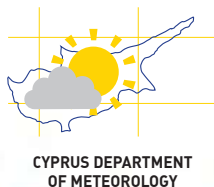


**YOU'VE GOT ONE...**





This publication was created by students and teachers of the Gymnasio Ayiou Vasiliou Strovolos high-school, within the framework of the European Programme Erasmus+ ClimART 2.0: Innovative Methodologies for learning Climate Change through Arts and Comics (Project Nr: 2020-1IT02-KS227-SCH-095169 KA2: Cooperation for innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices-Strategic KA227-Partnerships for Creativity).

It has been placed under the auspices of the Department of Meteorology in order to be distributed to secondary schools as a means to raise awareness among students on climate change.



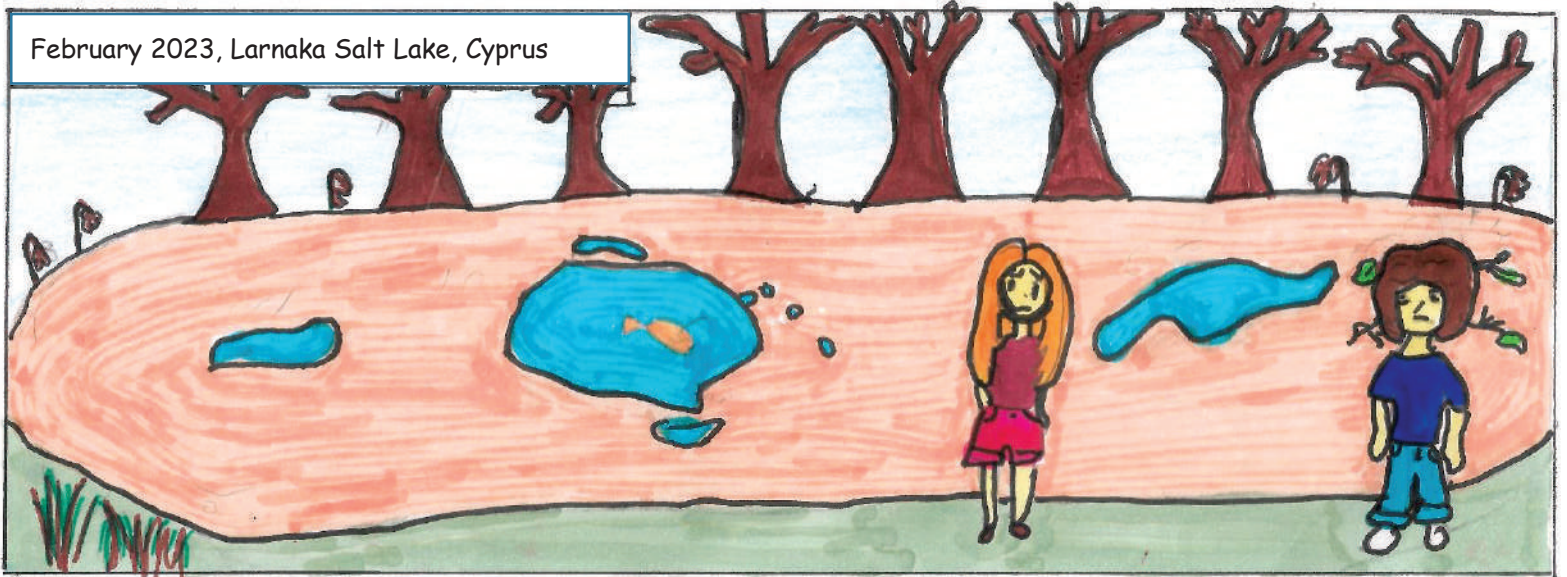
PIO 88/2023 - 1.200

Published by the Press and Information Office

ISBN: 978-9963-50-596-8

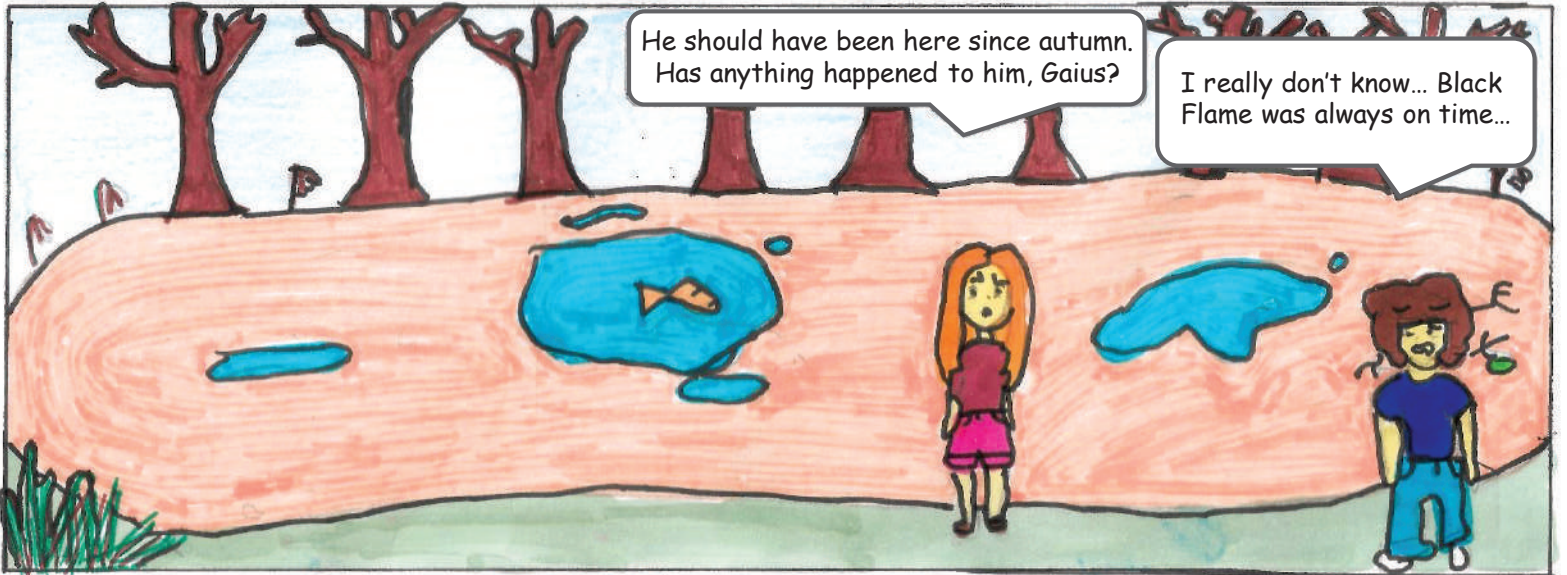
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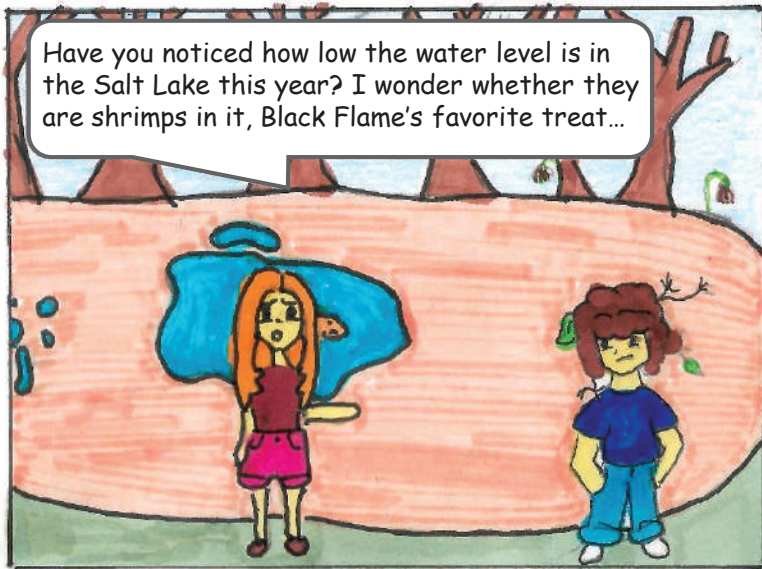
February 2023, Larnaka Salt Lake, Cyprus

