

On most pages there is a TV. Try and find all of them.

MOTORWAY 51



OPEN

Imaginative Folk

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Write a Book in a Day



**THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT**

Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM 2019

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: NSW
DIVISION: Middle School
SCHOOL/GROUP: NBSC Manly Campus
TEAM NAME: Imaginative folk
TEAM ID: 248

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 Waitress
Primary character 2 Takeaway food seller
Non-human character Laptop computer
Setting Motorway
Issue TV comes alive

Random words

Community
Skipped
Magic
Canvas
Sings

INSTRUCTIONS

- Start at 8am
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above), 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** in both the hard and soft copy.
- 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 8pm.**

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
- Mail a hard copy of your book on the next business day to:
Write a Book in a Day, The Kids' Cancer Project, PO Box 6400, Alexandria NSW 2015

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Motorway 51

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This book, 'Motorway 51' is dedicated to all of the children struggling in hospital. We really hope this book cheers you up and we hope you enjoy it, we had a really good time writing it and it's been an honour writing this book for you. We wish you good health and happiness for the future because you deserve the best things to happen for you. You can do anything and we hope that you achieve anything you set your mind to.

Best wishes and happy reading,

From Melissa, Felicity, Charlie, Dasha, Gemma and Alicia. :)



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Chapter 1 - Motorway 51

Driving down Motorway 51, the fresh morning air blew into the open windows and through Jenny's long brown hair, creating perfectly messy rippled waves. The vast green hills sat below the sun like a blank **canvas** waiting to be painted. Her red Mini was rushing through the morning traffic on her way to the small, cramped but empty diner. She turned into the motorway complex car park and pulled up with a screech. Dan, her best friend stood outside his take away food store waiting for her.

He owned the fast food restaurant next to her diner called the "Motorway Takeaway" and they have become really close over the past few years because they need each others help every now and then. Sometimes he drives her to work or lends her cooking utensils. He is really nice but his restaurant has been stealing some of her business, people like to have takeaway instead now because it is cheaper and faster. And Jenny doesn't mind because dan is nothing but nice to her but deep down, it bothers her but she doesn't let it surface.

You could see the concern in his hazel eyes. As she got out of the car, questions ran through her mind like a race car rushing around the racetrack. The lights flickered, the bright white of the bulbs glaring against her pale skin, highlighting her freckles and cheekbones that framed her face, making her look like she was glowing. Suddenly, everything went black, all the lights shut down in a single flash, all Jenny could see was Dan's silhouette. Cars whizzed by, the headlights lighting up their concerned faces, seconds at a time and then they are gone. Dan stood there leaning against the tall light pole waiting for the lights to turn back on as they usually do. This time they didn't, Jenny and Dan looked at each other, they could understand what the other person was thinking and they knew it just wasn't right. They didn't say a word. They didn't need to.

Although the outside of the diner appeared to be a shabby, old, brick building with lines of red LED glowing lights striped along the exterior of the building, the diner's interior felt homey. As soon as you enter, you're greeted by the crimson booths lined against the windowsill, waiting to be sat on. Black and white checkered tiles lead you towards the old jukebox in the far right corner, waiting for someone (other than Dan or her boss, Linda) to come in, turn it on and be serenaded by its old timey music that plays through the old speakers, bouncing off the walls of the diner.

But it wasn't on, and the normal news or cheesy game show sounds coming from the TV were instead replaced with an eerie, static sound echoing around the building, giving it a feeling of emptiness. This hadn't happened before. Something was wrong.

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Chapter 2 - Business As Not So Usual

The power was gone. The diner was empty as always, Jenny struggled to get business in this place, especially because people don't really go to diners anymore, they get fast food instead. The crimson seats and checkered floors weren't exactly what people were looking for these days. She didn't know if she could keep working in the lonely building where no one enters and no one cares about. No one notices the old brick building in their rush to get through the morning traffic, the only people who notice are the people who have the time to see that it is a diner not an old shack and even then they don't really care. Jenny didn't know what to do about this. She couldn't shut down but she thought she might have to and sell the place in order to pay the bills.

