

KIKI KIWI

AND FRIENDS
THE TRAVELLING
TRASH

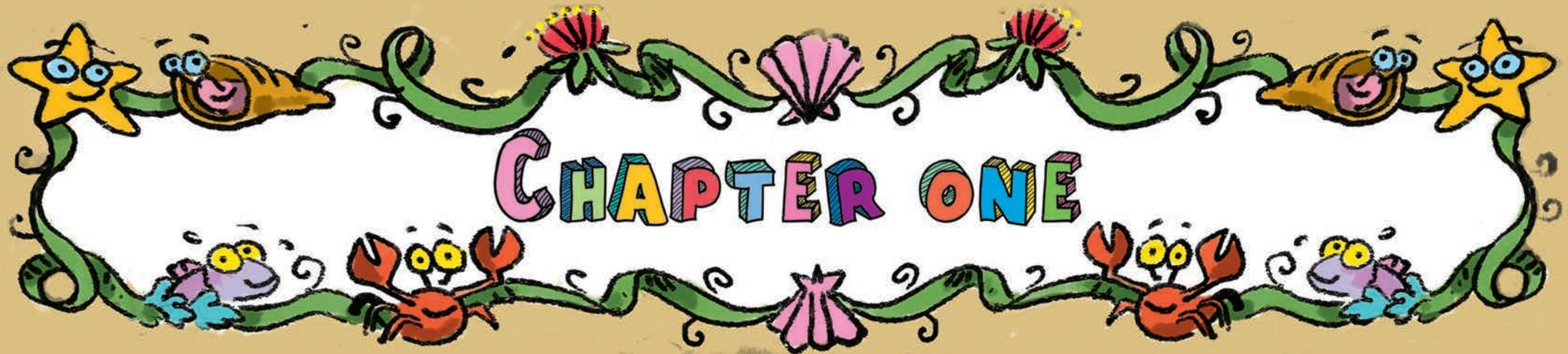


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Kiki Kiwi ran through the bush on his speedy little legs.
He was in a hurry to meet his friends for a picnic.
“OUCH!” he cried, tripping over something.
He looked around him, seeing a pile of empty cans
dumped on the track.
Some had dangerous sharp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

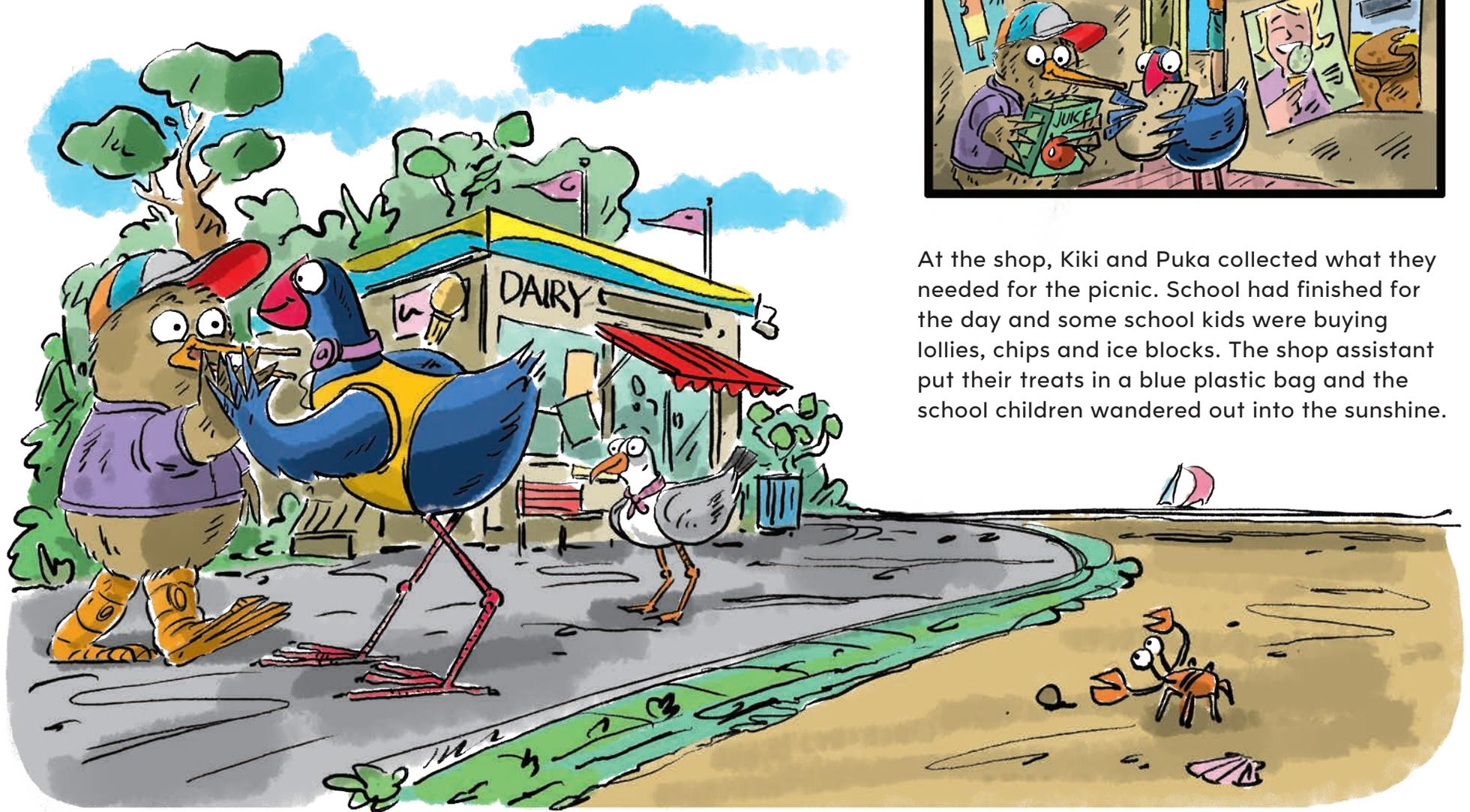


“Hey Puka,” said Kiki to Puka Pukeko, when they met outside the shop. “Are you looking forward to our picnic at the beach?”

