Innerwest Council Book Week Competition - Milla G

Serenity Island

Sitting on the dry, hot sand. The sound of waves crashing and lapping against the sand. The sun, glowing in the sky above me. Taking in a deep breath of the salty air I let my mind wander.

The water beckons me to the waves. Diving underneath and jumping over them. Laughter surrounds me and the squawking of the seagulls diving and ascending in the air, looking for chips. Taking in a large breath of air I dive beneath a wave.

I open my eyes. In the clear, clean ocean water I can see the fish and everybody's feet, jumping or diving as another wave rolls over my head. A school of brightly coloured fish circles around me. More join them as they spiral around me. Soon the force is too strong of them that I just let them take me. Turtles, octopi and other groups of fish whiz past as I am taken further and further away from the shore and the people swimming.

After a while of swimming in darker, murky waters I am taken to a clearer patch of water. Clear. Sparkly. Shimmering. It begins to shallow as I am able to make my own way to the shore. An Island. The fish wait patiently in the water, all staring at me. As my feet sink into the sand I observe the beauty of this place. Tropical trees covered the island, their leaves swaying gently in the light breeze. The sun shone through the leaves of a million greens, casting intricate shadows along the mixture of bark, dirt and sand that acted as the floor. Beautiful wildlife surrounded me. The largest group of rainbow lorikeets and other colourful birds squawked high above my head in the canopy of branches above. Crabs walked across the shore, edging their way to the rockpools in which they lived. Sloths hung from the trunks of trees and a family of Capybaras walked around the trees, weaving around the trunks.

I gasped. One tiny little sound let the most amazing thing ever happen to me. A sloth slowly grabbed my shoulders and lifted themselves on to me. Birds of all shapes, sizes and bright, beautiful colours swarmed around me, perching on my arms and shoulders. The Capybara family trundled over towards me and surrounded my legs, guiding me towards the shore. A beautiful sunset on the horizon before me took my breath away. One of the most wonderful scenes the naked human eye can see is the sunset reflecting onto glassy, clear blue water from the shore. Sitting down I soaked in the view. Birds travelled in the sky going to wherever their home was and fish in their billions swarmed around the island.

As the sun sank yet even lower I began to question the time. Slowly, taking steps towards the water I looked at the beautiful, unnamed, serenities of the Island before I dived. The fish swarmed around me. This time in their quadrillions, their force, the most powerful force I had ever felt and led me back to the mainland shore. Going over coral reefs and sunken ships filled with coral, the stars of the now night sky reflected on the water. A flock of toucans flew above me, their colourful beneath of their wings bright in the dark of the sky. Pods of dolphins swam around me giving me the most beautiful scenery I shall ever see. Rising from the surface I was back at the shore.

Gasping. I looked around myself. My eyes well and truly open as my mind became conscious of my real surroundings and not the ones of my limitless imagination. The still high and bright above me shone down on the people swimming. "Last one into the water's a roten egg," screamed my sibling and off I tore, running and winding around the people of the crowded sand and dove into the water.