



**The Roar Of A Whisper**



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 3  
TEAM ID: 1380

### Parameters and random words

#### Parameters

Primary character 1 Singer  
Primary character 2 Personal assistant  
Non-human character Dragon  
Setting Boarding school  
Issue Journey to the unknown

#### Random words

novel  
gooey  
yarn  
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

### Acknowledgement:

We would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Todd, for organizing this fun event. We would also like to pay respect to the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today.

### Dedication

We dedicate this story to all those who don't feel like they have a voice, to those who are struggling right now. This is for you.

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# Chapter 1: Azuri

“My parents said I could sing before I could talk.”

Imagine, grasping the microphone down because the people before you put it to high, imagine the crowds clapping for your voice, not because it's polite, but because they genuinely are impressed. But it's you up there, your voice, your dream.

That's going to be me someday.

Every morning, I wake up, dress, and play the part. But nothing feels right.

Mark, before I wake up, sets an outfit aside. Either for a potential event I must attend, or an event I'm running. The usual, nothing new.

If you think about it, my life since birth has been already planned. I would become a famous K-pop Idol and when I come of a certain age, I would attend All Stars Academy. I would continue expanding my franchise and would do tours worldwide.

This year, I'm 16, I can finally apply to All Stars Academy. Mark wrote my application; it was my job to send it.

My fingers trembled as I got closer to the send button, I had been preparing for this academy for years. If I didn't get in, then all my hopes and dreams would be crushed.

I finally gathered all the nerve and hit the send button. I did it. It all comes down to this.

From Monday to Friday, I waited anxiously to get a response from All Stars. It felt like every second I would ask Mark to recheck and refresh my emails.

I'm replaying everything in my head, I wrote the right name, the right signature, I sent it to the right academy.

I couldn't focus on anything else until All stars got back to me.

My life basically bases around, photo shoots, meet and greets, and recording songs. Some say I'm living the life that not a lot of people got. I guess you could say I'm just lucky.

***Dear Diary,***

***Why do feel like sometimes, the life I'm living, isn't the life I was born to live? Why do I feel like I want to just live like a normal life, no songs, no fame, just me? Nothing is fun anymore, singing was supposed to be a hobby, now it's a job.***

*-Azuri*

## Chapter 2: Here I come

I wake up and see there's a message for me from an unknown number.

I tremble at the thought, usually these numbers are crazed fans, or stalkers.

I open my phone to see the text is from All Stars Academy, my hands shaking at the sight of it.

I open my phone and...

They have accepted my request. I have been accepted into ALL STAR'S ACADEMY.

I am ecstatic, I'm jumping with excitement and then Mark bursts into my room, not matching my energy. So, I ask,

"Do I still have to sing with the dragon?"

"Yes, obviously you have to because you're really bad at singing, and you need to keep singing."

I look at him in shock because the whole point of this, was so the school would fix my issue, I fight it, yet I shed a tear, this has been a problem for ages. Then he says,

"You must wrap it up and start packing now, so wipe your tears because we have to go soon."

So, as he said I wipe my tears, and I start to pack. Shoving everything in my bags, packing like there's no tomorrow.

"Get out my room!" I yell.

I open my closet to see the dragon staring at me. I look to see that it is kind of cute, so I pick up the ribbon and start waving it around, the dragon moving with it. I lead the dragon outside, while Mark is grabbing my bags. Still in shock after what Mark said to me. When the dragon and I get in the car Mark says

"Wow it's beautiful".

Whilst he is staring at the dragon, in awe.

When we got to the school it was massive.

I stare at it in absolute amazement, this is what I was made for, Mark takes my bags up to my dorm, I grab the ribbon and follow, just so my dorm partner wouldn't see it.

I put the dragon in my wardrobe, unpack my things and take another look around my dorm everything was perfect and so beautiful I loved it so much.

