



Written and illustrated by SJB Shakespeares

Team Details.

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DIVISION: Primary School (Required word count 1500 to 2500 words)

SCHOOL/GROUP: St John The Baptist Catholic Primary School (WOY WOY)

TEAM NAME: SJB Shakespeares

TEAM ID: 2248

Parameters and random words

Parameters:

Primary character 1: Mechanic

Primary character 2: Astronomer

Non-human character: Wolf

Setting: Mountain

Issue: School bag goes missing

Random words:

Novel

Goosey

Yarn

Plunge

Homework

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Darkinjung land, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Chapter 1 - The Argument



The floorboards creak underneath my shoes as I open the door.

"Dad!" I call out as I notice the dirt and grime stained onto his mechanic overalls.

"Hey, son", Dad groans. I see the heavy eyelids and his droopy expression.

"Tough day at the workshop, Dad?" I ask jokingly, not expecting a response as usual.

"Hey, we got the permission form for the Blue Mountains trip today. It should be on Studyspace." I announce excitedly.

Dad glares at me. I can already sense the dreadful lecture lingering in his eyes.

"You can't go, you know that's my rule!" He replies in a stern tone.

Last year, I had to FIGHT for my rights to go to the Year 5 camp. My canoe tipped over, and Dad has refused to let me go anywhere ever since. He's been so overprotective recently.

"Please, Dad! I can't miss out, there's only a month left of school, and there's a world-class astronomer there! It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, you know I love astronomy." I plead.

"It's final, you can't go", he shouts.

I scream and slam my door shut, as I **plunge** onto my bed with disappointment. He never lets me go...

'Ding!' A small notification appears on my phone, it's from Studyspace! The notification reads:

"Your permission form has been accepted!" I stare down at my phone, slowly looking up as Dad marches into my bedroom.

"I'll let you go, Sam, on one condition..."



Chapter 2 - The Arrival



As I get on the bus, I see my dad carrying his old toolbox.

"Better safe than sorry," he grumbles. The rumble of the bus drowns out any noise as it drives away from the school. I groan as I think about what my dad said. I glanced at him just to see him glaring at me.

"What's wrong?" questions my friend Timmy.

"My dad said he has to come with me," I reply.

"Ah, that sucks, Sam," Timmy yells, holding in a laugh.

"Alright, 6B", barks the teacher, "We are approaching our destination, please grab all of your items and stand up." As we slowly exit the bus, my eyes gaze across at the luscious green hills and valleys, stretching as far as the eye can see.

"It doesn't look very blue to me," my Dad states in a grumpy tone. As I turn around, I see the world-class astronomer coming to greet us. Her hair is blonde and flows with the wind.

"Alright, everybody, come set up your tents." She says in a loud voice. I walk to the camping ground as the rest of the class follows. My dad follows, muttering to himself.

"Oh, by the way, " she exclaims, "Can somebody help me set up the telescope?" Suddenly, a few hands shoot up. "Alright then, you there?" she yells, and a small child stands up and walks away. Trudging up the mountain, we walk through trees and pines, and out of the corner of my eye, a grey flash appears. I turn around, but there is nothing there. I try to think nothing of it and keep walking, though it's still lingering in the back of my mind. The rest of us continue to the camping ground and start setting up. As I am setting up my tent, I realise something important, my bag is missing! The school bag that I was trusted to take care of.

"Oh no", I think, heart pounding as I look for my bag. "My favourite **novel** was in there!" Suddenly as I look out of the tent, I see a creature, grey as stone, holding my bag in its teeth. Darting out of sight into the sea of trees, I can finally make sense of the flash I saw before. "No!" I yell.



Chapter 3 - The Missing Bag



I feel so depressed. My favourite **novel** is gone, and my **homework** is never to be seen again.

When I walk outside, I see my class, 6B, all huddled around a tall, young woman. "Hello 6B, My name is Elana, but you can call me Miss E. As you probably know already, I am an astronomer, and today we will be observing the beautiful space beyond ours, as we sit under the stars," she declared.

I take a breath. "Hey, Miss E," I ask, "Have you ever seen a wolf out here?"

"Why, no, not yet. But I would love to". "Why are you asking?"

"Oh! Um, well, you see..." My voice trails off.

"Yes, Sam?" She butts in impatiently.

"I lost my bag." I continue.

"Oh! Don't worry, Sam, we'll find it." Miss E says reassuringly.

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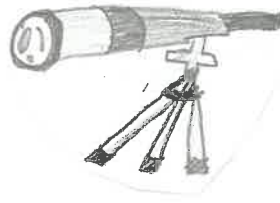
We huddle around Miss E and the telescope, excited to be looking up at the stars.

Timmy steps up to look through the stunning telescope, and a sharp, ear-piercing crack echoes through the air. Followed by a smash and a bang, a gasp and a scream.

I take one look at my dad, and he glares back at me as if it were my fault the telescope broke.



