

HARLEY SAVES THE PLANET

Illustrated storybook competition
for young writers



Z prawdziwą przyjemnością prezentujemy kolejny zbiór nagrodzonych opowiadań i komiksów, stworzonych przez uczniów ursynowskich szkół podstawowych w ramach piątej edycji konkursu 'Illustrated Storybook Competition for Young Writers'.

Tematem tegorocznej edycji była ochrona środowiska i bardzo mile zaskoczył nas odzew młodych autorów, którzy licznie wzięli udział w konkursie oraz stworzyli wiele wspaniałych i poruszających prac. Ich lektura pokazuje, że współcześni nastolatki rozumieją zagrożenia związane ze zmianami klimatu i degradacją środowiska naturalnego, chcą chronić przyrodę i doceniają jej piękno, a także są gotowi zmienić swój styl życia dla dobra naszej planety.

Dziękujemy wszystkim dzieciom, które podjęły konkursowe wyzwanie i wykazały się nie tylko dobrą znajomością języka angielskiego, ale także pomysłowością oraz dojrzałym podejściem do kwestii ochrony środowiska naturalnego. Chcielibyśmy przekazać również podziękowania dla zespołów anglistów z uczestniczących w projekcie szkół za poświęcony czas, otwartość i zachęcanie dzieci do udziału w konkursie.

Składamy podziękowania i gratulujemy sukcesów podopiecznym Doroty Petrallis, Iwony Marchewki, Aleksandry Horteckiej-Pietrzak, Doroty Nieszczerzewicz oraz Magdaleny Milewskiej, których zaangażowanie było kluczowe dla realizacji tego przedsięwzięcia.

Dziękujemy także Renacie Zdunek oraz Julii Grabowskiej z zespołu Towarzystwa Edukacyjnego Sokrates, które dokonały korekt językowych i nadały książce ostateczny kształt.

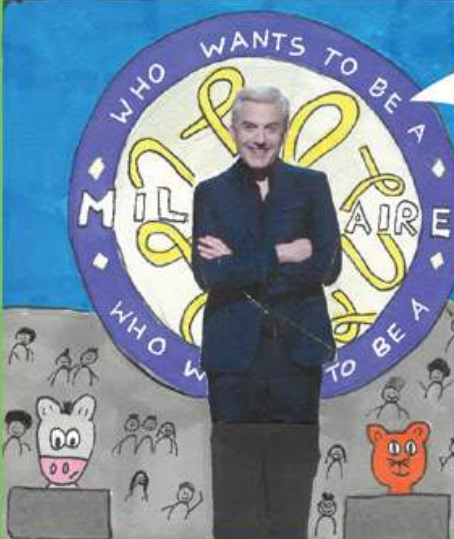
Życzymy przyjemnej lektury i mamy nadzieję, że nowe przygody Harleja zdobędą sympatię Czytelników, skłonią ich do refleksji, a może będą również zachętą do napisania własnej opowieści w ramach kolejnej edycji konkursu.

*Magdalena Rowecka
Dyrektor T.E. Sokrates*

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WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE | Aleksandra Petrallis



Hello! I'm Hubert Urbański and this is the 'Who wants to Be a Millionaire - Eco edition'. We've got 6 contestants sitting here right now. To see who gets to sit in the chair we're going to play 'fastest fingers'. There's one question and four answers. Get them in the right order in the fastest time and you get to play for a million dollars!

Match the colour of the recycling bin with the item you put in it.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 1) yellow | A) a can |
| 2) blue | B) a newspaper |
| 3) red | C) a jar |
| 4) green | D) a plastic bottle |

Let's see the correct order. That is: 1D, 2B, 3A, 4C.

Who got it right and did it the fastest? It's Harley the Horse in 4.3 seconds. Well done!

Yes! I'm so happy!



Harley, the rules are easy – answer 8 questions correctly, and you get \$1,000,000. There are three lifelines you can use: fifty-fifty, phone a friend, ask the audience.

How about safety nets?

There are also two safety nets set at \$1,000 and \$250,000.

\$1,000,000
\$500,000
\$250,000
\$50,000
\$10,000
\$100,000
\$1,000
\$100

Okay!

Okay. Let's play! Here's question number one:

When do we celebrate International Earth Day?

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) in March | b) in October |
| c) in April | d) in June |

That's easy. I remember last year we celebrated it on the 22nd of April. My final answer is C.

Correct!

Question number 2.

How many trees need to be cut down to produce about 1 tonne of paper?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a) about 3 | b) about 40 trees |
| c) about 20 trees | d) about 100 |

I'll trust the audience – C is my final answer.

Yes!

Amazing!

Wow!

Great!

Which type of supermarket bag is more environmentally-friendly: paper or plastic?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| a) plastic | b) paper |
| c) either is fine | d) none of them |

Hmm, I'm not sure. I think I want to use one of my lifelines. Let's ask the audience.

4% 24% 62% 10%

A B C D

When I go shopping, I always bring a reusable bag made of fabric. It's the most environmentally-friendly. That's why my final answer is D.

Correct again! \$10,000 is yours!

It's easy! It's A, of course.

And the answer is ...

CORRECT!

Which is more environmentally-friendly?

a) washing dishes by hand b) using disposable tableware

c) washing dishes in the dishwasher d) either is fine

Definitely C. A dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. And there is no rubbish left afterwards.

It's the right answer again!

How long does it take for a plastic bottle to decompose?

a) 1 month b) 200 years

c) 5 years d) 450 years

Hmm... I know it's a long time but I'm not sure exactly how long. I think I want to use my second lifeline fifty - fifty.


How long does it take for a plastic bottle to decompose?

c) 5 years d) 450 years

Harley are you ready for the next question?

Shoot!

Here it is...

Items with this symbol 

a) can be recycled b) can't be recycled

c) are made of wood d) are very cheap

Okay, there are 3 questions left. The good news is that a safety net is set on this question. Get it right and you'll have \$250,000 guaranteed. We all keep our fingers crossed for you, Harley!

Thank you! I'm ready for the question...

Five years is too short. My final answer is D: 450 years!

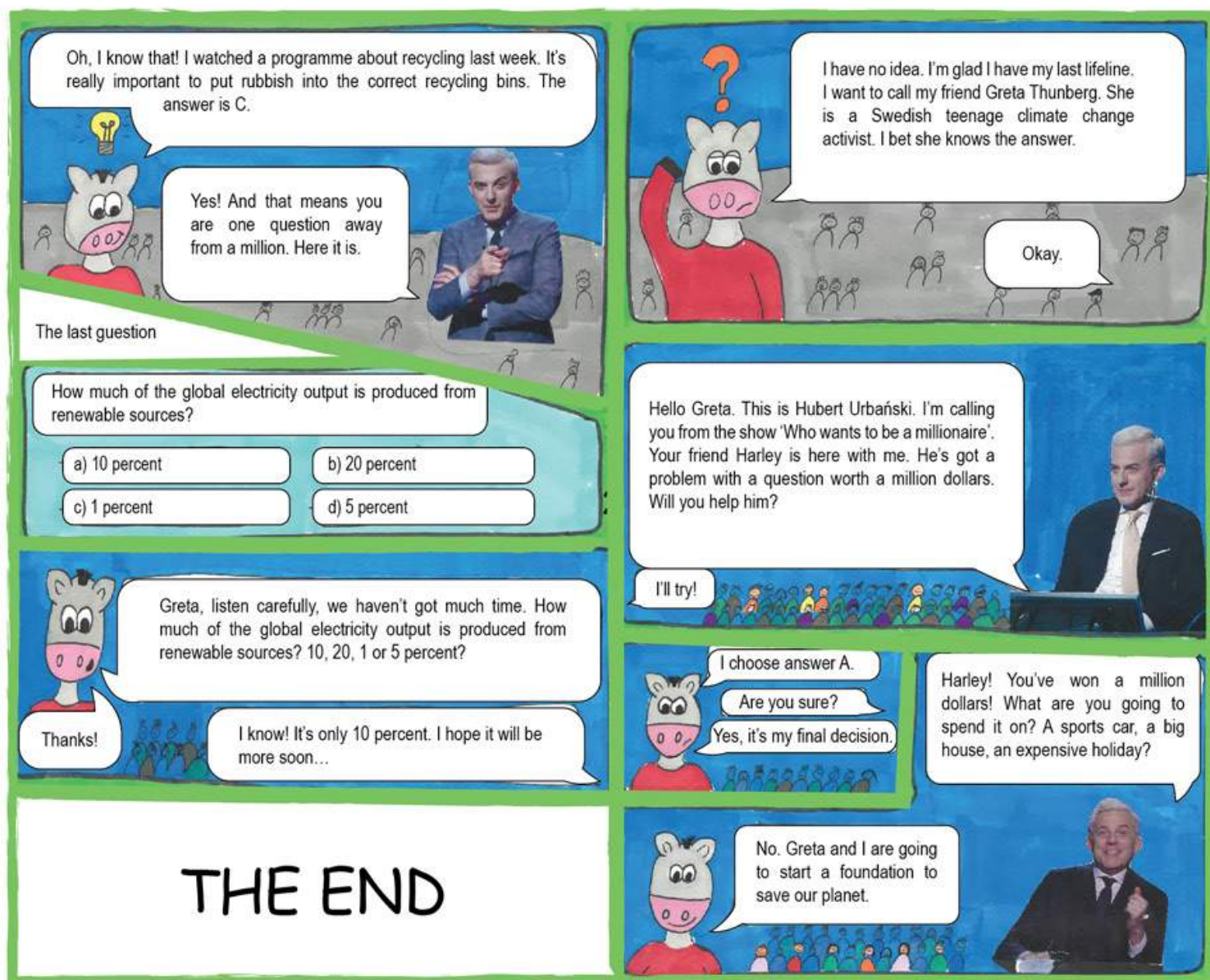
Yes! Uff... Harley, do you want to give me a heart attack? I'm joking. Well done. The safety net is yours!

