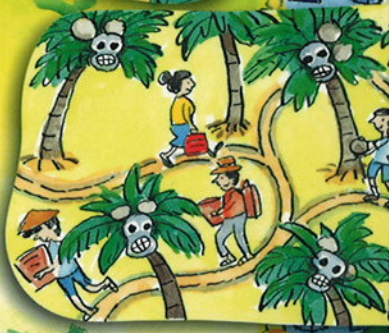
Eric's Thai Travel Diary









Story by Louise Schofield

Illustrations by Rae Dale

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Eric's Thai Travel Diary

Key vocabulary

baht, barges, batik, floating markets, Buddhist monks, incense, Nirvana, ruins, sarongs, Siam, temples

Grammatical conventions

- Adjectives: amazing, busy, beautiful, fresh, pretty, sensational, special, teary
- Complex sentence structures: 'The dancers were all dressed up in fancy Thai clothes, and the lady dancers amazed me with how they moved their hands.'
- Proper nouns: Bangkok, Buddha, Nepal, Nirvana, Greece, Thailand

Spelling

- Plural nouns: diary/diaries, ferry/ferries, secretary/secretaries
- Suffixes: snorkel/snorkelling, travel/travelling

Creative thinking task – Knowledge



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Eric's Thai Travel Diary

by

Eric

With help from
Louise Schofield (story) and
Rae Dale (illustrations)





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CHAPTER 1

The Diary Bug



Dear Mrs Smith and Class-buddies,

After keeping diaries of my trips to Nepal and Greece, I can't help myself. I've caught the dreaded diary bug again. I have no choice but to write about my trip to yet another exotic country – Thailand this time.

As you know, my parents love to travel, although they don't travel with each other anymore – only me (that's one of the downsides of divorce, I guess; if only they would understand that I'd rather be with my best friend, Pete).

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But when Dad called from Bangkok and asked if I wanted to spend part of the holidays with him, how could I refuse? He's been working there for three months and he's missed me.

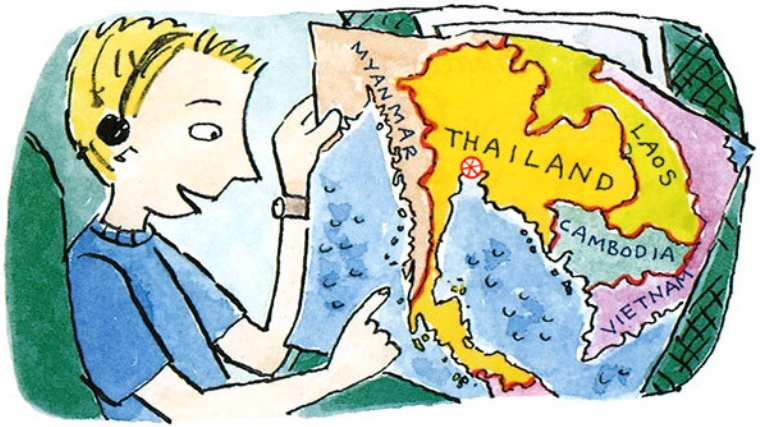
See ya later, Alligator!

YIPPPPEEEE!! – Eric



CHAPTER 2

On My Way!



So here I am on the plane – ALL BY MYSELF. Pete was soooooo impressed that I was travelling alone that he came to the airport with Mum to see me off.

Mum got all teary and embarrassing. I told her not to worry, that Dad will be there to pick me up. I promised to send her a postcard and Pete an email.

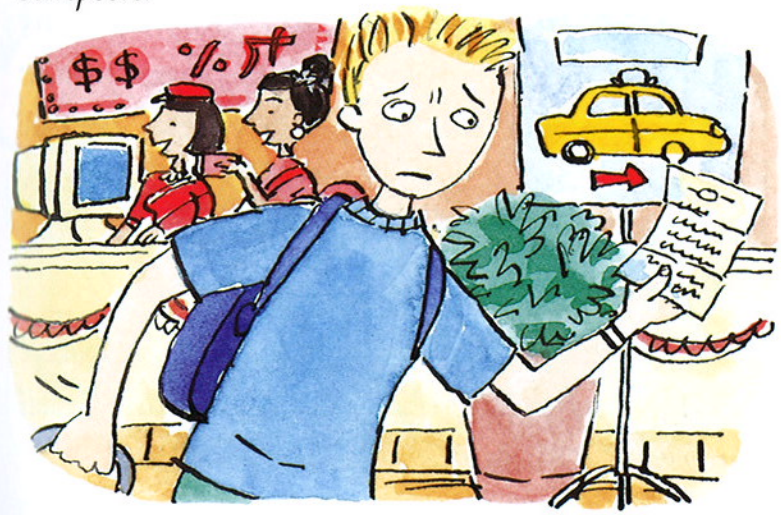
I've just found Bangkok on the map. It's the capital. Now... what channel is the movie on?

