



RISE OF THE FERRETS... THE LOST RUBY

Team

By: Renzo Lee, Clarisa Scotter, Micah
Gonsalves, Rohit Likhitar and Arjun
Ramday



Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC
DIVISION: Middle School
SCHOOL/GROUP: Box Hill High School (BOX HILL)
TEAM NAME: BISCUITS
TEAM ID: 889

Parameters and random words

Parameters
Primary character 1: Scientist -> Tai ping
Primary character 2: Film maker -> Scatter shot
Non-human character: Ferret -> Francis
Setting: Kakadu National Park
Issue: Fundraising event

Random words

ruby
molts
shiver
tasty
sponge

Instructions

- Start no earlier than **8am**
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above) as written, and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts)
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember, **Every word on every page counts**. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- **Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

- Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names (how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- Complete the Declaration
- Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

Team

Copyright

Published by Biscuits, Box Hill High School, 180 Whitehorse Rd Box Hill VIC 3128,
Rohit Likhitkar, Renzo Lee, Arjun Ramday, Micah Gonsalves, Clarissa Scotter

Copyright © 2023, Box Hill High School.

All rights reserved. This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquires should be made to the publisher.

Prologue:

It was a nebulous nightfall, and the cave emitted a malignant glow. The murky depths of the ravine, a precarious and vindictive terrain would engulf anyone who entered the hallow. Ironically, in the malicious den, there lay a **ruby** so bright that its lustre was more scintillating than the sun. The **ruby** had been a major artefact in the Mongoose monarchy, as it was the

Team

key to anywhere in space and time. But the **ruby** had been dropped into the mortal world. However, after years and years of deplorable conditions, the **ruby** faded of its power leaving a diminished mineral.

Chapter 1: Encountering the Ferret

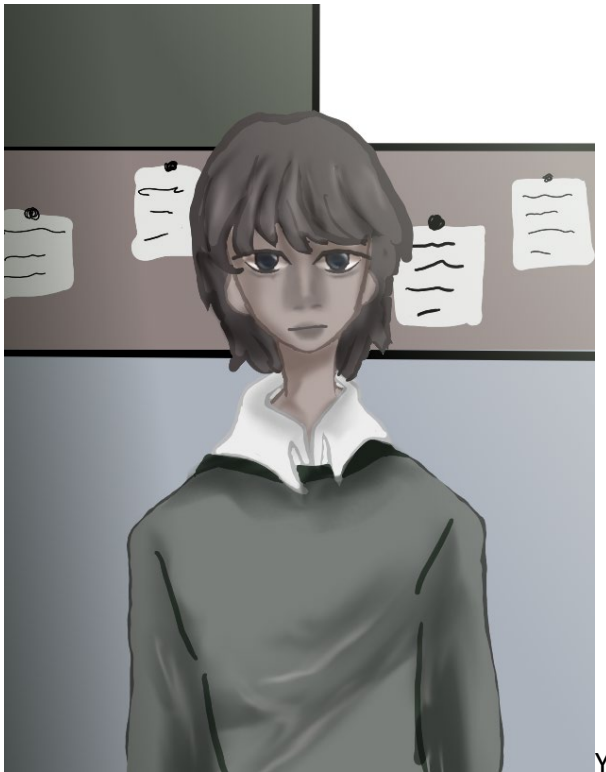
Chill T Scattershot strolled through the abyss of celebration. His mind was perplexed by the frolic hosted at Kakadu National Park. It was the first time that he had to film at a national park, and all the money that he would produce would go to a fundraising event. The park was a luscious place with an abundant amount of life, and ideas for inspiration were surging in his mind. He could make a documentary featuring the plants of the park. He could make a movie based on the jungle book. He could make a series about a fantasy nature world, featuring a courageous hero. The number of options flooded his brain with an enchantment

Team

of possibilities. However, as he marvelled at the vast number of ideas he had, he wasn't to know that something was watching him in the dark.

Scattershot rushed past the population of the Kakadu National Park. He knew in order to make a successful movie, he needed to use the rural area of the green space. Scattershot grabbed his camera and equipment and he set it up on a flat and grassy surface. He looked up at the sky, it was mainly bright, but it has a slight tint of darkness. He planned the scene to start in the afternoon. Suddenly Scattershot could see a dark figure dancing in the bushes.

