

**THE
G.N.O.M.E**



SFCC MELTON 2

The Acknowledgement of Country

SFCC Melton 2 would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book was created, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

SFCC Melton 2 would also like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book will be read. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC
DIVISION: Middle School (Required word count 3500 to 5000 words)
SCHOOL/GROUP: St Francis Catholic College
TEAM NAME: SFCC Melton 2
TEAM ID: 1379

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1: Computer technician
Primary character 2: Actor
Non-human character: Garden gnome
Setting: Music festival
Issue: Climate change

Random words

novel
goosey
yam
plunge
homework

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

Chapter 1

The sun began its cycle, rising above the small number of sporadic clouds that plastered the vibrant blend of the horizon. The heat crawls onto the earth, like a flood, creeping amongst the shadows and purging the previous night. Groans of exhaustion echoed as workers turned to their stations, the festival due to be set up for the afternoon later that day.

The sun reaches its peak within moments, the sky bleeding into its blue, a sea without an end, casting light over the entire area. Plants awaken and yearn for their fill, a silence eerily catching its stop as the world seems to reach its start.

The stage built out of wood and metal creaks under the steps of other workers, the curtains shivering as wind gently batters against it. The blue of the curtains matched the sky, an almost complete blend. The backdrop of the stage was covered by a dirty white; the roof a black colour, from the base till the tip; monotone and different from the rest of the stage.

The workers drag the chairs across- pulling out grass as they did; before reaching the concrete— creating a grating noise that disturbs the birds in the trees, causing them to take flight—voicing their concerns and anger as they did.

Radios let out frequencies, chatter beginning to produce noise with the natural environment. The festival was slowly coming together. Stalls were empty but prepared—the schedules double checked, constantly remaining in a state where they could be accessed.

The land almost seemed to stretch out, supplying everyone with the space they'd need. People hesitate on ladders, before raising the banner above the stage—declaring it as the GNOME festival.

(GNOME, being the acronym for “GREAT NATIONAL OZ MUSICAL EVENT.”)

The event provides a fundraiser against climate change, finding ways to solve the issues our planet is facing.

To raise money, people are selling items and food—creating music and participating by showcasing their talents musically, and some people are celebrating with dances. It's being hosted in the springtime, hence the slightly irregular occurrence of the weather—the way the botany yearns, the way the blooming of the trees new leaves turned common.

A radio sounds;

“Hey; is the actor here yet?” The static distorting the voice slightly. A worker stumbles the radio into his hands, responding,

“Hey Sora! Almost, ahah—She's scheduled to be in a few minutes.”

A loud slam sounded from behind the worker, and as he turns, a figure was seen walking towards them.

“She's... here.”



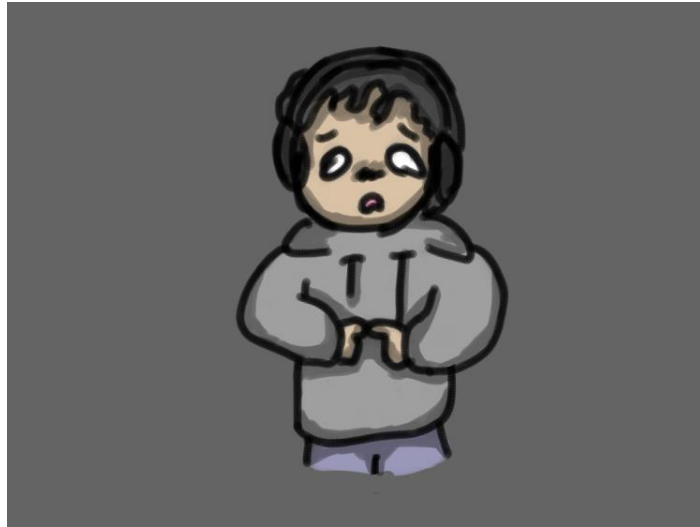
Chapter Two

Stepping towards them, was the actor, the singer—the entrepreneur; the one and only, soon to president (totally). Her long brown hair broke off in waves past her shoulders; two-star clips in place, her eyes glinting the same brown, as brown as oak. Her crop top is a pure pink, decorated with yellow stars that twinkled like in a midnight trance. Her skirt sways along with her, average in size and matching the same pink—if not slightly darker.

