



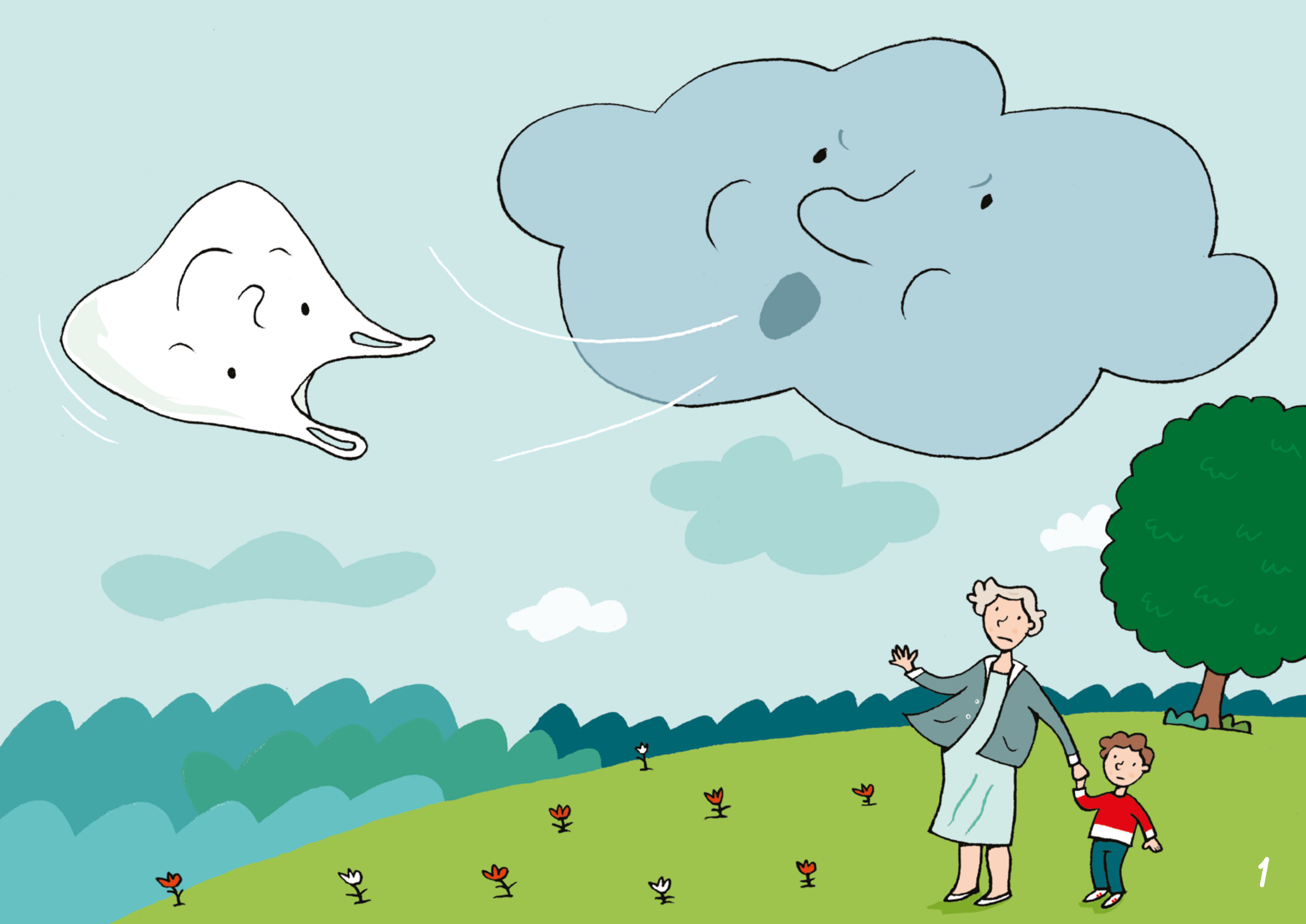
**MOS**  
duurzame  
scholen  
straffe  
scholen