Jenny needed to find an easy way to get the power back, it was the only way to attract customer attention to the diner (because she really needs it), the bright red LED panels along the side of the building glow. They give the diner life and illuminate the unique character of the building. Jenny's first thought was to email her boss, Linda, because she always stayed calm and knew what to do even when things were stressful. Linda's tan, creased smile always brought ease to the diner.

Linda was still at home, so Jenny bolted to her loyal macbook whom she named Mac, (it is a very creative name). When she lifted the lid of Mac, the computer wouldn't turn on. She frantically pressed all the keys but it still wouldn't wake up. Mac was broken. The decrepit payphone outside was the only thing she could think of that would work right now to be able to reach Linda. She swiftly paced over to the counter, grabbed a couple of dollar coins, and ran over to the payphone.

The sight of the old payphone gave her a feeling of relief. She punched in the boss's phone number and the phone dialling rang through her ears. The phone picked up.

"Hello?" her boss, Linda, said.

"This is Jenny. The power is out and none of the technology is working!"

"You've tried everything?"

"Yes"

"Turn it off and on again from the power board?"

"Good idea! Didn't think about that, I'll try that now"

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“Beep-Beep” the monotonous sound of the phone machine farewelled Jenny as she headed towards her next destination, the creepy powerboard. She ran down the shady alleyway next to the diner and opened up the lid of it. The alleyway was dark and grungy, and the brick walls were covered with mould and bird poo. No one but the spiders and stray cats had ever been there before, clearly evident by the colonies of spiderwebs that hung like tinsel along the bare plumbing pipes and cat fur scattered along the ground. Jenny did not want to be there among the chilling rays of the lone lamp that lit up the alley but she had to.

The powerboard was coated with layers upon layers of dust and dirt.

After skimming through the wide array of switches, knobs and levers, she found the big red switch labelled *Electricity* and repeatedly flicked it up and down, up and down, trying to avoid the sticky spider webs during the process. A few minutes had passed until... bing! The lights were on. Her thin fingers grasped the cold, metal lid of the power board to close it but as Jenny walked back... THUD! She had tripped on the uneven concrete and fell, her

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hand hit the ground first, then her body followed soon after. While falling she had flipped another powerboard switch hidden in the dark. She quickly searched around on the floor around her struggling to find the button before anyone would notice. Suddenly a strange sound emerged from the cold darkness. Jenny jumped back onto the wall in fright.

“Hello? Who’s there? Who is it?”

“Ree... ree... re... hello”.



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Chapter 3 - When Sleeping Robots Wake

Startled, Jenny turned around, trembling as she faced a questionable sight. The TV's screen had changed from the grey and black flickering static to.... No. Jenny couldn't believe it.

A face, looking at her through the glass panel, it couldn't be real.

Jenny pinched herself, thinking that she was dreaming. But no matter how hard she pinched herself, the screen didn't change and she didn't wake up.

"Why is you pinching yourself? Are my existences no real to you?"

How was she meant to respond? A talking TV that has bad grammar. This couldn't be happening right now.

"I have butterflies in my stomach," Jenny groaned not really knowing why she was talking to a television.

"Has you been ateing a caterpillars?" the TV questioned, clueless.

Jenny couldn't believe it at all. It had to be **magic**. She laughed out loud, and the TV looked at her, confused. As if it was the one to be confused. There was no way that this could ever be real. She looked a little closer at the blue and green screen. It appeared to not look evil or terrifying, just... curious. Talking TVs weren't very common in this part of Sydney, or anywhere else in the world for that matter. She had no idea how this happened.

"Jenny!" a male voice boomed from behind her. Dan poked his head around the corner. Jenny could see his brown hair flowing with the wind. "Jenny, the lights are back on!" he said ecstatically.

"Yeah, I know. I fixed it!" replied Jenny distractedly, her eyes still transfixed to the screen.

"Jenny, are you Jenny? Answer please," a monotonous voice exclaimed.

"Jenny, what is that??!!" Dan asked, now standing in the room behind her.

