

Writing - Week 8 Term 2 - Narrative

"Luka! Wake up! You have a long day of apple picking at the orchard!" My mother hollers from downstairs. I can detect a frown on her face, just by her tone of voice. I roll over, reluctant to get out of my bed, but I have nothing better to do with my time, and plus if I don't go, I will probably get punished.

"Coming, mom!" I yell back, swinging my legs out of bed. They tingle as I stand up for the first time in a while. I walk clumsily down stairs, still half asleep. I fall into my chair, and drink my orange juice, biting an apple. I look around at our house, and look into the window connecting my house from my neighbors. I don't understand why we are required to live so close to everybody else. But like I am always told *We are one, the number one, we live together so we don't run.*

I don't really understand this line. Oh well. I realise during all this thinking I am already ready to leave. "Bye!" I yell upstairs at my mom as I walk out the door, into the crowded street outside. I shuffle along, looking up at the border. I've always wondered what was above us. They say it's nothing, but I have seen people go up, and come down with more people. There must be some civilisation or a big secret up there. I move along swiftly, to get to the apple mill, but I accidentally made a wrong turn. As I retrace my steps, I find myself even more lost. I'm in the quiet part of the city, close to the border. I walk up a hill to get to the closest point of the border. I find the ladder, but as I touch it I get a shock. A force wave. I glance around to make sure nobody is watching, and I look up to the top of the ladder. I see eyes peer back down at me. "GAH!" I yell, taken aback. I fall on my back

"Shhhh!" The voice yells, the eyes staring me down "Do you want me to get caught?" It says. The voice is feminine.

"What about me?" I ask it, smoothing my clothes down. She frowns at me.

"I can break the barrier so you can come up if you'd like" She offers.

"I am not allowed up" I say firmly. I don't want to be seen here. I need to follow rules

"Wow. Feeling risky today, huh?" She says sarcastically, a sour, cold look in her eyes.

Part of me really wants to go and meet her. And most of me says no. I can't be seen here.

"Where are you?" I ask her. She is on the top of the border

"Where are *you*?" She asks me. I know exactly how I am going to say this. Our government has always said

If you ever meet something from on top of the border, this is what you say..

"I am Luka Sanders. I live at the *correct* place. I don't know who you are, or where you came from, but I do not want to be associated with you" I say. I have practiced this every night. The next step is to walk away. I start to walk away.

"That's what they all say" She says, I can hear her voice quaking. I turn around to see if I can still see her.

"Wait.." I say, running back to the ladder "Wait" . I hope she hasn't left yet

"What do you want now?" She says. I sigh with relief.

"What is your name?" I ask her, a smile peaking at the corners of my mouth.

"Aubrielle." She replies. Aubrielle. I love that name. I can't see anything but her eyes, but by the way she is looking at me I can tell she is smiling.

We end up talking and talking. We talk so much I lose track of time, and before I notice it's already dark.

"I am going to be late!" I cry. "By Aubrielle! I really enjoyed this!" I call as I start walking away

"Tomorrow?" She asks smoothly

"What?" I say

"Tomorrow. Wanna meet up tomorrow?" She asks again

"Yes! I'd love to, Aubrielle!" I say, walking away.

"Aubrey. Call me Aubrey" She says, that is the last thing I hear before I make it down the hill. I grin to myself. But what will I tell my mother? What will I say? I sprint home, hoping to make it there before supper. I quickly snatch some apples off a table, an angry HEY coming my way shortly afterwards. I need proof that I was actually at the apple mill. I run harder and faster, my leg burning, and I turn a hard corner, spraying mud on an angry mother and her toddler.

"Sorry!" I yell, still running. I make it to my front door, soaked in mud and dirt

"Hello, Luka!" I hear my mother call

"Hi, mom! I brought apples!" I reply, placing the apples on the table. "I need to use the bucket and wash, okay?" I yell, already running up the stairs two at a time. I run my fingers over the rusty tap and pull it with all my might to get it to move. I put the bucket under the tap, and let the frosty water spill in. I pour the bucket over my head and cleanse myself of the mud. I gasp as the water hits my chest. Freezing. I dry myself off with the dirty towel, and head back downstairs once I'm clothed and warmish.

"So, how was work today?" My mother asks, not facing me, still focused on her pot of food.