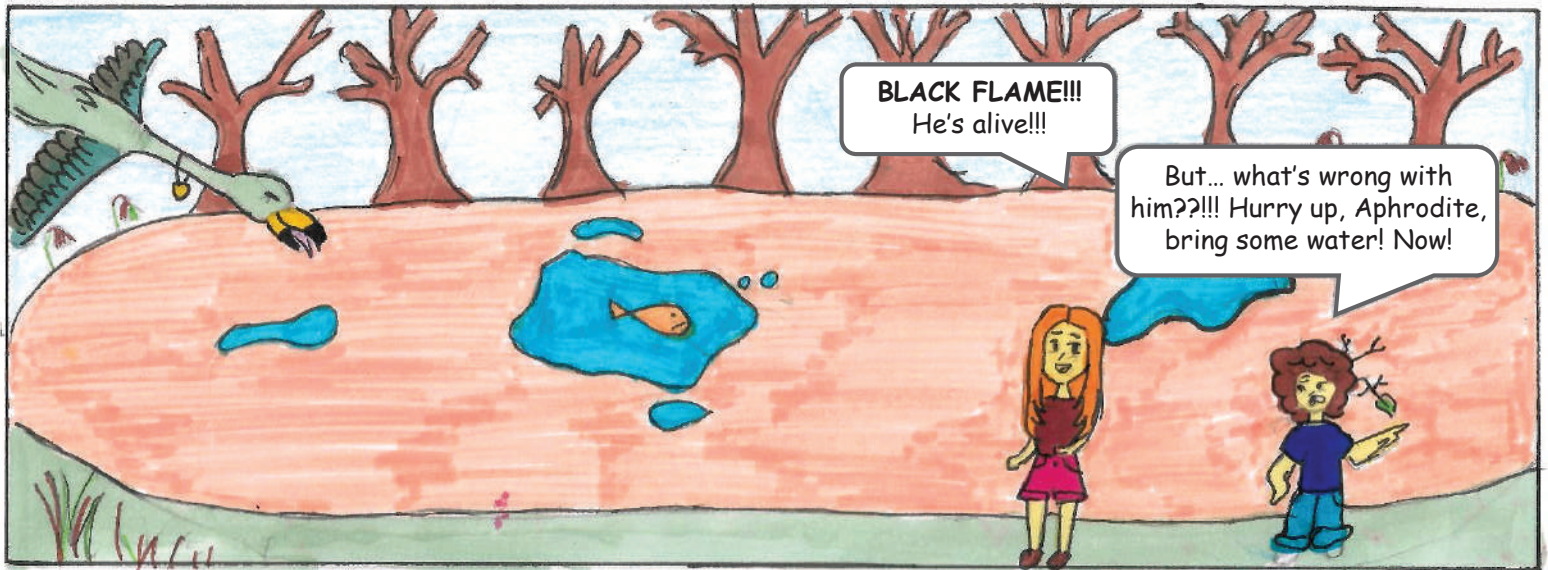


He should have been here since autumn.  
Has anything happened to him, Gaius?

I really don't know... Black  
Flame was always on time...

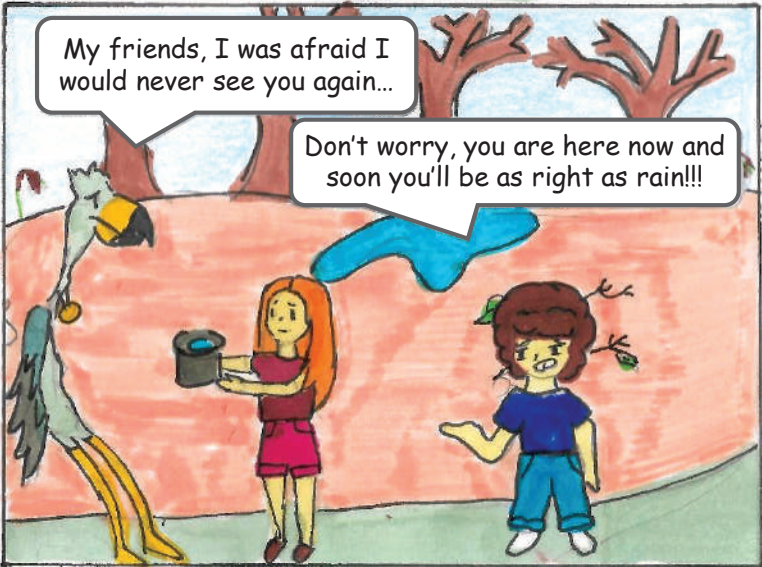






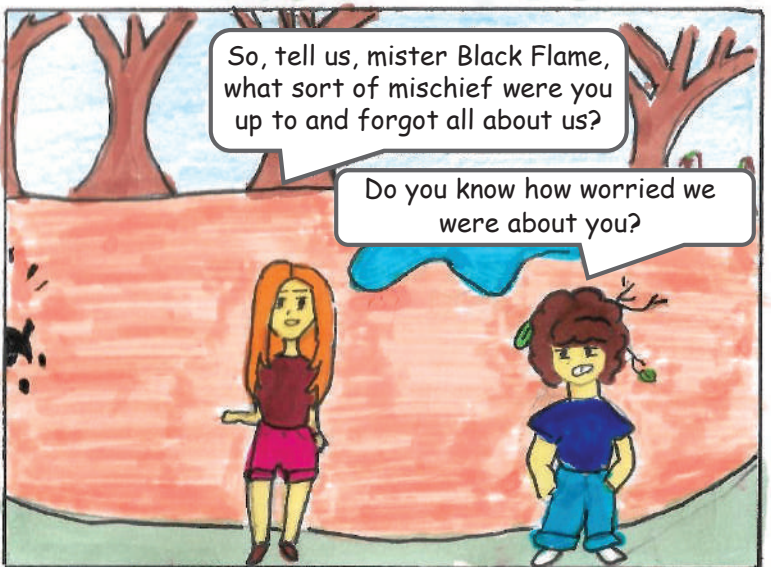
**BLACK FLAME!!!**  
He's alive!!!

But... what's wrong with him??!!! Hurry up, Aphrodite, bring some water! Now!



My friends, I was afraid I would never see you again...

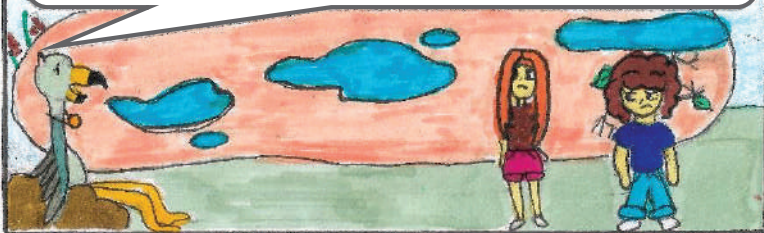
Don't worry, you are here now and soon you'll be as right as rain!!!