"I is Terry Vision, but you can call I TV. Me mean no harm, but I must ask for the favour from you. You see, I has the dream. I want yous to teach I to sings!! I wants to be the famoos"

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“Jenny.....” Dan exclaimed, still very confused about this whole situation and has no idea why there was a talking TV in a dark alleyways next to his fast food restaurant.

Then the TV burst into a song.

“I believe I can sing,”

“What the.....” Dan looked at the seemingly innocent TV, and it all started. Jenny’s eyes were still glued to the screen but more wide this time. She couldn’t believe what she was singing, continuing to pinch herself awake while it sang. Jenny loved to sing, she **sings** all sorts of songs and loves to listen to music but this, she had never heard anything like this before.

Suddenly, Mac joined in as well, wanting to be part of the fun and the only thing you could hear the diner was the annoying sound of electronics singing, well, trying to sing. Jenny didn’t realise her laptop could sing, she had owned it all this time but now it talks, like a person.

“I believe I can siiiiiiiiiiings, I believe I can touch this high notes, I think about it every day and time, Spread my chords and sings awaay...”

In a blink of an eye, the television had arms and legs extending out of its stand. Dan had no idea how this was even possible. Where did those extra limbs come from? It jumped off the wall and **skipped** out the diner, on its legs, towards the busy motorway, full of cars going very fast and this was a safety hazard for a naive TV like him.

“STOP!” Mac screeched loudly. He pushed open and ran through the glass doors, covered with fingerprints but there was no time to clean them now. A TV was on the loose! He knew that the motorway was not the right place for a TV, not now, not ever, especially an alive one with arms and legs.

Jenny and Dan met eye to eye. A river of emotions flowing through them right now, both acknowledging that there would be a lot to discuss after, before they both followed and chased the TV into the oncoming traffic.

TV didn’t stop skipping as cars swerved left and right trying to avoid it. Plainly, the motorway was always full of chaos, the addition of a rogue singing TV and Mac with a terrible voice and a group of people chasing after it made it a lot worse.

“I want to go to city and be the famous-est singer in a world! Even more than the Lion King!” the TV said as it stuck out its stand, trying to hitchhike and get a ride to the city where it can pursue its singing career. A green truck pulled over to the side of the road and the driver rolled down the window. The driver was paralysed with fear, staring at the newest member of Motorway 51.

“Can you take us to the Opera House?”, the TV and Mac asked, hopeful for a response.

The driver paused concerningly and proceeded to say “Get in... if you can.”

Their faces lit up with excitement, for this was the day where they followed their dreams.

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Chapter 4 - Friends or Foe

Jenny and Dan watched, mystified as this very rare scene was unfolding before them. It had only been a few long minutes since Jenny had flipped the switch that set the TV alive. Now the truck was pulling away from the kerb and drove off into the distance, taking the TV and Mac off to the city, leaving a cloud of black dust that filled their nostrils.

They didn't know what to do. They had to get the TV and Mac back to the diner so nothing bad happens to them and anyone else.

"We have to lure them back to the diner so that they'll have nowhere else to go and won't be able to break anyone else's eardrums" Jenny said, concerned.

"But with what?" Dan questioned.

"Food... no, oil... no, hmmm maybe toys? Definite no. What do TV's like? DVDs!" Jenny said, inspired. She rushed back into the diner to get some DVDs to lure the TV and Mac back. She ran in, ripping items off shelves and opening all the drawers, practically throwing the tables out of her way, as she made her way through the diner and eventually came across to the Janitor's room. After some scanning of the shelves, Jenny found the shelf packed full with old DVDs that she occasionally watched when the diner wasn't occupied, which was quite often, but she hadn't watched any in a while. She chose one of the best movies of all time, The Lion King. Earlier today she had overheard the TV talking about this movie and she hoped this would work.

"Grab the keys and get in the car," Dan shouted over the sound of fast moving vehicles and buses zooming down the highway. Jenny ran over to the Mini and tried to start the ignition, very keen to leave and save Mac and Tv. The car's engine revved but it didn't work. She tried again and finally the slow rumbling engine started. Dan opened the shiny, red door and put his seatbelt on. He sat in his seat holding on for dear life as Jenny put her foot on the accelerator. They drove at full speed, trying to catch the massive truck.

