

Saving SUNSET





Write a Book in a Day



**THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT**

Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: NSW

DIVISION: Primary School

SCHOOL/GROUP: Castle Cove Public School

TEAM NAME: Creative Critters

TEAM ID: 451

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 TV game show host

Primary character 2 Dog walker

Non-human character Goblin

Setting Timber mill

Issue Saving an endangered species

Random words

Silver

patch

struggle

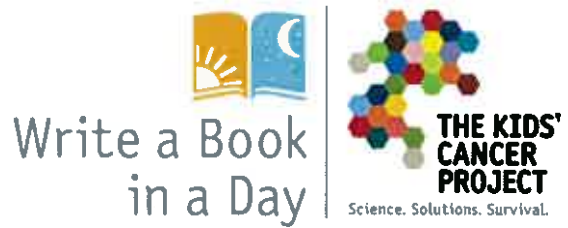
clock

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



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Hamish Bergin, Grace Clayton, Thomas Downes, Jake Fisher, Emily Kupec, Maddy Rought

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Goodwill of hope:

Dear Readers,

We hope that you enjoy reading this book and that you get well soon.

From Grace, Maddy, Thomas, Hamish, Jake and Emily.

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Acknowledgements and Sponsorships

We would like to thank all of the CCPS teachers for helping us throughout this challenge.

We would also like to thank the CCPS community, teachers and students for sponsoring us.

KRAH

KRAH



KRAH

Prologue

Carmine frantically flapped his wings as he landed in his hollow in a river red gum tree. His sister, Sunset, ruffled her scarlet tail nervously. Carmine knew why she was so edgy. Recently, a group of... primates?... (he couldn't remember their species) were destroying the river red gum trees... *their* river red trees. Carmine knew that a group of the primates were actually protecting the forest they live in. He was glad to be noticed by them, but a few primates were ignoring the others restrictions and chopping down their trees anyway. Millions of cockatoos have already died because of the primates' disrespect. "They're coming," Sunset hissed as a sudden buzzing sound cut through the air. It was the primates, coming with their weird machinery and bright fluorescent orange helmets. Carmine felt a pang of excitement mingle with his fear. "Come, let's see what they're doing," he whispered back. Sunset shot him an uncertain look, but followed him anyway when he glided towards the sound, which had risen to a deafening roar. "There," Sunset cawed, gesturing with one charcoal-coloured wing. Where she moved, Carmine glimpsed a pale peach colour, which he guessed was the primates' skin.

Suddenly, a flash of gold whizzed past Carmine's eye, and then Sunset was trapped in an unusual contraption. Sunset wriggled furiously against the bars, but there was nothing Carmine could do to prevent her **struggle**. He just watched, dazed, as a primate grabbed a handle protruding from the top of the contraption and whisked Sunset away.

When Carmine snapped back into focus, Sunset was gone. All he heard after was the quiet pattering of rain against leaves and the thump of chopped-down trees.



Chapter 1: Before Destruction

"We must find a part of the river red gum forest to use for the parkour course! This wood is essential for the course as it will not stand up without the help of this strong wood!" the Producer and of Parkour Australia, Aaron, exclaimed. The chopper company manager had replied with a serious expression. "As you probably already know, the river red gum forest is fully protected by the National Wildlife Foundation but I may be able to find a way to cover this up! I have a friend who will be persuaded to let it slide, with a bit of help from my bank account." At this, Aaron had a wonderful thought that would not help his parkour course but would make him insanely content.

But for this to work he had to ask one more very important question: "Why is the forest protected? Is there a bird that lives in the forest, endangered, perhaps?" The Manager was very surprised by this question but answered anyway, "Yes, I believe so the... black tailed red magpie? Wait, I don't think that's right" there was the sound of him scratching his head at the other end of the line. "I think the correct name is... the black, no, the red tailed, white? No black cockatoo! The red tailed black cockatoo. But, Why would you ask such a question?" Aaron was very careful about how he answered this question but then realised that the Manager wouldn't care what he said so he answered like this: " We will meet in the timber yard tomorrow. Those pesky disgusting birds who poop and destroy the project deserve to die, kill as many as you can!" the manager was very surprised and angered by this comment so he hung up immediately.

