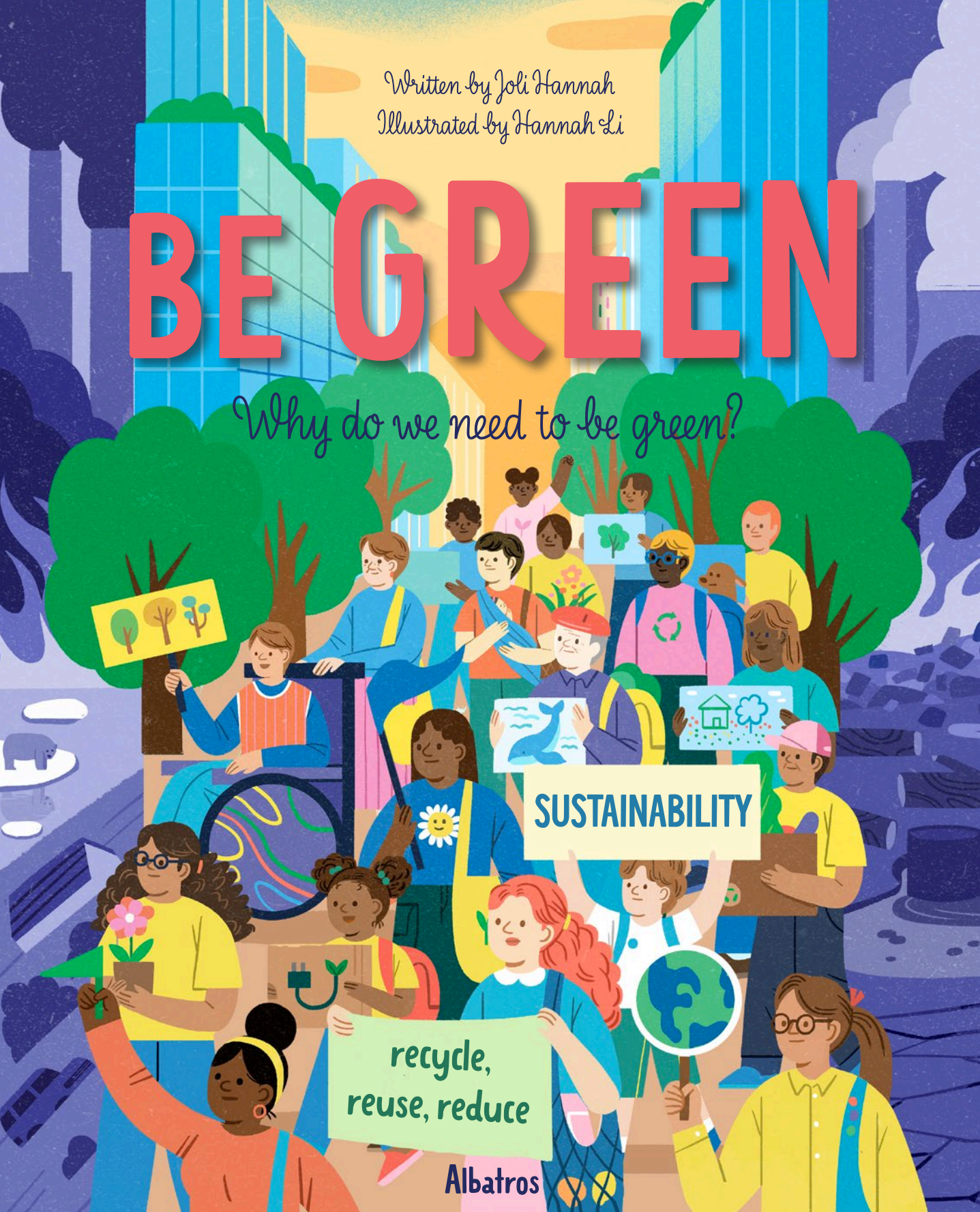


Written by Joli Hannah
Illustrated by Hannah Li

BE GREEN

Why do we need to be green?



Albatros



Why do we need to be green?