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

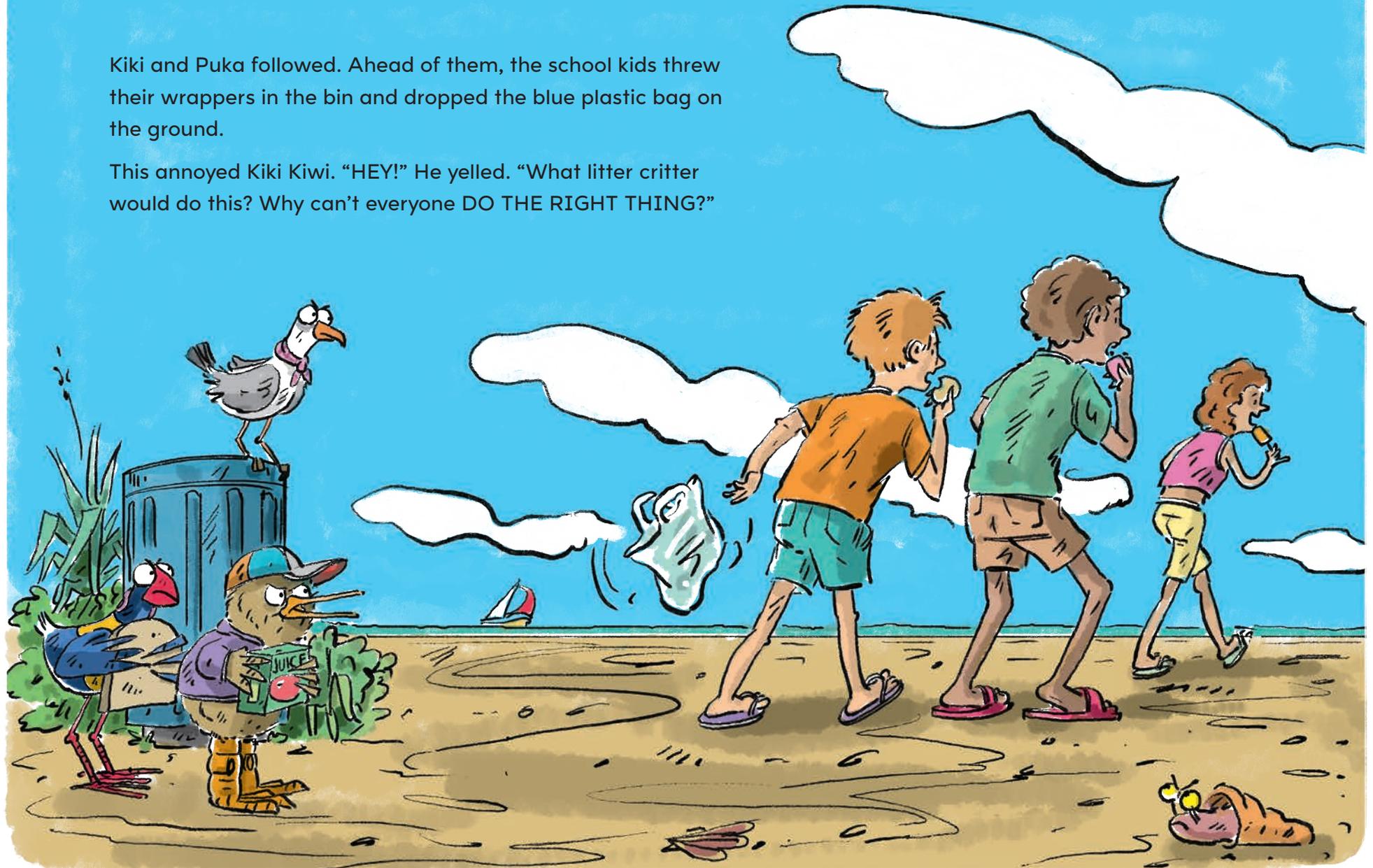


At the shop, Kiki and Puka collected what they needed for the picnic. School had finished for the day and some school kids were buying lollies, chips and ice blocks. The shop assistant put their treats in a blue plastic bag and the school children wandered out into the sunshine.



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?"



