HOME TIME

CAMPBELL WHYTE
School Anthem

Little light shines brightly it gives a wonderous glow
light your way to story land gently lead you by the hand
step in to the story boat let your sails unfurl
story winds are blowing listen one and all
listen one and all

Old Mill Primary School
David Watanabe.

Next time you see me you’ll need to look up to the night sky, ‘cos I’m gonna be up in a space ship.

Lilly Watanabe.

The next time you see me I’ll be fixing one of your pets, maybe your dog.
I’m going to be a vet.

Ben Miller.

The next time you see me? I’ll be running my own patisserie with my big brother.

Amanda Holm.

Next time you see me? The next time you see me? Maybe I could be, I dunno. I really don’t know...

Nathan Dermott.

The next time you see me, I’m going to be making comics and probably writing them and drawing them and making video games as well and probably those pick-a-path books and oh man, I just want to do so many things.

Laurence Baudin.

The next time you see me? I hope it will be in a book store. Not behind the counter, like, writing books.
First kiss behind here with Amy Bronson and Fourth kiss with Lynda Kidman.

Graffiti tree

Night Terror
Spiders

This is the tree that Jacob took his pants off under in Year 6.

Best spot to hide from teachers but still be in-bounds.

Best lunch spot

Putrid Empire

Ouch

Step I missed in Year 5 and chipped my tooth.

Our class

There isn't actually a mill at the school.

Old Mill Primary School

'Let your sails unfurl'

3 Baker St
South Perth
WA 6151

One time it hailed so much that it was like snow and we all got let out of class to play in it.

Since 1898
At Bush Dance Year 7 we built a hay bale fort behind the school hall.

These courts are best for skating on courts

This is where the comics are

These courts are best for 4 square

Won every pull-up competition ever

David broke his arm here in Year 4 trying to backflip off the monkey bars

Then again in Year 6 trying to forward flip off the same bar

Best picks:
- Winter = Chicken soup + toast cheese roll
- Summer = Meat pie

Most boring game ever

Cricket nets

Dump bins super-gross

Bike racks

This way home

Went onto hated it and never went again
15th December
You're not going to ring the bell?
That clanging piece of junk? No thanks.

But aren't you sad to be leaving?
No. I'm not upset. Not in the least, thanks, Amanda.

David thinks he's too good for primary school.
Well he's not going to high school. He's gotta repeat the year.

That's not true! Top of science, top of maths, top of geography.

Mum and Dad are worried about your social development.
They were going to tell you after Christmas.

Nice try. Nothing's going to put a dampener on me blowing this popsicle stand.
I can't believe this is it. We'll never hear the bell ringing again.

Popsicle stand?

The gentle clink of the chain in the wind. That sweet tinkling.
The beautiful release from class.

Never, uh. never again...

Isn't that your house just over there?

Don't listen to the others.

I understand.

Ugh, huh. Sniff... Sniff.

Anyway...

Wagh-ya-huh.

Those idiots. Fuh-lip.

I'm very much ready to leave this place.

Very much indeed.

I don't even care.

Wagh-hu-hur... Jason can take a photo.

- and I'll write every day and call every day. I promise, I promise...

Ugh, whatever.

Let's get out of here before the weirdos start up again.

I'm going to miss you so much.

We'll still see each other every day.

Oh yeah? What makes you think high school is going to be so much better?
I don't think, my friend. I KNOW.

You don't think?

Har Har.

Listen to me. Because I've got three words for you.

HOT-BABE-CITY

Look around you. There are no hot babes here.

At high school, it's all hot high schoolers.

They're 'mature' if you know what I mean.

So they won't laugh at your jokes, then?

Not that sort of mature.

I mean mature in all the right places.

Oh right. I get you.

Well, Lily sure is 'mature'. But in all the wrong places.

Eww, what?

Uh, you know. Unnn...

What?

Don't talk about my sister like that!

Hey Lilly

David, please don't please don't please don't please don't please don't please don't please...

Did you hear what Nathan just said about you?

We were talking about all the new girls at high school. How much more mature they are compared to all the girlish, er, edges said that you're immature but in all the wrong places like NOT in the boobs!

He said WHAT?

-tis really important David, just shush shush shush shush

shushshushshushshushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushushu
I know, I'm shocked too. Disgusted even. Worse, worse yet. Disappointed!

What?

I couldn't hear a word you were saying over all that ridiculous shouting.

You couldn't?

Oh well, it wasn't really important anyway so let's never talk about it again, agreed?