***Dear Diary, I just moved into my dream school; this is the life I was supposed to live. I finally feel like I'm doing something I enjoy. I'm finally here, my home, my dreams. And my voice feels amazing! This is what it's supposed to feel like. -Azuri***



## Chapter 3: Dragon's lair

It's my second day here at All-star Academy, sometimes I'd randomly pinch myself just to make sure I'm still awake, not that I'd ever want to wake up to begin with. I wear the perfectly chosen outfit Mark, my personal assistant, laid out for me.

As I'm brushing my jet-black hair, with blue streaks, my ears perk up, and I hear muffling from the closet, it's rattling, shaking, jittering, it makes me shiver. I contemplate whether I should call over Mark, but knowing him, and how "busy" he always is, and how "inconsiderate" it is to interrupt his "personal" time, just the idea of this kind of makes me scoff.

I grab my pillow and try to use it as defence against whatever lurked within my closet, I prepared to count down from 3, by 3 I was going to open my closet.

Unfortunately for me whatever the thing was, decided that it didn't need until 3 to leave, and pounced on me... or should I say slithered... maybe crawled.

It was just Zephyrus, my pet dragon, I mean... who doesn't have a blue and silver little dragon who helps you sing, and is a part of your every stage performance? Just me?

Suddenly my phone starts violently ringing, just by the ringtone I could tell it was Mark, my personal assistant, and manager of practically everything.

"Riri dearie, you have a scheduled performance at 9 am SHARP!" he said huffing, I could just imagine him on the other side of the phone, combing his brunette hair, only to ruffle it again, while tightening his tie aggressively.

I start exploring the academy, each step feels like another fever dream, each hallway was straight out of a fantasy **novel**.

"Ok... where's somewhere I can put Zephyrus?" I say aloud to myself, I frantically clip-clop around the academy in my heels.

This couldn't be more important, it's like a pre-game ritual, I need someone secluded for Zephyrus' power to manifest, the power of the dragon's voice, is the core of my brand "Luminescence", the light that illuminates the darkness, truly majestic.

I find the basement, and as respectfully as possible throw Zephyrus in there. Nah, I'm kidding, I set up its little area in the basement, and let it bless my performance ribbon, so its spirit is always with me, enchanting my voice, and music.

"RIRI... YOU'RE LATE!" exclaimed Mark.

"Sorry Marcus..." I apologise, he shoots me a crazy look, I quickly realise I said his name wrong.

"Sorry Mark"

"Better... still late though, now get performing!"

The entire day I practiced my songs, alongside some other students at the academy, I couldn't help but notice how much better they are than me, but other than that factor things are going smoothly for me.

***Dear Diary,***

***It's me Azuri, my first day at All-Star Academy really has set a high bar for my future. I just hope my destiny is as bright as the sun, the biggest star.***

***-Azuri***





## Chapter 4: Slowly faded

I wake up early, as usual, complete my strict morning routine, as usual, I even get a lecture from Mark, nothing extraordinary really, but no matter what I did that very morning, everything felt... silent, almost an eerie quietness, like a scream beneath water, like a muzzled yelp, a silenced cry...

"RIRI! I think it's time you did your voice warmups instead of zoning out, you won't ever be a superstar if you're always slacking off," said Mark.

"But Marcus something's wrong..." I muttered.

"IT'S MARK! MARRRRKKKKK! Put some respect on my name Riri, now, stop being so paranoid, the fans will think you're crazy Riri." He corrected sternly.

I stand on an empty stage, and grasp the microphone, I look out to an empty crowd.

But my voice... it's hollow, I try to sing, but no sound comes out.

"Mark..." I whisper.

"My... my voice, what do I do?" I ask in panic.

"Oh no! Riri, what are you going to do without your voice, you do know without it... you're out of place, without your voice how would anyone accept you, I mean look at all the talented people of the great ALL-STAR ACADEMY, and then there's you Riri, you better find your voice, it'd be better for you to not make a disgrace of yourself." He warned me.

I held my breath and nodded my head; it was like a cloud of smoke was above my head, who knew smoke could be so... heavy?

"No wait... Mark, my voice is fine, see?" I say unconvincingly.

