"Drowning in research"
By Liam Gilbert (14 years)

"Go on. Jump. It's nice, once you're in. Just leap. It'll be fun."

I couldn't believe my eyes. I'd gone to Rowville library simply to borrow some fishing books. "Australian fishing" was just the book I needed. I flicked open to the chapter on 'Species and habitats' and noticed a colourful picture of a rainbow trout. Next thing, the fish called out to me, inviting me into his river habitat!

Without warning, I found myself falling into the shadowy water. Down, down I went, deeper and deeper, plunging into the murky river. Out of the blue, I felt a searing pain shoot up my right leg.

I had no idea what was happening. Where was I? Where did that cheeky fish go? I was supposed to be in the library researching my fishing project and now it was too dark to see anything.

I tried swimming upwards, towards what seemed to be the glinting, library lights but my leg wouldn't move. I reached down to feel my foot and discovered that I had fallen onto a branch, which had punctured my skin like a spear. Frantically, I clawed at my foot. By now, my lungs were screaming for air, demanding me to take a breath but I knew what would happen if I did….

Next thing, I was spluttering and gasping on the library floor. I looked up to see a worried librarian kneeling over me.
"Are you okay?" she asked.
"Umm, yeah. I must've fallen asleep."
Confused, I picked myself up off the ground and walked unsteadily over to the checkout.
"I can scan your book out on loan for you," the librarian offered.
"Sure. Thanks."
Her eyes widened in astonishment as I placed it in her hands. The book was saturated and dripping water all over the counter….

(300 words)