





Kiki Kiwi ran through the bush on his speedy little legs.
He was in a hurry to meet his friends for a picnic.
“OUCH!” he cried, tripping over something.
He looked around him, seeing a pile of empty cans
dumped on the track.
Some had dangerous sharp edges which could hurt
unsuspecting animals.



“What litter critter would do this?” he exclaimed.
“Why can’t everyone DO THE RIGHT THING?”
Kiki quickly picked up the cans and put them in
his bag to take to the recycling bin.

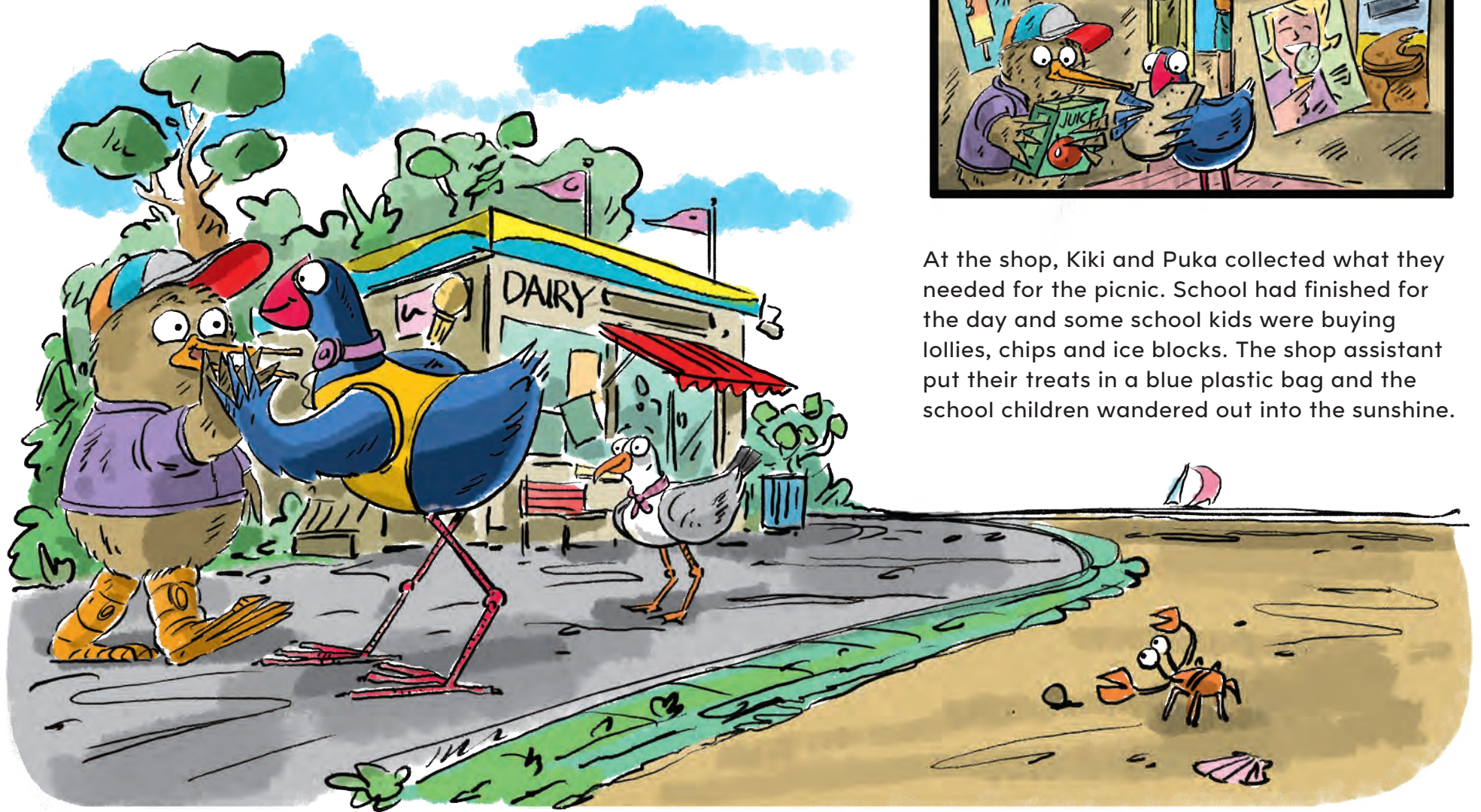


“Hey Puka,” said Kiki to Puka Pukeko, when they met outside the shop. “Are you looking forward to our picnic at the beach?”