She flashes a smile, craning her head to the workers as Sora took the time to rush over. Sonya impatiently stomps her pink boots onto the ground, as Sora finally reaches the group.

Sora had his headphones on, radio static ringing in his ears. His hair was in bunches of black curls, short—his eyes the same midnight black, electric. He wore a grey sweater, monotone. He wore blue jeans that were overworked by the sun, the colour dull and the seams slightly pulled. He sighs; his Converse drafted in mud as he steps in front of Sonya.

“Hey. You must be Sonya. I’m Sora, lead technician here.” He greets, wiping his hands, holding a **novel** against his chest and offering a handshake. Sonya begrudgingly followed through, before being interrupted by noises coming through the sides of the area. He ushers her towards the staff area, preparing for the opening.



Chapter Three

As the gates open, people start flooding through security, and they notice gnomes placed around. As the line gets long, dark clouds roll in the horizon, as the faint smell of rain fills the air, but no one in the lines was paying attention to the weather.

As people walk through the festival, the gnomes start to look out of place. Music blasting. Sora starts to prepare the music for Sonya.

He went to the box microphone cords but they were all on the floor. He thinks that it fell but he notices little footprints-- They lead to the fire exit, which was slightly cracked open, but they were pressed for time.

The guests started to move away from the smaller events and started to fill the front rows of the main stage. The camera is set up to the for the TVs around the festival. Sora does the rest of the set ups for the main events with backup tracks and getting the openers ready for their performances.

The clouds are getting closer, and the smell is getting stronger-- so, people start to notice. So, people start to take umbrellas out just in case it starts to rain. The blazing heat of the Australian sun is cooking everyone. Most people are grabbing parasols to protect themselves.

The first person to do their performance arrives and plays a slow harmonic melody to start the show. It lasts 5 minutes and then the next performer is late, and the show is delayed for 30 minutes while they attempt to try and find them.

They find him a closet rocking back and forth saying,

“The gnomes there moving!!” Sora just stares at him—telling him he is crazy. Little did he know...

He rushes out of the festival, and they get the next performer to start, and they go for the next 20 minutes. They then look through the crowd and then they run out of the festival as well.

Sora looks in the direction where the woman who ran, was originally standing at-- but nothing was there. So, she turns around and tells the next performer to come to the stage, but before he could go onto the stage, he had a blank stare facing the direction of the center of the chairs, where they see a gnome.

Chapter Four

Gnomes appeared in front of the stage and disappeared when the back rows started to fill in.

As Sonya walks onto stage, a gnome in the back starts to shake and vibrate in little bits, but it was enough for Sonya to notice. She felt worried, and because of that, her voice cracked and everyone booed, because no one knew the horrifying truth behind what was happening.

She stammers as she continues her song, going off rhythm with every movement the gnome makes. She then pauses, hesitant as gnomes continue to cloud around. She notices, and her voice cracks and breaks with the worry that plagues her senses.

The rain is beginning to spit, landing among the crowd and breaking more of her comforting presence she had before. The rain creates noise around the area, blending with her song as she continued, less sure as before—less positive than before. But the crowd gets wilder as she plays her most popular song:

“I’m so famous, I’m so rich,

I acted in an ad where I played a fish.

Wish, you were me,

‘Cause I got so many billions times three.

Sonya is best,

Who cares about the rest?

Live, laugh, love, lie.

When you’re me, there’s nothing money can’t buy.

*Back then, when I was ten,
Mr. Monopoly came to me and said,
'Girl, go and get that bread'*

*Money tornado, watch it whirl
Gold, diamonds, shoes and pearls,
Step back and watch while my red carpet unfurls."*



Chapter Five

As the crowd grows rowdier, and the music starts playing louder, more and more gnomes begin appearing around the concert grounds. The mass of gnomes is concerning but no one notices, being too busy listening to the punk rock band playing currently. Massive circles of gnomes in random places, all around the area.

