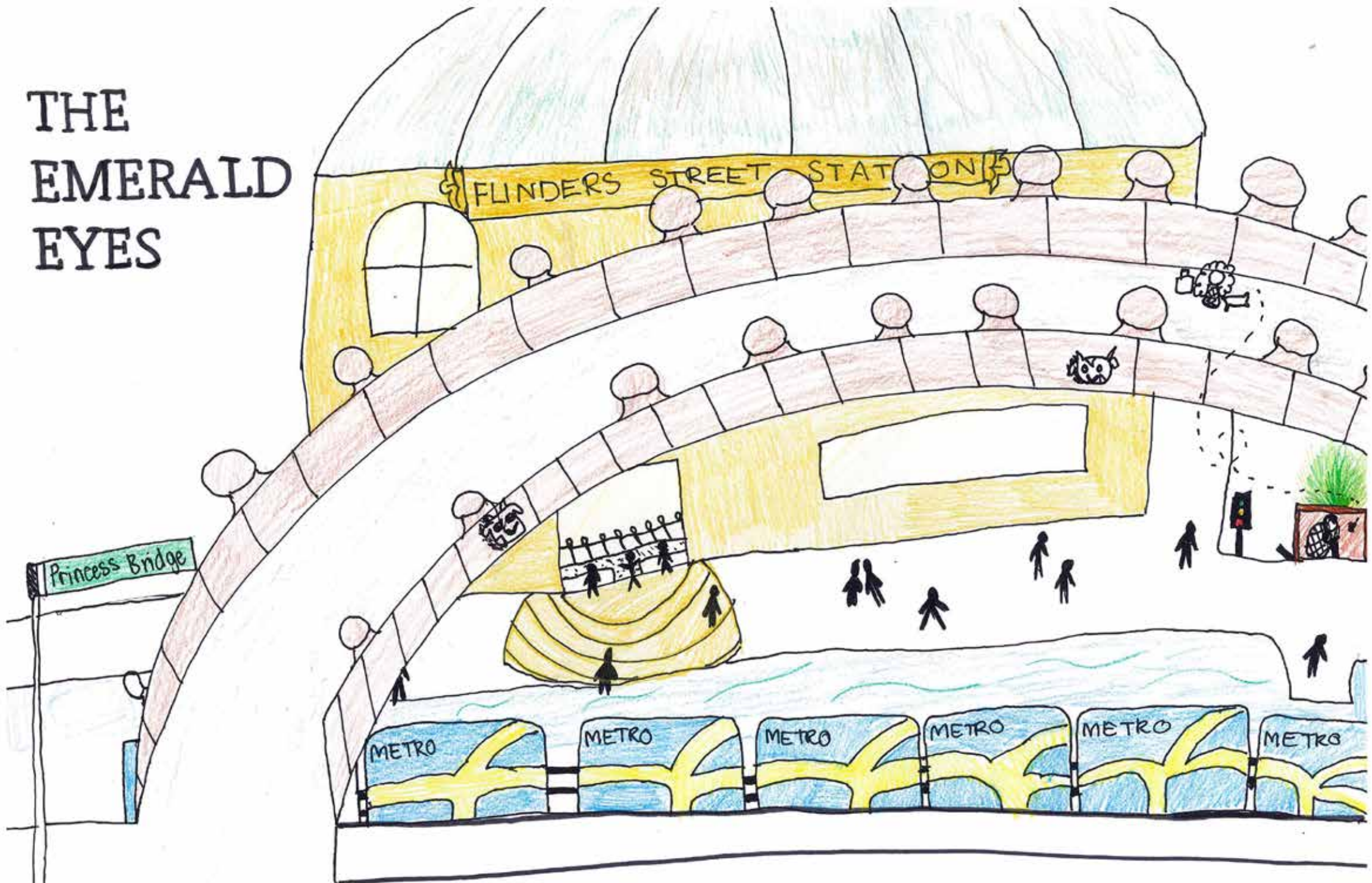


THE EMERALD EYES



By: Once Upon A Time at SJV

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Saint John Vianney's WABIAD team would like to thank Kenneth Radley, Fleur Peppard, Shane Regan and Nicole Davies because they were a big help constructing this book. Thank you also to the parents and other teachers who popped in and supplied us with love and food. We would also like to thank the WABIAD organisation for letting us have this awesome opportunity.

From the St John Vianney's Writing Team



Message to the Children

Today we got together and wrote a book for you.

