



What a Difference a Day Makes

A seemingly ordinary day takes an unusual turn, with a little help from a mysterious character.



Our Children's World Held In Our Hands banner, 1996. Image courtesy of People's History Museum

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1.

PEOPLE'S
HISTORY
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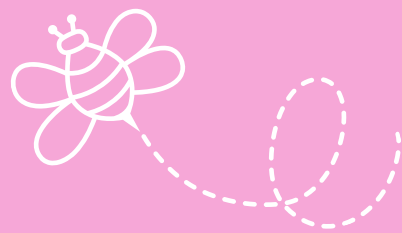
At school

You gaze out of the window, eyes following a bee idly buzzing by as the dull drone of your teacher fills the background. The bee slows, dancing through the air once more until choosing to settle on the other side of the glass, its wings glinting in the golden sunlight as it does so.

You stare for a while longer until a shrill ringing noise snaps your attention from the creature; the sound of freedom. 'Quickly, quickly, quickly,' you mutter, gathering your items and hurrying through the bustling hive; winding through corridor after corridor until sweet sunlight bursts all across your face. A black and yellow blob flits across your vision – it seems it's time for both of you to go.

Your friend is asking you to walk through the park with them but you have homework you need to finish.

What will you do?



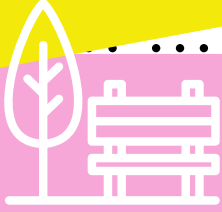
Walk through the park with your friend.

Go to chapter two

Go straight home to finish your homework.

Go to chapter three

2.



The park

You are walking in the park. The bright, beautiful light of the sun flashes across the world and you're thinking 'I feel great, the sun is shining. The air smells just as good as a neighbourhood barbeque. I know it's going to be a good afternoon'.

You were thinking about school but your worries begin to wander away as you notice the birds chirping in the fading light of the day, and what's that?! A squirrel sprinting down a tree on your right, and zipping across your path to race up a different tree.

Before you have a chance to look for something to throw to the cheeky little animal, you notice something bright at the base of the tree - rubbish!? You think, well, it's not mine! Then you think, I could pick it up; then you think ew no.

You hear a noise in the distance, you want to go see what is happening but your friend wants to stay in the park.

Go and find out what the noise is.

Go to chapter four

Stay with your friend in the park.

Go to chapter five

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3.

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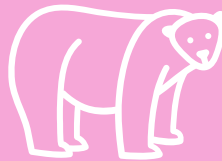
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Homework

You've been learning about climate change at school. You were shocked when your teacher told the class:

- plastic particles have been found in Arctic sea ice



- tropical forests can regain up to 80% of their original biodiversity in just 50 years if we stop cutting them down



- bushfires in Australia in 2020 meant that three billion animals lost their home or died



You have been asked to create a poster to help raise awareness for one of these issues.

Activity

Design a poster to raise awareness for one of the above points.

Include:

- a catchy slogan
- an eye catching image
- a helpful tip for protecting the environment

End

4.

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There Is No Planet B' placard (reverse side), at schools strike for climate, Manchester, 15 February 2019. Image courtesy of People's History Museum

The protest

Watch a film to see students around the world go on climate strike.

It's a climate change protest! So many people all with banners and chanting things like 'There is no planet B!'. You overhear someone say 'it really is scary to think about ... being able to ... have my voice heard means everything to me'.

You hear shouting upon you and the sound of whistles popping around. You can hear the yells of those around you. You can see the sweat of ambition dripping from the foreheads of your generation. You feel the utter passion they have, shaking through your heart to pour out in chants.

The energy of the crowd inspires you. You think about what you could do to help as you walk on.

Go home to finish your homework.

Go to chapter three

Go back to find your friend in the park.

Go to chapter five

5.

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With a friend

'You know what, what's the point of picking litter up?' your friend says.

'You know what, what's the point of leaving it there?' you reply.

'Yes but litter is always there. We can't get rid of it!'

'Yes there is always litter but we certainly have to be the change for that. We have got to remember that the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it but we have to be the ones to do this. We are responsible!'

Realising that someone has disregarded it, you know that the can won't recycle itself and decide you should pocket it.

'Why would you pick that up?' Your friend remarks, 'is it not dirty?'

'But if I don't move it, who will?' you reply.

'The council?'

'Don't you think the council has better things to do than pick up people's litter?' you reply.

What do you do?

Leave the can in the park.

Go to chapter six

Pick up the can and recycle it.

Go to chapter seven

6.

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A squirrel in trouble

The rubbish is still in the park, a squirrel runs out of the tree to find some food for her starving baby squirrels, but her senses send her to a crisp packet to sniff out food.

Whilst poking her head in the bag she struggles to remove herself from the bag. Fighting her way out, she suffocates and has left her babies crying in the nest.

You're shocked by what you've seen! Littering doesn't just look untidy, it's dangerous to the wildlife too.



You decide to pick up the litter before any more wildlife is hurt.