The sound of leaves rustling continued as Scattershot tried to match his eyes to the movement. The dark figure was inhumane as its speed was like thunder. Scattershot put down his camera and raised his fists. Whatever it was, Scattershot knew that it was interested in him. It looked relatively smaller than Scattershot, so he wasn't too intimidated. Then suddenly the dark figure emerged from the darkness.



Chapter 2: Capturing the Ferret

Scattershot whipped around apprehensively and leapt backwards in surprise. A small, skinny ferret was dangling from a branch, its face thin and starved. Scattershot stepped back cautiously, eyes locked with the ferrets. For a moment, nobody moved as both creatures scrutinised each other with a cold, hard stare. Suddenly, the ferret leapt towards a bin, skilfully landing on the bin to look up at the alarmed human. Scattershot gave a yelp and stepped backwards instinctively. The ferret made a face and gave him a look. Was it amused? Pitiful? Whatever the look meant, it certainly wasn't hostile. Scattershot took a deep breath, panic slowly disappearing from his veins. The ferret now stood on his hind legs, his body emitting a regal and superior aura. Then it spoke.

Team

“Greetings human.” It announced slowly. “I come in peace.” Scattershot shook his head, perplexed, and bewildered by this strange creature. It was a ferret, there was no doubt about it, but no ferret could ever talk. His brows furrowed, and the ferret squirmed uneasily.

“Please don’t take this the wrong way! I don’t want to cause harm! We need help!”

Scattershot reached into his pocket and pulled out a strong piece of string and started wrapping the ferret in loops and knots until it was in a cocoon of brown rope. Scattershot seized the wriggling ferret and began walking into the city, where he hoped a friend would be able to help him with this nuisance. As he scuttled along the labyrinth of roads, he thought over the words that the ferret had yelled. At last, he stopped. In front of him was a tall grey building with hard walls and the word LAB emblazoned above the doors. A shiver ran down Scattershot’s spine as the dark void beyond the door gave him an ominous glare. He gulped with fear and opened the door.



Chapter 3: Going to the Lab

Scattershot rushed to the laboratory, holding the heavy rucksack. The ferret was restlessly trying to escape the grasp of Scattershot, but he had a firm grip that removed all the light. Scattershot’s pace slowly began to speed up, he needed to talk to Tai Ping as soon as possible. Was it a hallucination, or was the ferret really talking? Only Tai Ping could tell.

As Scattershot waited in the waiting room of the laboratory, the ferret’s movements were arbitrary. At times the ferret would hysterically claw the rucksack, while at other times, he

Team

would just suddenly lay still as if it were dead. Gaping holes were beginning to form in the rucksack, and the bag was beginning to look like a sponge. Scattershot risked a glance at the rucksack, and he saw the ferret's deadly and crimson eyes. He flinched. He had never seen such a vicious ferret.

People were looking at Scattershot and his rucksack. They were attracting too much attention to themselves, and too much attention until he felt uncomfortable. Scattershot hid the rucksack in his stupendous coat pocket and hoped that the ferret would stop moving wildly.

Scattershot was slowly getting agitated and annoyed by the immense amount of time that the scientist took. Every second felt like a minute. Every minute felt like an hour. Every hour felt like a day. Scattershot's hands clenched and unclenched. His heartbeat was pounding rapidly in his chest. His thoughts clashed like a warzone, and the sound of cutlasses echoed in his skull. His mind was in a spiral of dilemma. Could Tai Ping just hurry up?

People were slowly being called into the lab, but it seemed like the line lasted forever. There were at least fifty people in front of him, and each person had 10 minutes with the scientist. Scattershot did the maths. That would be 500 minutes! Scattershot emotions weakened. He was going to take forever to meet with the scientist.

Suddenly, the door opened. Scattershot heard his name being called by the receptionist. How could time be so quick? He must've been under so much stress that he didn't realise that it was his turn. Scattershot removed the rucksack from his pocket and walked into the lab. The laboratory was meticulously designed. Test tubes and beakers were neatly put into order. Weird but fancy science equipment adorned the tables and benches. It was the neatest place that Scattershot had ever seen.

Tai Ping was standing in the distance, looking at Scattershot and the rucksack. Scattershot and Tai Ping were friends and colleagues during their early years. Scattershot had studied filmmaking in college while Tai Ping picked up Science. She had become one of the most famous scientists in the nation.

"Hello," Scattershot responded.