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WHAT DOES "GOING GREEN" MEAN

Going green doesn't mean eating rotten food and literally turning green.



Today, "going green" means being environmentally friendly. Products like food, appliances, and even buildings are made with ingredients or materials that create minimal amounts of pollution or waste. Many of these items are labeled with a green set of arrows in the shape of a triangle. That means that the products can be recycled and minimum waste is created.

WE ARE NATURE AND NATURE IS US

Go out into nature and find a quiet spot. Sit in a dry place, close your eyes, and listen. Depending on where you are, you might hear the wind, rustling leaves, singing birds, or even a flowing stream. It will be different every time. Is this a pleasant feeling to you?

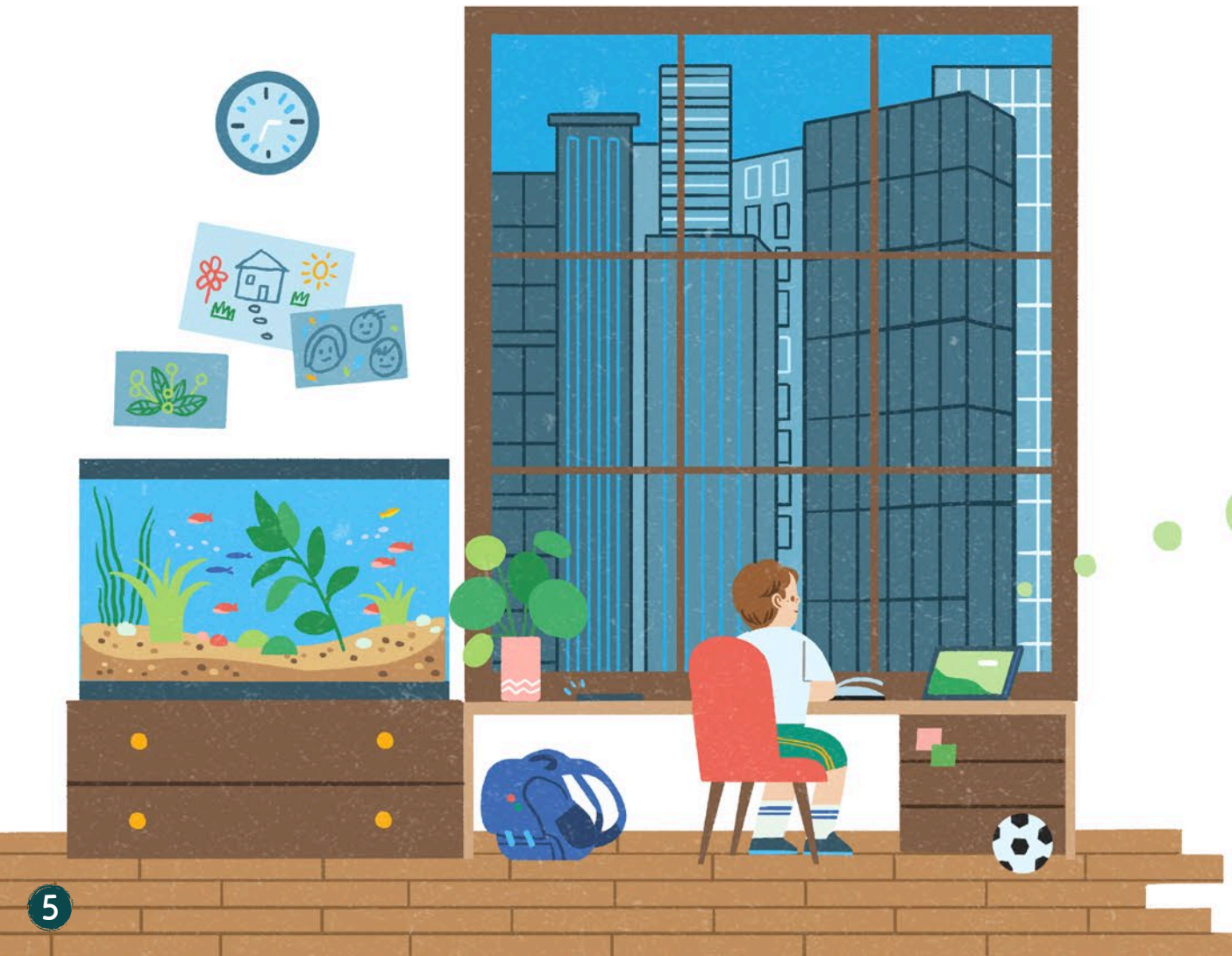


The next day, find a safe spot where you can hear sounds in a busy area. You might hear cars honking, people shouting, or even ambulance sirens. Many people feel more relaxed when they are surrounded by nature than when they are in the middle of a busy area. Are these sounds pleasant to you?

COUNTRY LIFE

Meet Adam. He is 12 years old. He was born in a small town and just moved to the city with his parents.

When he was little, Adam played in the dirt looking for beetles and caterpillars. He had a big pond full of fish. There were also dragonflies and butterflies that flew across the top of the water. His grandparents had a small farm, and he enjoyed seeing the new lambs and calves every spring. In July they would tie hay in the barn and eat raspberries and strawberries. But most of