



Gone Astray



By Insert Name Here



Write a Book in a Day



**THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT**
Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: QLD

DIVISION: Middle School

SCHOOL/GROUP: Silkwood School

TEAM NAME: Insert Name Here

TEAM ID: 177

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 Carpenter

Primary character 2 Pet sitter

Non-human character Guinea pig

Setting National park

Issue Growing up

Random words

Silver

patch

struggle

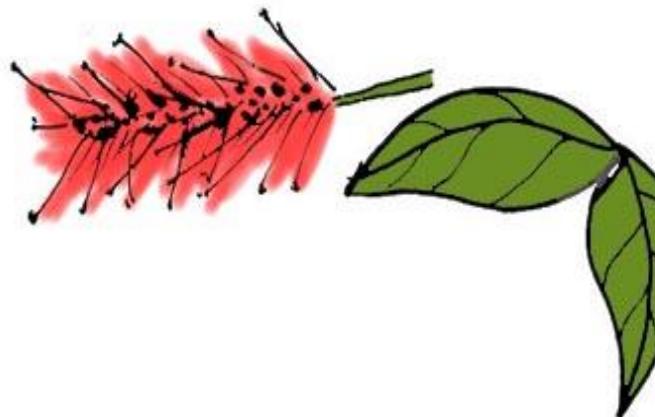
clock

prickly

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
- **By 8pm**, log on to writeabookinaday.com to:
 - check (and update if necessary) your team name and team members' names
 - complete the declaration
 - submit your finished book in PDF format
- Bind this parameters form into your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Mail a hard copy of your book on the **next business day** to:

Write a Book in a Day
The Kids' Cancer Project
PO Box 6400
Alexandria NSW 2015



We dedicate this book to the children and families
effected by cancer.

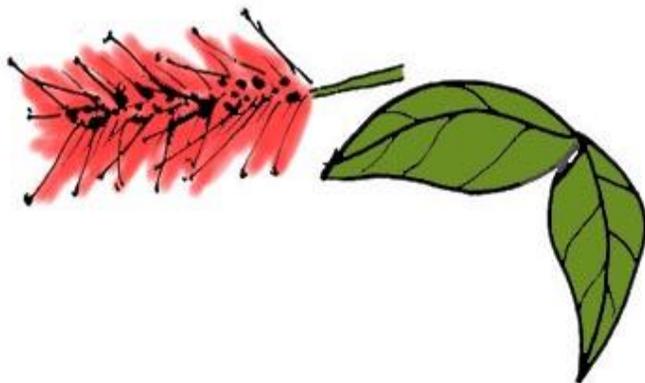
We wish you the best on your journey



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Illustrators: Amaya Coburn and Mia Hoffman





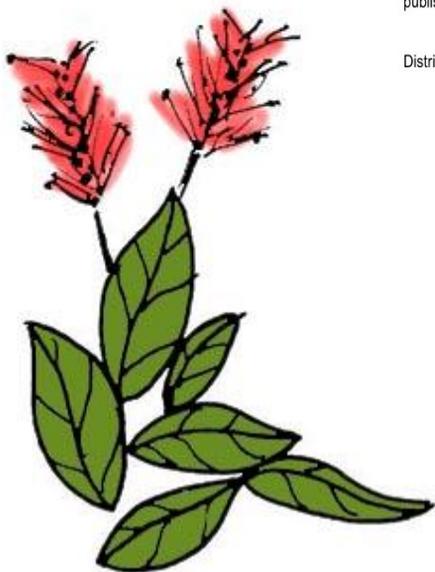
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“Mum! I want to buy a guinea pig!” Young Joey Rae peered into the window of the pet store, his nose pressed up to the glass, making the glass fog up from his hot breath.

“Joey Rae, we can’t afford it. I’m sorry dear.” She sighed and held Joey Rae’s hand, she knew that he was disappointed, but it was for the best

“We have to get to the store, today’s the grand opening!” A twinge of sadness in her voice.

“Okay....” He looked up at his mum with his big, brown, sad eyes.

“I’m sorry” says his Mum.

Joey Rae and Joey Rae’s Mum excitedly walked to the new store.

When they got there, Joey Rae’s father was standing out of the front, beaming up at the sign. It read ‘*Outback Furniture*’ in large bold letters.