“You bet!” Puka replied. Sybil Seagull gave them a friendly squawk. She was loitering outside the shop, hoping to pick up some tasty scraps.

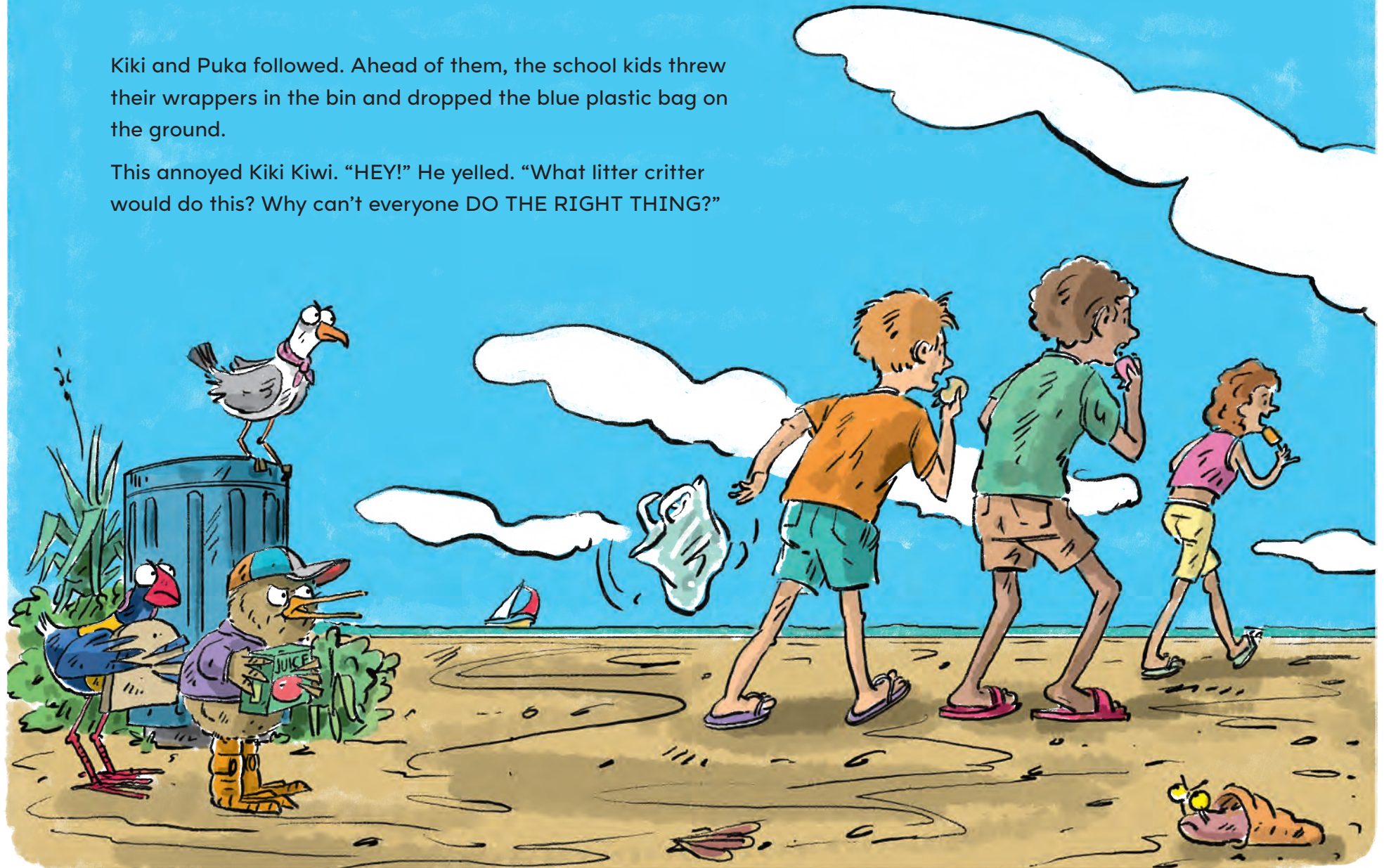


At the shop, Kiki and Puka collected what they needed for the picnic. School had finished for the day and some school kids were buying lollies, chips and ice blocks. The shop assistant put their treats in a blue plastic bag and the school children wandered out into the sunshine.



