

all sorts
happen





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 - Melton
TEAM NAME: SFCC Melton 8
TEAM ID: 1800

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Firefighter
Primary character 2 Acrobat
Non-human character Penguin
Setting Laneway
Issue Making a new friend

Random words

event
crisp
elastic
clumsy
bright

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 2pm**

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:

I would like to thank Ms Todd, Ms Reid and other teachers for letting us experience WABIAD. It has been so much fun, with ups, downs, twists and turns but in the end we got there. I would like to thank all the sponsors for supporting our journey and making our book a possibility. As a former patient, I would like to thank all doctors, nurses and the rest of any medical team for being heroes all day every day. May your actions and courage may not go unnoticed. For all the kids out there struggling, may this story guide you into knowing there is always a way out. Be strong, be brave, be the best you can be. Finally, thanks to all my friends for helping me share this story and write this book with pride, after 12 long hours we got there in the end and I'm forever thankful.



We also would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book was created, the of the land and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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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Chapter 1: A frosty start

In every interview I've ever had, I get asked the same thing: why choose to be an acrobat when I have the smarts to be a scientist, the courage to be a police officer, or the strength to be a bodybuilder?



Maybe it's the thrill of knowing that my two legs are the only things keeping me from falling off the ring. Maybe it's the pure adrenaline of knowing that at any given moment, everything could go wrong. Ever since I was eight years old, I've been in love with making people smile—leaving them with the feeling that they've just witnessed something they couldn't even see in their dreams.

"What would you say your Favorite part of the whole show is?" the interviewer asks, thrusting the microphone toward my mouth.

My Favorite part would have to be my ring solo. It's the most nerve-wracking part of the entire production. I hang from a massive ring with no harness, no safety net, and no safe landing spot if I fall. There is a ringing in my ears as the audience watches in absolute awe, cheering my name. Meanwhile, the pressure mounts in the wings, where my director is sweating bullets because if I get hurt, it's on him.

My next show is later tonight at the theatre across the road. It's usually the same routine every night, but tonight, I am going to perform my ring solo blindfolded. Tonight, could completely change the trajectory of my career. I'm even flying my parents in from their trip to London. It will be the first time in five years that they'll see me perform. Everything hangs in the balance tonight, and it will change the forever.

Chapter 2: Tonight

I was on the train, just a my stop: **the Grand** had been dreaming of rewarding feeling of pride



everything changes.

few minutes away from **Theatre of All Arts**. I the applause and the from both myself and

my parents—all the flowers and confetti I had ever wished for. As I stepped off the train, only a few steps away from my destination, I began walking toward the theatre. I felt ready, excited, and fully prepared.

Walking up the stairs, a wave of nervousness hit me as I thought about everything that could happen and all the opportunities ahead. I prayed that my parents would be proud of me, imagining them cheering from the audience. In my mind, my routine went perfectly smooth, just like it always did in practice. This time, I knew I just needed to impress them. I was going to show them tricks they had never seen before.

When I arrived outside the theatre, I pulled out my phone to check the time. Huh, I must have miscalculated. I was early, so I decided to take some photos and run through a rehearsal to ensure my performance would be one hundred percent accurate. Standing in front of the building, I snapped a picture of the amazing structure. It looked like a cathedral, with grand pillars rising high into the sky beneath a magnificent title. The golden morning sun reflected perfectly off the heavenly towers and stained-glass windows. A gentle breeze brushed past me as I looked up, and I finally lowered my phone to fully take in the scenery.

To practice, I slipped into a nearby laneway, far away from the theatre's main entrance. I began practicing the facial expressions I would display on stage, along with all my poses. I twisted and turned carefully along the pavement, which was still slick with morning dew. I pranced like a ballerina, slid like a viper, and spun as if I were already on my ring.

Then the worst happened. As I was going to jump, I slipped on the wet ground. begin falling headfirst.



Chapter 3: Penguin dream?