all, he liked playing in the woods. His parents didn't like it because there were wild pigs in it that could be dangerous to children. Adam tracked animals with other boys and girls and pretended to be hunters and also played hide-and-seek. It was best at twilight because it felt mysterious and spooky.



Adam didn't want to move to the city. He liked the countryside. Even though he and his parents lived in a big apartment on the 34th floor, he felt cramped like he was in a cage. His parents bought him a terrarium and a large aquarium with sea fish, but it was not the same as a forest or meadow. Each morning he got up and his mom drove him to school. Sometimes he played basketball with friends, but they preferred going on social media and not going outside. They wanted to play computer games with a plastic cup in their hands.



CITY LIFE

Adam was upset about his classmate's lifestyles. He felt sorry for the little birds that flew around the mall, picking up crumbs from trash cans overflowing with plastic garbage and leftover food. He didn't understand why his classmates had fake nails and bought clothes that they would only wear once before throwing away. He didn't like sitting at his computer playing fighter games. He didn't like the city water or its food. He was used to fresh water that was cold and tasty. The city water was warm and smelled like chlorine.

For breakfast, he used to have fresh scrambled eggs, homemade bread, and fresh milk. In the city, he had to buy eggs, and they always tasted different. They were sticky, tasteless, yellow blobs. When he ate steak it never tasted as good as it did at his grandparent's house.