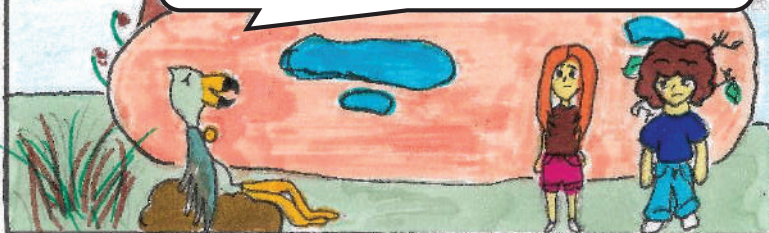
So, tell us, mister Black Flame, what sort of mischief were you up to and forgot all about us?

Do you know how worried we were about you?

Indeed, I got carried away, my dear Aphrodite, but it wasn't my fault... as soon as the weather gets colder in the northern countries, my trip to you begins.



This is the sign for all migratory birds, since ever! But this year, temperature didn't decrease!

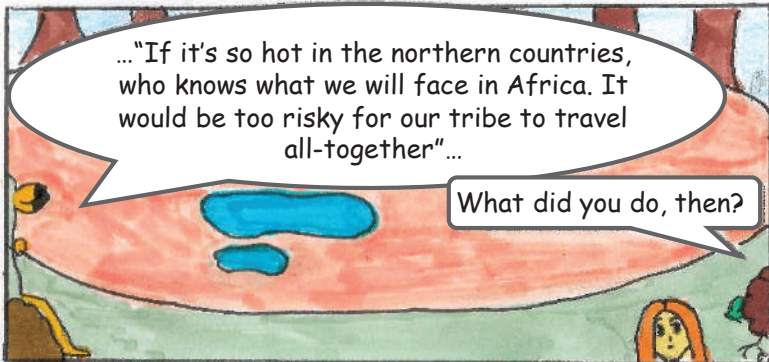


So all flamingos got together and decided to depart as soon as feasible!!! But the old-wise flamingo from Spain had a different opinion.



...“If it's so hot in the northern countries, who knows what we will face in Africa. It would be too risky for our tribe to travel all-together”...

What did you do, then?



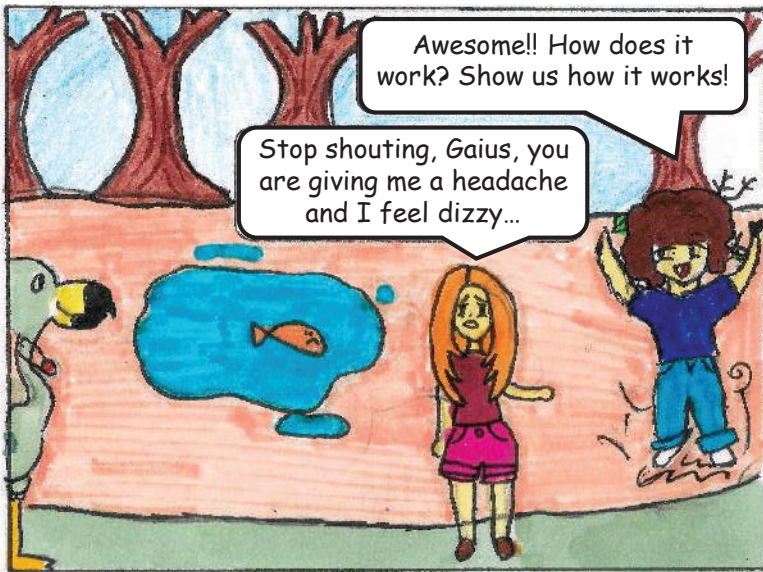
We decided it was best that the 4 leaders travelled first. The old-wise flamingo from Spain, the brave flamingo from Greece, the strong flamingo from Italy and myself, in order to assess the situation.



That was so careless from you. The birds never fly alone.

We are not alone! We can contact each other via our watches! Look!!!





Awesome!! How does it work? Show us how it works!

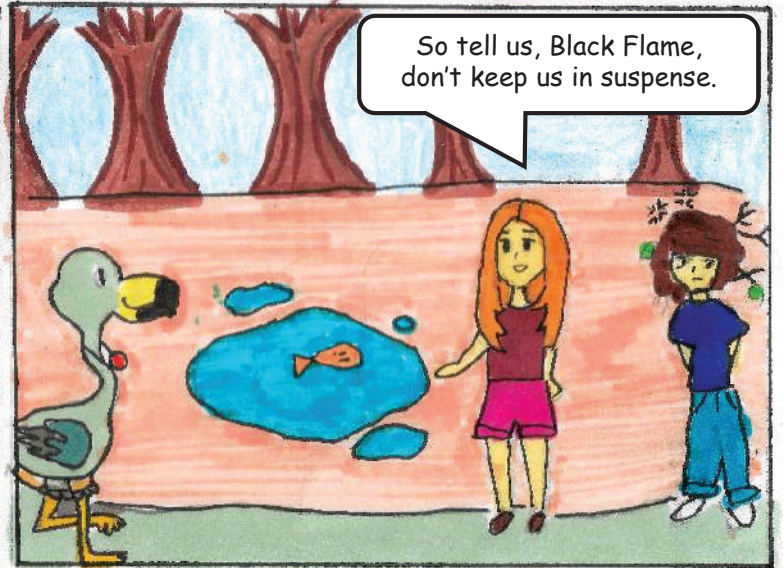
Stop shouting, Gaius, you are giving me a headache and I feel dizzy...



