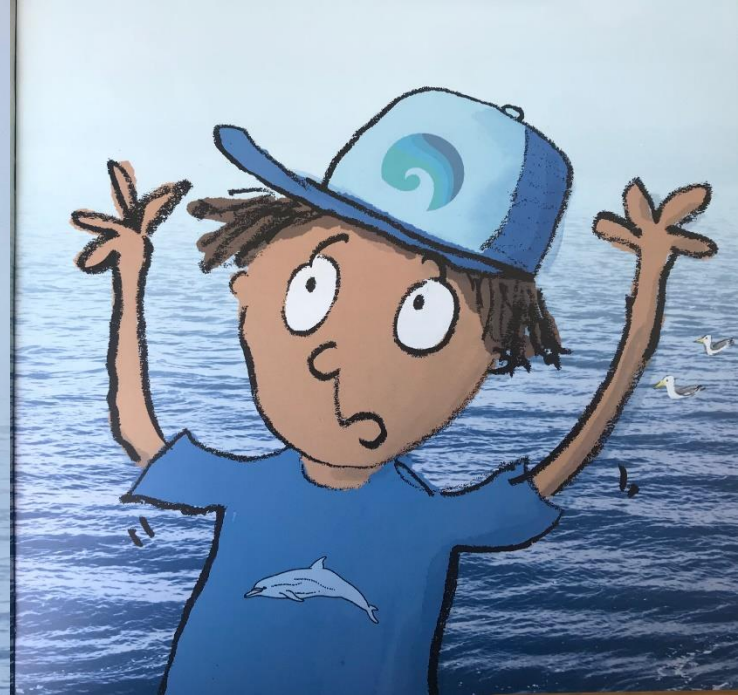


But I don't want animals  
to get hurt! And I don't want  
our planet to fill up with plastic.





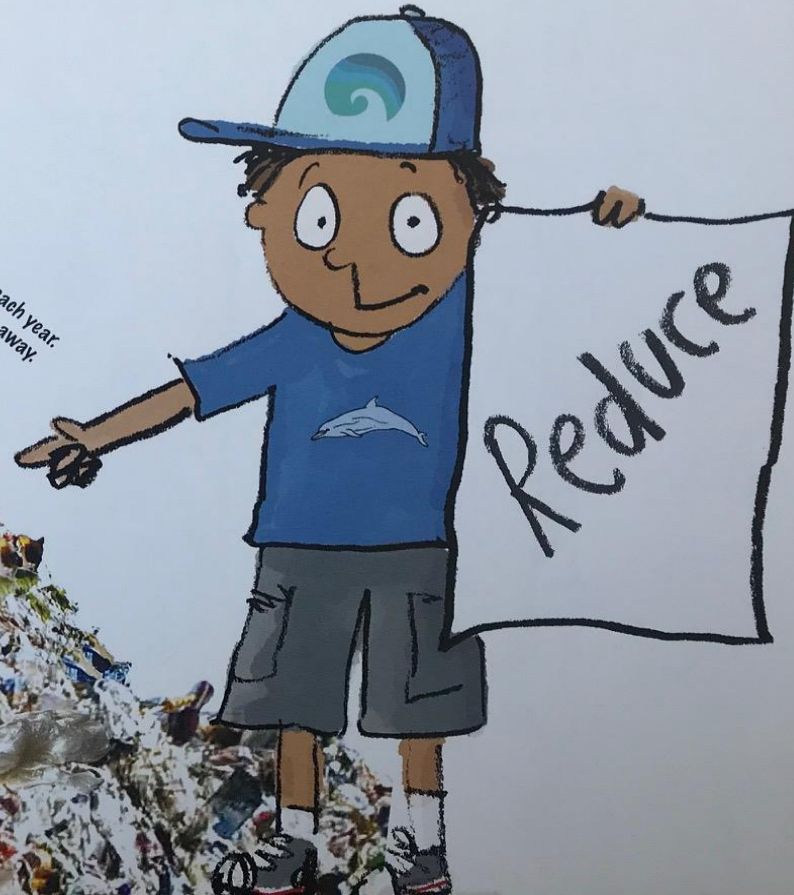


Well, we all need to try to reduce how much plastic we use every day. The less we use, the less we have to clean up!

