



THE REALM OF THE ENCHANTED WISHES

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Parameters form

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC
DIVISION: Middle School (Required word count 3500 to 5000 words)
SCHOOL/GROUP: St Francis Catholic College, Cobblebank
TEAM NAME: Most Valued Writers
TEAM ID: 2059

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 University student ✓
Primary character 2 Mysterious stranger ✓
Non-human character Llama ✓
Setting Beach ✓
Issue Finding buried treasure ✓

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 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

List of authors

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Acknowledgement of Country



we acknowledge the Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
peoples as the First Peoples and
Traditional Custodians of the
lands, skies and waters we now
know as Victoria. We honour and
pay our respects to First Peoples'
Elders past and present, and we
recognise the continuing
strength of Victoria's First
Peoples.



CHAPTER 1

In the quaint suburbs of Gold Coast, lived a 19-year-old university student, named Eugene Dean. His hometown was Surfer's Paradise, bound to the east by the sparkling coral reef and vast blue waters of the Pacific Ocean. He attended a prestigious private university called "Bond University." The university had beautiful architecture covering every inch of the grounds, towering classrooms with intricate carvings etched into the walls that dated back to 1987. He had everything he could have ever wanted: an amazing house, loving parents, and plenty of money. Though, despite having almost everything, he lacked friends. Eugene was a lonely social outcast. All this combined made him struggle with his grades, especially because final exams were fast approaching placing an immense amount of stress on him.

As he trudged through the giant school gates alone, he caught a glimpse of a poster stuck on the public bulletin board. It was for an upcoming event, "university students' party today! Come clear up your mind, relax, and drink lots of Milo and eat lots of Tim Tams before finals!". When Eugene read this, an idea clicked in his brain, it was like a lightbulb switched on. This would be his chance to make friends and try to fit in, and just maybe fix his grades too!

After Eugene's dreadful day at school, he practically sprinted home in haste wanting to 'glow up' for the party. Eugene scrambled to his mother's bedroom and slapped her face mask on. He began to style his hair with gel and put on his best suit and tie (that his mum bought for him, and he never wore it due to embarrassment.) Eugene didn't just shine; his mere presence made the room glow.

This time, Eugene strode through the school gates, his ego bursting with confidence. He looked and felt as if he was on top of the world. As he entered the party, all eyes fell on him pinning his place. Silence. Someone shouted, “eww look at Eugene's hair it looks like a brick!”, The students burst out into laughter that echoed across the room like a group of shrieking hyenas. Eugene looked around in horror, he felt as if his heart was going to burst out of his chest. Not one single person stood up for him, he could feel their eyes glaring at him like lasers... Sweat rolled down the back of his neck, his collar felt tighter than before. Eugene pulled it on hoping to loosen it. When everyone calmed down, Eugene went to a corner and sat alone. As he wallowed in his embarrassment and grief, a tall, chubby boy walked up to him. "Hi my name's Jackson, I noticed you were sitting alone, I couldn't stop myself from at least saying hi". Eugene sat up straight and wiped his eyes. "Hi my name is Eugene". Eugene and Jackson began to talk about the upcoming finals and how they could prepare for it. As time went on, they both grew more engaged in the conversation. 'My first true friend!' Eugene thought to himself overflowing with happiness. As more people started joining in on the conversation, Eugene's anxiety started to grow; he could feel his stomach turning in on itself. He began to shrink as more and more new faces surrounded him until a wall of people blocked his vision. His dream was finally coming true, but

for some reason he didn't want to be there. "Sorry, please excuse me, I need to go to the toilet," Eugene said in an astringent tone.

When Eugene returned from the toilet, he noticed a mysterious stranger looming over him wearing a jet-black cloak that was covered in holes from head toe. An uncanny aura hovered around him.

“You, boy, secrets lie at the beach for you, it is your destiny to uncover the real truth and make your greatest desires come to life!” His voice boomed fiercely. Then he started mumbling and whispering under his breath in an incomprehensible language, his voice getting more and more muffled. It sounded like he was placing a curse upon Eugene. Eugene felt goosebumps crawl up his spine. Slowly, he began to walk away, ignoring the stranger. ‘That was weird,’ he thought to himself. After the strange interaction he felt utterly exhausted, so he left the party early.



