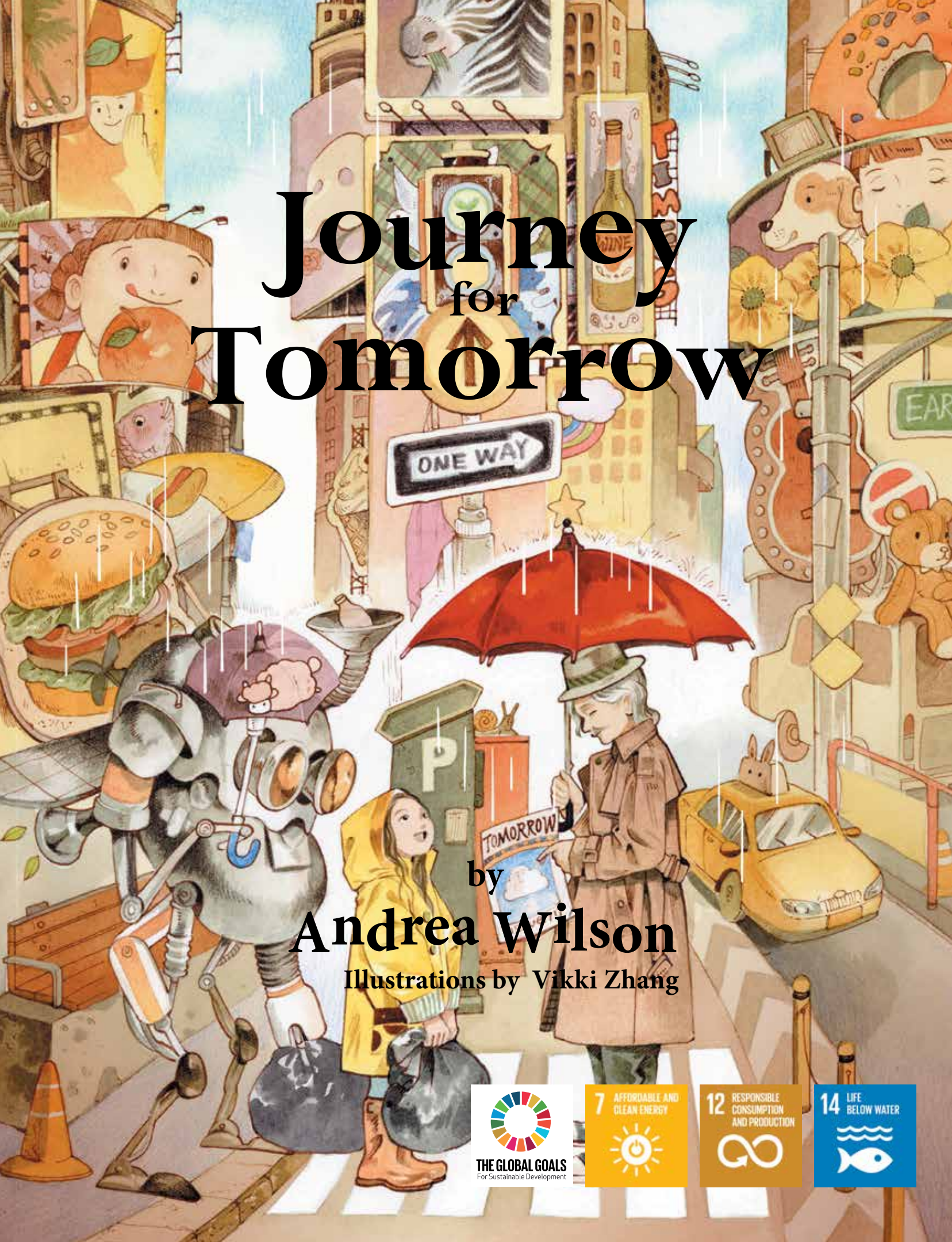


# Journey for Tomorrow

by

**Andrea Wilson**

Illustrations by Vikki Zhang



THE GLOBAL GOALS  
For Sustainable Development





**Journey**  
for  
**Tomorrow**

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'The Small Sparrow Hero' by Huang Yun-Hung (Asia), illustrated by Celia Tian  
'Journey for Tomorrow' by Andrea Wilson (North America) illustrated by Vikki Zhan



Voices of Future Generations Children's Book Series



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# foreword



In new author Andrea Wilson's first book *Journey for Tomorrow*, be prepared to take a dynamic and surprising tour to all corners of the Earth. With talent and creativity, Andrea inspires her readers with a very important message: pollution of our planet is a problem that each and every person can and must help resolve. Through the story of one girl, Sarah, who tackles the issue on a worldwide scale, Andrea motivates her readers to take action. After observing how garbage and pollution harm innocent animal life, the creative heroine crafts a fantastical invention

that cleans the Earth of garbage while simultaneously producing clean energy. Just as Sarah magnifies the effects of her invention by involving others around the world, Andrea strives to inspire readers worldwide to act through the art and encouragement of her story.

Readers of Andrea's book will not only be entertained, but will also be reminded that each person, big or small, can make a big impact on the issues our world faces today. This story should be read over and over, shared with family and friends and enjoyed for years to come. I am confident that Andrea's message will inspire positive action in her readers, and I very much look forward to her future works.

— *Rt Hon Helen Clark,*  
*Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1999 – 2008*  
*and Former Head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).*

# preface



Hailing from North America, new Voices of Future Generations author Andrea Wilson magnifies the imminent necessity of caring for the planet and its global marvels in this enchanting tale. Journey for Tomorrow highlights all forms of nature in peril through the tender eyes of a young girl who, whilst overcoming her own personal tragedy with her much-loved dolphin, “Brave,” embarks on a whirlwind journey.

Pollution, global warming, proliferation of plastics, deterioration of habitats, and greenhouse gases are amongst the many pressing problems that propel the story’s heroine, Sarah, to carefully amass pollutants. Thereafter, her inventive recycling machine converts pollutants into the necessary fuel, without toxic outputs, to sustain humanity’s rapacious energy demands. Amidst colorful and vivid adventures across five oceans and cities and lands in-between, the reader is constantly reminded of the joy and unparalleled beauty found in the natural world, all at risk due to human negligence and over-consumption.

Young Sarah’s courageous dedication to sustainable practices, environmental conservation and protection of endangered species is effortlessly captured with a truthful and beautiful spirit. Ultimately, the author’s compelling tale serves as an impetus to remind all generations of the urgent need to begin making a difference for our future—our tomorrow.

— *Dr. Gabrielle S Bacon,*  
*Goodwill Ambassador for North America and Europe*

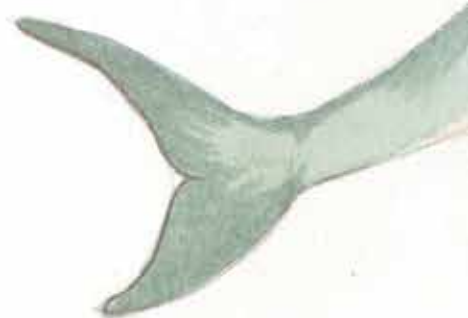
# preface



In Andrea Wilson's *Journey for Tomorrow*, a young girl named Sarah aims to save human and animal habitats from the masses of garbage that have accumulated in cities, forests, parks, ocean gyres and the seabed floor. Andrea captivates her readers with unexpected twists and turns, accompanied by surprising encounters with endangered animal species and even the Queen of England! *Journey for Tomorrow* leaves no stones unturned as the adventures of the main character demonstrate the focus and commitment to cleaning up the Earth that we must all realize and uphold. Through her example, Sarah teaches determination, devotion, perseverance and compassion for our planet and its health.