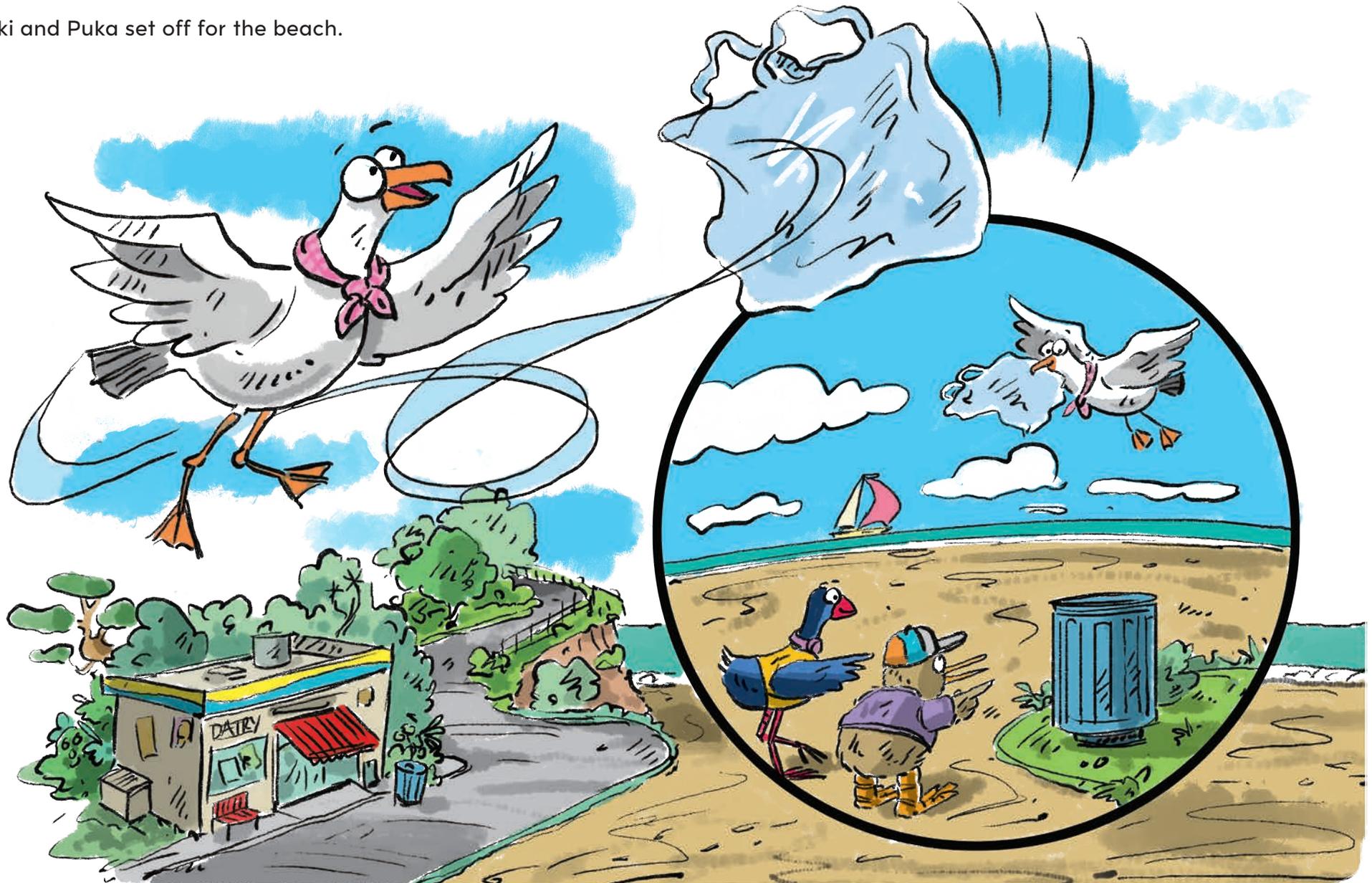
Suddenly, a gust of wind swooped in and picked up the blue plastic bag. It darted up into the sky and sailed away.

“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.

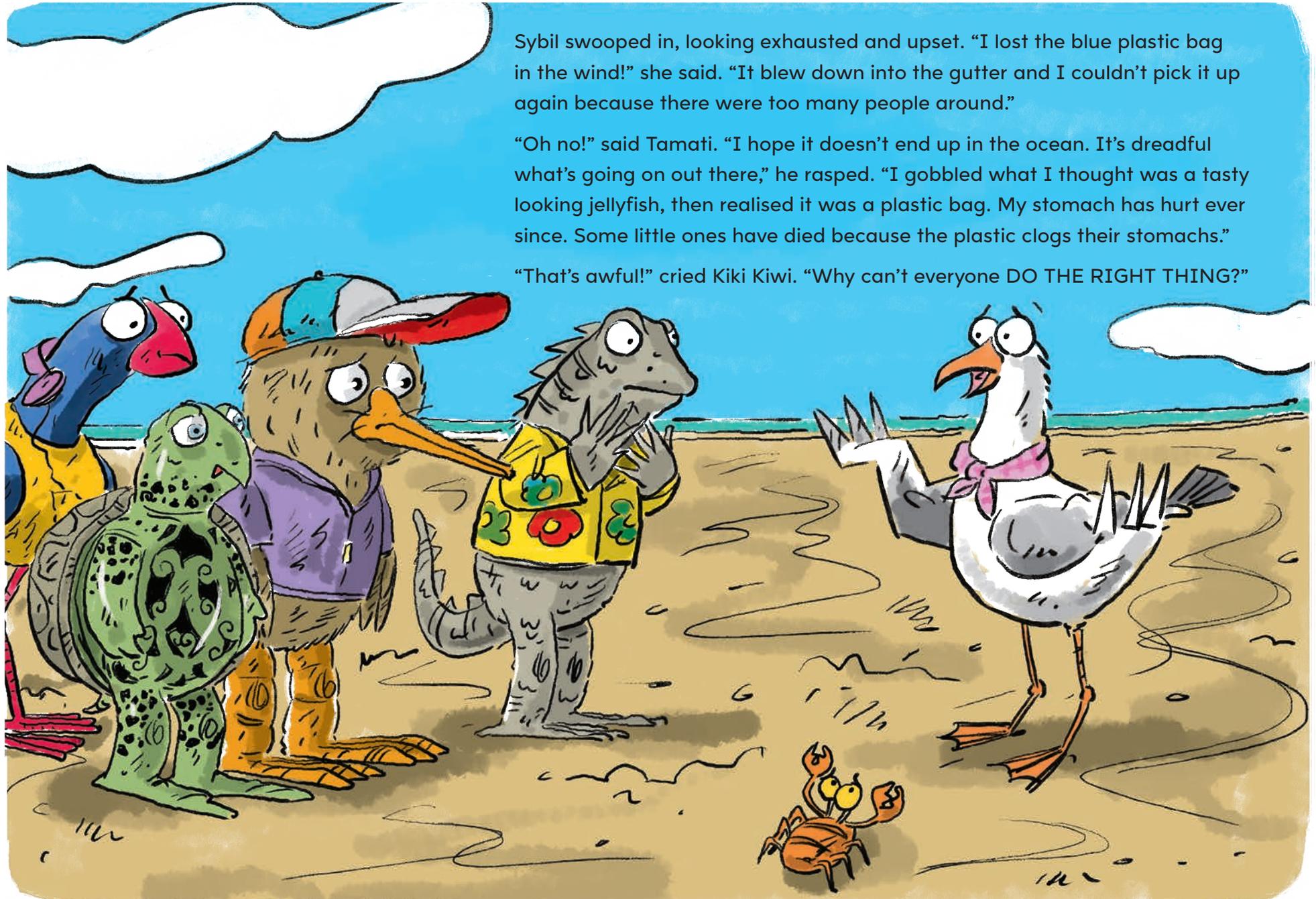
Spotting a rubbish bin nearby, Kiki and Puka flapped and pointed, hoping Sybil would see the right place to put the bag.