Is the whole weekend going to be like this?

It better not be. It had BETTER not be.

Going to be like what?

LAURENCE!

On man, where have you been?

We were getting ready to leave without you.

I had to say goodbye to some people that aren't coming to the sleep-over.

You guys aren't my only friends.

I hate to break it to you, Laurence.

But teachers don't count as friends.

We might have to work on some new material for you over the weekend.

I don't think those jokes will pass mustard in high school.

Are we all here? Where's Ben?

Ben? On man.

Oh har har. That's great, David.

WHO'S THAT?
That's Ben, he's been in our class every year since we were in kindergarten.
I told you guys a bazillion times he was coming.

No.

Not him...

Him!
PEPU!
Where have you been? What have you been up to?

Your dog? Hasn't he been missing for, like, months?

Heyo. Hey man.

A couple of days, since Lilly left the gate open.
We'd better get him back home.

No, we just got him back! Can he come to the sleep-over?

He'll be good, I promise.
I don't see why not.

What could possibly go wrong with this scenario?

Right?

Right! We're all here, let's go already.

Laurence, Ben, you two can walk with us, you other two slugs can stay at least five metres behind us at all times...

...And don't try to talk to us or anything either.

WHAT? WHY NOT?

We only like to hang out with "mature" boys.

I'm totally mature! It's this banana slug that's not.

Five metres!
You watch out. It's going to rain, my boy.

You know the rain is coming, though, don't you? Your friends don't. But you sure do.

What'd old men lollipop say? I dunno ay.
Whoo, slow down. Before we get to your place, got a little surprise for you.

That's right. We're going for one last chip stop.

Thanks...
You idiot!
Laurence had already planned that himself.
Did you even read the invitation?

Yes!
Of course I read it.
I read it very well.

Of course you did.

fish monger
banana slug

PIZZA
KEBABS

PUBLIC LIBRARY

BUS STOP
Can we get...
uh, hold on...

Can we get five dollars worth of your finest chips.

WHAT?
Five dollars?
That's a lot of chips!

Today's the last day for you kids, right?
Last day of primary school?
You guys are all excited today?

Summer holidays and then, it's Big Time!

That's the one.
mmmm...
ugh, yea.

You kids are good kids. No trouble, not like kids from the other schools.
You're in here every day.

Look, let's make it special.
How about DOUBLE CHIPS for you?

$10 worth of chips?
Euh, that's a lot of chips.

YES! THANK YOU! We won't forget this!

That's really too kind, Jack.
Ahhhh.

Hey, I need you to do me a favour tonight.

What is it?

Nothing.

Is that a note?

No.

A letter of some kind?

No...

A piece of paper with words on it?

I guess you could describe it as such...

No, no way.

No, you're not asking Lilly out tonight.

What's in the note, then?

Uh...

Why not?

Who said anything about asking her out?

Uh...

Come on! She really likes you. If you give her the note she'll say yes for sure!
Do you have any idea how awkward that's going to be if she says no? Or worse, worse even.

If she says yes, then you'll spend three whole days not talking to one another.

Look, I don't want to go to high school without ever having a girlfriend. I'll be the biggest joke ever.

Oh look, just give me the note.

Yesyyyy.

Great, it's going in the bin.

No!

Fine. It's obvious you're not going to help me. Some friend you are.
So...?  Yes?

I was wondering if you'd be able to give this note to David for me tonight?

Your friend is back.
You're not going to do anything stupid at my party, are you?

Oh what?

I said, you're not going to do anything stupid at my party, are you?

I dunno, probably.

What?

I might spill a drink or something.

A drink? What?

Yeah, look, I'm just saying.

And I was thinking of getting into a fight with Nathan...

WHAT? No fighting at my party.

I can't help it.

You can so help it.

I wanna get back at him for that.

Yeah!

How can you be so smart and yet so stupid?

He's just such a total dork-face.

Remember that time he hit me?

You mean that one time you were calling him a cheese wheel all week and he finally got sick of it and punched you in the head?
This one.

Yeah, this one. Hahahahaha, totally this one.

What are you guys doing?

It's for our scrapbook.

You wouldn't understand. It's an inside joke.

Ugh, give me a break. He would so understand.

Anyone would understand. They just cut out things they find funny and put them in a stupid scrapbook.

It's not stupid!

How dare you!

Ah.

Ten dollar chips!

Don't forget about me, hey kids?

You come back and see me.

Thanks, Jack!
Bye!

Wow, ten dollars worth of hot chips.
It's so heavy. Like a hot potato baby.