"Uh.. Good." I say blandly. Lying is against our laws.

"Nice!" She says, spinning to me and enveloping me in her arms, planting a kiss on my forehead

"Mum..- get off-" I say, trying to push her off. She scowls and turns back to her pot. I walk up to my room to dress again so I can go to the market. I stare at the cracked mirror to see a disfigured version of myself, influenced by the thin lines decorating the face of the mirror. I see my black hair and my grey eyes. I don't look like most boys

from under the border. My eyes meet the eyes in the reflection. Grey, yet brown. I stare at the thin line of freckles on my nose. I have always felt self conscious of those. I turn around to dress into some better clothes, careful not to creak the extra loud floorboard.

"Where are you going?" Mom asks, as I head to the door.

"Getting bread" I say blandly "I might be able to get a good deal for a couple for these" I say, holding up some rags, and I walk out the door without a word. I grab the bread, and hurry back inside. I yawn, and decide I'm way too tired to eat, so I head right to bed.

I wake at my usual time today, excited to see Aubrielle. I hurry downstairs and grab a slice of bread, and rush out the door. I sprint over to the hill, and bend over, puffing and out of breath. I rush over to the ladder and look up at it hopefully, to see Aubrielle's hazel eyes staring right on back.

"You're late." She says.

"You try escaping and getting out of work." I say bitterly. Again I find myself getting into a good conversation with her. Then I decide it's time

"I want to come up." I say. I feel excited, I have never broken a law before

"Oh.. Ok then" She says, her eyes no longer visible. I hear footsteps slowly fade away. I start getting nervous, what if someone sees me? What if I get caught? After panicking for quite some time, I hear Aubrey coming back.

"Try climbing up, ok?" She says, looking down at me. I put my hand on the ladder, and feel no side effects, I look up at her excitedly. I start climbing the ladder bursting with anticipation. I've only known her for a day, but it feels like it's been years. Once I'm up I see the border below my feet. I look to the ground, and all around. This place is so much nicer than on the lower side. The floor is made up of the border with grass on it. They have a bright burning ball in the sky that hurts your eyes if you look at it too long. I turn a full 360 before I see her. Aubrielle. In person. Not just eyes, a full body now too. She is beautiful. Her eyes are hazel, but her skin is dark, her hair is a rich ash colour. She is so pretty.

"Aubrey-" I say, but before I can finish she is hugging me. I'm so excited to finally see her

"Wow! You look so different from what you look like down there" She says, releasing me.

"You are so pretty!" I say, but instantly regret it because she starts to blush, so do I. After hours and hours of talking and running through the grass, Aubrey takes me to a new spot. It has a life-sized statue. So cool!

"What is this?" She asks me.

"How would I know, you are the one who lives here!" I say, laughing. She playfully punches me on the arm, which triggers me to fake cry. We both laugh.

"Well, nobody introduced themselves first, so I guess I have to" I hear a voice say. I instantly stop laughing and spin around to see what it was, but I can't see anything. What if it is someone from the bottom of the border, they might kill me!

"Calm down, children, it's just me" I heard the voice say. I face the statue to see rock falling down off the statue's head, and his mouth moving.

"Oh- my- gosh-" I hear Aubrielle say, she grabs my hand and I blush.

"So, you were talking a bunch and now that I'm here you two instantly stop talking" He says, frowning.

"You are literally a TALKING STATUE!" I exclaim, in total and utter shock.

"Yes! But I have been discovered! I need you two to do a job! Very important" He says, throwing his hands in the air

"We aren't even supposed to see each other!" Aubrey yells at the statue

"We can't help!" She says, her face sinking angrily.

"You haven't even heard my proposal yet" The statue says dryly. "Now hush!" He waves his hand, sending dust flying over us, and suddenly I can't talk!

"I'm Atlas, and I need you to go and find the Magic Fruit. I can give you a map, please bring the fruit back to me, so we can all bite it. If you take a bite without me, then this won't work. You need someone from the top side of the border, bottom side, and me, a wizard." He says, conjuring a map. He waves his hand and I can talk again. I gasp, staring at him in awe.

I can't go on this journey, my mother will be so mad and I will get reported. I can't.

"I can't go." I say, frowning, and turning back, starting to walk away. I know for a fact that my mother and the government will behead me if I go.

