



Madeline Squarcia is a senior at Lafayette College studying Engineering and Environmental Studies. Born and raised in Easton, she is well aware of the community and proud to be working with the Nurture Nature Center. She is passionate about deepening her understanding of the relationship between social and environmental justice. In 2021, she founded the initiative, "Bags to Beds" to repurpose plastic bags in a meaningful way. After college, she aims to use the skills she has developed from her academic career and extracurricular activities to create a more just, resilient, and sustainable world. She believes that education is the foundation for all meaningful change and hopes to empower more young people to become environmental changemakers.

Bags to Beds



www.hercampus.com/school/lafayette/lafayette-s-bags-beds-initiative/

Following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the reliance on single-use plastics heavily increased. This was especially true for college campus dining halls. At Lafayette College, many students used upwards of 21 plastic bags a week to transport food. If you multiply this by the number of students (21 bags X 2,500 students), you get close to 53,000 plastic bags a week! That's so much plastic waste! To combat this, I started an initiative to collect, sort, cut, and loop these plastic bags into balls of plarn (plastic yarn). This plarn was then crocheted into sleeping mats that were donated to Safe Harbor (the local homeless shelter). I was accompanied by a group of 72 students that were passionate about preventing plastic waste and enhancing social justice. Together, we saved over 7,000 plastic bags from polluting the environment and donated 7 sleeping mats to Safe Harbor. This initiative is an example of how we can promote environmental and social justice with simple and creative solutions. If you're interested in turning Plastic into Plarn, see the instructions below. You can also learn more about this initiative (called "Bags to Beds") by scanning the QR code below.

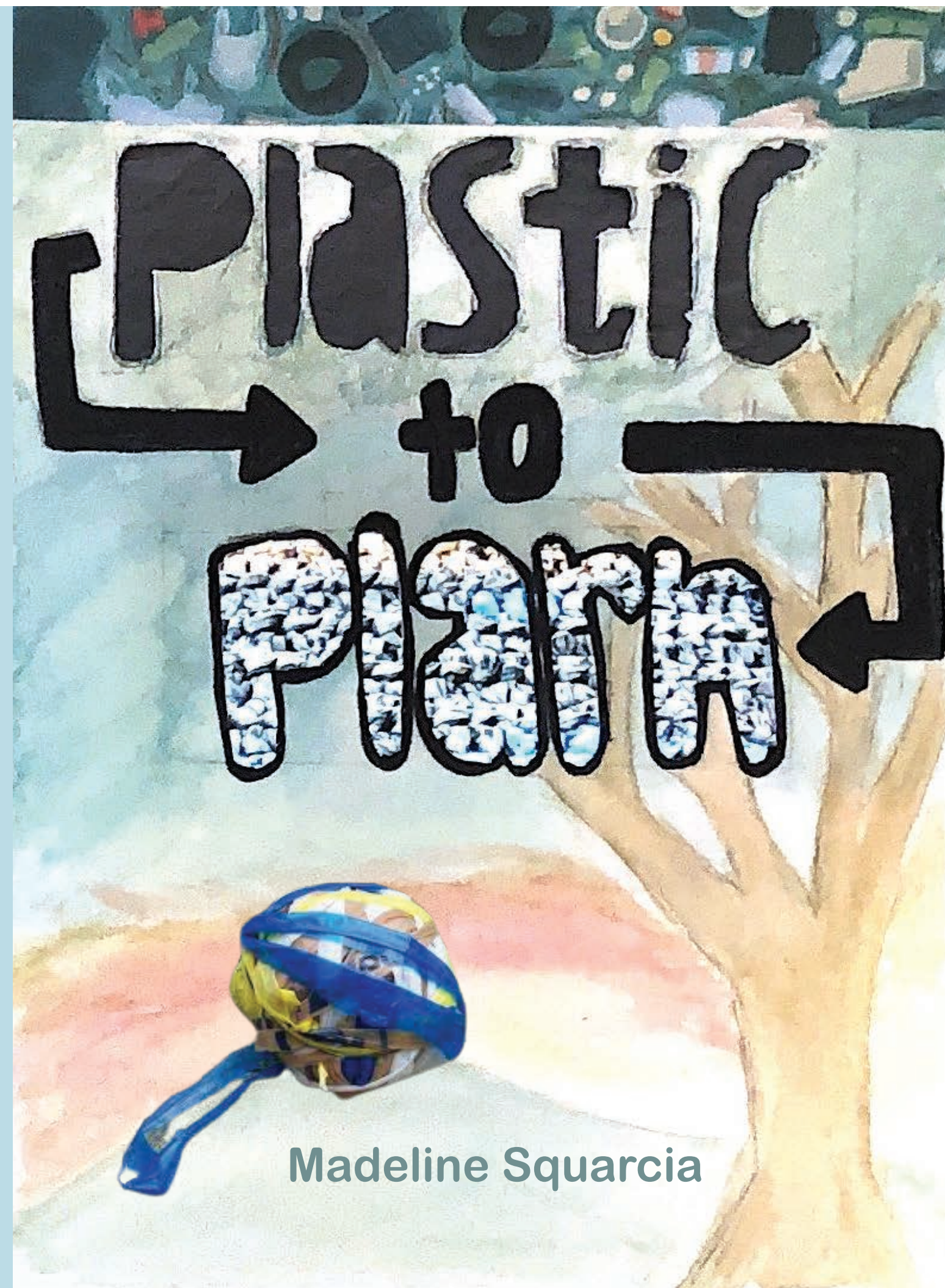
How to Make Plarn:

1. Get the plastic bag and scissors.
2. Cut off the handles and the bottom of the bag.
3. Fold the bag in half (uncut sides together).
4. Fold in half again.
5. Turn the folded edge toward you and cut 1" strips across the folded rectangle.
6. Unfold the looped strips.
7. Insert one end of one looped strip into the other looped strip, draw through, and tighten.
8. You should end up with two looped strips knotted together. Continue inserting strips to create a ball of plarn.

<https://www.favecrafts.com/Green-Crafting/How-to-Make-Plarn-Video>

Plastic → to → Plarn

Madeline Squarcia



Though convenient, plastic bags are **extremely wasteful**, require a great deal of energy to produce, and contribute to the problematic single-use mindset we have grown accustomed to. Americans use over 100 billion plastic bags a year and nearly all of them end up polluting our land, waterways, and oceans¹. Thousands of animals die every year from ingesting and getting tangled in these plastic bags. Plants are destroyed and our livelihoods are damaged by the greenhouse gasses emitted during the production process. For such short-term use, it can take over 1,000 years for these plastic bags to degrade down to microplastics that continue to pollute the environment in countless ways.

So how can we solve this problem?

Number ONE, we can stop relying on single-use plastics when there are easy and more sustainable substitutes. Next shopping trip, if you only have a few items, challenge yourself to carry them by hand without a bag. If you need a bag, consider using a reusable one made from sustainable materials. Number TWO, we can look at repurposing the plastic we do use in our life. Have a lot of plastic bags hanging around your house? See what fun DIY projects you can use to transform the bags into something more meaningful and long-lasting. A great and easy way to do this is by making PLARN (plastic yarn)!!! You can crochet, knit, or tie the plastic plarn into anything your heart desires. And finally, if the first two options are not possible, consider recycling plastics properly (find plastic bag collection centers). The plants, animals, and world will thank you for doing your part to protect the environment and reduce plastic waste!