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?"

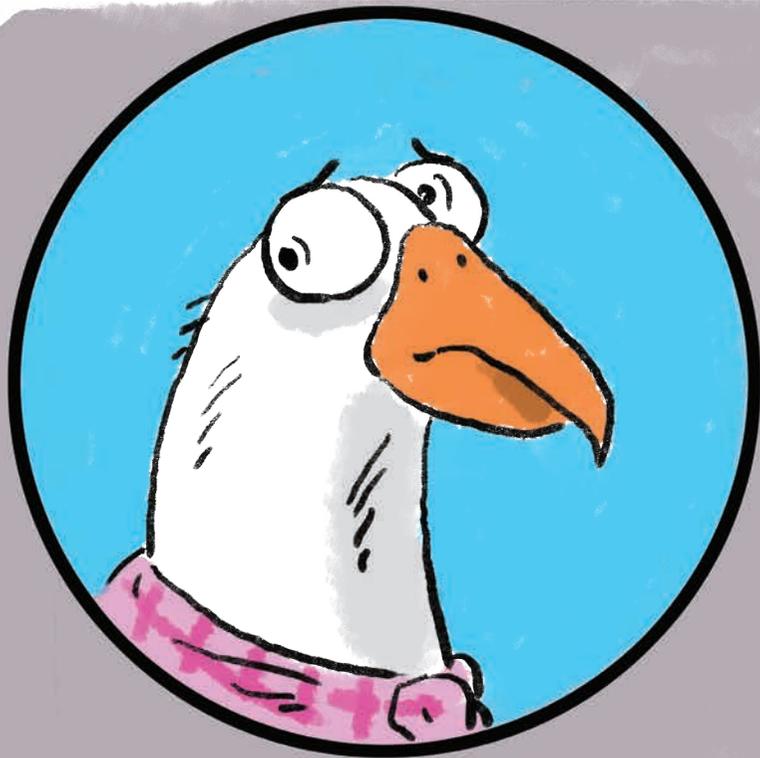




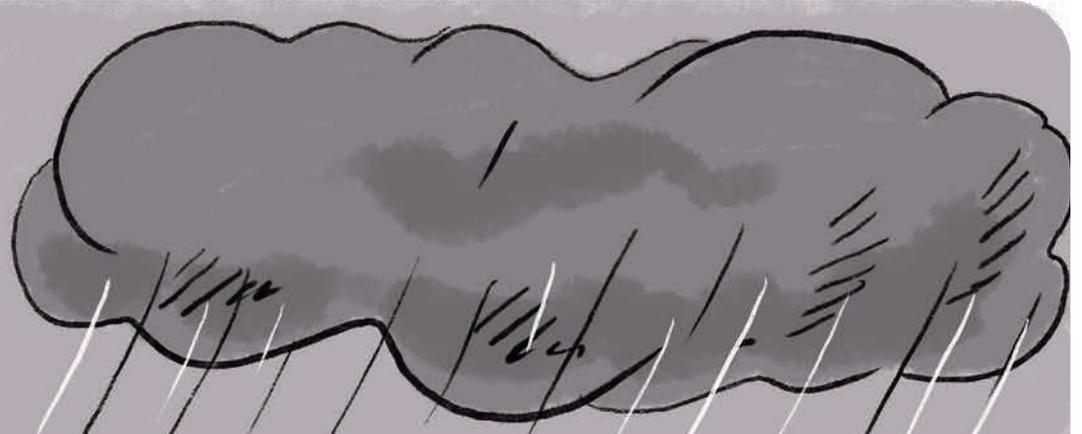
Sybil swooped in, looking exhausted and upset. “I lost the blue plastic bag in the wind!” she said. “It blew down into the gutter and I couldn’t pick it up again because there were too many people around.”