"I can take care of your mother" The wizard says, like he knows what I'm thinking

"How did you-" I start, but he puts a finger to his mouth and suddenly we are in the deep jungle. I look to my side to see Aubrey in total shock. She lets out a little laugh, and so do I. This is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in my whole life. A variety of colours, rainbows from the flowers and birds, each with their own unique and individual song. The trees sway gently, and the warm balmy wind blowing their leafy hair. I watch the flowers change colour per each billow of wind. This is truly magical. We set out into the deep jungle, following a path. I'm not even sure where I am supposed to go, my feet are just taking me. I slowly begin to wonder why the statue wizard can't come. I can't believe he just sent us here, expecting us to find this fruit thing without him. As the day ends nearer, I decide we need to find shelter. I grab the map out of my pocket and glance down to see where the next spot to stop is. I look all over but I can't see anything. I start walking forwards, to watch little lines form just where I walked. I gasp, showing Aubrielle. I start walking forward, my eyes glued to the map. I look around for a good, sheltered spot to take cover for the night. Aubrielle finds a cave and we roll a rock in

front of it. I start a fire, and start making a makeshift bed for myself. I fall asleep quickly, exhausted from the day. My mind races through all of the things I' d done. Sneaking through the jungle, seeing the sky, all bright and ble with puffs of white. It was the most amazing day I' d had. Ever.

When I next wake up, I see nothing. It is pitch black. It must be night, there are no streaks of light forming from behind the wall of rock. I roll over, facing Aubrey. I can tell she is awake too

"Why are you awake?" I ask her, whispering as softly as I can

"Why are you awake?" She says, softly. I roll out of my makeshift bed, and sit up on the cold, hard ground. I crawl over to the fire, rolling my eyes, and start trying to make it start up again.

"Can' t be too far from dawn, can it?" I ask her, as I tend the fire. I poke it with sticks and blow on it, but it still doesn't want to go.

"Mmm. Why are you awake?" She says, a demanding tone in her whisper-voice. I sigh "I just woke up, ok?" I reply coldly. I push my eye right to the edge of the rock, peering just outside the crack. I can see the sun rising slowly, but the scenery looks different. The fire suddenly cracks up, and I can see Aubrielle. A full breakfast of soft bread and pink streaks of something.

"Wow-" Aubrielle says, her face lighting up "Bacon too?" She says, squealing with excitement

"What?" I say. What is bacon

"This!" She says, picking up a piece of the pink streak in her fingers, waking it in my eyes. It smells so nice. It reminds me of something I' ve tasted, but haven' t tasted at the same time.

"Does the scenery look different to you?" I ask, gesturing towards the rock. She crawls out of bed, peering out of the little hole. She shoves the rock with all her might, and stares outside. We are in a totally different place. Not like yesterday, not at all. This land is dry, bare and has no animals in sight.

"Wow!" Aubrey calls. She spins around, looking me in the eye and shoves me out of the way, getting towards the bacon.

After we ate and changed, finally we were ready to go outside. I have absolutely no idea where we are supposed to go, all I know is to follow the map, which won't be much help. We start the trek, walking towards the red X on the map. This is our last part on the map. We walk for hours. Hours. The hot sun scolding us with its rays of heat. I see a pool of water, dragging my feet thirstily towards it.

"Water.." Aubrielly says, her voice cracking with relief. I hit the ground on my knees, rocks scraping it up, but I don't care. I gulp the water down, splashing it on my face, until I notice it. A shiny little dot down at the bottom of the lagoon. I

"There—" I called Aubrielle, but she has already seen it. I nod at her and jump in the lagoon, the cool water running down my clothes and in my hair. I hold my breath for as long as I can. My hands feel around the bottom of the rocky lagoon for the shiny thing, before my fingers clasp on to the smooth, hard surface. I clasp it in my hands and swim for the top of the lagoon frantically. I hit the surface, gasping for air. I gulp down the oxygen, throwing the shiny thing on the land, covering it in dust. Aubrielle picks up the object, dunking it in the water, revealing the shiny iridescent ball. I stare at it. Is this the fruit? I heave myself out of the water, looking at the circular pearly ball. I pick up the map, hunting for answers. I unroll the piece of parchment, seeing that we are no closer to the X. I think that there will have to be another day before we get the fruit. Aubrielle lifts up the circle, inspecting it all around.

