

Years 3 & 4

1st Place: Caitlin Saunders

Year 4, Pioneer Village School

### **Ella Stone**

In a city called Perth, at the bottom corner of Australia, lived a girl called Ella. She was eight years old and had brown hair. Ella liked to imagine faraway places with unicorns and she could also make unusual things happen when she was emotional. For example three years ago Ella turned a mean boy at her school into a mouse because he was bullying her best friend. She could not explain what had happened.

One month ago, Ella noticed she was often followed by a mysterious, black cat. The cat was not owned by any of her neighbours. Every time Ella left her house the cat was waiting for her on the door mat.

One day Ella decided to try and stroke the cat. The cat started to talk! It said, "If you are going to stroke a cat you should really ask its name first!"

Ella was petrified.

The cat said "Anyway, my name is Midnight, I have come here to tell you that, you have been invited to Witch School and if you come I will be your pet!"

Ella replied in a high, excited voice.

"Oh, yes I will come!"

Midnight turned around and said, "Write a letter with your name and say that you would like to come, I will take it to the Head Mistress, Professor Rose."

So Ella did.

Midnight took the letter and started to fly with fairy dust to Witch School. When Midnight was out of sight, Ella went inside to tell her Mum and Dad everything that had just happened. Her Mum and Dad explained they were actually a Witch and a Wizard, Ella had never known. Then the doorbell rang. Ella went to open the door and Midnight was on the doormat, again. Ella picked up Midnight and put him on the table. On Midnight's back Ella had noticed a large package too big for Midnight to carry. So, Ella untied the package and made a bed for Midnight to rest.

Midnight fell asleep quickly while Ella and her family were looking at the box. Ella's Mum found a letter attached to the package. It said:

*Dear Miss Stone,*

*Thank you for the letter. This package contains all the things you will need this year at Witch School. Please come to Fremantle Cafe, on the 5th of January, which is tomorrow. At 12.00pm.*

*Yours sincerely, Head Mistress, Professor Rose.*

Ella read the letter again and then opened the box. The box contained, a book of everything, a giant suitcase, a hand bag, a cage for Midnight, a wand, a map of Witch School, a time table, a pencil case with stationery, a few dresses to wear, hats, a cosmetics bag with cosmetics, a cauldron, a magic watch, warm clothes, a drink bottle, a laptop, keys to her bedroom, and a blank notebook with lines. The box also contained another letter that said:

*Dear Miss. Stone,*

*You are being informed that your stay in Witch School will be in the Cat house where the other Witches there will be like your family, the other houses are Dog, Bunny, Bird and Hamster. In your suitcase you can pack as much as you like but you need to bring all your school equipment.*

*Yours sincerely, Head Mistress, Professor Rose*

Ella was so excited she packed all her things into her suitcase immediately. After dinner Ella went to bed, but she found it hard to get to sleep because she was so excited for tomorrow.

Ella woke early the next day. Her Mum and Dad were up. Once they had a chat about Witch School, Ella and her family had breakfast. At breakfast Ella's Mum gave Ella a black necklace with the night sky on it. Ella's Mum said, "This necklace is magic when the moon is out."

Ella was amazed. She had to be at Fremantle Cafe by 12.00pm and it was 11.00am. Ella had to load her suitcase and Midnight in the car and climbed in.

When Ella arrived at Fremantle Cafe everyone else was already there. When all the Witches were in a room together Professor Rose said "I would like you to form one line and when I say this word, one at a time go through the door."

She paused dramatically.

"Quokka," and then magically the locked door was open. Everyone was rushing to go in but Professor Rose went through first.

The door led to a hallway with lots of other doors. Professor Rose went towards the light. Everyone was blinded, it was so strong, but it passed. They could see a village with shops and lots of houses. They walked down the hill to the dock. In the dock there was plenty of small boats but there was a large, gigantic boat, even bigger than a Ferry. They were all handed a ticket to board the boat.

All the luggage was in the bottom of the boat already, so they did not need to worry about it. There was a bridge to the boat. They climbed on to the bridge and waited. When it was Ella's turn to get on, the ticket man said "Good Afternoon, Miss. Here is your cat. Ticket please."

"Thank you," said Ella and she climbed up the steps with Midnight.

Once the steps were cleared a woman asked Ella if she wanted to put Midnight's cage on the trolley but Ella said no. Ella was starting to get lost. When she passed a door, two other witches pulled Ella into their room.