Look at it. All wrapped up nice and tight.

Let's see what's inside...

Arggh!

Ah, so hot!
Hey, can we go in the pool when we get to your house?

Yeah.

Are we allowed to bomb off the roof into the pool?

Yeah.

Are you sure? It's just, the last time I did it, your mum freaked out at me.

Yeah.

I had to go home and everything.

Ok, cheese wheel. Show us these dorky books you got for your birthday.

What?

Those dorky books. I wanna see them.

They're not dorky.

Sure they're not...

They're fairy tales. It's all old fairy tales.

Yeah, these are definitely dorky.

Are they boring too?

Yeah, David, they're not boring.

I did not ask for a dorky, boring book for my birthday.
They're beautiful.

and scary

and strange

and surprising

and wonderful

and they make you think that everything here is terribly boring and suffocating.

That this place is going to grind you away into nothingness.
is there fighting?
Some of them have fighting.
Are there robots?

Because it's stupid.
We're sending people up to Mars and giving people cyber hearts and you want to read about made-up fairies?
I don't get it.

Do you think we'll still see each other much?

What are you talking about? We'll still see each other heaps. We still need you to come to Dungeons and Dragons.

I mean, we're going to different schools. My brother says he never sees anyone from his primary school any more.

What about Video Game Wednesdays?

Yeah...
Stop being so selfish, Laurence. Amanda is going to a different school as well. You'll upset her with all your whining.

I'm just saying, things are gonna be different is all. That's all, everything's changing, and I'm going to be left behind.

You're going to be left behind? You're going to your fancy private school. You're going to shoot into the future and be a doctor or something.

In a few months you won't even remember us.

I don't want to be a doctor.

What movies are we getting out tonight?

What do you mean, we don't care about anything?

Dude, this party is going to be the best ever. We're going to have the best time ever, and eat the most pizza ever.

And stay up non-stop for three whole days. I'm not going to worry about some rubbish that's months away.

I hope it's not something scary.

Nothing scary, you slugs.

You guys don't even care about anything.

You're going to stay up for three days? Is that possible?
Three whole days?

I don't know. But we're going to try.

It's raining?

It's summer, it's not supposed to be raining!

Is that thunder?
There'll probably be ball lightning tonight.

PEPU!
Get back here!

There's no such thing as ball lightning!

There is! Me and Darfo! saw it when we went camping!

PEPU!

Get back here!

Not in the river! Ahhhhh!

You hairy banana slug!

Get back!

PEPU!

ULL!
Stop! You'll get swept away too!

Noooooo

Maybe we can reach him from the bridge.

He's just there!

Ugh, PEPW!

Can you get him?

Just a little bit closer...

Almost...

[Scene of chaotic activity]

[Characters struggle to reach the person in the water]
BACKPACKS

Because we were going for a sleep-over, our backpacks were filled with lots of extra clothes, toothbrushes and a few other things.

This is an incomplete list of our backpack contents. Some of it was lost in the river, but most of it survived. Strangely, there was very little water-damage to any of our stuff.

CLASS PHOTO

TOP ROW:  2nd David, 3rd Amanda, 4th Ben
MIDDLE ROW: 5th Nathan, 7th Laurence
FRONT ROW:  2nd Lilly
Dear Diary,
today is the last day of school. I can’t even believe it. Miss Dianna says that it’s probably the biggest change we’ll ever go through. Nathan said the biggest change is puberty, but he is an idiot and got sent out of the class. We got to wear free dress today but dad wouldn’t let us, he can be so uptight sometimes, he doesn’t get that things are different here and weren’t in Japan. We are even going to Laurences birthday party celebration after school which is also a graduation party. This summer is going to be the best. Got to go.
Double Luck Rainbow

**RECIPE**
1x double scoop ice cream cone
2x rainbow jelly snakes
2x scoops of vanilla ice cream

vanilla
GAHHH!

Gah, Peau! Shoo!

Get outta here, you stinky thing.

Ar, quieth'n down would ya?

WOOF WOOF

Where are we?
MUM!

MUM

Would you stop shouting PLEASE!
I don’t need to wake up with you whining again.

Nuh-uh.
You’re just worried that you’re going to be completely busted for not taking Pepu home straight away.

And then making us all fall in the river.

And for shouting at me and EVERYTHING!

Where are we?

Lily, what’s going on?

Are we at the hospital? Where is everyone? My stomach hurts. I probably drank some of that sewer water.