As the crowd continued listening, some areas of the concert went completely quiet. Instead of people, it was just filled with still garden gnomes toppling them. The quickly growing number of gnomes slowly became more concerning as the concert waffles into the night.

As everyone slowly noticed the high amount of weirdly placed gnomes, the rain began to pour heavily onto the stage, and the audience were drenched in waterworks. Everyone soaking in their clothes. Makeup drenching down people's faces and outfits ruined by Mother Nature's decided sadness.

The gnomes appear even faster as the rain falls quicker by the second. The more the gnomes appeared the more people disappeared from the grounds. The gnomes begin to appear everywhere, in the storage area, in the food area, in the stage control area and in the crowd.

The gnomes being everywhere caused some of the people to panic and leave but most of the crowd remained unaware. They continued with their over-the-top partying listening to the loud heavy rock that was being sung in front of them without knowledge of what was going on, being fully oblivious.



Chapter Six

The events of the night were set upon us as the evening rose upon us, the stars adding personality into the day as it continued. The morning's memories have been odd but being on a tight schedule and overly delirious has made things seem as if they are moving but aren't there. That's what the tired mind can do, consume and take up real thoughts and implant thoughts of things that are fictional.

At least that's what the thoughts of the minds of Sonya and Sora were believing as they travelled along the backstage of the hallways to enter the power room to double check the lighting process is all in order to proceed the musical festival, as they stepped inside the room together they witness the power flicker until it just turned off, dark and their body temperatures rise in fear, just like the humid weather that has been increasing throughout the day's modes, instead of the dusk of the sky cooling over Victoria instead it has felt like they were in a never-ending beach.

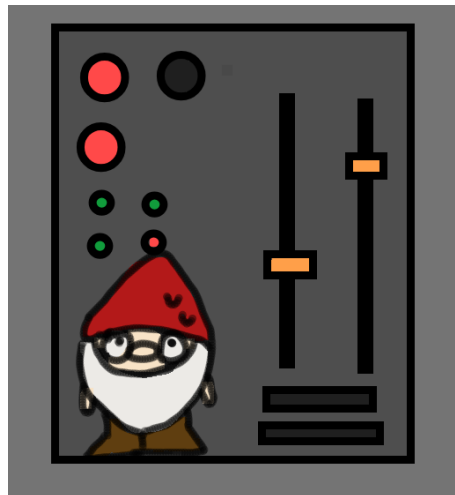
"Where did the lights go? Sora, did you turn it off to trick me?" Asked by Sonya as her hands shook in the darkness of the lighting. Her body is still producing heat as the humid air rapidly spiraling throughout the air.

"Nah." Sora replied dismissively, being used to any situation with always stringing along the backstage since he's been a computer technician for years upon years. As the lights blinked on, they settled back into the vision of the duo's eyes. Sora declares he'll go double check the Powerbox, as he fidgets with his keys he fiddles until he finds the key to unlock the Powerbox to lie his eyes on a garden gnome lying inside the outer edge of the power box. Sora mutters

quietly, confused on what to think because of how many appearances the gnomes have made throughout the entire day until the concert, starring Sonya.

“Wh- Why is there a *gnome* in the power box?” Announced Sora as he backed away and blinked his eyes a few seconds before he rubbed his eyes for a moment before he stared back at the power box to witness it disappear, to Sonya, he seemed to be more consumed by his lack of sleep now than ever with how he reacted because in the small space she didn’t see any gnome in the power box.

She tried to be reassuring and tell Sora that his sleepiness is affecting and tricking more of his mind. Sora quietly agrees with her, telling his relentless mind that it was simply just something in the corner of his mind and it was made up, he makes sure everything is set for the power and then walks out with the actor, leading them away.



Chapter 7

Stepping away from the storage room, the two went down the hallway to the backstage, no one’s lurking eyes were peeping around as Sonya started practicing a quiet solo, Sora checked the microphone quietly. Before he nods at her and steps away, staying behind the back curtains to give her some space as he just tuned her out. As her eyes peer into the ground of the empty ground, her eyes linger onto a small pile of gnomes, her eyes flicker the same as Sora’s did but before her eyes the gnomes stayed.