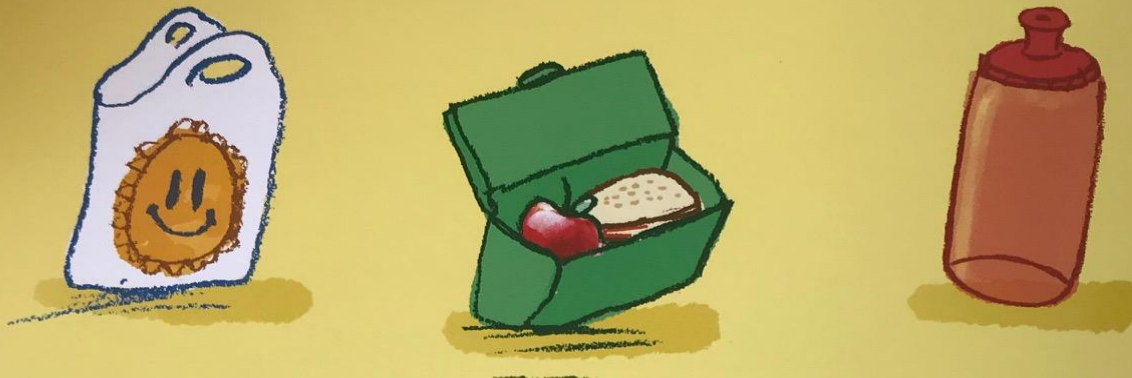
And people who make stuff for us need to think carefully about what they do with plastic. Creating things that will be thrown away in minutes, but stay in the environment for ever, isn't right.



People make nearly 330 million tonnes of plastic each year.  
Around half of it is only used once and then thrown away.



Lots of plastic things are meant to be reused over and over again.  
Let's make sure we do!



And if we have finished using a plastic thing, perhaps we can pass it to someone else.



When the plastic stuff has been reused lots of times, it should be recycled so it can be turned into new plastic things, not just thrown away.





But plastic can only be recycled a few times before it stops being useful, and not all plastic can be recycled.

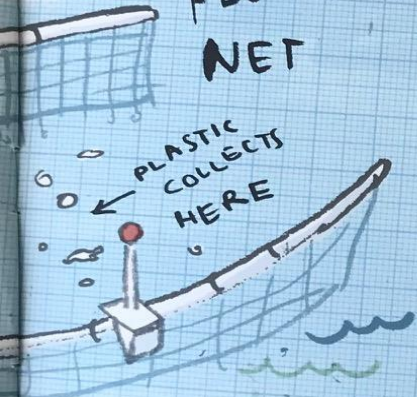
So environmentalists are teaching people about the problem, because everyone needs to help fix it.

Scientists are coming up with clever ideas too, experimenting with special bugs which might help plastics biodegrade, and finding new materials for us to use.



And engineers are looking at ways we can clear up the mess.

GIANT  
FLOATING  
NET



OR A SEA  
BIN?



OR A BOAT  
THAT 'EATS'  
PLASTIC



It'll take each and every person working together  
to stop the planet filling up with plastic.

It's a big job, but I reckon we can do it.

Thanks for listening.





# How you can help

There are loads of ways to help solve the plastic problem! You could...

- 1** Get creative and reuse the plastic you already own!



- 2** Ask your family to replace anything made from or packaged in plastic with more eco-friendly options.

- 3** Grab some gloves and take part in a clean-up near you - whether it's on a beach, in a park or on the street. You could do it for 2 minutes or 20!



Ask a grown-up to visit <http://beachclean.net> for some tips!

And you know, it's not just grown-ups who have  
BIG ideas...

**HANNAH TESTA**

knew that more people needed to learn about the plastic problem. By the time she was 14, she had created Plastic Pollution Awareness Day!

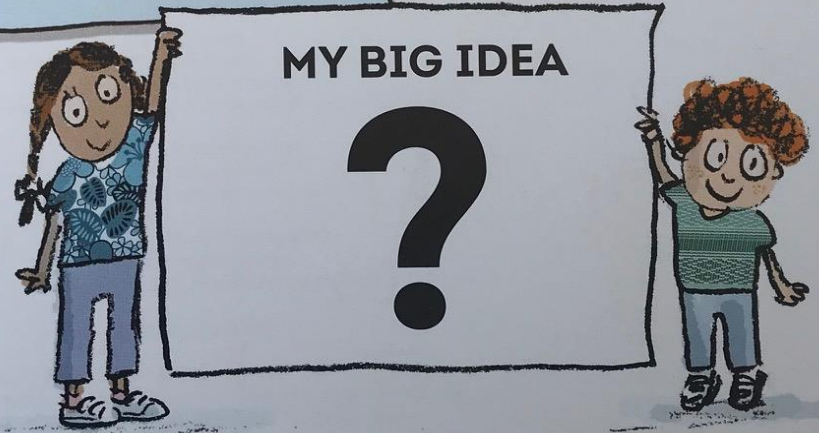
**BOYAN SLAT**

was just 16 when he realised how much plastic filled our oceans. Since then, he's invented a system called Ocean Cleanup, which gathers up plastic to be recycled.

**MELATI AND ISABEL WIJSEN**

started campaigning against plastic bags in their home country of Indonesia when they were aged 10 and 12. Their campaign, Bye Bye Plastic Bags, has gone global.

Researching and writing this book changed my life. My hope is that reading it might change yours too. So, can you think of a big idea to help save the planet?



**GLOSSARY**

- Bakelite The first human-made plastic, named after Leo Baekeland.
- Microplastic Small, barely visible pieces of plastic that pollute the environment.
- Nylon A type of plastic often used for making clothes, rope and brush bristles.