s hand.

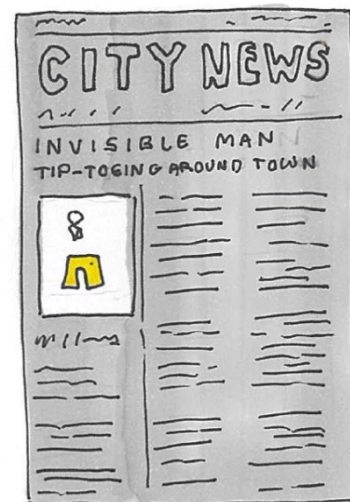
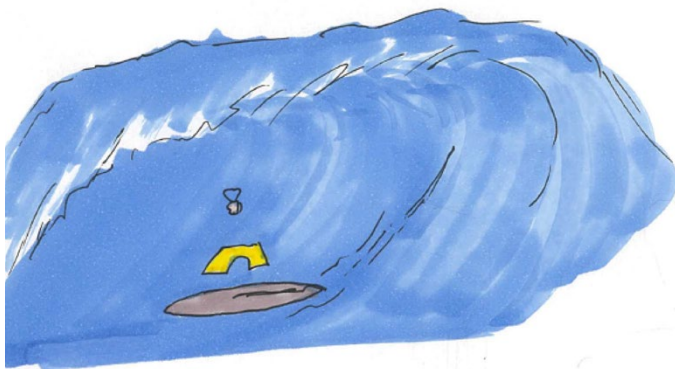
“So what’s the scoop?” She exclaimed, excitement in her eyes.

“The scoop?” Keira asked confused

“The mysterious stranger? The invisible man! We’ve been following your story missy, and finally evidence!” She said grasping a photograph.

“You know nothing ever happens around our little Costal County, well I thought I’d have to move to Adelaide just to find a story, to Adelaide! Now I’m gonna march right up to town hall with this photo, with you as my witness!”

She began dragging Keira to the town hall, before she had a chance to say anything.



Chapter 7: Town Meeting

By the time Tanya and Keira had reached the town hall, word had already gotten out. When they stepped inside, Keira was immediately bombarded with questions from concerned townspeople.

“WHO IS THIS MAN?, WE CAN’T LET HIM JUST TERRORISE OUR TOWN! HE MUST BE STOPPED!”

Keira was startled, but regained her cool again after a minute or two.

“Everybody, stay calm, all we know is this figure, this ‘invisible man’ hasn’t done anything yet, yeah?”

“BUT HE WILL!” Tanya shouted, hyping up the mob.

“Yeah I don’t think-” Kiera began, before she was cut off by Tanya again

“HE HAS COME FOR OUR TOWN AND HE WILL COME FOR YOUR CHILDREN NEXT!” she shouted, dramatically pointing at Rico and Heather.

“Look everyone just calm down and go home, I will personally look into this, we will all be fine.”

“Sure, fine...” Tanya said eyeing Keira.

“Everybody just go home.” Keira said tired of the back and forth, with Tanya.



Chapter 8: The Invisible man

After the town meeting, Rico and Heather were so intrigued by the invisible man and decided to go find him. They ran off without their parents permission and started bolting towards the beach, curious to find the invisible man. Back at the beach, Keira was just sitting on the lifeguard post making sure everyone was safe and then she recognised Rico and Heather running across the sand and splashing in the waves. Keira remembered her childhood when she was their age just having fun at the beach and got a sense of déjà vu. She looked across at the beach checking to see if everyone was fine and having fun, when she saw in the deep blue water, Rico and Heather getting dragged out to sea towards the sharp rocks. Keira panicked, THEY WERE IN THE RIP! She grabbed her surfboard and started running as fast as she could. She couldn't believe how much had just happened in a few seconds. She started paddling out to them and as she got closer she could hear their screams become louder and louder. She then realised she had to rescue both of them by herself and could only rescue them one at a time. She grabbed Rico because he was the youngest and was petrified as he came closer to the big sharp rocks. She called out to Heather

“Try and stay calm, I'll grab you as soon as possible!” Keira was out of breath and just managed to get Rico out of the water and then all of a sudden she saw a flash of yellow and in a split second she saw Heather standing on the shore with a pair of yellow floating board shorts and a conch shell necklace. Keira couldn't grasp what had just happened, why is there a floating pair of board shorts? How is Heather still alive and on the shore? Is this the same strange being that had been talked about in the town meeting? She realised that the pair had come over to her and Rico, what was going on?



Chapter 9: Sam Leland

Keira stood there in astonishment and didn't notice the kids running off to their parents as the invisible man started to speak to her.

“Hello I'm Sam Leland. My apologies I didn't intend to frighten you, you might know me as the 'Invisible Man' and I have been watching you, sorry that sounds creepy but I have been trying to find a worthy successor. you see I am the previous life guard of Leland Beach and I am now the 'metaphorical' life guard- I protect the whole town of Coastal County with the help of my necklace, this conch shell necklace has been passed down from generations of life guards and now I will pass it down to you.”