¹ https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html

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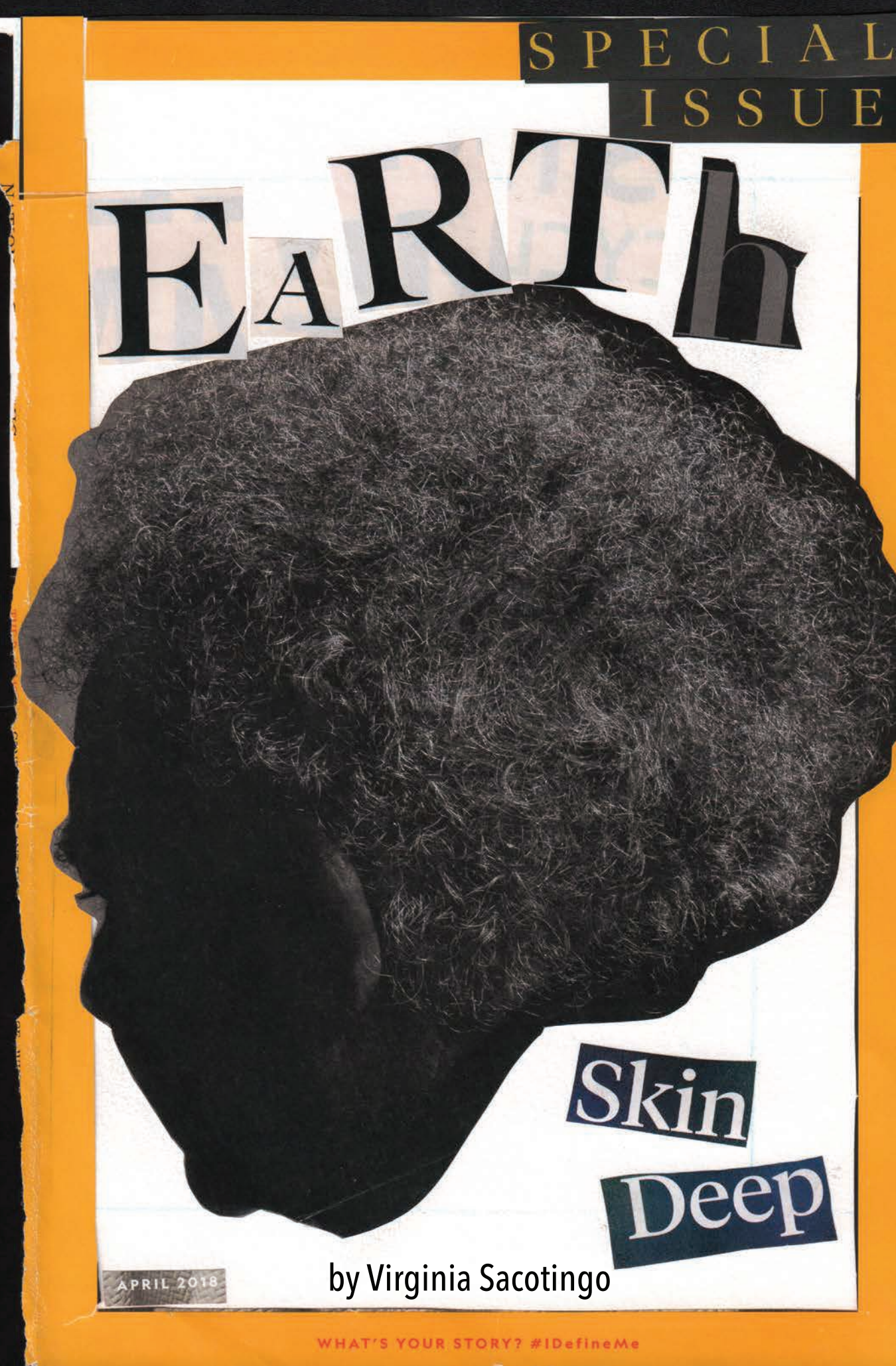
Madeline Squarcia

About the Author:

Virginia Sacotingo is a young adult in a world where people are fighting for different causes. One of her passions is racial reconciliation. She has an organization that works towards ensuring there is a dialogue and community of peace and safety in her community. She desires to collaborate her passion with one of the least payed attention to causes is climate change because of the lack of education, consideration, and the idea that it belongs to specific groups of people. Virginia aspires to reveal the truth that climate change has no race, ethnicity, nationality, background, or culture. Climate change is for everyone.