"Perfect, see Riri, I knew you'd never EVER let me down, that'd be quite distasteful, don't you think? Anyways let's continue with practice!" he encouraged me.

I start singing, fighting with my voice to get some melodic tunes out, I was no longer going with the flow, instead I was surmounting high mountains, ones I wouldn't climb unscathed, ones I shouldn't have DARED to come across.

I poke at my food awkwardly, in the shame of being unable to muster the courage to ask for different food today, just looking at it makes me sick, and sick it makes me...

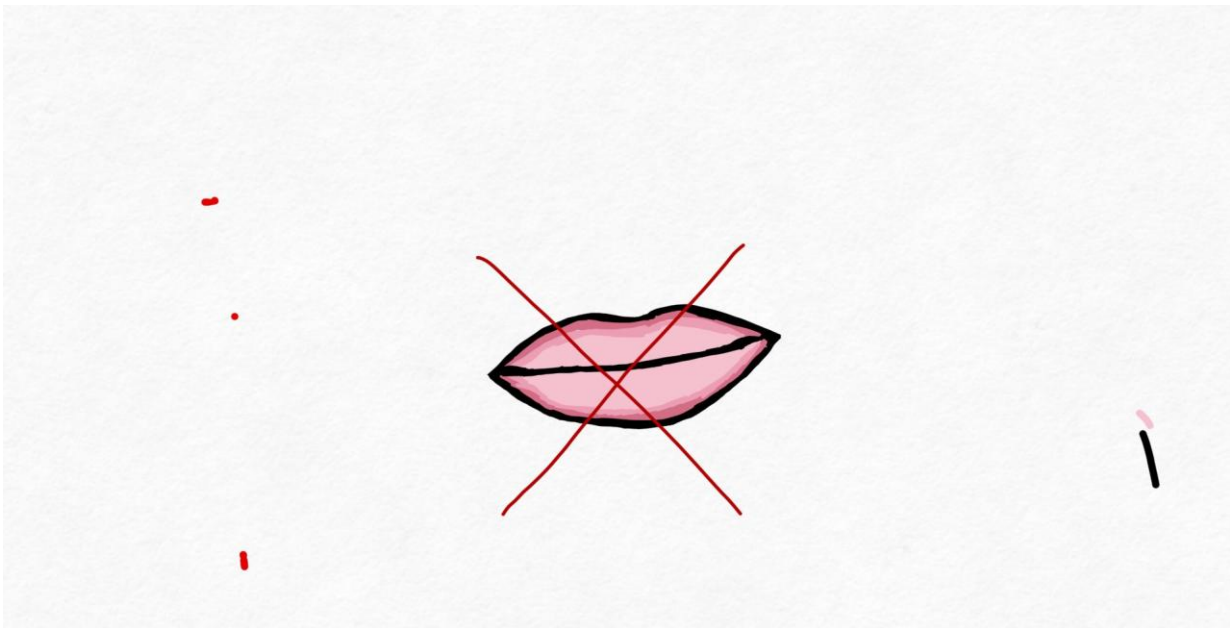
"Riri, you better start eating, no one likes a girl who is skin and bones. Now you better get your daily supplements, it's for your own good" says Mark.

"But I'm not hungry" I whisper, but he hushes me up.

I almost force feed myself a plate of fruit and veggies, to the normal eyes it may have looked delicious and refreshing, but to me, it looked like some monstrosity, some abomination of meal. I even slurped down my protein shake... **gooey.**

I was full... But also empty... perhaps full of emptiness...

**Dear Diary... It's Azuri, when did I start losing the roar inside of me, and replace it with a whisper, if I continue this way it'll really be that I amount to, no one wants that for me, and before I know it, I'll really be nothing but a whisper.**



## Chapter 5: Gone

I'm standing on stage in front crowds of people, rows among rows among rows of rows, I'm ready to sing one of my famous songs 'Nightingale', the spotlight shines upon me, illuminating the shimmers on my dress, the silver of my jewellery and the glitter on my makeup, the crowd cheers me on.