Kiki and Puka followed. Ahead of them, the school kids threw their wrappers in the bin and dropped the blue plastic bag on the ground.

This annoyed Kiki Kiwi. "HEY!" He yelled. "What litter critter would do this? Why can't everyone DO THE RIGHT THING?"



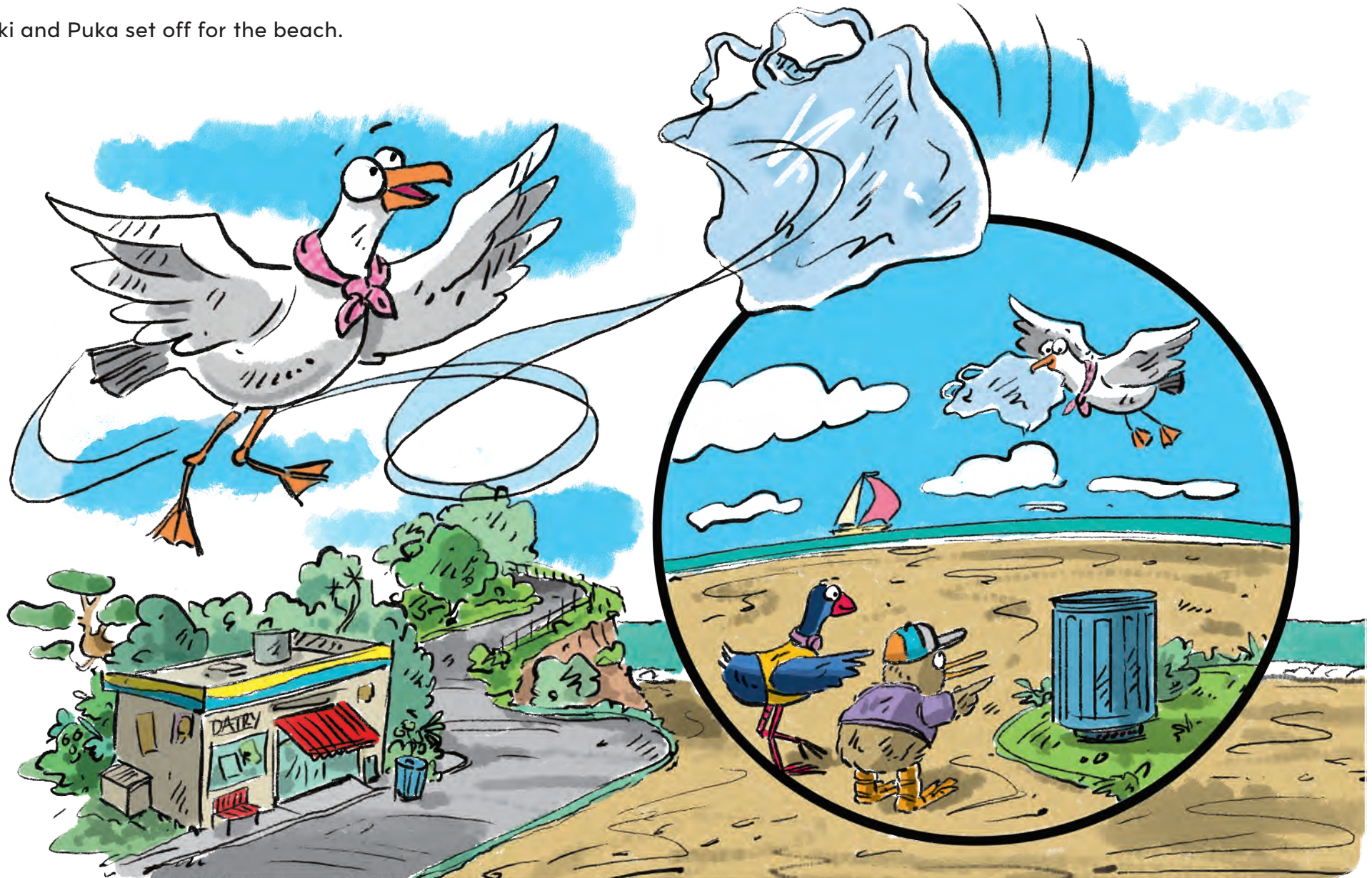
Suddenly, a gust of wind swooped in and picked up the blue plastic bag. It darted up into the sky and sailed away.