"What do you think it is?" She asks, her brown eyes searching mine.

"Not sure." I say, she hands it to me, but as she has her hands on it, and mine on it too, the circle glows.

"Aubrey!" I say, looking at the glowing circle, it starts emitting rays of light, shining everywhere. I shield my eyes, still staring at it intently. The ball opens up, the outer, shiny layer breaking away upon touch. It stops glowing revealing a second map.

"Another map?" Aubrey asks, holding it in her hands. Her fingers guide themselves over the edges, opening its secrets. The map looks exactly like the other one. Except this time it shows where we have to go, and now what challenges we have to face. It looks so, so far away. I put the maps together in my backpack, and start off again.

In the next few hours we cover so much land. We make it to the next place to sleep. We decide to sleep under a tree root, it would be cramped and tight, but we can make it work. Aubrielle falls asleep fast, but I'm not ready. I decide I need some air, and get out of our squished den to the fresh night air. I inhale and exhale slowly. Watching dry leaves move. I suddenly sense something next to me, and I spin quickly. Just Aubrielle.

"What are you doing awake?" She asks me. I sigh.

"What are you doing awake?" I ask her. I turn to her. We're only 16. Kind of sad. So much life to live, and there is a border separating us.

"You need some sleep, Luka" Aubrey says. I turn to her, standing, and scoop her up in my arms.

"So do you. We have a big day tomorrow" I say. She squeals when I lift her. I plop her on her side of the root, and flop on to mine.

"Good night, Luka." She says, facing me.

"Good night, Aubrey." I say, facing her.

I wake up to the roaring of a river, rolling onto my back.

"Rise and shine, loser" She says to me, playfully shoving me. "I already ate breakfast." She says, frowning

"Wow. Such a big accomplishment" I say sarcastically. I eat silently, watching Aubrielle pack up. I pull out the map, checking to see how much we have to go.

"Shouldn' t take too long, should it?" I say, pointing at the X.

"Mm." She replies. Glancing at the red X. I help her pack up, and we start walking. I look down at a little icon. The first challenge. A little fire symbol. As we near the symbol, I start to realise what it is. A bushfire. We walk past the symbol eventually, but nothing happens.

"Misprint?" Aubrielle laughs. We start nearing the next challenge, then I hear it. It sounds like an engine, but tastes smokey.

"RUN" I yell at Aubrey, knowing the first challenge has started. I spin around to see a raging fire catching on the luscious green plants. I sprint ahead of Aubrey, but she catches her foot on a root, tumbling to the floor.

"Luka! Help" She cries out, trying to free her foot, the fire' s tongue tickling her back. I dash over to her, avoiding the roots and holes. I sweat, tasting smoke and burn in my mouth. I pucker my lips, getting the bitter out of my mouth. I make it to Aubrielle, releasing her leg and scooping her up. Her blood drips into my fingers. I sprint for my life, kicking dust up behind me. I see a red line in between the dust and foliage. I run, Aubrey in my arms, and hope that means that that' s the end of the fire. I turn, still running to see a wall of fire forming behind the red line. I gasp for air, still holding Aubrielle in my arms. I set her down on some soft grass, and sit down myself. She gapes at me.

"How do you run that fast?" She asks me, staring.

"I- don' t- know" I say, panting. She pulls the map out of my backpack and sets me on the cool grass to rest.

I wake up on the same grass. I must have passed out. She looks at me. I look at her.

"You' re leg" I say, sitting up. I don' t feel great, but Aubrielle must feel worse. I pull a first aid kit out of my backpack and fix her ankle up. I try standing, but my legs give way, shaking and red. I grunt, lying back down. We don' t have much time. After a few minutes rest, I stand up again, helping Aubrey up. She leans on me, supporting her weight on my back. I pull the map out, checking for our next task.

"A plate?" She asks, pointing at it over my shoulder. I can smell her scent. She smells like a forest with running water. Relaxing. She suddenly walks away.

"Leg?" I ask her. It looks totally healed. No more blood stains on the bandage.

"Huh.." She says, scratching her head. We continue on the path, heading towards the plate.

