



# MYSTERY ON BIG ISLAND

Story: Duy Nguyen

Art: Quoc Cuong





Dear young readers,

For the last decade, plastic pollution has become one of the biggest challenges for our environment. Our biodiversity, natural habitats, and the lives of many creatures, especially those living in the oceans and on islands, are at risk. This comic was made by WWF-Viet Nam with the financial support from USAID, aiming at present this issue to children in a more relatable and exciting way.

At WWF-Viet Nam, we always hope to see children born and raised in a sound environment, where people live in harmony with nature. To make that happen, every person, including you, needs to be aware of our impacts on the natural environment.

WWF-Viet Nam would love to send sincere gratitude to Du But Company, Mrs. Thuy Com, and every person who worked on this project. Their creative efforts, and utmost love and care has breathed life into this comic. We hope all of you have a joyful time reading, as well as reflecting on the moral lesson from this little book.

## MYSTERY ON BIG ISLAND

### DIGITAL VERSION

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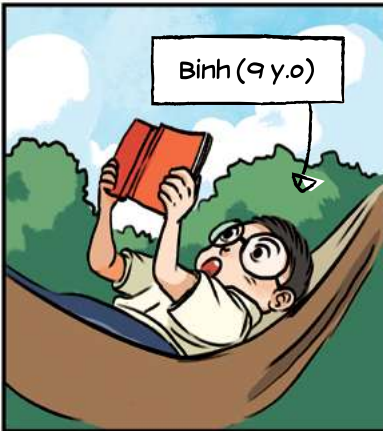
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On Big Island



Binh (9 y.o)

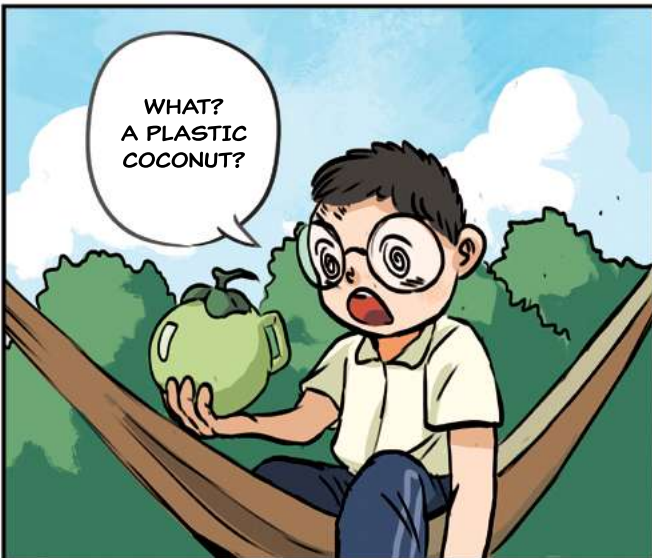


WOAH,  
FALLING  
COCONUT!

**BAM!!**

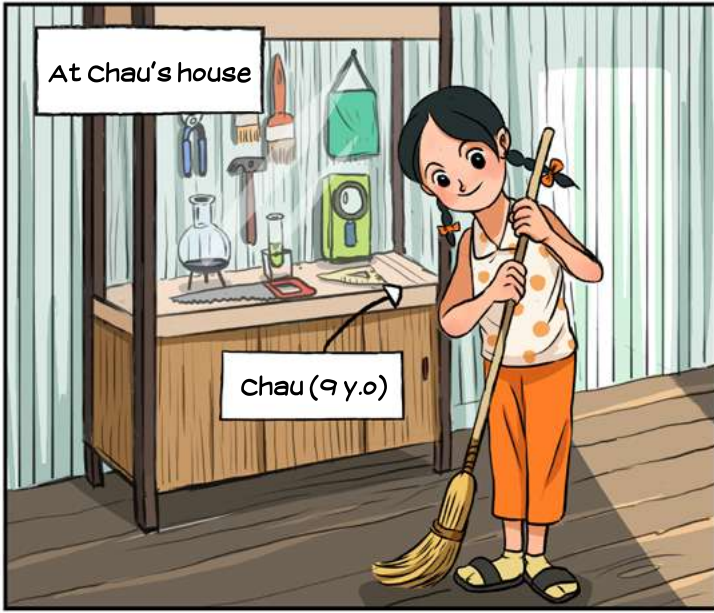


WHAT?  
A PLASTIC  
COCONUT?



GOTTA  
TELL AN  
ABOUT  
THIS!









SUCH A WEIRD FISH!



YOU GUYS, LOOK! A PLASTIC COCONUT FROM A REAL COCONUT TREE!



AND I GOT THIS PLASTIC-STRAW SPIDER WHEN SWEEPING THE FLOOR.



IS THERE ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN YOUR BOOK?



I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM IN MY READINGS. NEVER AT ALL!

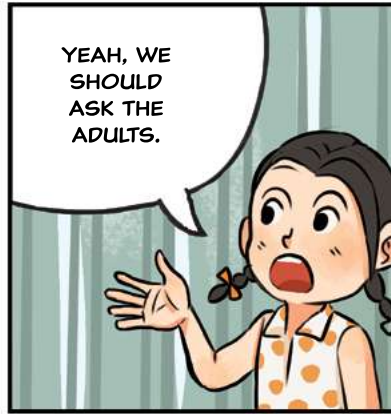


HUH?



THIS MUST BE ANOTHER MYSTERY...

... FOR OUR JUNIOR DETECTIVE TEAM TO SOLVE!

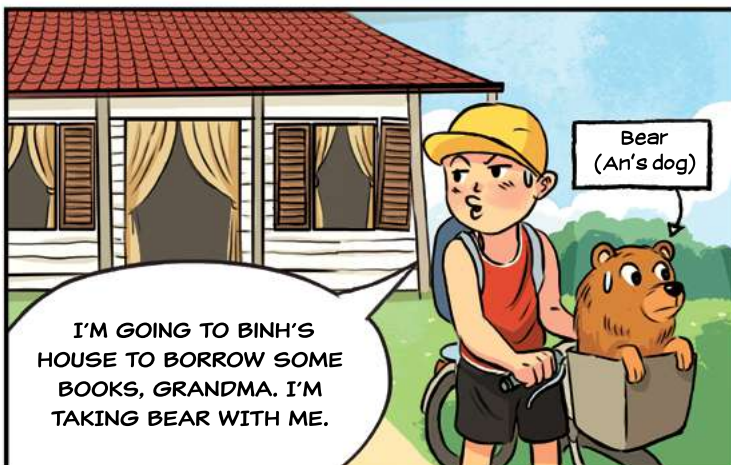
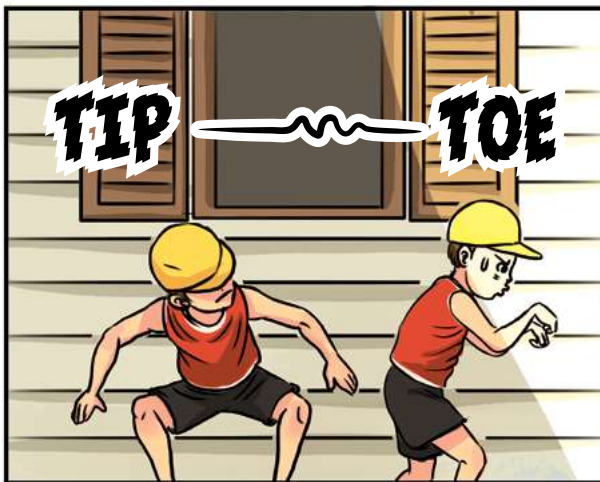


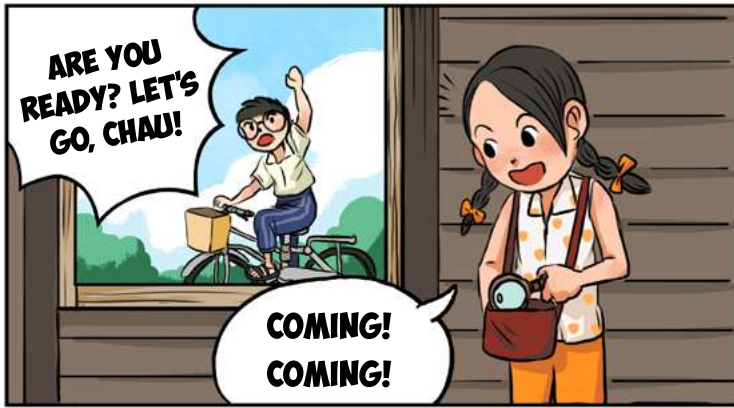
OK THEN, LET'S ALL GO HOME AND PREPARE. WE'LL MEET AT UNCLE CHIEF'S HOUSE IN 30 MINS!

OKIE DOKIE!

