

Sample text 2

Soaring into Friendship

Jade walked up and down the footpath. *Should I go in*, she wondered. Her hand scratched at her chin. Something she always did when she was nervous. *Maria will never forgive me for ditching her at the party. She'll never understand.*

'Okay, stop this right now, Jade Brighton. You did nothing wrong. All I have to do is explain,' Jade whispered sternly to herself. Her shoulders pulled back for a moment only to sag again as she thought once more of her dad. 'How can I explain him.'

She sighed. Her shoulders drooped. Even an eagle flying overhead couldn't distract her from the glum feelings, like a stone, pressing her mood down into her toes and stopping her from racing through her best friend's yard, up onto the veranda and bang loudly at her front door.

Jade watched in her mind, how Maria would always come to the door. A big smile bursting like a sunbeam from her face, making them both want to wiggle and dance around the house. Having a best friend was the best. Having a best friend like Maria was even better.

Before she knew it, Jade was sitting on the grassy verge. Her chin collapsed into the cradle of her palms. Tears stung behind her eyes. All because dad is so strict, she thought miserably. I couldn't even stay for the cutting of the cake. I didn't even get to say goodbye properly. And it was such a lovely cake. All those cupcakes on top of each other, with different coloured icing, and sprinkles, chocolate buttons and even silver balls. I helped her make it and I didn't even get to eat some.

The tears fell.

'Wow! Jade look up!' shouted a friendly voice, full of sunshine.

Jade immediately jumped up to look towards her friend standing at the front door. The wretched stone of misery flung aside as her spirit soared.

Her eyes travelled upwards to where her friend pointed at a cloudless sky. The eagle with wings outstretched soared once more overhead and before she knew it, Jade too with arms out either side was soaring towards her friend.

'I'm sorry I had to leave your party early,' she said, the two of them now soaring around the lounge room. 'I didn't even get birthday cake.'

'I kept you some.'