

What I Did in my Holidays by Pete Scully

At first the holidays were really boring. We were supposed to go to the beach but my little sister Becky got chicken pox. Mum said I could play dolls inside with her or go next door and meet the two new kids. I met the new kids.

I had been spying on them through a gap in the fence and thought they were pretty weird. They were always shoving stuff into their bags and taking off on their bikes. But now I know why! They had found the best place down at the creek. And they showed it to me the first day! Then Laura, Jonno and me had so much fun. We even made up a club called The Three Explorerteers with a bunch of rules to keep the enemy out. Here are the rules.

1. You have to be at least 9 to be a member (so no Becky!)
2. You can't be scared of the bush
3. You have to know the secret oath of the Explorerteers (I can't write it cause only us 3 can know it!)
4. You have to be able to find 10 treasures in 10 minutes (different each time!)

Every day we would ride our bikes up the hill and leave them at the Fig tree. After swearing our secret oath, we would walk down through the bush to the creek exploring and playing 10 Treasures. Jonno came up with the idea of a treasure collection. We keep it in a box! He said each time we come here we have to agree on one special thing from nature to keep forever (Mum's still looking for her favorite Tupperware box!). Then we can remember how many times we visit this place. So far we have a blue feather, an empty cocoon, a smooth black rock, a cicada shell, a butterfly wing, a seed pod, an empty nest, a weird leaf with bumps all over it and even a shell! Our treasure box is hidden away in a secret place in the rocks.

Some days Jonno and Laura had to go early. That's when I'd walk over to Pete's Place - my own shady writing spot under the Blue Gums and Poinciana trees in Bowman Park. Now we are going to build a cubby down near the footbridge and Laura has drawn up the plans. She is a really good drawer. We have been collecting heaps of junk from the nearby tip. Now I can't wait for our cubby to be finished!

8/10 You write about your club with great enthusiasm, Pete! It must be a special place. Be careful of your spelling. You are a natural writer!