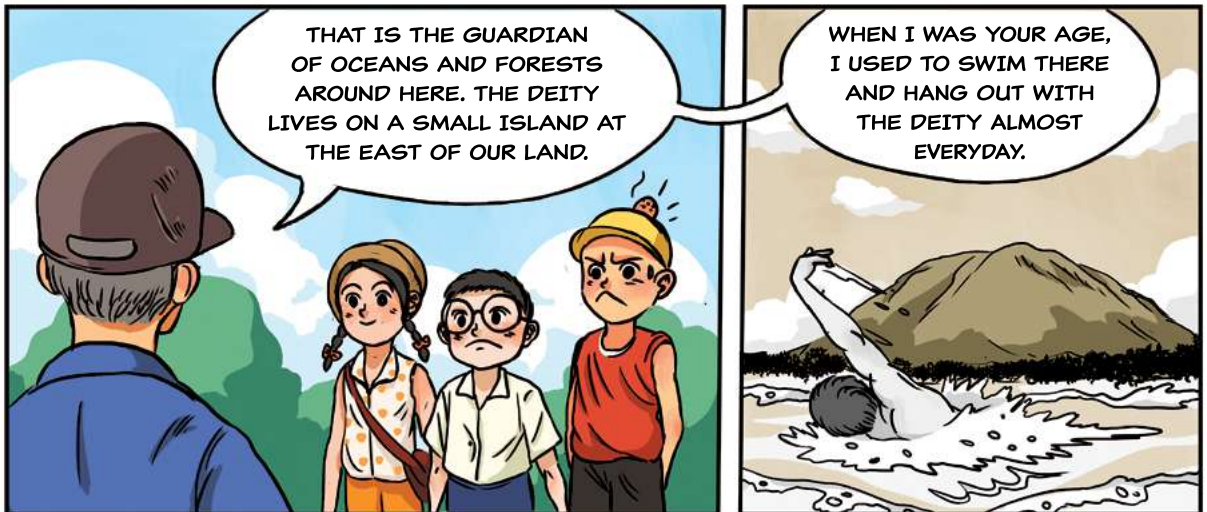
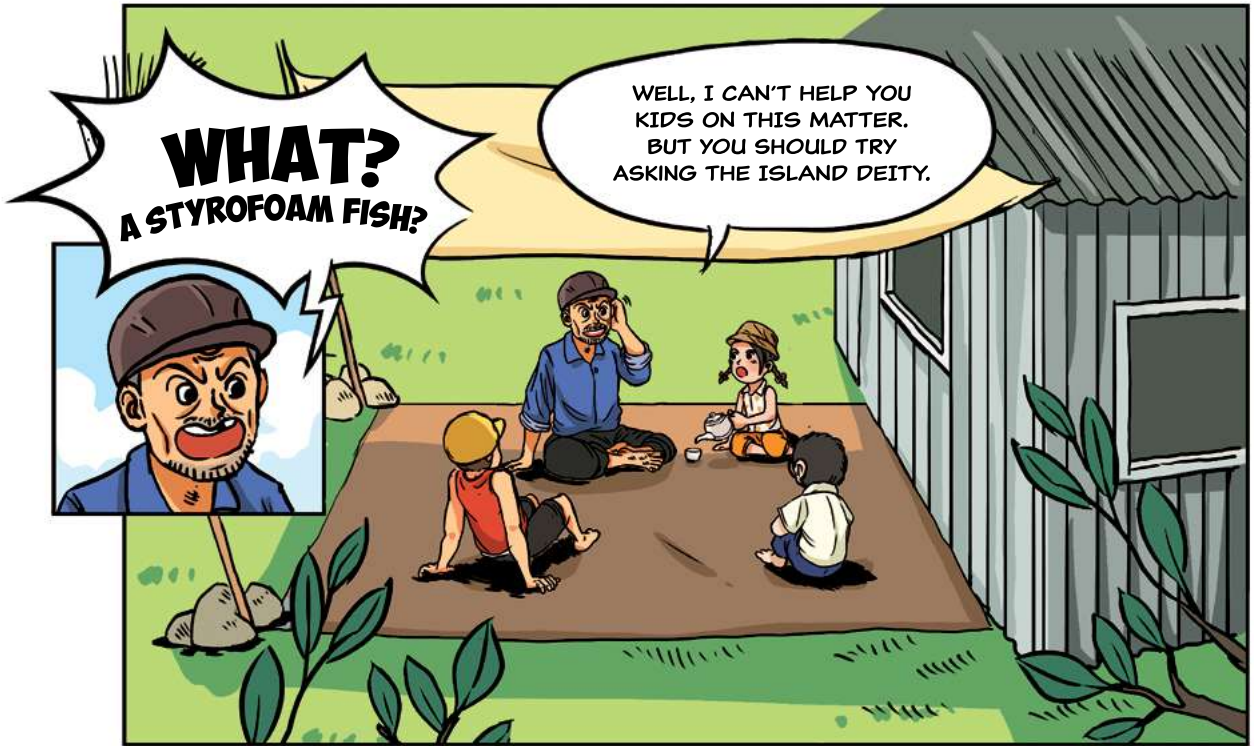
AGREE!

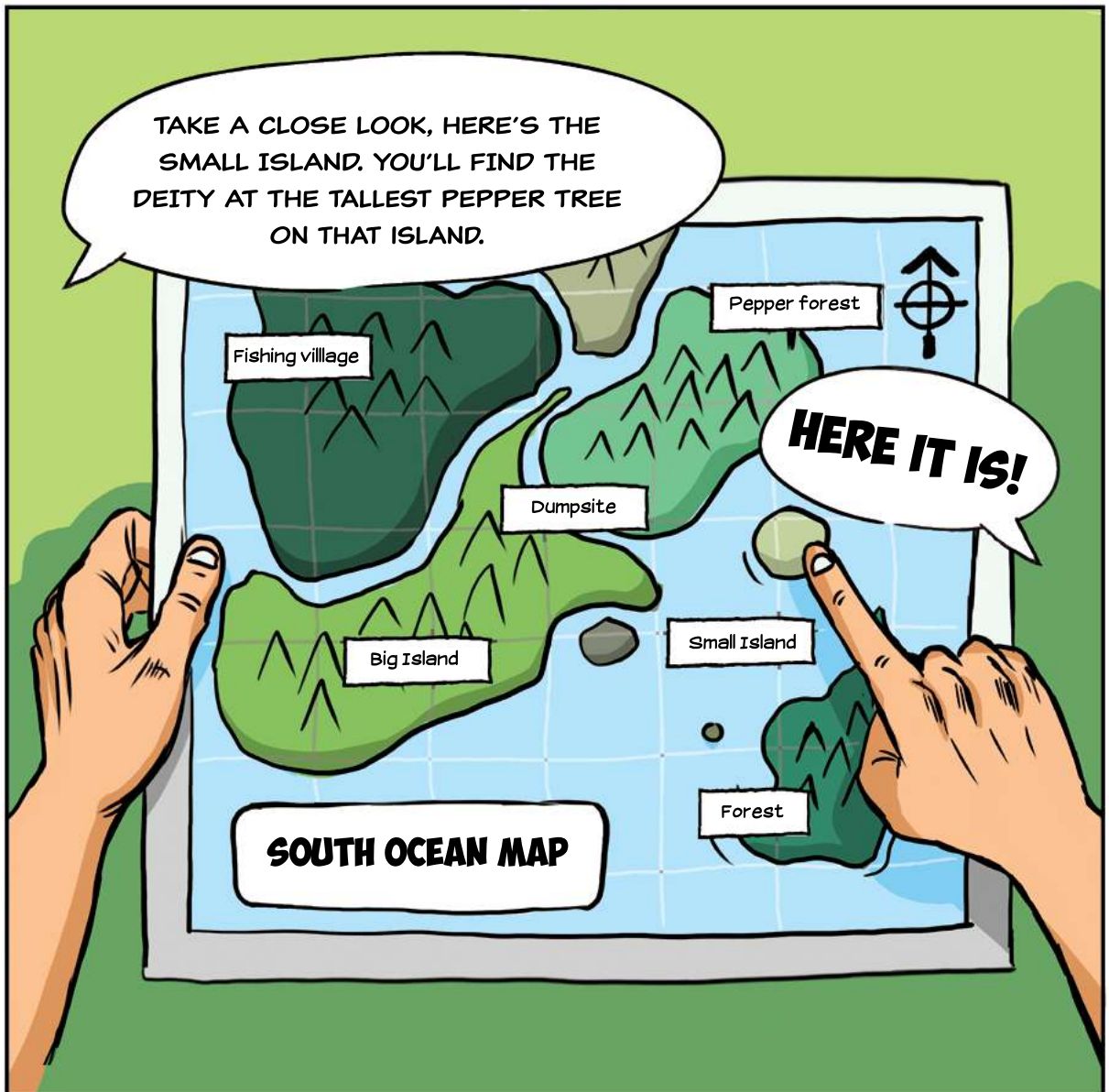
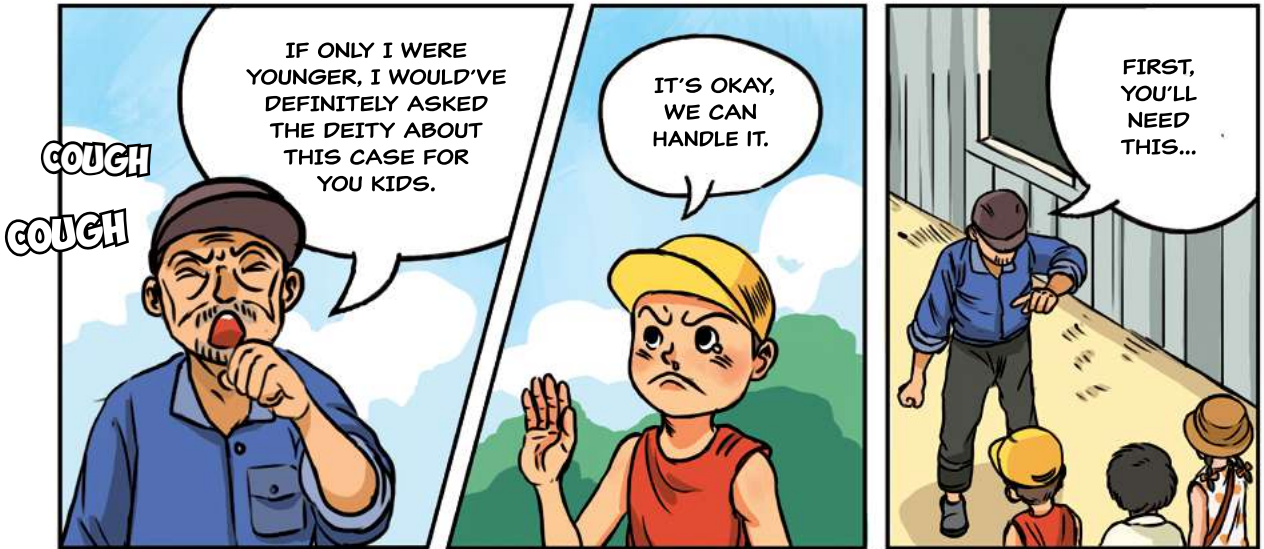
# LET'S GO!