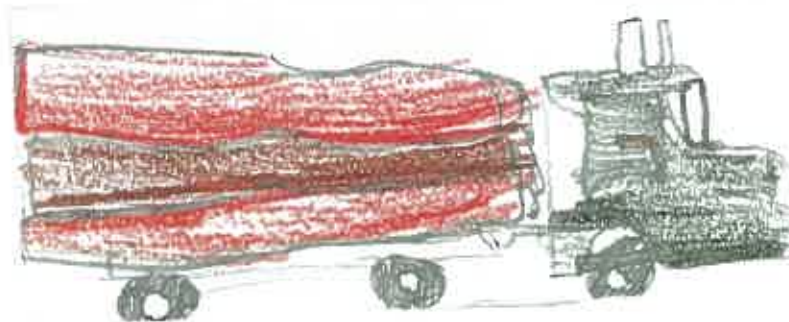


Chapter 2: In the Timber Yard

Aaron was waiting in the timber yard, in the tiny **patch** of trees that had already been cleared. Now he was getting impatient, he had been waiting for at least two hours and now he was beginning to suspect that the Manager was never going to turn up! While Aaron was wondering what he had done to upset the Manager then he suddenly remembered when the manager had rudely hung up on the phone the day before. Maybe that was why he wasn't turning up!

There was a sudden movement that Aaron saw out of the corner of his eye. *Vermin I expect*, thought Aaron. The manager slowly walked into the yard at a stowling pace but he was puffing like mad. He had obviously ran up the hill and as he was very unfit it was very difficult for him. After a few minutes he finally said "You will not...*puff*... kill ...*puff*... all the... *puff*... BIRDS!" Aaron frowned at this. "Why ever not? You need the money that I will pay you for this." At this the Manager gave up and his whole body gave a huge spasm: his shoulders slumped, his head fell to his chest and eventually his legs collapsed so he fell to the ground.

Aaron laughed. he laughed and laughed, and he still was laughing as he left the mill and as he got into his car. *This is going to be revenge for all those times you ruined my sandwiches, you dirty birds, with poop that comes from your pesky bodies*, he thought.



Chapter 3: Finding Chuck

The raindrops had trickled down the leaves before reaching **Silver** (a small puppy). The next droplet splashed onto Danica's forehead, leaving her feeling faintly surprised. The beautiful tree was taking her breath away; she had never seen so many river red trees after it has rained.. As soon as she felt as if she and **Silver** were far enough away from the road, she released **Silver** to enjoy himself. As **Silver** ran off she glanced up and saw the most beautiful Black cockatoos. The birds had soon become Danica's favourite birds and she was wondering why she had never seen or heard about the birds in her life.

Soon after he was released he disappeared into the Timber Mill property which was off limits to the public. Danica soon heard **Silver** barking rapidly at something in the mill. Danica dragged herself on, knowing that she could easily get into trouble for trespassing to the Mill to explore the situation. She followed the Silver's howling yaps and discovers a very tiny Goblin named Chuck. Chuck was a tiny creature with the **prickly** bones of his spine running down his back, and dark scarlet eyes. He had razor sharp teeth and many would call him ugly or terrifying. Danica soon discovered that Chuck was very cheeky and wanted to play and caused trouble all the time. But Chuck wasn't all trouble and mischief: he wanted to help the red tailed black cockatoos survive because all of the trees were being chopped down and soon the species will have nowhere to live. Danica was unaware of the situation and quickly decided to help Chuck fight the producer of Parkour Australia to keep the home of the cockatoos and to save the environment. Danica was willing to do anything for the beautiful birds which were now her favourite. They then left the building where Chuck was and Danica went to see what Aaron was up to.



Chapter 4: Forming the Plan

Chuck was wandering around when he heard someone say, "Chuck! over here!" he recognised that voice, it was Danica's. He raced toward her and asked her what she wanted. She had clearly run from somewhere; sweat was pouring from her face and she was breathing heavily. "You know how Aaron has been chopping down the trees?" Danica gasped. "It has to stop right now." she leant on her knees. "What should we do?" Danica panted, slowly recovering. "What about..." Chuck started slowly. "...I make a spell for the machines so he stops chopping down the trees?" Danica, slowly recovering, managed to say, "that...is a great idea." Chuck nodded absent-mindedly, then hurried to his spell area. He spent some time at bench behind the cauldron, but then he drew out a crystalline bottle filled with scarlet spell powder, a triumphant grin on his face. Chuck upended it into the cauldron. As soon as the spell powder made contact with the already frothing liquid in the cauldron, the small goblin heard a convincing 'pffffffffffffffffffff' sound. Chuck knew that the spell was working; now he just needed to finish it off and give it to Aaron so he stops chopping down the trees.

