

Birthday Surprise

BY SMALL
POTATOES





THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT

WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: NSW

DIVISION: Upper School

SCHOOL/GROUP: Tumut High School (TUMUT)

TEAM NAME: The Small Potatoes

TEAM ID: 227

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Doctor

Primary character 2 Basketball player

Non-human character Superhero

Setting Backyard

Issue Surprise party

Random words

ruby

melts

shiver

tasty

sponge

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

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Chapter 1



A man stood tall and proud as he looked around surveying the backyard party, proud of his work in all its glory. Balloons are tied to the ground with strings of all colours and a table is set up with snacks, drinks, cake and all you could expect to see at a birthday party. A barbeque stands in the corner with an eskie next to it overflowing with all the snags you could ever want inside it. Party poppers lay scattered around the place ready for people to pick them up and let them explode in a burst of happiness, radiating the emotions of all those who would be present. All of this was like his dream party had jumped out of his head just to come true in front of him. A mirage of heaven on earth. All he could hope for any more is that Captain Corn-Kernel would approve of this party as well or all of this planning and set up would be a dream gone to waste.

“Hey Bazza, are we right to come round the back?” An excited voice calls out from behind the side gate.

“Yeah mate come on round!” The man, Bazza, yells out as he turns around to face the gate as a multitude of party goers start to stream in once the gate was opened. Compared to them, Bazza stood out with his mullet and quite muscular build, but none of that could match his outgoing personality especially when it came to what he cared about. Right now, that was making this party one to remember and it was going to be amazing.

“Hey man. How's the basketball career going?” One of the party goers comments as he claps Bazza on the back on his way in.

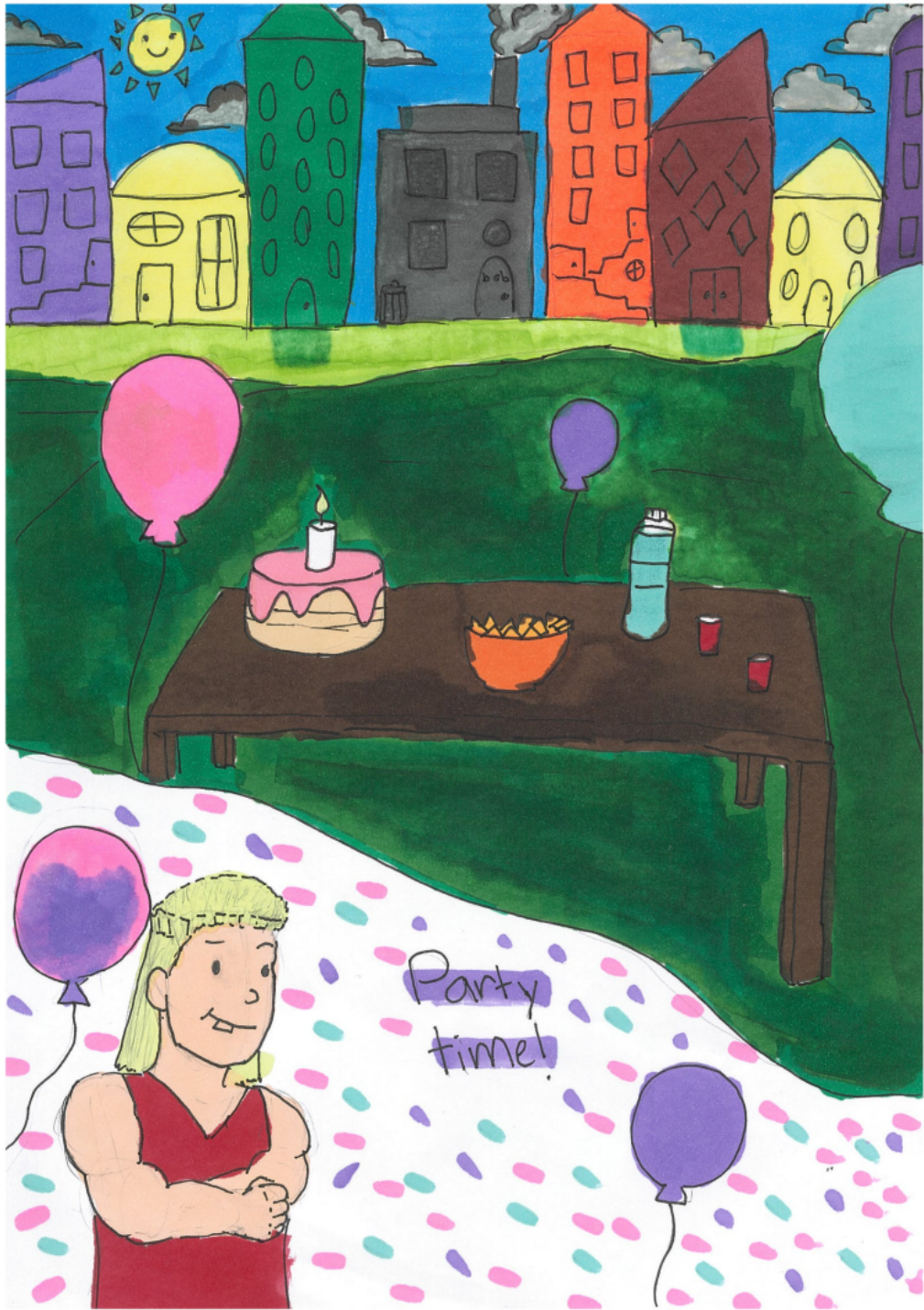
“What do you take me for? It's going great! I've won every game this season so far! I mean, I *am* a pro-basketball player. You should come to my next game.” Bazza says as he turns his attention to the slow trickle of party guests coming into the backyard, making sure to greet them all as they enter with an enthusiastic smile. The backyard slowly fills up more and more as no one wants to miss the amazing hero's birthday party. A corner of the backyard slowly becomes the residence for a pile of gifts, all different shapes and sizes that continues to build up with each new arrival. He seemed to glow as he watched everything go to plan. The only thing left was for the main person, the star of the show, the birthday boy, the superhero Captain Corn-Kernel.