“Don’t worry, I’ll catch it.” Sybil cried, spreading her wings and taking flight. “See you at the beach!”

Kiki and Puka set off for the beach.

As they were walking, they saw Sybil flying high up above them with the blue plastic bag in her beak.

Spotting a rubbish bin nearby, Kiki and Puka flapped and pointed, hoping Sybil would see the right place to put the bag.



Kiki and Puka arrived at the beach at the same time as their friend Turi Tuatara.

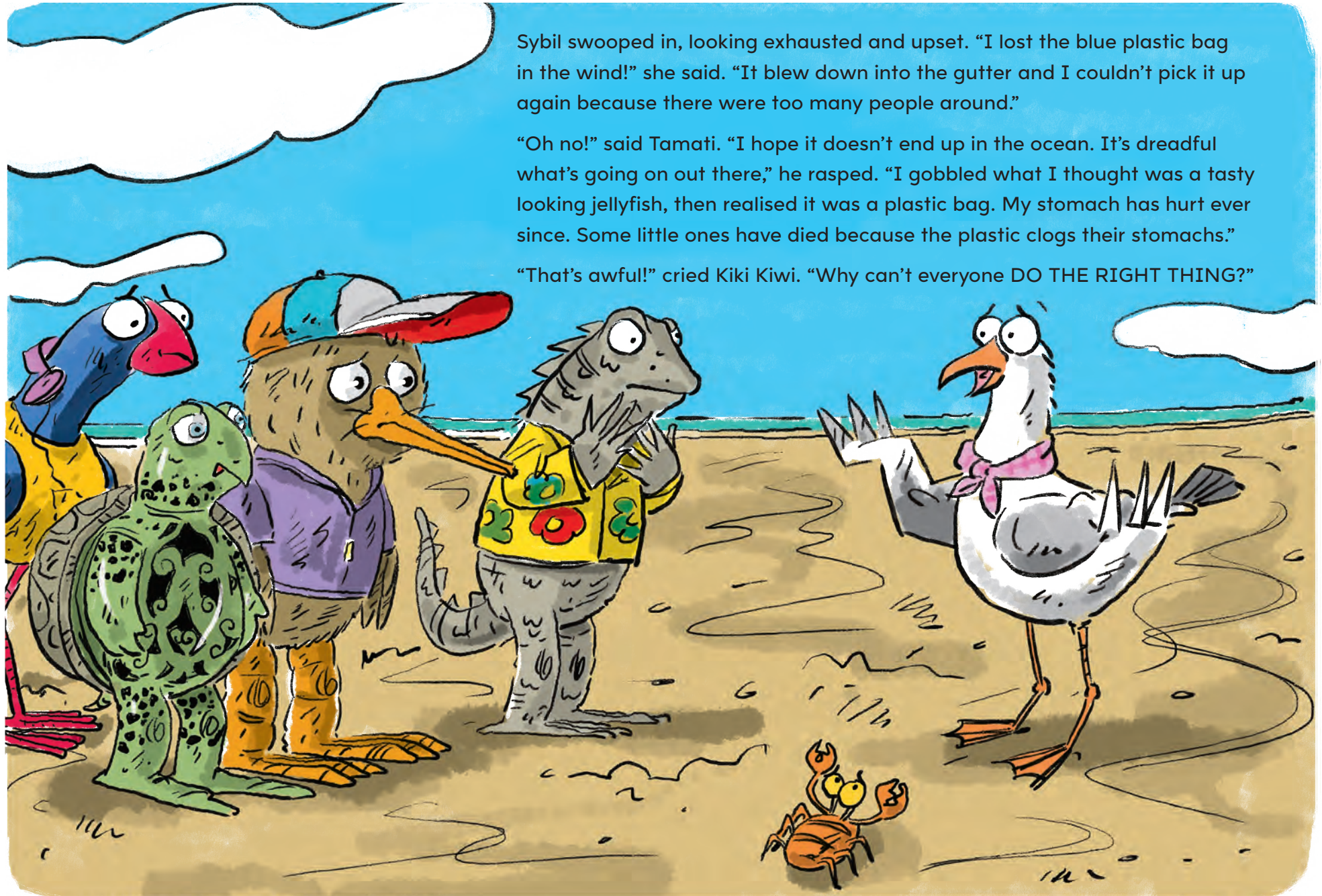
They were looking for a spot to set up their picnic when Tamati Turtle ambled up the beach to join them. Turi saw something poking out of the sand and went to inspect. "A chip packet!" he announced, angrily pulling it out. "What litter critter would do this?" screeched Kiki Kiwi. "Why can't everyone DO THE RIGHT THING?"