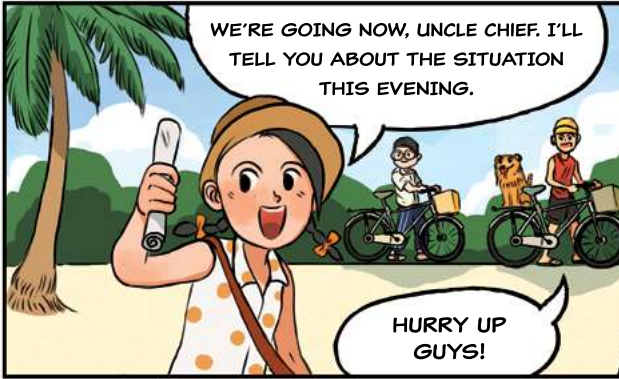






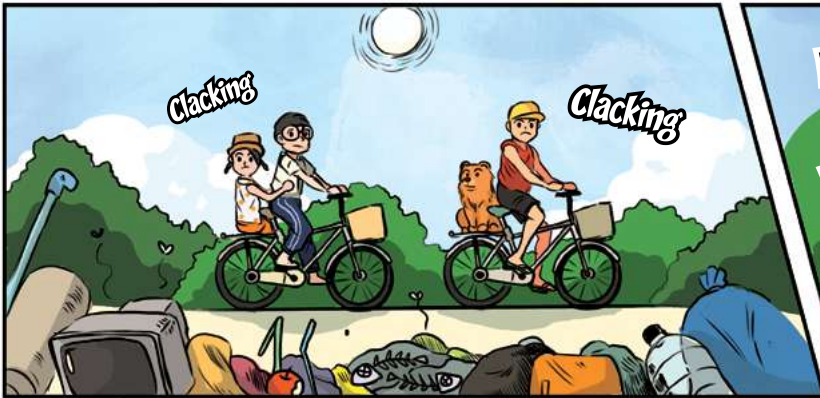






WE'RE GOING NOW, UNCLE CHIEF. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE SITUATION THIS EVENING.

HURRY UP GUYS!



Clacking

Clacking



WOOF!

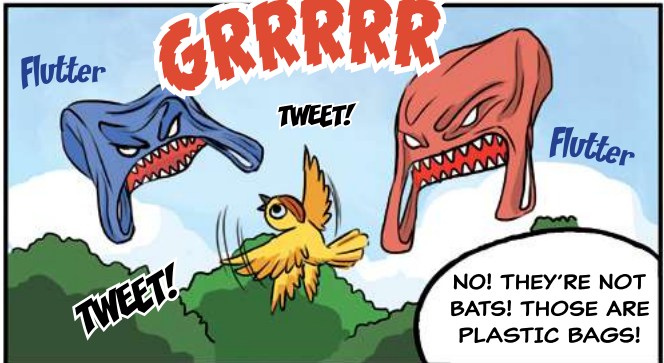
WOOF!

WOOF!



GUYS, LOOK OVER THERE!

TWO BATS ARE PICKING ON A SPARROW DURING DAYTIME.



Flutter

GRRRRR

TWEET!

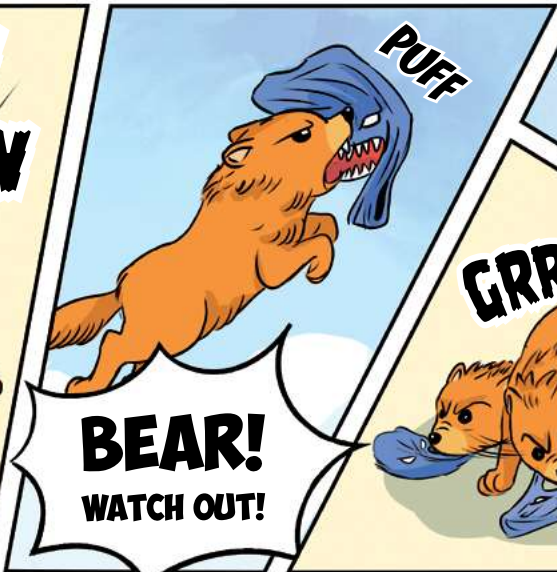
Flutter

TWEET!

NO! THEY'RE NOT BATS! THOSE ARE PLASTIC BAGS!



BOW WOW



PUFF

BEAR! WATCH OUT!

GRRR



GRRR

TWEET!

TWEET!



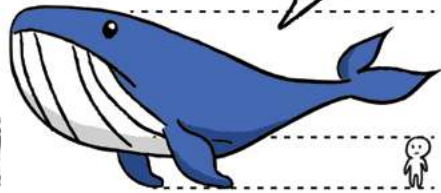
**EVERYDAY, WE DUMP 22.000 TONS OF PLASTIC TO THE OCEAN**

That includes plastic bags and other single-use plastic products, such as:



**200 TONS**

THAT IS 100 TIMES MORE THAN MY WEIGHT!



BLUE WHALE

HUMAN



**HOWEVER, THEY ARE VERY HARD TO DEGRADE**

It takes from 20 to 1,000 years for plastic to break into small pieces called micro-plastic, which are very dangerous, too.

YOU SEE, SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SEEMS CONVENIENT BUT ACTUALLY IT'S VERY HARMFUL!

**THEREFORE, ACCUMULATED PLASTIC CAN CAUSE US HARMS BY:**



BLOCKING SEWERS AND CAUSING FLOODING.

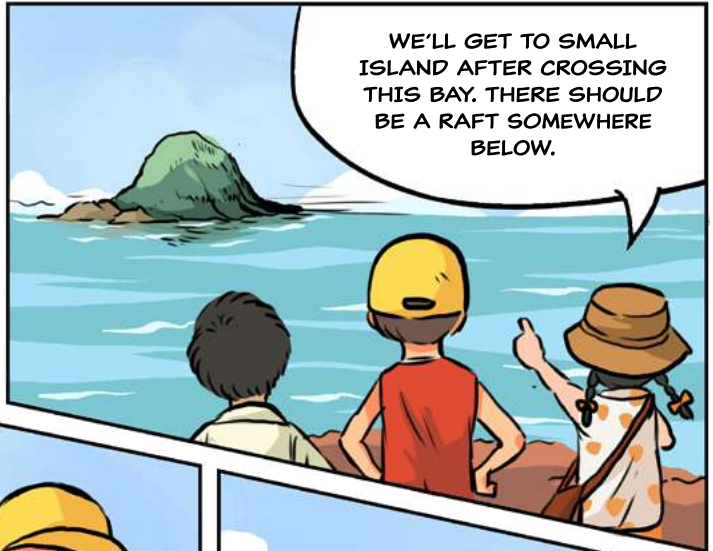


BECOMING DISEASE CLUSTERS, CAUSING WATER AND SOIL POLLUTIONS.