Two questions to go...

Which of the following items should not be put into a paper recycling bin?

a) an old newspaper b) a cardboard box

c) an empty carton of milk d) a magazine



HARLEY'S STORY | Florka Ołowska

- Harley...
 - Who is there?! What was it? - Harley asked himself.
 - It's midnight!
 - Haaarley... - a voice whispered.
- The voice was soft and gentle.
- It's me, Ebenezer. Remember?
 - Ebenezer?! That cannot be you!
 - It's really me.
 - You look so... so transparent. You must be a ghost. I don't believe in ghosts.



Go away. Let me sleep, it's the middle of the night.

- Okay, you don't need to believe in ghosts, but you had better believe what I'm going to show you.
- What do you mean? You haven't come here because of the jokes I made about your name, have you?
- No, it's much more serious, Harley. Let's go! – said Ebenezer, and they flew out of the window.

THE PAST

- Hey, I know this place. It's my neighbourhood. And over there is my school backyard - said Harley.
- Yes, you're right – said Ebenezer.
- Look, it's Daisy. Daisy, Daisy, over here... – Harley shouted, waving his hoof. (Daisy was his classmate in the past)
- She won't see you. We are invisible – Ebenezer explained.
- Oh, look! I'm there too!
- You're right, it was you.
- Harley, stop hiding! Come and help us pick up litter – said Daisy to the Harley from the past.
- It's stupid. This whole Clean Up the World idea. Ha, ha! What about tomorrow and the day after tomorrow? You won't be able to clean it all up.
- I don't understand what has happened to you. You used to be so keen on this idea. You were the first to volunteer, remember?
- Why bother if others don't? It doesn't make sense to me - Harley shrugged.
- But Harley, we have to start somewhere, at least - answered Daisy.
- If you want to, go and pick up someone's rubbish. I have better things to do...

THE PRESENT

- Ebenezer, where are we now? – asked Harley. It's a bit dark in here. I can hardly see anything.
- Ebenezer didn't say a word and pointed toward someone running into the forest with two big bags. This person looked around, as if he was afraid of something...
- This is me...
- Unfortunately, it's you. You and your garbage, Harley!!!
- Sorry... I feel ashamed. But all the litter bins in my neighbourhood are always full.
- Dumping litter in the forest is not the solution. Did you think about nature, about the animals?
- Oh, Ebenezer, I'm so embarrassed that I was so selfish and so unfair to the environment...

THE FUTURE

- What are all those people doing? – asked Harley. In front of him stood an endless line of people with buckets.
 - They're queuing here for hours to get some clean water. This is one of the last freshwater sources that are not contaminated – Ebenezer explained.
 - Wow!!! - Harley pointed to another line of people. What about that?!
 - That is a queue for food pills.
 - Food pills? I don't understand.
 - There is no food that we used to know anymore. If you want to eat, you must take those food pills. A meal-in-a-pill.
 - That sounds awful. No, that cannot be true! What about lettuce?
- Ebenezer shook his head.
- ... and apples?



- None...
 - Carrots?
 - I'm sorry...
 - Carrots, no! Not the carrots! Carrots, carrots...
 - Harley, wake up. Wake up!
 - Grandpa? It's really you?
 - I think you have had a bad dream, Harley.
 - Oh, Grandpa, it's so good to be home. Please, pinch me!
 - Are you all right?
 - Tell me, ... do we have any carrots?
- Yes, we do.
 - ... and water?
 - Of course, what a question, Harley - said grandpa.
 - Grandpa, from now on we must start to recycle – said Harley jumping out of his bed.
 - Hmm, I've been telling you this for a long time.
 - I know, I know, but I promise to do it from now on.
 - Great!
 - And when I take a shower for too long, please knock on the bathroom door.
 - I'm a bit confused. You have changed...
 - Everybody has a duty to do something to save our planet. I used to be selfish, I was irresponsible. But now that will change. Let's go and get the rubbish bins. You know that plastic doesn't go together with glass, don't you?

It was a beautiful summer day... Harley woke up really early and started getting dressed.

'Today is the day! I am going on my big journey!' he thought to himself walking out of his bedroom. I will finally see other countries! I will see how beautiful the world is!'

He went to the kitchen and ate his breakfast: some milk and cereal with fresh yoghurt and seasonal fruits.

'There is nothing like a healthy breakfast to start a day,' he thought.

Later, he called a taxi that took him to the airport. The first stop was Greece, a beautiful country with a gorgeous seaside.

Environmental Problem #1 – Single-Use Plastic

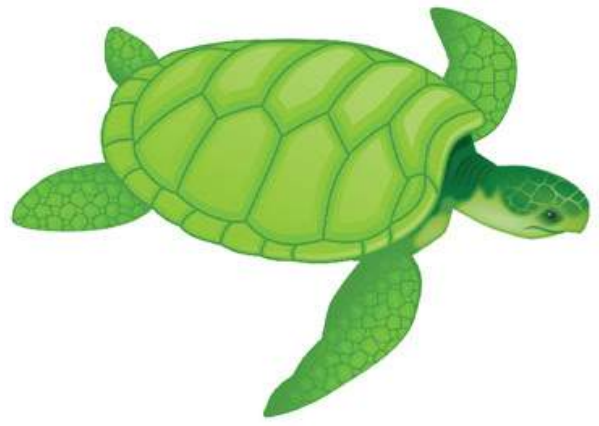
The plane landed. How wonderful! Harley was getting really excited and anxious. So excited, in fact, that he didn't go to the hotel, but headed straight for the beach. The weather was beautiful, the sun was shining brightly, the sky was cloudless, and there was the Mediterranean Sea. Harley had never seen that shade of blue in his whole life!

He started walking down the beach. Suddenly, he noticed something in the hot, golden sand. He picked up an empty Coca Cola can and put it in his backpack. 'I will throw it away later,' he promised himself. A moment later he came across some plastic plates, straws and cups - all of those things were to be used just once. 'Somebody must have had a party. They used them and forgot to clean up.' Harley was very sad. 'Why didn't they bring reusable plates and cups,' he thought. 'Don't they know that single use plastic is bad for the planet? We should say NO to plastic and use reusable things whenever possible. Single use plastic pollutes our oceans, it is dangerous for the animals and birds. 8 million tonnes of plastic is dumped in our oceans every year. This must stop!'

Harley cleaned up the little beach. He was tired and upset. Then, in the distance he saw a group of children. 'I must talk to them. Something has to be done. The children will help. I am sure they care about the environment. Together we can do something.' His spirits lifted, as he approached the group. He wanted to call out to them, but suddenly he realised that something was wrong. The children were leaning over something and they looked upset. The youngest girl in the group - a slim, 10-year-old with big brown eyes and curly

long hair was crying her heart out. Harley walked up to them with his heart pounding. 'Is everything alright? Why are you crying?' he asked.

The girl didn't answer. She just pointed at something on her left. He looked and immediately realised why all the kids were upset. There was an injured turtle lying next to some trash.



'Athena and I found him a few days ago, but then he was perfectly healthy, sir,' the tallest boy explained. 'But... today she found him like this. We don't know what has happened but...'

'We should take him to the vet, kids,' Harley said, picking up the animal gently. 'And, by the way, my name is Harley.'

They went to the local veterinary clinic. When the vet called them into the room, Harley expected the worst. He didn't know why... But he just felt it might be too late... That's why he stayed outside. After a few seconds he felt someone's hand on his shoulder.