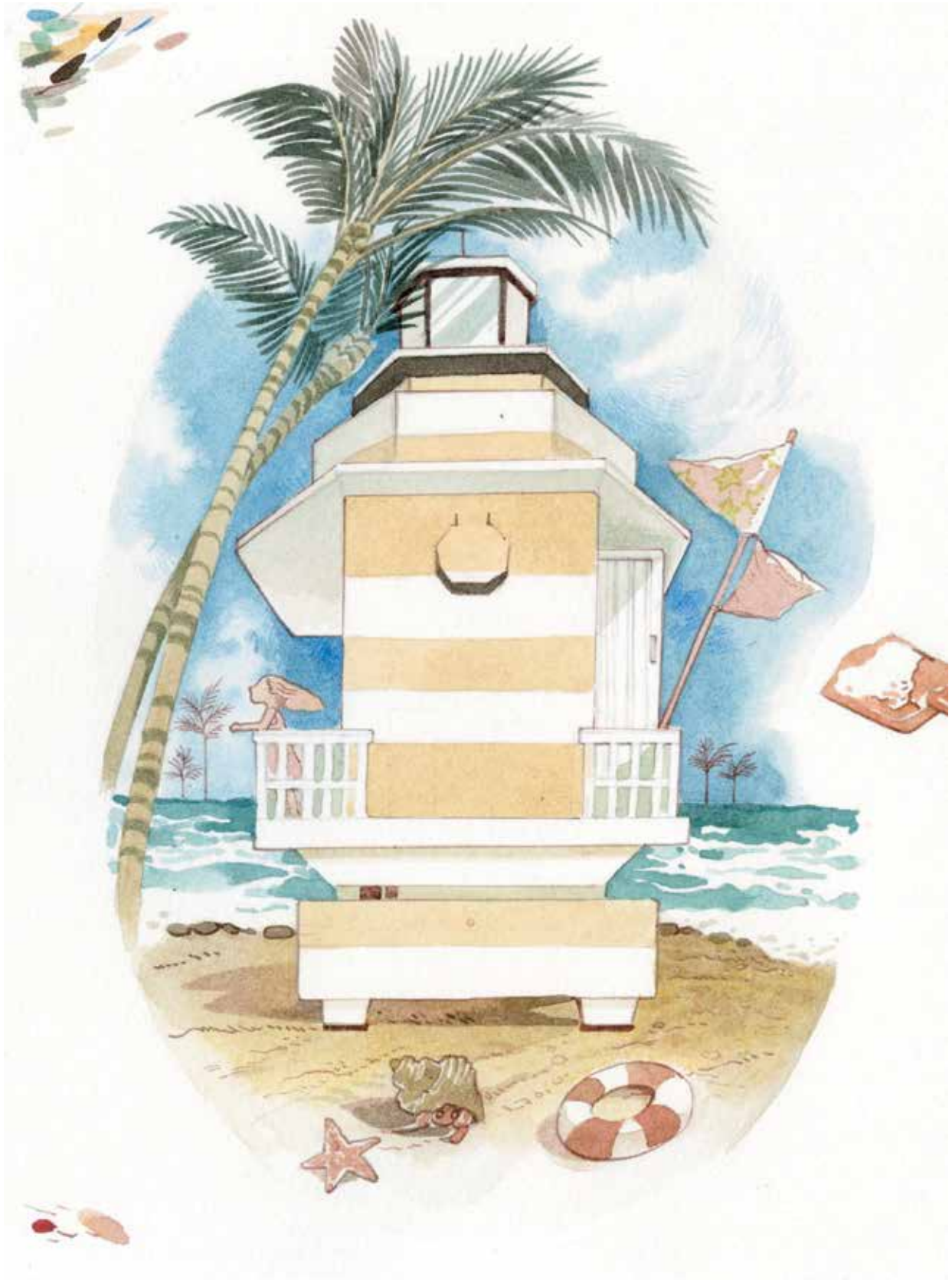
Andrea's story emerges at a very important time when consumerism and fleeting trends often overshadow the consequences of human habits and the waste that we mindlessly create through littering and single-use items. While we might not yet have fully developed the technology of an incredible machine that transforms garbage into clean energy, Andrea's story reminds us all that we can take matters into our own hands. Enjoy the story and be inspired to create your own *Journey for Tomorrow*!

— Dr. Tomohiro Hoshi,  
the Head of School at Stanford OHS





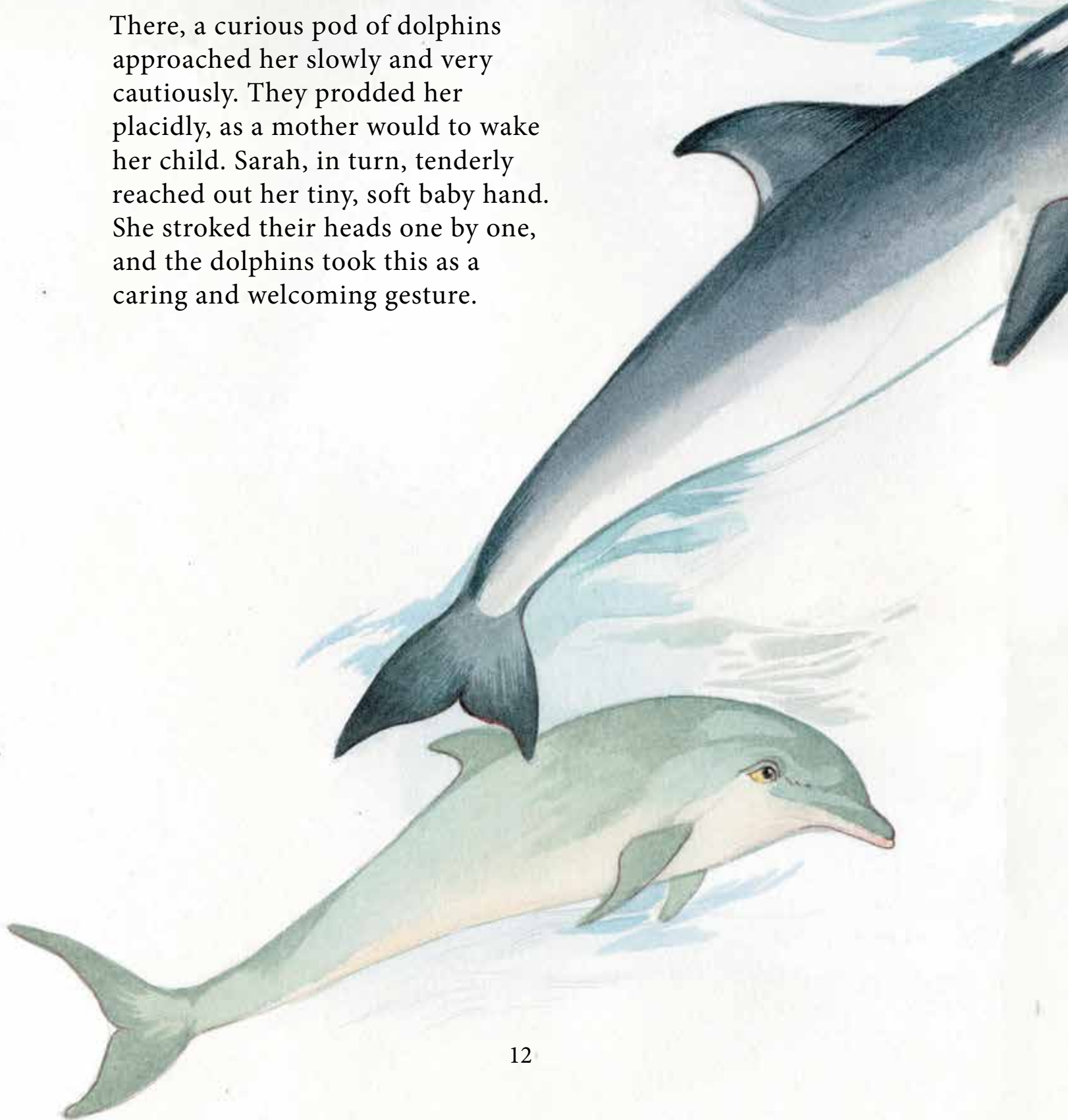




**F**ar, far away on the tiny little island of Grassy Key in the Florida Keys, there lived a little girl of about nine years old. Her name was Sarah, and she was an orphan. She didn't know much about her early life as her parents died shortly after she was born. Her family was in Grassy Key on vacation to see friends, and as they were snorkelling in the coral reefs, a rare and poisonous box jellyfish drifted towards them. Her parents were paralyzed and drowned.