“Aw man, I can't wait for the Captain to be here!” Bazza exclaims as excitement ebbed through him at the prospect.

“I know he's so cool, he deserves to have a huge party!” replies a fellow party goer. Bazza smiles in return and goes to turn up the music.

“Let's get ready to party, people!”

The cheers he gets in return make him smile brighter.



Chapter 2



“What in the world is going on here?!” booms a voice. A man storms out of the house. His doctor’s lab coat seemed to reflect the furious expression upon his face as it flicked around, his eyes practically glowing **ruby** red. One look at this guy’s face and you knew he was angry at the predicament.

“What are you doing in my backyard?!” the doctor exclaims, his voice rising louder with every word.

“Huh?” Bazza squeaks out startled by this turn of events and not sure how to react.

“I said, what are you doing in my backyard?!” yells the doctor, his face getting as red as his eyes.

“Is this not my mate Captain Corn-Kernel’s house?” says Bazza dumbfounded and a little scared.

“No? Why would he live here? You know what? It doesn’t even matter, because there is such an awful mess in here! Some random strangers are on my private property.” he fumes, steam practically flowing from his ears.

As the doctor continues to rant, Bazza turns to one of his mates and tells him to call the Captain so that he would show up at the party. The phone rings and the Captain answers.

“Danger? Here I come!” He speaks over the phone.

Bazza turns back to the man that was still angrily yelling at him. He sighs at the Doctor.

“Look, I’m really sorry man. We can start-” Bazza starts to say.

He’s interrupted by the sound of the door creaking open behind the man. Everyone turns around to see Scamps, the young rat that the allegedly crazy doctor had taken in when she was in need and alone. There were stories about the rats’ past, but no one other than the Doctor knew the truth.

