

## Zephyr and the Futurescope

By Serena 

'Hurrah, it's finally finished!' I said to myself, as I connected the intricate last piece of my Future-scope. It was quite late, so I quickly put the cover over my invention and got ready for bed. All through the night, I lay still, staring up at the ceiling, dreaming about my genius new invention. I could not wait to use it and show my parents.

Finally the morning came, and despite not actually getting very much sleep, I leapt out of bed before the cockerel could 'Cockadoodledo.' I was desperate to try out my invention. However, my dad came charging in with other plans,

'Son, it's already 06:42! If you are not ready by 07:00, you will miss your dentist appointment and I will be very disappointed in you. Hurry up!'

'Oh, yeh sorry dad I completely forgot, I'm almost done anyway.' I replied, disappointed not to go straight to my laboratory.

As usual we arrived at the dentist far too early so we were led to a waiting room. I could smell the distinctive minty fresh smell of the dentist and sat down to watch the TV on the wall. Despite there being no volume I found myself captivated by the screen. There were awful scenes of seas full of plastic rubbish, melting glaciers, smog filled air and fish sick from pollution. I was so engrossed that I almost missed hearing my name as I was called into my appointment.

After the dentist I couldn't stop thinking of the disgraceful way humans were ruining the planet. I wanted to do more to help - more than just recycling bottles and paper at home - but I couldn't think of anything. I decided to go out on my skyboard to practice my loop the loops and clear my head. I spent an hour circling majestic wind turbines near my house but I still had no great ideas of how I could save the planet.

As I came back to the house I saw a bottle floating in the sea. Angrily I assumed it was more rubbish and zoomed down to pick it up. I didn't want another innocent creature to get captured inside it or swallow it. While I looked for a bin I had a closer look at the bottle and figured out that there was something stuck inside it. It was some paper and on further examination there was writing on it! A message in a bottle, how exciting.

When I got back home, I ran up to my room, turned my light on and sat down at my desk with the plastic bottle. I removed the paper, and in faint soggy words, was a whole letter and this is what it read:

Dear friend,

I live in a small village with very little food,  
I am only 9 years old, but we are too poor to  
afford to go to school. My parents have heard  
that in a few days people are going to  
to destroy most of our village and the lush  
vegetation that surrounds us just to build a  
coal fired powerstation. My home will be lost  
forever and our air will be full of pollution.  
I am desperate, please try and help me and  
my family, I live in Xuhui village in China.

Yours, Yanping

Poor Yanping. I was so worried about what would happen to him and his family. It might already be too late but I knew I had to try and help. First, I packed some essential things I would need: water, food, watch, map, and of course my new invention, the Future scope. Then I fastened my helmet, tightened my goggles and raced off across the world on my skyboard. I travelled faster than I had ever gone before, faster than the speed of sound. I hoped my goggles and helmet would give me protection as I held on tight to the map that I was using for directions. I soared over seas and countries until finally my destination was in sight, next to the great wall of China.

From up in the air, the village of Xuhui looked small and peaceful. I quietly landed my skyboard and walked over to a big group of people standing in the middle of the village. There were some serious looking officials standing tall, with the village citizens standing below them. Somehow I could tell that they were discussing the final decision on whether or not to build the coal fired power station.

Without stopping to think, I ran into the crowd.

'STOP' I yelled, interrupting the speeches that were being said. 'There is a better solution, we shouldn't destroy these lush surroundings and villages!'

'Who are you and what is this fantastic solution of yours then?' one of the officials questioned crossly.

'My name is Zephyr and I am from England. I have made a new invention called the Futurescope,' I explained as I pulled my device out of my rucksack. 'Please look here so you can see for yourself what will happen to your beautiful country if you build this coal fired power station.'

One of the officials, bent down and peered through the Futurescope and his reaction was amazing.

'My gosh, the young boy has a point, the planet will look awful! Animals will go extinct and there will be no ice at the North or South pole. This idea of ours must NOT go ahead.'

The other officials looked confused.

'But we need electricity to power our homes and factories. What is your solution for that?'

I passed the Futurescope to the other officials to show them another way to get electricity. They were amazed as they saw wind turbines like the ones near my house.

'We could do this too' said the Chinese officials, 'Let's build a wind farm for our energy and keep our air clean.'

From the centre of the villagers, a boy stepped forward.

'My name is Yanping, thank you for reading my letter and saving our village' he cried out happily.

I waved back, glad to have done something to help both Yanping and our planet. Then I jumped back on my skyboard and flew off towards the sunset. I just hoped my Dad was not going to be too cross with me for disappearing all day.

**THE END**

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