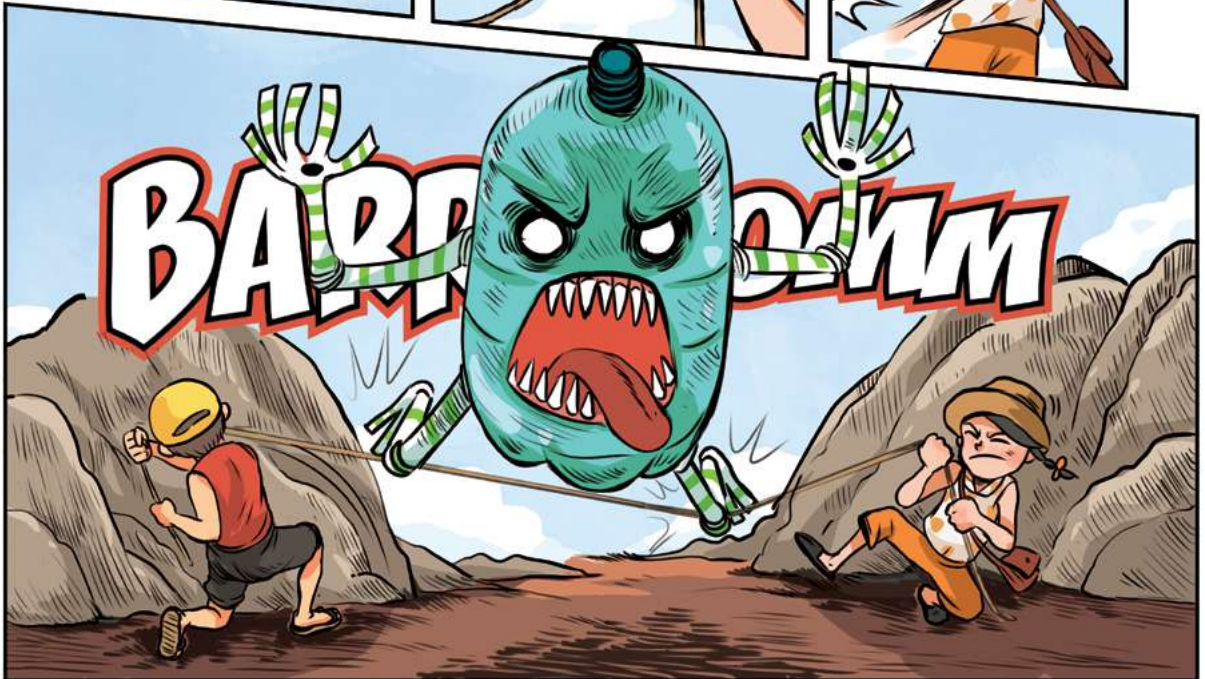


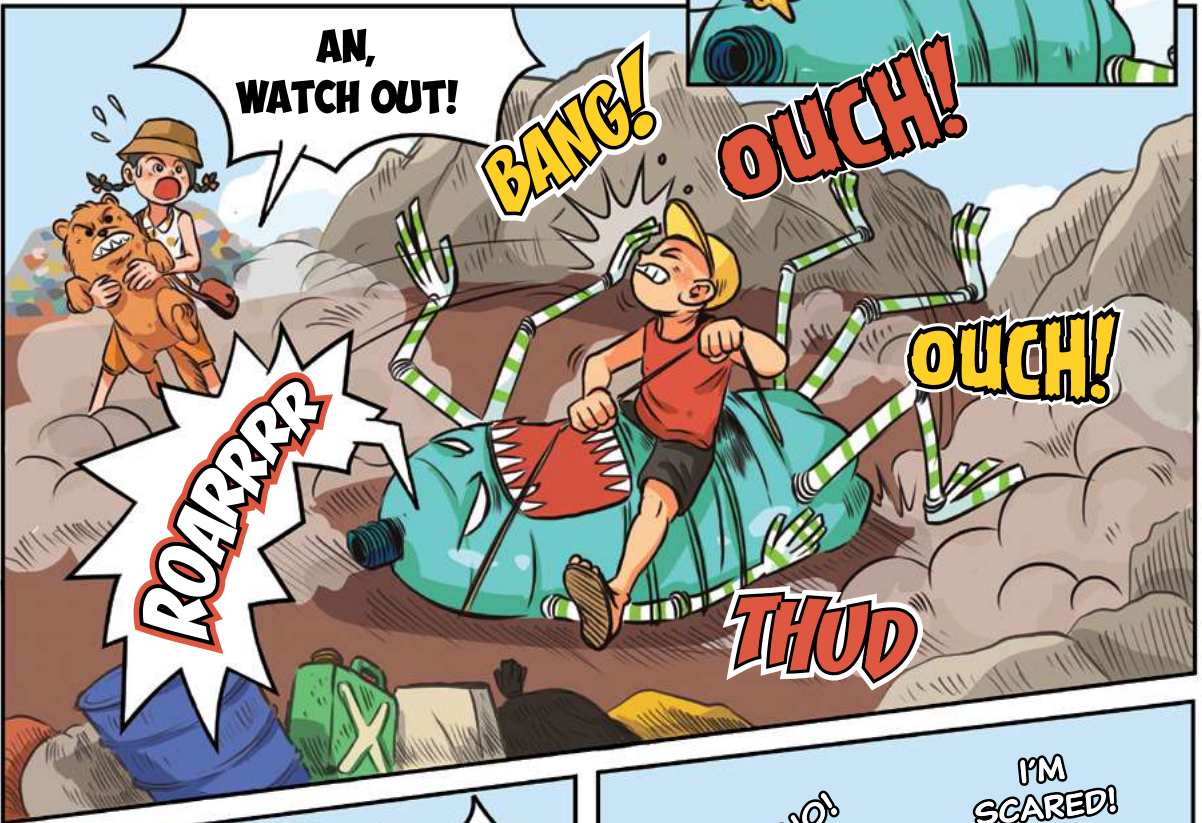
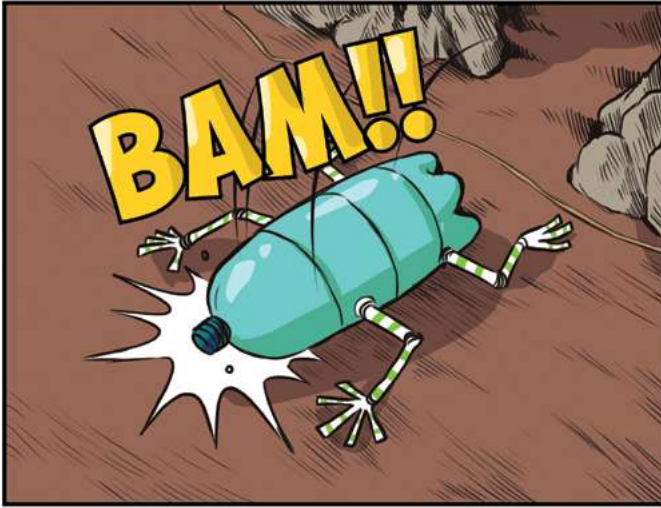
CAUSING AIR POLLUTION AND TOXIC FUMES WHEN BURNT.





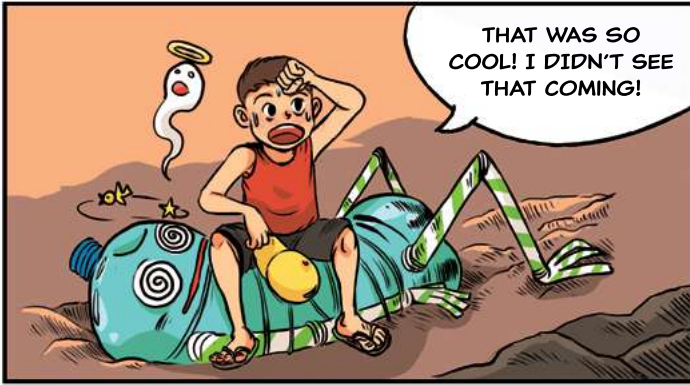




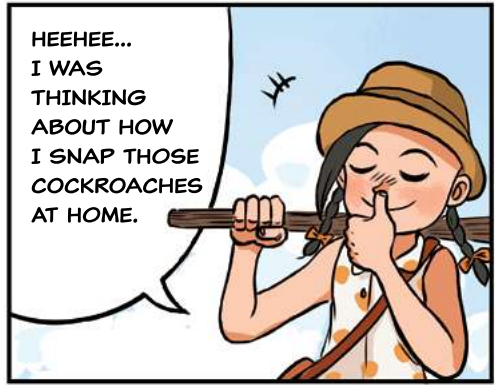








THAT WAS SO COOL! I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!



HEEHEE... I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW I SNAP THOSE COCKROACHES AT HOME.

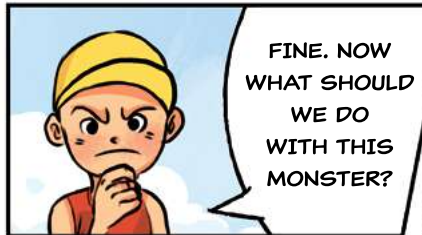


**BINH, WHERE ARE YOU?**



YOU CHICKEN! IT'S A SHAME FOR THE JUNIOR DETECTIVE TEAM TO HAVE SUCH A MEMBER!