People mainly knew her as an up-and-coming superhero, who had the power to change her size on command. Others didn’t want to know her, because they didn’t like her very much. They hated her for what she was. They immediately thought of her as disgusting. But she was a rat, not trash.

Scamps hears a commotion coming from the backyard. She wonders what could possibly be going on, so she goes outside to see. Her face immediately lights up as she looks around the yard at the beautiful sight. She was a lightbulb of joy. It was a party. All for her? It must be, why else would there be a party in the backyard when the only people who lived here were her and the doctor? And look at all the people who showed up for her! And all these presents! This was going to be the best birthday that she has ever had.

“Thank you so much for the party everyone!” she exclaims, beaming. At her words, confused whispers erupt from the crowd of people.

“Oh. I’m really sorry mate but.....this party itit isn't for you.....it's for Captain Corn-Kernel it's his birthday today,” says Bazza with a pitiful frown and confused look on his face.

“Oh.” says Scamps, the happiness that she had just felt completely **melts** out of her. What was she thinking? No one would want to throw her a party anyway. It's not like they would even know it's her birthday. She should have known that these people don't care about her, they don't even like her as a hero, why would they be nice to her on her birthday? It brought all her memories and emotions bubbling right up, like the opening of a fizzy drink.

Chapter 3



The cool air of the desolate street left Scamps to **shiver** in her stance. The wind howled around her like a lone wolf calling out for its family as she scampered down the alley out of the rain. The alley provided little cover but it was better than none at all. The alley was damp with puddles and litter leaving barely a spot dry and clean for Scamp's to rest on. Looking around she found a clean and mostly dry spot covered by some thrown out boxes. Just across was a bin that was nearly overflowing with rubbish and left a bad smell in the air but this alley was better than some other places she had stayed in the past. As she settled down into a corner of the alley she prepared to rest for the night. As she lay there the sound of feet running through the puddles on the ground created a big splash that seemed to magnify around her as a strange person entered the alley and dove behind a bin opposite her. She could hear his muffled grumbling as he moved around. She looked up, her whiskers twitching in confusion at the sudden commotion. Out from behind the bin popped the head of a man with eyes so red they seemed to glow in the low light. He looked over at her, appearing to be weighing her up and judging her before examining around. He then started to speak to her in a low, hushed tone.

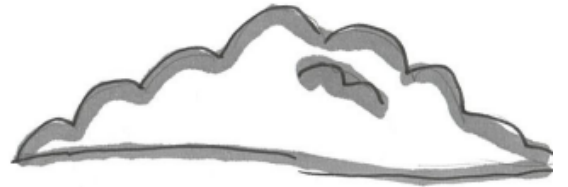
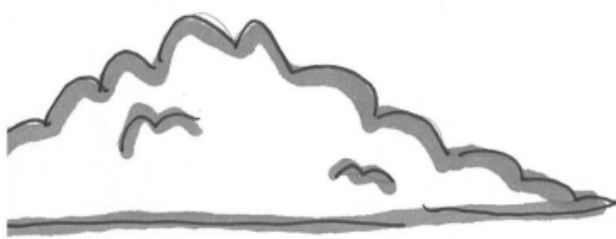
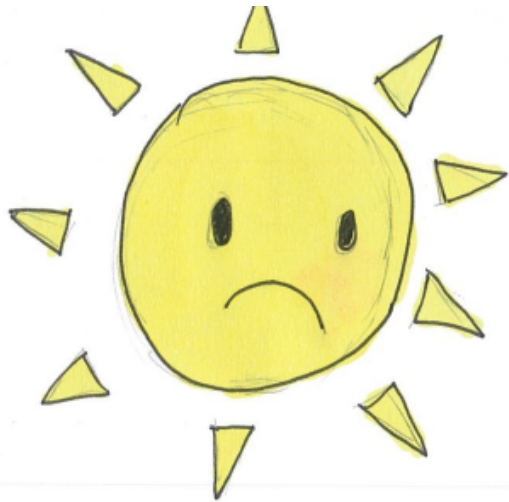
"Who are you and why are you alone in this alley?" He inquired with a piercing gaze.