Chapter 4 - Lessons



He walks towards the broken telescope, kneeling, as he grumbles. "Clumsy children, don't know what they're doing." Dad works his magic as always and screws the nuts and bolts back together again. He glares back at me, staring daggers into my soul, when Miss E breaks his gaze, standing between us, leaving me staring at her butt. I turn my face and go look for my bag. "Hey, um... Sorry about this, I probably should have supervised better," Miss E apologises softly but profusely.

"No, no, it's fine, besides it's already fixed." Dad chuckles, standing up, brushing the grease off his bony knees that look like they could fall apart with a flick.

"My son," he groans, "he's always breaking things, so I'm used to it." He smiles and then walks to a group of children.

"Oh... Ok!" Miss E waves back and turns to the cacophony of voices from the kids.

I look up at Miss E as she tucks her hair behind her ear and clears her throat, "ahem, ahem." She coughs, and the children grow silent, attention pinned on the woman. It's barely dark, and stars are lightly scattered across the sky.

"Who would like to try out the telescope?" She smiles softly as the kids wave their hands above others.

I wave my hand, stretching it as far as it can go. She calls my name, and my arm falls in relief, going numb like a noodle. I walk towards the metal tube and stare through the lens. Miss E tilts the lens, hitting my cheek, but suddenly I'm distracted from the pain. There, I see everything I had been studying about in my homework. The stars shimmered across the night sky. But something else catches my eye as I walk back to the group, a tuft of fur!



Chapter 5 - The Search Is On



"See! I told you! A wolf took my bag!" I scream out triumphantly. I point the wolf out.

Miss E struts over to Timmy and our friends. The Wolf scurries off into the bushes.

"What's all the commotion?" Miss E asks politely. She looks around at all of our faces. "Sam, have you found your school bag yet?" Miss E asks.

"Maybe, I think a Wol..." I trail off. "Um, never mind. I haven't found it yet, Miss E, I'm still searching."

As I watch the bright blue sky darken, Timmy and I walk into our tent.

"Dude! Why didn't you tell Miss E that the wolf took your school bag!" Timmy says to me.

"I know I should have told her but she would probably tell Dad, and who knows what problems that could cause!"

"Fair point, mate," says Timmy. I throw my sleeping bag over my head and close my eyes.

"Tomorrow we will find my school bag." I say sleepily, and with that, I trail off to sleep.

"Rise and shine, 6B!" Miss E calls out. Timmy wakes up and walks out of the tent. I follow behind. When I finally wake up, I see Miss E talking to my Dad.

"Thanks for fixing the telescope, Trevor!" Miss E says to my Dad.

"You're welcome, Elana," Dad says.

"There! I see the wolf with my bag!" I call out to my friends. "Follow me!" Everyone chases after the wolf. We run through logs, and around trees. We jump over fallen trees and dodge patches of ungrown grass. I start to get tired, but I still keep on chasing the wolf.

"Stop!" I call out to the wolf. "My favourite **novel** and my **homework** are in my bag!" But the wolf keeps on running. The wolf sprints into a cave, and I scrambled after it.

Quietly, Dad waits outside the cave.



Chapter 6 - Realisation



The weight of my body slams into the hard stone floor as I tackle it, echoing throughout the cave. I finally got him. I tie a hard knot around the wolf's legs with a bit of worn **yarn** sitting on the jagged, rocky floor to the left of me, next to my ripped bag, covered in **gooey** maple syrup. I push off the floor and onto my feet, taking a step back. I finally see the wolf clearly, and despite what I expect, it doesn't have teeth as sharp as knives or claws that could cut stone. Instead, it has eyes the size of a moon and big fluffy fur that I could hug for days.

He isn't a big scary monster; he's a cute pet who is just looking for food. My Dad rushes through the opening, his steps sounding throughout the cave. He rushes up to me and drags me out of the cave, my shoes dragging across the ground.

"What are you doing, Dad?! I got him, he was tied down!" I holler so loudly that my throat hurts, but my Dad remains stubborn.

"NO! You can't go back in there, it's too dangerous, I won't allow it!" My Dad replies in a growl.

"I don't care what you 'allow' anymore, I'm not just a fragile toy for you to keep safe, I'm my own person, and it's insulting you can't see that!" I reply on the brink of tears. I budge out of my Dad's grip, bolting into the cave, Timmy and my friends watching like they're in a cinema, but when I get inside, I see the **yarn**, lying there, broken, the wolf had escaped! My Dad rushed through the cave right behind me. Despite this, without a second thought, I dash out of the cave, running through the fields, jumping over rocks, and sliding down hills, until I was far into the dense sea of trees. My eyes land on a fluffy, cute wolf lying on the grass, the smell of delicious, syrupy waffles flooding the air as I see him feasting. I can hear leaves and twigs snap as my Dad approaches up to me from behind. After a deafening silence, he finally speaks up,

"Good work, son, good work." I smile slightly as I feel the warmth of his hand resting on my shoulder.