"Woah..." I yawn quietly and shortly; my eyes open slowly; the scene of my greatest moments unfolds. Wow... Am I back onstage? I step closer toward the edge of the board, lights shining brightly and the hanging ring dangles back and forth toward me like a grandfather clock. I strike a signature pose.

I can't believe it, I'm here and performing. I see my parents below in the audience with a proud expression. My toes bend on the ledge, I smile, ready to take flight. The ring swings right before my eyes, and I take hold. I push myself off, gracefully flying across above the stage like a dove. With my free hand, I reach out high.

Suddenly, it's gone quiet. A squeaky voice called out "Hi Kaitlyn!"

I gasp, letting go of the ring without control. I scream, wriggling my arms and legs. I look down, the stage was gone! I was falling into a pool of darkness, with nothing to do about it. A loud roar of laughter and gasps



erupt from the missing crowd. I close my eyes tightly, waiting for this nightmare to end.

"Kaitlyn!" The childlike voice cheeped again.

The fall started becoming slower and the surrounding sound faded quickly. It seemed like I was floating. I opened an eye; a glow of a purplish-blue light blinds me. Before me, a figure appeared as I was falling. It became clearer, it was a—I blinked again. "Penguin?" I said curiously, I CANNOT believe this was happening, a penguin. A purple penguin? A blue penguin? That's not the point! What on earth is happening? "Yes!" The penguin squealed excitedly, waving its small flippers. "That's me! I'm the penguin!"

"The penguin?" I asked, I don't recall anything about a penguin! "Well, yes! The penguin! I'll be your best friend forever and ever!" The penguin said happily, waddling in the air as I was floating down, grabbing onto my leg. This is ridiculous. I look down at the poor animal, watching it mumbles about being my 'lifelong partner.' The show I displayed was horrible, and now I'm talking to a purplish penguin. Wait, the show? That was just a dream! What happened to the actual show!?





Chapter 4: Eyes wide shut

My eyes snapped open. A profound numbness weighed heavily in my bones, and my vision remained blurred, leaving me deeply sedated by whatever the staff had prescribed. An itchy hospital gown scratched irritably against my skin. Looking down, I found a heavy cast encasing my leg and layers of tight bandages wrapped around my abdomen.



My mind was a complete blank canvas as I tried to piece together how I had ended up in this hospital bed. The only fragments I could gather were out of place: a stupid stuffed penguin, a vase of dying flowers on a table across the room, and piles upon piles of "get well soon" cards from my coworkers. Nearby, my mother's coat draped over a chair, with my father's sunglasses resting right next to it.

A woman in scrubs, whose nametag read "Doctor Lin," approached my bedside. "I see you've finally woken up, Kaitlyn," she said softly, preparing to write on her clipboard. "Are you feeling any pain in your abdomen?" I tried to speak, but I couldn't seem to force out the words to describe the fog I was trapped in. Instead, I simply shook my head. The movement brought a dull ache, but it subsided when she pressed a cold compress against my forehead. The slight scratch of her nails against my skin provided a relaxing, grounding sensation.

"What about your head? Any pain there?" she asked.

"N-n-no," I stammered, my voice trembling. "It just... its f-f-feels numb." Suddenly, a sharp, white-hot pain shot through my leg. I lifted the blanket slightly, confirming the heavy white plaster wrapped securely around it. "You'll feel like that for a little while," Doctor Lin explained gently. "We're going to keep you on pain medication until the swelling and bruising go down."

"Swe—swelling?" I echoed, entirely confused.

She offered a comforting smile, though her eyes betrayed a deep sense of sorrow. "Kaitlyn, you were in a major accident. Your leg is severely injured, and it is going to take months—maybe even years—to return to normal health. I don't mean to be overly blunt, especially since it's still a bit early to tell, but... it's highly possible you won't be able to do acrobatics again." My heart shattered. Tears instantly flooded my eyes as the crushing weight of her words settled in. Everything I had ever worked for was completely ruined.



Chapter 5: They say you should never meet your heroes

Days I live in regret, trying to reflect and remember whatever i did to possibly be in this situation. I tried to cover my thoughts with something positive but i kept on getting a reminder of the incident. Then Doctor Lin comes inside, with an unfamiliar guy in a firefighter uniform. I could've sworn that Ive seen that guy before, but I shrugged it off.