'He is alive, Mr. Harley! He is alive!' Athena said with tears of happiness in her brown eyes.

Harley immediately stood up and went into a small room, with his heart pounding faster than ever. The turtle was safe...

'Your turtle ate a plastic bag,' the vet explained. 'He would have died if someone hadn't found him.'

'W-what?' Athena asked with a terrified look on her face. 'But where did the plastic bag come from?'

'And why did this turtle eat it?' another kid asked. 'Didn't it look suspicious to it? I mean a plastic bag doesn't look like food!'

'Please calm down and let me explain! People throw away hundreds of tonnes of trash every single day! Most of it goes into rivers, oceans and seas... Many animals mistake it for food or get caught in it. Did you know that 1 in 2 marine turtles have eaten plastic and 90% of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs?' The children stared at the doctor in astonishment.

'What can we do to stop this?' Athena almost shouted. 'We can't ignore the fact that animals are dying because of us!'

'She is right, we have to do something' her best friend, Thomas, agreed.

Harley smiled and said: 'You can do many things to help those poor animals and the planet! When you're out shopping, you can bring your own bags instead of using plastic ones. You can buy reusable or biodegradable plates and cups, and you can also ask your parents to recycle at home. It is important because recycling reduces the need for raw materials and the pollution

caused by waste.'

Harley said goodbye to the children - his next stop was India.

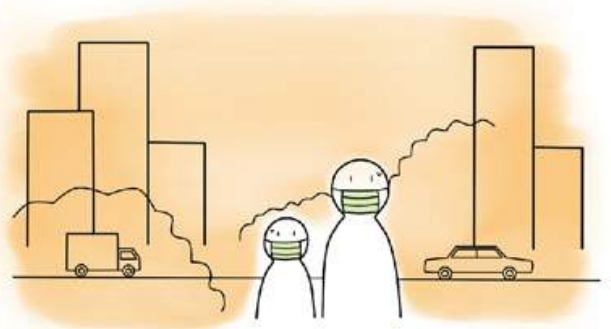
Environmental Problem #2: Air Pollution

Harley arrived in New Delhi late at night. He was too tired from his long trip and jet lag. He decided he would explore New Delhi the following day. Next day he woke up at 9:00 am and got dressed quickly. The Indian capital was an amazing place to see... After a while, Harley decided to go back to the hotel to get rest, for some reason, he was feeling really tired. While walking down the road he suddenly noticed that the visibility started getting even worse than before. He stopped for a second and looked around.

'It is impossible to see anything in this fog! I can't even see what's in front of me!'

Harley had a hard time breathing, and he started coughing. He just wanted to be back in his room. It was not far now.

Harley concentrated on the road and made a few more steps towards the hotel... Suddenly he heard a loud sound from behind. He quickly turned around and froze - he realised what was going on.



A car was approaching him really fast. The visibility was so bad that the driver didn't notice the tourist. Harley wanted to run away or shout, so that the driver would stop, but he couldn't. He was paralyzed with fear and scared that the man behind the wheel wouldn't see him before it was too late. Then someone pushed him away, and the car drove by, missing him by just a few inches.

'You should be more careful' said a voice on his right-hand side.

Harley saw a little boy smiling at him. 'My name is Reza' he said. 'What is yours?'

Harley introduced himself to his new friend and they went to the park.

'Why is the visibility so bad here?' Harley asked.

The boy smiled and started explaining: 'It's because of the air pollution caused by cars, wood-burning fires, burning garbage and the dust from construction sites.'

Suddenly, an old man approached them, and said: 'Yes, the air quality is exceptionally bad today. Did you know that it actually means that breathing is like smoking 50 cigarettes a day? And it is a global problem, I am afraid. Scientists say air pollution will cause around 7 million premature deaths globally next year...'

'So what can we do to prevent this from happening?' Reza asked. 'My friends and I want to help save our planet, but we don't know how...!'

Harley put his hand on the kid's shoulder and smiled. 'Here's a couple of ideas,' he said. 'For example, you can use public transportation or a bike to get to school. Also, you have to remember to switch off the lights and electric devices when you're not using them.'

'You can ask your parents to do the same,' the old man added.

'I must go now,' Harley said. 'Tomorrow I am visiting a small village near Delhi. I need to rest before the trip. I hope to see you very soon, Reza. You must visit me in Warsaw one day.'

Environmental Problem #3: Food Waste

When Harley was approaching the village, he saw a group of children running towards him: two girls and four boys. They were dressed in old clothes, much too big for them. Harley smiled and opened his mouth to greet them when they grabbed him by his 'hands' and started running with him towards the village.

'Look! We have found our guest!' they shouted, glowing with excitement.

That's how he was greeted by the kids, and soon he found himself surrounded by the whole village. He was invited to a feast organized in his honour. Harley was so hungry he really wanted to start eating, but then he realised that his portion was much bigger than others'.

'You shouldn't have done that,' he said. 'I can't eat this much when you all have so little...'

One of the girls giggled and said: 'I'd love to swap my portion with you.'

Her mother blushed and whispered something in her ear. The girl nodded and looked the other way. Harley stood up, kneeled before the girl and gave her his plate.

'Here you go,' he said with a smile.

The girl stared at him in shock, but then she smiled and started eating her food.

'Thank you, sir, but that was not necessary,' the girl's mother said. 'You are our guest, so it's natural to give you the biggest portion...! And Mita is used to having little food...'

'I know, but like I said, I couldn't eat so much when I know someone needs it more' - Harley explained. And then he saw that Mita wasn't sitting next to him anymore.

He looked around and soon he found her. She was with the other kids and she was sharing her portion with them.

'She didn't want to eat it herself... She wanted to share it with her friends,' he thought. He was touched and sad: in many countries food is being wasted,



while these children go hungry.

He remembered reading in a newspaper that around 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted all over the world each year. It is one third of all food produced for human consumption. Harley said: 'Unfortunately, food is wasted in many countries and we have this problem in Poland too. 9 million tonnes of food is wasted here every year.'

'Do you have a map that I could use to show you how much that is?' The children took him to the village school.

Harley explained: 'If one railway carriage can hold 41 tonnes of food, the train that could carry all the food people waste would have 220,000 carriages.'

He pointed at the map of Europe. 'See - the train would be as long as the Polish border...'

The children looked surprised. They didn't understand why someone would throw away food that is so valuable. They would love to eat their fill.

The teacher added: 'You also have to remember that food waste harms the environment. It's a waste of energy and water, and huge amounts of CO2 emissions result from the production, transportation and utilization of food products people throw away.'

Harley thanked his new friends - he understood that something had to be done to stop food waste. Throwing food away is wrong because people in the world are starving, the natural resources are shrinking, and it has a negative impact on the environment.

He wondered what could be done. He thought that it was enough to change our daily habits. Children all over the world had to respect food, stop wasting it and eat the sandwiches their moms packed for school. It's a simple thing to do and it can change a lot.

Environmental Problem #4: Global Warming

Harley's friends, Marley and Max, invited him to Africa. They were ecologists and vets, and they loved nature. They had gone with their three kids to Africa, to live there and to help the animals. They run a centre for animals in a small village.

When Harley got off the plane, he heard a familiar voice: 'Hey, Harley! Over here!'

He turned back and saw his friends and they greeted him happily.

The kids showed Harley the animal centre. It consisted of several small buildings. The largest one housed an animal hospital where his friends spent most of their time. Next to it, there were animal enclosures.

'Why are there so many animals here?' - Harley asked.

'It's because of the drought,' Marley answered with a sad smile. 'We find new animals every single day. Look at that little zebra. It had lost its mother

because of the lack of water. If one of the children hadn't found it... It would be dead too.'

'That sounds horrible!' Harley said looking at the poor animal. 'People all over the world are wasting water when you need it so badly.'

'They just don't realize how precious water is,' she said. 'But maybe when the temperature keeps growing in their countries, they will finally start using it wisely.'

'But then it will be too late, Marley! We have to do something right now!' he said. 'Global warming affects countries all over the world. There are hurricanes and floods... Even in my country, things are different now. For example, we no longer have snow at Christmas in Poland. If we want to see some snow, we have to go abroad or to the mountains.'

'I know, you told us about that in one of your emails... Maybe you could tell people about the problems in Africa and other countries, and get them to help save our planet?'

The visit to Africa was sadly coming to an end. Harley jumped on a plane. He was deep in his thoughts all the way home. The journey was different than he had imagined. He clearly saw that there was a problem... Something had to be done before it was too late.



THE END

Back home Harley wrote an e-mail to his friends all over the world: Athena, Reza, Tomas, Mita and other children he had met during his trips. It said:

Dear Friends,

our planet is in trouble and I want to save it. But I can't do it alone. I need your help! Children are the future of this planet and it is our responsibility to preserve it for the generations to come. We have to act now, there isn't much time left.