Lucky for her, Sarah was in a life vest about a yard away from her parents and didn't get stung. The gentle ocean current pushed her further out to sea.

There, a curious pod of dolphins approached her slowly and very cautiously. They prodded her placidly, as a mother would to wake her child. Sarah, in turn, tenderly reached out her tiny, soft baby hand. She stroked their heads one by one, and the dolphins took this as a caring and welcoming gesture.



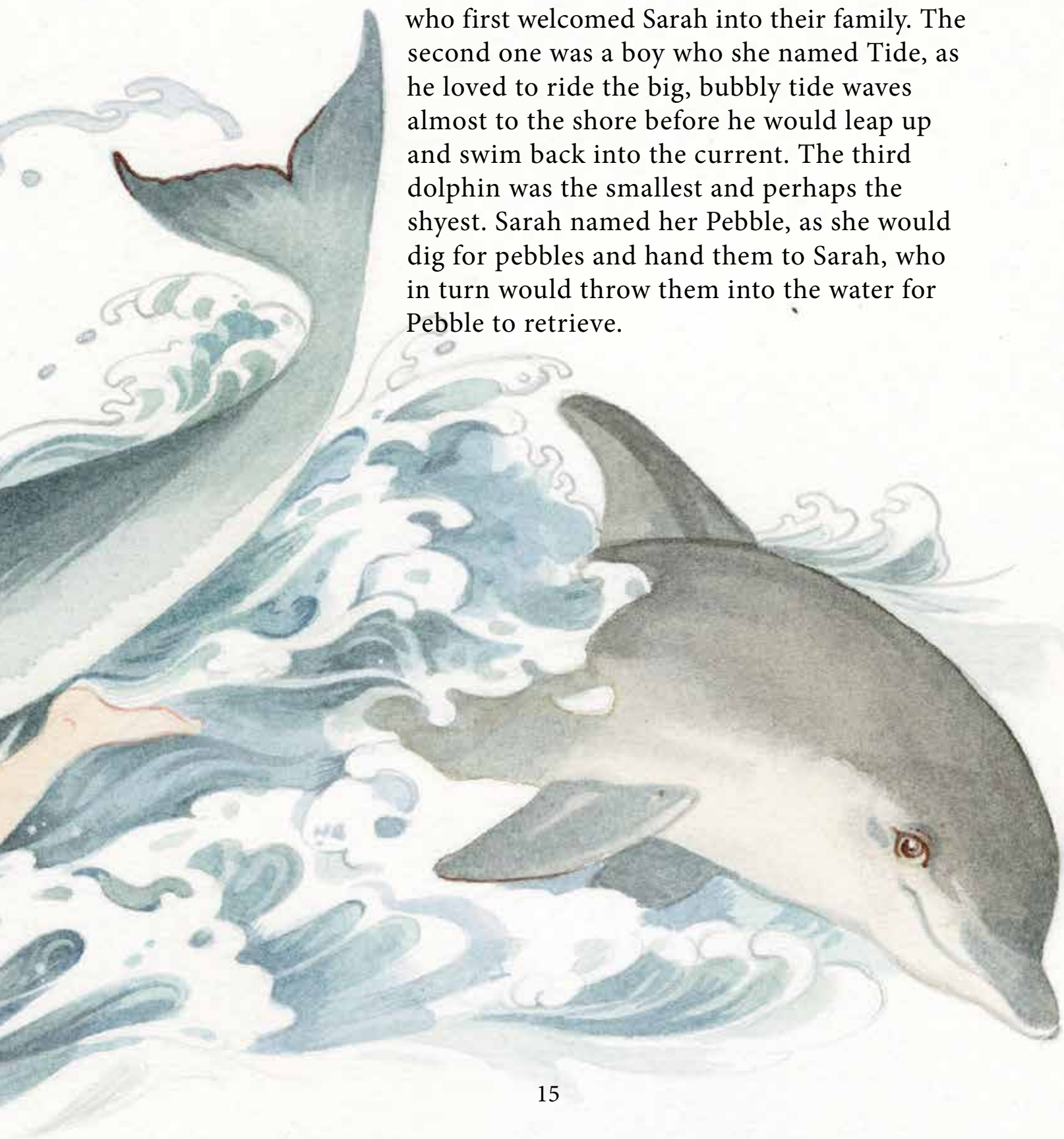


The dolphins moved Sarah into the harbour, where a boat picked her up. The man and woman who discovered her there were her parents' friends, who lived on the island. Without hesitation, they took her in and brought her to their beachfront home. Sarah called them Aunt Margaret and Uncle Jimmy. They treated her like their own child, sent her to school and let her do pretty much whatever she wanted. Sarah learned quickly and was very advanced for her age: at the age of one she could already walk and was starting to talk.

As a little girl, Sarah and her family would often explore the different islands nearby – Duck Key, Vaca Key, Craw Key, Long Point Key, Fat Deer Key – where she would play with the family of gentle dolphins who had saved her life when she was a small child. She would spend her afternoons swimming with them, and they accepted her into their family.



Sarah gave names to each of the three dolphins. The first one, who had a white streak on her forehead, she called Brave, for it was Brave who first welcomed Sarah into their family. The second one was a boy who she named Tide, as he loved to ride the big, bubbly tide waves almost to the shore before he would leap up and swim back into the current. The third dolphin was the smallest and perhaps the shyest. Sarah named her Pebble, as she would dig for pebbles and hand them to Sarah, who in turn would throw them into the water for Pebble to retrieve.



One day Sarah found her favourite dolphin, Brave, with her head stuck in a plastic ring cut deeply into her tender skin. For the first time in her life, Sarah was scared: her best friend was injured and in extraordinary pain. She ran all the way back to her house and, out of breath, frantically called the dolphin rescue centre. A rescue team was dispatched immediately, and Sarah sprinted back towards the beach, fear welling inside her.

Inexplicably, ever since Brave welcomed Sarah into her family, Sarah could sense when Brave felt pain and agony. This was a magical, invisible and strong bond. Sarah knew and even felt the distress Brave was going through. It felt like forever until help arrived! Brave was thrashing around in the water, desperately trying to get the ring off, but the ring only cut deeper. The animal care medics approached her cautiously. They carefully cut the ring from around her neck and moved her to a tub of water for transport to the animal hospital of the dolphin rescue centre. They needed to soothe her, clean the deep gash encircling her head and stitch her once smooth skin back together.

This terrible, heart-breaking experience gave Sarah a purpose: in honour of Brave, she was determined to find a way to rid the earth of all the ubiquitous garbage.

She wandered home while pondering how to solve this problem.