We decided to write a story about hope and kindness and friendship. We had a lot of fun writing and drawing today. We hope you enjoy our book.

Love from Ryan, Liam, Jake, Oscar, Olivia, Charlotte, Flip, Sophie, Hannah, and Caitlin



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Chapter 1

You're Fired!

“How many times do I have to tell you? GET OUT!” yelled Barbara, the hotel cleaner. This was about the 15th time Barbara had told this man to get out of the hotel bathroom. He was homeless, and just wanted to clean himself. In four days it would be Christmas. Everyone would be happy, celebrating and eating roast Turkey for dinner. But Barbara was fed up with this man, it was too much for her to take.

Barbara's feet thundered on the ground chasing after the homeless man. She was so angry with him. He was always using the hotel amenities and then it was her job to clean them. She sprinted after him until they got to the Hotel Cabana exit, she pushed him out the door, “AND STAY OUT,” her voice boomed. As he looked back at Barbara, he called out “come on Aussie!” and as he said that the cleaner caught a very quick but unmistakable glimpse of the homeless man's amazing bright emerald green eyes.

Once he had left, she slammed the door and returned back to the pool area, where she began cleaning the pool as hotel guests would want to be swimming soon. This was only one of the many Christmas pool parties that were held at Hotel Cabana. Then, suddenly, she heard an irritating buzzing noise in her ear. She turned around to find herself staring right into the eyes of a very fat mosquito. She thought to herself, “hang on, I've seen this mozzie before. It's always with that homeless guy, and who's Aussie?”

Because Barbara was a perfectionist, of course she had to kill this tiny menacing creature. She slowly stood up tall, holding her mop behind her back. “On three,” she whispered to herself. “One, Two, THREE!” She slammed her mop down on the ground

splashing puddles of water everywhere! She had missed the mozzie by heaps but was determined not to give up. She chased it around the pool area clapping her hands together in attempt to squash the mozzie, each time missing.

This time she was so fed up she grabbed plates from inside the cabinet and started hurling them at the mozzie. Some even went into the pool. The mosquito zigzagged, avoiding all the plates that were flying towards it. Plates were smashing, guests were screaming and people were running everywhere.

HOTEL CABANA



CABANA



This was causing such a ruckus that it could be heard from the boss's office. Suddenly, everyone froze and went silent. Barbara heard heavy footsteps behind her. It was her boss. She turned around and saw his angry face. He looked at all the mess, then looked at Barbara. He mumbled to himself, then said in a low, threatening voice, "you're fired." Barbara just stood there gaping. Her boss continued "and I will be taking all your money to pay for the damage you have caused."

Poor Barbara didn't know what to do, she slouched her shoulders and walked away, dragging her feet behind her. She went out to the front of Hotel Cabana and took one last look, she had lost her job, what could be worse? She thought to herself "what a Christmas this is going to be!"



Chapter 2

Barbara's New Life

This was like one of Barbara's worst nightmares. Hotel Cabana was her life!

They had supplied her with a tiny room on floor 2. This was where she lived. It was small but it was enough. Now all of her belongings were packed into a small brown suitcase; that was all she had. Without realising it, Barbara had started her new life; her new life living on the streets of Melbourne. She started down the street, looking through all of the front windows of the shops. They had jewellery, shoes, clothes, but Barbara had no money to buy any of these things. She didn't even have enough money to buy any lollies from her favourite lolly shop. (She used to go there a lot)

She was so sad. She decided to find a place to sleep for the night, somewhere with shelter, somewhere safe. She found herself in a park. It was getting dark so she decided to spend the night on a park bench. She pulled her only blanket from her bag and covered herself with it. Now she knew how the homeless person she chased out of the hotel must have felt. Poor him she thought. She was so uncomfortable sleeping on the park bench. For the whole night, she was sleeping in an awkward position. She dreamt of having a pillow. A soft, white pillow to rest her head on. Just like when she was back at the hotel. She even had a proper bed back then.

Barbara's life was ruined. She had no food, no money, no shelter and no family. She had nowhere to go. It was now only three days till Christmas. Barbara tried to be positive but this would be the worst Christmas of her life.

EVERY
-THING FREE
EXCEPT FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

50%OFF



Chapter 3

Homeless but Happy

After just being kicked out of the Hotel Cabana the homeless man was dripping wet and cold. He shivered as he staggered along the sidewalk towards his cardboard box home under a nearby bridge. Even though it wasn't much, he was happy. He curled up in his cardboard box home and smiled, then fell into a deep sleep.