CHAPTER 2

As Eugene left the semi-awful experience at the party, he didn't feel like going home. He wanted to clear his mind, so he went to his favorite place to clear his thoughts, the beach. Eugene loved the beach, especially the salty scent of the sea and the feeling of peace it gave him every time he went. He loved the feel of the fluffy sand between his toes, the gentle sounds of waves crashing against the shore, and the overall tranquility in the atmosphere. This was the place he could go to no matter how he felt; whether he was in distress or when he was feeling down; it was like his second home. Eugene walked along the beach with the waves brushing against his feet. He began to wonder, "what was that crazy man talking about". Eugene's skin prickled and goosebumps covered his arms whenever he thought about the weird interaction with the cloaked man. The sun was descending beneath the horizon. A gradient of pink, orange, blue, and purple painted the sky. The breeze was warm and crisp. Then he started feeling drowsy. Unaware, Eugene started to relax as time slowly crept by. He yawned and stretched his legs. Catching a glimpse of a dim light from the corner of his eye. As he turned his head to get a better look, he spotted a soft light glowing in the distance. Although it was late and the sun was beginning to set, he decided to investigate.

Eugene followed the light and as he got closer, the beach became even more unfamiliar. He stiffened, a feeling of unease settled over him as he asked himself, "What part of the beach is this? I don't remember it being this big." A voice inside of him started to whisper, begging him not to go, but he decided to follow his heart instead. After taking a closer look at the glowing light, he noticed its silhouette resembled a sort of rock formation. He turned around a sense of dread washed over him, only to realize that he had no idea where he was. He was lost.

The beach seemed to have been replaced with large, hard rocks that looked were worn out, probably after years of waves crashing into them. He took another glance at the light, it was like he was being hypnotised, unable to control his own body. One step after the other he slowly lost his will to fight against the pull. The rock silhouette had now transformed into an eerie cave that seemed to out scale all things around it. The soft glow grew into a beacon of light that sliced through all darkness. Eugene was terrified, even though his body was still moving forward, his curiosity had gotten the better of him. He inched closer to the light and spotted something otherworldly. A huge portal emitting bright, white, and purple streaks of light spiralling through the centre. It was standing on a raised platform weathered away with cracks and covered in moss high up on the ledge of the cave. As Eugene glared at the portal the walls caught his eye, they were decorated with paintings, carvings, and hieroglyphics describing a 'new' world. directions on how to use the portal were plastered along the large stone frame.

Suddenly the ground began to rumble, colossal cracks emerged all over the cave. Eugene fell to his knees holding the hard rock beneath him. Through the cracks a mysterious button rose up in front of him.

Rocks crumbled overhead and clouds of dust filled the cave. Eugene used all his strength and reached his hand out towards the button hoping to end this madness.

Click! Everything froze. He lifted his head, Infront of him stood a spiralling staircase, draped in thick, green vines. Moss covered each step. Eugene sprinted up the staircase as fast as he could until he reached the top. Infront of him was the portal, bright spiralling lights of purple and white illuminating from it. Eugene took a step back and braced himself, "one, two, three!", he shouted pushing off his right leg, throwing himself through the portal, "AHHHHHHHH", he screamed, his voice so high it could break glass. WOOSH!



CHAPTER 3

THUD!

Slowly Eugene began to regain consciousness. He sat up quickly, his mouth flooded with sand, the bitter taste poisoning his tastebuds. He began to aggressively spit it out, his head dizzy from the fall. "Where am I?" He thought to himself as he began scanning the unfamiliar landscape. Slowly he turned around, standing there was a llama. But she wasn't any ordinary llama. The llama was wearing a tiny explorer's army-print bucket hat and a pair of crooked sunglasses. It had a small leopard-print backpack strapped around its body and an odd collar around its neck that read "Chicken" she kind of smelled like chicken too.

The llama took one step towards Eugene and tripped over its own foot face-planting directly into the sand. "OWWW!" the clumsy llama named Chicken muttered with a face filled with sand. Eugene stared at it in complete disbelief, his jaw dropped. "You can talk!?" Chicken lifted her head and rolled her eyes. "Obviously, what did you think I was going to do, moo?" Chicken responded, agitated, in a squeaky voice. Eugene scrambled back in confusion "You're a talking llama named Chicken?!" Chicken looked at Eugene and responded with sarcasm, "And you're a human that fell from the sky?".

Eugene noticed something strange hanging from Chicken's mouth. "What's that?" Chicken grinned. Her elastic tongue suddenly shot out several metres, wrapped itself around a nearby fruit and yanked it straight into her mouth.