“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.



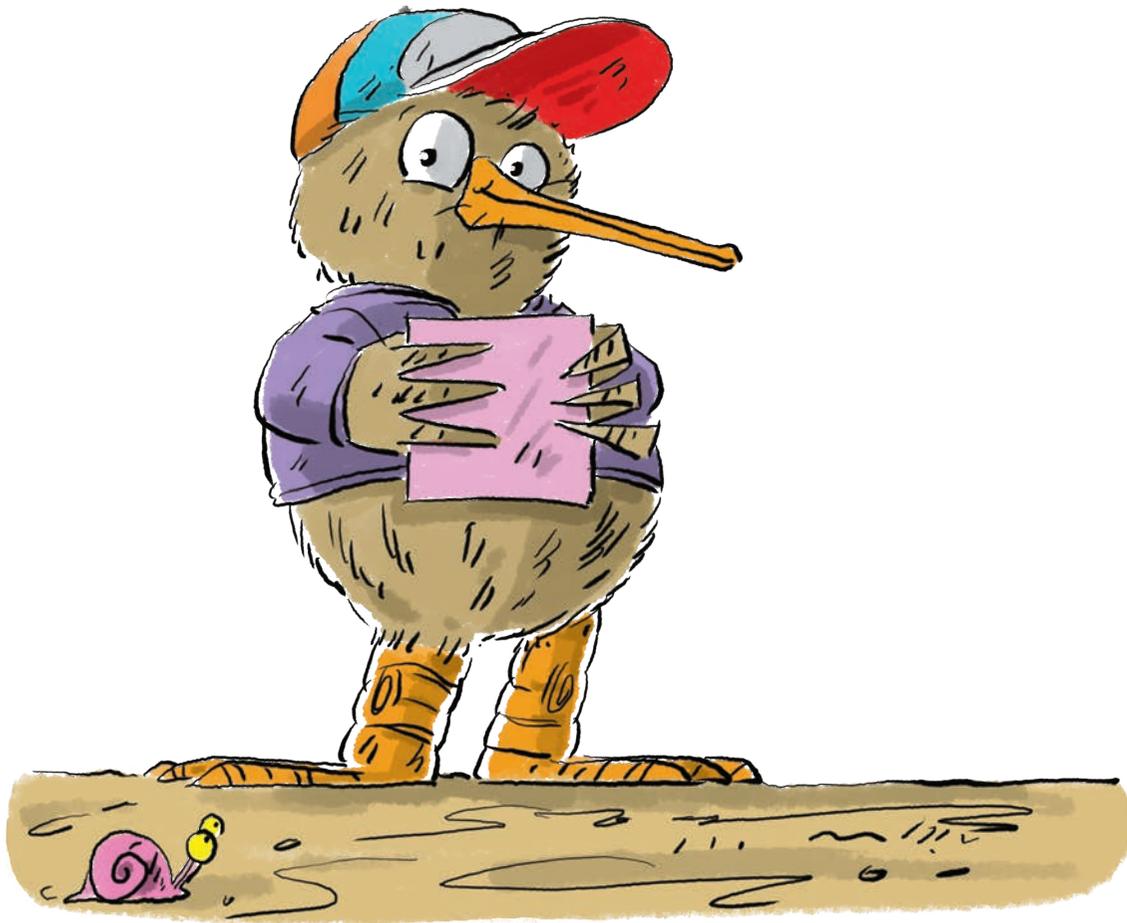
It lay for hours wet and sandy on the beach as the tide retreated.

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

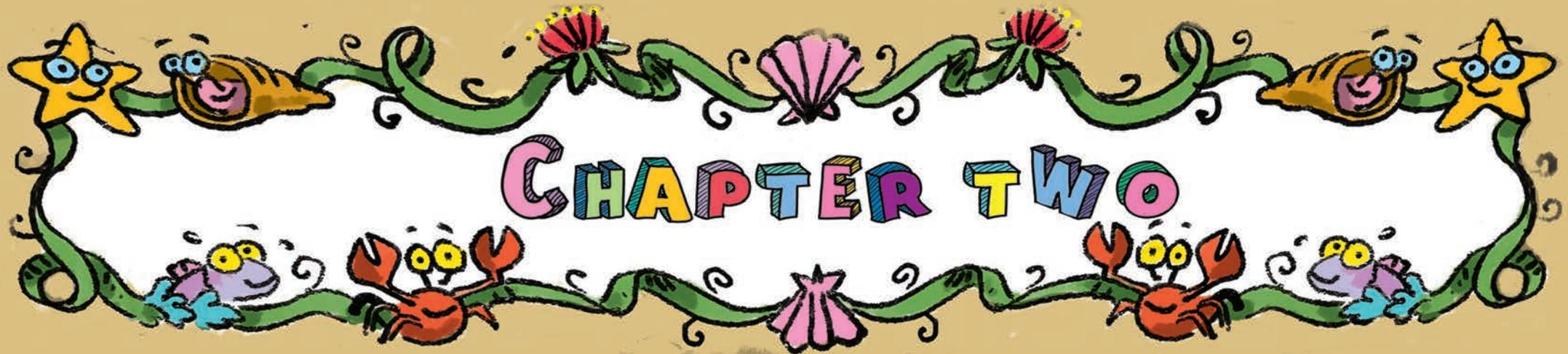
Kiki and his friends stayed dry at home, postponing their beach picnic for another day.