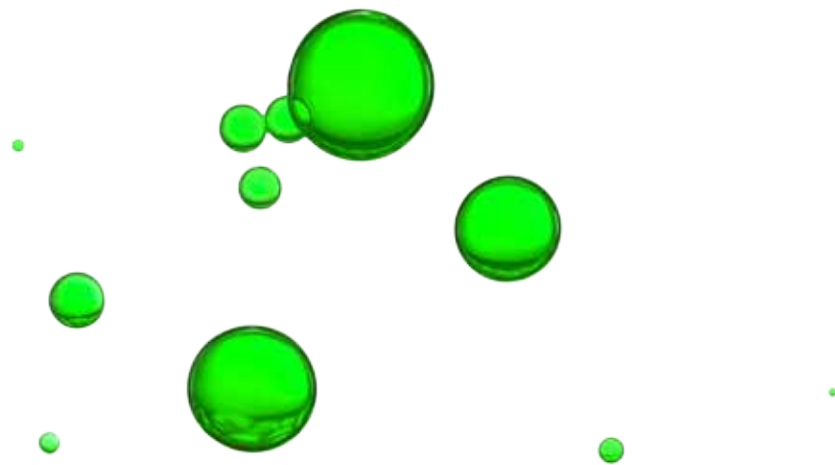
**Zack's journey**

Yooohoo! Yippie! Zack has just escaped from Grandma's hands. Yippie! "I'm going to travel", Zack cheers. Mistral, the wind, blows firmly in Zack's hollow belly. "Woohooohoo", he says, "so, you're getting away! Hang on, I'll teach you a lesson!" Immediately he starts blowing harder. Zack tumbles and rolls up into the air. He laughs and laughs. "This is so much fun! It tickles in my tummy!"

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- If your (mom / dad ...) goes to the store, will (she / he) (never / sometimes / always) take a plastic bag?
- What are plastic bags made of?
- Have you ever seen a plastic bag tumble and fly in the wind?  
How about that?
- Where would it eventually end up?



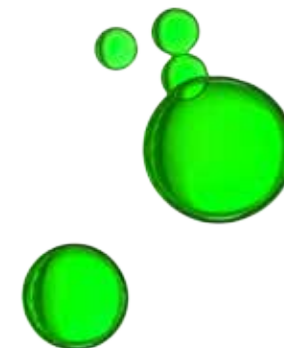


Zack is so involved in his adventure that he doesn't notice the river below him.