Eugene stood completely frozen, staring at the llama chewing the fruit. "Okay," Eugene whispered. "Either I hit my head really hard... or I'm definitely not in Gold Coast anymore." Chicken swung her tiny body around and began to limp away. "Hey, wait!" screamed Eugene looking at Chickens leg.

He walked toward chicken and bent down next to her. RIPPPPP.

Eugene tore the sleeve of his blazer and began to gently wrap it around Chickens leg. "Hey! what are you doing!" exclaimed

Chicken in confusion, 'there try walking now," said Eugene.

Chicken began to walk around testing the makeshift bandage,

"hey it's all better now' Chicken said gratefully. She decided to

help this lost human so she told him "You helped me so now I will help you. Eugene told her about the buried wish treasure deep in

the heart of the magical land, but I must warn you that we will

have to defeat a dragon. You will get only two wishes, what do

you want?" Eugene was delighted that Chicken would help him

get through these treacherous lands. "I will wish to go back home and fix my grades and my crippling social life".

CHAPTER 4

They went into the magical world looking for the wishing treasure chest, so Eugene could wish to fix his grades, social issues, and get back home. They began their journey through the land; as they continuously walked on and on, they felt as if someone was watching them. But when they turned to look for it, they saw nothing. Soon they stumbled upon a massive steel gate leading to an old, abandoned village. The gate was covered in scorch marks. It looked as if something or someone had tried to burn down the gate.

Chicken asked Eugene, "So uh... kid, how did you get here?", "I mean you just fell out of the sky; it's not like you see that every day". Eugene side-eyed Chicken and replied weirdly, "Umm... Actually, I'm not sure. "I guess it was late at night, I was tired and then somehow, I stumbled across this eerie purple portal and I went through it". "Interesting, I've never seen a portal in this land before" Chicken replied. " Yeah" Eugene then remembered the party. He thought about how he was humiliated Infront of what seemed like the whole school. In that moment Eugene felt like a complete loser. "Hey why quiet all of a sudden," said Chicken. Eugene looked at Chicken and asked, "Do you have any friends?". Chickens pace slowed down as she walked. "I guess we can be friends, right?". A soft grin appeared across Eugene's face. He liked the thought of that. "Yeah, we can be friends," Eugene replied.

As they walked through the gate, the trees grew taller and darker. Strange glowing flowers surrounded the path, and then they saw a large red X(thats where most treasures are buried).

Eugene leaned down to dig the ground for the buried treasure chest, suddenly he heard a loud, thunderous ROARRRRR!!! A shiver crept up his spine and chicken's legs went wobbly. "Please don't tell me that's the dragon Chicken" Eugene said. "I'm afraid it is" Chicken replied, her voice cracking terribly. Soon a dragon crawled its way to Eugene and chicken using his large, pointed claws. Its wings giant but damaged and toun from battle and rock, its sharp red scales catching the light of the sun, and its teeth as sharp as knives grinning in a horrifying smile.

The dragon opened its enormous mouth and breathed a stream of bright blue fire towards Eugene and Chicken. Eugene quickly jumped behind a large rock while Chicken ran in circles around the dragon. The dragon, confused, its head dizzy, kept turning around, trying to catch the fast-moving llama. Eugene realized Chicken was distracting the dragon, so he looked around for something to use against it.

Nearby, Eugene spotted a large bucket of water by a well. He hurriedly grabbed it and ran towards the dragon as Chicken continued distracting it. Just as the dragon opened its mouth to breathe another blast of fire Eugene threw the bucket of water straight into its face. The dragon's flames disappeared with a loud hiss, and it stumbled backwards in surprise. Chicken seized the opportunity and charged at the dragon as fast as she could. The dragon spun around trying to figure out who to go for. until it finally passed out into a huge pile of soft leaves. Eugene rushed over to make sure it was okay. But it was knocked out and snoring loudly. Eugene and chicken looked at each other and smiled. They defeated a giant fire-breathing dragon! Eugene and Chicken quickly headed for the wish treasure chest.

CHAPTER 5

Eugene held the glowing orb; he could feel its power pulsing through him, glittery Sparks flying off its smooth surface. WOOSHH, suddenly a strong wind sucked the orb from his hands, Chicken screamed from the top of her lungs, the old mysterious stranger stood at the entrance of the tunnel chuckling idiotically. "Finally, I have the orb, my wish can be complete". Just then a huge gust of wind came from the direction of the dragon as it woke up. It saw the mysterious Stanger leaping at him. The dragon's claws wrapped around the man and the orb slipped from his hands and into the dragons' mouth. As the man tried to wriggle his way out of the claws of the dragon. It aggressively threw the man in a cage slamming the door shut. Hanging from the ceiling the stranger screamed The dragen locked the door and flew up into the sky.