“Joey Rae! Look! This is our new store!” His father exclaimed in a joyous tone.

“Wow Dad! It looks awesome.” He spoke loudly, he wanted to be happy for his parents but still disappointed because he knew that he could not buy a guinea pig.

On the corner of a street in Southport, sat a little shop called *Outback Furniture*. It was owned by a true-blue Aussie carpenter called Joey Rae. He had a warm, welcoming smile, his hair and **prickly** beard were a combination of chestnut brown and **silver** grey. He had gentle hazel eyes that sparkled and reflected his kindly nature. He sat back on his stool and continued to construct the chair he was working on. Suddenly, he heard a squeak from the stool in the corner of the shop.

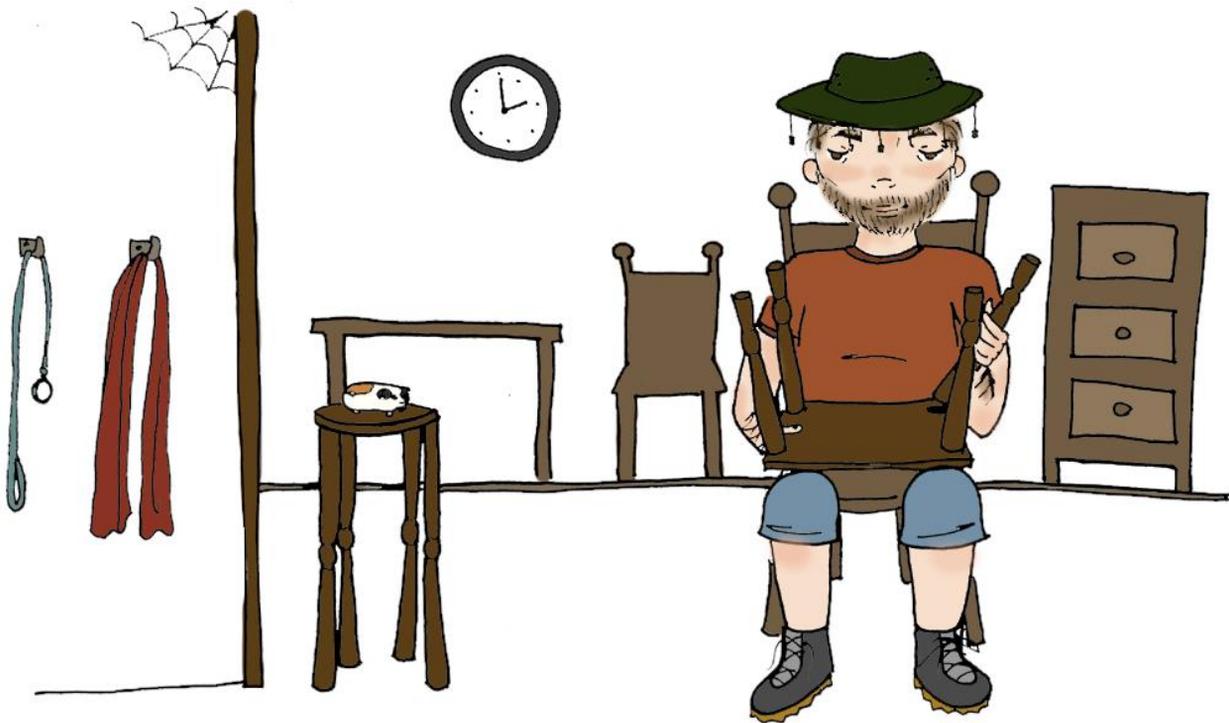
“Sorry **Patch Jr**, I can’t take you on your walk right now.”

Patch Jr was a fluffy guinea pig. He was off-white with brown and black spots. He had the cutest big, black eyes that you will ever see, and the most adorable little smile. Yes, for your information - guinea pigs can smile.

Joey Rae looked up at the **clock** which was hung upon the wall. It was nearly two o’clock, time was flying by and Joey Rae was behind schedule. He still had many, many orders to complete and he had to take care of **Patch Jr**, who had been getting restless. He started to become stressed and worried. **Patch Jr** continued to squeak, wanting attention and needing to go on his daily walk. Joey Rae felt bad for ignoring **Patch Jr**, but he had to continue to work away, very late into the night.