You may think it is somebody else's job, you may think it is the grown-ups who should do something. You may not know what to do and doubt if you could change anything. But I want to tell you that if only each of us changed our daily habits, if we thought about the environmental consequences of our actions, we would be able to save the world. Our actions matter. Please share this e-mail with your friends. Make them see what is happening with the world today and what needs to be done. I am counting on you. I am counting on them!

Your friend,
Harley

The message went viral. Kids all over the world started sharing it with their friends. It was read at schools and discussed at homes. It was broadcast on TV and on the radio. Harley's message was heard everywhere, and people responded. They changed their daily habits, cut down on plastic, recycled, prevented waste, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions. They preserved the Earth's natural resources and protected the environment. The planet was saved. The generations to come had a home.

HARLEY'S SUPERPOWERS | Emilia Ogorzałek

One day Harley woke up and heard the phone ringing. 'Who is it?' he asked. 'It's Lily Marshall from the International Anti-Crisis Centre for Earth (ACCE), Mr. Harley. We desperately need you. The Earth is in trouble...'



Harley got out of bed as fast as he could and pressed the red button on his phone. Within seconds he was in the office of the AACE in front of three agents.

'Mr. Harley,' said one of the agents, 'we have a very important task for you'. 'What is it?' Harley asked. 'The Earth is in real trouble!' another agent replied. 'You have to save it. You are our last hope!' added the third agent. 'What happened?' asked Harley with his eyes wide open. 'You need to fly to each of the continents and help the people who live there,' explained the first agent. 'There is not much time left, you had better hurry up!'

Harley got his phone out of his pocket and pressed the red button.

When he opened his eyes, he was by a river in Asia. He saw a lot of plastic and other rubbish floating in the river and on its banks. The people were very sad. They couldn't drink water from the river, they couldn't go fishing, they couldn't even swim in the river! The water was terribly polluted.

Harley used his superpower and within seconds the river was clean. And so were all the rivers in Asia! The people could not believe their eyes. 'Thank you, Harley!' they clapped and cheered for him. Harley told them: 'You cannot use so much plastic. You should be more careful and use eco-friendly products. And you must not throw your trash into the rivers.' Then, he pressed the red

button on his phone and said: 'Australia!'

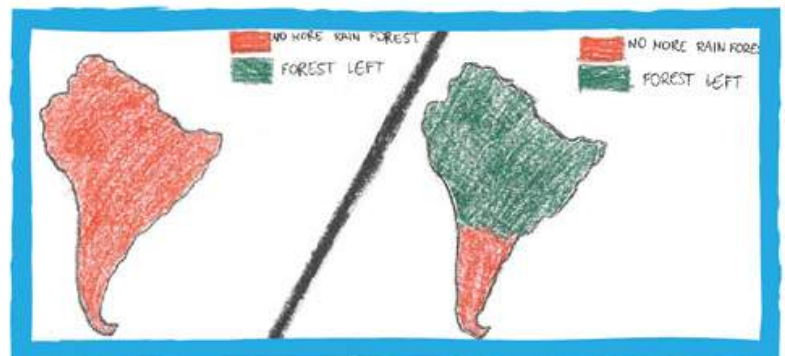
'Ouch!' Harley exclaimed. 'It's so hot in here!'. He looked around and he saw



fire everywhere. The people and animals were running away, trying to escape the flames. Harley used his superpower and rain fell from the sky. The fire disappeared and the grass was green again. The kangaroos were jumping happily, and the people were greeting him: 'Thank you so much Harley!'

'You should stop using coal and other fossil fuels because they cause global warming! It's so dangerous!' Harley said. 'You should build solar power plants or use wind turbines.' Then he took his phone again and pressed the red button: 'Now to South America!'

Harley was in South America now. He saw a lot of trees being cut down. There was no more rainforest left! No animals, no trees, no nature. Everything was destroyed. He was shocked, but he used his superpower and



suddenly he was standing in the middle of the jungle. He could breathe again, as there was more oxygen in the air. He said to the people he met: 'Guys, you cannot destroy the rainforest! If you do, everybody will die! You too!' Harley wanted to stay in South America, but he still had a few continents to help. He pushed the red button again and said: 'North America, please.'

Harley moved to North America very fast. He saw bars and restaurants with fast food everywhere. There was no healthy food at all. The people were drinking sweet soda and eating burgers. 'Poor folks,' thought Harley, 'this food is so unhealthy. I need to do something about it.' And then he used his superpower and closed his eyes, and when he opened them again, the bars and restaurants changed into places where only healthy food, especially veggies, was served. People were drinking water or green tea and there were no more sugary drinks. 'Guys, you need to be careful about what you eat!' - Harley said. 'Thank you! It's really yummy' - they replied. Harley pressed the red button again and moved to Europe.

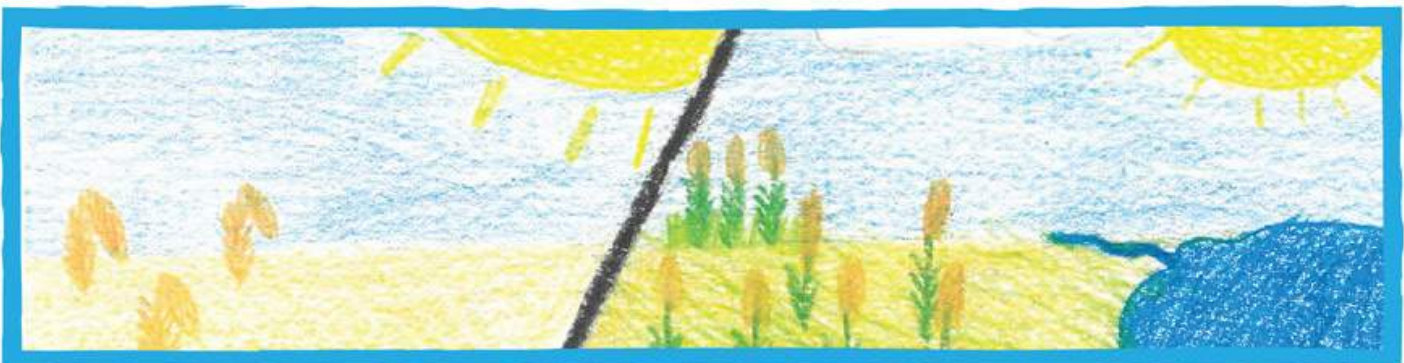


When he opened his eyes, he couldn't see anything at first. The air was full of smoke. Harley put an oxygen mask on and thought: 'What terrible smog!' It was the cars, factories and houses that polluted the air. 'I need to do something quickly about it'. He used his superpowers and the air was fresh and clean again. The people were using green energy and driving electric cars. They were no longer wearing oxygen masks! 'Thank you, Harley!' they cheered again. 'We are so happy and healthy again!'

Harley would have loved to stay with them, but he had one more place to go. He pressed the red button and said: 'Africa!'

'Help us, Harley,' a little boy cried. Tears were running down his cheeks, but he pretended that he wasn't crying.

'I have nothing to eat... I'm very hungry...' Harley looked around and he saw that all the crops were burnt by the sun. There was no water, the rivers and the lakes were dry. He used his superpower, and suddenly the fields were green again. The rivers and the lakes were filled with water, and there was a lot of fish. 'Thank you, Harley! Thank you so much!' the little boy said excitedly. 'Tell the rest of the world to start caring about Mother Earth,' he added. 'Without your help we all would have died. It was getting hotter and hotter, there was little oxygen and plastic trash polluted our rivers and seas.' The little boy smiled, and he gave Harley a medal that he had made himself. 'This is for you, Harley. You are the superhero who saved the Earth!'



INTRODUCTION

The world is in trouble and it is getting worse and worse every day. The climate is changing rapidly, global warming is accelerating, and the whole planet is facing a new reality.

Acid rain damages many different kinds of plants, including the trees and crops which provide food. It pollutes oceans, rivers and lakes. Many species of plants and wildlife are in danger of becoming extinct.

It is not the only problem. Every year 5 billion new trees are planted, and at the same time 15 billion trees are cut down, which means that we lose 10 billion trees per year.

Not to mention the fires that cause the death of many animals.

Humans produce an incredible amount of litter and it's impossible to process it. One example is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch or the Thilafushi rubbish island (used as a municipal landfill). You can also look around your town. What does it look like? Are you proud of it?

Glaciers can't be forgotten either. They are the largest reservoir of freshwater on Earth, which is shrinking faster and faster. Right now, 10% of the world's population does not have enough water. What will happen in 10, 20 or 50 years? The future is not optimistic...

There seems to be no escape! Does that mean this is the end of our planet?