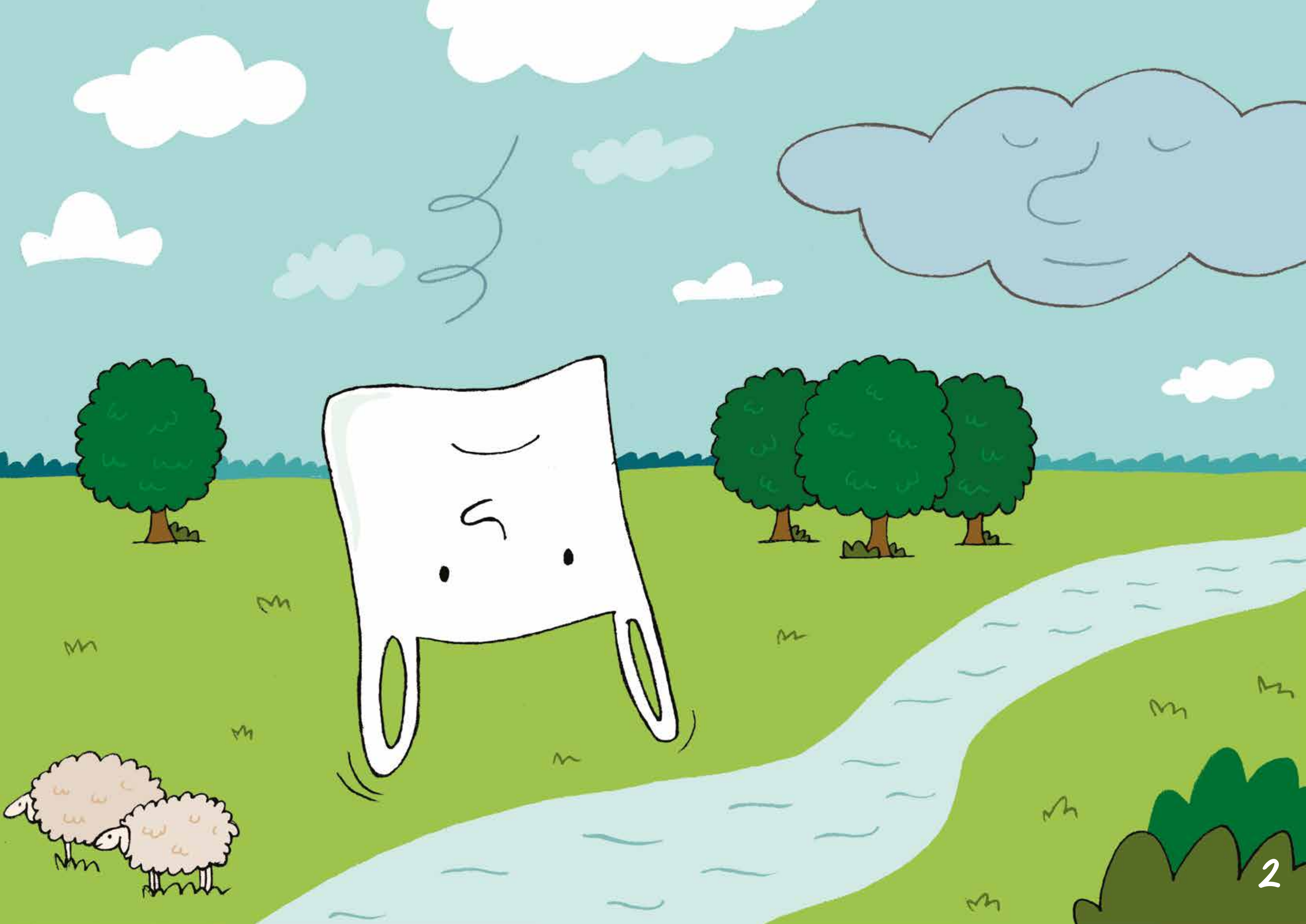
Suddenly Mistral stops blowing. Zack falls down like a brick.

“What's this? I can't fly any longer. Help!”

And Zack ends up in the river with a splash.







“Help! I’m all wet and getting heavy. Flying is much more fun.” Fortunately Zack weighs almost nothing and can float on the water. The river is taking him all the way towards the sea in fast speed.