"Now what do you need help with Scattershot?" Tai Ping asked.

"There's something in my rucksack that I would like to show you."

Team

Scattershot was just about to open the bag when the ferret jumped out of the rucksack. Its swift and agile movement toppled down all the equipment, breaking beakers, and test tubes.

“Stop that ferret! It’s breaking all my stuff!” Tai Ping shouted.

Scattershot used his hands to clench onto the ferret's furry skin. With its sharp teeth, the creature sunk its teeth into Scattershot’s hand. Scattershot cried with pain. Blood was spilling out like a waterfall from his bony fingers. With its chance, the ferret jumped out of Scattershot’s hands.

The ferret began to prance around the science lab again. Tai Ping began to throw needles at the ferret like darts, but its movements were unmatched. Just as Tai Ping was about to throw another needle, the ferret spoke.



Chapter 4: Francis introduces himself

“Wait listen to me” Ferret begged.

“Why are you here” Scattershot questioned.

“Here goes,” Ferret announced.

“A long time ago in a land called Ferretia, we ferret lay peacefully, we had built society from nothing, and from a land far, far away. The inhabitants were known as Mongooses and after a failed rescue mission, it was made clear that the Mongooses wanted war. We fought for

Team

years, soldiers fought valiantly, and we defended, but no matter what we hit the mongooses with, they retaliated faster and stronger than our earlier attack. After years we decided to end the war, we let the mongoose take over our kingdom. However, it doesn't end there. The Mongooses found out that by using the power **ruby**, they could create a portal to another dimension. They became hungry for power and forced us to hand over the **ruby**, upon it opening it created a black hole sucking in the nearest things. The power was too much for them and it collapsed the portal. The **ruby** across the sea, and I need help finding it. The mongoose monarchy has kidnapped my family and I need some help, please."

"Woah! Ferret, that's a lot to absorb." Scattershot quipped.

"Can you help me?" The ferret begged.

"Uhm sorry I'm kinda busy." He continued.

"Please I'll give you a train full of gold!"

Scattershot's eyes sparkled.

"Well, if there's gold included, I'm in!" Scattershot answered.

"To get back to Ferretia we have to find the **ruby**" The ferret informed.

"Cool, but what's your name, if we're going on a mission we might as well know each other's names," Scattershot asked.

"I'm Prince Francis IV of Ferretia"

"Nice, I'm Scattershot".

"Where's the **ruby**?" Francis questioned.

Scattershot stared at him blankly.

"Where is it? Francis asked again.

"HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?" Scattershot roared

"You have lived on this earth for 29 years and you can't think of a place where a priceless gem might lay" Francis interrogated.

"The earth is bigger than you think".

"So where are we going," Francis asked.

Then out of nowhere, a voice answered.

"Maybe Misfortune Cavern would be the right place," The voice announced.

Both Francis and Scattershot jumped as they forgot the scientist was there.

Suddenly she came into view, "I'm Tai Ping a travelling scientist and I couldn't help but to listen in on your conversation" She flashed Francis a smile.

"Um actually I don't know if this is a good idea" Francis added.

"Nonsense, you don't even know where to go, but with my help, you can find your fabled **ruby**" Tai Ping offered.

"Well, we'll need some help Francis" Scattershot admitted.

"Fine, how will we get there?" Francis questioned.

"I have an amazing idea" Tai Ping announced.

Team

Chapter 5: The plan

“This is your amazing idea?” Francis screamed as the boat rocked back and forth. “Ferrets can’t swim! I repeat! FERRETS CAN’T SWIM!”

Tai sighed. “This is the only way we can travel to the Ferretia undetected.” The sky was a sea of grey, waves of wind racing past the minute boat struggling to beat the monstrous current. The water was a murky black that swallowed all light that could edge past the stormy clouds. Scattershot glanced uneasily at the lifeless liquid surrounding them. Even if they had a magic ferret with a mythical background story, he couldn’t stop the anxiety his heart was injecting into him taking over his brain. What was that growling sound? What was the shadow hiding in the water? Scattershot sat down, dizzy from worry, next to a terrorised Francis who was curled up into a tiny furball. Tai was rowing the boat, eyes sharp and fierce as she swept the horizon with her withering stare. At the edge of visibility, a patch of sandy

Team

white was now growing closer and closer. Scattershot turned to Francis, who was watching the water with a distant gaze. Suddenly, his head turned towards Scattershot and yelled.