Go to chapter seven

7.

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Pick up litter

Your friend says 'you are very right, your words mean a lot and are very wise. I totally believe that if we cannot sustain the environment, then we cannot sustain our lives'.

'Yes exactly, teamwork will make the dream work and so we have got to do something, no matter what! So maybe, we can create a youth litter group' you reply.

'You know what will be even better, I was thinking we can create posters and leaflets to encourage many young people to join!'

'What a fantastic idea!'

You drop the litter in the bin and wonder what will happen to it next.



Imagine what it's like at the landfill (a site where litter and waste is disposed of).

Go to chapter eight

Say goodbye to your friend and start walking home.

Go to chapter nine

8.



The landfill

There is a variety of colours among the mass of litter ready to be burrowed in the ground.

Despite the illuminating shades, the iconic grey white and brown colours of plastic bags dulls down the patterns and variety amongst the rubbish.

Load after load, the grave of 'one use' items slowly rose to the top, all to be buried soon after.

Eventually, all is covered with dirt, the land engulfing as the tossed away slowly returns to Mother Nature.



Meet a mysterious character on the way home.

Go to chapter nine

Jump to tomorrow morning.

Go to chapter ten

9.



A mysterious character

What a day! But now you really must get home to finish your homework. You start walking but only get so far when ...

You get stopped by a talking squirrel!

He tells you to follow him and you're shocked but excited that you're talking to him so you begin to follow him. A squirrel? Talking? What fairy tale have you stepped into?

You brush your curiosity off to lean in closer, following the small creature carefully as to not lead it to distrust you. 'The squirrel is trying to help', you say to yourself, only, you don't believe in the idea of a friendly squirrel. They are forever trying to lull you into a false sense of security with their cuteness, and they steal your food...

Are you dreaming??

The squirrel takes you to a time machine and asks if you want to see a future where the planet is saved from climate change or destroyed by the affects of it.

See the future where the planet is saved.

Go to chapter 13

See the future where the planet is destroyed.

Go to chapter 14

**10.**

The next morning

A hectic morning - rushing to school. As you gather your planner and stationery you look at the clock and realise you're running very late!

You have an English exam today and you're scared you might miss it! Then it's maths all afternoon so you're already stressed...

Toast? Burnt. Parents? At work. God, you overslept bad - if you're lucky you could catch the last bus. You scramble your uniform on and make it to the door.

What to do? Will you make the bus in time or should you call a taxi?



Run for the bus.

Go to chapter 11

Call a taxi.

Go to chapter 12

11.

The bus

Nervously, you wait at the bus stop, impatient to see the numbers of the one you need - you can't miss today, of all days, why today? Though, if you were careful you could still get in on time.

The bus thankfully pulls up five minutes later, you have never paid someone so fast just to keep moving. Revising on the bus doesn't help, every stop feels like hours, there is barely anyone coming on too, they really need to speed up.

You are still two stops away and already late, you clutch the ticket as evidence, praying the examiner won't cancel your final paper.

You bolt your way down to the gate, checking in at reception before taking the walk of shame down the corridor, glancing into the main hall. Your stomach sinks as you courageously open the door as a million eyes glare at you.

You should be writing, but instead you're day dreaming. Again. Still thinking about the litter in the park yesterday.

'I wonder what the future will look like'. You wonder to yourself...

Go to chapter 13



12.



Taxi

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You realise the time and have no choice but to order a taxi!

Sitting in the taxi, worrying about being late for your exam, you forgot your maths homework! With having maths all afternoon this stresses you out even more.

Staring out of the window, the driver says 'We have arrived.' With only two minutes to spare, you make it to the exam!

You should be writing, but instead you're day dreaming. Again. You're still thinking about the litter in the park yesterday.



'I wonder what the future will look like'. You wonder to yourself...

Go to chapter 13

13.

The planet is saved

A forest full of trees.

In the future you see a healthy woodland area with bright green grass and animals are free and happy, no pollution, no litter and no sign of deforestation.

In the future you see everyone learning about the serious aftermath of damaging our world and the side effects like floods and hurricanes.

The sun rises, bright smiles embracing love and positivity about saving the planet. You have realised that the single biggest threat to the planet is the destruction of animals' habitat, and along the way, the loss of precious wildlife!

You can understand the world's environment, it looks very packed full of trees and so many different forests. The world looks as if it revolves around animals.

Question

What do we need to do to make sure this is the future of our planet?

End

14.

The planet is destroyed

The future looks a lot dirtier.

There is bad stuff in the water. It makes you stressed and angry at what the world has turned into: danger, hard to breathe, weather changes, death!

A lot more black smoke and pollution and you see large scale flooding and torrential rain and extreme weather conditions causing damage to roads, houses and forests.

As a result many people become homeless and many animals die.



Our Children's World Held In Our Hands banner, 1996. Image courtesy of People's History Museum

Question

What do we need to do to make sure this is not the future of our planet?

End