The answer is no. Luckily, there are some heroes who want to fight for the environment. Let's read the story about Harley who turned out to be one of them...



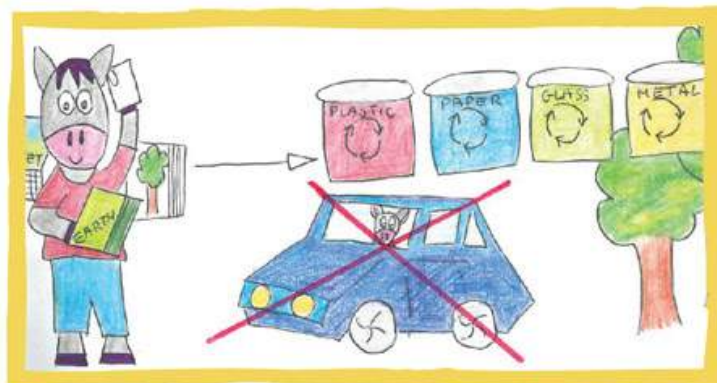
HOW IT ALL BEGAN

A typical Saturday evening.

I was drinking tea and watching telly when a disturbing piece of news about the environment came up. I was so angry. 'Why are they interrupting my favourite show?' I decided to go to bed and forget it.

That night was horrible. I had nightmares about fires, droughts, contamination, a great flood and dying creatures. When I woke up, I felt something I had never experienced before. I knew that I had to do something to help my planet. I

started searching the Internet, reading books. I even called my friends and decided that I had to change my life. I started saving water, recycling rubbish, avoiding plastic and unnecessary things. I also planted a few trees in front of my house and decided to use public transport instead of the car.



Then, I came across a documentary about the fires in Australia. It affected me greatly because this is my grandfather's country (Do you remember the story about the Time Machine?). At that point I decided to devote my life to ecology.

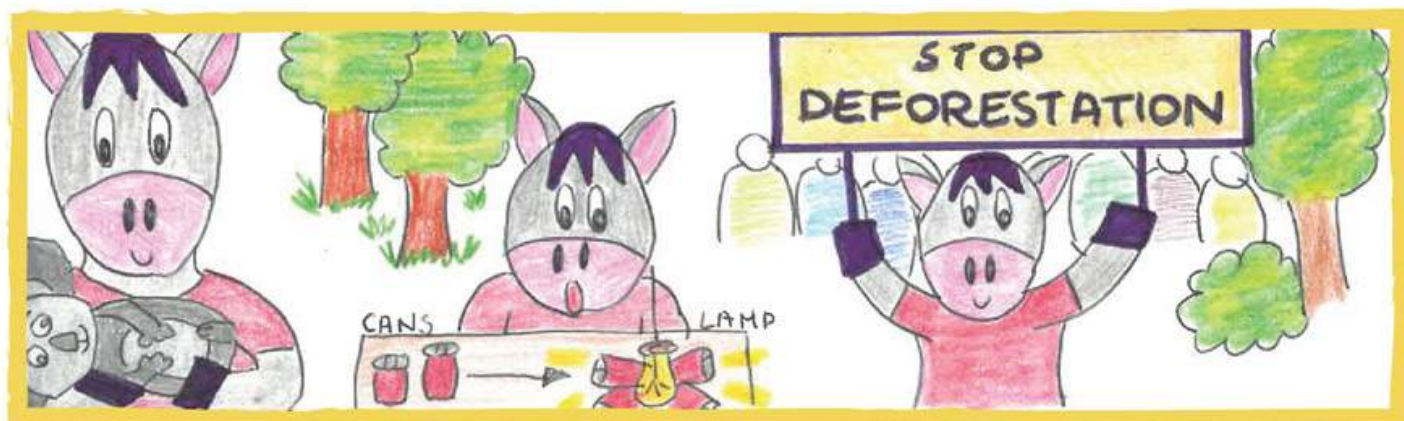
AUSTRALIA

Australia was the first place I visited. Although the fires were put out, the destruction they had caused was terrible. Many animals had died, and huge areas of forest burned down. I really wanted to help with rebuilding the habitat and treating the injured animals, so joined a charity organization that dealt with that.

There I met Mark, who was one of the volunteers. He taught me how to take care of koalas and other animals. He also explained to me that in order to save the planet we need to change now but at the same time we have to repair the damage we have already done.

When I was working for the charity, I took part in a protest against deforestation, I talked to people about the environment and I took part in tree planting campaigns and a rubbish processing workshop.

I felt I was doing the right thing in Australia, and I saw that my work made a difference. And then my friend Gloria called me. She is a seal and lives in Antarctica. She told me that her house was falling apart because of global warming and other ecological problems. My time in Australia was incredible. I met many friends and learned a lot, but I knew that other places needed my help too, so I decided to go to Antarctica.



ANTARCTICA

When I got there, I was delighted. I saw a beautiful landscape and many species of animals that I could only see in movies before. I met Gloria and I had a lot of questions for her.

- Hi Gloria, why were you so horrified when you called me? – I said.

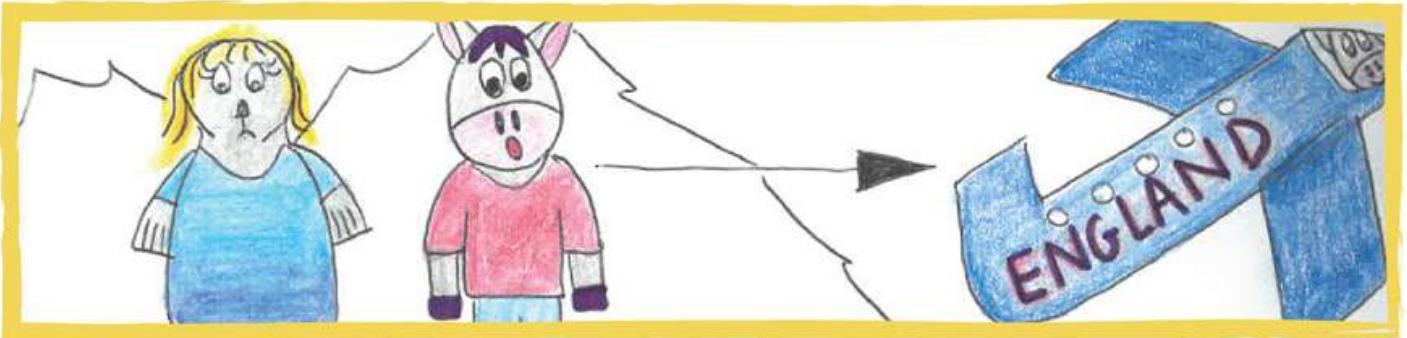
- Hello Harley, it's great to see you. The icebergs are melting, and the animals are suffering. They don't have enough food to survive. I know that you live in London and you do not give much thought to the melting glaciers, but it is going to be a problem for the whole world, not only the Antarctic animals.

- It's terrible that you have no food, but I don't understand how it is going to affect the creatures that live on other continents.

-Look, if the ice on the Antarctic melts, the global sea level will rise by 60 meters. Much less is needed for a global disaster. If sea levels rise by just a meter, this will be a disaster for Florida, Vietnam and Bangladesh. Do you realize how many creatures would die then?

-OMG! I can't let this happen. Gloria, it's time to act!

I did as I said. I knew that I could not live in Antarctica, so I decided to act it in a different way. With the new knowledge that Gloria gave me, I went to visit the British government and Buckingham Palace.