The smaller one with brown hair said, "Hi, you must be Ella, my name is Kiki, I am seven and you are me and Fiona's roommates on the boat and in Witch School."

Fiona was eight, had blond hair and glasses.

"Ohh, who's this cat here?" said Kiki

"This is Midnight my cat. Do you have any pets you two?" said Ella. Fiona replied

"Yes, mine is a cat called Charming and Kiki has a cat too, called Dreamer."

The speaker on the ship said "We are arriving to port! We are arriving to port! Please come to the deck with you pets and tickets!"

“Line up together?” said Kiki, “I am one of the youngest.”

“Of course,” said Ella and the three of them went on to the deck. The deck was packed with Witches. It was a magnificent view. The boat was in the dock with lots of other boats. Once the boat was parked, they climbed on to the land and read the sign “Welcome to Witch School on Rottnest Island.”

The first thing Ella saw was Professor Rose directing witches to stop at the top of the stairs. She said, “Cat and Dog Houses that way.” She pointed “And Bunny, Bird and Hamsters this way,” and she pointed again. Ella went to her room with Kiki and Fiona. Midnight started making himself a nice, comfy bed in the corner of the room.

After unpacking their suitcases, they went down to dinner. The third years were turning apples into water while other years were eating. Ella was stoked. There were candy canes, cakes, chocolate, apples and many other different foods. Then Professor Rose leapt from her seat and made a bursting spark from her wand to get everybody’s attention.

“Welcome to Witch School, now I would like to inform you there has been some flooding around the school, we do not know where it is coming from so be careful, it is very deep.”

Ella, Kiki and Fiona were whispering all the way up the stairs to their room about the floods.

“Ella, I have read this in the Witching Paper, this happened last year too! But they don’t know who or what did it,” said Fiona.

“Last year one of the witches nearly drowned in the flood!”

The next morning, Ella and Kiki had an early start to the day while Fiona was still sleeping. Ella and Kiki had potions class, so they went down to breakfast. But at the bottom of the staircase there was some super deep water! Ella went back to the room and picked up a small box which contained a rubber boat. Ella pressed the button and a huge, rubber boat came out. They climbed in and went down to breakfast. There were already other witches there, but they were all drenched.

After a busy day at Witch School, the girls went to bed exhausted. Ella woke up in the middle of the night and heard a drip, drip, drip. She woke up Kiki and Fiona. Ella quickly put on her magic necklace. They went off to find where it was coming from. As they went down the corridor the magic necklace started to glow. It made footprints on the floor shine with light blue. The three girls followed. The footprints lead to the girl’s bathroom. They heard a huge cry from inside. Kiki opened the door and found a gigantic monster inside.

The three girls were terrified, Kiki tried to run but Fiona pulled her back. Ella screamed and then finally they all stood there petrified, staring at the monster. The monster was brown, huge and scary. The noise was deafening. His claws were sharp, but his teeth were sharper.

They all looked at the monsters terrifying eyes and saw he was crying. The amount of tears were causing the bathroom to flood. Then suddenly the monster saw the three girls. It eyed Kiki first and walked straight to her! Ella and Fiona backed away quickly, just when the monster picked Kiki up and hugged her.

Soon Kiki realized the monster was sad, crying and in fact, lonely. This was the cause of the flooding at Witch School. Then Ella said "He's stopped crying, Kiki! We did it." The Monster put Kiki down on the ground and had a smile on his face.

Then he returned down a tunnel and left a note for the three girls, Kiki read it. "I promise not to flood anything again, the hug is what I needed, thank you." Ella, Kiki and Fiona ran down the stairs, along the hallway and knocked on Professor Rose's door.

Professor Rose opened the door and the three girls burst in. Ella explained all that had happened that night. Once Ella was finished, Professor Rose was shocked. They talked about how to make sure the monster was not lonely, sad and crying anymore. Professor Rose made a little toy for the monster. Ella, Kiki and Fiona made a note for the monster that said "You can come up and visit the school whenever you like if you promise not to flood the school again."

The next morning Professor Rose announced to the whole school where the floods were coming from, how the monster was lonely and he can now visit the School whenever he liked. She also told the school how Ella, Kiki and Fiona saved the day. All the witches gave the loudest cheer ever.

Ella thought about her first two days at Witch School and hugged Midnight. Ella whispered to Midnight.

"I think there are going to be a lot more adventures to come at Witch School." Midnight looked up at Ella's face and said "You are right."