I'm sorry, Aphrodite, I didn't mean to, I just got carried away! Hey, you are burning up... do you have fever?



It's just an adrenaline rush, after so much going on here!!! Go away, you're drowning me! I'm fine!

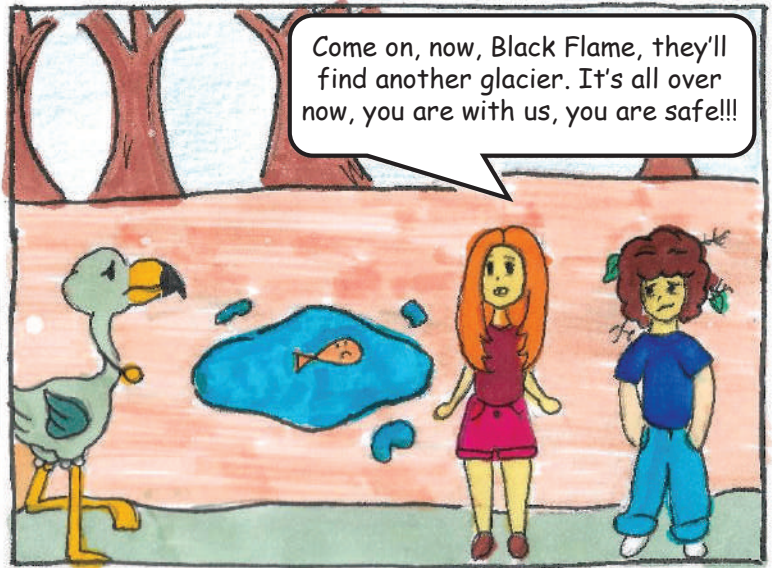


So tell us, Black Flame, don't keep us in suspense.

Words can't describe what I have seen. First, I flew over the big glacier of the Arctic Cycle. It has shrunk so much, that the polar bears don't know where to fit...



Come on, now, Black Flame, they'll find another glacier. It's all over now, you are with us, you are safe!!!



I wish that was the only thing... Afterwards, I found myself over a country where people were fighting each other... launching rockets, explosions one after the other; they were using chemical and nuclear guns...



**BOOM!**

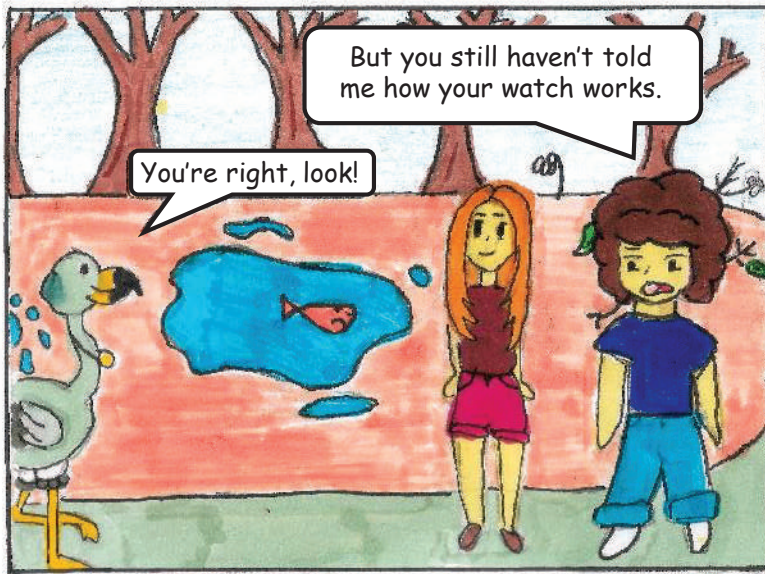
... how absurd, are humans, really? They are killing each other and I never understood why...



Bizarre coloured cloud, acid rain full of poison... thick smoke was taking my breath away...

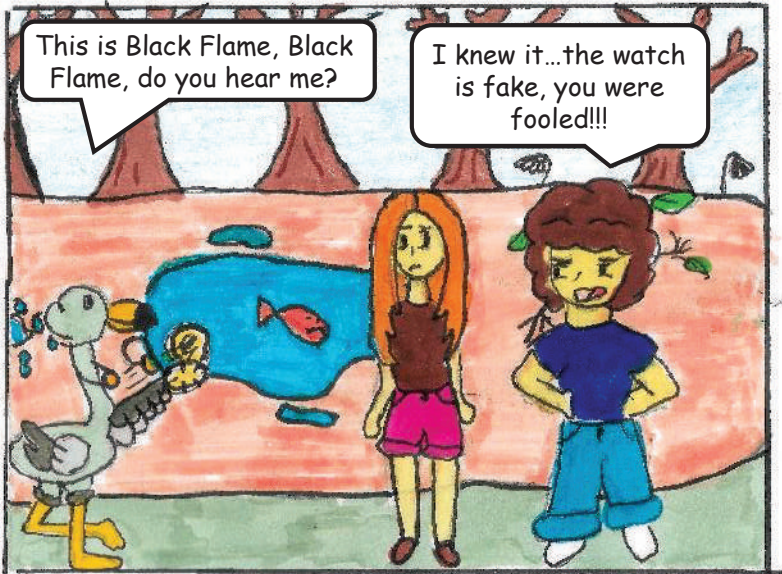






But you still haven't told me how your watch works.