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?



The night sea finally sucked the blue plastic bag away from the beach and out into its current.

By daybreak, it was far from shore.



Back on the mainland, Kiki Kiwi and his friends were discussing the cans Kiki had tripped over, the buried chip packet Turi had found on the beach, and the blue plastic bag that had blown away.

“It’s so sad,” said Kiki. “I wonder how many little sea creatures are sick right now because they’ve eaten litter by mistake?”

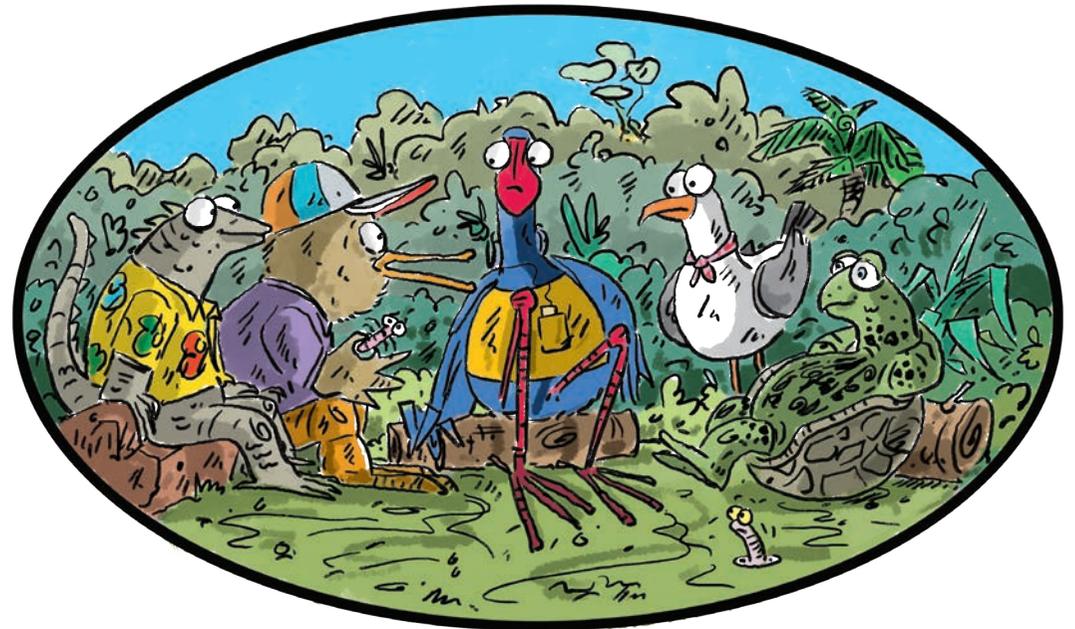
“It’s disturbing!” sighed Turi.

“Distressing!” exclaimed Puka.

“Disgraceful!” grunted Tamati.

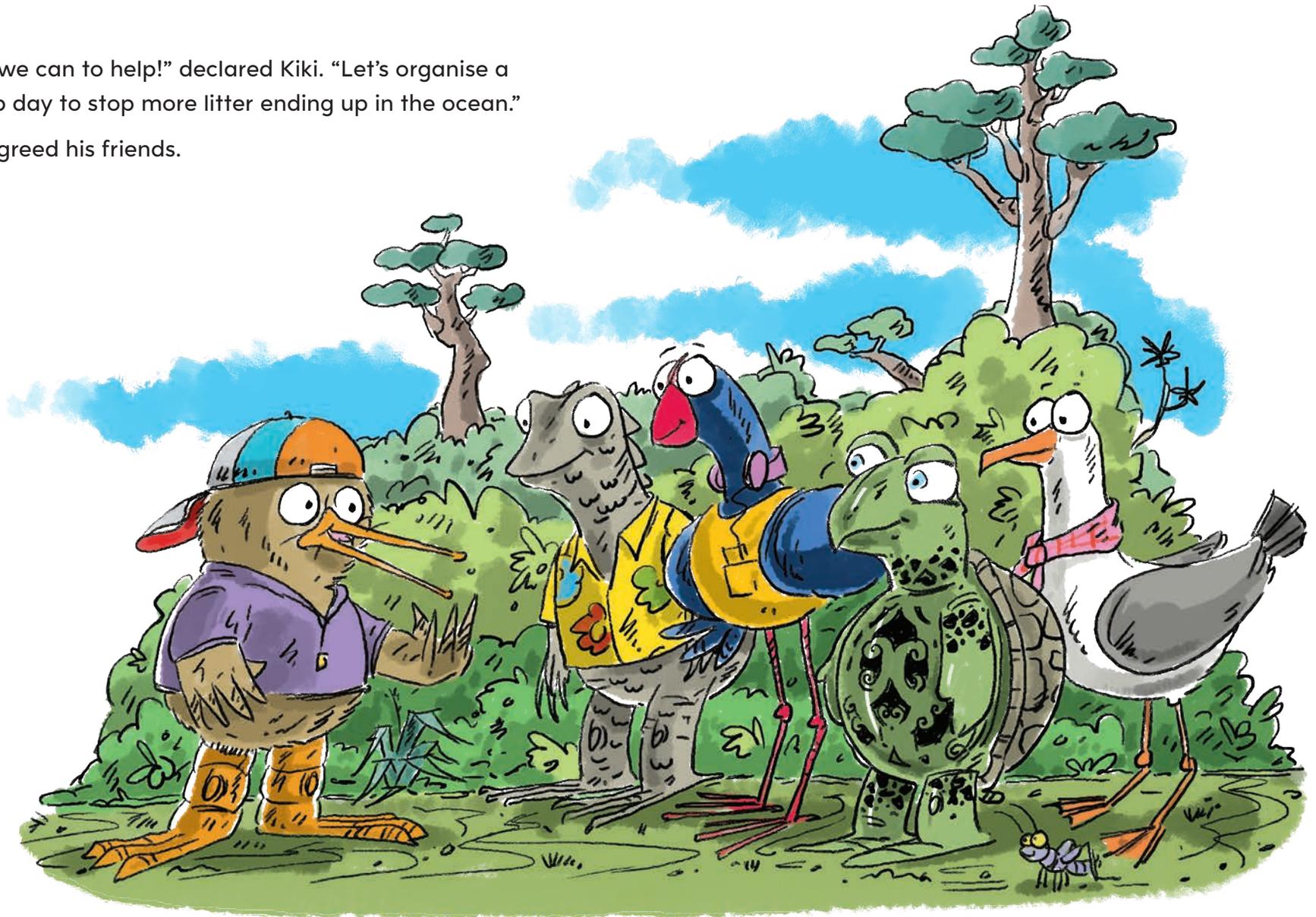
“DESPICABLE!” squawked Sybil.