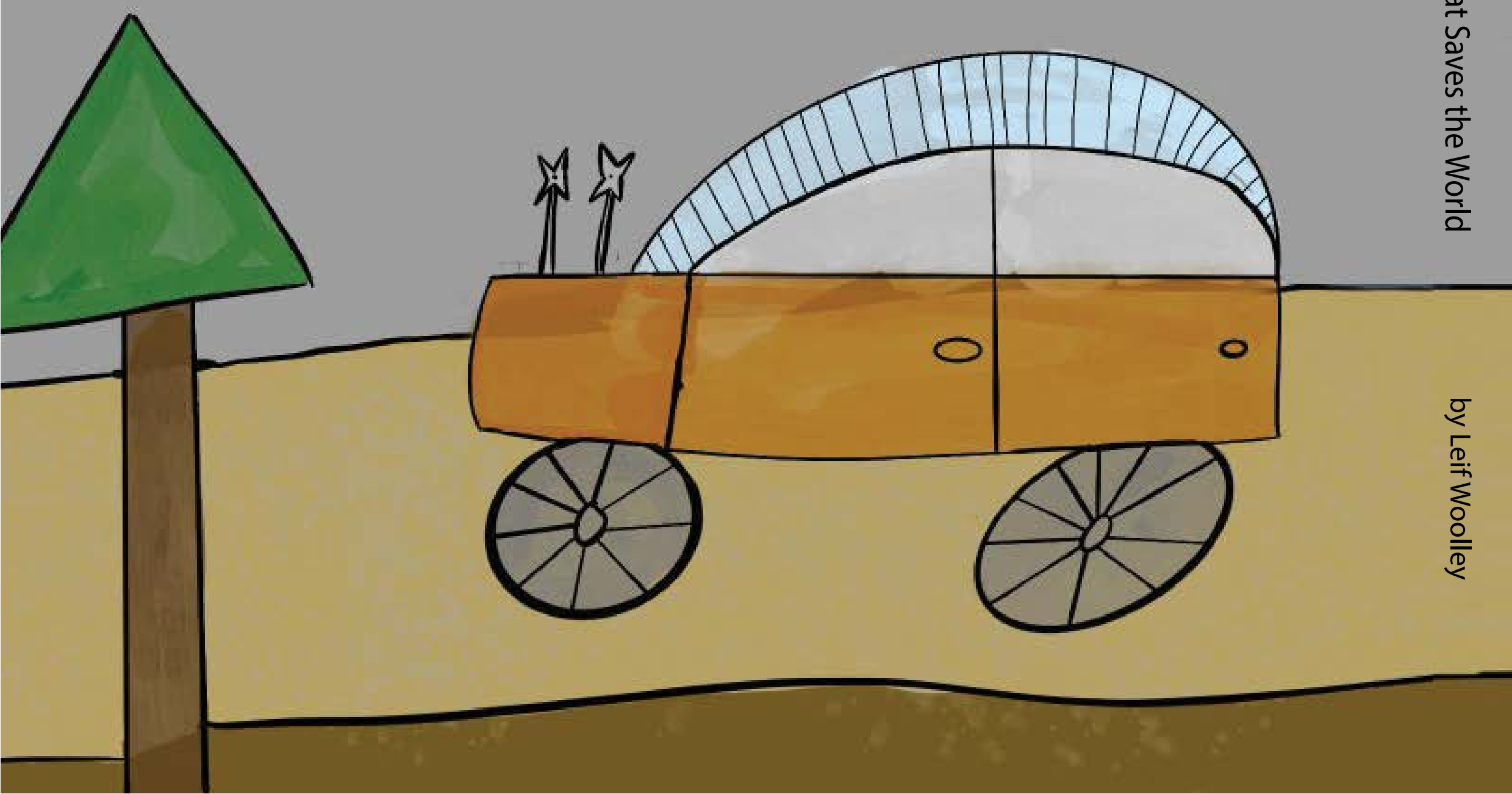
I AM THE DIFFERENCE MAKER



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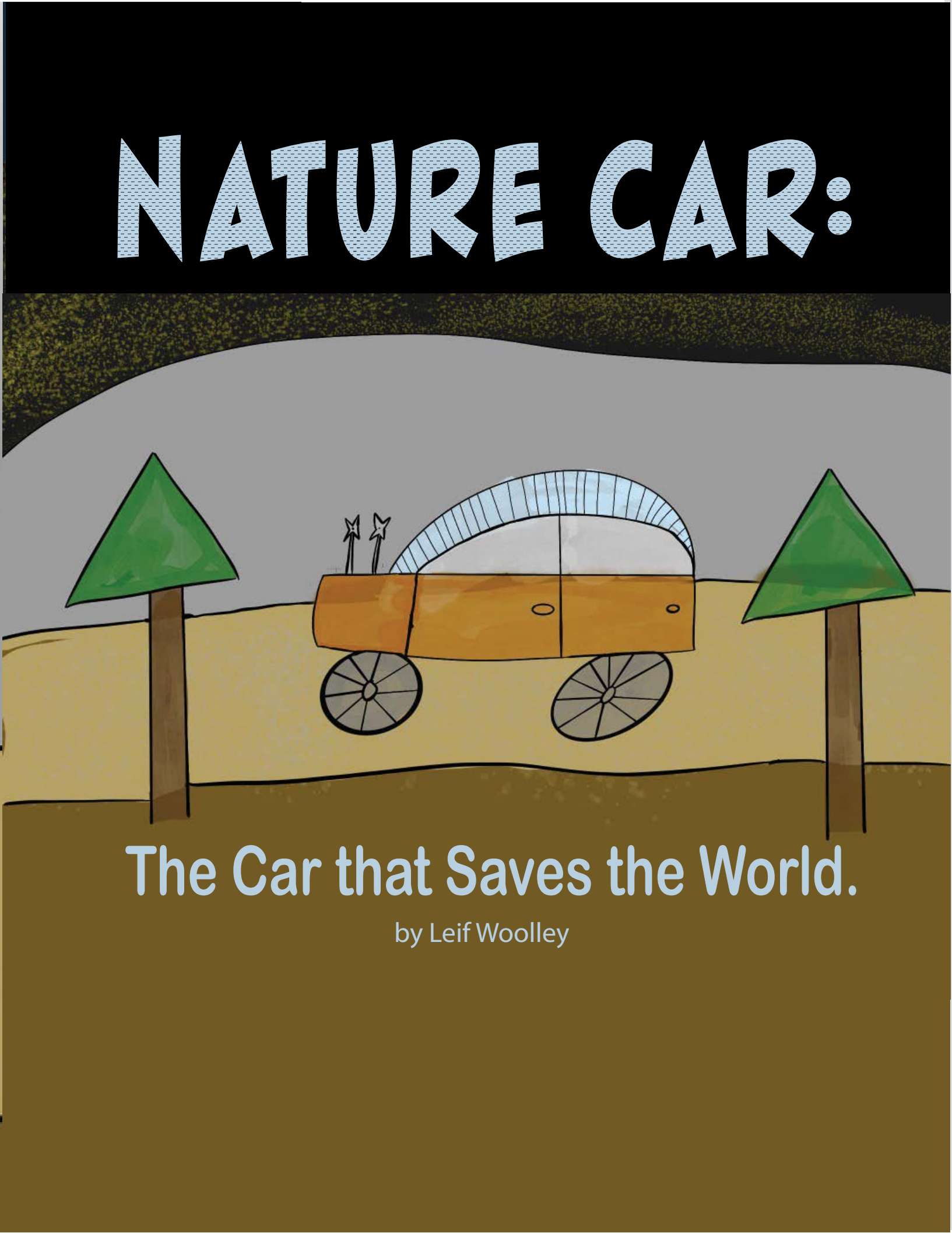
HELLO!
My name is Leif Woolley. I'm 11.
I like playing soccer, a bit more
soccer, and some video games.
I also do ballet and play the
violin. I have 8 siblings, one of
them is also doing this project
(which is very fun - I'd recom-
mend it!). I want to study more
about climate change and that's
how I got involved in this.

In 2030 Roberto Wang Firefingers Franco made an
invention that would save the world, wind and solar
power cars! It all began when Franco was thinking about
how much pollution cars made. He liked cars but he also
liked the earth. So he set out on an **AMAZING** journey to
make a solar powered car. Will he be successful? Will he
save the world! Will people buy his invention?!?!?!



NATURE CAR: The Car that Saves the World

by Leif Woolley



The Car that Saves the World.

by Leif Woolley

Did you know that a wind turbine produces an average of 402,000 kWh per month?

Did you know a solar panel produces 350-850 kWh of Ac (Alternating current) energy per month?

An electric car uses 30 kWh to travel 100 miles.

This is a fictional story. There may never be solar and wind power cars but it's still a cool idea, right?

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About The Artist

My name is Grace, and I am 15. I love art, and learning about the environment so when I found out I could use my art to educate others on our environment, and how we can improve it for the future, I was interested in participating in this project.

Ways you can save energy (without solar products):

- Bike or walk places instead of using a car.
- Carpool with a friend (this saves gas money too!)
- Turn off the lights when you are not in a room.

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Financial and other support for Youth Leading the Way: an education and leadership program in the Lehigh Valley has been provided by the Department of Environmental Protection's 2021 Environmental Education Grants Program.

Discover how your favorite crayon company has pitched in to save the environment by doing what they do best—making crayons.



Learn how a solar farm generates enough power to produce over 300 billion crayons and 700 million markers a year.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about our world and how we can improve it for the future!



A Sustainable

Childhood



Sustainable Childhood



A Sustainable Childhood

What do you get when you take one of the most iconic symbols of childhood; a Crayola crayon, and combine it with the awareness of the environment?

