

3rd Place Equal (Schools Y7&8, 2022): Jade Marris, Parua Bay School, The Little Kiwi, Cosmo

I woke up, peering outside my little home. The bush floor was mostly covered with shade, except for some sunlit patches. I felt very lost.

I climbed out to find hot light streaming down onto me. I looked around in hope of finding some sort of food source. I was starving, so I decided to follow the bright patches of sunlight. They might lead me to food.

I stepped on one leaf – *crunch* – then another. *Crunch*. I scurried along. I was lost but I continued to follow the light. It felt like I had been running for ages when I came to a halt. Cars zoomed in front of me. I looked further past the cars and saw a magical light blue and green lake. It was inviting me to swim in it.

Suddenly everything went quiet. No cars? Strange, but here's my chance. I sprinted as fast as my tiny talons could go. The tar burned hot under my feet but I persevered. I didn't stop when I crossed the road; something about the water hypnotised me. I was close when a figure towered over me.

The figure's huge hands went to lift me but I was too quick and dodged them. I was skittering around a tree when I banged into the human's hands. I couldn't escape. The human lifted me up and placed me in a box.

Will I be killed? I waited.

A lady opened the box, then closed it. I overheard voices.

"Can we name him?" asked one voice.

"Sure. What name?" the lady replied.

"Cosmo," the voice said.

The lady took another look at me and said, "Great, we will name him Cosmo. Don't worry, Cosmo, you're lucky we found you."

I like that. Cosmo.