"We need to get them back here before anything else!" Dan answered

They pursued the truck, getting closer with every minute, close on its tail. They couldn't afford to lose them now. They were so close but so far at the same time.

The truck with TV and Mac had crossed the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and was close approaching the Sydney Opera House, which is where they hoped to have their opera singing debut .

"The Opera House?" Mac asked

"Yeah, that's where the famous opera singers go to sing, right?" the driver answered.

His nametag on his chest displayed the word 'Seb'.

The green truck finally arrived at the Opera House but before Seb came to a complete stop, Mac and TV had already leapt out and ran inside. They were singing another Lion King tune, this time, 'I just can't wait to be king'. Once again, harmonising and attracting crowds

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(for all the wrong reasons) but this **community** unfortunately wasn't as accommodating as the last.

They didn't cheer, they just stared in confusion. They had never seen a singing TV and Computer before and didn't know how to react. They just looked on and tried not to cringe



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at the horrid noise being produced by the singing electronics as they pranced around oblivious to what they were doing and how the audience felt about it.

Jenny and Dan weren't far behind them, just crossing the harbour bridge, been stuck in congestion for hours and arriving at the opera house they pulled over where TV and Mac were performing and they had to find a way to get them back into the mini.

"The DVDs! Get out the DVDs!" Dan said.

TV and Mac were still singing the lyrics of lion king songs in very bad grammar but now they had moved on to full on opera which almost pierced Jenny's and Dan's eardrums.

"CAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAN YOU FEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEELS THE LOOOOOOOOOVES TOONIIIIIIIIIIIGHTS?"

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Chapter 5 - Back to the Diner

Jenny ran out in front of the Opera House and shouted, “Who wants to watch a movie? Maybe The Lion King?” The TV and Mac suddenly turned their heads in unison and ran towards the DVD, inside the car. Dan ran and closed the doors, they were trapped inside. As they were driving back to the diner, Mac and TV were angry that they couldn’t go to the city to become famous. So they started singing again. Mac and TV were harmonising and they sounded really good this time. Jenny and Dan were astounded when their ears rang with the beautiful sound of computer voices harmonising and singing a song, they looked at each other, once again. The idea being shared between them, their faces beaming. They knew what they had to do.

The tune of The Lion King’s ‘Circle of Life’ was echoing around the Motorway Diner. People slowed down to hear the beautiful melody that the TV and Mac were creating. The diner was finally attracting positive attention, and it was all thanks to a singing television and computer duo. This was only the start. Jenny couldn’t handle the work, the diner was full. This had never happened before and she had no one to help her out. Everyone was hungry and the singing robots were starting to lose their novelty. The diner’s five minutes of fame were nearly over. Jenny had to do something to save the diner. She phoned up her boss and told her the news. Linda was shocked, she didn’t believe Jenny. She was going to come and see for herself.

Finally, she arrived and to her surprise, the diner was full, packed to the brim. She ran into the diner and went to frantically help out behind the counter, ecstatic to see what her diner had become so quickly it had changed from a useless block of land to an actual diner. Behind the counter they ran back and forth taking orders left, right and center.

“Bacon and eggs”. Jenny Shouted into the busy crowd.

Pancakes, eggs and coffee were flying out the door. Within a day, the diner had become the best food place in the complex. You could say it was a miracle, finally all the good she had done had been returned to help her.

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The next day, Jenny and Linda decided they couldn't keep up with the orders, they needed help and they needed it fast. In the history of the diner they had never had two people on shift, that was until now.

Epilogue

A few days later...

As orders kept on flooding into the kitchen, Jenny and her new colleagues, Dawn and Becky, were excited to be making food and drinks for all these hungry, happy people. Maybe the diner can stay open after all! Especially since Dan had come into to help a lot recently.

