4E Storytelling w/ Tom Brown Jr

Tom Brown Jr’s

Adventure Story writing challenge

Lleyton Smith – Age 7

Queensland

Australia

4740
Our home

by Lleyton Smith
My Adventure story today started a long time ago...

My parents bought a new house and it had a boring backyard with lots of weeds and no trees or animals.

We spotted a bird on the neighbours house, dad checked his book and said it was a Nankeen Kestrel.
We planted some seeds to grow some trees for homes for the birds.

We didn't see the Nankeen Kestrel much only before sunset it would go to the same spot to sleep. I didn't know what it ate.
The trees grew and lots of birds came to visit. Mum gave me a bird feeder and I placed it on the tree right in front of us. Lots and lots of birds used it. Dad checked his book again and said they were House Sparrows. He said they were pests and getting too many. Mum likes them as they remind her of her home in
Canada.

In 2017 we had a cyclone, it was very scary and it made lots of loud thunder and bright lightning. It was very windy and it blew away a lot of our tree branches. The roots held. I was worried about the Nankeen Kestrel as I still didn't know what it ate and I thought it must be
hungry. The next day it was flooding and the House Sparrows were all wet. We were watching them hide under our porch. They too looked hungry. There were less and less of them as the day went on.

It was still very windy the next day. We were watching the House Sparrows and they
flew to underneath the tree and ate birdseed on the ground. Out of nowhere the Kestrel flew down and caught one and flew off. It was amazing. I found out what he eats. Dad didn’t complain about them any more.

I don’t like it when mum tells me I can’t jump in muddy puddles. If it rains I have to get
wet. She says to not get bitten by mozzies. I cover myself in mud so they can’t. The best thing to watch is a raindrop landing on the water making waves.

We also rescued a cat and it allowed us to look after it, I named him Basil. He takes me for adventures in the bush to places I’m scared of.
Sometimes we sit together and I can hear and see everything he does. Our neighbourhood is noisy.

Basil makes the Magpie Lark laugh when he jumps up at them and they notice. They tease him all the time. The House Sparrows don’t seem to notice. Basil, sometimes I find lots of feathers all together in the backyard.
I found feathers on the ground under a tree we planted. I looked up and there was a Spotted Dove making a nest. In that tree I saw four different Honey-Eater birds, and the Blue-faced one is my favourite.

In Summer we got heaps of flies and mum didn't like them in the house. One day a Saint Andrews Cross spider made her
home right at my back door. We started to feed it flies we caught in the house. Me and my brother loved that spider and its incredible web for catching insects.

Then the other day it was wet as it rained overnight. Dad made me watch this zoom class with Tom Brown Jr. Dad said he had an extraordinary grandfather.
like my Grandad who looks after him. Last week we watched a Jon Young talk about bird language. It was 4am. I went to my sit spot with a blindfold and I felt the wet air and wind. Then I went back inside. Amazingly I saw all the birds from the birdfeeder jump up and fly away which were scared all at the same time. Then I saw this bird fly in...
so fast and I couldn't see what happened. We all ran outside and saw a Butcher Bird sitting on the banana tree. It wasn't the Kestrel like Dad said it could've been. It didn't catch the House Sparrow.

That afternoon a bird was singing beautifully in that tree. Dad said he was learning his song. I stalked up to it. It was a Butcher
Bird and it looked young. I said to him that I'm sorry he didn't get to eat his breakfast. I looked it up in dad's books and it said it was immature one.

We love our backward. It's never boring.
By Lleyton Smith

Thank you

TO Tom Brown Jr. 27
Our Home is a true story of Backyard Adventure

Lleyton Smith, begun to learn the art of storytelling at the age of 5 through “Story of the Day” and “Imagination Story” with his family. Now at the age of 7, he likes to write, but he just can’t stop wanting to jump in muddy puddles and play in the mud. He hasn’t changed a bit from when he learnt to crawl. He lives in North Queensland Australia still has a gift of childhood.