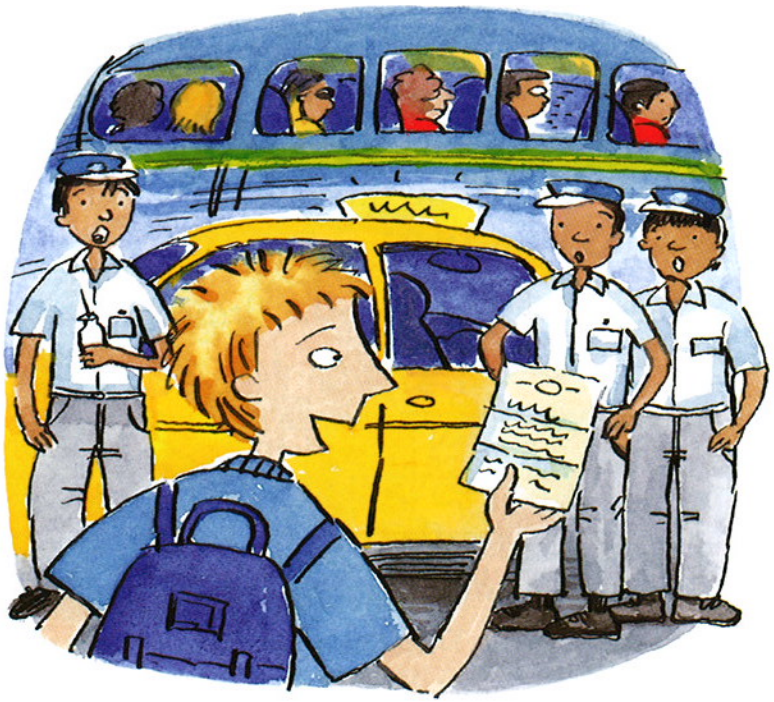
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You have to remember that my Dad is a very busy man. When he's home, he has secretaries who arrange stuff for him. So, don't be surprised to learn that HE WASN'T AT THE AIRPORT TO MEET ME!!

After I got over a mild attack of panic (okay, a MAJOR attack), I found the place to collect my bag. Airports are the same everywhere I reckon.

I didn't have Dad's phone number (that was dumb), but I had the address of his hotel. And I had some Thai money. Thai money is called baht – pronounced Bart, as in Bart Simpson.





The guys at the taxi rank outside looked surprised to see a kid on his own. However, once they saw I could pay for my fare, they opened the door and I got in. The ride through Bangkok was crazy, but soon I was in the foyer of Dad's hotel. They called Dad's room.

Dad got down there pretty quick. He looked shocked. He thought the plane wasn't due until tomorrow.

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Like I said, Dad is a busy man, but he's cool. He made up for it by taking me out to a special dinner. My mouth has been burning ever since. Gosh, it had a lot of chilli in it! And we talked about football and school for ages.

After dinner, there was some special Thai dancing. The dancers were all dressed up in fancy Thai clothes, and the lady dancers amazed me with how they moved their hands.

Some pretty cool guys played music on traditional instruments.



CHAPTER 3

City of Angels



Dad says Bangkok is called the City of Angels. The angels are pretty noisy though – the traffic is wild!

After breakfast, Dad took me exploring. Not far from our hotel is a jetty where you can catch a boat to take you up or down the river, the Chao Phrya (Chow Prii-ya). Dad says he catches boats as often as possible because they're usually faster and it's more relaxing than travelling in the busy streets.

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We lined up; then when a boat pulled over for a second or two, we jumped on.

First we got off at Bangkok's Grand Palace. It's top of the tourist list and for good reason.

It sparkles! It shines! It's sensational! But we didn't see any royalty. Perhaps they were busy.

Dad took a photo of me looking cool outside one of the royal buildings, pretending to be a prince. I wore the sunglasses I bought at a stall outside our hotel this morning. They were a bargain. I bought a pair for Pete too.