"My name is Scamps and I'm here because I'm going to be a hero, I'm just dealing with some ... issues at the moment." Scamps replied proud and defensively. Looking at him inquisitively and pondering what a strange man like him was doing.

The person meandered out from behind the bin and strode over to Scamps extending a hand out to her.

"I remember when I was young and had a dream and a goal. Allow me to help you achieve your vision and make it a reality. Oh and by the way my name is Bob, Doctor Bob." His red eyes seemed to gleam with a mischief and madness that only he could understand but underneath that there was kindness. He had good intentions, though his methods may be different.

As she looked at the party decorations tears fell down her face that not even a **sponge** would be able to soak them all up. She gazed around at all the confused faces of the other party goers through tear filled eyes and could only feel more overwhelmed. They forgot, they all forgot. Her special day was not hers, it was for someone else. She didn't know if she would prefer it wasn't for her or they forgot but it hurt all the more. All she wanted to do was take it all back so she didn't have to remember, so she didn't have to see what wasn't for her. What she thought was going to be the best day of her life turned out to be the saddest one.



Chapter 4



Scamps crumples to the floor, writhing from the pain of the past. Her cries sound through the yard, echoing from ear to ear. All the partygoers stare at the hysteric rat. They wonder what could possibly be wrong with her. Dr Bob, being the only one aware of Scamp's lonely past, embraces the rat.

"It's ok, Scamps" He says in a comforting tone. "How about we go inside and feed your pet vacuum?" He had cooled down now, and wasn't his once-angry self.

Despite Dr Bob's support, Scamps remained upset. It's her birthday. Her birthday! Yet no one cares enough to remember. Nobody even likes her. She's never going to become a superhero. All anyone sees is a rat. A disgusting, furry rodent that nobody likes. Another sob escapes her, rattling her fragile body.

"Guys! He's coming!" Bazza shouts, frantically positioning himself behind a flowering bush.

The air shifts. The party vibe dulls, instead replaced by the important presence of Captain Corn-Kernel. Scamps sat up and wiped away her tears. Even though her birthday was ruined, she wasn't going to ruin someone else's.

"WHERE IS IT? WHERE'S THE DANGER?" Captain Corn-kernel arrives with a *whoosh*, his golden-yellow cape majestically floats behind him. His head angles upwards, his sharp nose points to the sky, and his heavily-gelled moustache sways in the breeze. Scamps looked up to him greatly. He was who she aspired to be.

"Greetings my dearest friends! What seems to be the probl-"



“SURPRISE!”

Everyone, including Scamps, move together, jumping as one. Party poppers pop, confetti falls and music booms. Captain Corn-Kernels face breaks into a toothy grin, similar to a shark.

“My friends! I can’t believe you did this for me!” His burly arms open wide in disbelief.

“Bazza, did you organise this?” He asks.

“Yeah Mate! I knew you would like it!” Bazza beams with pride.

“Of course I love it! What a gracious birthday surprise from all my closest friends. I could never imagine you forgetting about my special day!”

Scamps slumps at his remark. She doesn’t need to imagine it. She couldn’t even complain, today was Captain Corn-Kernels birthday! Why would anyone spare her a thought when he was such a beloved and amazing hero?

Scamps crumples like paper for the second time today.

“It’s not fair!” She shrieks, tears bubbling up once again. Dr Bob joins her on the ground, belly flopping in the dirt.

“Life’s not fair, Scamps. Just the other day I dug out some flowers in the park and replaced them with a lego sculpture. They got mad at me! For installing art!” The doctor began to laugh crazily at his story, somehow finding it amusing. A few guests side-eye him, probably questioning his sanity and for good reason too.

Dr Bob's tale didn’t help Scamps. Everyone had forgotten her birthday, now it’s too late. A few more fresh tears slither down her furred cheeks like a sad snake. It isn’t fair.