As night fell, the bright lights from the shop illuminated the street. It was eight o’clock when Joey Rae and **Patch Jr** finally left the shop, stopping by the pizza shop on the way home.

When they got home, Joey Rae fed **Patch Jr** and went to enjoy a warm shower. **Patch Jr** raced around the living room and into the kitchen, bumping into the handmade furniture that was scattered throughout the house. Within a few minutes of constant running around, he became tired and snuggled into the cotton sheets on Joey Rae’s bed.



The next morning, Joey Rae strolled around town with **Patch Jr** scampering behind him. They walked past the brightly-lit hair salon, a colourful candy store and a dark Chinese restaurant, not stopping until a sign caught their eyes. A yellowed piece of paper was pinned on the window of the Pet Store with bright pink pins. Joey Rae examined the sign, it read that there was pet sitter available for hire. Joey Rae thought about this for a few minutes. 'What if someone was to take care of **Patch Jr** and take him on his walks during the day whilst I was to work on my furniture at the shop?' He finally concluded; that he would go inside and inquire about the pet sitter. He stepped inside the pet shop and wandered over to the counter. A young lady stood there smiling broadly, showing her bright white teeth. She was looking at a little girl who played with a small grey kitten in the corner of the room. The lady had wild ginger hair that was tied back into a messy ponytail with a bright blue hair tie. She had smiling bright blue eyes, and petit freckled cheeks all over her. She wore a white t-shirt, high waisted blue jeans and a purple working apron, reflecting the immaculate nature of the store. She turned to Joey Rae and **Patch Jr**.

“Good morning. May I help you sir?” she asked.

“Actually, yes. I saw a sign on the window about a pet sitter for hire and I was wanting to inquire about that.” Replied Joey Rae.

“What type of pet do you have?”



Need someone to look
after your pet?



PET SITTER
AVAILABLE

10am - 2pm

Joey Rae knelt down and picked up **Patch Jr** from the ground. Patch snuggled into his arms as Joey Rae cradled him. “This here is **Patch Jr**. I need him to be taken care of during the day while I work. You see, I am so far behind on my work, and don’t have enough time to take care of him.”

“Of course, I understand. I can take care of him today if you would like? I am a certified pet sitter and available to take care of him between ten in the morning, and two in the afternoon. Does that work for you sir?”

“That would be perfect! Thank you so much...” He looked at her name tag on her apron. “Sally Jane.” She smiled at him and took **Patch Jr** in her arms, waving goodbye to Joey Rae, gleaming.

Sally Jane decided to take **Patch Jr** to a nearby park. She settled on going to Anzac National park in Southport. It was a park with a very pretty view, quite close to the water. She knew that **Patch Jr** was unique and different to other guinea pigs, meaning that Patch Jr really enjoyed walking at the park and loved to socialise with other pets and animals.

After the reasonably long car trip, Sally Jane and **Patch Jr** arrived at Anzac Park. Patch Jr was super excited, making it hard for Sally Jane to put on his small, blue harness. She finally managed to get him to sit still so she could put on his harness.



They got out of the car and started walking towards the park. **Patch Jr** was extremely thrilled to see other dogs and animals that he could socialise with. There were many different market stalls and cafes open, all bright colours and patterns that caught Sally Jane's eye. **Patch Jr** was walking extremely fast towards the children's area. He was exceptionally fascinated and curious, because of the bright colours in the playground and the little kids running around. **Patch Jr** ran through the playground, playing with the little kids.

Approximately fifteen minutes later, Sally Jane started to feel really worried concerned about Patch Jr's safety. What if he was to get hurt? She began to feel sick in the stomach and began to sweat. She needed to get him out of there. At that very moment, one of the kids fell over on the rainbow jumping pillow, and onto **Patch Jr**.

"No!" Sally Jane screamed at the top of her lungs. Sally Jane thought to herself 'Oh no! I really hope that no one has gotten hurt, I can't begin to imagine what would happen if Patch Jr got injured.' Sally Jane dashed across the park and towards the swing set to see if **Patch Jr** was okay.

When Sally Jane climbed up onto the bouncy pillow, she sighed in relief. **Patch Jr** was okay! He was rolling around, smiling and squeaking at the children who laughed at him, for it was strange for them to see a guinea pig in a playground. Sally Jane was getting scared again that **Patch Jr** was going to get injured. So, they left the bouncy pillow and walked back onto the path.