He filled his vial to the brim with the spell. After he had put the vial into his red sash, he ran to Danica to show her his spell. "We'll wait until the **clock** hits 7 o'clock because that is when it becomes dark. he wouldn't be able see us." Chuck wasn't happy to hear that news because he was really excited to sabotage the equipment that the game show host was using to chop down the trees. He knew that he had to wait or they would be caught. They might be seen at night but not as likely as they would be seen at day time. Chuck suggested that they should wait out there and spy on him until it is dark. Finally it was dark and they started to approach the machinery.

Chapter 5: Plan Comes to Life

As they approached the machinery they saw the game show producer walk away from the equipment and they realised how lucky they were because he could have seen them. They ducked out of sight and Chuck pulled out the vial of potion and poured it into his hand. It turned into a scarlet orb, which he gave to Danica. She waited a few minutes until the game show host was out of sight. She then saw him go into a mansion and was shocked to find out that he lived right there. She needed to be stealthy because he could be able to see her if she made a loud noise. Unfortunately she tripped over a rock and let out a small but loud grunt. Terrified Aaron saw her, she jumped out of sight. The bad thing was that there was a strong light out there. She continued to sneak to the machinery and quietly threw the orb at it. A faint hiss sounded as the machinery started melting. They waited until it burned completely and it was out of use. Now they just needed to tell him to stop chopping down trees and convince him to not to buy anything new.



Chapter 6: The Final Fight

As Danica jogged down the marble path to Aaron's house she realised that she only had to convince him to make his course out of metal, not wood and that he didn't have to stop his game show. They could both win! "Ding Dong!" the doorbell went when Danica pressed it. "Aren't you that pesky woman that I saw sabotaging my machinery yesterday?" Aaron asked cruelly as he opened the door. " Yes, and I would like to talk to you about something" Danica exclaimed. "I like the idea of a parkour game show but what I don't like is the course being made of timber! you are destroying animal homes out there!". "But I need to make a living and my game show does exactly that for me" Aaron retorted. In the corner of her eye Danica saw a black cockatoo trapped in an intricate golden cage. She also spotted Chuck breaking the lock to the cage and guiding the bird to the window. Danica gave him a little thumbs up and then returned to the argument with Aaron about his game show. "You know that you could always use stainless steel right?" she asked, curious about his answer. "NO WAY" he burst out angrily shouting at Danica "But that way we can both win, You can have your game show but the frame is made out of metal, you could even have a wood-like pattern printed on it to make it look like wood and if you don't use wood the you will be praised for saving the forest," Danica said convincingly. *I could live with that*, Aaron thought to himself, imagining being praised by everyone for saving the forest and the wildlife.



Chapter 7: Peace at Last

Danica sighed. The forest problem was fixed, and the birds were safe. She watched as Aaron moved the cage to an antique wooden cupboard. Danica realised that Aaron didn't bother to check if the bird was still there. *Could it be, Danica thought, that Aaron knew that Chuck took the bird?*

She didn't have to linger on the question, though, because Aaron grasped her shoulder, probably a little more forcefully than he had to. "Thank you," he said. "Not only did you suggest a stronger material, you also helped me by being eco-friendly." He turned away from her. "I've also just realised... wood would rot in water, wouldn't it?" "Yes," Danica replied. "But why would you need water for a parkour course?" "Oh, I just wanted to make it harder for the contestants by putting water underneath them." Danica nodded slowly, then backed toward the door. "I'll be going now, if you want," She said. Danica slid over the threshold, just in time to see Chuck releasing the little black cockatoo. She let out an excited 'krah' and sped toward the trees, her tail fanned out in a crimson and amber arc. The cockatoo landed on a branch, and Danica saw another cockatoo emerge out of the tree tentatively. The once trapped cockatoo made a series of happy sounding squawks and the other cockatoo slowly joined in. Danica let out a deep breath. The forest will be safe, after all.

"Hello and welcome to Parkour Australia here with myself Danica, and our ten contestants tonight in our newly built course made out of metal" said Danica loudly into the mic. "And here's our first contestant!".

Sunset, a Red Tailed Black Cockatoo, is captured by a greedy, extremely rich TV game show host. Can a mere dogwalker save the cockatoo and the river red gum trees she lives in? Or will it be the end of a near-extinct bird species?

Recommended for children aged Ten to Thirteen.



"This was an extremely good book"
Eric Alterman (The Nation)

"Best book that my children had read in 2018 and the age group rating is perfect." **Jon Fine** (BusinessWeek)

"Good book for my kids because it got them off electronics." **Howard Kurtz**
(Washington Post)