You're right, look!



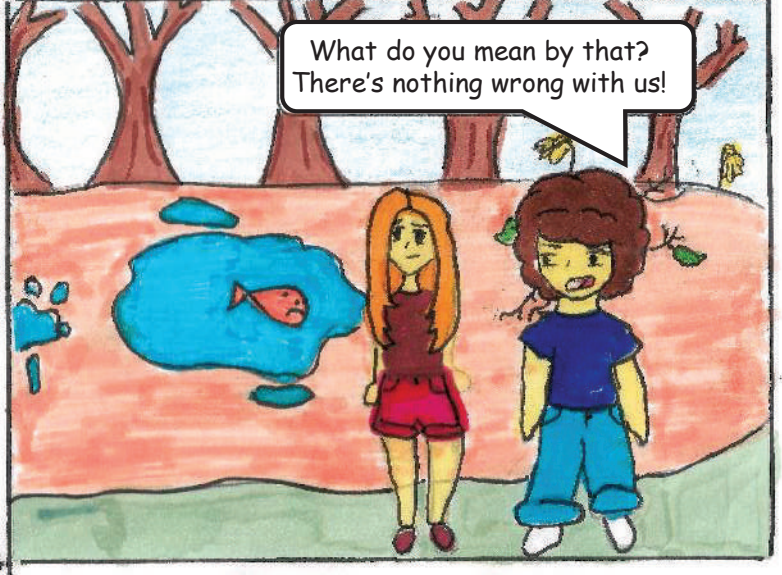
This is Black Flame, Black Flame, do you hear me?

I knew it...the watch is fake, you were fooled!!!

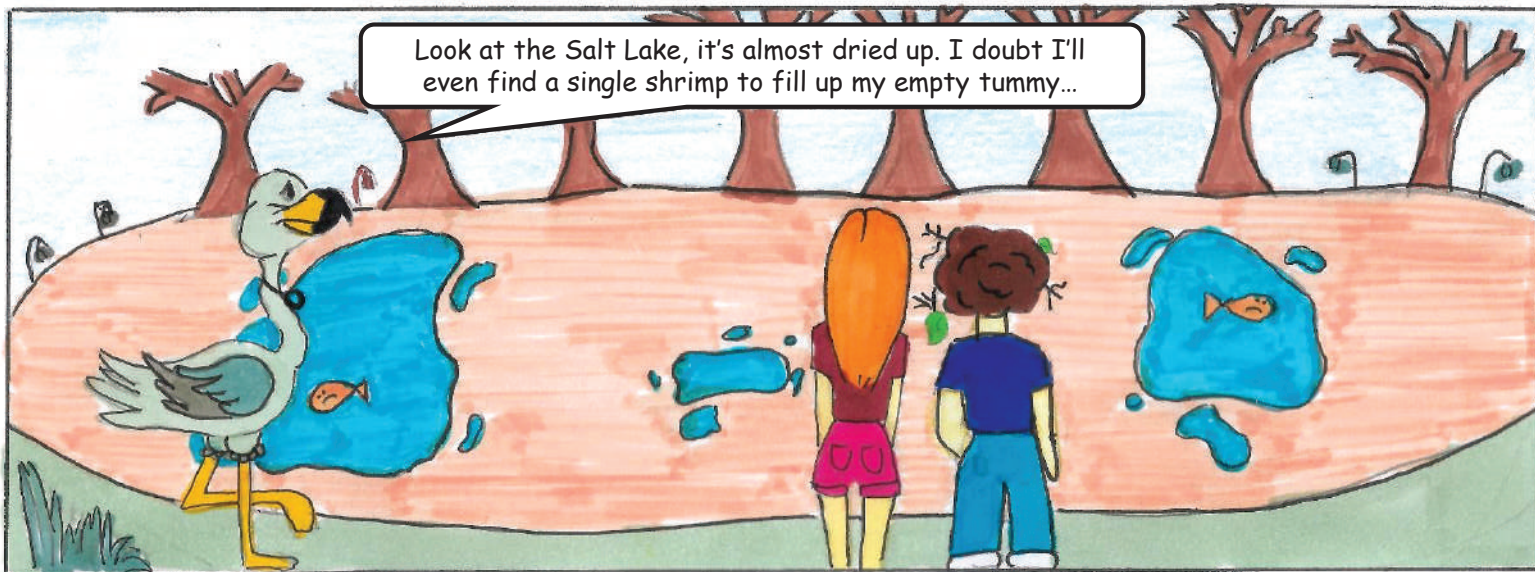


We can hear you, Black Flame! You finally did it!