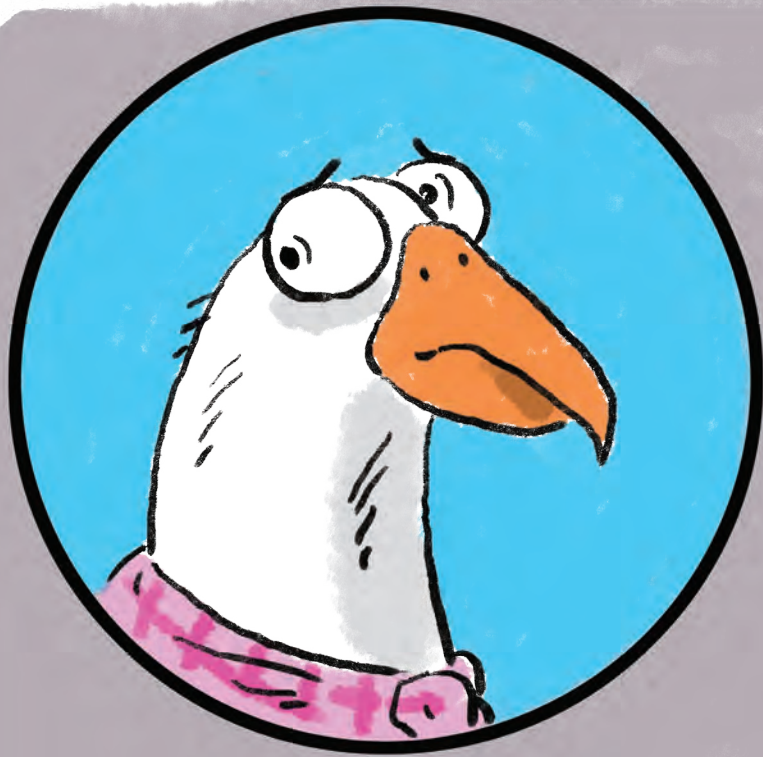


Sybil swooped in, looking exhausted and upset. "I lost the blue plastic bag in the wind!" she said. "It blew down into the gutter and I couldn't pick it up again because there were too many people around."