CALM DOWN GUYS, BINH DID HELP BY BUYING US SOME TIME.



FINE. NOW WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS MONSTER?



I HAVE AN IDEA...

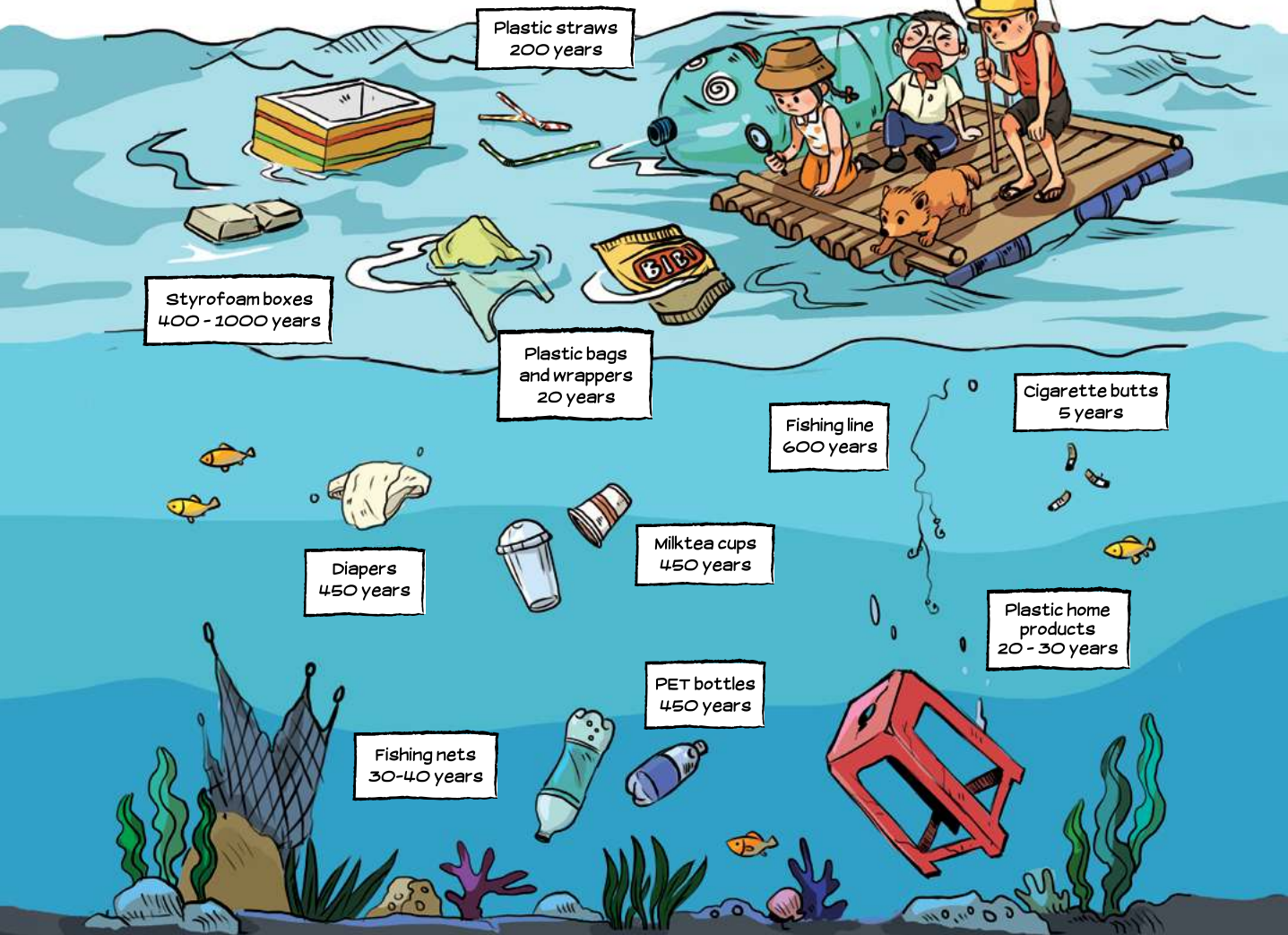


SMALL ISLAND IS RIGHT AHEAD!



SOME TYPES OF PLASTIC FLOAT ON WATER, SOME SINK TO THE SEAFLOOR OR DRIFT ALONG OCEAN CURRENTS.

THEREFORE, THE PLASTIC WASTE THAT WE CAN SEE ONLY MAKES UP A SMALL AMOUNT OF THE MARINE DEBRIS. YET THEY TAKE A LOT OF TIME TO DEGRADE.





**90%** of seabirds have eaten plastic waste.

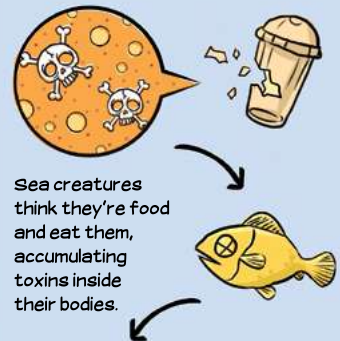
**1** DIE FROM PLASTIC WASTE INGESTION



AT LEAST **1000** SEA TURTLES die from plastic every year.

**2** SUFFOCATE WHEN TANGLED IN PLASTIC DEBRIS

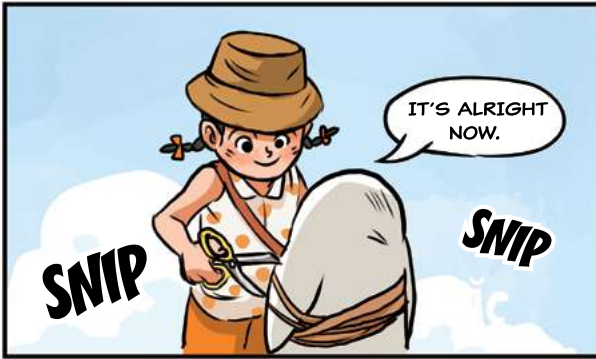
Plastic degrades into micro-plastic and toxic chemicals.

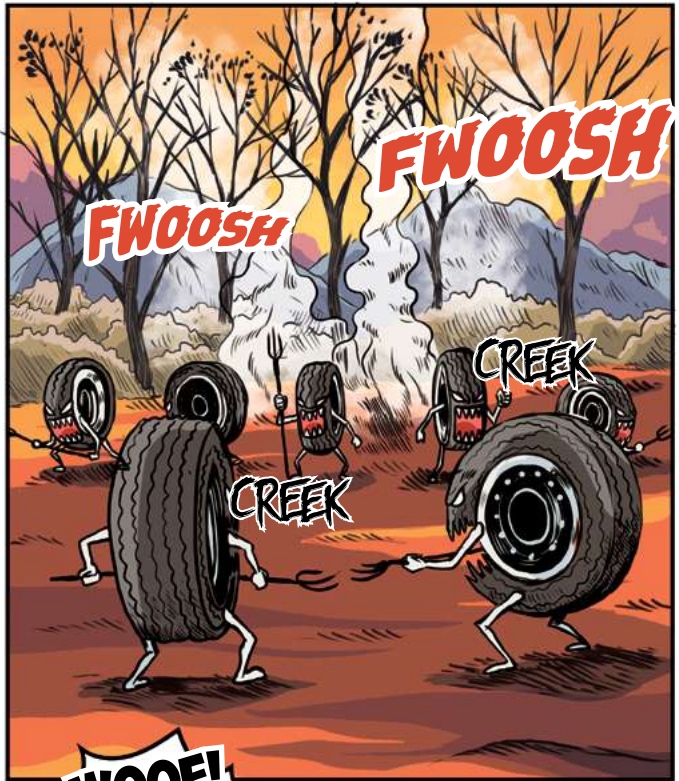
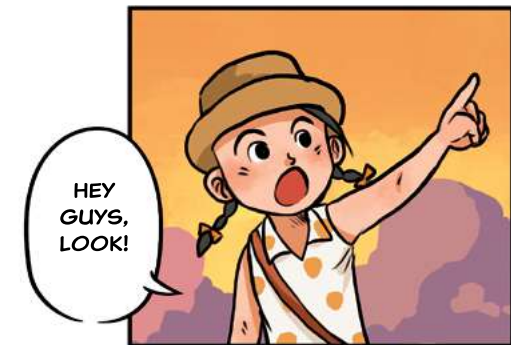
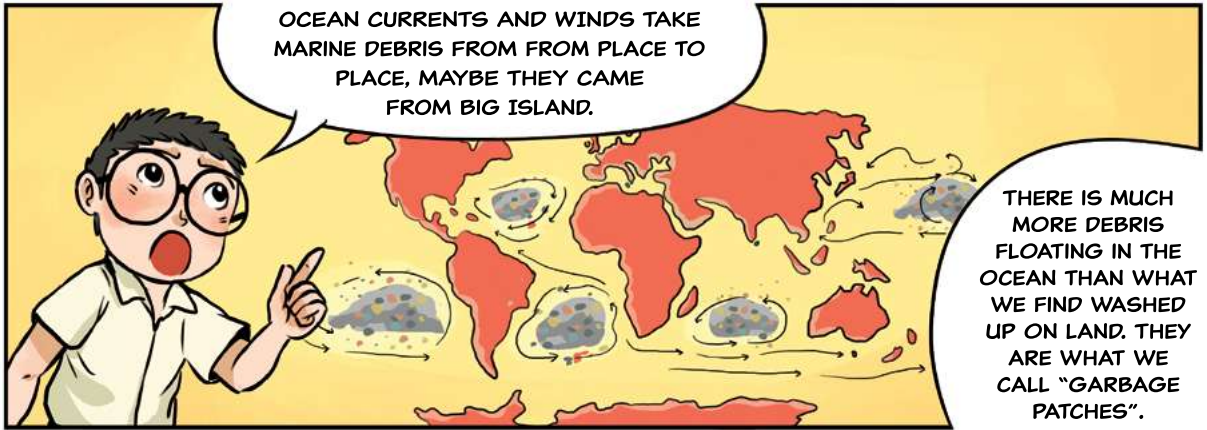


We eat seafood, which means we ingest micro-plastic into our bodies.