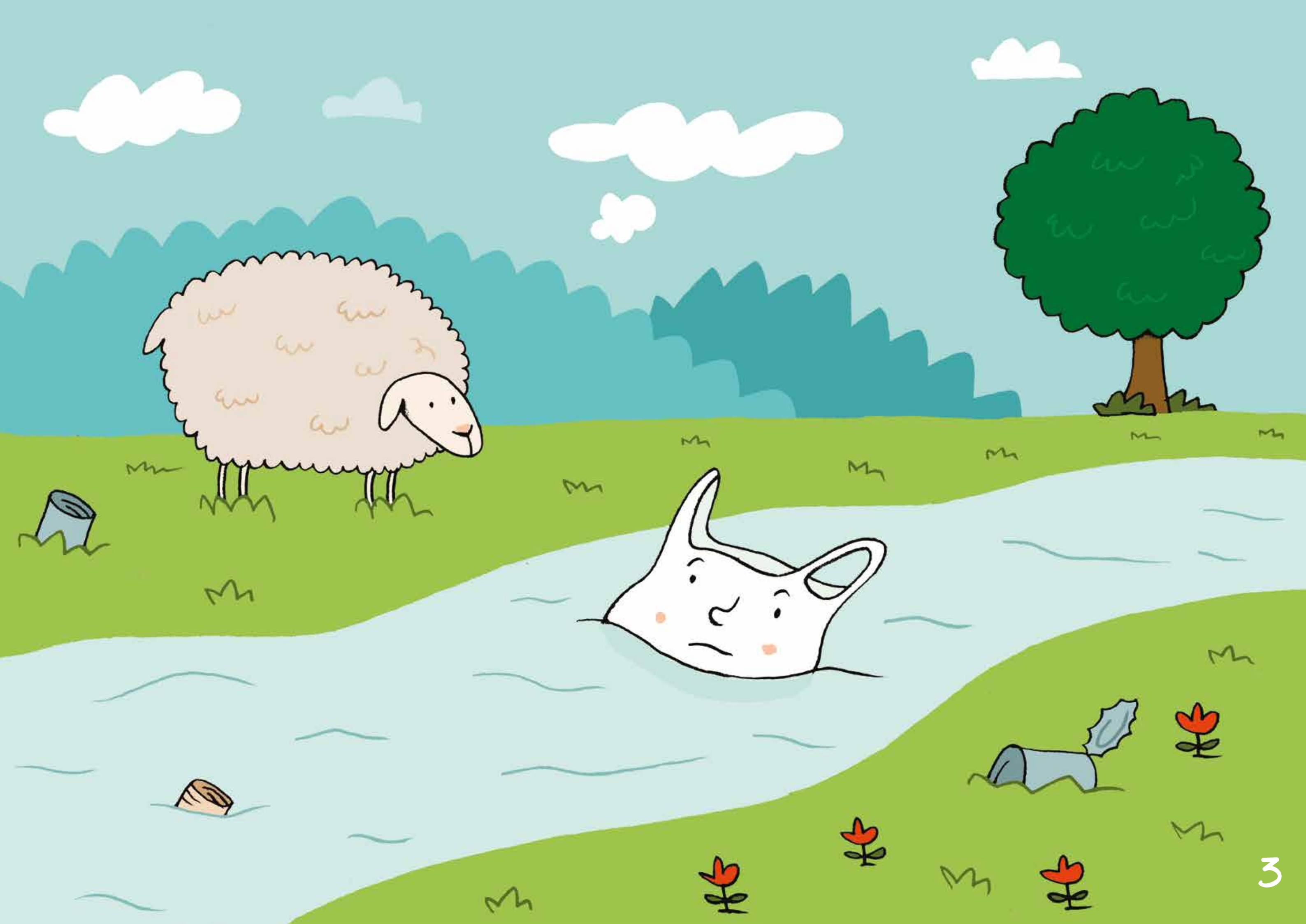
“Help!” Jack screams. “Who takes me out of here? I don’t want to swim, I want to fly.” But no one hears him. And Zack stands all alone.

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Have you ever seen a river? Where does the water come from and where does it go to? (you think)
- Have you ever seen waste float in a river? What do you think of that?
- What happens if you can’t swim? Can you swim? Or can’t you?

#### TIP

Go on an excursion to a river. If not nearby, look for a small stream or brook. Search accurately for waste with the children. Where is it? In the water? On the river’s bank? Why is it here? How come? Can we clean up? How can we avoid it?