Deep inside her thoughts, Sarah realized that garbage wasn't the only problem. She thought about energy consumption and all the cars and factories producing greenhouse gasses that cause global warming. She also thought about all the animals whose habitats have been destroyed. Sarah was particularly worried about the cutting of trees: not only do animals continue to lose their homes, but trees also take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Cutting them down causes carbon dioxide levels to go up, further accelerating global warming. The rising temperatures then cause ice to melt and sea levels to rise, which floods areas where people and animals live. Storms grow stronger, deserts drier and monsoons wetter. More and more species become endangered as this cycle of environmental damage continues. Sarah thought about how these insults to our earth would soon affect humans too: people also depend on the environment and its diversity, especially the many people who, like Sarah and her family, live along shores.





Sarah was buried so deeply in thought that she practically ran into her freshly painted house, still wet and shimmering blue in the sunshine. She walked up to her room and sombrely paced around. She was trying to think of how to get rid of all the garbage.

Sarah knew that landfills just piled up garbage and simply did not present a solution to getting rid of waste. She also knew that burning garbage wouldn't help – that would just release poisonous chemicals into the air and water. She thought of recycling, but convincing everyone to recycle all the paper and plastic they used seemed nearly impossible. She thought, and thought, and thought. The pressure was overwhelming!

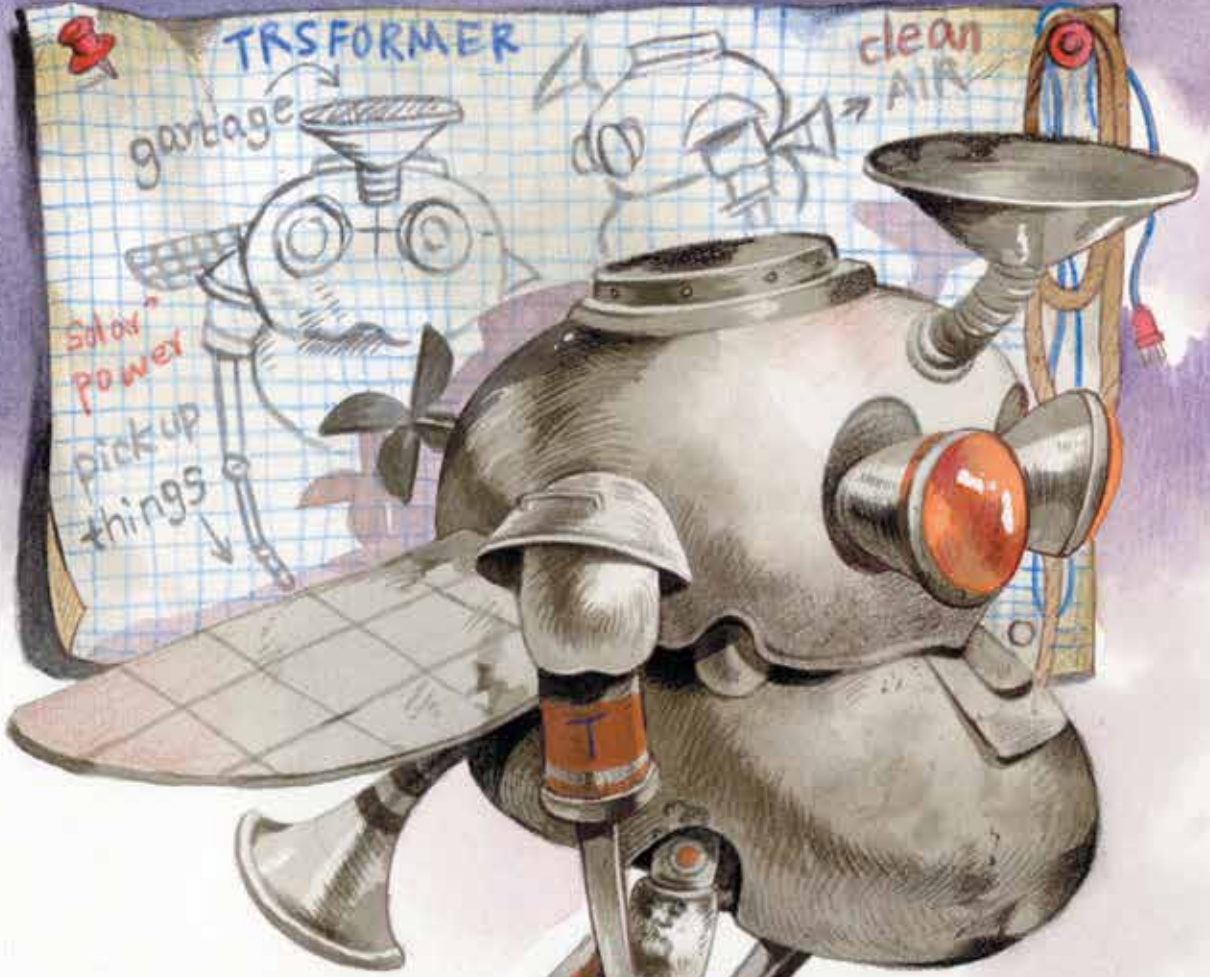
Aunt Margaret came into Sarah's room to ask her about her day. When Sarah told her that she felt it was her duty to find a way to rid the world of garbage, her aunt suggested that she look up the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on the Internet. These UN goals serve as a universal call to action to all who desire to foster a more sustainable planet. Sarah was drawn to Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and Goal 14: Life Below Water. She spent the rest of the afternoon and all night thinking about how she could make practical solutions to address these goals.



As dawn approached, Sarah screamed out in triumph! She found a way to solve two problems at once: she was going to make a machine that would convert garbage into clean electrical energy that could power the world – this would get rid of garbage and reduce greenhouse gas production! Sarah decided to travel around the world cleaning up garbage, and through her actions, she would inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

Sarah decided to tell her aunt and uncle about her plan, even though she wasn't sure if they would let her chase her dreams. She told them with trepidation and they replied that this was an important time in Sarah's life. Both her aunt and uncle agreed to let her go on this quest and hoped she would enjoy her adventure.

Sarah returned to her room and pondered her plan until bedtime, then still more in her dreams. When she awoke, Sarah knew how to make her machine! She went downstairs and asked her aunt and uncle for permission to use their garage and tools. Sarah went to the garage and found scraps of metal and wood. She found screwdrivers and screws. She found bolts and washers. She found saws and a torch to melt metal. She also dug out old wires, pieces of plastic, circuits, motors, solar panels and a motor that ran on air.



First, she made an outline of her machine. On the top it had a funnel made of wood and metal to put the garbage in. The machine would extract all the particle movements and heat energy from the garbage to degrade it and generate electricity. Sarah put the finishing touches on her circuits and welded the last metal joints together.

Ever since Brave was injured, Sarah made sure there was not a speck of garbage to be seen near the shore. Every day, she walked down to the beach and cleaned everywhere. Only then would she say hello to Tide and Pebble. Sarah asked them if they were lonely while Brave was receiving medical care, and they said they were. She promised them that she would come back to see them after she visited Brave.

After spending a few hours comforting her dolphin friends, Sarah finally found time to test her machine. She called it The Transformer. She attached an LED light to the wire on the end of the machine, threw a piece of garbage into the funnel and was delighted to see the LED light up instantly! She threw up her arms in excitement and cried out with exhilaration!

Sarah wanted to visit Brave and tell her about the success of her wonderful idea. She sprinted out the door and ran all the way to the dolphin rescue centre. Brave had recently been moved into a big saltwater pool. Sarah asked the medic on call if she could go in the water with Brave. Receiving permission, Sarah swam with Brave for an hour, then returned to the beach to swim and play games with Pebble and Tide as promised.

Sarah decided that it was time to get started on her big clean-up project. Sarah figured she couldn't clean up every single piece of garbage on her own, so she decided to clean up a big area on each continent and inspire others by example. She decided to start at home in the USA. She bade good-bye to her dolphin friends, promising that she would make a difference for them.

