

Dad and the Doorknob

By Tom Woods – Beacon Hill Public School - Year 4

Crash!

The wardrobe door crashed violently shut and the rusted silver doorknob broke off the mahogany door and remained in Joe's hand.

"Dad" called Joe, "the doorknob broke off my wardrobe."

Dad stormed into the room. "How do you manage to break EVERYTHING that you touch?" he shouted at poor Joe. "Forget it, I'm going to Bunnings, I'll be back in 20 minutes." Dad stormed out of the house and hopped into his battered Ford Fiesta, kicking up a cloud of smoke as he chugged down the driveway.

Half an hour later, dad still hadn't arrived home and Joe was starting to get really bored. He took his iPad out of his room and began playing his favourite game on it, but still he waited. 10 minutes after that he went to their old, crumbly pantry and gobbled down a couple of chocolate chip cookies for a snack, but continued to wait. Four hours later Joe's dad finally arrived back home and by that time Joe was starting to wonder where in the world his grumpy old dad had got to. Joe asked his dad where he had been for four hours, and the answer that Joe had expected to hear was nothing compared to what his dad told him.

"Well" began dad hesitantly. "I got to Bunnings and found a perfect doorknob, but when I opened the test door to see that it worked, I caught a glimpse of something strange behind the door, and no Joe, it wasn't the plumbing department coming alive! I peeked further behind the door and to my surprise I saw a murky tunnel of greenish-brown water. I

cautiously climbed across the doorway, like Spiderman, but I lost my grip on the doorframe and was instantly sucked away.

When my vision cleared, I was under the ocean. I could see rays of light above me, so I swam frantically up to the light and emerged into a brightly lit laboratory. The room was empty apart from a few bubbling beakers that I decided not to touch. I quietly opened the door and headed down an empty corridor until I reached another door. I carefully opened this door and emerged into a massive cavern that looked like it was inside a mountain.

Scientists were running around everywhere, flicking switches on a huge machine that stretched the whole way around the entire cavern. This machine had a giant red button on it with a DO NOT TOUCH sign on it. One of the scientists walked up to me and introduced himself, he appeared to be expecting me, so I introduced myself to him. He told me that I should definitely never, ever, ever press the giant red button because it was extremely dangerous.

The scientist asked me if I would like a tour of the mission control and of course I accepted. He started showing me the equipment but my confused curiosity got the better of me and I asked him where we were and what he was doing here. "We are in Ancient Rome, in the 1st Century" the scientist explained. "I am part of a team of scientists from the future. I came here with my colleagues from the 39th Century to study the truth about Ancient Rome and its mysteries. This mountain is our hidden base from where we can observe the Ancient Roman civilization. The pool that you came here through is a portal that has accidentally opened." I now understood why the scientist had been expecting me but I still had no idea what the machine was for. The scientist continued, "this machine is the latest technology, it

can translate Ancient Roman language, video record the Romans' actions all across the city and also make breakfast for us!"

I was shocked, I had travelled back in time nearly 2000 years! The scientist took me over to a viewing screen and I started watching an extremely exciting gladiator fight. The two gladiators looked evenly matched but suddenly one threw the other into the air and he came flying towards the camera and he smashed into it. It gave me such a shock that I tripped over backwards, falling and landing straight on the giant red button. Sirens started blaring, the whole mountain started shaking, the walls started crumbling and the scientists started screaming very loudly. "Emergency evacuation, he's pushed the self-destruct button, we're all going to die!"

As everyone began to run, I grabbed the scientist and asked him "what sort of mountain has a self-destruct button in it?" He replied "we constructed this mountain as a secret base to view the Romans but needed a self-destruct option in case they discovered us, we named the mountain Vesuvius after the person who invented time travel."

I realised that I now needed to escape quickly, before I was blown to pieces or transported with the scientists back to the 39th Century. I ran back down the corridor and through laboratory, making sure I avoided the now exploding substances in the beakers, and leapt back into the water.

As I swam back to the doorway, I thought to myself that Vesuvius wasn't actually a real volcano. Isn't it funny that things are not always what they seem! I had managed to destroy

the whole of the city of Pompeii, just because I had been startled and bumped a button. My clumsiness had gone down in history.

I clambered, wet and dripping, back through the doorway. I ran through Bunnings and drove back here and now “voila”, here I am!” said dad proudly, holding the new doorknob in his hand.

Joe stared at his father. “Dad” he said in a hesitant voice.

“Yes” answered dad.

“How do you manage to break EVERYTHING that you touch?”