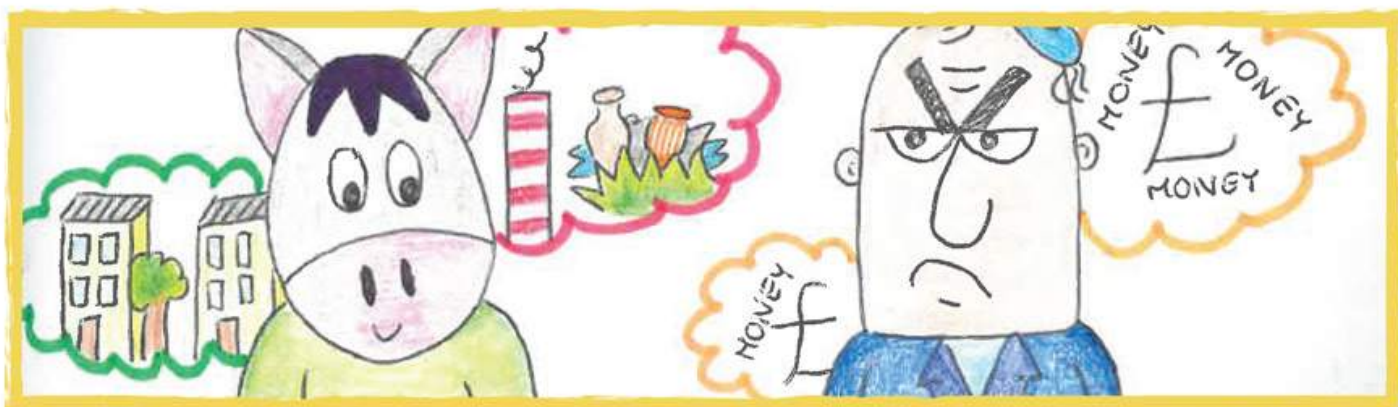


ENGLAND

A week later, I was back at home. I realized there was no time to waste. The laws needed to be changed and since I did not have enough power, I booked a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

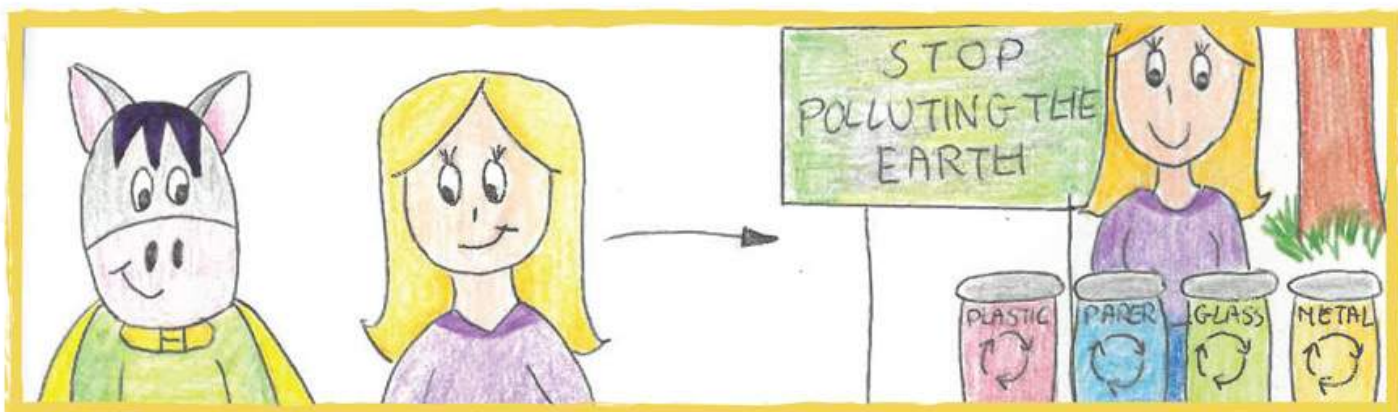
Firstly, I met the Prime Minister and I told him about all the global issues. I also proposed a lot of ideas on how to improve the planet's condition. All he said was 'Are you crazy? The government doesn't have money! You should go home. I have no time for silly things.'

I was devastated. Why do powerful people not care about the environment? I was about to leave when suddenly the Queen appeared in front of me. I couldn't believe my luck, she really listened to me and decided to take action. The Queen went to the Prime Minister and yelled at him. Surprisingly, the money was found!



England began its eco-adventure! The Queen trusted me and appointed me Secretary of State for the Environment. I didn't want to be like other politicians, so I decided to travel all around the world and educate people. I truly felt that the changes in the world were going in the right direction.

During my meetings with people many of them asked me the same question: How can I take care of the environment at home? My answer was always the same: all of us must be willing to change. Then it is so much easier to start recycling rubbish, take part in reforestation campaigns or protests against pollution. I was incredibly proud of every single person who decided to do something for the Earth.



STOP POLLUTING THE EARTH ► PLASTIC; PAPER; GLASS; METAL

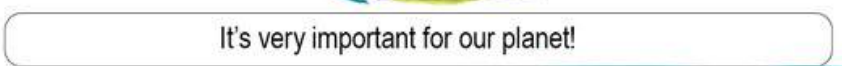
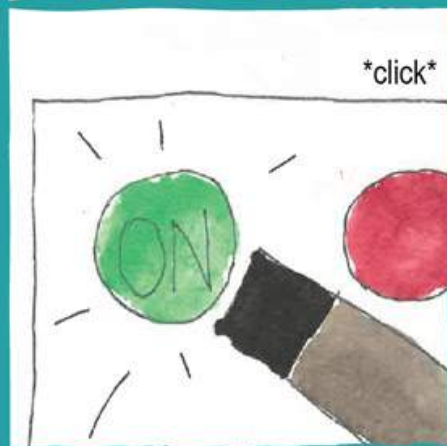
After some time, people started to respect politicians who talked with them and listened to them, so my name made the headlines. But I didn't do it for fame or money. I did it for our planet, and that's what I'm asking you to do. If you've read this story attentively, you know our planet has a lot of problems, so don't waste your time. Just act now!

You have just read the story of how I saved the planet. Now it's the time to write yours.

With love,
Harley

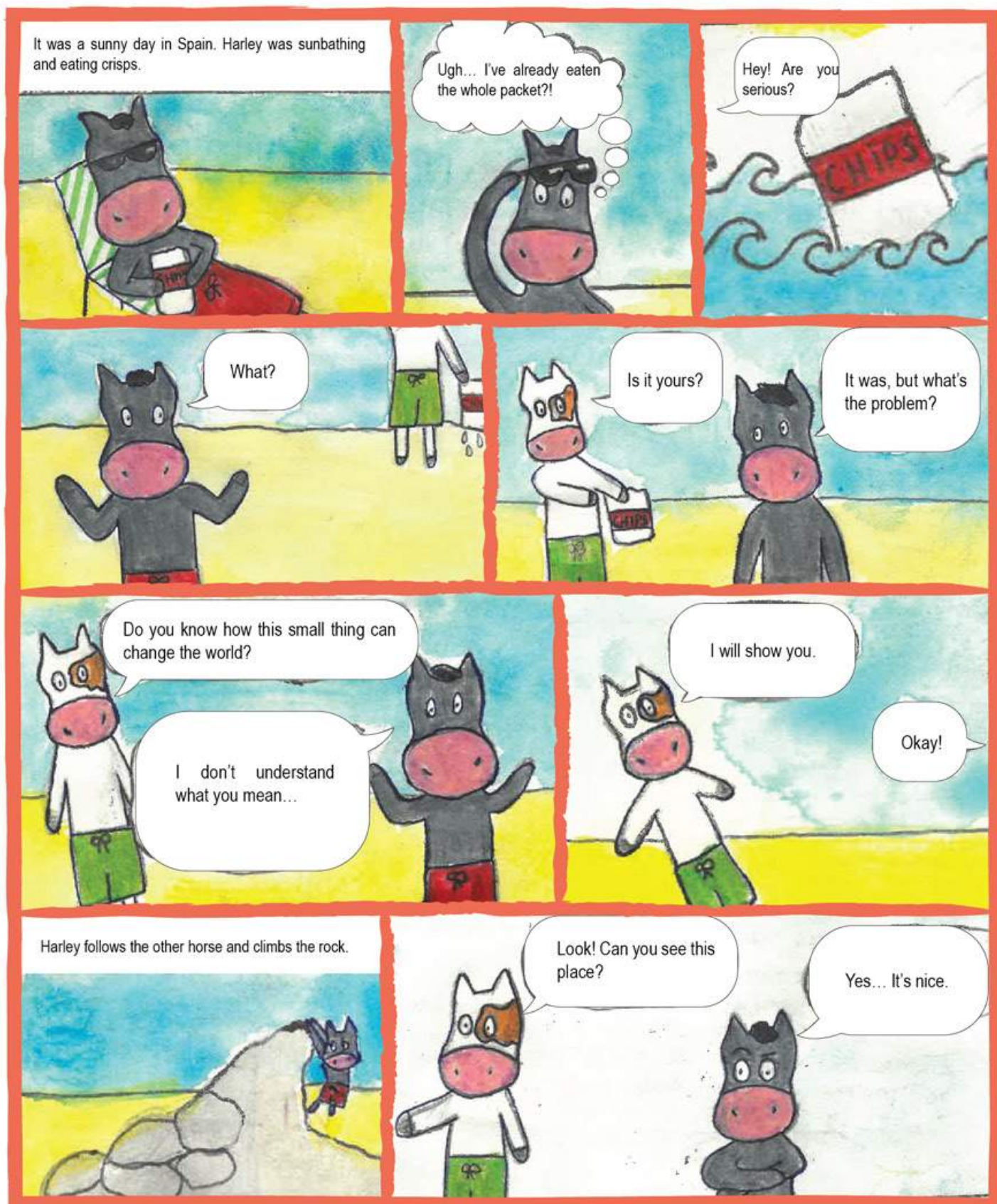
HARLEY SAVES THE OCEANS | Julia Zielińska