“Sora–” She calls out before she takes a moment then speaks up again. “There’s a good few gnomes here!”

“Don’t worry about it, *it’s probably your lack of sleep. Do your **homework.***” Sora mocked what Sonya had said earlier to him, since they were just decorations, he wouldn’t be too surprised if they were anywhere and the movers just haven’t found a place for them yet. Until in

the corner of Sonya's eye, the gnomes move off one another and make a single straight line across and their eyes glint upwards. But, since the crowd was dark like a cave, she didn't believe anything was happening just yet.

Then she sighed before she tried to comfort and soothe her voice before she started practicing her lyrics, before her voice started to rise to a point to where there was cracking noises coming from the floor, which she stopped and Sora's eyes look up at her, as she hesitantly started getting higher again with her singing voice before the gnome had started to shatter, making chunks and dust all over the ground. She stared at the few now 3 gnomes that were just misplaced just gone. Sora's eyes widen as he gets up from his chair and stares down at the martial on the ground.

"Welp— that's a damn mess, what made you so angry at the little guys?" Sora looked at Sonya sarcastically. She shook her head before she apologized to him.

"Look, I just didn't see it in the storage room but, I know you saw that. We must plan with how absurd this is getting." She muttered, avoiding eye contact with Sora.

They created a plan, just to secure themselves for the night to stop the paranormal activity, they were going to see if blasting the music extra loud for this night to see if the gnomes would stop trying to wander and follow them around. That Sora, whilst music starts up, and the activity spirals once again, that he'll hack into the system and make sure the volume on the mixer blasts to an absurd point.

Roars from the crowd started up and people started getting cramped together, thrilled and full of passion with lights and cameras in hand to video. Sonya smiled as her stage act came on and she smiled at the crowd.



Chapter 8

Sonya turns on the microphone looking up at all the audience confidence in her eyes despite knowing about all the gnomes. She quickly hit a pose before introducing herself. "HI EVERYONE!" Sonya excitedly shouted. "I am Sonya an actor / singer as you may all know." The crowd cheers, voices all in unison repeatedly shout Sonya. "I have written a new song just for this show" she shouts.

The lights dim and a spotlight is casted on her, she spots a couple of gnomes approaching Sora, Sonya signals to him that there are gnomes approaching, Sora looks around and spots something a shovel in fact he grabs the shovel and looks up in determination he spots the music mixer on the complete other side of the stage. But he was ready, Sora ran behind the stage, and a bunch of gnomes were following him crawling under the stage to get him, this was the best way to keep the audience safe.

The lights flash back on, and the song starts playing. Sora continues to dash to the music mixer, but the gnomes block the path but with a quick swing with the shovel the path is cleared. Faint singing can be heard from backstage, "*I'm so famous, I'm so rich.*" Sonya sings. Sora turns the knob to amplify the music. "*I ACTED IN AN AD WHERE I PLAYED A FISH.*" Sonya's amplified singing shakes the stage. One of the gnomes finds its way onto the stage, Sonya kicks the gnome in its tiny face "*Wish, you were me,*" she belts. Another gnome finds its way onto the stage, "*Cause I got so many billions times three.*" Sonya sings while kicking the other gnome. Sora then spots a gnome holding a slingshot, it looked to be made from **yarn**. The gnome slingshots something at them, it's a small crinkled up paper ball. Sora smacks the gnome with the shovel. "*Sonya is best, who cares about the rest? Live, laugh, love, lie, when you're me, there's nothing money can't buy*"

Sora looks at a gnome who has lunged at the speaker. The gnome clings to his arm and refuses to let go. After a bit of Sora struggling, he manages to shake it off and kick it away. *Back then, when I was ten, Mr. Monopoly came to me and said, 'Girl, go and get that bread'*



Chapter Nine

When Sonya gets to the higher note in the song, and sora turned up all the speakers, all the gnomes were starting to vibrate and shake, the crowd even started to cover their ears.

