

# Horizons



**Year 7  
2005**

# The Cave



Bending double, Nat entered the cave. He doubted that many people knew of its existence, given that the entrance was so well concealed. He went further in, wishing he'd brought a torch with him, when a soft voice said, 'Go away.'

Nat froze. The darkness seemed woolly, insubstantial, constructed of shifting shades of black and grey, so he concentrated hard, forcing his eyes to adjust, the pupils to expand and pull hungrily at the tree-filtered sunlight that came from outside the mouth of the cave. 'Who are you?' he said.

She didn't answer. The girl was sitting on the dry, powdery floor of the cave, her arms trapping her knees hard against her chest. Black hair framed her face; her eyes were dark hollows, her cheeks sculpted of shadows and fine bones in the tricky light. Suddenly he knew who she was: Bronwen Lloyd.

'Bron. What are you doing here?'

'Leave me alone.'

Nat sat some distance away from her. She had a small backpack at her feet.

'What are you doing here?' he asked again.

'Wrong question,' she retorted. 'What are *you* doing here?'

# Disobedient Balloon

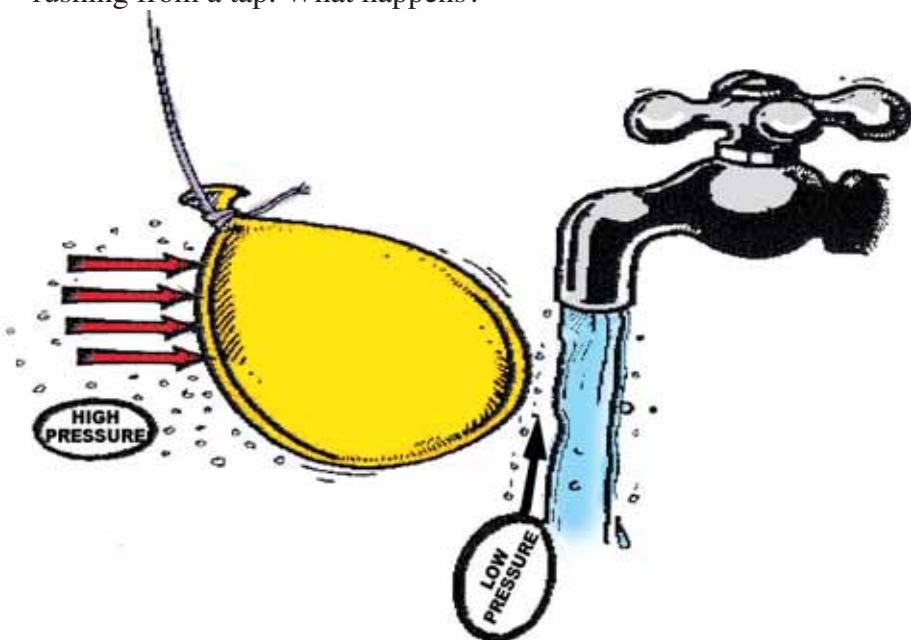
## Can water be used to lower air pressure?

### You Will Need:

- A balloon
- 25 cm of cotton thread
- A tap

### What To Do:

- 1 Blow up the balloon and tie the end in a knot.
- 2 Tie the piece of thread to the end of the balloon.
- 3 Hang the balloon a few centimetres away from a stream of cold water rushing from a tap. What happens?



### What's Going On Here?

When you turned on the tap, the rushing stream of water started moving the air around it. Due to the fact that this air was moving, it had a lower pressure than the surrounding still air. Holding the balloon near the stream of water meant it had low pressure air on one side (the side near the water) and higher pressure air on the other sides. High pressure air always pushes towards low pressure air. The higher pressure air on the other side of the balloon pushed the balloon towards the stream of water. This is called the Bernoulli Principle.

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## Tom's Diary

Friday 4th April

Dear Diary,

School is finally finished! We are going to a new place called Tamora Bay tomorrow. It will be fantastic! Uncle Don and Aunty Laura have rented a big house and Sam, Ronny and I are going to sleep in tents in the backyard. I have not seen them since Grandad's birthday party.

It will be great to see them again. Hope I get some sleep tonight!

Saturday 5th April

Dear Diary,

The drive to Tamora Bay was long and I was bored. The house is perfect and only about a five minute walk to the beach and the town. The boys helped me put up my tent when I arrived. It is about 9 o'clock now and I am exhausted! Going to bed pretty soon because we are spending the whole day exploring tomorrow.

Thursday 10th April

Dear Diary,

Everything has been unreal! Weather has been great every day, and I am getting better at swimming in the surf. I caught a fish when I went in the boat with Mum and Dad. It wasn't big enough to keep, but I had great fun catching it. Tomorrow we are going waterskiing with some of the kids we have met.

Saturday 19th April

Dear Diary,

Just arrived home. Waterskiing was great but harder this year because the sea was really rough. My arms still hurt from holding onto the rope. I am tired from packing up our stuff and putting the tents away. I hope we go back to Tamora Bay next year.

# Forests Drink Clouds



Upland rainforests harvest billions of litres of water from passing clouds, supplementing rain in the dry season, a CSIRO study has found.

Working in forests at Longland Gap (1140 metres), Mt Lewis (1224 m) and Bellenden Ker (1560 m) on the Great Dividing Range in far north Queensland, researchers compared the amount of water collected in a standard rain gauge with that gathered by collars fixed to trees and troughs placed beneath the canopy. They discovered that even when it didn't rain, a significant amount of water entered the forests.

“Cloud and mist blow through the forest, and the water gets captured on the huge surface area of the leaves and trunks,” said Paul Reddell, one of the group's leaders. “They strip water out of the clouds.”

Paul said the input from the clouds can be significant. “In the dry months of the year it can be up to 40 per cent more water [than they'd receive from rain alone]. In north Queensland that runs into billions of litres a year added into the major catchments, keeping the streams and the rivers flowing into the really dry months.”

The scientists believe that the cloud-harvesting plays a crucial role in the survival of high-altitude rainforest animals such as the lemuroid ringtail possum and the mountain nursery frog. “There's a dry period in north Queensland, which is when these organisms come under most stress,” Paul said.

# Anton's Project

Anton's project was amazing, mainly because he wore it to school. It was a suit of armour. Though it was made of cardboard, he'd spray-painted the whole thing silver so that from a distance it looked real. He'd even managed a helmet with a visor that tilted upwards to reveal his face. And crowning it all, standing straight as a flagpole, was a purple feather at least thirty centimetres long.

In the playground, he was a sensation. The entire school surrounded him for a look and if the teachers hadn't come to take charge, his creation would have been ripped to pieces before the bell rang.

Once inside, Mr Cotton sensibly made Anton's talk the first item for the day.

Standing in front of the class with the visor raised, Anton began. "My lords and ladies, knights and squires, knaves and cut-throats, by the grace of God and the sweated toil of man, I have pleasure in presenting to you today, the latest in suited armour."

He went on speaking like that for the entire talk, as though he was demonstrating a suit of armour to a castle full of knights who might want one the same. It was brilliant. It was fascinating. It was absolutely nuts.

Mr Cotton gave Anton twenty out of twenty for his project and presentation. The rest of the class gave Anton a wide berth. They just didn't know what to make of him, and that seemed fine by Anton. It didn't seem right to me, though.

# Year 7 – Writing

This task will take 40 minutes.

You are going to write a story that includes this idea.

**“The crowd was waving and cheering ...”**

*You can write about yourself or someone else.*

*Your story can be real or imaginary.*

**You might like to think about the following questions.**

