

# CIRCULAR CITY



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# A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY

Walking down the street, on their way home, Ana and Luka were happily recounting events from school. They were laughing at the incidents and enjoying the cheerful babbling of the city river, which they both loved very much.

Cheerful conversation was replaced by serious topics. Staring at the happy river waves, Ana said to Luka: "Do you know how important water is for our body? As much as 70% of the human body is made up of water."



"A person can live up to twenty days without food, but only three without water! We are not even aware of how important water is for all living beings."







"We carelessly discharge wastewater from households and industrial plants directly into natural waterways, streams, rivers and lakes. By doing so, we are endangering all the organisms that live in water: crabs, fish, the entire aquatic plant world, as well as living beings that depend on water, but do not live in it."



"Also, it is not good for the frogs on the shore to have polluted water."





"Everything could be different if we purified the water we used before pouring it into the waterways. In this way, we would preserve surface and underground water for future generations. Water is one of the most important resources on planet Earth."



While listening to Anna with interest, Luka suddenly slipped and almost fell. Luckily, Ana reached her hand out to Luka, managed to hold him back and help him avoid hurting himself.

Luka turned round to see what was in his way - he saw a plastic bottle rolling on the sidewalk.







"I can't understand why someone threw away plastic waste on the sidewalk where people walk. Someone could fall and get hurt," said Luka to Anna.

"Does that rascal know that plastic takes over 100 years to decompose?!"



"Plastic can be recycled and a new product can be obtained. And that is not difficult at all. It is only necessary to dispose plastic waste in the designated place, a container or a recycling bin. I do this all the time and it is not difficult for me to sort the waste into containers for paper, metal, plastic and glass. I feel good when I do that. I know that I did something good and useful for myself and the environment in which I live."





"In this way, we would reduce our impact on climate change. Extreme droughts and floods are the result of human activities which change the climate. These changes can also lead to the disappearance of some plant and animal species," Luka concluded.



"Ana, we are overusing natural resources: water, ores, sand and gravel, forests... We only have one planet, and right now we are consuming it as if we had two. We have been living on credit for a long time and we are borrowing resources from the generations to come. What kind of future are we leaving for them, if we destroy the only home they can live in?"







While they were talking, it started to rain, so Ana and Luka ran to the nearest park to hide under a treetop.



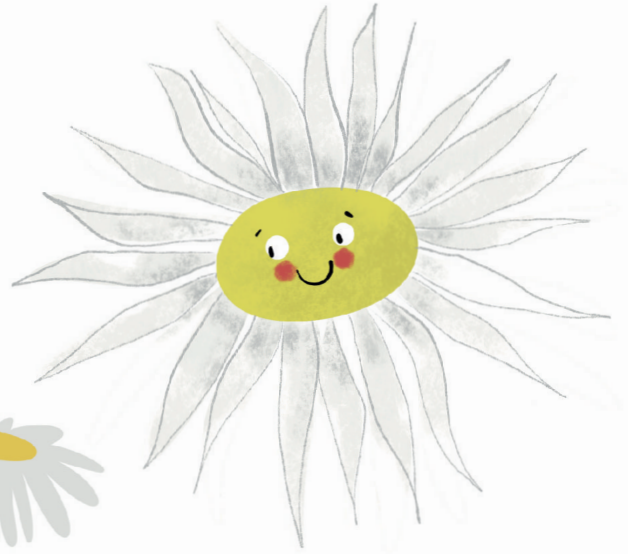
Ana said to Luka: "I love nature a lot, but I also love my city. In nature, I like trees, grass and greenery, and in the city, I like my school, friends, cycling, ball games... I would love the most if I could combine nature and the city, something like a natural city."



Luka answered: "Nowadays, that can easily be achieved." If we all make an effort, we can live in a green city. I don't know if you knew that walls and roofs can become green too. Imagine having your favorite plant growing on a wall or a roof. Or delicious red strawberries growing on walls or roofs around you. Wouldn't that be wonderful?"







"That sounds fantastic," Anna said enthusiastically. "I would plant daisies; I like them the most. For my mother, I would plant fragrant herbs, oregano or basil, she uses them a lot in the dishes she makes. That would be great!"





"We can grow our favorite plants, while the green walls and roof gardens protect us from temperature changes." Our house is warmer in winter and cooler in summer. This way we save energy and reduce the impact on climate change."



The rain stopped and Ana and Luka continued their walk in the park. Then they saw some friends from school who were sitting on a bench and delighting in their fruit.



Ana told them: "Do you know that one third of the food produced in the world is thrown away?" Imagine if we gave away all that food surplus to those in need, or used it for some other purpose. This banana peel and apple residue can be food for plants. Nature feeds us, and we feed nature. A perfect circle! In fact, nature has a solution for everything. It would be nice if we could persuade all our friends of such a way of life, and in order to succeed in that, we have to educate ourselves."



Luka replied: "Yes, I would like to be an architect and build my own green building!". Ana added: "That's a great idea! My wish is to be a biologist and to study nature." Petar joined in: "I'm going to be an engineer and build wastewater treatment plants!" Listening eagerly to her friends, Mia finally said: "And I'm going to be an economist so that I can help all of you to create a Circular City together."









# ADVICE FOR TRUE NATURE LOVERS

- Learn something about circular cities by watching the video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3NXLb-W1pg>
- Besides oregano and basil, there are some other fragrant herbs. Find out which ones and look for them in your surroundings!
- Plant a tree in your environment, take care of it and nurture it! Let it grow together with you!
- Separate waste and dispose of it in dedicated containers for recyclable waste! Try to do something useful for the environment every day!
- Save water! If you do not turn off the water while brushing your teeth, about 11 liters of clean water will flow out of the faucet in a few minutes. Be sure to turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth!
- Save electricity! Turn off the lights and electrical devices when you leave the room or don't need them!
- Explore topics in the field of environmental protection and arrange with your friends lectures for your little neighbors. Let this children's book help you with that!
- Try to spend as much time as possible in nature. Rejoice and laugh!



FOR LITTLE DETECTIVES  
- FIND 5 DIFFERENCES







DRAW YOUR  
CIRCULAR CITY

