

Chapter 1

The plan

‘Look at that view, Eliza!’ my grandmother said. ‘We live in the most beautiful city in the world, don’t we?’

Nanna and I were on a ferry on the last Saturday in September. I looked up from my phone. Sydney Harbour is beautiful but I see it every day. I take a ferry to and from school. Nanna doesn’t take one very often. She was excited that day because we were meeting her old friend Gwen for lunch. Gwen had moved to London when she finished school. She was visiting Sydney with her granddaughter, Sarah.

‘I know you and Sarah are going to be friends,’ Nanna said. ‘She’s your age, you know.’

I knew that. Nanna talked about Gwen and Sarah a lot. Nanna wanted me to be friends with Sarah because Nanna and Gwen had been friends when they were at school.

Nanna and I walked from the ferry to George Street. We were going to meet Gwen and Sarah at the museum.

‘Hurry up, Eliza, we’re late!’ Nanna said. ‘And please put your phone away.’ She walked ahead of me. Nanna walked fast. Nanna was old – she was seventy – but she was fit.

‘Gwen! Yoo hoo!’ Nanna called out, waving. An old woman and a tall girl with black hair were standing outside the museum.

Nanna and Gwen hugged each other. They were laughing and crying. Sarah and I stood and watched them.

‘Hi, Sarah,’ I said. ‘I’m Eliza.’

‘Hello,’ Sarah said.

We looked at each other. Neither of us spoke.

‘Come on, girls,’ Nanna said. ‘Let’s have lunch.’

Nanna led the way into the museum. We went up to the top floor and into the café.

‘Oh, look at that view!’ cried Gwen. ‘I love Sydney!’



‘This café has the best view of the harbour!’ Nanna said.

She was right. From our table we could see the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. We could watch all the ferries coming and going too.

We sat and ate lunch. Nanna and Gwen talked a lot.

‘Gwen, do you remember the terrible thunderstorm that day at Bondi Beach when we were girls?’ Nanna asked.

‘Oh, yes, Peggy!’ Gwen turned to Sarah and me, and said, ‘Girls, it was so scary! Peggy and I were swimming. We were a long way from the beach. Then a storm came up the coast from the south.’

Nanna said, ‘The storm came so fast. One minute, it was a hot, sunny day. The next minute, the sky was black and – BOOM!’

Gwen laughed and said, ‘Oh, it was terrible! You shouldn’t be in the water in a thunderstorm. Not when there’s lightning. It’s very dangerous.’

I knew that, but Sarah said, ‘Really? That’s another dangerous thing to be careful of. Australia is full of scary and dangerous things.’ She smiled when she said it but she sounded nervous.

Gwen laughed. ‘Don’t worry, darling,’ she said to Sarah. ‘Most Australians don’t worry about snakes and spiders and sharks and storms.’

‘But I’m English!’ Sarah said.

We all laughed.

Gwen smiled, then she said to Sarah, ‘Darling, you and I talked about this. You have nothing to worry about. You’ll be safe on the bushwalk. And you’ll love it.’

I thought, *Bushwalk?*

But before I could ask Gwen and Sarah about it, Nanna said, ‘Eliza, I have an idea. You two girls don’t want to sit here and listen to our stories, do you?’

She was right. I’d heard the stories before. Sarah looked at me. She was thinking the same thing.

Activities

Chapters 1 and 2

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 5 and circle the correct answers.

1. How do you think the old women feel?
a. sad b. angry c. happy
2. How do you think the two girls feel?
a. bored b. excited c. afraid

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

thunderstorm wilderness ping blister

1. I heard your phone _____. Did you get a message?
2. Look at those dark clouds! A _____ is coming.
3. I walked for hours and got a _____ on my big toe.
4. I love to be in the _____, far from towns and people.

C. Listen to Track 3 and answer these questions.

1. Who were Eliza and her grandmother meeting?
a. an old friend of Eliza's grandmother b. one of Eliza's friends
2. Who was Sarah?
a. an old friend of Eliza b. Gwen's granddaughter
3. How did Eliza's grandmother know Gwen?
a. They were friends at school. b. They met in London.

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. Where did Eliza and the other people have lunch?
a. on the ferry b. beneath the bridge c. in a museum café
2. What dangerous thing at the beach did the women talk about?
a. a thunderstorm b. a shark attack c. a big wave
3. What did Eliza point to, looking west from the Harbour Bridge?
a. the zoo b. her school c. the Blue Mountains
4. What was Eliza's grandmother planning for the two girls to do?
a. go for a short bushwalk b. go for a three-day bushwalk
c. go shopping together

Glossary

adj. adjective; *adv.* adverb; *n.* noun; *prep.* preposition; *v.* verb

| | |
|---|--|
| adventure /əd'ventʃə/ <i>n.</i> | Abenteuer |
| ash /æʃ/ <i>n.</i> | Asche |
| assignment /ə'sainmənt/ <i>n.</i> | Aufgabe, Hausaufgabe |
| blister /'blɪstə/ <i>n.</i> | Blase (an den Füßen) |
| borrow /'bɒrəʊ/ <i>v.</i> | ausleihen, borgen |
| boulder /'bəʊldə/ <i>n.</i> | Felsbrocken |
| bunch /bʌntʃ/ <i>n.</i> | Bündel, Strauß |
| burst (into flames) /,bɜːst (ɪntə 'fleɪmz)/ <i>v.</i> | (in Flammen) aufgehen |
| bush /bʊʃ/ <i>n.</i> | Busch, Wildnis |
| bushfire /'bʊʃ,faɪə/ <i>n.</i> | Buschfeuer, Waldbrand |
| bushwalk /'bʊʃ,wɔːk/ <i>n.</i> <i>v.</i> | Buschwanderung wandern im Busch/in der Wildnis |
| camp /kæmp/ <i>v.</i> | zelten, campen |
| camping stove /'kæmpɪŋ ,stəʊv/ <i>n.</i> | Campingkocher |
| campsite /'kæmp,saɪt/ <i>n.</i> | Zeltplatz, Campingplatz |
| canyon /'kænjən/ <i>n.</i> | Schlucht |
| carbon monoxide /,kɑːbən mɒ'nɒksaɪd/ <i>n.</i> | Kohlenmonoxid |
| chat /tʃæt/ <i>v.</i> | plaudern |
| cheer /tʃɪə/ <i>v.</i> | jubeln |
| cicada /sɪ'kɑːdə/ <i>n.</i> | Zikade |
| clearing /'klɪərɪŋ/ <i>n.</i> | Lichtung |
| cliff (face) /klɪf (feɪs)/ <i>n.</i> | Klippe, Bergwand |
| coal mine /'kəʊl ,maɪn/ <i>n.</i> | Kohlenbergwerk |
| cough /kɒf/ <i>v.</i> | husten |
| croak /krəʊk/ <i>v.</i> | krächzen |
| dry out /,draɪ 'aʊt/ <i>v.</i> | austrocknen |
| earphones /'iə,fəʊnz/ <i>n.</i> | In-Ear-Kopfhörer |