Eugene dropped to his knees, he felt as if his body had been submerged in water, he couldn't breathe 'no... no, no, no this can't be it, I have to get home', He cried his voice a hundred shades of disappointment.

Eugene peered into the chest and spotted an old scroll at the hidden at the bottom next to it a golden quill decorated with engravings submerged in an ink that looked like it was made of crushed diamonds.

Written on the scroll in bold letters it read 'he whom possesses this scroll may have his wish granted, write your wish and sign the scroll and your wish will be granted.' Eugene, his hands trembling with relief, carefully picked up the scroll, and began to write 'I wish to go home'. He then signed the paper to lock in his wish. The ground began to rumble, and a thunderous roar that shook the sky echoed through the cave.

Eugene looks at his feet; a portal begins to crack open. He could feel his body slowly being consumed by the neon pink lights, “wait... I FORGOT ABOUT MY GRADES!” a wave of regret washed over him, he reached his arms out in a desperate attempt to escape. But there was no use, it was too late.



CHAPTER 6

Eugene opened his eyes. He was lying on the soft sand of his favorite beach, the warm sunlight shining down on his face. For a moment, he stared at the sky in confusion, wondering if everything that had happened was just a dream, or was it real? The magical land, Chicken, the dragon, the treasure chest and the mysterious stranger all felt impossible. Eugene slowly stood up and looked around. There was no glowing portal, no strange creatures and no mysterious man, he was finally home.

Eugene hurried back to his house and was greeted by his worried parents. They had been wondering where he had gone all night. Eugene could have told them about the magical world, but he knew they wouldn't believe him. So he made up some lame excuse and went straight to his bed. As he sat on his bed, Eugene noticed Chicken's explorer's hat laying on the floor and a weird noise coming from his closet. Maybe the adventure had happened after all! Eugene lunged to open the closet and there he saw Chicken's head poking out of a portal. "This is a portal to visit each other whenever we want, I got a friend to make it! Here's the remote controller to open it!". Eugene smiled and took the remote controller wondering how they connected the portal to it. He waved goodbye and said, "I'll visit you in the holidays!".

RING! RING! Next morning, Eugene woke up to the sound of his alarm. He stared at the ceiling with dread. Today was the day he had to return to Bond University. The thought of walking through those enormous gates again made his stomach twist. He remembered the party, the laughter, the embarrassing comments about his hair and the feeling of sitting alone when everyone stared at him. He wanted to hide under his blankets and pretend none of it had happened. But then he remembered what he had gone through in the magical world. He had

faced a dragon, travelled through a strange world and helped Chicken even when he was terrified. Compared to that, making a few friends didn't seem so impossible.

