

The Curse of the Black Leaf



Kurmond Public School



Write a Book in a Day



**THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT**

Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM 2019

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: NSW
DIVISION: Primary School
SCHOOL/GROUP: Kurmond Public School (KURMOND)
TEAM NAME: Kurmond Public School
TEAM ID: 354

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 Plastic surgeon
Primary character 2 Explorer
Non-human character Llama
Setting Ghost town
Issue A secret revealed

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

As the plastic surgeon is staring at the fire place, a flame rises, and licks the ceiling! It starts a raging fire! Doctor Dale Conway runs as fast as he can outside. He tries to grab the hose but it won't budge. Suddenly, a big wave of heat flows out of the house. The house is moments away from being engulfed in red, hot flames. Doctor Conway is watching his memories burn to the ground.

An ear piercing noise comes from the distance. He looks over the collar of his warm coat and sees nothing but thick black smoke. Doctor Conway feels something stick into his back. It is a thin, sharp tranquiliser dart. Without warning, the doctor starts to feel lightheaded, dizzy and very tired. All of a sudden he drops to the ground and hits his head!

As Doctor Conway opens his eyes, he sees that he is on a private jet, getting taken to some place. He looks up to the people standing around him, and realises they're nasty, dirty, bandits! He puts his hand into his small pocket, and remembers that he has his five year old daughter's toy llama on a keyring. He pushes it back down into his left pocket, right down, so it won't fall out, and remembers why he is doing this. Doctor Conway slowly closes his eyes, and goes back into a deep sleep, without the bandits realising.

Bang! Doctor Conway smashes his head on the aeroplane and wakes up.

"GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW!" yells one of the disgusting bandits. The bandit grabs his shirt and throws him into the corner. Doctor Conway feels a painful sting on his back again. He closes his eyes and drifts back to sleep, not knowing where they are going to take him...



Doctor Dale Conway is a thirty-nine year old man who once had a house in Canberra that was filled with joy and a happy, loving family. Now he is an anxious, depressed, lonely plastic surgeon who has just been kidnapped! His five year old daughter and his thirty-five year old wife died late last year on a family holiday to Machu Picchu in Southern Peru, from a horrific curse known as 'The Curse of the Black Leaf'.

This rare curse kills people slowly and painfully. People are drawn towards the tree with unique black leaves that stand apart from the rest of the forest. As soon as you touch a leaf from the tree your body immediately starts to turn black, whilst your heart stops working, your organs shut down, the blood in your body stops pumping, and your skin and bones disintegrate. Doctor Conway has committed his time into finding a cure to stop this monstrous curse forever! Last week, he found the right ingredients for a medicine to cure anyone infected with the deadly curse.

There's one thing that's kept him motivated this whole time, and that is his daughter's pink llama key ring that he keeps in his left pocket. It reminds him that he is doing all of this for the families of those who are suffering from the deadly curse.



"Unbuckle your seatbelts please, we have arrived at Sydney International Airport," announced the pilot. Everyone piles out of the aeroplane. The friends head to the food court to get some pizza, due to the long trip from Egypt. "I think I've got jet lag," exclaims Layla. They all eat while watching the news and plan their next adventure.

"Welcome back to Seven News, today we have some tragic information, the famous Australian Plastic Surgeon, Doctor Dale Conway disappeared from his house in Canberra yesterday around 7:00 am. His neighbours saw that he was forced into a white van and driven to the airport. We have tracked down CCTV footage that shows the jet heading to Peru. If you find him, you will receive a \$1 000 000 reward donated by the Australian Health Association."

"Do you know what we could do with \$1 000 000?" yells Amber. The friends jump up out of their seats and head towards the booking centre. There is a long line-up.

"We need tickets," Adrian says sounding a little worried. "It's okay, we can push in front of people if we're sneaky," whispers Amber, sounding over-confident. Amber goes to the front and starts talking to the family second in

line. "Hi, my name is Amber," she exclaims in a kind manner, "What is your name?" While Amber was talking to the lady, she had worked her way in front of her. "Hi, can I please have three tickets to South America?" "Sure. The next flight is in ten minutes." Amber paid. They were off like a flash.