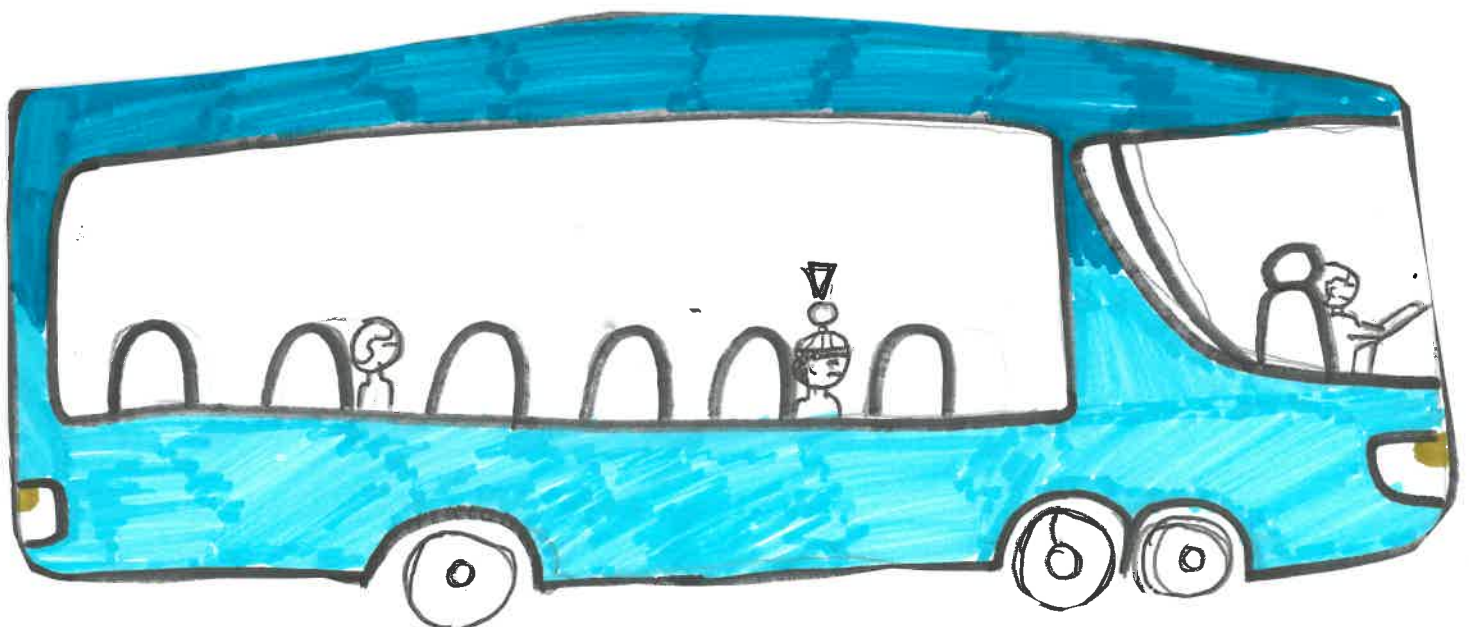
Chapter 7 - The Departure



After having my emotional moment with Dad, I look over to the wolf. "Miss E! Look! He has my bag, eating my waffles." I call out. This wolf should be named Waffle-sniffer. I hand over a waffle to gain trust. He is so cute! I give him a big hug, instead of growling he leans into my sweaty, dirty shirt. Miss E seems bewildered, she didn't believe me! I look over to see the same adorable, cute wolf, Waffle-Sniffer! With fur fluffier than a pom pom and a light grey tint to it, as always! I have a waffle in my bag, perfect for him! As I try to resist the temptation of giving the lovable wolf a waffle. I decide to give it to him anyway. So, I reached my tiny, beat-up hand and grabbed out the waffle and he loves it as always. He devoured it in seconds like he hasn't had food in days.

he still went to sniff my traumatised bag? I think he's looking for more delicious, tasty waffles! "SAM! Come on, we're leaving now." Dad yells at the top of his lungs from a distance. "Wait, why?" I question. "We can't miss the bus!" Dad states, it feels like a punch in the face, my life is done for! I have to leave poor Waffle-sniffer behind! I turn around and hear a faint rustle in the bright green bush. I stealthily sneak behind the bush just to see another fluffy, grey tail peeping out from behind.

Could this be a friend for Waffle-sniffer? When she slowly comes out, I see a little tag that says Bushranger! Suddenly, I don't feel so bad leaving him! With Waffle-sniffer being so friendly, they could be friends instantly! I give him a friendly, warm hug. Knowing that he has a friend, I trot off happily, through mud, to my dad! "Sam, you have matured. I have been a bit overprotective lately," Dad says grudgingly, but still happy! This has been an astonishing adventure.





Sam has an overprotective Dad who is a mechanic.
He has an upcoming school camp led by the famous astronomer Elena,
but he can only go on one condition.
On the camp, his bag mysteriously goes missing.
* Who is the thief?
And will they ever be caught?
Sam is in for a big shock.

Recommended for ages 10-12 years.