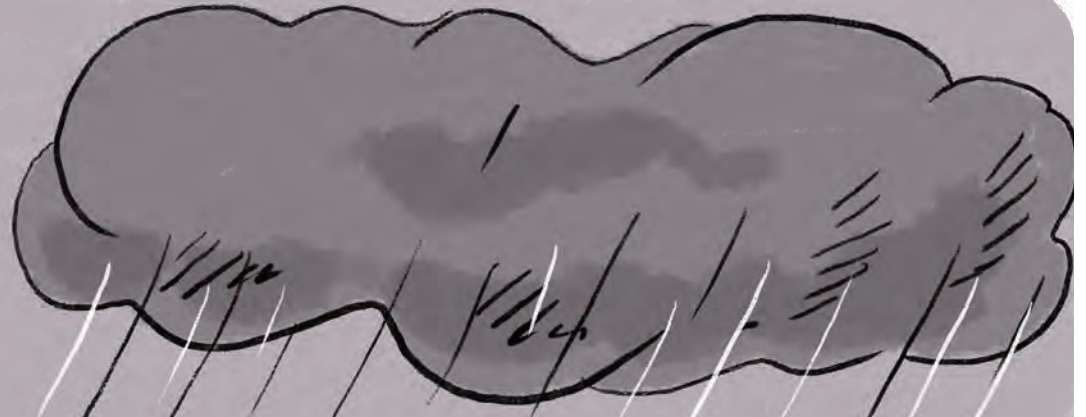
"Oh no!" said Tamati. "I hope it doesn't end up in the ocean. It's dreadful what's going on out there," he rasped. "I gobbled what I thought was a tasty looking jellyfish, then realised it was a plastic bag. My stomach has hurt ever since. Some little ones have died because the plastic clogs their stomachs."

"That's awful!" cried Kiki Kiwi. "Why can't everyone DO THE RIGHT THING?"





Sybil looked worried. She felt bad she had dropped the blue plastic bag. She had seen on her travels what happened with litter. She knew where the bag would end up.



A black cloud moved overhead and fat raindrops began to plop on their heads. The rain grew heavier as the sky darkened.

“Looks like we won’t be having a picnic today!” said Kiki Kiwi. “Let’s come back tomorrow for our picnic,” he called as everyone scurried for cover.



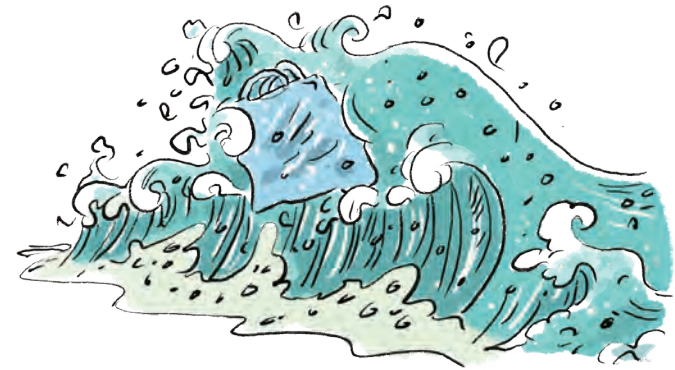
It rained for the rest of the afternoon. Water began to stream through the gutters as people hurriedly walked by. The rain water picked up the blue plastic bag and swirled it down the street, collecting all the other gutter rubbish as well. It eventually swept the plastic bag into a big storm water drain.



The bag travelled quickly at first, through the darkness, then slower and slower until it emerged at the other end. It arrived at the same beach where Kiki and his friends had been.



Still raining the next day, the tide surged high up the beach and snatched the blue plastic bag with its foamy arms, dragging it back down to the sea. The blue plastic bag bobbed in the waves, backwards and forwards like a surfer.