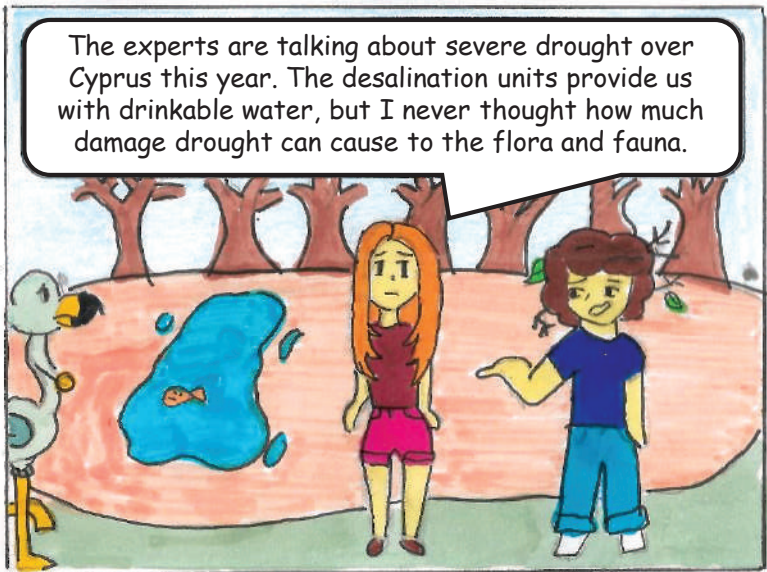
Fortunately, things in Cyprus seem better... at a first glance... but if you look carefully...



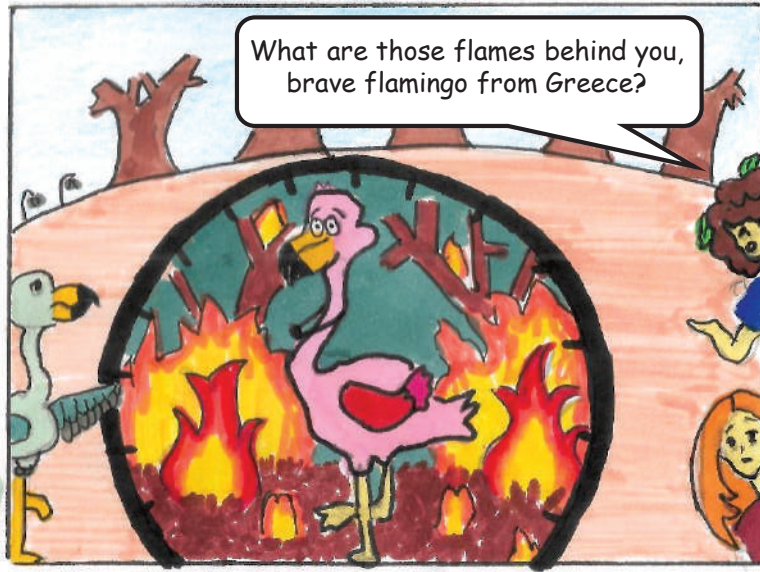
What do you mean by that? There's nothing wrong with us!



Look at the Salt Lake, it's almost dried up. I doubt I'll even find a single shrimp to fill up my empty tummy...

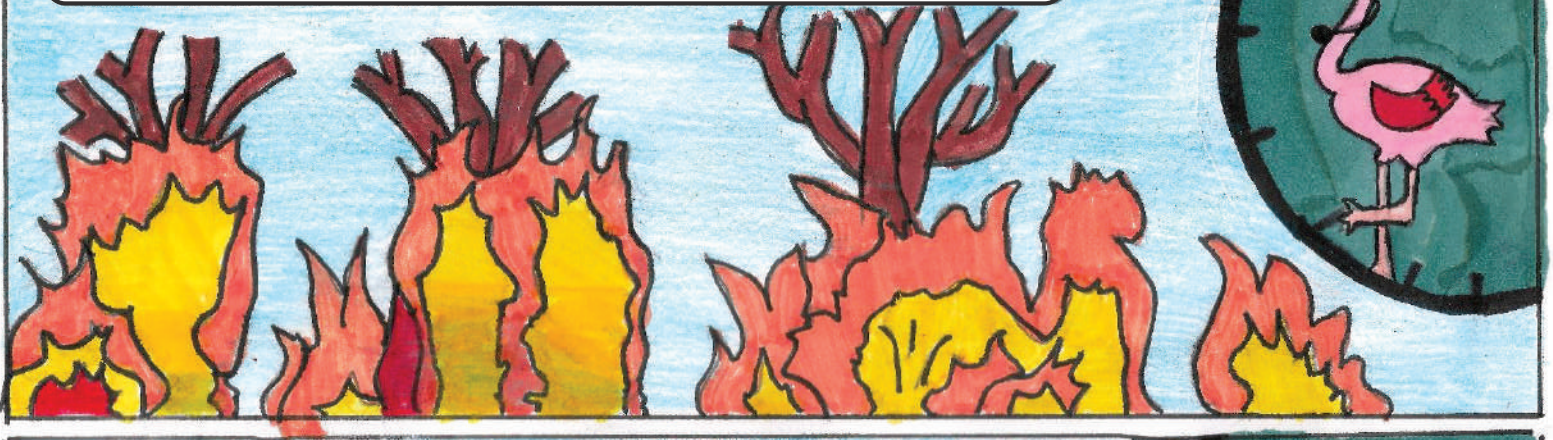


The experts are talking about severe drought over Cyprus this year. The desalination units provide us with drinkable water, but I never thought how much damage drought can cause to the flora and fauna.