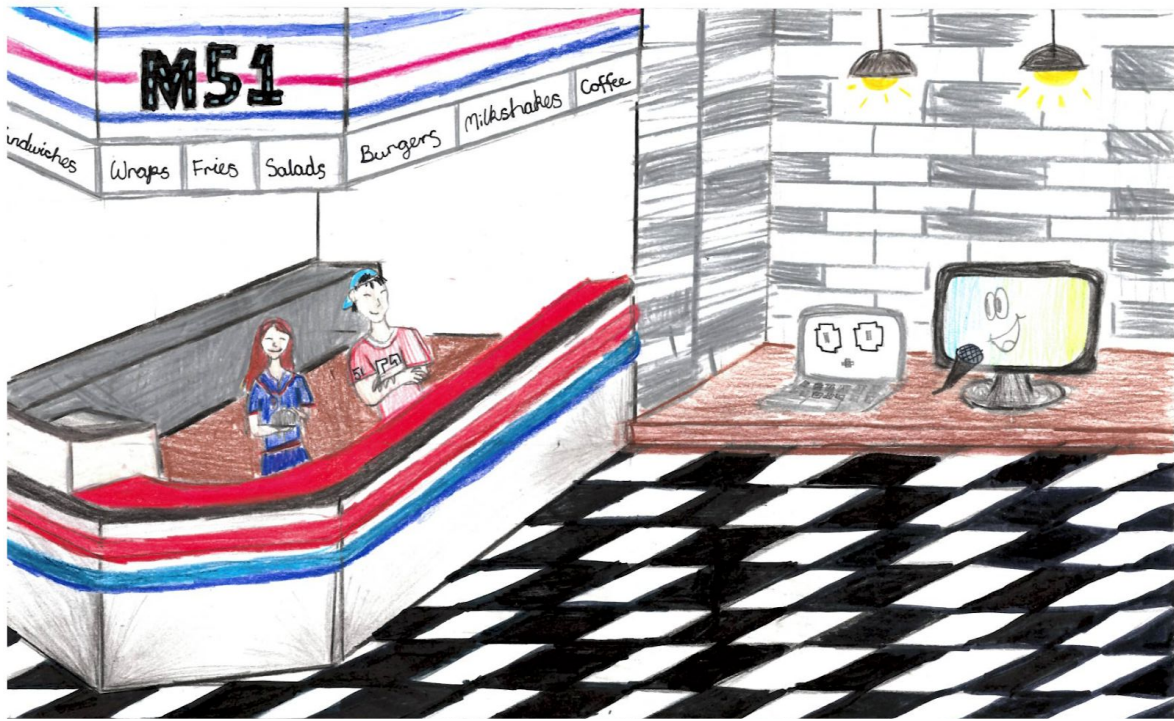
With the smell of cooking food and coffee in the air, chattering customers and the voices of Mac and TV singing a Lion King medley, the diner was in full swing.

'I could get used to this,' Jenny thought as she served another bacon and egg sandwich to a little girl with blonde curly pigtails. She smiled expectantly to her mum, who nodded and stated that her daughter, Emily, loved the diner and that Mac and TV were her favourite singers. Jenny smiled at the girl and thanked her, which made Emily blush.

Eventually, the day came to an end, and people started filed out the door to leave, full of good food and ears full of TV and Mac's voices. A wave of satisfaction filled Jenny, replacing the butterflies that were fluttering out of her stomach. As Jenny started to pack up, she smiled. She was content with her life. So much had happened in the past week. She had gained two new friends and she had more business in her diner. She packed up and left the diner, the jukebox and checkered floor, the crimson booths and the smell of coffee and bacon. She locked the door with a smile on her face, happy.

The story shows not to give up, bad things can become good things even when it seems like your life serves no purpose. Don't give up on your dreams, keep your head up and keep walking forwards. Miracles will happen.

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It was a seemingly normal day on Motorway 51, but when computers decide to be opera singers, there is not much you can do to stop them.

Jenny, a waiter at Motorway 51's Food Complex arrives to work in a blackout. After turning on the power she discovers that electronics have come alive and are running amuck in the community.

Dan, a takeaway food seller at Motorway 51's Food Complex stands in the car park waiting for Jenny to arrive. Little does he know that later that morning, his day will take an unexpected twist.

An exciting novel for when you feel like reading about technology that comes alive, aspiring to become opera singers.

Recommended for 10-13 year olds.