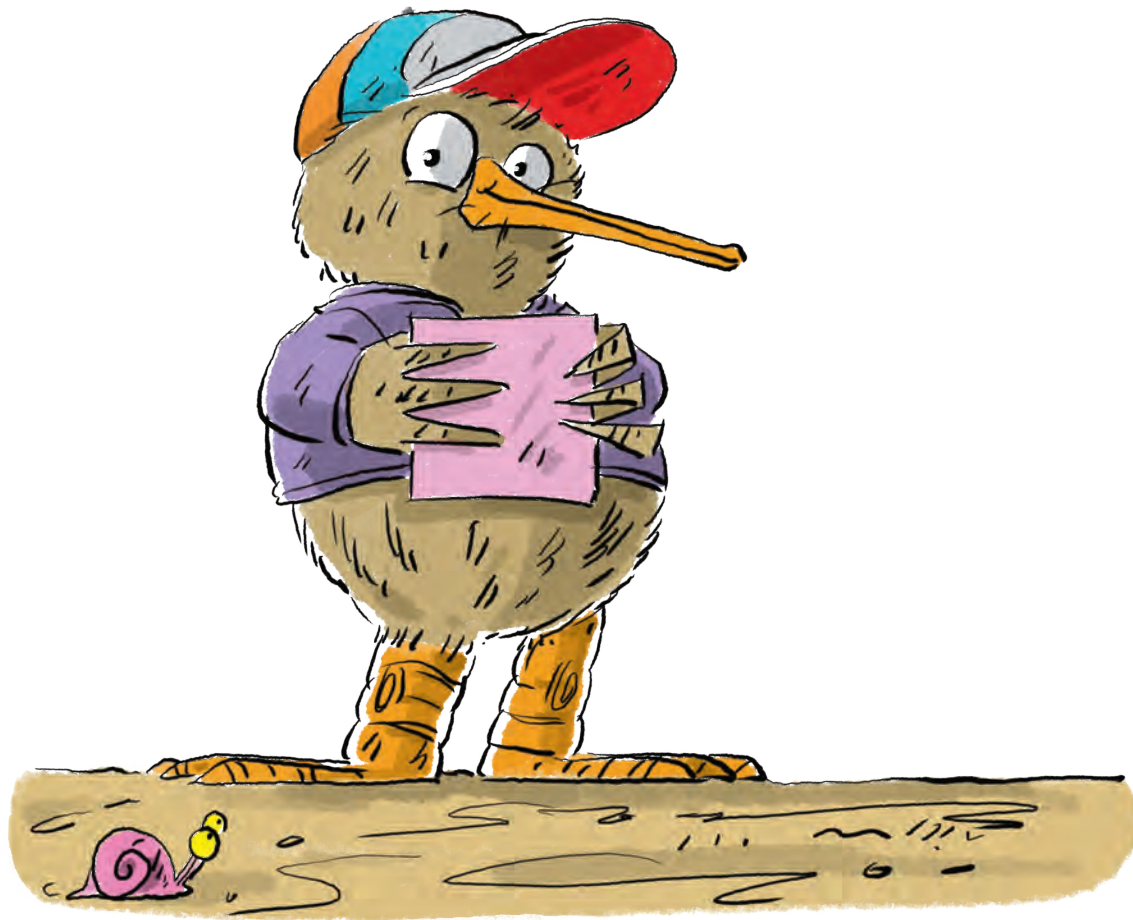
It lay for hours wet and sandy on the beach as the tide retreated.

Everyone walking past ignored the blue plastic bag, except for a few dogs who sniffed at it curiously.

Kiki and his friends stayed dry at home, postponing their beach picnic for another day.

CHAPTER ONE

QUESTIONS



1. How did the blue plastic bag become litter?
2. Where did the blue plastic bag start and end up?
3. How did the blue plastic bag travel there?
4. What other litter is mentioned in the story?
5. What environmental impact could the litter have if it isn't put in the bin?
6. What social/environmental impacts concerning litter did Kiki Kiwi and his friends have?

DO
THE
RIGHT
THING!