"Unbuckle your seatbelts, the plane has landed in Lima, Peru!" booms the pilot. Amber, Adrian and Layla stumble out of the aeroplane. They get confronted by a wave of humidity. They feel like they are walking into an oven, their skin is sticky with sweat and the girls' hair is stuck to their faces. Their shoes are immediately filled with perspiration, and their clothes are already drenched.

As the flight crew grabs their bags, Adrian strolls over to the flight attendant, expecting their bags to be placed into his hands. "Oh no, we do not let you carry your bags, we let the llamas carry them for you," reports the flight attendant. Adrian strolls back over to Layla and Amber, empty handed. The flight attendant packs their bags onto the llama. They frantically scurry to the llama, noticing a little **canvas** poking out of the llama's coat. It is a picture of temples. They get distracted by the view. They can see a bird. It **sings** a beautiful tune. The trees are swaying and the flowers are blooming. The leaves on the trees are the most beautiful thing you would have

witnessed. They are amazing to touch, they feel like velvet. They are also one of the most unique things, black leaves hidden in the astonishing, green forest. This is not a living **community**, it's a complete ghost town.



They make their way towards a taxi leaving the llama behind. Adrian asks "Hi, can you please take us to the Inca temples? We are looking for Dr Dale Conway. Can we please have a ride?"

"Sure thing. I'm Tiffany and don't worry you won't be with me for long we are just about to pull over so you can hop out," the driver replies.

As they approach the Inca temple they spot a strange message. It reads: *Efil ruoy netaerht lliw uoy retne erad uoy fi.*

"What is that meant to mean" Layla says annoyed.

"Let me try and figure it out" Amber starts to think. "Got it!" Amber jumps up in excitement. "It's spelt backwards! It says '*life your threatens will enter dare you if.*'"

"That doesn't make any sense!" Layla says confused. Adrian starts to think and think until "Got it, if the words were backwards that means that the whole thing could be backwards. It says '*if you dare enter you will threaten your life*'. I found the secret! The secret has been revealed!" Adrian says excitedly. Without warning a strange door opens! Everyone slowly steps through the strange door. As soon as they are through the door slams behind

them! Amber gets out her torch and shines it everywhere. They are astonished at what they see.

Boobie traps! The bandits have been expecting visitors! Amber picks up a stone and throws it at the nearest pressure plate. With the weight of the stone, it sets off a rapid succession of poisonous darts! "Wow, this looks deadly!" gulps Adrian. Layla steps forward, and gets into her starting position. She sets off, some darts only miss her by the skin of her teeth. When she gets to the other side, she hits the button, all of the darts stop immediately. Now Amber and Adrian can cross safely.

The friends continue to walk down the mossy stone passage. The air around is damp and the walls feel wet. It's growing darker and darker as they slowly stroll down the passage. The second challenge is near. A heavy stone wall lies in front of them. "This challenge looks even harder than last one," complains Layla. "The last one was a piece of cake for you Layla, this one is a test of strength. I know I can complete this without failing," says Adrian with pride. Adrian steps forward and lifts with all his might. You can see the sweat dripping down his face. He looks like he is in agonising pain. Amber and Layla crawl under. When they look up their jaws drop. Adrian places the heavy door down and looks forwards, tall unsteady stools lead the way across to the

other side. "I will go first," volunteers Layla. "I will go next," Adrian says willingly. "Then I will go last," says Amber without a choice. Layla steps forward and gracefully leaps across the stools. Next is Adrian, but all of his muscle and weight makes all of the stools start to crumble! "How am I going to get across?" cries Amber. "If you get a run up you might make it?" suggests Layla. "Ok, I will give it a shot," Amber trembles. Her heart just **skipped** a beat. She walks backwards and then sprints forward. She gets to the edge of the ledge, and springs off it. She starts to fall! She reaches out to the ledge, but it starts to crumble! Her heart starts pounding rapidly, is this the end? Adrian grabs Amber's arm, and hoists her up onto the platform. "Thank you, you saved me!" says Amber. "It is all right, I would do anything for a friend," he says in a kind manner. They continue on their quest as they walk down the passage. Suddenly the walls slam around them. The walls are filled with writing. *'This may seem fatal, but don't struggle and you will reach what you seek.'*

Suddenly the ceiling slowly starts to drop. Quick sand starts to rise! This has to be their toughest challenge yet! In a blink of an eye, the words finally make sense in Amber's mind! "We must jump into the quick sand, and not struggle, and it will give us what we seek!" Amber screams in happiness.