Micro-plastic can cause negative impacts to our bodies and health.

**3** BRING MICRO-PLASTIC INTO HUMAN'S BODIES









The Tallest Pepper tree

WOAHH!  
IT'S REALLY THE TALLEST.



EHH? MISS TU FROM THE CAFETERIA!  
OUR OTHER VILLAGERS TOO!!



GRRR  
GRRR

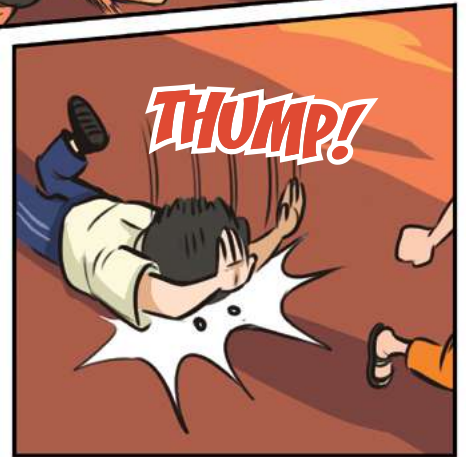
WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE... BUT WHY DO THEY SEEM TO WANT US TO LEAVE?

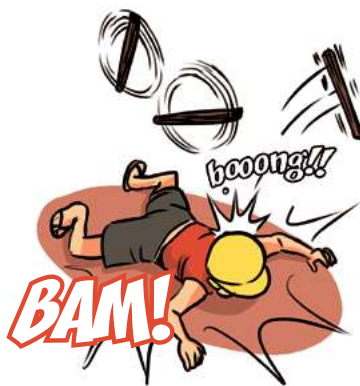
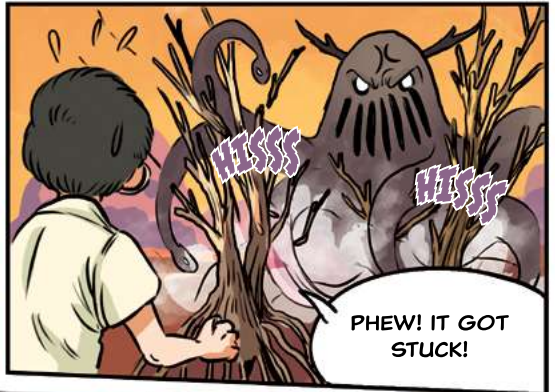
# URAOOO



HUH?









LUCKILY I GOT THIS SOLDERING GUN FROM UNCLE CHIEF.



WE WERE BURNING PLASTIC WASTE AT THE BEACH WHEN THIS MONSTER CAPTURED US 2 DAYS AGO.

THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME.



WHZZZZZZ



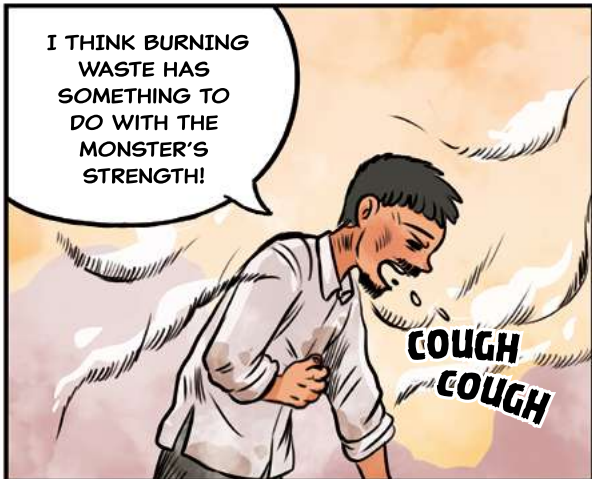
COUGH COUGH

I FEEL SO DIZZY!

MY EYES HURT!

COUGH COUGH

HELP ME!



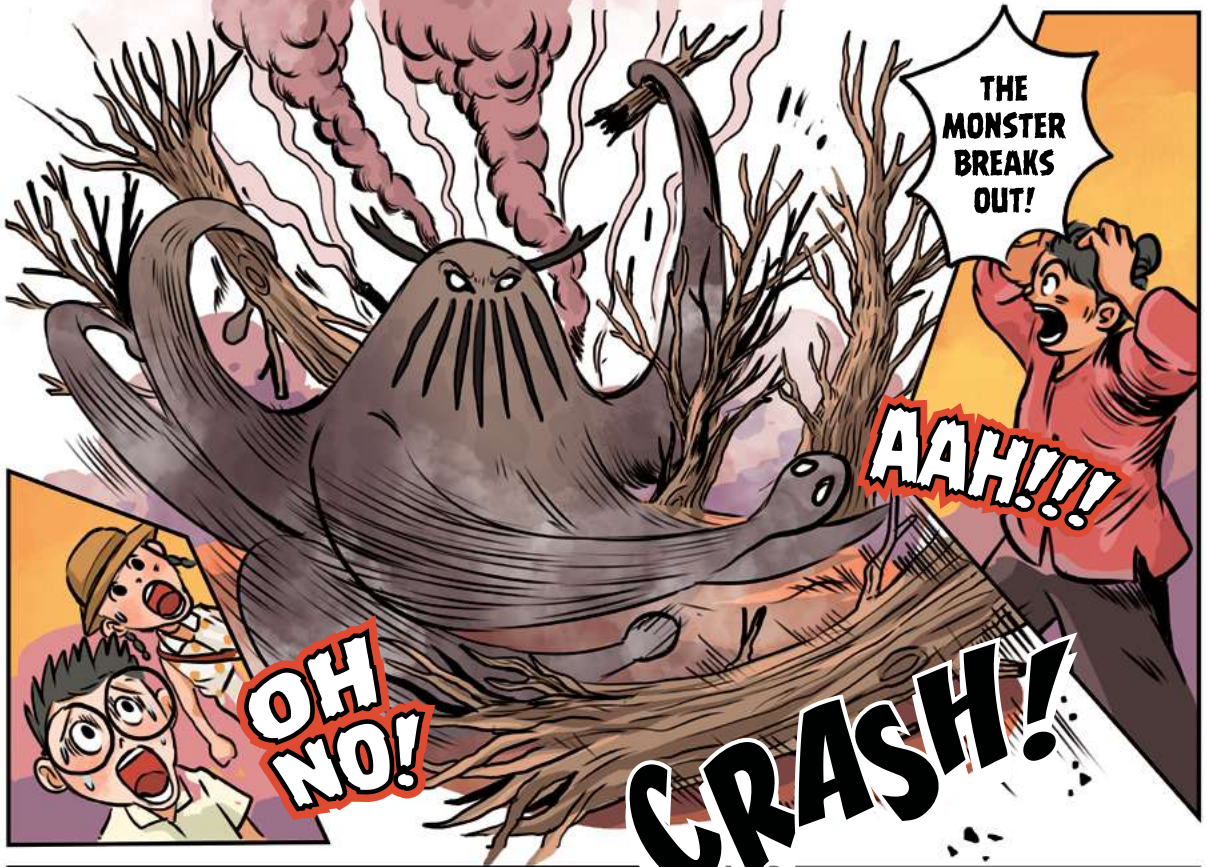
I THINK BURNING WASTE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MONSTER'S STRENGTH!

COUGH COUGH

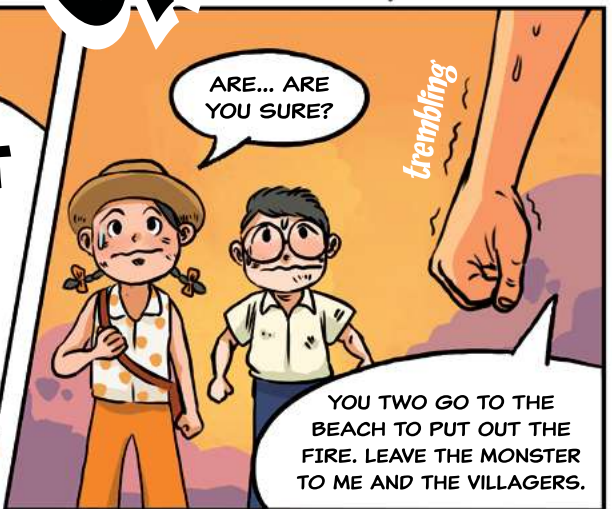


IF SO, WE HAVE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE...