Calm down, Amanda. You’re just nervous. Do you need your puffer?

Nan, this isn’t the hospital. This is something else.
Remember the time I did that totally awesome back flip off the monkey bars and broke my arm? We went to the hospital then.

Gee, thanks for that, David.

I’m not sure.
I can’t remember anything after we fell in the lake.

It wasn’t a lake, it was some kind of sewer.

Where’s my mum and dad?
We’re probably just at the hospital, it’ll be ok.

Maybe we got washed up here by the river and this is some crazy hippie tree hospital.

That’s the stupidest thing you’ve EVER said, EVER.
We’re officially ignoring you now.

Fine, but it’s not a hospital.
Well, what do you think, Ben?

Where's Laurence? And Nathan?

I thought you were looking for "MUM" and "DAD"?

Hee hee.

Har har har. But seriously, where are they?

Well, you know. Thanks for all your help, guys. I'm just gonna get some grown-ups and get us all home, ok?

Still not listening!

And you'll be totally busted, Lily. Totally.
Why do we have garlands?
I dunno, it's wild, isn't it?

This is ridiculous.

Just relax and trust me on this.

Trust you? No!
You're always trying to make things 'awesome' and 'kick ass' and stuffing everything up.

Just tell me straight what is going on here.

David.

Knock it off, man. Just knock it off. That's it.

We'll just go along with it all, eh?

Hey?

You gotta calm it down.

Yeah, fine, whatever...

He's always acting like such a goopy banana slug.

OK FINE! Let's get on with it and find our parents. Because when we do you will ALL be busted anyway.

AND!

We have a double sleep-over to get busy at.

Hrm, well, about that double sleep-over...

I'm right here. I can still hear you.
Yeah, check it out. So I don't know if we're going to be making that sleep-over.

Welcome! Welcome!

A thousand welcomes, my dear Spirits!

To the forest of the Peaches! That's us...

Come here! Don't be shy, we all just want to love you.

Wonderful, this is great.

Look at you two. I'm guessing the Spirits of Rising and Will?

What's going on?

Hahaha, listen to this guy.

'Smile and play, that's what I always say. We're gonna get along just fine, we are. I can tell.'
Nathan, thank you so much for bringing everyone out here tonight. It's such an honour.

I see the spirits of Will and Rising...

...and here...

...these must be the spirits of the Beasts and Skies.

Oh, uh, yeah...

This is Lilly, the Beast Spirit. And Amanda, the Sky Spirit.

Beasts?

Lilly... Such a treat to meet you. To have you grace our forest with your divinness.

What a pleasure.

Now let's go.
Now, dear Spirit, Nathan has been telling me all about his long journey from the spirit realm to our humble little forest.

It sounds simply exhausting.

We have a lovely tree prepared for you all to rest in.

Now, do any of you know where the Spirit of Plenty has gone? We asked Nathan, but he said he didn’t know.

No. How strange.

You mean Laurence? He’s not with you?

Oh well, no use using all the worries on him. He’ll turn up when he turns up.

I once got lost visiting my bathroom. I imagine crossing realms would require a great fear of navigation.

Oohhh, look at him go. He sure is feisty, this Spirit of Will.

Heh heh heh

He’s so sassy. The way he storms off like that.

Look at me! I’m so big and tough and strong!

Heh heh heh

hahaha
Whoa.

Check it out.

They fricking love us.

I am pleased to introduce you to your branch elders.

Nathan has already met the Elder of Growth.

Yeah great.

Everyone, get your things. We're outta here.

I see...

Yeah, you see.

Just like that?

No, exactly like that.

Hold on, these guys need us.

Dude, what's going on with you?
I mean, I understand Amanda freaking out, Ben not saying anything, and Lily playing it all so cool.

But you?

I thought you'd love this.

I'm going home, Nathan. We all are.

Sure thing, we'll...

Good luck with that...

Leaving? No, they're not leaving.

They're just tired. They've had such a long trip, you know how it is.

Imagine going to the crystal island and knock. They must be exhausted.
Whoa, slow down there. You're so fast. It must be those big legs.

Now, hold on, darling. It's getting dark out, and you haven't eaten yet, and you don't even want to know what's going on?

Spirts can be leaving here whenever your selves want. But please, sleep on it.

Hear us out in the morning, then if you still want to go, then get on up.

Please don't do this in front of my people.

David.

Amanda isn't handling this too well. She's even more freaked out seeing you freak out.

Can you just pretend for the night? For her sake?

Seeing you walk out will kill them.