Her task wasn't going to be easy: Sarah intended to clean up each of the five major ocean gyres of the world. An ocean gyre is a large system of circular ocean current created by wind patterns and the earth's rotation. The five major gyres are the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Indian, North Pacific, and South Pacific.







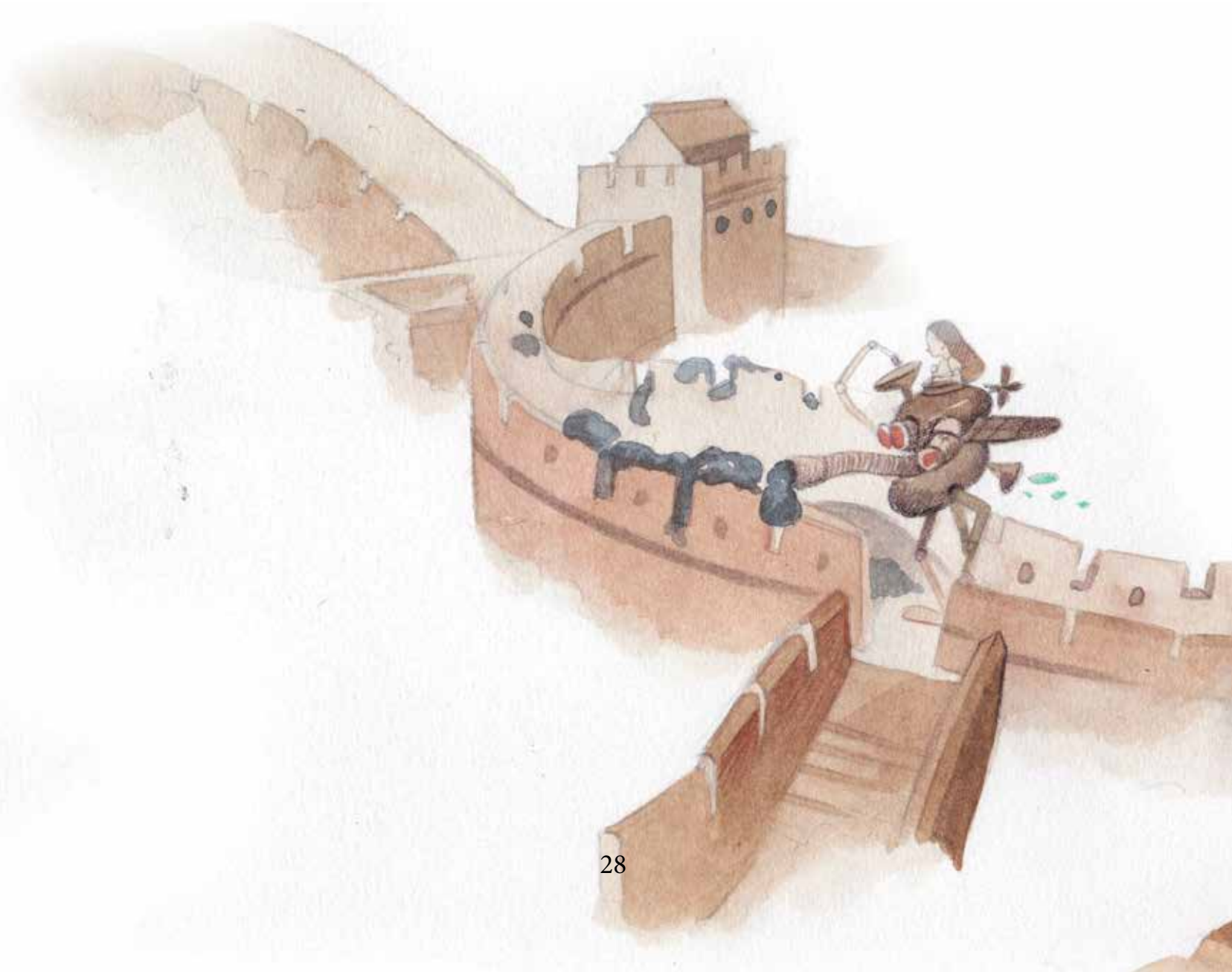
Sarah was first going to clean the North Atlantic gyre and New York City. Aunt Margaret and Uncle Jimmy accompanied her to her first location and wished her luck as she embarked on her huge new adventure. Upon arrival, she sped through the streets of New York City, rapidly removing garbage even though it was very difficult amongst the bustle of the city. The streets were so packed that she almost fainted. Sarah had to squeeze through crowds to get to all the pieces of garbage – there was so much! She also cleaned up the subways as a bonus. Sarah was constantly being shoved and pushed and questioned about what she was doing. She explained that she was cleaning up garbage and continued to feed The Transformer, which was now directly powering the City.



While she was cleaning up around Times Square, Sarah met a kind person who wanted to help. He said he had lived in the city for twenty years and had never seen it look better! He offered to give her a hand because together they could clean up larger areas faster. Sarah happily accepted and together they generated enough electricity to light up New York City for three months! The City looked beautiful, and Sarah could now spot signs of nature peeking out throughout the urban backdrop. She helped her new friend make The Transformer 2 with a sense of urgency as he had already started assembling teams of volunteers to clean up the North Atlantic Gyre.

With her first clean-up complete and leaving the metropolis spotless, Sarah's aunt and uncle gave her an airplane ticket from America to Asia. She packed her things and excitedly boarded the plane. Looking out the window as the plane banked away from New York, Sarah spotted a group of sleek, shiny seals in the water below. They were brown with dark blotches scattered all over their body. They shot through the water like torpedoes with amazing speed and disappeared into the grey blue abyss as the plane climbed higher.

In Asia, Sarah was going to first clean up the Great Wall of China, then part of the North Pacific Gyre. The plane landed in Beijing, and upon landing, Sarah travelled to the Great Wall to schedule its cleaning. Assuming she could cover 10 – 15 miles a day, she would need three weeks to finish the section she picked. She also allowed herself two days out of the 21 days to rest and explore. Sarah fed The Transformer all the garbage in sight.



In the stretch of 21 days, Sarah saw many things that most people wouldn't dream of seeing. She observed a rare, loving mother panda tenderly caring for its adorable young baby. She beheld another creature, the beautiful golden eagle, flying from the direction of Mongolia. During her two days of rest, she travelled slightly east to Bo Hai. There she saw a lot of interesting wildlife, like Eurasian otters cheerfully playing tag, largha seals lazily resting, plopped on top of each other, and finless porpoises gently riding the waves together in a pod. She even saw a minke whale, normally found in the Bering Sea. Sarah's heart swelled with happiness when she thought about how many species would benefit from her garbage clean-up.



Over the course of three weeks, Sarah assembled a large team of local helpers to continue the clean-up with a brand-new Transformer 3. Inspired by Sarah's example, other people continued cleaning the Wall as Sarah left to start work on the North Pacific Gyre. Because the gyre was so enormous, she decided to give herself three weeks to do the job.



The next day, Sarah awoke feeling tired from all her hard work. Large, blue and purple-periwinkle rings shadowed her eyes. She quickly dressed, got into the docked boat and took it out to sea. She found the border of the gyre, lowered The Transformer into the water on its flotation system, and dove in. The second she was in the water, she was bewildered by the bounty of life around her. There were millions of colourful fish, not to mention a few giant Pacific octopuses. There were anemones with clown fish circling around and around, protected in their homes. There were groups of lemon sharks eating sardines. There was even a large school of tuna rocketing by, and a swordfish racing after them in hot pursuit of dinner.

Where the water was shallow, Sarah swam back and forth to float all the garbage that had settled on the bottom. Where the water was deep, Sarah dove deep into underwater caves and crevices to collect all the garbage that was lodged into the rocks. There was so much garbage! She repeated this process over and over again, finally finishing as energy filled The Transformer to the brim. She returned and discharged The Transformer into a power grid, powering many thousands of homes. Sarah went back to the hotel, packed up her things and headed to Europe.



