

Part One

Dodo opened his eyes. He was out at sea. Tendrils of kaleidoscopic claws ripped open the sky revealing a miniscule flock of seagulls fleeing from the vengeful currents of electricity. As he leaned over the port side of the boat, the random lapping of the waves gnarled, chomping about viciously, like a lion ferociously snapping at its prey. Dodo felt like his heart was in his mouth and his lungs were tight and he found every exhalation burning his throat. How did he get here? *THUMP!* He turned his head swiftly and saw a bearded man in oil-soaked overalls, dropping a huge anchor onto the creaky wooden deck. "You awake now, boy?" he gruffed and Dodo frantically blinked and rubbed his eyes so forcefully as he tried to remember, to recall the past few hours. He was dazed, confused, mystified and felt like his brain was being hammered with the pounding persistency of a metronome. He could not comprehend what was happening. It felt like his head was throbbing with the constant pendulum of weight, spinning on a swivel that would never stop.

The wind howled, like a wolf, yearning for its mother and Dodo felt it biting and gnawing his cheeks, deafening his ears and punishing his fragile body. The motion of the boat made him nauseous and green at the gills, but the danger of the situation stopped him from regurgitating. The stranger was becoming more perturbed by the unsteadiness of the boat, teetering and bobbing in the unpredictable abyss of water. Dodo tried to think on his feet, but his mind was racing with inevitable thoughts of the danger. He had been captured by this anonymous foreigner who he seemed a little familiar. "Don't be afraid, boy" he mumbled as he continued to stumble and fumble with the ropes tied to the mast. Dodo fell gawkily to the deck as the waves crashed against the hull causing him to hit his head and it began to bleed profusely. The pain was excruciating, and he grasped the wound with the palms of his hands. The light was beginning to fade, and the clouds were scudding across the luminous sky blocking the phosphorescence of the glistening water. Time began to tick slowly as Dodo's head became heavier, more burdensome but he did not want to close his eyes or drift off into the unknown mystery of sleep. Why had this squatter taken him and where were they going? His head began to droop, and his eyes were heavy like dead weights, and he began to gravitate towards his subconscious. The stranger put a soft bag under his head. "Rest now...son..."

Scholarship Interview – List 3 of your Achievements

SAP Soccer – Sydney Uni

I first joined a soccer team when I was 4, and ever since that I have loved the game. I was and am an all-rounded player could play any position I was asked too and never complained or try to show off on the field. I have always been interested by the way that professional players move the ball with their feet, their teamwork and how much they celebrated and the way that the crowd exploded with cheering when they scored. Every medal that I have received after each soccer season, behind each says, "Football doesn't build character, it reveals it." This reminds me that soccer is not just a learning experience, it helps people discover who they are and what they can do. I recently tried out for the prestigious Sydney Uni SAP soccer team and was awarded a position for 2023. Without the training and coaches, I have had, or without my parents who drive me to training and games several times a week, I never would have made that team and I am exceptionally grateful to my parents and my coaches for everything they have done for me.

Trombone

Ever since I started learning Trombone, I have been in love with the genre of Jazz, especially the legendary Tommy Dorsey. I am in 2 bands at my school and cherish being part of an ensemble and contributing to the overall quality of music. I have always fantasized performing in gigs as part of a jazz band and hope to be able to be in an excellent band in high school. Recently I achieved Honours in my Grade 4 Trombone AMEB examination, and I am currently working on pieces for a music scholarship audition. At the annual Speech Day, I was presented with the Class Music Award. I am grateful for my music teachers and band directors for consistently encouraging me.

Year 5 special award

I am passionate about learning and am an avid reader of books, particularly books on ancient history. I am currently reading *Mythos*, by Stephen Fry, a humorous depiction of the Greek Myths and Gods. I would like to study Latin in high school and learn about the Roman language. I recently was awarded an award for "Consistent Effort and Commitment to Learning" as I have worked conscientiously this past year and endeavoured to try my best and improve in all areas. My teacher always presents new topics in an interesting manner and has helped me become engaged in my learning throughout the year and I would hope to continue this approach to learning.