They walked past a few small markets which were selling food, jewellery and handmade clothes. They decided to stop at the water park because **Patch Jr** was blessed with the skill of being able to swim. Sally Jane knelt down and started to untie Patch Jr's harness. She slid it off and happily yelled, "Be free **Patch Jr**, be free!" She stood up and sat back down onto the grass.

Patch Jr ran straight into the water with a tremendous smile plastered on his face. He ran straight past the little kids and into the pool. Everyone was very surprised to see a guinea pig swimming around in the water. But that didn't distract **Patch Jr** from having a great time.

Patch Jr began to swim near and around the children, bringing delight and surprise to all those around him. **Patch Jr** paddled towards the ginormous waterfall and started to swim on his back underneath the waterfall. He loved the feeling the warm water on his little belly.

As for Sally Jane, she was chatting with some the parents and adults who were sitting on the grass near her. Everyone was having a great time on the hot summer's day. Sally Jane continued to supervise and keep a very close eye on **Patch Jr**. She knew that **Patch Jr** was a very curious and cheeky guinea pig. He often likes to wonder off sometimes, especially when there was food around, or other animals in the playground.

Sally Jane was very surprised when **Patch Jr** continued to stay in the same spot of the pool and didn't adventure into various parts of the pool. She was very happy and relaxed that she didn't have to worry about **Patch Jr** as much as she thought she would have to. She looked over at where **Patch Jr** was swimming and couldn't see him "**Patch Jr!**" Sally Jane yelled to get Patch Jr's attention so nothing bad would happen. Patch Jr's head quickly popped out of the water and with a big smile on his face and swam back to Sally Jane.

Sally Jane Smiled as **Patch Jr** was coming back to her and once he was with her, she pointed to the pool meaning that it was okay for **Patch Jr** to keep on swimming while Sally Jane was still talking to a few of her friends.

After about half an hour of **Patch Jr** happily swimming in the National Park's public pool and Sally Jane talking to a few of her new friends that she just met they decided to leave the public pools. Sally Jane let **Patch Jr** dry off on the grass in bright warm sun. She then put his little harness back onto him so they could walk back on the National Park's golden path. As they walked through more little markets and stalls there was a specific store that **Patch Jr** loved. The store was a store that sold yummy and special **guinea pigs** treats that looked exactly like human food but was specifically for **guinea pigs**. Sally Jane knew that **Patch Jr** has been very well behaved and Joey Rae had given her some money to buy him a treat if he was well behaved, so she got him a few little cupcakes to have on the drive back to Joey Rae place and get returned to Patch Jr's owner Joey Rae.

Patch Jr and Sally Jane walked further down the path to the Ice cream stall that and lucky for Sally Jane she loved ice cream. Sally Jane walked into the line and had to wait a while because it was a very hot summers day and the eat was unbearable and everyone needed something to help them cool down. While **Patch Jr** and Sally Jane were waiting in line there was a guinea pig cupcake left lying on the dirty floor and Patch Jr was very keen to go get the guinea pig cupcake because he loves them. "Stop" Sally Jane told **Patch Jr** because Patch Jr kept on pulling on his harness which was annoying and tugging at Sally Jane.

Sally Jane got to the front of the line and politely ordered her favourite ice cream, “Hi there, can I please get double scoop of Triple Chocolate chunk in a waffle cone.”

After Sally Jane gave the money to the ice cream man and got her triple chocolate chunk waffle cone she took a big lick of her ice cream it then looked down and saw that **Patch Jr** had somehow vanished from his lead. It looked as though **Patch Jr** had chewed at the lead that was connected to Patch Jr’s harness, and it broke off. Sally Jane started frantically looking around everywhere, underneath the big curvy bright blue slide in the childrens’ playground, in through the bushes near the childrens’ playground, and behind the tall oak trees that was near the ice cream cart.