"LUMINESCENCE!" they chant.

"LUMINESCENCE!" they roar.

"LUMINESCENCE!" they exclaim.

"LUMINESCENCE!" this is the name they applaud, the brand name I'm proud to call myself a part of.

"LUMINESCENCE!" they chant.

"..." wait... what.

I try to sing, or even greet the crowd, but nothing comes out.

"BOOOOOO" they yell.

"BOOOOOO" they screech.

"BOOOOOO" they all echoed, I **plunge** into a parade of yells...

"BOOOOOO" a single word is enough to bring me down, but when you think about it it's more than just one, but a whole stadium of it... then again realistically... there was none, there was no spotlight, no stage, no beautiful decorated me, and most certainly no hating nor supporting crowd. All just another nightmare.

I wake up and I can't use my voice.

I tried to make a noise, but nothing came out of my mouth. I was trying to talk but I couldn't.

I immediately text Mark, and to my surprise, he doesn't respond, what a sell-out, of course it's when I need him most, but it's pointless when I can't even think straight, or think at all.

I'm trying to pull myself together, but each breath leaves my lungs before I can even take it in, instead I hold myself tightly, and cower into a corner.

What is he going to do when he finds out my voice is gone?

Is he going to yell at me?

Is he going to humiliate me?

I don't know what he is going to do, I don't think I want to...

Just the thought of all these endlessly horrible possibilities racing in my head is too much for me to comprehend completely.

I really hate this feeling, I wish it'd just leave like a gust of wind in the autumn breeze, instead my sanity is being pulled away with whatever hurricane is coming at me.

I try to recover in my own little bubble, but I hear a knock on my door I get a glimpse through my peeping hole only to see Mark there as much as I want to say I'm not here, he's already started to yell.

"LET ME IN OR I'M GOING TO BREAK THIS DOOR DOWN!"

I wished to myself that every time I held my breath, maybe I'd disappear, out of sight and out of mind...

I open the door, and he yells.

"WHY DIDN'T YOU OPEN THE DOOR THE FIRST TIME I ASKED"

I want to reply I opened to say something, but nothing came out. I am scared; I point at my **homework** and text him to help then he says.

"Why aren't you speaking to me?" I'm shivering, I've never seen Mark like this before, I want to tell him what's wrong, but at this point, would he even bother to listen? I point at my throat, a sly smile seems to come across his face, but as soon as it blinks, I say a frown, maybe I'm just hallucinating, HOW MUCH IS WRONG WITH ME THIS MORNING!

I leave my dorm room and go to school and then I see Mark outside. He sees me and starts yelling.

"Where are you going?"

Then I point to my throat and that's when he drags me from my shirt and then yells out to everyone that I am a disappointment and will never succeed in life. Then he walks out and slams the door behind him.

***Dear diary,***

***This is starting to become unbearable for me, I can't speak. I feel trapped, like I'm drowning. What's the point, everything was going to be good for me anyway. Something bad was bound to happen.***

***-Azuri***

# Chapter 6: Reveal

Me and Mark go way back, all the way back to childhood, I remember I used to make songs with him, but I never knew he felt this way, I never knew that he felt like he was always on the sidelines, I never intended for him to have to suffer in the shadow of my life, and somehow I've done it AGAIN!

Mark... no matter who he is to me now.

A friend.

An acquaintance.

Someone who always had my back.

Or...

A rival.

A foe.

Or an enemy...

But I still can't believe he did this, I really can't. How could he, why would he. We've been best friends for life. How could he do this to me.

On top of it, he's publicly shaming me, telling everyone that I used autotune and generated songs. Why, why did he do this, I've been nothing but good to him.

My frustration is causing me to worry, I look around my desk, trying to find something, anything that would explain why he would do this to me.

Shuffling, organising, moving, I was doing anything to find something that explains everything. Why I lost my voice, why Mark betrayed me.

And then I found it, the thing that started it all.

The ribbon, the one thing that I need to sound good, the thing I need to control the dragon.