Big smiles.
Fantastic, eh? All that's ever needed are the right words at the right time.

This is a wonderful turn of events. Just sparking.

Don't worry, Elders. It was all simply the sleep talking. We'll do a big meet and greet tomorrow.

My peaches ripe! My peaches soft! Welcome to this most historic of days.
When the sun beats hardest, we ripen the quickest. Strong rains quench our thirsts. Every struggle is an opportunity.

Flowers must strain to unfold. Shoots must force their way up through the soil. Roots must dig and burrow.

We are gifted on this day with guests so rare as to have not been recorded since old tree times.

Their task ahead is not an easy one. But the forest knows best and would not send her own children to a foolish fate.

The tiny spirits are tired after their long journey and will be withdrawing to their tree soon.

But before they do, look at these faces, and see the faces of hope. Of optimism and great strength.

Know that with the spirits of the forest walking among us there is no force that can oppose us.

Peace will once again wash through the land, and our home will blossom and rejoice.

Goodnight!
Here we are.

‘The Great Tree.’ You can call this home for as long as you need.
Look at all the food here. I'm starving.

Please, help yourselves. It's all for you. As long as you stay you will be provided for.

You aren't hungry? Hrm?

You aren't hungry? Do you have any hamburgers?

Err, no, I don't think so. I will look into it... "Ham burgers."

Above are your bedrooms. We thought it best if you chose your own.

HAAHAA! Top room!

Gah! Quick! We can't let the boys get all the good rooms.
Well, we will leave you to get yourselves sorted.

See you bright and early in the morning.

We'll take you to your guild trees and help you get all set up.

Next door up is your room!

Check it out!
Arrmgh, you gotta be kidding me.

I don't know how I can trust you.

But I'm going to have to believe you for now.

You had better not be lying to me.
Are you listening out there?
We're gone. Come morning we're gone.

I've had enough of this stupid magic forest crap and I'm taking everyone home to a double luck ice cream!

Do you hear me, you devil?

That's a promise. From me, straight to your face.

Wait, what?
The stars. They...

Heh heh heh.

What's that? Who's there?

It's just me.
What are you doing out here?
You spying on me?

I was out here long before
you came along with your
'screamin' and pork choppin'.

Whatcha you reckon, Ben.
You're so full of it.
Look, you better not tell
anyone about what you heard
or there's gonna be trouble.

You reckon?

You reckon?

I reckon you better stop
making all these promises
you can't keep.
**THE TREE HOUSE**

**STAIRWAY**
The core of the treehouse has two large spiral staircases running up it.

From there we can access the seedpods as well as all the other smaller rooms and spaces.

**LIGHTING**
Provided by star-berrries.

**WINDOWS**
Coloured glass, super pretty.

**BEDDING**
Laid with mosses & woven blankets.

**MUSHROOMS**
Re-spored daily by the GUILD of NIGHT-DIRT.

**RUGS**
The peaches are really into rugs. So there are a lot of them around the place.

**FRESH WATER**
Runs through the tree vines into the seed. Makes you want to go to the toilet.

**GOBRIE CUPS**
These big flowers have a syrupy nectar inside that catches any nasty insects that come close.

**BRIGHT LIGHTS**
Many areas of the village are lit up at night, inside tree-houses, main pathways and popular destinations.

Fire-rocks provide personal lighting, but more permanent light is provided by plants that have a natural glow.

**LAND-CORAL**

Peaches within the village live inside treehouses, unique structures that provide them with all their basic needs. This treehouse has been grown especially for us, as we wouldn't fit a regular sized treehouse.

**SUSPENDED SEEDPOD**
Six seedpods are hung around the trunk of the tree. Each one is fitted in a similar fashion with a bed, desk, shelves and fresh water.

They are hung by vines and accessible by rope bridge. In windy weather, they do bob around a fair bit.
**DIGESTION TREE**

At the centre of all Peach trees grows a DIGESTION TREE. This tree is actually a complex growth made up of six different plants that all work together.

This is the HEART of the home. Peaches provide us with breakfast and dinner here which is varied. Throughout the day, Peaches keep snacking, so there's no formal lunch.

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**THE KITCHEN**

All tree-houses have a kitchen in them. These are relatively simple structures. The vast majority of cooking is done communally by the food-based Guilds to feed the entire village. Cooking at home is simply the preparation of teas and the cutting of fruits, vegetables and seeds.