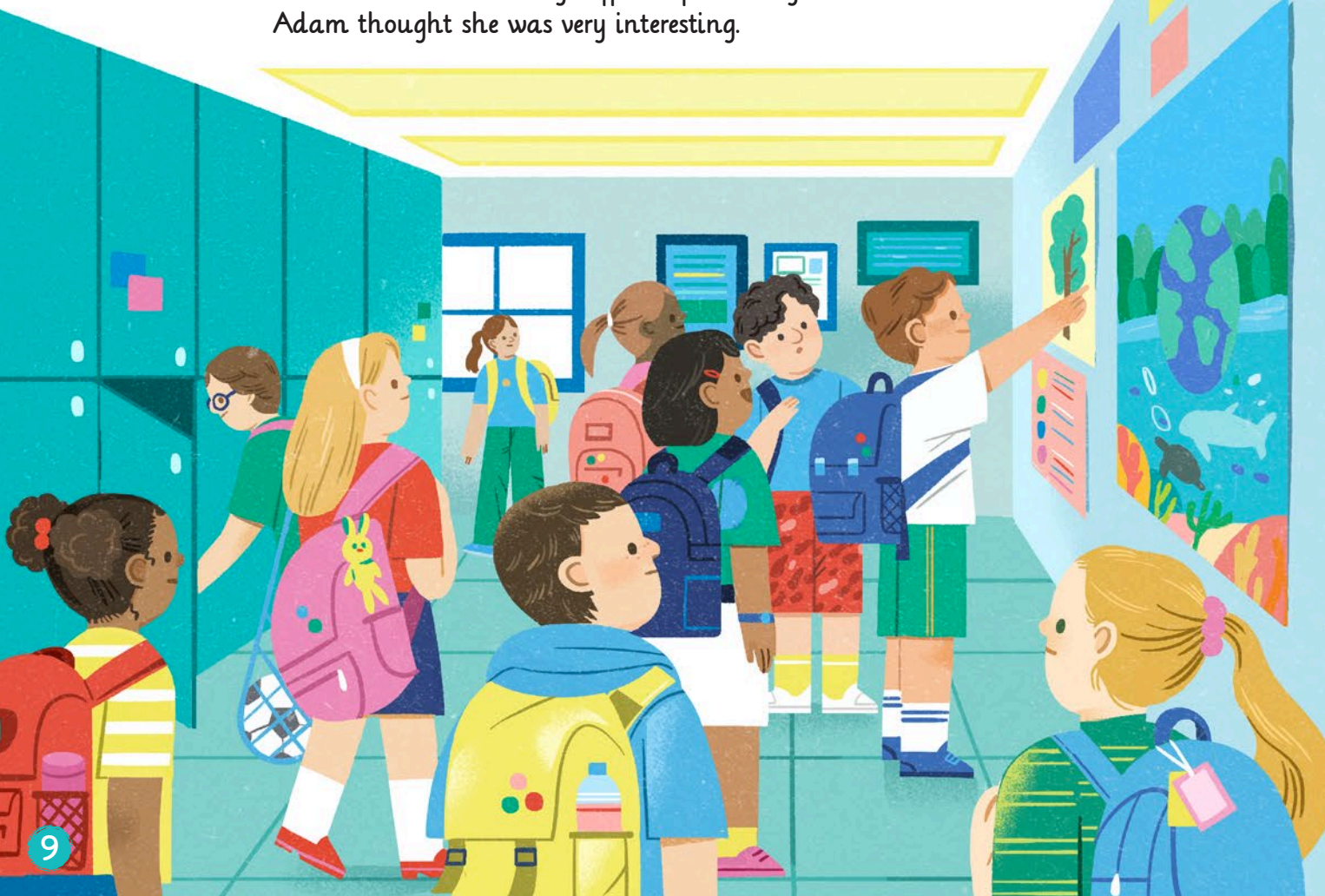


Adam was desperate from not having contact with nature. One morning he woke up and felt like he couldn't spend one more day in the city.