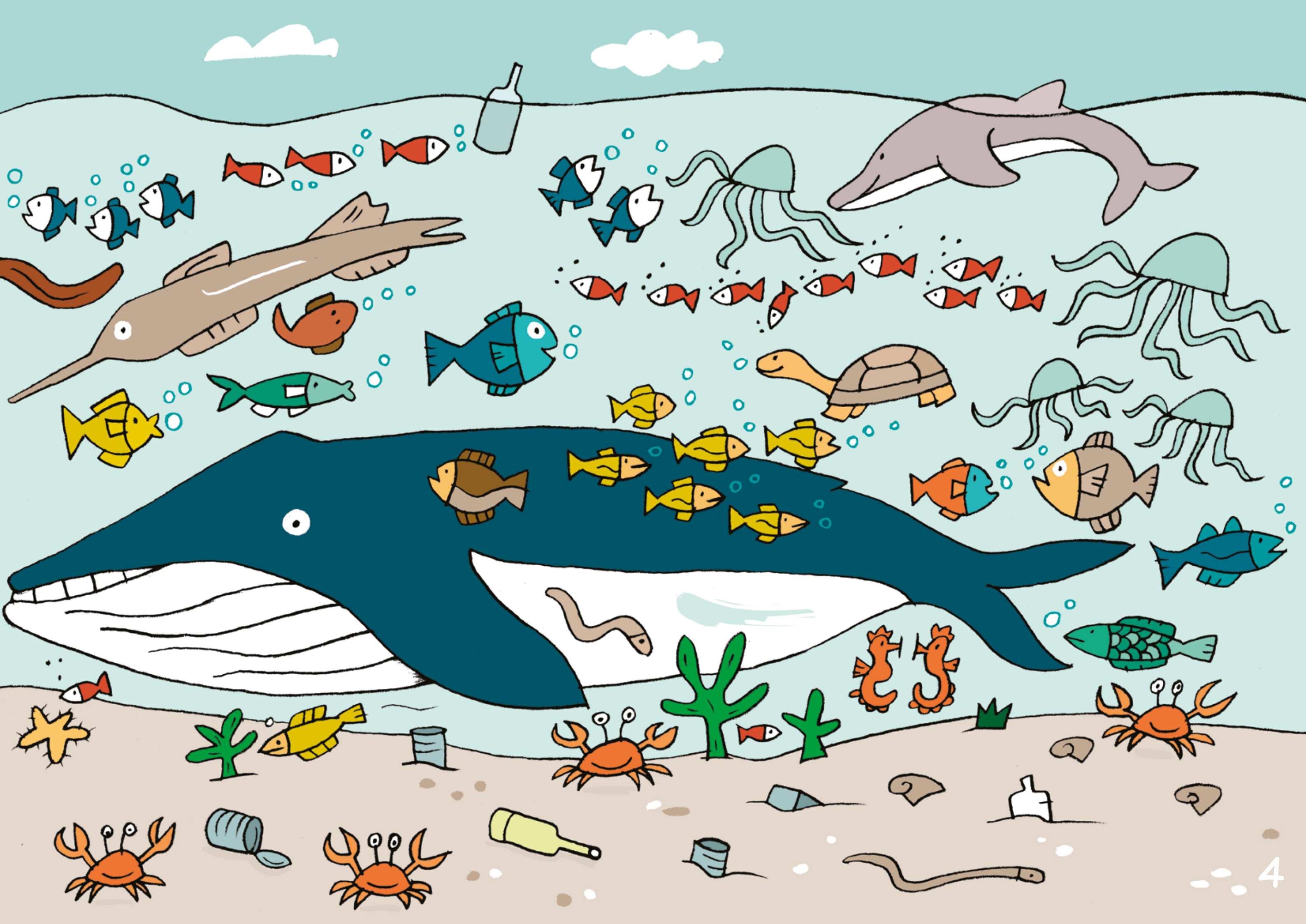
He doesn't know yet, but Zack is on his way to the sea. Because all rivers sooner or later flow into the sea. The sea is immensely big. There are many fishes in the sea.

And also other marine life, birds and plants. It seems as if fishes and birds are always hungry, because fishes are gasping around and birds are pecking at everything all the time.