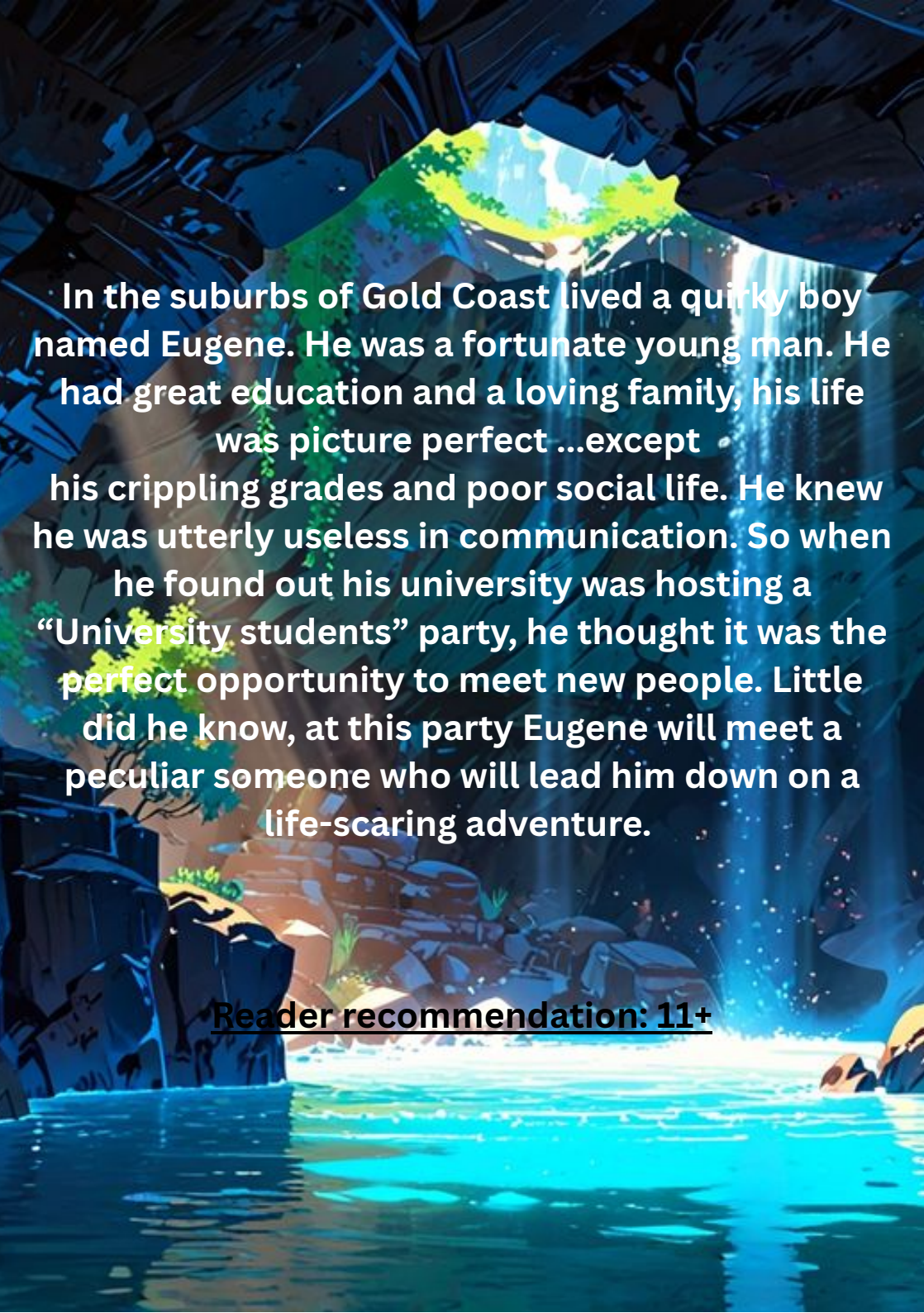
Eugene got dressed, packed his bag and walked through the university gates. His heart was pounding, and his hands were sweaty, but this time he didn't turn around. He took a deep breath and walked into his classroom. Jackson was sitting at a desk near the window. Eugene hesitated for a moment before walking over. "Hey Jackson" he said nervously. Jackson looked up and smiled. "Hey Eugene! I haven't seen you since the party." Eugene smiled back. Instead of running away like he had before, he sat beside him. Soon, they began continuing their conversation about schoolwork and the upcoming finals.

As the day went on, Eugene realised that making friends wasn't about trying to impress everyone or change who he was. He didn't need expensive clothes, perfect hair, or some magical wish to make people like him. He simply needed the courage to talk to people. During lunch, Eugene introduced himself to a few other students sitting with Jackson. At first, his voice shook but he kept talking. They laughed, joked, and talked about their classes. For the first time in a long time, Eugene didn't feel like an outsider. He realised that he had been so afraid of being rejected that he had never given anyone a chance to know him.

The next few weeks were not easy. Eugene still felt nervous sometimes, and studying for his finals was difficult. However, instead of wishing his problems away, he decided to take responsibility for them. Every afternoon, he studied instead of procrastinating. When he didn't understand something, he asked his teachers and classmates for help. Jackson even helped him study, and Eugene helped Jackson with some of his subjects too. Slowly, Eugene's confidence began to grow. He discovered that he could improve his grades if he actually put in the effort.

Finally, the day of the finals results arrived. Eugene sat nervously at his computer and opened his results. His eyes widened when he saw the words on the screen. He had passed his finals! He had true friends and actually enjoyed university.





In the suburbs of Gold Coast lived a quirky boy named Eugene. He was a fortunate young man. He had great education and a loving family, his life was picture perfect ...except his crippling grades and poor social life. He knew he was utterly useless in communication. So when he found out his university was hosting a “University students” party, he thought it was the perfect opportunity to meet new people. Little did he know, at this party Eugene will meet a peculiar someone who will lead him down on a life-scaring adventure.

Reader recommendation: 11+