After another five minutes of looking for **Patch Jr** which felt like forever to her, she decided to ask someone if they had seen a little fluffy guinea pig that was off-white with brown and black spots. She then remembered that there had been a young girl sitting next to the ice cream cart where she lost **Patch Jr**, she dashed as fast she could across the park back to the ice cream cart, she came closer and saw that she was still sitting on the bench next to the ice cream cart. She asked "Excuse me miss sorry to trouble you, but I have seemed to have lost my guinea pig, did you happen to by any chance see where my guinea pig went? He's white fur with brown and black spots all over his body" After a few seconds the woman glanced up at Sally Jane and said, "Sorry miss, but no I have not." Sally Jane noticed that he had a lot of scars all over her face she was a very beautiful even with all her scars "I'm so sorry, but I haven't seen a guinea pig run past" she spoke softly.

"Okay thanks anyway." A quick decision needed to be made on what she was going to do, and she started looking everywhere all over again underneath benches and beside the yellow and red bins that smelt horrible and there were still no signs of **Patch Jr**. She was starting to get very stressed and worried because it wasn't even her pet.

She ran and searched around every part of the park that she had missed the first time she looked, but she still could not find any sign of **Patch Jr**. She thought of how frustrated and upset Joey Rae would be if she had to call him and tell him that she had lost his loved **Patch Jr**. She did not want to have to annoy him out of his very busy schedule, so she decided to ask a few more people around the park if they might have seen him. Sally Jane then thought that it would be a good idea to go back to the playground and ask some of the parents of the kids playing nearby to see if they had seen Patch Jr anywhere. Even after she explained what he looked like to five parents, none of them had seen **Patch Jr**.

On the other side of the playground and underneath a tree she thought she heard a squeak, so she ran over and looked around, but there was nothing there. She looked and looked and as she was running, she ran into a tree branch that was in the middle of the path, making her trip over. She needed a break, she had been running all over the park, from side to side and back to front, she couldn't find **Patch Jr** at all. Her legs were feeling extremely weak from all the running around, Sally Jane was panting so much - she really needed some water, but she did not have any. She then thought to herself and thought of the **struggle** that she went through trying to find **Patch Jr** and felt so awfully exhausted that she collapsed on the bench.

While Sally Jane sat on the old worn-down wooden oak bench wondering about where Patch Jr could be and what the Carpenter would say, she realised that she was going to need more than one person to find the small guinea pig in such a big park . Nervously she took her phone out of her pocket and called Joey Rae.

"What is he going to think when he finds out that I lost Patch Jr?" she thought nervously to herself, as the ringing of the phone floated through the air as if it was tormenting her. "He has such an amazing bond with Patch Jr, oh he is going to completely be devastated and angry. I know I sure would be if someone lost my pet. I want to find him really bad because I feel so terrible and very sick in the stomach" Sally Jane thought to herself.

After what felt like forever, Joey Rae finally picked up and Sally Jane shot up off the bench out of nervousness.

“Hey Sally Jane, what's up” Joey Rae casually said think she was probably calling to tell him about how much **Patch Jr** was enjoying the park. Little did he know that he was about to be told that Sally Jane has lost his **guinea pig, Patch Jr**. How mad would he be at her? What will he say? How will he react? Will he get her fired for this? IS she going to lose her job?

“Umm... Hi Joey Rae.” Sally Jane replied hesitantly and frightened “Something happened to Patch Jr” she continued timidly.

“What's wrong! What happened to him?” he said in a very alarmed tone.

“I... umm... I...” Sally Jane stuttered “I was buying an Ice-Cream and well... umm...

Patch Jr he... he, how do I say this, Patch Jr chewed through his lead, it broke, and he ran off, I’m so sorry I can’t even begin to explain how bad I feel.”

“What! I’m coming now stay where you are!” The called ended so fast and Sally Jane had become very upset.

Joey Rae felt a gentle tugging on his shirt and turned around to see what was causing it. As he turned he saw a small boy with brown messy hair and big brown eyes staring up at him shyly.

“Excuse me, excuse me Sir?” the little boy mumbled, “is this your Guinea Pig?”

Joey Rae looked down to see a white, black and brown ball of fluff in the boy’s arms.

“**Patch Jr!** Thank you so much, how did you find him?” He exclaimed, relief displayed in his voice.

The boy carefully passed **Patch Jr** to Joey Rae. The carpenter cradled the guinea pig in his arms, relieved that he wasn’t hurt and was safe.

