



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**5-7 years age group**

**Name:** Alexander H.

**Age:** 7

**Bio of author:** Alexander H, 7 Grade 1 has a great imagination for making up stories. A month ago he joined his extended family at the Melbourne Tram Museum to celebrate the launch of the “Nicholson Models” tram exhibit. These 20 little trams were built over decades by Alexander’s late great grandfather, Richard Nicholson. See the attached photos of some of the scale models, and of Richard working at his model-making bench.



**Title:** The Surprising Success of Tram Boy

**Judge’s notes:**

"Sophisticated structure, well expressed and imaginative story."

"Great descriptive and imaginative story of overcoming adversities and rising to the top."

"A beautifully imaginative story, full of drama, heartbreak, positivity and triumph."

## The Surprising Success of Tram Boy

Many, many years ago, Thomas Bottom, TB, was glum because he was a poor boy in Grade 1 with almost no toys. He played by himself making models from scraps he found around the streets and on building sites. He learned to make models of trams, because he loved his tram driver Dad. TB also loved to read and write, especially stories about knights and dragons.

TB had always imagined marvellous stories since even before Kinder. They were so much better than his ordinary life. In his head he had a little silver box, the size of a coin, thick as your thumb, but square, with a silvery glow. When he wanted to use his imagination, the box expanded around him. Inside, he could do anything he liked. Afterwards, the box folded back into his head.

He had some Bad Days in grade 1 when big bullies called him names and picked on him. They loved seeing him run away and cry.

Half-awake one morning, after a Bad Day at school, TB did not want to get up. He saw a giant flash of light, then a rainbow stretched across the sky. A unicorn ran across it. As the unicorn ran further and further away, the rainbow slowly faded. This gave him an idea.

If he could turn invisible, then the bullies will not be able to hurt him. So the next day at recess play, when the bullies tried to pick on him, he got really, really hard about going invisible. Suddenly, POP! He felt that nobody could see him. It felt weird but it worked! Because TB ignored them, the bullies soon gave up.

The unicorn gave him another idea. Make a model of a really ugly dragon, but with face of the worst bully. It was such a good model, that they pictured it in the school newsletter, which is copied by the local newspaper, then reprinted all around the world.

A local wooden toy carver in Denmark saw the dragon, just what he had been looking for. He wrote to TB if he could copy the model. TB was so excited they even gave him some money for it.

The bully was sad that his dragon face became so famous. Other small kids, who had been too scared to tell their parents, now spoke up. So the bully, who would not say sorry, was kicked out of school. Then he did say sorry, but it was too late.

TB's many more models became world famous, because they inspired the toy carver who was the start of LEGO. TB, still a schoolboy, became rich.

People remembered that he had begun making model trams. They thought that TB must stand for Tram.Boy. Happily, his Bottom name was forgotten.