“Well well well.” pronounces a deep and powerful voice. “If it isn’t the next great superhero, Scamps!”

Scamps glanced up at her name. To her great surprise she was met with the man himself, Captain Corn-Kernel!

“C-Captain Corn-Kernel?!” She stutters.

“Yes, it is I.”

“What are you doing talking to little old me?” She sniffed, wiping her tears with her paws

Captain Corn-Kernel grinned.

“Because you’re a fellow hero,” he says, gesturing to her. His face suddenly morphs to concern at the sight of the tears trickling down her face.

“Why are you crying little one?”

Scamps doesn’t want to burden him but what else could she do? It’s her birthday too!

“It’s my birthday and everyone forgot.” She whispers. Tears invade her eyes once again, swallowing them whole.

Captain Corn-Kernel stares at her with shock.

“It’s your special day too? Oh, how wonderful!”

“W-what?” Scamps rat-eyebrows furrow with confusion.

The Captain spins around like a hyper but graceful ballerina, pointing towards Bazza he says “Turn the music up boys! Double the birthdays means double the fun!”

“D-double the birthdays?” Scamps eyes dart back and forth. What is happening?

The captain scurries around the backyard, whispering to the visitors, Bazza is bounding frantically back and forth, the cooks are racing to the kitchen and Dr Bob is still hysterically laughing on the ground. What is happening?

“SURPRISE!”

Scamps recoiled at the sudden outburst, clutching her racing heart.

“Oh my googly eyes!”

“Happy Birthday, Scamps!” Captain Corn-Kernel congratulates.

“Wait really? But it’s your birthday.” She inquiries. Why would he do this for her?

“I know, but it’s your birthday too.”

“Thank you. Thank you so much!” Scamps launched up with newfound happiness, wrapping Captain Corn-Kernel in her furry arms.

“Everything’s so much better when we share!”



Chapter 5

Scamps smile never left her face. She's smiling as she eats and she's smiling as she talks. She's smiling extra hard as she eats her **tasty** sausage.

"Who cooked these deliciously-juicy snags?" Captain Corn-Kernels voice resonates around the backyard.

"I cooked 'em mate" Bazza says, waving the tongs in the air.

Captain Corn-Kernel strolls over to his friend and gives him a hard pat on the back.

"You're one good cook, my friend." He says, grinning.

"I am a good cook, aren't I?" Bazza smirked. "NOW LET'S PAAAARTY!"

The music was turned up, and with it the party spirit.

Dr Bob is first on the dance floor. He busts out the classic moonwalk. The captain is next, deciding he is going to perform an original interpretive dance. His muscly arms began to fly here and there. His cape started to get tangled in his twisting legs, like spaghetti in a fork. A giggle broke free from Scamps throat.

"Everyone looks so goofy." She says to Bazza as Dr Bob attempts a cartwheel.

Scamp winces as he hits the floor. "Should we do something?" She asked.

Bazza just laughed. "Nah, he'll be right. It's weird though, because that doctor was just yelling at me and now he's flossing." He quizzed Dr Bob's odd behaviour.

Bazza turned to look at Scamps.

"We should definitely do something about this music though, my ears are bleeding."

He scuttles toward the speaker, fiddling with the songs. Eventually a new tune begins, a tune that everyone knows. Bazza lets out a shriek.

"OH YEAH! LETS GO!" He grabs Scamps paw, leading her onto the dance floor. She tries to stop him but he's too strong. Curse his basketball-playing muscles!

"Ready Scamps?" He asks her.

"No Bazza no!" Scamps squeals. She can't dance. She can't dance at all. She can be a superhero but she definitely can't dance.

Bazza faces her, questioning the little rat's hesitance.

"What's wrong, Scamps? Don't ya wanna dance?"

"All my life I've been bullied for being a rat."

"So?"

"Rats can't dance!"

"Just try it mate!" Bazza suggests, breaking into dance immediately. Maybe Scamps should just try. Afterall, she really likes this song. So, with a change in mindset, Scamps began to move.