“What is it?” Scattershot asked, confused by the abrupt roar. Befuddled, he turned around and screamed. A large purple tentacle protruded from the inky sea.

“Row faster! ROW FASTER!” Francis wailed frantically as a bone chilling screech reverberated through the rapid flow of the dirty water.

“What do you think I’m trying to do?” Tai shouted as more tentacles rose from the sea.

“Run! Swim!” Francis shouted. A fat tentacle slammed into the middle of the boat. Everyone was flung into the churning maelstrom of waves. “Everybody swim!” Francis yelled before the decimated ship fell on top of them. Scattershot frantically writhed underwater, trying to surface before his breath ran out. Something large and heavy smashed into his head, sending shocks of pain throughout his skull. Unconsciousness infected his body, sedating him as he melted away into the darkness.

Scattershot jolted awake. Francis was sitting down, staring at his claws glumly.

“What happened?” Scattershot asked sympathetically as he walked towards the sulking creature.

Francis turned around and pointed. It was a kingdom, that was evident, but now the plains were covered in smoking structures and piles of ash and wood. Francis walked away, crying into his arms. Scattershot turned towards Tai, but she seemed to be cutting and swabbing different types of foreign plants, focused into researching these species.

“Come on!” Scattershot bellowed, grabbing the other’s attention. “Where are we right now?”

“Ferretia. Or what’s left of it.” Francis choked as he dried his eyes.

“Where do we need to go?” Tai asked, cramming samples into her backpack.

“Back to the sea. East, towards the Mongoose Marshlands.” Francis replied miserably, his whole body shaking. “We don’t have your ship anymore, but we have Ferret’s Keep. Tai and Scattershot exchanged puzzled looks.

“What?”

Francis began to run. “Wait here!” he called as he disappeared into the maze of ruins. Scattershot met Tai’s eyes. Both stared at each other in awkward silence. Scattershot felt colour rising in his cheeks. He had forgotten how beautiful she had looked. His trance was broken by a deafening splash as he and Tai were soaked by a giant wave. A large sailboat in the shape of a ferret now floated elegantly on the pristine water.

“All aboard!” yelled Francis as the ship hit the beach. “We have our ride!” Scattershot and Tai clambered onto the vessel and Francis turned the ship to the sea. “To Misfortune’s Cavern!”

Team

Chapter 6: Mongoose Marshlands

At last, we could see a cave almost invisible to the naked eye, but it was there, looming in a rocky cliff.

"We're here" Tai Ping informed.

"Finally," Francis groaned.

"HALT" A voice boomed over the sea.

Tai Ping stiffened.

"Who was that?"

But it was too late, Tai Ping had jumped overboard, leaving them with one very angry mongoose armed with a blazing spear.

"Throw your weapons into the sea!" It continued angrily.

"We don't have any" Francis pointed out obviously.

"Hey, are you a ferret?" The mongoose asked aggressively.

"Umm Ye-I mean No "Francis answered uncertainly.

"Then WHY are you this far from the mainland" the mongoose interrogated.

"U-Umm" Francis announced, desperately trying to think of an excuse.

"I think you are a ferret, ferrets are tasty" The mongoose added, licking its lips.

"Ferret taste melts in your mouth"

Team

“No, I'm absolutely a mongoose” Francis repeated trying to be convincing.

“Is there anyone with you’ the mongoose shouted, prepping its spear.

Francis stared at Scattershot who was lying on the floor looking very pale, Scattershot shook his head and mouthed ‘Pretend I’m not here’.

“No, no one is here, with me” Francis lied wiping the sweat off its furry head.

“Oh- ok, then why don’t you come back to the mainland”.

Francis didn’t see any way out of this hassle, so he reluctantly agreed to be taken to the mainland.

Meanwhile:

Tai Ping was lucky, very lucky. Today she was an unknown scientist, tomorrow she would be a billionaire. She had successfully tricked that ferret into leading her to the **ruby**. As she saw the sailboat sail away, she installed her oxygen tank ready to sink deeper into the murky depths.