A Sustainable Childhood!

Join author Grace Cooke as she explores the way a company in her hometown is changing their footprint on the earth for generations to come!

"The solar farm is a wonderful testament to our commitment to sustainability, And our customers appreciate what we are doing."
-Glenn Price,
(vice president of global sourcing and supply chain for Crayola.)



Meg Dodge and Evan Flint are juniors at Lafayette College.

In Spring of 2021, authors Meg Dodge and Evan Flint noticed a new issue on their college campus, brought on by an increasing use of disposable products due to the COVID-19 pandemic: litter. It was everywhere. They rarely took a walk to a dining hall without spotting (and picking up) disposable masks, plastic Wawa cups, and dining hall receipts. They began to notice a similar problem when going to local parks for hikes. So, they bought trash bags and gloves and got to work. Together, and with the help of some friends, they have removed an estimated 75 pounds of litter from the Easton community and are working to get "The Cleanup Project" established as an official college club focusing on community cleanup and product lifecycle education.

Meg Dodge
and
Evan Flint



The Cleanup Project

Meg Dodge
and Evan Flint

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Olivia Newman is a senior at Lafayette College majoring in International Affairs and minoring in Environmental Studies. She has engaged deeply with environmental issues throughout her four years at Lafayette, through working at the Lafayette Office of Sustainability and interning with Green Allies, an environmental advocacy organization in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. After graduating, Olivia hopes to tackle issues of climate change on a governmental level.



Throughout my life, I have always been interested in finding new ways to use old things. I would save everything, from past years' homework assignments to empty jam jars, and turn them into materials for an art project or desk organizers. It was not until high school and college, however, that I discovered there was a name for these actions-upcycling-and that it was not only fun, but also beneficial for the environment. Once I discovered this, I attempted to integrate upcycling into as many aspects of my life as possible, learning how to sew so that I could transform my old clothes into throw pillows, and saving all of my too-small T-shirts so that I could turn them into tote bags. I hope to continue to find new and interesting ways to reduce waste through upcycling, and to inspire others to do the same.

Olivia Newman

UPCYCLING



UP-CYCLING

Olivia Newman



In 2018 alone, Americans produced 292 million tons of municipal solid waste. This waste often ends up in landfills and makes its way into the natural world, polluting oceans, rivers, lakes, and the air we breathe, and harms the animals with which it comes into contact. One way to reduce the amount of waste we produce, and therefore lessen these strains on the environment, is through the practice of upcycling. Upcycling refers to the conversion of old or waste materials into a new product. This practice is often discussed in relation to clothing, however it can be applied to any situation in which a usable product is created for an old or unwanted item: for instance, turning an old bucket into a flower pot, or making stationary storage out of used candle jars. In addition to reducing air and water pollution, as well as harm to wild animals, upcycling also saves energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing that contribute to global climate change.

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Meeko, a raccoon at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, is a recycling ambassador with a mission to save the planet! Meeko has learned to pick up plastic water bottles to help spread the message that we can all do our part to help.

By engaging visitors, Meeko helps to spread the message of recycling and single use plastics in a creative way.

Families can join Meeko and her mission by visiting the zoo and learning to be like her, cleaning up and doing our part- one bottle at a time!

About the Author:
Rayne Dobrowolski
is a student,
musician, and friend
to the raccoons.

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The Recycling Raccoon



About the Topic:
Small changes and habits can have a big impact on the environment!

Did you know?
Every day, single-use plastics are harming wildlife all around us. You can help reduce the amount of plastic that enters ecosystems by reducing how much you use, recycling items correctly, and continuing to educate yourself and others.

If you want to learn more about Meeko the raccoon, visit the Lehigh Valley Zoo's website.