Her paws move first, dancing to the familiar beat. Her claws meet with her shoulders, then her head. Finally she reaches the most difficult move, the hip turn. Amazingly and surprisingly, she completes it.

"Oh my! I did it! Dr Bob I did it!" Scamps says excitedly to her friend.

"Yay Scamps! I'm so proud of you!" He exclaims, continuing on with his weird dance. Scamps bounces around shouting her achievement to everyone.

“Captain Corn-Kernel! Captain Corn-Kernel!” She screams into the crowd, making her way to her companion.

She finds him smiling like a maniac.

“Why hello Scamps!” he greets. Noticing her matching grin he says: “You seem to be enjoying yourself.”

“Oh yes yes yes! I’m enjoying myself very much, captain.”

“That’s great to hear. Dance with me, Scamps!” He declares, tugging her next to him.

Together they dance, moving their arms and body to the song. All as one the party performs the Macerena. Hand, hand, flip, flip, shoulder, shoulder, head, head, hip, hip and sway. They dance perfectly. Dr Bob is a little wonky and Bazza’s a little bit too aggressive, but other than that it’s perfect. There was a sea of bright faces and waves of loud laughter. Scamps and Captain Corn-Kernel are in the middle of it all. The birthday boy and girl. Scamps couldn’t imagine this day any better.

“CAKE TIME!” Bazza screams. Those two words are enough to send a tidal wave ripping through the party. Men and women alike all sprint toward the table, nearly trampling the poor chefs.

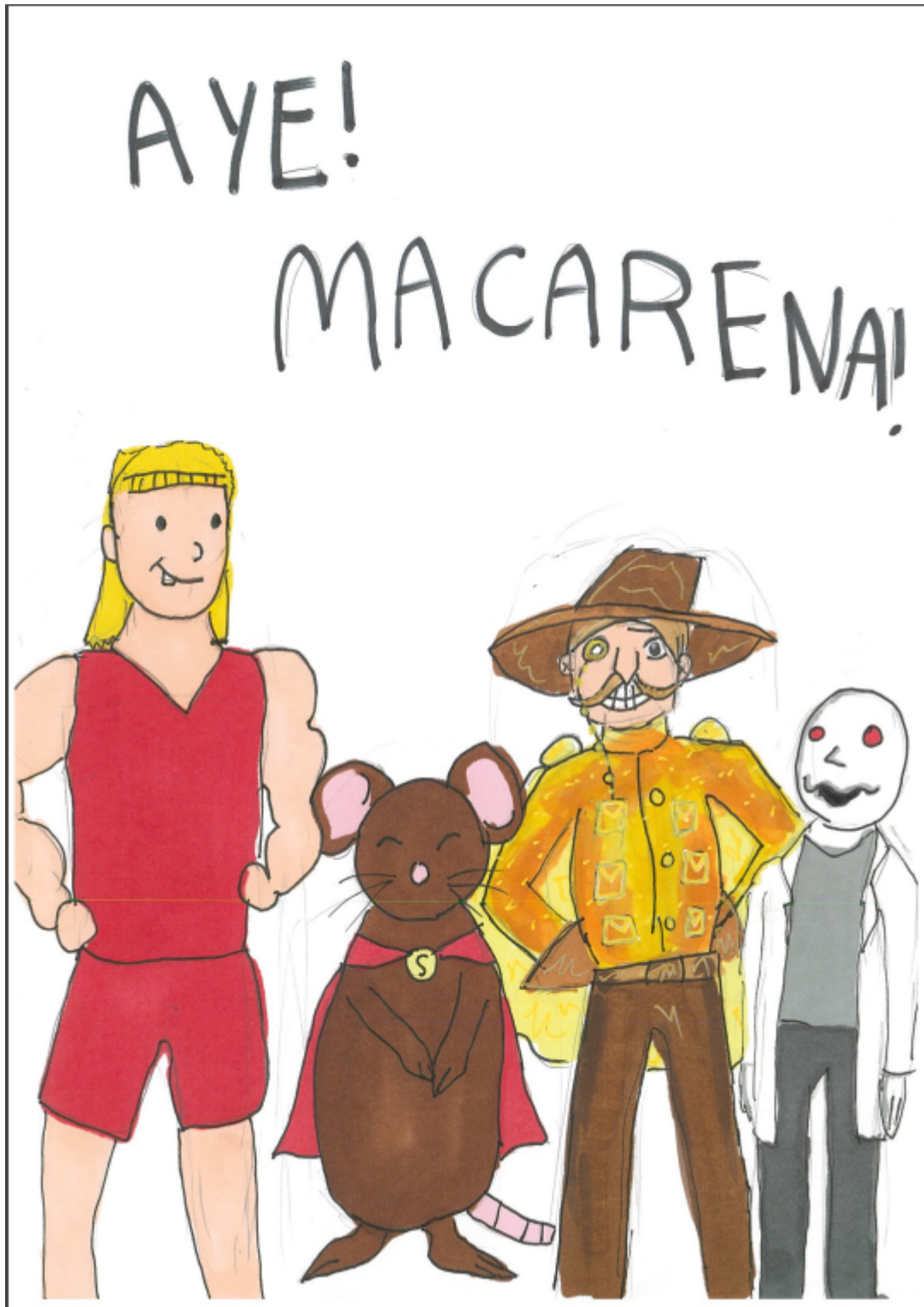
“Captain Corn-Kernel and Scamps to the front please!” Bazza orders the lumping mass of bodies. Doing as they’re told, the birthday boy and girl push their way through.

