

MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 8

The sun was super hot on my face. Sand was everywhere! This was way harder than it looked on TV. I was in the middle of the Great Trinidad Desert Challenge! The prize? A whole thousand dollars! That's enough to buy, like, a million doubles!

I had signed up for this desert survival challenge with my friend, Kevin. We both thought it would be a fun adventure. But now, as the sun started to go down and the desert got all spooky quiet, I wasn't so sure. Kevin had gotten a bit lost looking for water earlier, and I hadn't seen him since. I huddled under a big cactus, trying to stay out of the chilly wind that had suddenly started blowing. My water bottle was almost empty, and my tummy was rumbling like a hungry monster. I wrapped my thin blanket tighter around me. This desert was no joke!

Suddenly, I heard a rustling sound nearby. My heart jumped into my throat! Was it a scorpion? A snake? Maybe even a jumbie? I squeezed my eyes shut, wishing I was back home, eating fry bake and watching cartoons. Then, I remembered what the challenge instructor, Mr. Singh, had said: "Stay calm and use your wits!" I slowly opened my eyes and peeked around the cactus. It was just a little desert fox, sniffing the ground for food. Phew!

I looked up at the sky and thanked God for my life. The stars were starting to twinkle like tiny diamonds. It was actually kind of beautiful, even if I was super thirsty and a little scared. I told myself, "I only need to survive one night, and the prize money is all mine! Let's hope the desert doesn't bite!" I found a few dry branches and made a tiny fire, just big enough to keep me a little warm and maybe scare away any other desert critters. I sipped the last of my water slowly and tried to get some sleep, leaning against the prickly cactus. It wasn't the comfiest bed, but it was better than nothing.

The night felt long and was full of strange sounds. Every time I got scared, I remembered the thousand dollars and told myself I could do it. When the sun finally peeked over the horizon, painting the sand in bright orange, I felt like I had won way more than a thousand dollars! I had survived the night, in one piece! Now, if only I could find Kevin and some water... the adventure wasn't over yet!

