



2nd prize
8-10 years age
group

Name: Lilian C

Age: 9

Bio of author: My name is Lilian and I'm nine years old. In November 2021 we moved from England. My hobbies are swimming and singing. We live near the beach in Seaford. My favourite food is Massman and my favourite colour is baby blue.

Title: Mystery on Fitzroy Island

Judge's notes:

"Felt like I was watching it unfold inside my mind. Beautifully descriptive. Loved the intensity. You're left wanting more."

Mystery on Fitzroy Island

As they drove across Fitzroy Island, the girls took in the view of the reef with excited anticipation. As she wound down her window and smelled the sea air, Izzy wondered how long it was until they arrived. Her twin sister, Alisha, pointed out the flock of Rainbow Lorikeets, as their dad rounded the corner. They both gave a squeal of excitement, as they recognised in front of them, the accommodation that they would be staying in. The luxurious house looked inviting, with surf inspired décor, located just a short walk to the beach, and with a sunset view. The girls were eager to explore and snorkel.

Izzy was trying to find her swimmers, when out tumbled a folder marked SECRET. Alisha's emerald eyes glinted with mischievousness as she opened the document. Izzy shook her golden locks in exasperation at how cheeky her sister was. The contents of the document, suggested that their mum had a secret identity. Alisha flicked through, noticing a coded letter, photographs of crime scenes and lists of targets. Feeling anxious about what this meant, Izzy ripped the folder out of Alisha's hands and shoved it hastily back into the suitcase. As quick as a flash, the girls were on the beach, curiously discussing what the document could mean.

With their snorkel masks on, they dived into the tropical, crystal-clear water of the reef and enjoyed the warmth of the ocean. The seaweed ticked their feet as they swam past the coral. Mesmerised by the colourful fish and beautiful shells, the girls soon forgot about the secret folder they had discovered. They were enjoying the peacefulness, when a dark shape glided beneath them. Izzy's heart skipped a beat as she looked more closely. There was a barbed tail and she knew instantly it was a stingray. Trying not to panic, she alerted her sister by tapping her on the arm, her breath catching in her throat. Alisha started thrashing around in the water but Izzy encouraged her to swim calmly back to land. Shaken by their stingray experience, they headed back.

As they drew closer, they could see a figure, head to toe in black, creeping out of their parent's bedroom window, carrying the exact same folder that had fallen out of the suitcase. With no time to plan ahead, the girls gave chase. Heading towards a jet ski, docked at the jetty, the person stumbled over some rocks. Alisha grabbed the folder and both girls sprinted, without looking back.

When they returned home, they saw a trail of blood leading into the kitchen. Tentatively, they peeked around the door; with a wave of relief, their mum was only mopping up a nose bleed! The girls relayed their story to their mum, questioning her background.

"I'm not a spy!" answered Mum, "That was just for a book I'm writing."

At that moment there was a knock on the front door and in burst the police.

"Mrs. Skye Fletcher, you are arrested on suspicion of espionage."