"You must be Kaitlyn?" The firefighter said as I meet his eyes confused. I seek for clarity from Doctor Lin, but she's just about to leave the room already.

"Do I know you?" I reply as he pulls up a seat at the end of my bed, my head pounding, voices telling me that I've seen this person before, but I can't recall when.

"I heard that you hit your head pretty hard on the ground".

"Yes, i did how could you possibly know?"

"I was there; I rescued you."

My mouth draws in awe, thousands of thoughts and memories run to my head. I start to slowly lose my mind with the memory overload. And when I stare at him more flashbacks kick in.

Dr Lin leaves the room as I'm searching through every interaction with everyone I've talked to while in the hospital. I don't recall him rescuing me.

Wait is that how I got here? Questions pile up in my head, and I think of every possibility.

I start to tear up

"Thank you-"

I get cut off and his phone rings as he shakes my hand goodbye. I have no idea what to think, should I appreciate him? Should I hate him? Should I thank him? I get overwhelmed by the thought of not knowing what's to come, first I can't do my passion anymore, my parents have flown back to London, and now mystery man is my hero?

Chapter 6: Penguin reprise

Sleep is the only thing I can do nowadays, I haven't walked in over a month know, and these pain meds make me very sleepy. My parents still send letters here and there, but the pity died down a long time ago. What I consider fun nowadays is when Doctor Lin buys me something different from the cafeteria occasionally.



I dose off to sleep while I see Doctor Lin in the crack of my eye turning off my tv and shutting off the lights. As I slowly fall asleep, I see that penguin again. I hear the little pat footsteps approaching my bed like it's in real time.

"How are you feeling?"

"Don't ask me that, I'm not that bright

I reply in anger as the penguin folds a sad expression on his face.

"You will recover, this is only temporary, this isn't going to last forever. All this pain and sadness and worry just proves how strong you are. All this heartbreak and crushed dreams just mean you can bounce back quicker."

I start to tear up as the purple penguin comes to my bed and gives me a hug, a warm embrace as if he was there. I wish he was there; he's been there for me with everything this past month, he really understands for some reason? Like has been through this before.

"Thank you."

"In your darkest moments ever let me be your light, with courage and hope your courage will go quicker than you think."

He pats away leaving me on the bed as I feel a feeling in my injured foot, a crisp sensation, as if I would be able to move it. As if after all this pain and numbness, I finally could move it slightly. I wake up and call Doctor lin to the room, she paces in and I tell her that I'm ready to begin the treatments.

Chapter 7: Recovery

Dr Lin sat me down today, she let me know on all the treatments, physio and programs I need to get back into my normal self. The money alone could fix it but it's all the pain and all the stress I've been through that may just push me over the edge. I want this all to end already. All the times I dreamed of making my life successful it all just went up in flames. All the scholarships, sponsors, performances, all the time and energy I've put into



all this for nothing. But I'm glad the treatments are working and I'm getting better, but it just feels like I did this all for nothing. Why did this have to happen to me I was doing great in life. Why out of all the people who do others wrong, and I do what's right.

I stare at the sheet with all the things my leg must endure to go back to normal, months of recovery. I stare at a wall then i hear a knock on the door. " Hey Kaitlyn your treatment is almost complete, and you will be ready to go home in no time so don't stress about it. "And here is you're dinner for the night and the paperwork, documents will be completed by tomorrow” Dr Lin says smiling as if it's forced. Then the door closes and i can't hold myself but crack a smile. I'm finally going home soon this has been a dream. I quickly eat my food not even catching a breath I'm ready for the next day to start. I click the nurse button above my bed so she can take my dishes away. She comes in with that same forced smile but i don't think

about it I just text my mother recover is going smoothly and i should be out of the hospital in a few weeks. she reply's with and heart next to my text and calls out goodnight. I put my phone down on the side of table and head to the bathroom. I brush my teeth smiling hard and put my pjs on getting ready for the next day which is my exercise day with Physio therapist. I turn off the bedroom lights and snuggle in my bed Day Complete

Chapter 8: Me Vs Gravity!