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**COMMON FOOD STUFFS**

**FRUIT JUICES**
Almost all fruits are juiced to make a wide variety of sweet drinks.

**CLOUD BUNS**
Sweet and savoury steamed buns are baked daily.

**WRAPPED RICE**
Rice, mixed with different fillings and wrapped in leaves.

**FISH**
The only meat that Peaches eat. Caught by the RIVER GUILD & Thunder Birds.

**TEA**
The major obsession of the Peaches. Drunk continually throughout the day.

**FRUITS**
Make up the majority of each and every meal. Unimaginable variety.

**HARD MUD**
Most foods are served on and in pottery. Vases, plates, bowls, cups in a huge variety of shapes are all crafted by the GUILD OF MUD.

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**THE TOILET**

Under each tree-house is a cavernous toilet, filled with Land-Coral fungus to aid decomposition and enormous Earthen-Worms that break down waste. It's disgusting but somehow completely odourless.

**FAREWELL RING**
The middle of the table has a pit where all food scraps are thrown where they are then eaten by the tree + table.

**REAR SEATS**
Small stools with a mossy covering.
Dear Diary,

Miss Dianna said it was important to keep a diary even when we don't feel like it because one day we might want to look at it and see what it is we were thinking and we never know what's going to happen or be important.

I think something important has happened.
HERE IS THE SEA

Here is the sea, the wavy sea

Here is a boat, and here is me

And all the fishes swim down below

Wiggle their tails, and away they go
Ah!
The what now? I don't, ah-

Ugh!

Just, just like, stay down there while I...

Supreme ninja.

Oh my god... my god... my god... oh my god... oh my god!

Where's the bathroom?

Oh, and of course...

The realest mystery...
Finally...

Literally the last room in this whole stupid treehouse.

Right?

Ewuuu!

No way...

So busting though.

GROSS gross

GROSS

Super double gross!
OH! Flipping pancakes!

GIANT COMPOST WORMS?

I can't believe this...

Hey, have you been up long?

I didn't sleep.

You didn't sleep?

Have our parents come yet?

No one has come yet...

No one?

Well, what did the Peaches say? Didn't they say anything about how we were going to get home?

I dunno.

Well, what are we going to do?

I mean... what are we going to do?

I dunno.
What are we gonna do about getting home? I mean, I didn’t even see any Neighbourhood Watch stickers around or anything and -

I don’t know! I don’t know! I don’t know!

But I don’t know!

I’m gonna do everything I can to get us home!

I don’t know - I don’t know - I don’t know...

I know.

I’m so sorry that my brother is a filth-mongering swine-trotter.

It’s ok, we were - I’m so sorry your face is a butt-butt.

UGH!

Get off her, you pig!

Ugh, it’s over now.
You have no idea how to treat a lady, do you?

HER?

A lady?

gross...

Just keep your festy sewer-mouth shut, David!

Look, we need to play along with whatever the Peaches say, ok?

Who knows how they'll react if they find out we're not really Spirits.

Ask no questions, and act like you already know everything.

So, just like we were at school...

Basically...

Fish-monger.

You wanted to stay up for two whole nights?

That would have been fun...

Morning, guys.

What's going on?

GOOD MORNING!

Look at all this ENTHUSIASM!

This is what I had hoped for.

Goodness me, I think we'll see some real change coming from these beauties.

David is just doing exactly what he's been told.

UGH...
Great.
Cool.
Wonder.

Let's get this done.

He looks like he hasn't slept all night.

Maybe the Spirits are nocturnal?

Just play along...

It's just like theatre sports...

Oh Hai!

Wow...
Your hair looks even more like a cloud up close.

Can I touch it?

Is it ok if I touch it?

Just a little?

Wowwwww

Wow!

Wow!

It's amazing!

Chon, let's go eat.

Everyone in the Sky Guild is growing to see you.
So, are there ghosts in this world?

GHOSTS?

Goodness no. Those are only stories to scare the little buds.

What about Vampires?

Werewolves?

FRANKENSTEINS?!

Lilly said, 'no questions!'

Sorry,

Never heard of any of those things before.

Maybe beyond the woven wall...

You Spirits would have a better knowing of these things, right?

Oh, of course...

BUT,

from our world, we can only, uh, see the realm we are responsible for...

Is that so?

How interesting...

I always imagined we would be as fish under the water. Shimmy shaking and darting.

Yessssss...

It's something like that...

WONDERFUL!

I do so like having my theories confirmed.

This is such fun.
The village... so, there's no electricity?

You must still be tired after your trip.

Let's get you a nice big pot of Morning Blossom tea.