In Europe, Sarah wasn't going to clean a gyre, but she would focus on polluted cities. She travelled to Buckingham Palace to ask Queen Elizabeth II if she could clean up London and the Buckingham Palace Garden. When Sarah saw the Palace, her heart skipped a beat: the palace was magnificent and full of grandeur. She feasted her eyes on the splendid pillars, towering columns, numerous statues, plentiful windows and intricate engravings. Sarah walked up to the imposing gate and a guard accompanied her to the door. The inside of the Palace made her stare with bewilderment: there were many chandeliers adorned with hanging diamonds and glowing candles. The colours of red and gold were everywhere, evoking a sense of joy and happiness. Red velvet carpets stretched out under their every step. There were circular staircases with railings embellished with gold designs, and ceilings of pure gold enveloped the whole scene.







The guard led Sarah to the Queen, and Sarah asked for permission to clean up the Royal Gardens. The Queen replied, “It would be an honour to have someone clean up our Garden.”

“Thank you so much, your Royal Highness.” Sarah answered to the Queen.

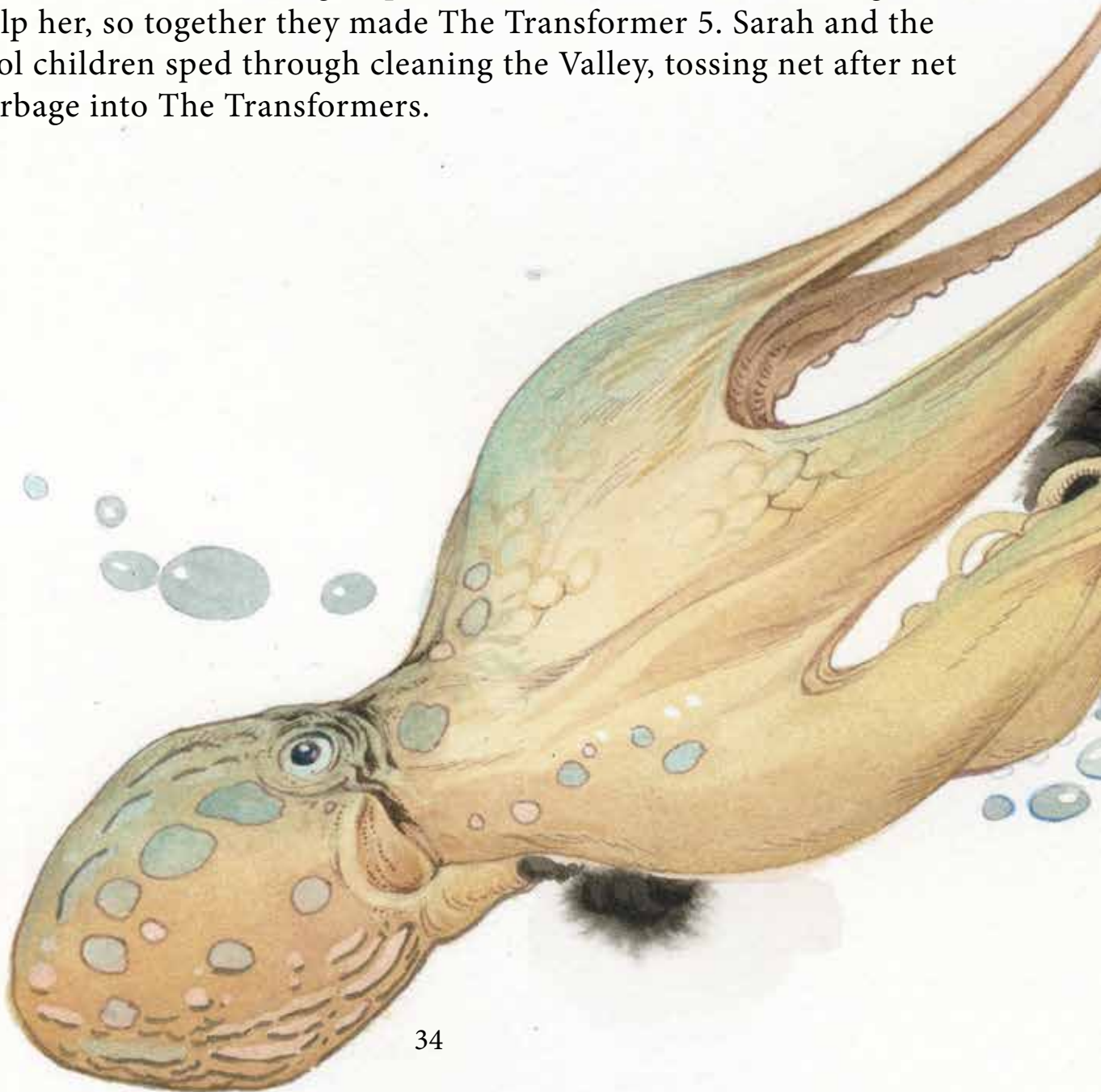
The Queen smiled and said, “Thank you, Sarah. If you don’t mind, could you accompany me? I was just about to take a promenade.”

“Of course!” Sarah replied with much excitement.

Sarah and the Queen strolled through the stunningly beautiful Royal Garden. It had roses, tulips, carnations, lilies, irises, lilacs, camellias, apple blossoms, marigolds, orchids, magnolias, lavender, poinsettias, bleeding hearts, asters, pansies, cherry blossoms, violets and almost any type of flower one could think of.

Sarah was shocked to see how much garbage there was in London, but she managed to get it clean before dark, tossing it all into The Transformer to generate more electricity for the city. The guard from the palace asked Sarah if he could help her on her mission. Delighted, Sarah helped him make The Transformer 4, and gave him the task of assembling teams to clean up Paris, Rome, Brussels and Berlin.

Next, Sarah flew to Africa to clean the South Atlantic Gyre and part of the Great Rift Valley. She gave herself two weeks for each and a three-day weekend. Sarah met a group of school children who were eager to help her, so together they made The Transformer 5. Sarah and the school children sped through cleaning the Valley, tossing net after net of garbage into The Transformers.





While Sarah was cleaning the gyre, a whole lot happened! First, a giant Pacific octopus spurted out of a hole as a shark followed right on its tail. The octopus sprayed Sarah with ink! Second, Sarah stuck her hand in a hole to try to remove garbage, and then SNAP! A moray eel rushed out of its den, attempting to bite her hand! The eel looked like a zebra with black and white stripes all over its body. It was vicious, and Sarah had to swim far away before the eel stopped chasing her.



Sarah then found herself under a sheer piece of rock. She started to collect more garbage hidden under it, only to be nearly struck by eagerly fighting swordfish! They were sleek and shiny with their blue backs and shimmering silver undersides. Sarah was not fooled by their handsome appearance, though; these were skilful, crafty fighters, probably as good as the most experienced human sword fighters.

Suddenly, Sarah was hit by a huge wave that sent her flying through the water! The biggest animal in the world had just whizzed past her: a blue whale. Sarah's heart skipped a beat – she knew it was big, but she didn't think it would be that big! Sarah decided she had enough surprises and wrapped up for the day.

The next day, she took a plane to the Great Rift Valley and began working immediately. She kept picking up one piece of garbage after another until she needed a break. Sarah decided to take the last three days of her time in Africa to explore the landscape, and she secretly hoped to make a few animal friends during her break.



On the first day, she explored the wetter parts of the Sahara in Sudan. The landscape was very beautiful: a background of tall, dry sand dunes covered in an endless carpet of sand that was studded with a few shrubby plants and wildflowers. In the foreground stood great, looming cactuses and an oasis with its beautiful clear-water lakes and tall, majestic palm trees.