"Here we go, one two three!" Amber and Layla slide into the quick sand, but Adrian doesn't. "Come on! Slide in!" Layla screams at the top of her lungs. But he's still refusing! The ceiling is getting so close. Amber can't wait any longer, she grabs his arm and pulls him in! One by one they sink in through the quick sand, and come through the bottom of the temple!

"Help!!!" screams Doctor Conway. All Amber, Adrian and Layla look up and there he was tied up and helpless. "\$ 1000,000, here we come," says Amber confidently. They get all of their rock climbing gear out. They grip their hands into the mountain like never before. Time passes by, and their fingers get sore and swollen. "Watch out!!!" Doctor Conway screams at the top of his lungs. They look up, they can't believe it. It's a landslide! One after the other, they dodge and dodge. "When is this going to be over?" Amber thinks aloud. She looks up, and sees a humungous boulder heading straight for them! They're hanging on for their lives! Adrian is clenching his fist like never before. "Adrian, I want you to swing your body to give me a boost so I can land on the mountain," says Layla. She swings and swings, and then jumps as high as she can, and latches onto the side of the mountain! "Now, do the same thing to Amber, and I will catch her hand," says Layla. She also flies into the air and perfectly lands in Layla's arms. They continue their journey up

Machu Picchu. Their fingers slowly become swollen and red. They finally reach the top. Suddenly, the bandits appear! They get out their numb chucks in a flash! In a blink of an eye, one of the first bandits comes and attacks Adrian. Adrian loses his temper! He comes charging up to the bandit and throws him off the mountain!! The second bandit crazily attacks Layla. She does a backflip, a front flip and kicks him off the mountain. The final bandit tries to run away. Amber refuses to let him go! She sprints like never before! Amber knocks his mask off! "Oh! It's a girl!" exclaims Amber. "Tiffany! The taxi driver!" She races off before anyone can catch her.

Amber grabs her phone out of her pocket, and calls the police.

Carefully they untie Dr Conway. He slips and his daughters precious llama keyring falls out of his pocket, down the mountain into the abyss! "We need to go!" Amber says to Dr Conway as he starts to cry.



As they start to run down the hill, Dr Conway tumbles! He trips over a large rock, and falls to his knees! "Ahhhhh!" he cries in pain. The others turn back to see what happened. "Doctor, what happened?" asks Amber worriedly. Adrian and Layla help Dr Conway down the mountain.

They see a helicopter coming towards them! They start waving their hands and yelling, "We're over here! We're over here!" It's working! But, the helicopter can't get close enough to get them off Machu Picchu!

"What if we climb down this branch? We'll be able to get close to the helicopter!" Amber thinks out loud. Everyone nods, and prepares to help Amber down and onto the tree branch.

Amber reaches down, and grabs onto the tree. She swings her legs around, and only just lands onto the tiny tree. She slowly and carefully crawls across to the helicopter. She suddenly notices the leaves she's touching. They are BLACK!!! The leaves that carry the Black Leaf curse have just touched her hands! She quickly jumps into the helicopter, and helps everyone else in.

"Where's the medicine?" she asks Dr Conway. Doctor Conway is shocked, and everyone is scared. The blackness is spreading rapidly up Amber's arm! They need to be fast!

Doctor Conway pulls a small vile out of his pocket. It's half full of a green substance. Amber pours it into her mouth! Her arm slowly starts to come back to its natural colour! "That worked like **magic**!" Layla exclaims.

"Phew!" Adrian sighs. "We're safe! Before we come up with a plan to destroy this curse let's go collect our 1 MILLION DOLLARS!!!"

Our three courageous heroes will face challenges that have never been seen before.

Amber, as intelligent as can be, is by far the best explorer of the century.

Layla, when you see her tumble you will be ready to rumble.

Adrian, when you see him train you will be amazed.

Will these three courageous heroes save the day?