As she neared a particularly dark opening a huge purple tentacle shot out and crushed her. She felt the oxygen pushed out of her. Oh no not this again. His ominous tentacles emitted a purple hazy glow as she struggled to escape his deadly wrath. An idea suddenly appeared in her mind. She reached into her pocket and brought out a glass vial. She hastily uncorked the rusted bottle and a nefarious, viridescent gas flowed out of the bottle. He jerked and flinched, uncoiling its tentacle to escape. It shot down to the bottom of the cave and vanished from Tai Peng’s view. She wished she could wipe the sweat out of her forehead as her scuba mask fogged up, but she couldn’t. After descending the jagged rocks and sharp stalactites. She finally made it to the final entry, and there as it lay, was the **Ruby** of the Ferrets. Her eyes practically exploded with joy; her lifelong ambition was successful. She reached forward to grab the **ruby**. Her hand touched the **ruby**. Energy spurted through her, demolishing all mention of exhaustion and instead adrenaline rushed through her. She spent two minutes lost in her thoughts before she realised, she wasn’t moving. She started to leave and thought about Francis and Scattershot, she wasn’t fair to them, they trusted her, and she betrayed them. She batted away those thoughts and focused on leaving the underwater ravine. Then suddenly, a blaring alarm rang.

Chapter 7: Run

Francis looked at Scattershot. Scattershot knew immediately what to do. Run. Both of them dashed helplessly as they tried to run away from the mongoose.

“Hey! I thought you said that you were the only one!” the mongoose roared.

“It’s the art of deception you imbecile” Francis teased.

The mongoose was outraged by the insult, and he began to rampage all over the surface.

Scattershot and Francis rushed past the mongoose warrior. If they got caught by the soldier, they would be put into prison, being left to rot in jail for the rest of their lives.

“Why did you say that, Francis?” Scattershot yelled.

Just as Francis was about to respond, the mongoose warrior grabbed him by his tail.

“AHHHHH! HELP!” Francis pleaded.

Scattershot rushed to his friend’s aid. He grabbed a sword from the floor and began to clash with the mongoose warrior. The sound of their blades clashing was like an enchanting rhythm. Scattershot used his sword to try to stab his opponent, but the mongoose quickly evaded it with his sword. The mongoose shoved his body into Scattershot, slamming him into the wall and making him drop his sword.

“Raise your hand” the mongoose shouted.

Obediently, Scattershot surrendered.

Scattershot and Francis found themselves being guarded by two burly mongoose warriors. They were put into a rusty and repulsive jail. There was an old toilet for both of to use and

Team

the structure of the cell was dilapidated. It was as if the jail was going to collapse at any second.

“Expect a visit from the king soon” the warrior bellowed.

The king of the Mongoose? Scattershot trembled at the thought of it. He glanced over at Francis, and he was petrified.

It was evident that the king of the mongoose was a terrible man. Over the journey, Francis had once told him about the king of Mongoose. He would capture ferret knights and torment them in an unimaginable way, leaving them crippled for the rest of their lives.

The king’s room was a grand palace with amazing chandeliers and supreme gems studding the walls, reflecting light, making the room immensely bright. On a large throne in the back middle of the massive room sat the Mongoose King. The supreme Mongoose sat. It’s withering stare burned through the eyes of Francis. Francis felt himself shatter under the glare of such a superior being. The power of the mongoose shot through his body making him look like a heavenly being.

Chapter 8: King Mongoose

The king narrowed his eyes.

“So, you two are the ones who stole the sacred **ruby** from us.” The king hissed malevolently. “You stole a jewel with great meaning and vast importance from us, the great Mongoose empire. Francis hissed with fury.

“That’s not true! You stole that jewel from the ferrets! That’s OURS!” he snarled.

“Give me the jewel!” The king roared.

“We don’t have it!” Francis shot back.

“Stop lying!”

“We aren’t!”

The king surveyed Francis with an amused grin. His mouth curled into a malicious grin.

“Prince Francis of the Ferrets. You are under arrest for theft and trespassing. You will be escorted to the pit shortly.” The king boomed. He turned his inescapable stare to Scattershot. The king’s gaze was to fierce, Scattershot felt his him staring intently at his soul. “You amuse me.” The king mused aloud. “You are no ferret nor mongoose. You aren’t any creature I have seen before, so who are you? No. WHAT are you?”

“A-A human.” Scattershot croaked, trembling like jelly.

“A human.” The king echoed. I don’t know what you are but, GUARDS! Send him to the pit as well, until we know him better.” The king pointed a small furry finger at Scattershot. The guards advanced,

Team

ready to pounce. Scattershot blinked slowly. These guard were no bigger than his waist. He stepped forward, but Francis was already running towards the guards. The guards were bigger, but Francis was faster and stronger. He pummelled the guards with short, sharp blows, then turned to Scattershot.