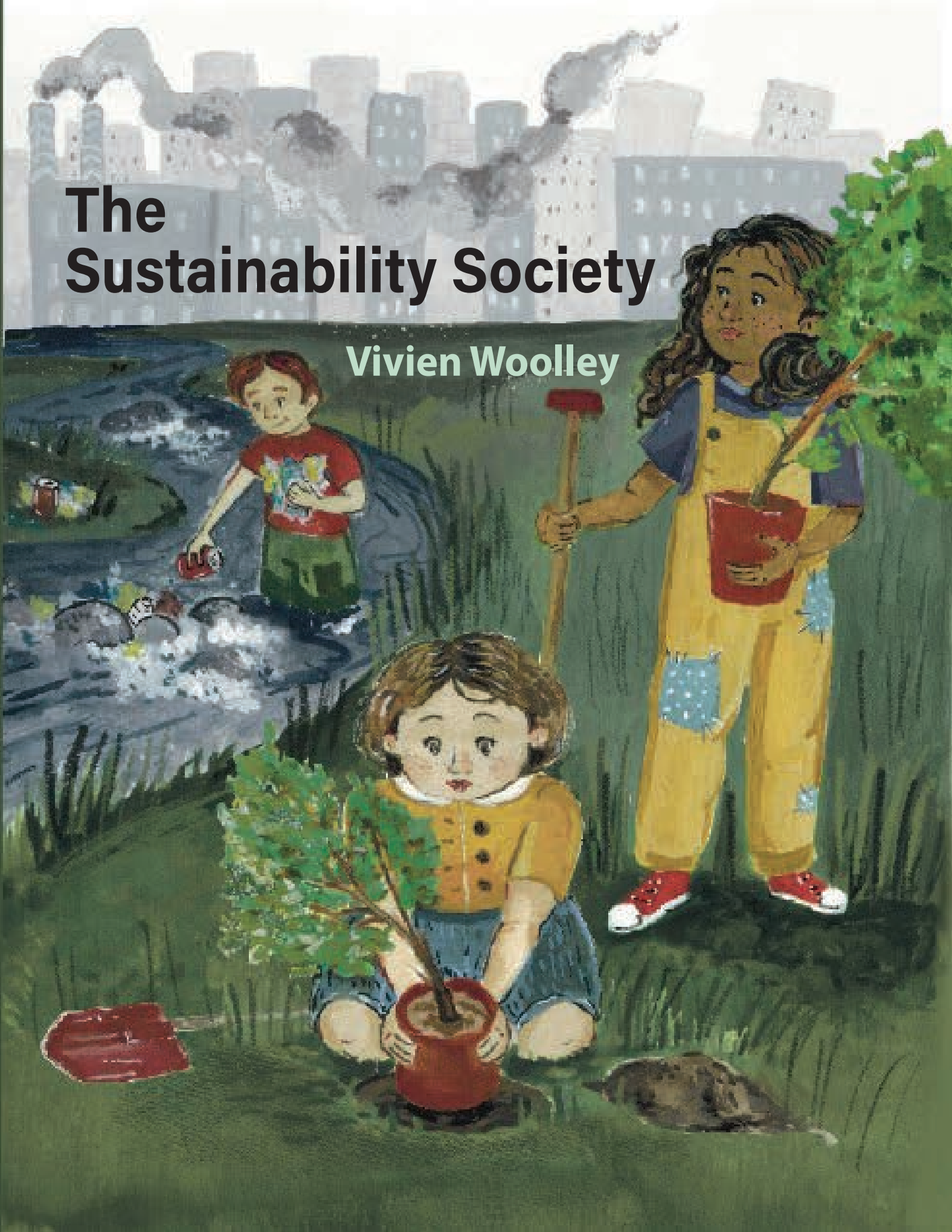
Vivien Woolley is an aspiring artist and illustrator, living in Allentown Pa. She is currently homeschooled and taking a class for Color Theory at the Lehigh Carbon Community College, and hopes to take more classes in the future to improve her art and illustrations. Outside of that, she loves horses, reading, and observing nature. She is very interested in living in a more environmentally friendly way and is especially fascinated by off-grid homesteading as a way to live sustainably.

It is the start of summer vacation and Aster is desperate to save her favorite park, which has become run down and polluted after years of neglect. She soon begins to notice the pollution and disrepair all over her city and is determined to change it. With the help of her friends, Meg and Norris, she organizes the Sustainability Society, bent on educating people and fixing the many messes they had created in their city. The Sustainability Society has just one problem- they know nothing about sustainability!

They set out trying to learn as much as possible about being sustainable, making new friends, and accepting new members along the way. Although not all goes to plan (is it possible to have a group of children clean up a pond without at least one water fight?) the Sustainability Society creates a movement in their city that leads to many an adventure and even grabs the attention of a mystery benefactor who funds their efforts, leaving odd clues for the children to decipher after every meeting. The children plant trees and build rain gardens, find innovative ways to re-use and recycle old items and trash, creating larger and more ambitious plans at every meeting, all while trying to discover who their mysterious benefactor could be. The final meeting of the summer looms ahead, as well as their deadline to have the park fully cleaned up, so Aster and the Society are hard at work when they stumble upon the true identity of their mysterious benefactor, finishing their summer with the great revelation!