TO DEFEAT IT.



**DON'T RUN!**  
WE CAN DEFEAT THIS MONSTER TOGETHER.

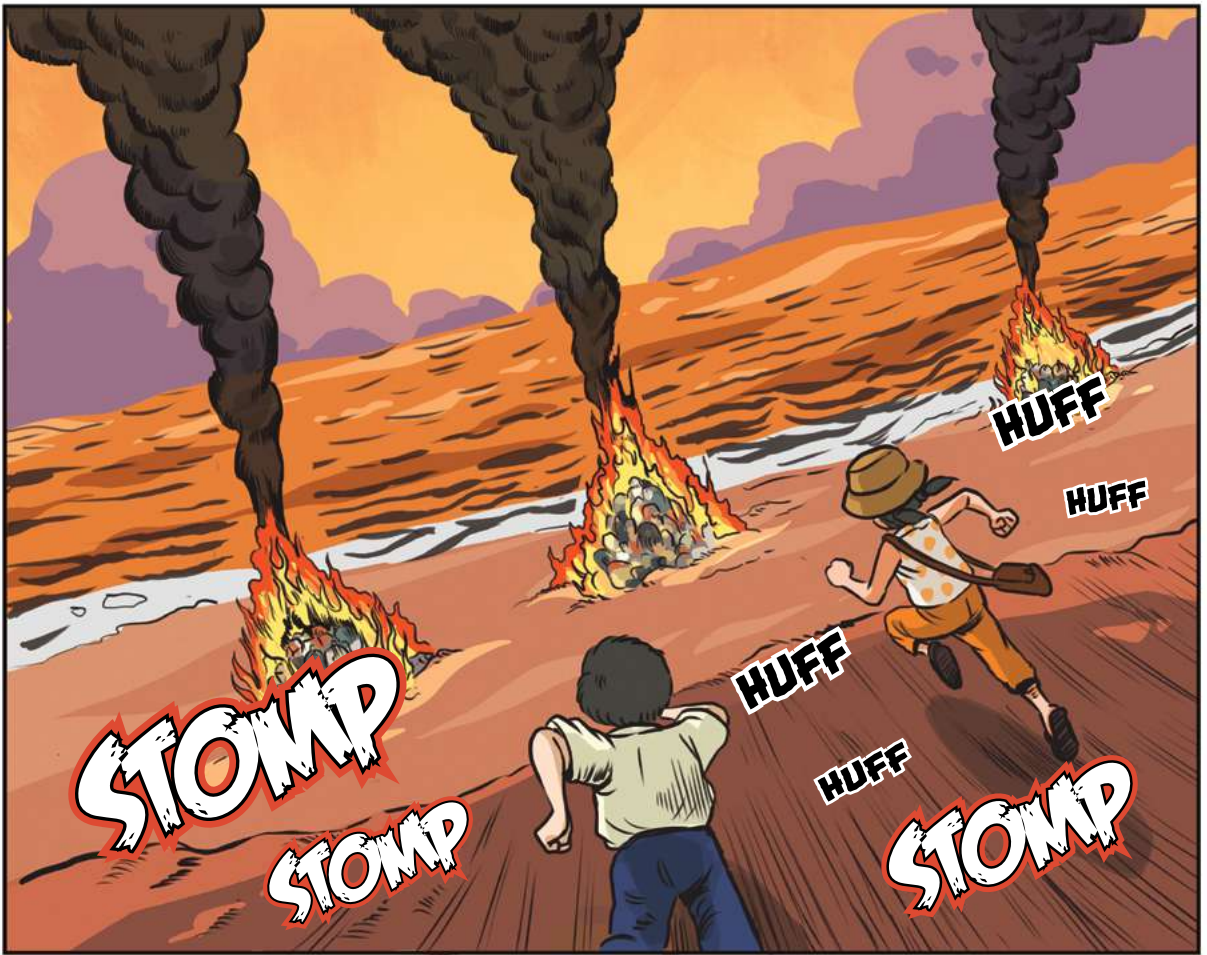


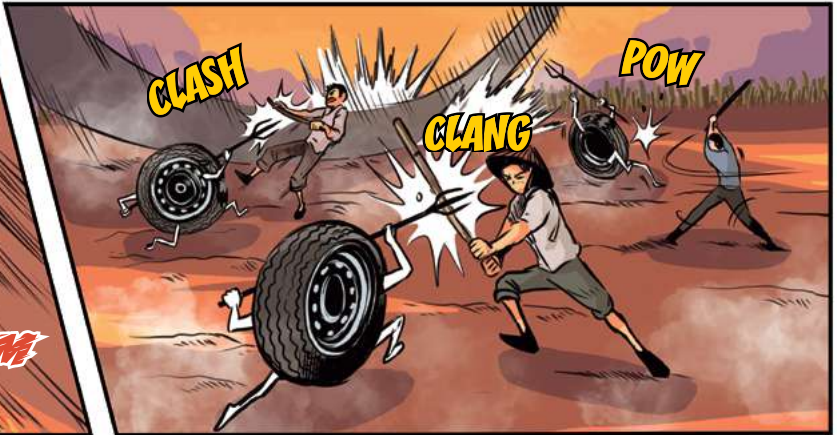
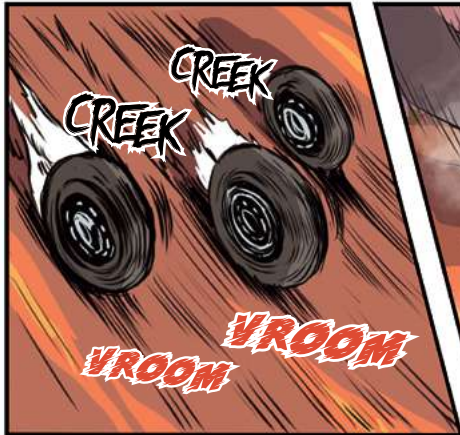
COME ON AN, GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!  
YOU CAN DO IT!

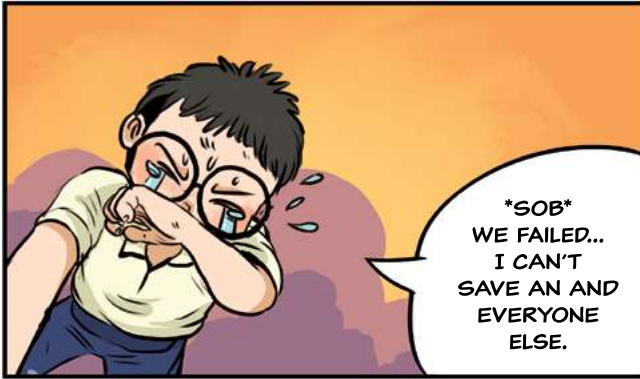


HEYAAAA













THANKS TO LITTLE SPARROW AND DUGONG'S MESSAGE, I WAS ABLE TO GET HERE IN TIME.

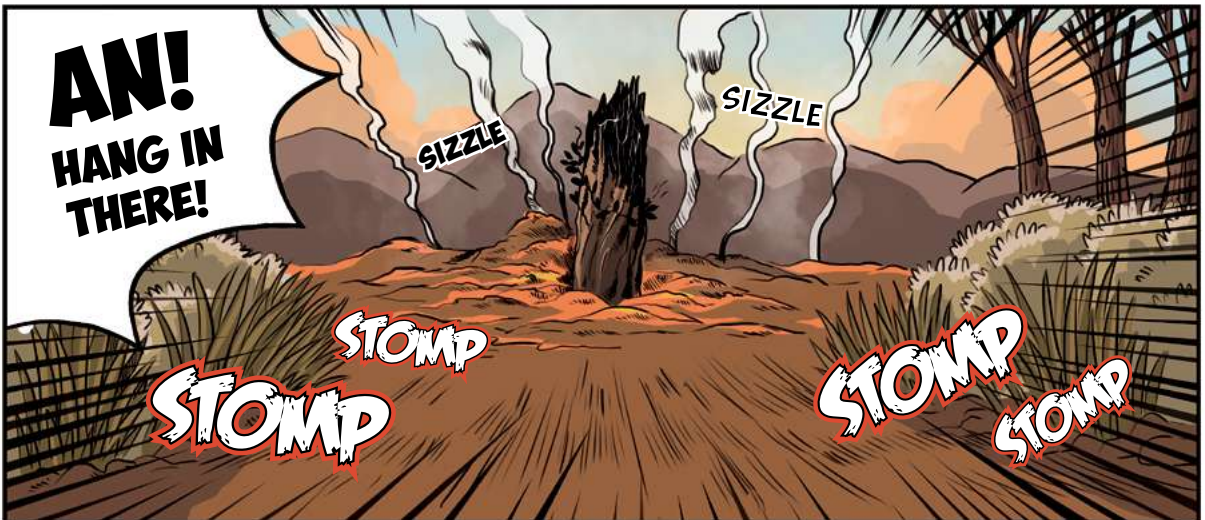


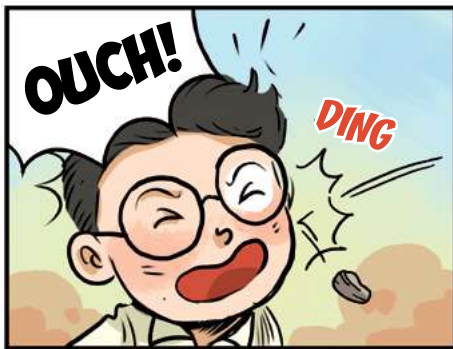
WAIT, WHERE IS AN?