When he woke up he knew it was only three days till Christmas. All he really wanted was a new blanket. Lasting through the winter was tough, and his old blanket was riddled with holes. If he was going to get more money he would need to walk to Flinders St. Station. The walk wasn't far, but when he arrived there his legs were tired and aching. He couldn't go any further so he sat down and began begging for money. He felt happy at Flinders St. Station. He received \$2 from a passer-by.

The passer-by wished him luck for Christmas, "and good luck to you too Sir," replied the man. Another kind girl offered him the remains of her pulled beef and salad roll. "Thank you" he smiled.

It was delicious... In total he had received \$4 for his rug. He returned back to his little home under the bridge and sat on a box thinking about how lucky he was.

Chapter 4

The Storm

The sun had set.

Darkness had fallen.

The only sounds were the quiet sounds of a Melbourne night.

The homeless man was thinking it was going to be a sunny day tomorrow and was very excited about the people he would meet.

He then drifted off to sleep.

He was woken by raindrops falling upon his face. He thought it was probably about 5:00AM. Then, all of a sudden, THUNDER, LIGHTNING, HAIL, EVERYWHERE! He heard car horns honking and people running in the rain. He shrugged, thinking, "I've survived worse". He wasn't at all worried about his cardboard box home or his few belongings knowing that everything would be alright.

He knew the storm wasn't going to clear anytime soon, there were huge thick black clouds and not a bird in the sky. The man sat down on his box and listened to the storm.



Chapter 5

Barbara's Bad Luck

It was midday and still raining. Barbara was crying because she didn't know what to do. Her beautiful hair had gone all fuzzy. She had always kept her hair neat, tidy and straight. Now because of the rain it was a fuzzy mess! She was very upset because she loved her hair so much. Worst of all, she didn't know where to begin looking for shelter.

She didn't know where to go.

She didn't know what to do...

She begged people for money and she begged people for help but nobody would. She was scared and afraid to ask for help because people just walked past her, ignored her or stared at her with a weird look on their face.

Barbara didn't know how to live on the streets. She was really cold and only had one blanket. She was so miserable and desperate. Her stomach was growling with hunger. Even if she wasn't crying her face told you she was upset and sad. All her belongings were wet and she couldn't dry her clothes anywhere.

This was the worst time of her life.

She didn't know what to do. She walked and walked and walked until she found herself on the steps of Flinders Street Station.



Chapter 6

Flinders Street Steps

Buzzzzzz buzzzzzz Aussie the Mozzie is telling the homeless man something, “what is it Aussie, what is it?” Buzzzzzzzz buzzzzzzzz. “Really? Where, where?” Then Aussie led him from the Yarra River, up the steps, over the bridge; he didn’t know where Aussie was taking him. After some time he arrived at Flinders Street Station on the steps under the clocks. He had been there before, this was a familiar place. He noticed a women sitting on the steps. He felt confused because he thought he had seen her before; it was someone familiar.

“Yes!” It was the cleaner who had thrown him out of the hotel!

He noticed she seemed distressed. She had been crying. She looked like a person with no hope. She lifted her eyes up and looked at him. She saw those bright emerald green eyes; she’d seen them before. They belonged to that homeless guy.

The one that she lost her job over.

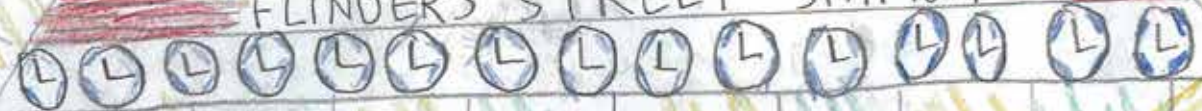
Barbara still felt anger towards him. She kept looking into his eyes. He asked her what had happened, how she found herself to be there. “It’s Christmas day, don’t you have a family?” “No”, she answered. “I don’t.”

They were both quiet for a moment, then she asked;

“What about you?”



FLINDERS STREET STATION



Chapter 7

A Man Named Steve

Buzzzzzz buzzzzzz Aussie the Mozzie is telling the homeless man something, “what is it Aus “I had a home and a name once, I don’t use my name anymore.”

“Oh really? My name’s Barbara.”

“I had a job too, a good one.”

Barbara noticed Aussie the Mozzie as he sat down on a ledge of the wall. “I worked as a train driver and lived in Sandringham. Every day I would come to Sandringham station and drive to Flinders Street in my train, swap trains, drive back to Frankston and back again. I loved being at Flinders Street and I loved my job. I had a nice house and a pool at the back, but I wanted more, I decided to rebuild my house, so I knocked it down. But then...” he couldn’t continue. His eyes welled with tears. Barbara smiled. “It’s OK,” she said.