The following day, Sarah visited Somalia and its beautiful plateaus and grasslands. There, she saw one of the most endangered species of animal: an okapi, which looks like a cross between a giraffe and a zebra. The okapi was gently nuzzling her baby. Sarah also met one of the craziest animals she'd ever seen: she was peering through the tall, dry, lime-green grass toward the gently rolling hills of the savanna when a long-necked gerenuk came waddling towards her. Appropriately named, the gerenuk had a giraffe neck and was an interesting creature. Standing on its hind legs, it was using trees for support and moved in a way that quite resembled a penguin walking. Sarah couldn't help but laugh out loud! She carefully approached the creature. He came down on all fours and did NOT run away, so she decided to name him Fearless. He let her reach out her hand and touch him.







On the last day, Sarah went to Tanzania, where she met many well-known creatures. First, she saw a giant reticulated python, arguably the world's longest snake. Next, she watched a courageous mongoose fighting a cobra. The mongoose kept striking, the cobra kept dodging and the mongoose ended up winning. Then she saw a herd of stripy zebras. Finally, she saw the famous and venerable African lion. After enjoying her travels in Africa, Sarah packed up her things and prepared to go to South America and the South Pacific gyre.

In South America, Sarah was going to clean up a section of the Andes, a mountain range in western South America, along with the South Pacific Gyre. She gave herself two weeks for each area and again planned for a three-day weekend as an ending break. She did a phenomenal job on the first day and cleaned 10 square miles!

On the third day, Sarah was in a cave when something crawled onto her foot. She was very scared but kept her calm. Sarah heard a loud POP! She looked down and spotted the beautiful tie-dye mantis shrimp. Its raptorial claw moves so blindingly fast that it leaves behind vapour-filled cavitation bubbles that collapse, crack and strike prey with a great wave of pressure; it is so powerful that it can even break glass! The shrimp looks like it was painted with a rainbow and has eyes like a bug. While admiring the beauty of the natural world, Sarah kept her eye on her goal and loaded up The Transformer with more garbage; she converted so much into clean electricity! She assembled her next team to help her with the new Transformer 6, and they finished cleaning the gyre with no further surprises.





While Sarah was cleaning the Andes, she climbed up a sheer rock wall. All of a sudden, she heard a shocking, piercing scream from an Andean condor as it soared through the air – the sharp, clear call startled her, and she almost fell! Thankfully she was able to regain her bearings and finish cleaning the Andes. Satisfied with her South American clean-up, Sarah packed up all her things for the last time and travelled to Australia.



Sarah's plan was to clean up the Indian Ocean gyre and part of the Great Barrier Reef. Before scuba diving for garbage, Sarah wanted to invent a special net that wouldn't catch sea creatures; she simply couldn't bear to harm marine life! She thought hard and came up with an ingenious solution: she created a net with very flexible wire that holds its holes closed with spring pressure, trapping all the immotile garbage. In contrast, the momentum of swimming sea creatures opens the holes and allows animals to pass straight through.

Sarah thought of her parents as she approached the Great Barrier Reef. She thought they would be so proud of her for the success of her project to make the world a cleaner place. Her aunt and uncle travelled to Australia to take her on a boat to clean the Indian Gyre and the Great Barrier Reef.

On a calm and clear morning, the family went out a few miles over the Great Barrier Reef. The plan was to use Sarah's new net invention to clean a stretch of 100 square miles of reef over the next 10 days. As Sarah scuba dove down into the clear turquoise water, shock immediate overcame her. The reef was covered in garbage and starting to rot. It needed help immediately!

Sarah returned to shore and assembled a team of surfers to help her clean the reef. They spent a few days creating The Transformer 7 before returning to the water to get the job done.

They first rustled the garbage from the bottom of the reef so that it floated loosely in the water. Then they slid the net under the garbage, pulled it to the surface and dragged it onto the boat, leaving the fish safely in the water. Thanks to The Transformers, the group accumulated an incredible amount of power. They dove back down over and over again until sundown. They not only achieved their goal, but exceeded it. Instead of 10 square miles, they cleaned 13 square miles. They continued every day for the next week, each time bringing the stored energy back to power the houses on land. Sarah gave herself 10 days, but they finished the stretch in only seven days. She took the extra time to clean additional square miles.

Sarah and the Australian team headed out to the Indian Gyre, her final destination. This time she gave herself a month to clean out half of the gyre. It was a huge goal, but she believed in herself, inspired many to help and succeeded! In the first two weeks, she generated enough electricity to power a large city. She finished just as the sun set on the last day. The team of surfers promised to finish cleaning the second half of the gyre.



Sarah had finally finished her quest! On her last day in Australia, she saw a beautiful blue-coloured dolphin gracefully glide past. She thought of the dolphins back home and imagined how happy they would be to know that Sarah and her global network of Transformer Teams were cleaning animal habitats around the world. Sarah smiled as the sun set over the clear, clean waters.

People continue to follow in Sarah's footsteps to this day, clearing the earth's garbage and powering the world's cities with clean energy.





# about the author



**Andrea Wilson** (12, @earthchampion) is a scholar, athlete, climate activist, researcher and UN-award winning child author. As a 9-year old, Andrea composed her first book *Journey for Tomorrow* for the UNESCO Voices of Future Generations (VoFG) program. The story won gold-place among all entries from the US and Europe and in 2018, Andrea was awarded the gold-place trophy at the Westminster House of Lords in London.

Andrea has long been concerned with the environment, and in 2017 she pursued the opportunity offered by VoFG to write a book about ecological issues. Andrea decided to write about a girl named Sarah who cares deeply about the earth and who wants to clean the world of garbage and pollution. To save our earth and her animal friends, Sarah invents a machine – the Transformer – to turn garbage into energy. She then uses the Transformer to clean up the environment, save habitats and help animals all over the world. In writing the book, Andrea strives to educate people about the issues our

planet now faces and to convince them to make a difference, just like Sarah. Andrea now organizes continual climate strikes for kids on Long Island, New York.

Andrea is a prolific writer and frequently writes short stories, poems, books and essays. Her poem *The Grand Phoenix* won the Walt Whitman Birthplace Contest and she was admitted into the Walt Whitman Poetry Mentorship program. Andrea is active in the VoFG program and is currently editing her next books. She blogs on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Rights of the Child to encourage others to be brave and be an influence. In her address at the 2018 Voices of Future Generations Biennial Intergenerational Learning Circle, Andrea encouraged others to follow in the footsteps of her book's hero Sarah: kids can, and should, make a difference in the world. Her speech addressed the meaning of intergenerational equity and other pressing environmental, economic and socioeconomic challenges we face today.

Andrea is passionate about studying science and math. She was admitted to Institute for Creative Problem Solving in Old Westbury, a highly competitive program for talented and gifted students in math, and was also accepted into the John Hopkins Program for the Gifted. Andrea now attends the Stanford Online High School (Stanford OHS) full time where she takes high-level classes with classmates of similar abilities. Prior to Stanford OHS, Andrea was home schooled where she began her research into methods of atmospheric carbon dioxide capture, processes to turn garbage into oil, and bacteria and fungi that eat plastics. She is currently investigating a fungus that appears to be feeding on the plastic of one of her old soccer balls. Andrea previously attended the Green Vale School in Old Brookville, New York.

Beyond learning and researching, Andrea loves to intensely play competitive sports. Her favorite is soccer, and she also plays basketball and lacrosse. Andrea was selected to join the highly competitive US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) which seeks to identify and train soccer players of the highest caliber to increase international success of the U.S. National Teams. Andrea played in multiple East Regional Team invite-only events such as the Girls Virginia Friendlies.

Andrea lives in Huntington, Long Island, New York, with her two sisters, brother, mom, dad, hamster and bunny.