" Money tornado, watch it whirl, Gold, diamonds, shoes and pearls, Step back and watch while my red carpet unfurls." Sora wanted to cover his ears or turn it down, but it was working. All the gnomes have stopped attacking.

Sonya must be a real professional to still be singing with the noise in the background not only that, but the audience still look so engaged and cheerful. Some of the gnomes started to crack under the sound. There were two gnomes desperately trying to break one of the speakers sora tightened his grip around the handle of the shovel and he slams it down, the gnome **plunge** into the ground a couple of pieces fly past on barely graving his face, he looked shock by his own actions but he had to turn to the other one. He hit the gnome away from him so he wouldn't risk injuring himself. The gnome flew

into another one gnome; he stood so proudly and looked to see if anyone else saw him complete that move. A couple of gnomes try to make their way to Sonya but her singing was so loud, and the gnomes kept freezing Sonya got to a part in her song that was ridiculous and you can hear one by one the gnomes started to shatter and crack away until all the gnomes we could see were reduce into a pile of broken porcelain.

Sora looked up at Sonya feeling relieved and even proud? On what they both have achieved, Sora was exhausted, but Sonya looked as upbeat and cheerful as ever. Despite being tired Sora drop his shovel and ran up to Sonya excited

“Sonya, we did it our plan worked” Sonya looked at the crowd concern for them because of all the broken pieces

“Sora look around there’s pieces everywhere what if a kid or someone get hurt by it” Sonya pouts a bit looking up at Sora and drags him off to start cleaning up the broken glass. It took about two hours to clean up all the glass Sora wanted to just go home but Sonya wouldn’t let him want to clean up.



Chapter Ten

As the humid sticky rain starts to diminish, the clouds fade, and the vibrant colours of the sky peek out. The Marquees are lit with a warm inviting coat of newly morning sunshine. Sonya and sora look at each other and wonder how they are going to deal with the chaotic mess of the gnome fight aftermaths. Sonya suggests that they call a clean-up crew to help with the mess, Sora agrees with Sonya's idea, and they contact the event coordinators so they can come over with the Melbourne city cleaning agency and get this trashed event cleaned up.

Sora asked the event leaders,

“How long is it going to take for you and the clean-up crew to arrive.”

“The clean-up crew and us event leaders will arrive in about 45 minutes.” The leaders replied. Sonya walked over to sora

“What did they say?” Sonya asked.

“They said 45 minuets.” replied sora. Sora then walked to the edge of the stage and slumped down.

“Well should we start doing this?” sora sighed.

“Might as well.” Sonya said while smiling.

Sora gets off the stage and walks over to a bin, she grabs a pair of gloves and starts picking up rubbish off the floor and putting it in the bin. Sonya followed along picking up rubbish. She remembers the bag of gnome pieces and glass.

“What are we going to do with the broken gnomes?” Sonya asked.

“I’m not too sure maybe just throw them out.” Sora mentioned.

“I have an idea, let's properly dispose of them by giving them to a gnome recycling company.” Sonya joyfully replied.

“Actually, that's a good idea.” Sora approved.

They kept cleaning until the clean-up crew and leaders arrived. Sonya and Sora then gave the bag of gnome pieces to the clean-up crew and let them know Sonya’s idea on how they should dispose of the pieces of the gnomes. The clean-up crew then continued their work cleaning up the big mess from the fight.

“What do we do know?” Sora wonders.

“I’m not too sure.” Sonya replies.

“Maybe we should hang out some time?” sora mentioned.

“Sure.” Sonya agrees.

Sonya and sora then walk off. Sora goes to throw his empty chip wrapper on the floor; he thinks about the events that previously happened. Sora then realizes that he should probably put the wrapper in the bin.

When a actor named Sonya was
a performing songs for her
upcoming movie, she gets a
surprise visit from small garden
statute at The G.N.O.M.E
(The Great National Oz Music Event)
She partnered by IT technician
a guy named sora who assist
with setup and the massive
brawl.