“Run!” Francis yelled as more guards ran into the throne room.

“Hold on!” Scattershot yelled as he grabbed Francis and jumped out of the window. They both yelled as they plummeted from the side of the mountain. Well, a mountain for mongooses, not a human. Scattershot and Francis fell onto a dirty polluted beach. Francis sat down, but Scattershot picked him up. “No time for rest. The port is nearby and soon the beach will be swarming with warriors.” Francis nodded as Scattershot bolted towards the port, power surging through his veins. Surprisingly, the port was unguarded and absent of soldiers. Scattershot clambered onto the ship and set sail across the sea.

“Look!” Francis pointed at the beach, where a battalion of soldiers were sprinting across the sands.

“Glad we got out quickly.” Scattershot smiled. “We just have to deal with Tai.” His heart skipped a beat as he said her name. He shook his head. Now was not the time to get distracted. Not now.

Chapter 9: The Final Fight

Tai Ping imagined the money in her hand once she had sold the **ruby**. She would become a billionaire. The merchant was expected to come in a few minutes. Suddenly, she heard familiar voices from behind her. It was Scattershot and Francis.

“Drop the **Ruby** Tai Ping!” Francis threatened.

“I’m not ready to surrender yet Scattershot!” Tai Ping remarked.

The scientists grabbed out a vicious needle-like weapon and begin to Francis. The ferret’s quick instincts allowed him to dodge all the attacks.

“Help me Scattershot!” Francis yelled.

“I can’t move, Francis. I simply can’t fight her. The truth is ... I’ve had a long crush on her for ages. I just simply love her!” Scattershot said.

“You weak fool. Your love for me will never get you anywhere!” Tai Ping said.

Francis and Tai Ping duelled for a few minutes until Scattershot yelled.

“STOP!”

Tai Ping and Francis stopped they’re movement in confusion.

“I can’t see my friend and my love fighting like this. Can’t we just peace it out and become friends again?”

Tai Ping looked at Scattershot then at Francis. She dropped the **ruby** the ran away.

Team

Chapter 10: The End

Francis collected the fallen **Ruby**.

Tai Peng vanished, breaking Scattershot's heart.

"NOOOO" Scattershot grieved

"Friend, I understand your pain" Francis sympathetically told.

"She was my everything" Scattershot mourned

"Well, at least the **ruby** was returned" Francis optimistically added

"I would give a Thousand Rubies for her"

"Hey, she'll come back"

"If I could, I would spend eternity with her"

Francis comforted him as he sobbed quietly.

"I didn't know I was that stunning" Tai Peng answered

"Tai Peng you came back!" Scattershot joyfully yelled, as his heart did 360s

"Of course, My heart cannot bear being without you"

They slowly approached each other, their faces got closer and closer

"Tai Peng, I think- I think I love you"

"I love you too Scattershot"

And then they kissed.

A few weeks later...

'Dear Francis' Scattershot wrote. 'Tai and I are doing well. I hope that you are well. My fundraiser was a success. I hope that your kingdom is rebuilt and thriving. I hope to see you soon.

From Scattershot'

Team

Epilogue:

“Any sign of them?”

“N-No, your majesty!”

“Why have all our prisoners escaped?”

“I-I don’t know, your majesty!”

The king clenched his fist. So many problems. Their **ruby** was taken. All prisoners have escaped, and this *human* caused havoc on the kingdom. The king glanced out the window. A storm was brewing.

“Send the Ferret Slayers.”

“The-The F-ferret Slayers? Really? I really-”

“DO IT! Now.”

Little did the ferrets know, vengeance was brewing.

About the Authors:

Renzo Lee, Micah Gonsalves, Clarisa Scotter, Arjun Ramday and Rohit Likhitkar are the authors or illustrators of Rise of the Ferrets – The Lost **Ruby**. They all attend Box hill high school and are year 7 students.

Team

When Scattershot, Tai Ping and Francis go on a dangerous mission to retrieve the Lost **Ruby**, their journey is filled with deadly encounters'(Mainly Mongooses). To save Ferretia, the Lost **Ruby** is crucial to save the kingdom. However, much betrayal awaits them. Will they save Ferretia or will they all perish?

For ages 10-16



Team