The Sustainability Society

Vivien Woolley



The characters in this 'story' are trying to save their favorite park, and along with cleaning up the trash and planting new trees, they also build rain gardens to help protect the park's waterways from further pollution. Although the story is fictional, rain gardens are real and can be very beneficial in real life, as well as look beautiful in your yard or local park.

Rain gardens filter pollutants carried in runoff stormwater, improve drainage and help prevent flooding, as well as provide food and habitats for wildlife like butterflies and birds.

To learn more about rain gardens, there are many resources online, as well as checking your local library for books and information on them.

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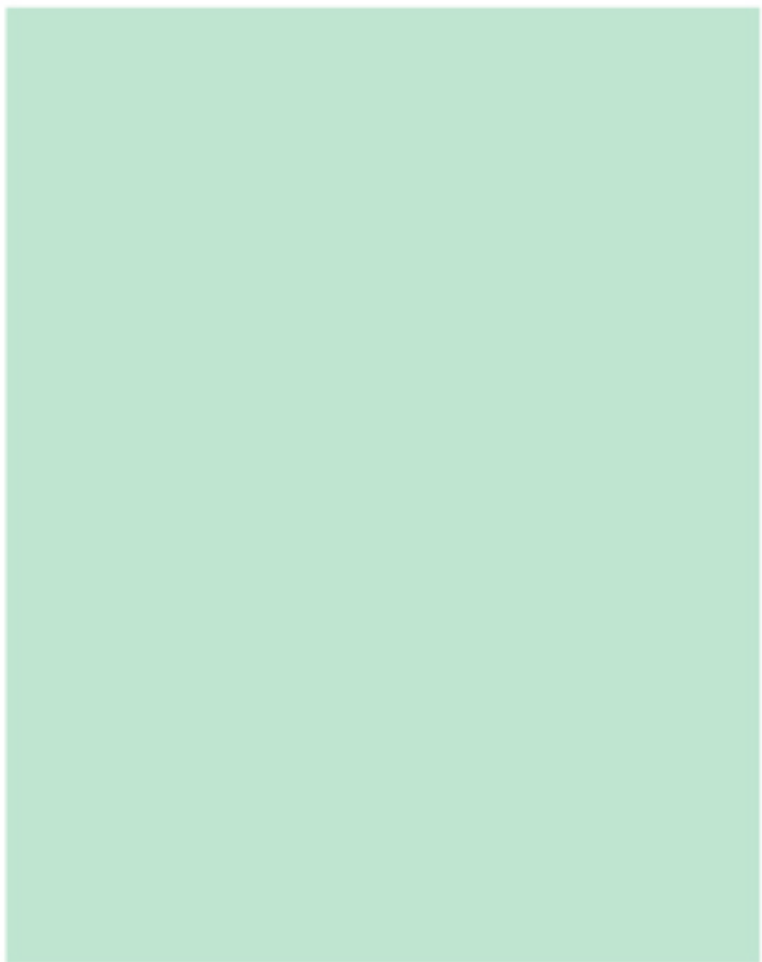
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3" x 11"

BACK COVER
8.5" x 11"

SPINE 1"

FRONT COVER
8.5" x 11"

FRONT FOLD OVER
3" x 11"



About the Author

Anything you'd like to say
about yourself - long or
short

BACK COVER Focus Area 6" x 9"

About the Story

Title • Author Name

PROJECT
LOGO

FRONT COVER Focus Area 6" x 9"

Title, Subtitle, Author Name, Image Focus
all fit in Focus Area

About the Topic

Did you know?

About the Project:



Join Nurture Nature Center to
Explore Science and Art about Climate Change

No art experience
necessary, just a
willingness to
learn and express
yourself!



A Youth Climate
Leadership Series
Arts Project

Rewriting the Story of Climate Change



change
industry
pollution
conservation
environmental
fuel
emission
renewable
energy
youth
climate
CO2
social
decarbonization
striking

Next Program:
Virtual/January 8th
1 - 2:30 pm

"To change the future, we must
first imagine it into existence."

- Samuel Alexander

THE
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