The ribbons in pieces, the colour fading, something gooey spreading outside of the ribbons.

Gone, it's gone.

No wonder my voice is gone, I have no control of the dragon. This isn't good, I stare at the broken ribbon in disappointment, my head boiling with anger. This is too far.

My breathing starts becoming faster, my heart beating at an uncontrollable pace. My whole-body sweating.

I practically have smoke coming out of my ears, I feel like a train that won't stop. My throat, in agony, sending out stabs of excruciating pain.

This is it.

***Dear Diary:***

***I've never blacked out before, is this the end, I close my eyes and count to ten, trying to think of what mark said, why he would say that stuff to me. It doesn't hurt, it just aches, like a pebble in your shoe. 1....2...3...4...5... what's comes after 5?***

# Chapter 7: Escape

I wake up in the nurse's office, sweating, pouring almost, my eyes dart all over the room, it doesn't make me feel any better, I try to keep my cool. "Deep breaths" something Mark would say during an uncontrollable crowd, NO! That doesn't matter now Mark is nothing to me now, he may have been my best friend... personal assistant, AND the backbone of my brand "Luminescence", but I'll surely manage.

I hurriedly try to get back up from the floor.

"Ms Azuri... going anywhere? Mr. Marcus advises you stay here for now; it's probably for the better." She speaks.

"No, I need my dragon, I need it to perform, I'm nothing without Zephyrus" I blurt... she looks at me like I'm mentally ill, crazy, or insane, but I'm being so for real.

I try to get up, but she pushes me back down again, my legs feel so weak, my shoulders are heavy, head spinning, this is a much, MUCH worse feeling than my dance practice.

My eyes rush around the room again, and land on a stack of cash...

"Mark paid you... didn't he?" I call her out, she averts her eyes, my eyes may be as warm as the sun, a golden hazel, but they can still be as cold and sharp as winter.

"Yes... but it's for your treatment..." she murmured

"What?!" I exclaim.

"Yes, yes your treatment, you're mentally unstable Miss Azuri, and all Mr. Marcus wants to do is help you recover from the strain performing has put on you."

"No Madam... you've got it all wrong, I'm not insane at all, trust me." I tell her.

"Then wake up."

"What?"

I wake up in the nurse's office, now panicking, was that really all a dream or just a horrid nightmare...

"You're still asleep Azuri, WAKE UP"

I open my eyes... or at least I think they're open, but all I see is a void darkness, but the noises all around overwhelm me, I can't do this anymore, I need to escape, I can't breathe... I'm... I'm... I'm suffocating.

Suffocating in my worries.

Suffocating in my distress.

Suffocating in a problem that have been made up.

Suffocating in a thick cloud of smoke worse than any writer's block.

Again and again, I force deep breaths, these breaths almost clear up my foggy mind, painting little stars in my night sky, all I need to remember is that the sun is one big star, one that simply shines upon the moon, adding to its glow.

I finally wake up, for real now, I'm still sweaty, and the nurse is still trying to hold me back, but the only chains I need broken right now are the ones holding back my voice.

I push past her and race out the door.

***Dear diary, this chapter of my life has been chaotic, almost like a never-ending nightmare, but I'm thankful that I've been able to remember that after dusk there'll be a dawn, and after dawn, a brand-new page...***



# Chapter 8: Into the Unknown

After I left the nurses office I stumbled upon... the unknown and before I knew it I was headed towards some forest.

First it was nice and green leaves and then some of the trees were dead until all the trees are dead it's like a fire burned them then I see a tunnel I go through it I come out it looks like the place I just left but something feels off I walk up to one of the trees and I touch it feels like it was burned with fire but there's no houses or any humans.

I hear a loud breathing behind me and then I see a dragon and it meant no harm I put my hand on its head its head then it lets me.

Was black with hints of red it was giant and has ginormous red wings that looked like fire the dragon had majestic scales and a little fur that looks like red **yarn**.