“I went bankrupt.” He said, quickly and quietly. “I only had a pool and one wall.”

“Wow.” Replied Barbara.

“Then the train network found out and kicked me out and I moved here.”

“That’s terrible!” replied Barbara.

“Oh, and my family hated homeless people and forgot about me. It was an awkward moment when they kicked me out. I felt so lonely, but I became happy, I began to notice the little things, like how the streetlights bring out the green from the yellow on the walls.”

Aussie moved from the green from the yellow in an attempt to not be seen.

“Bzzzzzzz!” Buzzed Aussie the Mozzie.

“What did you say Aussie?” asked the man.

“Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!” repeated Aussie the Mozzie.

“Ok, I will.” Replied the man. “My name was Steve, but now my name is that guy or the homeless man.”

“A man named Steve, eh!” exclaimed Barbara. She started to laugh. Steve gave a smile and laughed with her. People looked but Steve and Barbara didn’t care. “Merry Christmas,” she said.

“And a happy new year.” replied Steve.

Aussie the Mozzie buzzed his goodbye and was gone.



Chapter 8

Once upon another time

As they were walking down the streets of Melbourne, they were looking pretty dirty and smelt smelly. Steve asked Barbara how she was feeling. "I'm feeling good but I could really use a shower." Replied Barbara.

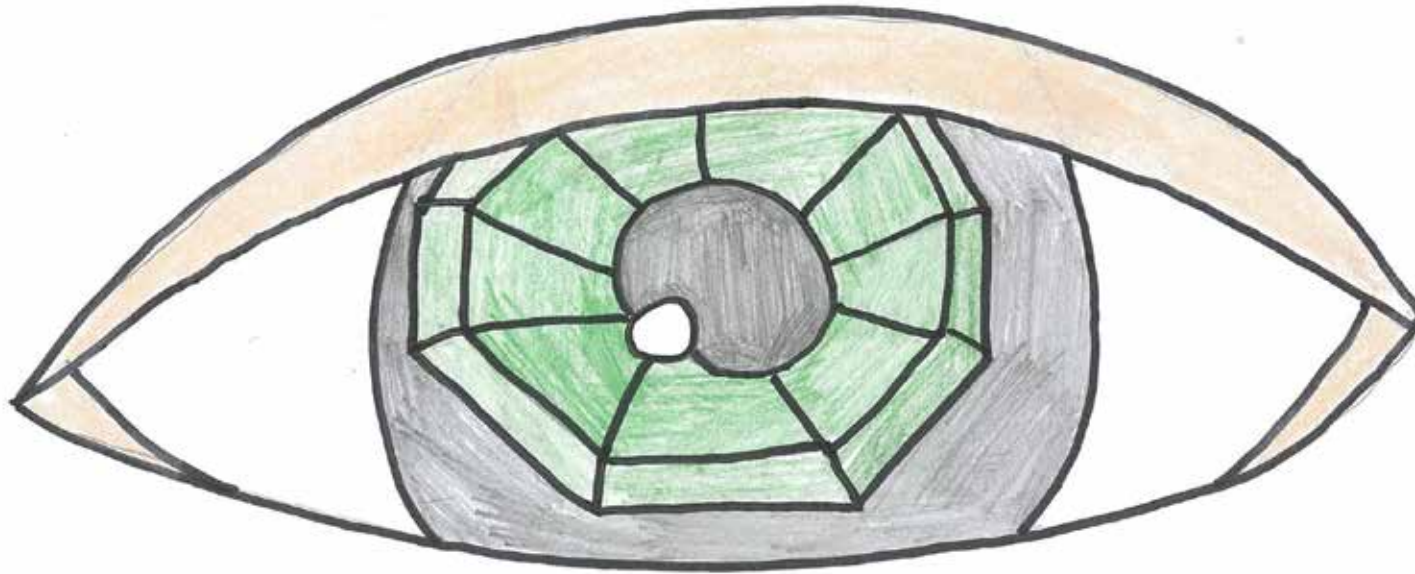
"Me too." Said Steve.

"But where?"

"I know a place."

"Where?"

"I'll give you two guesses..."



This is a book about two people who have a disagreement with each other. A storm hits and our characters are faced with challenges. Will their differences tear them apart or bring them closer together?

We recommended this book for young people aged between 10 and 16.