Keira was in absolute shock but it started to click in her mind, she couldn't believe what she was hearing, it sounded like something out of a dream.

“This conch necklace protects the entire town and without it, Coastal County will cease to exist.”

Keira felt like she was in a fever dream and tried to pinch her self to see if she was dreaming or this was actually real life.

“You see, Coastal County was founded by a man named Fredrick Coates and he was on an expedition with his friends and he found a conch necklace and put it around his neck so he could take it home as a souvenir.” Sam Leland said while softly chuckling.

“By putting it on, the entire Coastal County just magically appeared. The conch necklace then whispered in his ear.

“Take care of Coastal County and protect it with all of your heart.”

“That's how The County came to be, now it is being passed onto you to fulfil the duty of the Coastal County lifesaver. Also you become invisible when you wear the necklace to maintain humbleness.”

“Eh, yeah right...” Keira said

“Congrats young lady, farewell and make us lifeguards proud, I'll be watching over you in the lighthouse, good luck!”

He placed the necklace over Keira's neck and she saw before her, an old man with banana yellow board shorts. Keira couldn't believe what had happened but in her heart, she promised to continue the legacy of Sam Leland.



Chapter 10: Legacy

It was a few days later and Keira was still in disbelief about what had happened. It was a lot to take in but luckily it was a quiet day at the beach and she was able to gather her thoughts and what this all meant. Suddenly there was 2 little hands on Keira's back and a little sweet voice to go along with them.

"Boo!" The voice exclaimed with excitement and laughter

"Oh my goodness! Oh I think I'm gonna have a heart attack! Oh no!" She replies sarcastically as she collapses to her knees.

"Yay I scared you!"

"Yes Heather, yes you did. What are you doing out at this time? Aren't you meant to be in school?"

"Maybe" Heather replied while giggling

"Heather you shouldn't do that! You know you could get in a lot of trouble" She told the kid, not trying to hide any concern in her voice.

"Well my teacher started asking us what we want to be when we grow up and told us that we should go find a role model so I came to find you cause I want to be a life guard just like you when I grow up." Heather said proudly gleaming.

"Do you really? It is a really fun job and you get to stay on the beach all day but it's also a lot of work and has a lot of responsibilities"

"Well I want to help people and play on the beach all day so it's the perfect job for me!" Heather explained gladly.

"I guess it is. Heather there's something I have to tell you and it's really important."

"What is it?" Heather questioned, still beaming with happiness and pride

She knew this was going to break the child's heart which was the last thing she wanted to do. Heather was so happy, she was so innocently grinning and was so joyous but as much as she didn't want to ruin this for her, Keira knew she had to tell her.

"You might not see me around much anymore. I have to go do something and I'm gonna be away for a long long time. But there's one thing I really want you to remember, no matter what, I'm always going to be here with you. Even if you can't see me I'll be there watching over you."

As she was telling Heather, the joy in her eyes slowly faded away. Heather wasn't as lively and visible tears were forming in here eyes.

"I'm sorry Heather, I know this is a lot but I have a new job I have to do." Keira gently says, just as upset as the kid. She gives the small child a long warm, gentle, loving hug. She didn't want to leave her little friend but she knew she would have to at some point in time and there's no time better than in the moment.

"You should go Heather. Remember, you might not see me but I'll be there with you no matter what. Goodbye" she told her, her voice breaking with tears streaming down her face.

"Goodbye Keira" Heather managing to squeak out through her tears as she began to slowly walk away backwards before sprinting back to the streets of Coastal County, undoubtedly going to find her parents.

Standing on the warm, golden sand always helps her calm down and think which is exactly what she needed in the moment. It's beautiful, serene, peaceful and most importantly, it's her home. It's not possible to ever get tired of the beach. Or surfing (if you're good at it that is), but for Keira it's all about the people. They're her family and friends, her **community** and her people. If she's not with them then she's lost. Even when little Heather

and Rico grow up and new generations make this town their own, she'll still be there because no matter what, Coastal County is her home.

Sam Leland was finally able to rest. Well, he was still helping people but he worked in the lighthouse instead of on the beach. He was an old man after all and he deserved a break. After many years of seeing the sunset from a surfboard in the ocean, for the first time he was able to see it from a different, much taller perspective. His little desk, covered with old relics and photographs, at the top of the lighthouse had a perfect overview of the beach and the sunset. He was able to see the **community** he spent so long watching over through the angelic golden light from the graceful sunset. It felt unusual to be watching from above instead of being within the **community** but he knew that his town was in good hands.

His legacy would continue, with a young girl who had long brown wavy hair and a caring heart who's name was Keira.

Coastal County was a dreamy beach town until local lifeguard Keira, notices a mysterious stranger lurking around town. At first she decides to shrug it off, it can't be real right? After a few sightings she starts to investigate. Her only clues, a conch shell necklace and banana yellow swim trunks

Recommended reading age: 10-16 years old