# about the illustrator



**Vikki Zhang** is a freelance illustrator based in New York. She graduated from School of Visual Arts in 2018, with an MFA in Illustration. The creative industries she currently works in include book publishing, editorial, advertising, film art, packaging design, and kids' fashion. She loves discovering fantasy from life and showing it with watercolor and pens.



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## The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

All children are holders of important human rights. Twenty-five years ago in 1989, over a hundred countries agreed on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the most important human rights treaty in history, they promised to protect and promote all children's equal rights, which are connected and equally important.

In the 54 Articles of the Convention, countries make solemn promises to defend children's needs and dreams. They recognize the role of children in realizing their rights, which requires that children be heard and involved in decision-making. In particular, Article 24 and Article 27 defend children's rights to safe drinking water, good food, a clean and safe environment, health, and quality of life. Article 29 recognizes children's rights to education that develops personality, talents and potential, respecting human rights and the natural environment.

— *Dr. Alexandra Wandel*  
World Future Council



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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

## Sustainable Development Goals Statement

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are a bridge from the previous Millennium Development Goals adopted by the international community in 2000 to the future. Construction of this bridge began in 2012 at the United Nations Rio+ 20 Conference on Sustainable Development. At this Conference, countries agreed that it was time to take concrete action for the present and the future by acting on issues such as climate change, poverty, inequality and biodiversity. This resulted in *The Future We Want*, a global statement of priorities and responsibilities for countries toward the people, environment, biodiversity and future.

In 2015, the bridge took shape in the form of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which countries agreed to implement between 2015 and 2030. The SDGs, as they are commonly called, comprise a set of 17 specific goals, over 160 targets within these goals, and hundreds of indicators to measure if the goals and targets are being met. The SDGs address the key issues that face our world community now and that will define this community in the future, such as poverty, climate change, education rights, gender equality, discrimination, health, food and water access and safety, and the promotion of justice for all members of society. Since 2015, children around the world have joined in efforts to incorporate the SDGs in their countries and communities, adding their voices and perspectives as future leaders. The SDGs show the power of all people, including children, to create positive and lasting change that addresses the needs of local and global society.

— *Dr. Alexandra R. Harrington*  
Centre for International Sustainable Development Law



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## Thanks and Inspiring Resources

### **'Voices of Future Generations' International Commission**

Warmest thanks to the International Commission, launched in 2014 by His Excellency Judge CG Weeramantry, UNESCO Peace Education Research Award Laureate, which supports, guides and profiles this new series of Children's Books Series, including: Ms Alexandra Wandel (WFC), Professor Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger (CISDL), Dr Kristiann Allen (New Zealand), Ms Irina Bokova (UNESCO), Ms Emma Hopkin / Ms Hannah Rolls (UK), Dr Ying-Shih Hsieh (EQPF), Ms Melinda Manuel (PNG), Ms Julia Marton-Lefevre (IUCN), Dr James Moody (Australia), Professor Kirsten Sandberg (UN CRC Chair), Ms Patricia Chaves (UN DSD), Judge Marcel Szabo (Hungary), Dr Christina Voigt (Norway), Ms Gabrielle Sacconaghi-Bacon (Moore Foundation), Dr Alexandra Harrington (CISDL), Professor Carey Newman (First Nations of Canada), Ms Monique Gray Smith (First Nations of Canada), Sheikha Hissa Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum (ELF).

**The World Future Council** consists of 50 eminent global changemakers from across the globe. Together, they work to pass on a healthy planet and just societies to our children and grandchildren. ([www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org))

**United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO)** which celebrates its 70th Anniversary throughout 2015, strives to build networks among nations that enable humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity by mobilizing for education, building intercultural understanding, pursuing scientific cooperation, and protecting freedom of expression. (<https://en.unesco.org/>)

The **United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its three Optional Protocols, by its State parties. ([www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org))

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. ([www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org))

**International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** envisions a just world that values and conserves nature, working to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. ([www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org))

**Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)** supports understanding, development and implementation of law for sustainable development by leading legal research through scholarship and dialogue, and facilitating legal education through teaching and capacity-building. ([www.cisd.org](http://www.cisd.org))

**Environmental Quality Protection Foundation (EQPF)** established in 1984 is the premier ENGO in Taiwan. Implementing environmental education, tree plantation, and international participation through coordinating transdisciplinarity resources to push forward environmental and sustainable development in our time.

**World's Largest Lesson (WLL)** World's Largest Lesson brings the Global Goals to children all over the world and unites them in taking action. Since it was launched in September 2015, the World's Largest Lesson has reached over 130 countries and impacted over 8 million children each year. (<https://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>)

**Emirates Literature Foundation** The Emirates Literature Foundation, home of the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature, is a not-for-profit non-governmental organisation that supports and nurtures a love of literature in the UAE and across the region through a programme of varied cultural initiatives. Recognising the distinctive contribution that literature makes to children's lives, the Foundation focuses on introducing and cultivating a spirit of reading while acting as a catalyst for writing and cultural exchange. (<https://www.elfdubai.org/en/home>)



Voices of Future Generations Children's Book Series



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## About the 'Voices of Future Generations' Series

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Voices of Future Generations Children's Book Series, led by the United Nations and a consortium of educational charities including the World Future Council (WFC), the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), the Environmental Quality Protection Foundation (EQPF), the Fundacion Ecos and the Trust for Sustainable Living (TSL) among others, also the Future Generations Commissioners of several countries, and international leaders from the UN Division for Sustainable Development, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and other international organizations, has launched the new Voices of Future Generations Series of Children's Books.

Every year we feature stories from our selected group of child authors, inspired by the outcomes of the Earth Summit, the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) and the world's Sustainable Development Goals, and by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) itself. Our junior authors, ages 8-12, are concerned about future justice, poverty, the global environment, education and children's rights. Accompanied by illustrations, each book profiles creative, interesting and adventurous ideas for creating a just and greener future, in the context of children's interests and lives.

We aim to publish the books internationally in ten languages, raising the voices of future generations and spread their messages for a fair and sustainable tomorrow among their peers and adults, worldwide. We welcome you to join us in support of this inspiring partnership, at [www.vofg.org](http://www.vofg.org).

“In this delightful story, Transformers are not shape-shifting alien robots but rather clever incinerators that roast harmful debris into useful electricity. They enable the story’s heroine and her pals to accomplish a vast reduction in hazardous waste on our planet and enable dolphins and other creatures to swim more freely once again. An audacious, contemporary tale.”

**Professor Jesse H. Ausubel,**

**Director of the Program for the Human Environment and Senior Research Associate at The Rockefeller University in New York City**

“Written by an amazingly talented and intelligent young lady at the age of 9, *Journey for Tomorrow* by Andrea Wilson is a fun and wonderful story that educates, inspires and motivates our next generation to fight for and save the Earth and the creatures that abound on it. These actions – or lack thereof – will determine the fate of our planet. Indeed, our only hope for survival is to take action like the book’s hero, Sarah.

*Journey for Tomorrow* leaves behind stories like *Little Red Riding Hood and The Big Bad Wolf*, classics that taught us to fear other creatures. Rather, it inspires with the tale of dolphins saving a little girl, something that actually happens from time to time, and the girl later saving animals of the Earth. Sarah, living with compassion and dedication, shows us how we must help our animal friends and maintain positive relationships with them.”

**Lewis Regenstein,**

**Author on wildlife and the environment and Former President of the Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature (ICPAN)**

“Andrea’s passion for solving our planet’s major problems is inspiring and shines through every page of *Journey for Tomorrow*. I strongly recommend this book to readers worldwide who want to make the world a better place.”

**Dr. Mark Z Jacobson,**

**Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University and Director of its Atmosphere/Energy Program**

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