It signalled me to get on its back then I did then it started flying it was the best moment of my life the wind was all through my hair and the unknown had dark clouds and lighting Everywhere.

that's when the dragon had fire coming of its mouth it was so warm and was heating my cold hands up, I was so fun. That's when the dragon had fire coming of its mouth it was so warm and was heating my cold hands up, it was so fun.

When the dragon was flying down that's when I saw it a scar where humans tried to harm it, I felt a heaviness in my heart because why would anyone do this that's so sad.

When I traced my hand around it whimpered quietly, I've never felt that much guilt humans but it, but it still trusted me.

When we finally reached the ground, I looked at it then I started walking away from the dragon I was in shock, and I was kind of sad at the same time.

When I was walking away from the dragon I was walking back to the school, I saw Zephyrus when I was walking, I stared at it for a while.

***Dear diary***

***Today I was in the forest, and I saw a dragon with giant wings that breaths fire and I saw a big scar on its back from humans I felt bad and when I was on the way back from this place that is unknown, I see Zephyrus I make eye contact with it and I slowly***

# Chapter 9: Shedding Scales

Reunited

At least I find Zephyrus, it feels as if a part of me has been sown together again, as it should be.

Zephyrus wraps around me and restores my voice.

Out of the blue, Marcus appears...

"AZURI!!!" I freeze as he calls my name, first time he didn't call me Riri. His hair is genuinely a mess, he doesn't even have his comb, his tie is... untied, his hair isn't a mess, HE IS A MESS.

"How dare you think you could amount to anything!" he yells.

"You're wrong, I'm more than you could ever be, and as long as that's true, I can happily live with myself, it's only because of you I've been feeling this way, it's you and me who know that" I remark proudly.

I can almost physically FEEEEEL the anger bubbling, brewing and boiling within him.

"How dare you Azuri I'm the one who brought you this far, you were terrible before you met me!" He said as he looks me in the eye.

"No, I was terrible when I met you, you made me feel light I needed the dragon to mind my voice."

"BECAUSE YOU DO!"

He snapped back, his eyes turning red.

"Actually, I don't, my voice is as strong as before



# Chapter 10: Grand Ignition

Dear Diary, it's me as always Azuri, for some reason I'm writing to you a little earlier than usual, but that's ok, I'm getting ready for a performance, one where I hope I shine like the sun, burn like the stars, but still be as cool as the moon, is there really a difference to that though?

Some make-up artists prepare my ideal look for today's song, called "Grand Ignition" a song with a burst of emotion, and overflowing with all my experiences as a first year at All-Star Academy.

My dress is midnight blue, but also navy blue, only few can tell the difference between the two, but it truly ISSS a subtle change in shade, the sparkles twinkle to bedazzle the crowd, and the veil of my dress shimmers too.

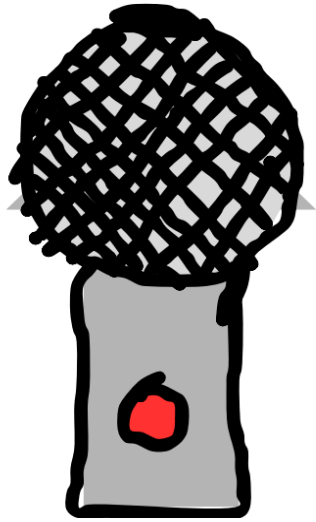
The pearls on my waist stand out on my dark coloured dress, almost glowing. The ruffles starting as a deep midnight blue and descending into a pale sky colour... just perfect.

I pull up my white gloves, to show to my assistants how ready I am for this show, never have I felt freer.

I dramatically take off my veil to reveal my dazzling outfit to the crowd, they roar applaud and cheer all together.

I sing my song, bringing a pep in their steps, a beat to their feet, a goal to their soul.

Dear Diary... I am Azuri and my parents said I could sing before I could even talk. Really, I was the roar of a whisper...



Blurb:

A singer, a professional assistant and a dragon. Watch as Zuri and her music franchise, experience difficult challenges throughout her days of ALL STARS ACADEMY.