That means, no internet.

No TV. No video games.

This is gonna suck eggs.

That sounds like fun!

WELL!

here we are.

This is our Emporium of Skyward Inquisition.

Gimme a break...

Where we try to learn what we can about your magical realm of the air.

Right-o! well, see you all later tonight after orientation.

We all gotta go to our guild trees.

I'm off to the hatchery.

Seeya.

After the what-now?
We're gonna get introduced to the Peaches who care for our realms.

Who told you that?

My elder. Didn't yours? Apparently there's some big drama with a mob of Bearded Dragons.

DRAGONS?

Don't worry. I remember seeing a display of them at the Museum once. They're really cute little critters.

Hee-Hee

Really, really. The Peaches, look at them, they'd probably get spooked by a frog.

We can help them.

Until we figure everything out though, remember: Don't ask any questions. Don't answer any questions.

I can do it.

Night fair?

Are you ready, Dear Spirit?

Uh, I guess...

Anyway, I gotta go.

See you at the night fair!
Dear Spirit of the Sky,
Welcome to our main experiment room.

We are putting lots of effort into figuring out why some clouds turn pink at sunset.

We have a few Peaches calculating how many clouds there are in the world...

And what clouds would sound like if they could talk.
There are so many great questions we can finally ask you.

We have so many questions!

HAHAHA LOOK!

This cloud looks like a big bird.

I guess... kind of...

BLARRRRHH!

I mean, how BLARGDERFUL!

It means 'GREAT'.

'BLARGDERFUL'

I love it.

Come sit down and let's eat some 'blargderful' food.

Did I use it right?
I would like to introduce you to our Cumulus Council.

They help grow our projects.

This is going to be great.

We can check our theories with you.

Uh, actually...

Are clouds really soft? Or do they just look that way?

Ugh...

Are clouds and the water that falls from them best friends? Or mortal enemies?

Um....

When lightning comes from a cloud, does it tickle the cloud?

Hrrg.

Why cloud?

......

What cloud am I thinking of right now?
THAT’S NOT FAIR!
Our Dear Spirit isn’t a mind reader!

TRUE.

Unless you CAN read minds...

EEEEEEEEEE...
Are our minds clouds?

CAN YOU READ MINDS?

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

Maybe it was the Mancy-Buns?

WHOA!
It’s a Spirit.

-EEEEE-

-EEEEE-

-EEE-

-EE-
I can see you, little one.

We're not all as blind as that fool Melaleuca.

Whatever.

Do you think we all believe in that stupid idea of Spirits?

There is a WAR coming with the Lizard Empire.

Did that useless rotten Peach tell you?

They've cut off all communications and trade with us.

Hundreds of moons of collaborations.

Done.

They've blocked all our fishing routes.

All our crops.

And Melaleuca would put our future in the hands of a snivelling milk-borne like you.
I've seen creatures in the river that can swallow boats whole.

Sailors and all.

Do you ever go out on the water?

Do you ever go swimming?

OH HAI!

How is everyone going—a-go?

I've been looking all over for you, Dear Spirit.

You catching up with good ol’ River-Elder?

I bet that was a basket of laughs.

What a big softie you are, my friend.

So...oo... squishy.
OFF FISHING AGAIN?

HAVE FUN!

UGHHHH...

Have a tea.
It's good, yeah?
That's a nimbus dream.

Are you hungry?

I always feel better after a tea.
I... I don't know what I'm doing...

You... You don't?

It's nice to know the clouds don't know either...

That it's ok just to be.

What a relief.

We don't need to know everything...
This is all River Peach territory.

They're in charge of fishing and taking care of the river ways.

Villen found you washed ashore on a morning walk.

They're a hard-working lot.

Not always the friendliest.

Prolly extra sore, seeings as the River Spirit didn't turn up.

We're meeting at First Tree.

Just up ahead.
WHOA! it's Huge!
Yuppers. Biggest tree we ever went an' grew.

Glad you could be making it.

Huh? Hee hee!

Lilly! Where have you been?

Everybudd here?

Let's get started, then...

AWESOME!

COOL!

Hohohaw!
OHMIGOD!
Ben, what is THAT?

Look at that HEDGE!
Topiary.

Oh yeah, that's pretty awesome.

That's not awesome.

LOOK AT THAT!
I know exactly what that is.

Oh dear...

That's Archie 'BARGE ARSE' Peterson!

The conflict between your realm and Archie's has been well documented in our tapestries.

But, every fruit on the tree is vital.

Tapestries!