Soon we make it to the plate. A giant stone dance floor, hanging over a mysterious black pit. I put my foot on one of the plates, only for it to fall into the abyss. I gasp, falling back to the ground, hitting my head on the hard dirt. I dust myself off and stand back up, Aubrey watching me. Suddenly the dance floor lights up, going through the steps of each panel. I watch it, mesmerized before I step on the panel that has the first colour. The light stops, and I try my best to remember how it goes. If I fall, I would die instantly "Wait!—" Aubrey calls, raising her arm "Isn't it that square?" She says, pointing to the one next to my foot, hanging in midair over another panel. I stare down at the panels, trying my best to remember what one it was. I put my foot on one of the squares, the one Aubrielle says, only for it to fall away. I spin at her in horror, as I watch the panels start falling to the abyss, like flies dying of fly spray. Make a run for it. Aubrielle watching hopelessly from the rock. She might get trapped behind me. I turn to her face, which is sinking with every footstep. The panels are dropping like flies, so I run, hoping the tiles will reset. I make it, falling to the floor. Aubrielle waves at me sadly. Suddenly Aubrey is teleported right next to me, falling into my arms, unconscious.

"Aubrey!" I shout, shaking her violently. "Wake up!" I lay her down on the floor, pacing around her, shaking her occasionally until she wakes up. I explain to her what happened, and wait for her to recover to move on to the next activity. I pull the map slowly out of my backpack, and guide my finger over to the next part of the map. A tree. I assume this is the Magic Fruit. I stand up, helping a shaky Aubrey to her feet. We continue on our trek, nearing the magical tree. My hands get shaky as the tree comes into view. A teal coloured pond looms ominously, surrounding the green foliage on a stick. I throw a rock into the pond, watching it sizzle into nothing.

"Ok then." Aubrey says, her eyes wide. "Guess no swimming" She says, laughing. I look for any possible way to get over the lake without sizzling myself.

"See anything that could get us across?" I ask her, my eyes scanning the territory. She hums, looking too.

"Vine? Swing ourselves across the pond, to get to the land. There are two after all" Aubrielle suggests, pointing a small finger over some vines.

"Why not?" I say, walking over.

I tug on the vines, ensuring they will be strong enough to hold both of our weight.

"Looks good to me" I say, tugging more on the ropes. "We'll have to climb up a bit so we don't burn our bottoms off" I say, to hear a little giggle from Aubrey

"Bottom." She laughs.

"What are you, 2?" I say, laughing as well. After we recover from our little laughing fit. I grab Aubrey and shove her up her own vine. I wait for her to climb to a good height, and then secure the vine on a tree root. I climb up my own, which I already secured. I grab the sharp rock that I had stored, and run it between my fingers, taking in

the smooth yet rough surface. I slice Aubrey's rope, sending her flying across the pond, then I cut my own rope. A rush of wind blows through my hair, sending my hair flying everywhere. The wind's fingers wrap themselves around my body, manipulating themselves to get into my arms. The wind flows through my clothes, and I jump, soaring over the island, hitting the ground right next to Aubrey. I groan, my legs sore from the impact. Aubrey stands up, already recovered, and plucks the fruit from the tree. I stand up myself, suddenly feeling woozy, and BAM, I'm right back at home, on top of the border.

- A few years later -

After I went on the mission with Aubrey, I never saw her again. The border disappeared, but I still miss our adventure. Now I have a wife and three little munchkins. I still miss Aubrielle, but I realise I would never be where I am now, if it wasn't for her. My children would grow up with a border over their heads, and I don't want that.

"Dada!" My youngest, Rose says. She crawls towards me, putting her little hands on my face

"Wanna go to the park with Aubrey and Atlas?" I ask her, smiling at her little face. She nods, smiling too.

"Watch me, Dada, watch me!" Rose calls, sliding down the slide in our small community playground. She found another little friend to play with, they have been playing for hours at this stage. I decide to walk over to Rose's friend's mom.

"Hi. I'm Luka, our kids are playing together" I say "Mind if I sit?" I ask, looking at the spot next to her. She has beautiful brown eyes.

"Of course! Aubrielle, by the way" She says, shaking my hand. "May I ask your last name?" She says, looking me in the eyes. Then it hits me, this could be Aburielle, like the Aubrielle.

"Sanders." I say, looking at her directly. I start putting pieces together, the eyes, her hair. Everything "Yours?" I ask

"Falk, Aubrey Falk."