“What litter critter would do this?” cried Kiki. “Why can’t everyone DO THE RIGHT THING?”



“Let’s do what we can to help!” declared Kiki. “Let’s organise a beach clean-up day to stop more litter ending up in the ocean.”

“Great idea!” agreed his friends.



At sea, sunny and stormy days came and went. Plastic bottles and food containers floated past the blue plastic bag.

Sea creatures struggled by, entangled in old fishing line and nets.



A fishing boat caught the blue plastic bag in its net and pulled it on board with the fish. But a fisherman hurled it back into the ocean.



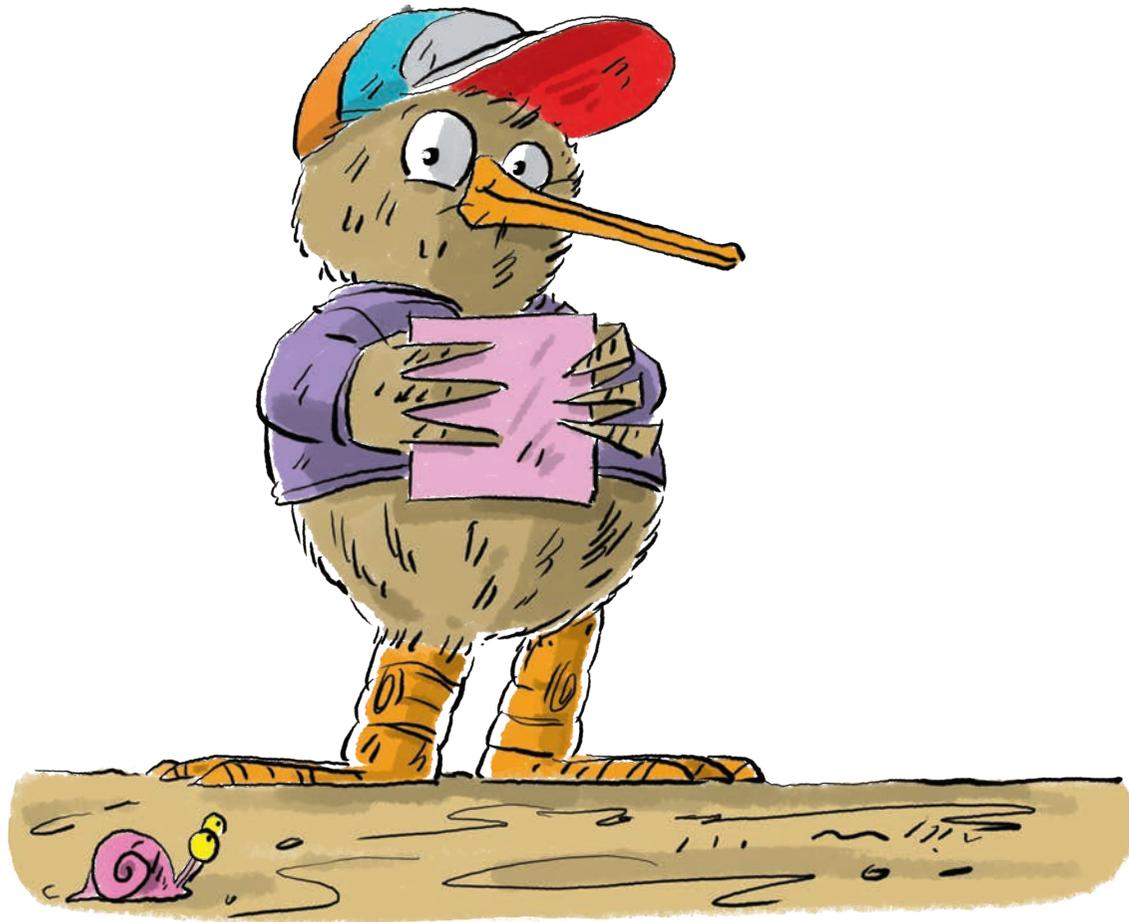
Fish nibbled small holes in the tatty blue plastic bag, thinking it was food.