KNOCK KNOCK!



I turn my head slowly to face the door and see Joseph come in. He hasn't visited in for a long time.

"Why haven't you been here in a while?" I ask as he pours me a cup of tea on the side of my bed. I take a sip and he takes a deep breath.

"I heard about your memory loss and I just felt guilty. My mum was in the hospital for the same thing, I felt like hopeless, like no matter what I tried to do it didn't matter because she was forgetting me anyway. I am sorry, I didn't mean to make you upset Its just really hard to be back here after everything."

He looks at the floor as the room goes silent; you could hear a pin drop if needed. I grab his hand in a comforting way.

"I get that, I don't think I ever got the chance and say thank you. You saved me, you prevented the injury from getting worse and I thank you for that, I get that you probably wouldn't bear to be in the same place, but you're not hopeless, my hero. Now I must see my physio therapist for the last time."

"Tomorrow, I want to take you somewhere, somewhere where you might just remember everything you have forgotten."

I smile as he steps up and walks out, this made my day. I think about everything I've been through these past few months and reflect on how far I've come lately. Dr Lin enters the room.

"How you feel?"

She asks, grabbing her clipboard like every other day.

"I'm ready to go on crutches."

A surprised glare across Dr Lins face, I can hear the elastic sound from the crutches echoing through the hall. I feel a beam of bravery, courage and determination. I'm ready to take the next big step. Well crutch steps, if you know what I mean.



Chapter 9: New beginnings, again?

Today is the day I get to leave the hospital, joseph is taking me to an acrobatic place, this is finally the time I could have a chance to regain all my knowledge.



“Just this way and hopefully your memory will recover” joseph said while walking with me, we walk into the place and all I see is these healthy acrobats doing tricks and flips

“I wish I could still do that but no I can barely even remember things, easy things that happened not even a day ago by the way” yep, I really wish I was doing that still, my whole future has now probably been ruined just from one simple little fall. “It’s okay you’ll get better, I’ll be right by your side at all times” he places his hand gently on my shoulder and looks at me, I look at him back and continue.

“Alright lets go find a seat” I say in an awkward voice, “right, yep let’s go” joseph also replied in an awkward voice, we go find a seat and as I’m watching them do flips and everything, I’m feeling a slight amount of dizziness and decide to get up and go toilet.

“I’m feeling a bit dizzy I’m going to go toilet”

“Alright do you want help walking there?” joseph asks, “no no its fine I’ll be fine.” I reply. “Alright then be careful please, text me if you need me “. I get up and walk to the bathroom and just splash some water on my face, trying to cool myself down a bit. When I go back, I sit back down and just glance into the distance watching the acrobats do trick but then I start zoning out, tear drop starts running down my face.

“Hey why you crying are you okay?” joseph asks me “yeah I’m good I’m just trying to get past the fact that my whole future will



probably be in the toilet soon "I say while trying to hold back my tears. "Kaitlyn look around, how many injuries do you think everyone here has faced. Now you just need to come and bounce back harder." He says with a proud expression on his face. I decide to build up the courage and try walking to the ring without my crutches.

Agonizing pain shoots through my leg but I can't stop, I won't stop. I feel the ring as I remember all the memories of me being clumsy and falling off the ring time from time again. I remember all the events I would win and all the medals I would come home with.

I can hear the cheers, the claps the screaming after I did my ring solo. I can see my coworkers in the wings relieved. I can smell the sweat, blood and tears that went into my routine. I can taste the victory the blood pumping through my veins.

I remember this

I love this

I got this.



Blurb:

Kaitlyn has the best career she could EVER imagine. With her final performance tonight that'll leave the crowd speechless. But whatever happens tonight will shape her future forever. She now has a friend for life, a new set of dreams and a passion for what she loves most. She also has gained appreciation for what she has, remember anything can get taken away in a second. Live everyday like it's your last.

THE END