DU... DUGONG?



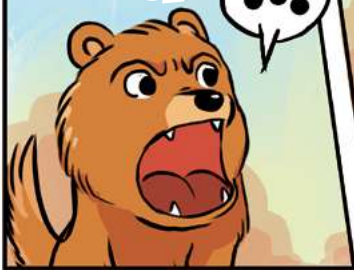
...LITTLE SPARROW?



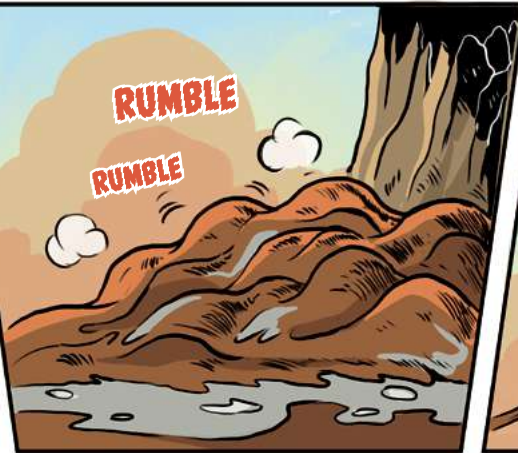


**WOOF**

**WOOF**



**RUMBLE**  
**RUMBLE**



**ACHOO!**



**EH?**



**??**



**?**

**?**



**HOLD ON,  
UNCLE CHIEF!**

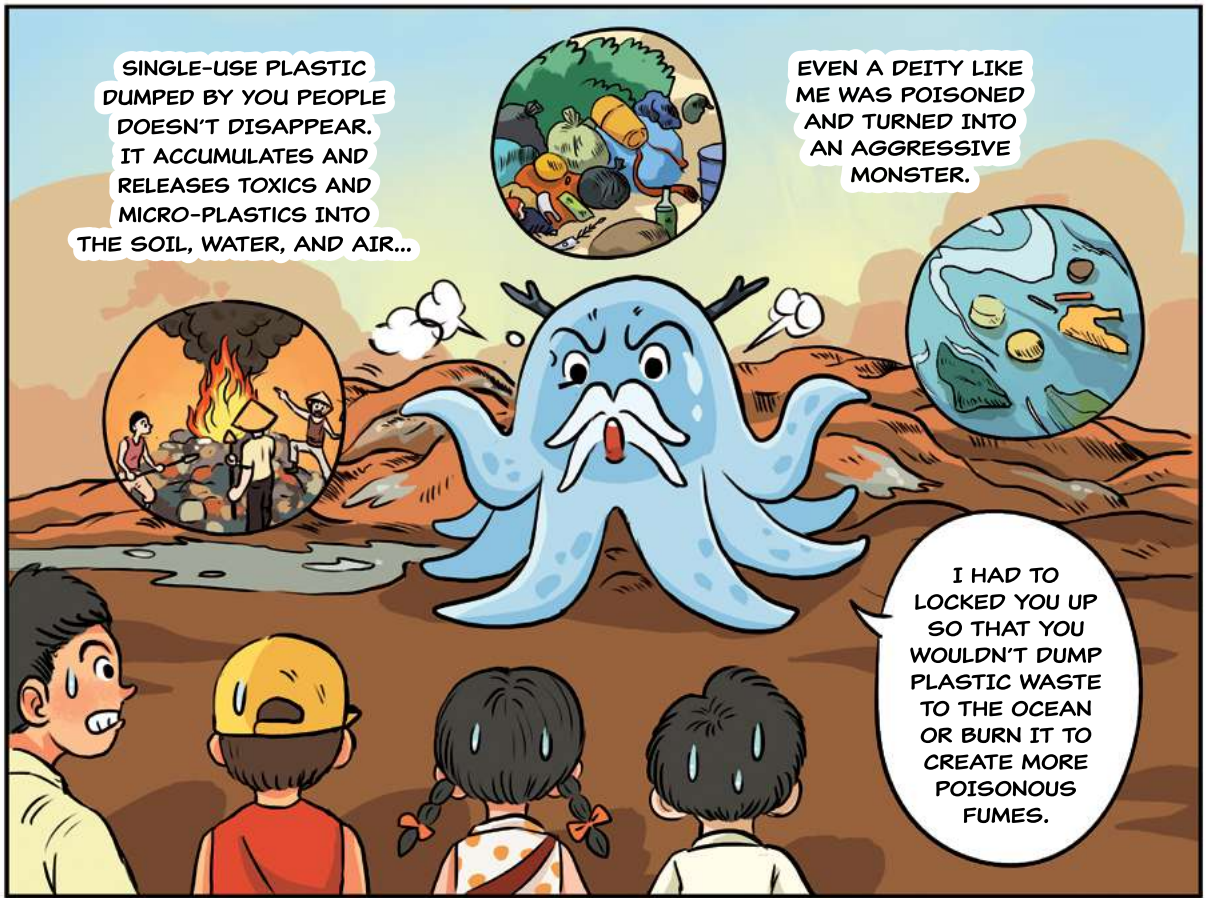


**RUN TOWARD**

**CHEERING**

**HAPPY**







LET'S HELP THE VILLAGERS SEPARATE WASTE (ANSWER ON COVER 3)

1. Soft drink bottle	2. Milk-tea plastic cup	3. Snack wrappers	4. Syrofoam box	5. Plastic straw
6. Soft drink can	7. Egg-tray	8. Fish bone	9. Yogurt container	10. Ceramic bowl

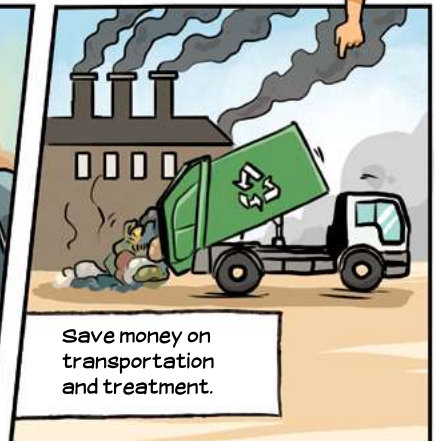
  

 <b>ORGANIC WASTE</b> MAKE COMPOST, ANIMAL FOOD, OR BURY IN GARDEN	 <b>RECYCLABLES</b> SELL TO JUNK SHOPS	 <b>INORGANIC WASTE</b> PUT IN RUBBISH BIN, GIVE TO GARBAGE TRUCK, JANITOR, CLEANER.
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UNCLE CHIEF, WHY DO WE HAVE TO SEPARATE OUR WASTE?

THERE ARE 3 MAIN REASONS:





Ever since that day, people from the village started separating their waste, frequently cleaning their surroundings and have stopped using single-use plastic. As a result, the environment and air has become cleaner and purer, and the deity is much healthier.



# ★ How to stop using ★ SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS?



I AM USED TO USING THEM FOR SO LONG, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?



DON'T WORRY, AN, LET'S START THE CHANGE FROM THE SMALLEST HABITS.



## INSTEAD OF

... buying drinks in plastic cups, plastic bottles,



## BRING

... your own water bottles, ask the staff to fill it with your drinks.

Many bags, easy to forget



## INSTEAD OF

... using plastic bags for your groceries,



All in one, tidy

## BRING

... your own shopping bags, reuse available plastic bags and refuse taking new ones.



## INSTEAD OF

... drinking from plastic straws,



## USE

... bamboo straws, lemongrass sticks, grass straws, or even better do not use straws at all.



## INSTEAD OF

... buying food in styrofoam boxes or using plastic cutleries,

wrap in newspaper after used



## BRING

... containers and cutleries from home.



**PLASTIC COCONUTS  
FALLING FROM REAL  
COCONUT TREES?**

**SPIDERS WITH  
PLASTIC-STRAW-LEGS  
CRAWLING EVERYWHERE?**

Here and there on Big Island,  
strange creatures start to appear.  
Nobody knows what they are or where  
they come from. This calls for The Junior  
Detective Team of Chau - Binh - An to  
take action. Will they be able to solve  
the great mystery that slowly eats  
away the peaceful life on Big Island?



Working to sustain the natural  
world for the benefit of people  
and wildlife.

together possible.

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