HOW TO PROTECT THE PLANET

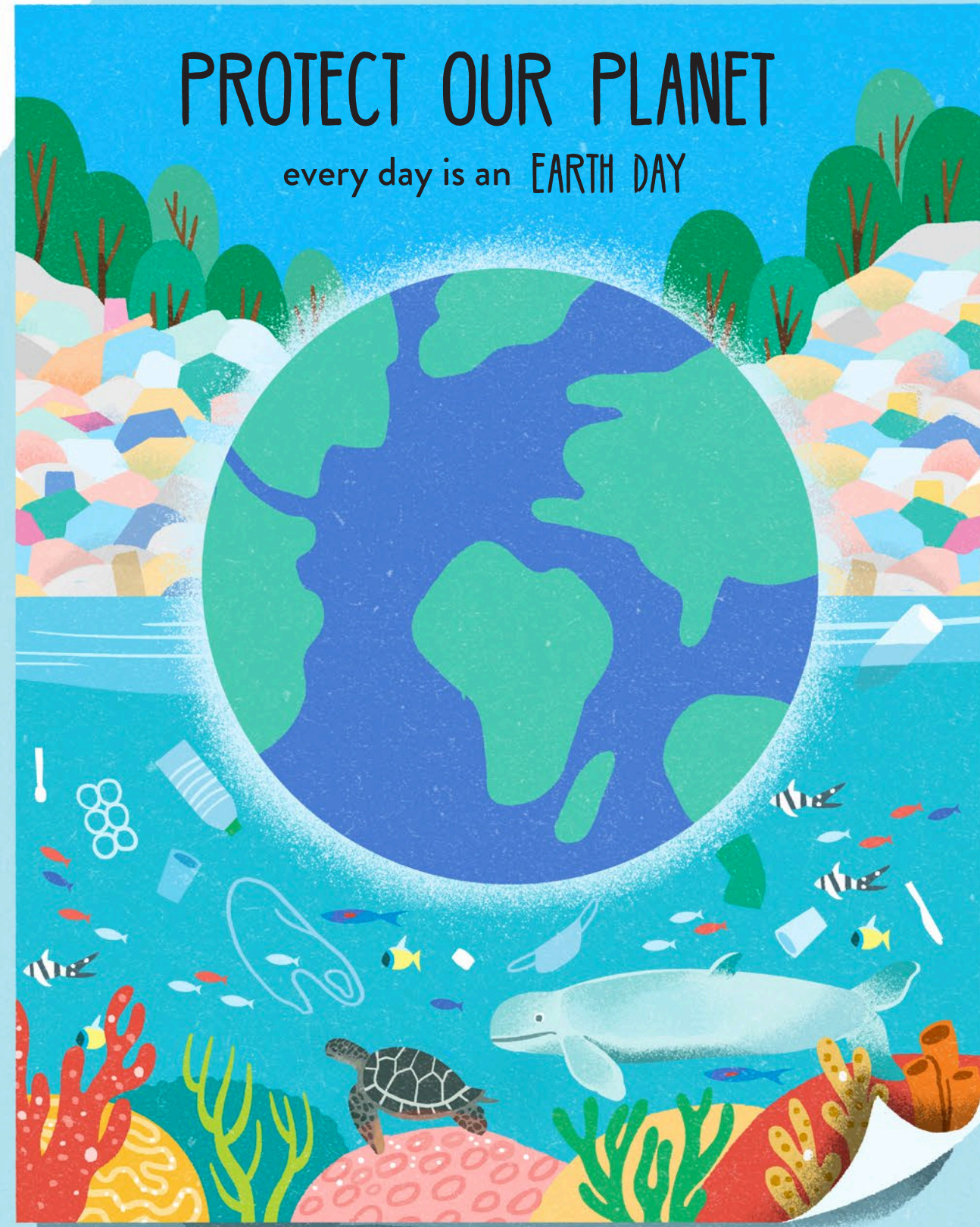
In the morning, Adam reluctantly went to school and thought about how to get back to the country. But he didn't want to hurt his parents by going back. He did have to admit that he enjoyed his school in the city. He liked biology, languages, and math. Today he was going to a workshop all about environmental protection where he thought he would learn a lot about recycling.

A new girl entered the class. Her name was Greta and people thought she was strange. She carried a reusable cup and silverware everywhere she went. She also didn't have lots of different styles of clothes like her classmates. She wore the same ones over and over. From what Adam could tell, she only ate vegetables and drank clean water. She was very different from everyone else. Adam thought she was very interesting.



PROTECT OUR PLANET

every day is an EARTH DAY



ADAM & GRETA

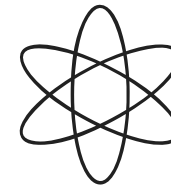
Greta sat down next to Adam and looked sad. Adam asked her if she'd like to work as a pair.

The first experiment was to pour oil into the water. The cooking oil represented crude oil and the water represented seawater. They had to remove the oil from the seawater as effectively as possible. Whether they used a sponge or a vacuum, it went pretty badly. It was an interesting experiment. Greta knew everything about nature and its systems. She also knew how to protect the environment and what to do in crisis situations. Adam admired Greta and asked her during the break how she knew so much. They started talking and Adam shared all about his experience living in the countryside. Greta eagerly listened.

She told Adam he should become a member of EkoTeenClub. It was a group that helped protect the environment. They were currently working on programs for schools and wanted to teach children and teenagers about their impact on nature. Adam and Greta's classmates didn't think this topic was fun, but Adam listened carefully. He felt he had found a new meaning to his life in the city. He realized the problem was that kids from the country took nature for granted, and the kids in the city also took nature's resources for granted.

Neither of the kids thought anything was wrong. They didn't think anything needed to change.

Adam and Greta began to think about how to connect with their classmates and convince them to start treating nature more kindly.