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who has ever been to sea? Like/dislike? Why/why not?
- Who has ever seen a fish (closely)? Where was it?
- Why can fish live and breathe in the water? Why can't we?
- Who has a (gold)fish (at home)? Does it also gasp all the time? Why?





Meanwhile Zack is approaching the sea. He is thoroughly wet. He is shivering with cold. “I want to go back home,” he wails. “This trip is not fun anymore. I’d rather end up in the rubbish bag.”

Tears appear in his eyes. Zack is very tired. Suddenly a wave comes into his belly. “Ugh, this is salty. Just now, the water tasted different. That was much more tasty!”

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- At home, what do mom and dad do with the plastic bags? (they have none, recycling, throw away...)
- At home, what do you usually drink at dinner? How’s this?
- Do you drink water regularly? How’s this?
- What drink is best against thirst? The healthiest? Why?
- Why is it important that we regularly drink water (and no soft drinks, fruit juices...) ?



Zack is now floating at sea. The sea water is salty. It is warm.  
The sun is shining brightly and is burning on his skin.  
“Ouch! Ai! This is hot! It seems as if I’m on fire.”

Suddenly he feels someone nibbling at his skin.  
“Hey, you! Stay away from me. Leave me alone.”

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who does / does not like the sun?
- Can you get too much sun? What happens then?
- Who has already been in the sun too long? How was that?