'CONFLICT?'

He used to fart in my lunch box every day!

BEN...

LOOK...

IT'S ALL OF US...

ALL OF US...

EVEN 'STINK EYE' SUZIE!

Welcome again, Dear Spirits.

We had planned to do the sceptre ceremony last night, but, well...

things grew a little sideways.

When did they have time to do all this?

These things happen and always happen for a reason.

I heard that somewhere once.
The journey in front of you is going to be **SUPER-SCARIFIC**.
The Lizard Empire are a mighty strong lot.

Just last night they launched another sneaky-sneaky attack!
This time, pushing a large rock from the top of the cliffs onto our Thunder-Bird nesting site!

A thousand sadnesses, as it crushed a nesting group in a terrific horror.

Last night?

**WHOA...**

Did you know?

Pepu and I were the ones that found it.

In the first, I didn't want to admit that this... **WAR**... was growing.
But now it is starting to blossom, so that even my old eyes are seeing it.

River Elder has been whisper talking of being attacked up and down the water ways.

We have had to seal off the village in ways not done since the falling of First Tree.

We have even had to uninvite them from the Great Tea Festival!

Although it's unclear if they got our letters...

Thank you for answering our call.
We need your help to stop the attacks and bring us back together.

Great Tree has been storing your mighty sceptres, ready for your arrival.

And so, without further chitter chatter...
For our **SPIRIT OF GROWTH:**

Your **whispering sap.**

**AWESOME!**

For the **SPIRIT of the BEASTS:**

Your **crook of night.**

**AND a saddle for Pepu!**

Thank you very much.

That's too kind of you.

To the **SPIRIT of the RISING:**

Your **pestle of plenty.**

It's heavy...

Thanks, guys.
To the SPIRIT of WILL:

The blade of change.

OH HELL YES!

I got the BEST present!

And for the SPIRIT of the SKY:

- UGGHN-

We, we tried, we've tried our best, but...

It's ok.

Your sceptre has remained just out of our reach.

We have this humble gift as apology.

Ummmm...

Once you and the other Spirits collect your sceptre, you can then settle this terrific conflict.

It's a living map.

A what now?

A living map.

It's... alive...
Sooooo...
this party has some pretty great food, hey?

HEY?

Where do ya think we are?

WHAT?
I don't know.
None of this makes any sense...

All the stars are back-to-front.

Huh?

Back-to-front.

All the stars, they're the same as at home.
Just back-to-front.

OH...
So... what are you doing tomorrow?

David?
THE WOVEN WALL

Around the entire Peach Village is a giant wall of woven vines and dead trees. It has been designed to keep the village safe from predators such as herbivorous animals that threaten to eat important crops, structures and even the Peaches themselves. Since the conflict with the Lizard Empire has escalated, the wall has been reinforced.

We have been told lots of times we are not allowed outside the woven wall. It’s far too dangerous.

Small bells, stone weights & barbed hooks run the length of the wall.

THE ART OF WEAVING

The wall is a complex structure that was sung into being by the greatest Peach Whisperers over many moons. While the tree posts are long dead, the vines are still alive, regrowing and recommitting to their task season after season.

Each length of weaving has a large chime connected to it that hangs from a post-tree. These chimes are loud enough to be heard throughout the whole village and will immediately alert everyone to an intrusion, although we haven’t heard one yet...
**THUNDER BIRDS**

The length of the weaving is patrolled by marching groups of Thunder Birds. Equally spaced along the wall, they look for any creatures that have been caught in the weaving and set about freeing them. This usually involves be-heading, disembowelling and dismembering them before continuing their lap.

- Unique flower for each bird
- Display wattle
- Crest used for crushing shellfish
- Patrol ribbon
- Flightless wings
- Ceremonial dressings
- Short tail feathers
- Sharp talons & partial webbing

**DEAD-TREES**

The tree posts are all formed of sheer, white, dead husks. This way they can't change shape or betray the Peaches either accidentally or on purpose. Trees are harder to manage over time while vines keep regrowing, eager to please.
Dear Diary

We really are stuck here. I kept waiting for us to wake up and thought that when we went to sleep we might wake up but I woke up and we’re still here. The Peaches think we’re magic spirits or something they even have a great big temple set up for us. I’m supposed to be some animal spirit in charge of all the creatures. My guild elder Acaia took me to visit the giant bird nests. One of them was squashed! It was so sad 😞 The Peaches all freaked out because the lizards did it! That’s why we’re here, to sort out the lizards then we get to go home.