“I was playing Hide and Seek with my friends in the playground, when I heard a squeaking noise coming from the Bottle Brush Bushes. So, I quietly sneaked over to the bushes, careful that I didn’t scare whatever was hiding, and found your little Guinea Pig!” explained the boy. “I was wondering who it belonged to, so I asked the Ice Cream man if he knew. A woman standing near the cart overheard me talking and told me that a lady with ginger hair was looking for a Guinea Pig. I assumed that he was yours because you were looking very worried and were sitting with a lady who has ginger hair.”



Joey Rae looked down at the little boy to thank him and noticed there were hints of sadness in his eyes. He bent down to his level and asked the boy what his name was.

“Oliver sir,” He replied.

“Do you have any pets at home Oliver?”

“No Sir,” Oliver replied, innocence laced in his voice.

“Well, would you like one?”

Oliver looked at Joey Rae, confusion painted on his face. “Of course, I would!” he exclaimed. There was a moment of delight, but that happiness soon disappeared as he explained how his mum doesn’t have the money to buy him a pet. He told Joey Rae how he has been saving up all his pocket money since his last birthday, to buy a pet.

“You know what?” Joey Rae said calmly. He unfolded his arms and passed Oliver the guinea pig.

“I’m getting too old and busy to take care of **Patch Jr**. Would you be able take him home, look after him for me? I’m sure you would do a marvellous job.”

Oliver’s eyes widened, and he started to jump around, still cradling **Patch Jr** in his small arms.

“Really? Can I Sir?” Oliver exclaimed eagerly.

“Yes! And call me Joey Rae” the carpenter responded, ruffling Oliver’s hair.

“Here Mummy, hold **Patch Jr**” Oliver said handing the guinea pig to his Mother. “Thank you, thank you, thank you!” Oliver blurted, hugging Joey Rae tightly.



After letting go of Joey Rae, Oliver’s Mother walked over to Joey Rae with a confused but thankful look on her face. The Carpenter looked up at her and wiped a tear that rolled down his cheek.

“Are you sure? Is there a reason why you want to give your guinea pig to Oliver?” asked Oliver’s mother, confusion and concern showing in her voice.

Joey Rae then told her how he had always wanted a guinea pig when he was younger but had never been able to afford it. He explained with how he saw so much of his younger self in young Oliver, who was so excited to have a new best friend. He wanted Oliver to experience the joy of growing up with a pet and wanted him to learn how to take care and be responsible for another lifeform. Oliver and his Mother where so touched by the man’s touching story. His Mother let out a few tears that rolled down her cheek.

“Oh. I’m sorry to upset you Miss. Why are you crying?” asked Joey Rae, consideration composed on his face.

“It’s just Oliver has been saving up for a pet for so long, because I haven’t been able to afford one. Since Oliver’s father isn’t in the picture anymore, we are only on one salary.” She pulled out a tissue from her pocket and wiped away her tears.

Joey Rae then explained the responsibility of looking after a guinea pig and how **Patch Jr** only eats a specific brand of food. Joey Rae then suggested they come over to his shop and collect Patch Jr’s toys, bedding, items and food. Oliver’s Mother was interested in Joey Rae’s store and asked about the name and what he sold at the store. Joey Rae explained that his shop’s name was *Outback furniture*, and that he created hand crafted original wooden furniture. He also talked about how his parents had started the family business as way to bring the family closer, but his parents recently retired as they were too old to continue the business.

She asked Oliver if he would like to go to Joey Rae’s store to collect all of Patch Jr’s things. Oliver was so excited to see what Patch Jr’s original home looked like, that he jumped around in circles. Oliver was so excited to have a new friend, that gave Joey Rae a big hug. Joey Rae started to cry over the boy’s reaction and happiness of gaining **Patch Jr** and a new friendship for life. Oliver ran towards his friends that were back at the playground and proudly showed them **Patch Jr**. Joey Rae had never seen children smile as much as they were now.



Joey Rae became a father figure for Oliver. He grew up around the store and now owns *Outback Furniture*. In memory of **Patch Jr** and this adorable spirit, a new logo for the store was created to remember him and the start of a new friendship.



Sally is a young pet sitter that loves animals and will do anything to keep them safe, protected and happy. She is now on a mission to find back Joey's guinea pig, Patch while Joeys has no idea that his life long guinea has been lost and Sally has no clue to wear it is. Once Joey finds out that he's life love pet and best friend has been lost.