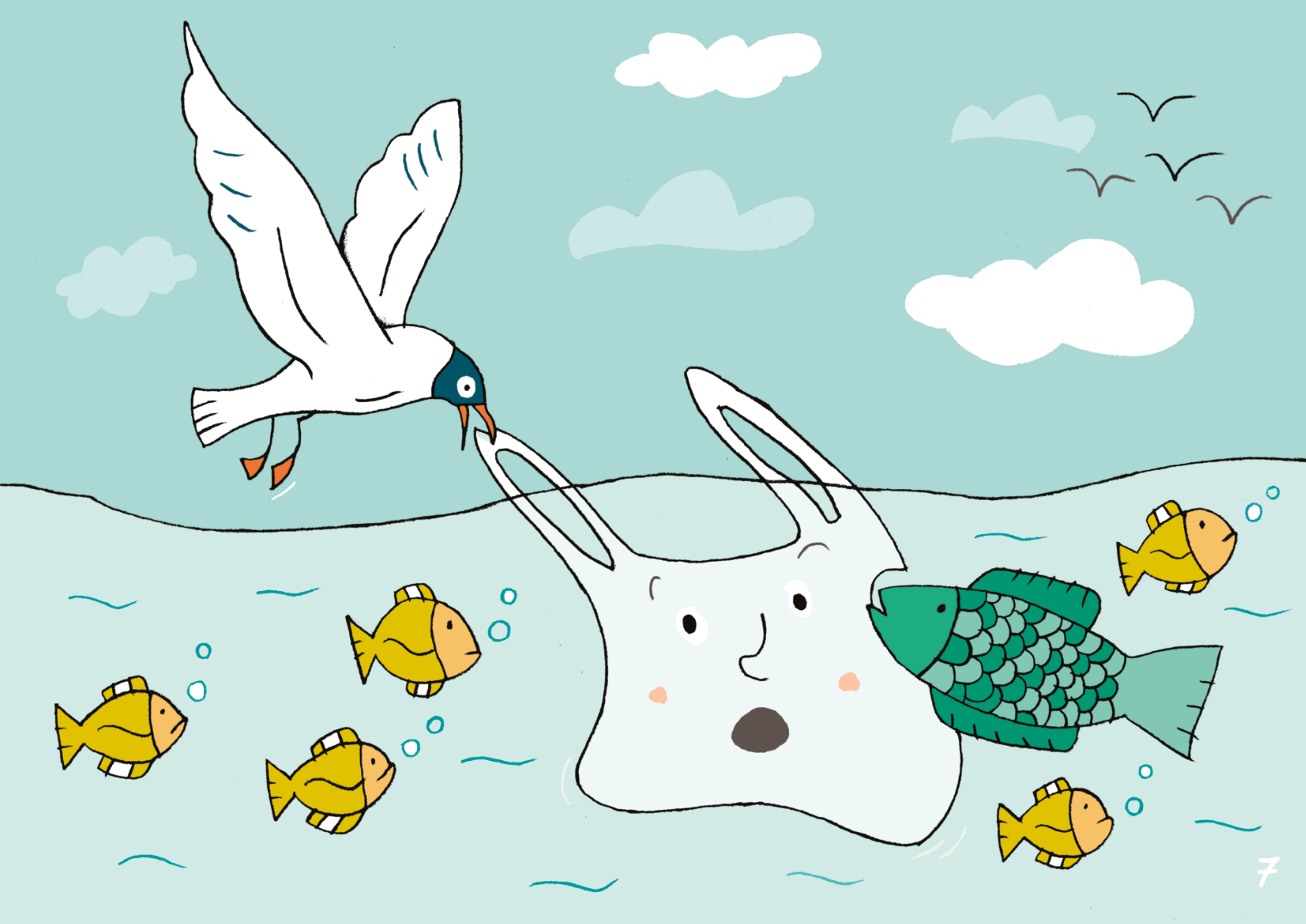


A big fish is biting pieces off Zack. “Hey, what are you doing? I do not want you to eat me. That’s not my starring role.” But the fish doesn’t listen and doesn’t stop biting.

A screeching seagull flies at him and rips pieces of plastic from his poor body. These pieces end up in the belly of the fish and the bird. “Help!”, Zack screams.

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Why do the fish and the bird eat from Zack? Is that natural?  
What do fishes and seagulls normally eat?
- Will fishes and birds be sick if they eat plastic? How come?
  - plastic is indigestible and remains in the body. Eventually the plastic blocks the stomach entrance, so that fishes and birds starve.
- What do you think of that?