Days, weeks, and even months passed by. The blue plastic bag was again caught in a net hanging from a ship. This one was a huge international cargo ship, stacked high with containers.

The blue plastic bag had journeyed a long way.

CHAPTER TWO

QUESTIONS



1. What happened to the blue plastic bag?
2. Where did the blue plastic bag end up?
3. How did it manage to move away from the beach?
4. What environmental/social/economic impacts did or could the blue plastic bag have?



CHAPTER THREE



A large wave slapped the side of the cargo ship, pulling the blue plastic bag free. With each passing day, the bag floated a little further out to sea until it reached its end destination - the big 'ocean garbage patch'. This was also known as a gyre.

Surrounding the blue plastic bag were great clumps of knotty seaweed tangled with foreign visitors - plastic bottles once filled with lotion or shampoo; bottle caps and old shoes; styrofoam cups and plastic straws. This was a gathering place for litter that had travelled from faraway places, brought together by the ocean currents.

Fish, sea mammals and seabirds fed on the pieces of trash, afterwards feeling sick and some even dying. And all because many people, in many places, didn't do the right thing - like the school kids who threw their blue plastic bag on the ground causing it to start its journey to this huge ocean garbage patch.

Back at the beach, the sun was shining and the waves sparkled. Kiki and his friends were having their clean-up day. They put plastics, cans and paper into one big sack to recycle.

Puka stalked up and down the beach picking up other trash. Sybil flew along the beach in great swoops, gathering plastic bags in her sharp beak. She dropped the bags into Puka's sack.

"At least these ones won't join the plastic soup in the middle of the ocean!" she squawked.



"Phew!" said Kiki, looking around. "What a perfect spot for a picnic!"

Of course, they remembered to do the right thing by taking away all their trash, leaving nothing on the beach except their footprints.



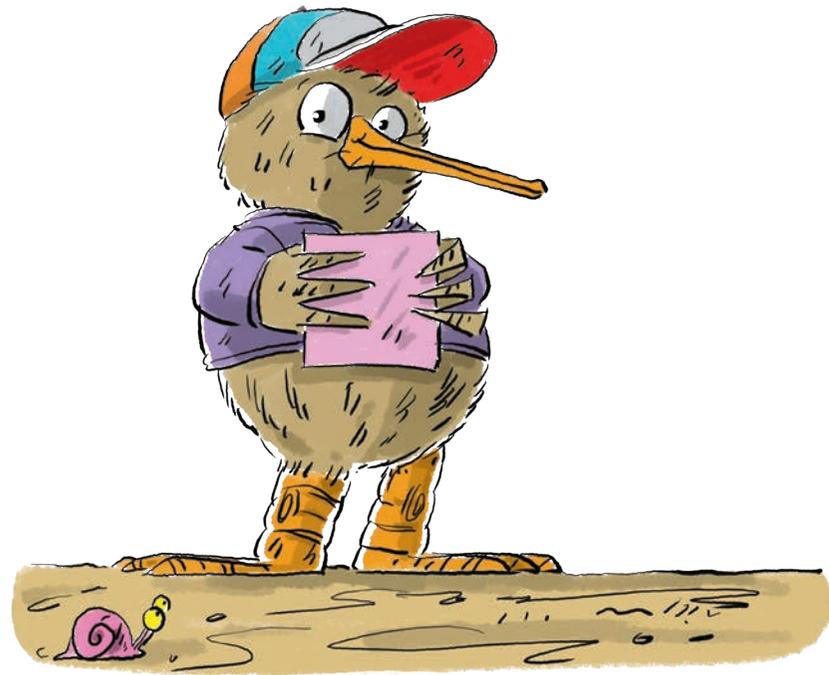
CHAPTER THREE

QUESTIONS



1. What happened to the blue plastic bag?
2. What happened to the blue plastic bag and the other trash in the gyre/ocean garbage patch over time?
3. List all the times in the story the bag could have been rescued and disposed of correctly.

ANSWERS



Chapter one

1. The blue plastic bag became litter because the children dropped it outside the dairy.
2. The blue plastic bag started at the dairy and ended up on the beach.
3. The wind picked the blue plastic bag up into the air. Sybil the seagull then transported the bag in her beak and dropped it. Rain water then washed it down into the gutter, and the storm water drain washed it to the beach.
4. Empty cans, wrappers, chip packets and gutter rubbish.
5. The environmental impact of this litter is blocked water ways and it could be eaten by animals in the ocean.
6. They were concerned it could be a choking hazard and could be eaten by other sea animals. It could lead to the death of animals.

Chapter two

1. The blue plastic bag was sucked away from the beach and out into the ocean's current.
2. The blue plastic bag ended up in international waters.
3. The sea sucked the blue plastic bag out from the beach. It was then moved by the ocean current further out to sea.
4. Strangulation/suffocation to animals, choking hazard, could be eaten, could lead to the death of sea animals.

Chapter three

1. The blue plastic bag was pulled even further out to sea and ended up in an ocean garbage patch, also known as a gyre.
2. Over time, the blue plastic bag and other rubbish was eaten by fish, sea mammals and sea birds.
3.
 - a. The kids could have put the blue plastic bag in the bin at the dairy.
 - b. People walking next to the gutter could have picked up the blue plastic bag and put it in the bin.
 - c. People walking on the beach could have picked up the blue plastic bag and put it in the bin.
 - d. The fisherman who caught the blue plastic bag in his net could have put it in the bin.

DO
THE
RIGHT
THING!