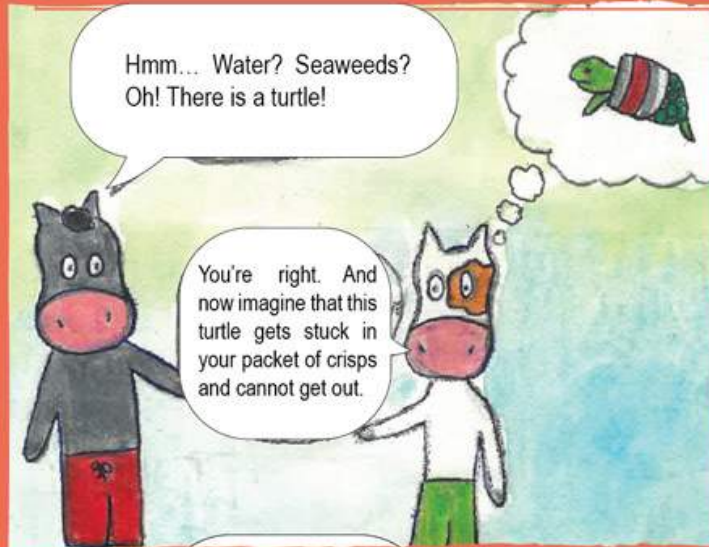




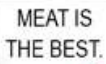
THE END

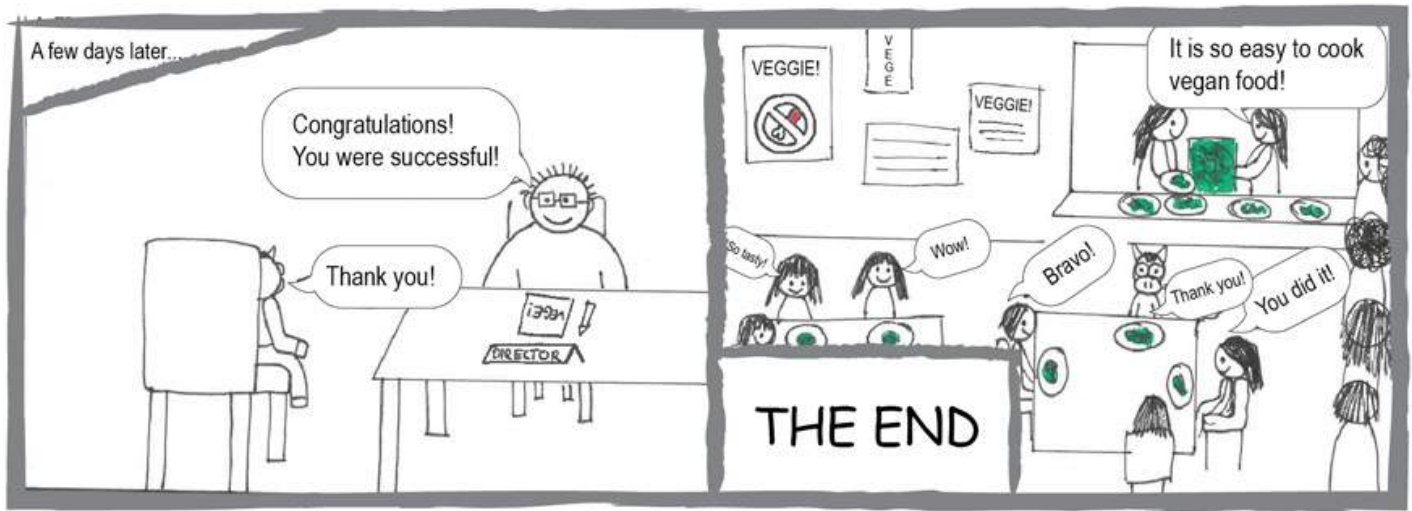
A TRIP TO THE BEACH | Emilia Pomianowska





Tamara Teleon





LITTLE THINGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE | Maja Dymińska



One beautiful Sunday, Harley and his mum went to the seaside for the day. They were going to spend some time there, so they decided to take some food, candy bars and drinks.

The sea was sending waves gently to the shore, and Harley watched the birds diving into the water and looking for fish. He admired the view, the beauty of the sea, the clear sky and beautiful nature

around. He could spend the whole day watching such views, but unfortunately it got dark, and they had to go home. Harley got up and saw plastic candy bars packaging and empty bottles. Without thinking, he picked them up and threw them into the sea. His mum asked: 'What are you doing?', and Harley answered: 'There's so much water here that a few bits of plastic will not make any difference.

His mum looked very concerned. 'Darling, this is not right. Do you know that plastic pollutes the sea and kills sea creatures? What, if everybody did the same thing? Can you imagine life without the sea? There would be no fish and no birds, which you like so much...'

When Harley came back home, he felt so bad and ashamed that he went to bed immediately. That night he had a strange dream. He was at the seaside

again, but now the view was completely different. There was a lot of rubbish, plastic bottles and other empty packaging floating in the water. Harley came closer and saw a lot of dead fish on the beach. But something else bothered him... Where were the birds?

Suddenly, he understood. There were no fish in the sea, so the birds did not have any food!

Harley started to run. He wanted to get out of that horrible place as soon as possible. Along the way, he was passing huge piles of plastic rubbish. And his town was not the same.

The air was heavy and grey, and Harley started coughing. 'I cannot breathe' – he cried. People on the streets looked unhealthy and had their noses and mouths covered with face masks. There was a lot of rubbish everywhere.

'It's terrible' – he cried. 'I don't want the world to look like this'.



And suddenly he woke up.

'Mum, I had a horrible dream' - he called. 'The seaside and our city were terribly polluted, and people were sick because of the smog. But it was just a bad dream, right? It is never going to happen?' - he asked. Mum sighed. 'Unfortunately, our planet is badly polluted. In not so distant future, it may be like in your dream, and the world could be drowning in its own rubbish'.

Harley started to cry. 'If I were a superhero, I would save the Earth. But what can I do? I am just a little horse...'

'Please, don't be sad' - his mum smiled. 'Remember, little things can make a difference. If everyone made a few small positive changes and cared more about the Earth, it wouldn't come to this.'

Little things make a difference... Harley sat down and suddenly he had an idea!

'Mum, you don't have to drive me to school today, I will ride my bike!... And I'll recommend this to my friends! The bike will not pollute the air!'

'That's a great idea' – mom said. 'Maybe I'll ride a bike to work today as well?' At school, in a biology lesson, Harley told his class about his dream and asked the teacher to tell the children how to take care of the environment.

'First of all, you should limit the use of plastic. How can we do that?' the teacher asked.

The children had different ideas: go to the shop with their own bags, avoid buying fruits and vegetables wrapped in plastic, buy drinks in returnable

bottles, refrain from buying disposable items...

'And what about the trash?' asked the teacher. 'Everything possible should be sorted for recycling,' said Harley.

'Yes, that true. Sorting makes it possible to reduce waste and reuse materials. We also need to remember about air pollution... Look, the bins for recycling have different colours: blue for paper, yellow for plastic and metals, green for glass, and brown for organic waste.'



Remember, little things make a difference! If we don't take care of our planet, we won't be able to live here, and this can happen very soon...'

'Miss, could we have our own little box garden on the school grounds?' asked Harley. 'We could compost our organic waste there.'

The teacher smiled. 'That is a great idea, Harley! The box garden could also be used for our biology lessons.'

Harley and his classmates came up with an idea to design posters on how to sort waste in order to educate people how to do it properly.

On his way home, Harley and his friends saw a boy drop an empty bottle on the street. 'Look,' Harley said, 'There's a trash bin for plastic nearby. If we don't take care of our planet, we will drown in our own trash.' The boy looked ashamed and he put the bottle into the container for plastic.

'Look,' another boy called out, 'there's a lot of plastic bottles lying around here. Let's pick them up and put them in the bin.'

Harley couldn't stop thinking about his dream. He remembered what his mum had said: 'Little things can make a difference, and everybody can make a few small changes to help the environment'. The next day, when his mum was going to do her shopping, Harley asked her if they could make a shopping list to buy only what was necessary. They sat down together and prepared the list. Harley found a few old shopping bags to take with them.