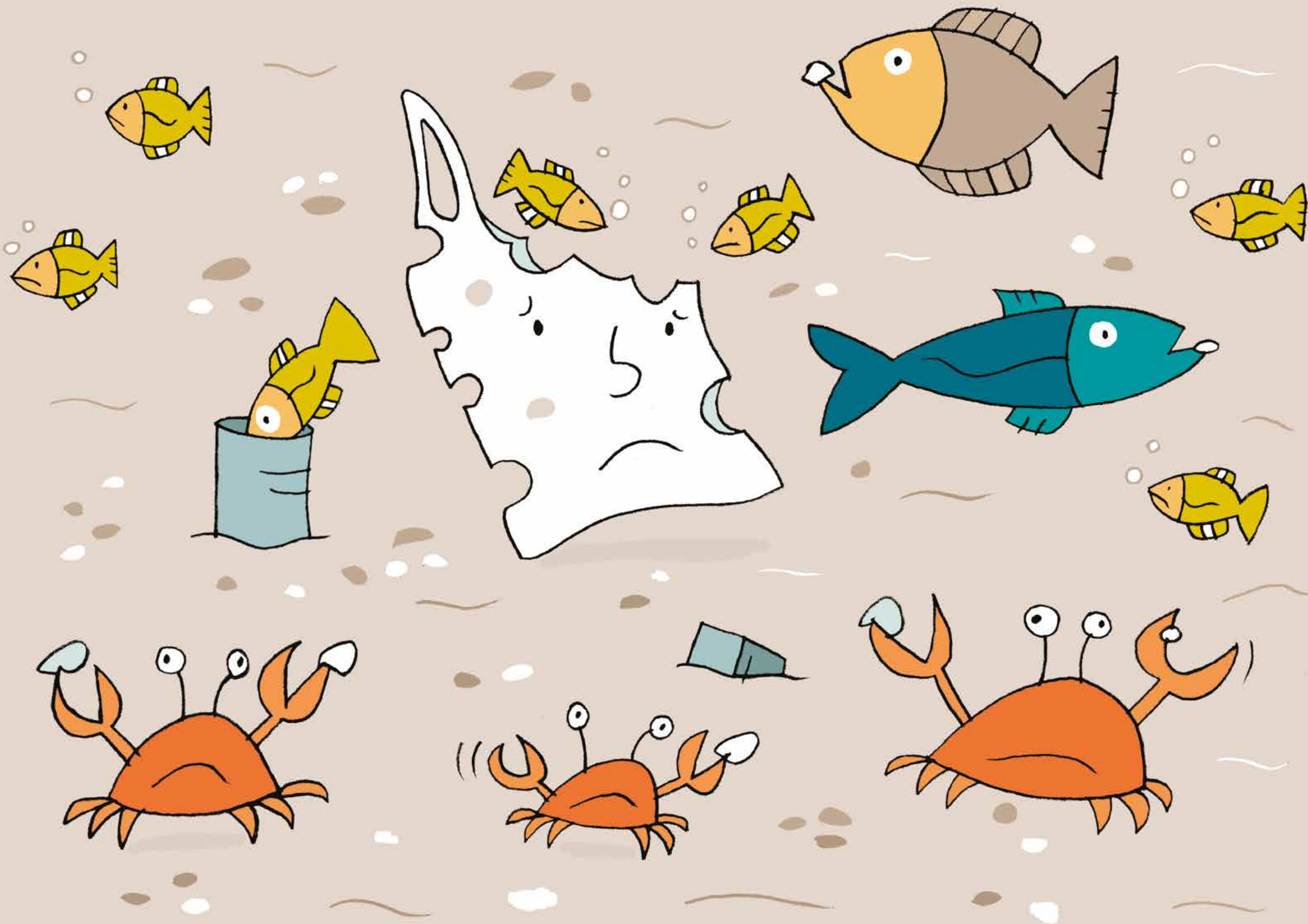
Other pieces of plastic sink to the bottom of the sea and fall apart into even smaller pieces. “That’s not what I want,” Zack sobs. “This journey is not fun. Next time I’ll be good and stay at Grandma’s. Help!”

But Zack has become so small that no one will hear or see him.  
“Help!” (whispering with a high squeaky voice).

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Why does Zack fall apart? (influence of sun, salt, water, time...?)
- Will he forever stay in the belly of the fish and at the bottom of the sea?
  - Sometimes people eat fish (or mussels). Then, tiny plastic pieces can also end up in our body.
- What can we do to help Zack, the fishes, the birds and the sea?





“Help!” Zack wakes up and looks around frightened. He is in the supermarket.

“Phew, that was a bad dream, wasn’t it? Fortunately it was not real. I know for sure now: I’ll never want to fly again. And end up at sea! Being eaten by a fish or a bird! No way! Or fall apart into tiny pieces! No, thank you, I’d rather remain where I am.

And when I grow up, I’ll be a re-usable bag. One that you can refill a thousand times. Yes, that’s what I will be!”

#### POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Whose mom/dad uses a re-usable bag at home?
- How do you know the bag is re-usable?
- What more can we do to avoid waste (at home and at school)?



↓ Re-usable bags ↓



# Zack's journey

**TARGET GROUP:**  
from kindergarten second year till primary school first grade

## KEY PLAYERS

- Zack, a plastic bag with eyes and a mouth
- Mistral, the wind that blows strongly
- The sea under water with lots of gasping fish, plants and other marine life
- A burning sun (with a face)
- A (big) fish that bites pieces off Zack
- Zack in small pieces (in the fish and on the bottom of the sea), but recognizable as Zack

**THE WRITER:** Herwig Kevelaerts

**THE ILLUSTRATOR:** Leen Van Durme