Awaiting them was a beautiful sight. A giant cake sat on the table. It had the pinkest icing and the brightest candles. On it read ‘Happy birthday Captain Corn-Kernel and Scamps’. Scamp’s mouth began to expand into the biggest smile known to rat-kind. Captain and Scamps. The two of them together as one. It’s everything she’s ever wanted.

“Blow out the candles already!” Bazza yells at them, rubbing his hand together in hunger. Scamps took one last look at the crowd. Amongst the partygoers she saw Bob giving her two giant thumbs up, earning a smile from her. Turning back to the cake she sees Bazza, licking his lips. That earns a little giggle from her.

“Don’t forget to make a wish.” Captain Corn-Kernel reminds her.

Together, they blow out the flickering candles. The crowd roars in celebration, but Scamp's eyes are only on the cake. Captain and Scamps. A team.



Epilogue

“Scamps, where’s my super-cape?”

“It’s in the wash, Captain.” Scamps replies.

“What? This is absurd! I can’t leave this house without a cape.”

Scamps rolls her eyes at her partner. He could be quite a pain sometimes.

“May I suggest that you wear a different cape?”

The Captain's face was one of utter disappointment.

“I suppose I have to, don’t I? But what could I possibly use?” He asked her as he began searching the room for a make-shift cape.

“I have an idea!” She says, pointing to the perfect cape.

“You have got to be kidding me.”

“No time, let’s go!” Scamps hurried him.

“Fine, I’ll wear it then!” The Captain said begrudgingly. He grabbed onto Scamps paw, ascending into the air. Captain Corn-Kernel and his partner, Lieutenant Scamps, on their way to fight danger. Together they soar into the sky, Captain Corn-Kernels new toilet paper cape fluttering behind them.

We extend a big thanks to everyone who has donated to this charitable cause and contributed towards the funding raised. Thanks to all of you.

We wish well towards all everyone who may be reading this, we hope you enjoyed our little story and continue to enjoy reading in the future. We wish you all the best.

Basketball player Bazza has thrown a surprise birthday party for superhero Captain Corn-Kernel. Disaster has struck and he set up in the wrong backyard and poor up and coming hero scamps thinks it's for her.



Can everything be amended or will the day be ruined?

This fantastic book is recommended for the ages 10-13 years old but all ages are welcomed to enjoy it.