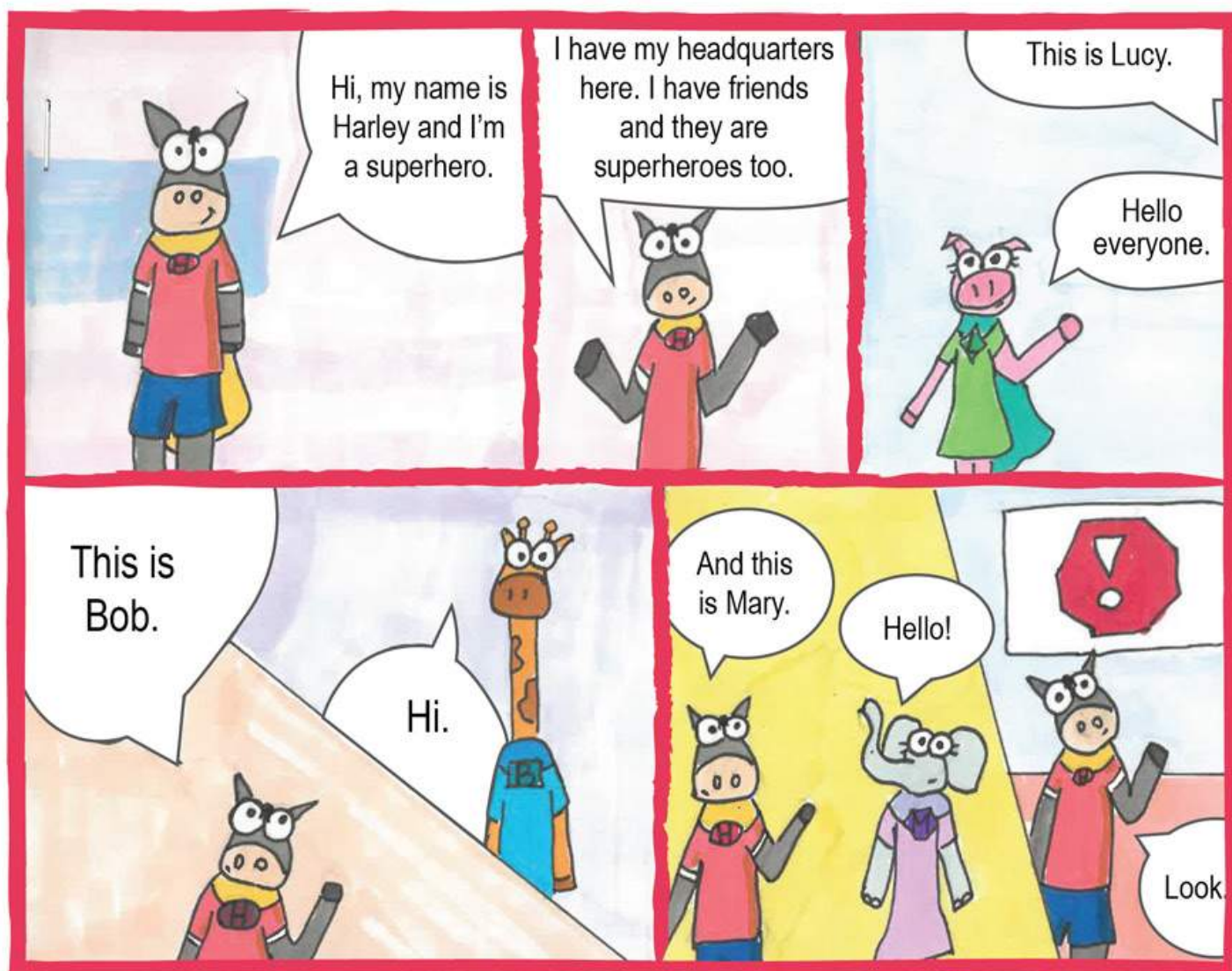
In the shop they saw a lot of food with unnecessary packaging and they looked for alternatives without plastic.

Every day, Harley had the environment and sustainability on his mind, and day by day he was changing his ways. Every time he saw rubbish on the ground, he picked it up and put it into the proper container. His biology teacher organized a class trip to the beach. The children collected trash and distributed leaflets about recycling and environmental

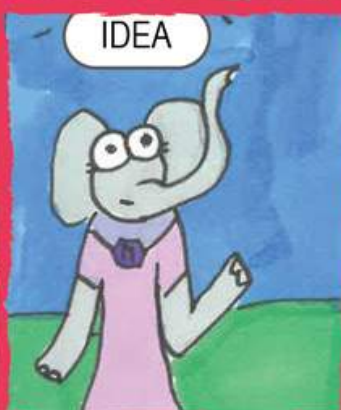


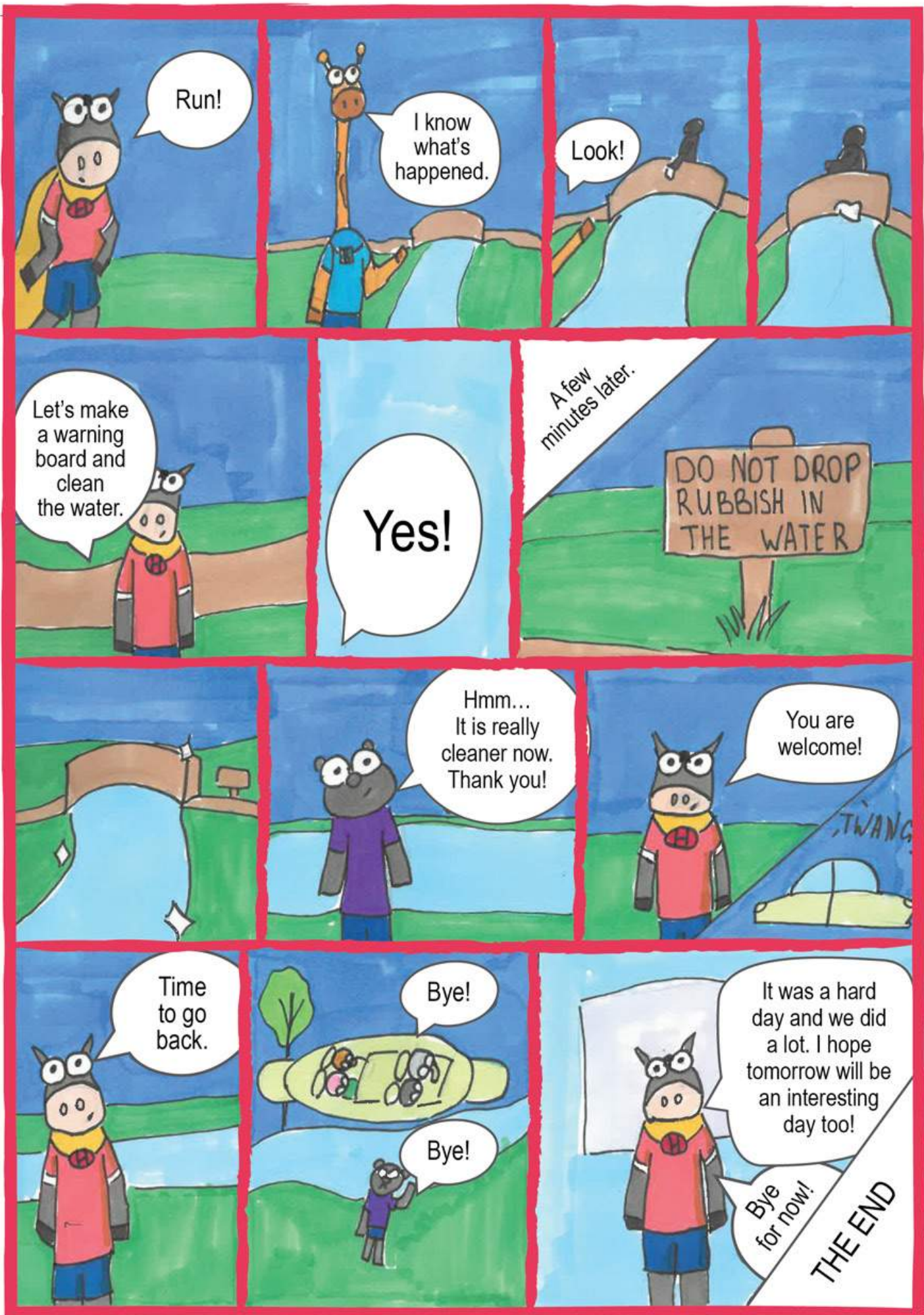
protection which they had prepared themselves on recycled paper. Harley's school organized a picnic for parents and children to teach people how to take care of the environment. During this event, funds were raised for the purchase of new plants for the school garden. After the picnic, Harley was walking back home with his mum. 'You know mum,' he said, 'I think it is possible to save the Earth and we don't need a superhero to come and help us. We can all be superheroes and make small changes in our lives'. His mum smiled, 'Yes, it all adds up. A little here and a little there, plus a bit more talking and teaching about the environment, and we have a chance. Little things can make a difference, my little horse'.

HARLEY THE SUPERHERO | Maryna Stashenko









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