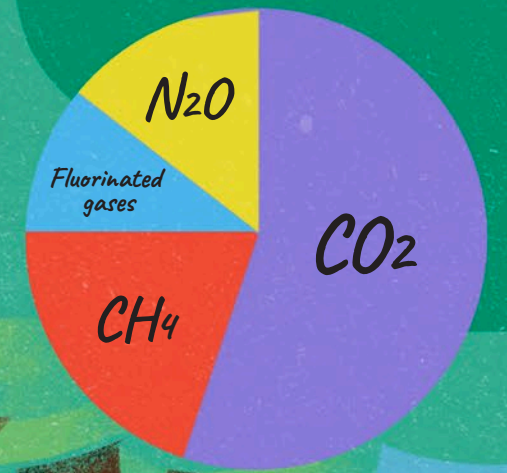


THE POWER OF PLANTS

The next day, Adam and Greta watched a David Attenborough documentary. Adam was horrified to see what was happening to the plant and animal kingdoms. But at the end of the film, David explained that nature is very powerful. If we humans help, we can make the situation better for nature.

Greta explained to Adam that the largest reservoirs of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that creates global warming, are the oceans and rainforests. If we destroy the rainforests, we will disrupt the food chain and many animals will die. We will also destroy our largest way to purify the air. Without air, we can't breathe.

Significant greenhouse gas includes water vapor (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), Fluorinated gases and nitrous oxide (N_2O).



Adam was surprised that by saving nature, he would also be saving himself.

SAVE THE GREEN:

What Can I Do In My Daily Routine?

We know that rainforests disappear when their trees are cut down. People clear rainforests for several reasons. They can get valuable wood from them, plant fields, or create beautiful views.



Oil palm trees are also planted on the cleared land of the rainforest. But they do not have the same capabilities as rainforest trees. They don't retain moisture or carbon dioxide or help purify the air.



One of the ways we can prevent the planting of more oil palm trees is by not using the oil they create to help us cook our foods. Let's grow green plants and support wildlife. Let's reduce the amount of meat we eat because we produce more than we consume. Breeding animals that will become food contributes a lot of greenhouse gas to the environment. Let's only buy meat from local farms. Small farms often grow their crops and raise their animals sustainably. That means the farm works in harmony with nature. We should also eat more plant-based foods. Even though Greta urged Adam to try it, he couldn't imagine not eating meat every night for dinner.



HOW CAN I SAVE THE OCEAN?

Greta continued telling Adam about all she knew. She showed him a film about oceans and the role they play. Adam wondered why they didn't pay closer attention to oceans in his science class at school. Greta showed him another film all about illegal fishing which results in the deaths of many innocent sea animals. She even showed him what coral reefs looked like 50 years ago and what they look like today. It made Adam sad.

He understood that oceans played a similar role to rainforests. They retain greenhouse gases and help keep the earth cool. But with more and more greenhouse gases being released into the air, the ocean doesn't have time to help cool the earth. It causes algae to multiply and creates acidity changes in the water. This combination destroys coral reefs and the animals that depend on for food and shelter.





Why do we need to be green?

Told through the eyes of new friends, Greta and Adam, Be Green is an accessible and eye-opening story that will inspire children to take part in helping save the planet. Through their own motivation and creativity, Greta, Adam and their classmates will prove that no matter a person's age, they always have the power to do what's right. From sustainability and ocean conservation to recycling and community organizing, young readers will discover how taking small steps can help create big change.

*During this project's development, we realized that expert opinions are not uniform. This work is not a scientific publication, but a book that asks its readers to think critically about the information presented within its pages. The stories and characters are fictional.

We encourage you to visit these sites to help change something:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/22-09-2021-new-who-global-air-quality-guidelines-aim-to-save-millions-of-lives-from-air-pollution>
<https://youmatterworld/en/definition/definitions-sustainability-definition-examples-principles/>

<https://www.designandalter.com/more-sustainability-in-fashion-restyle-recycle-repair-reline/>



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7-11
years
old

TARGET GROUP



EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITY



ENVIRONMENT
CARE



VOCABULARY



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