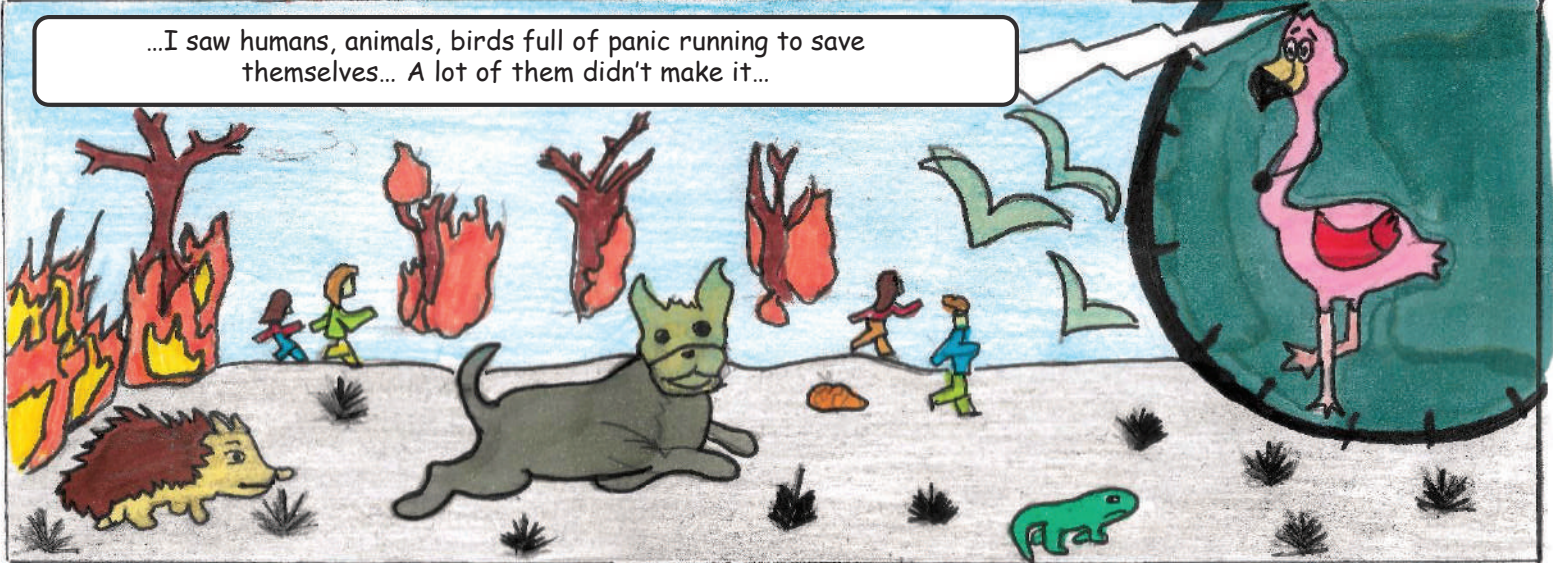


What are those flames behind you, brave flamingo from Greece?

Look for yourselves. One fire breaks out after another... I flew over the forests... only cinders are left... protected species burnt to ashes in front of my eyes...



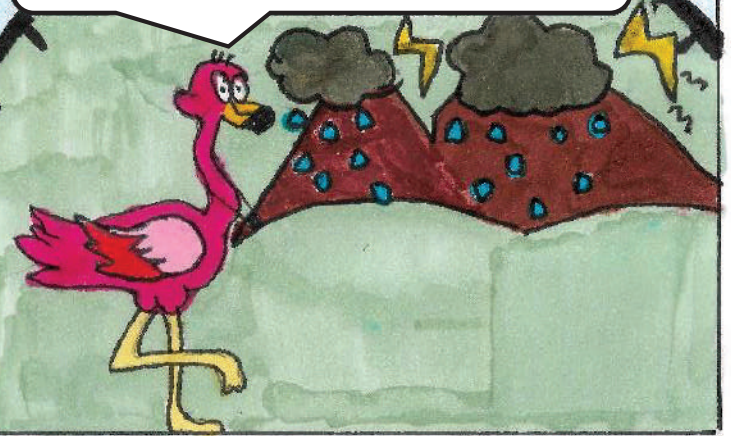
...I saw humans, animals, birds full of panic running to save themselves... A lot of them didn't make it...



The situation is very upsetting here, as well.  
On my way to Italy, I was looking for the  
snow-covered mountain tops, but it was all in vain.  
All snow has melted...



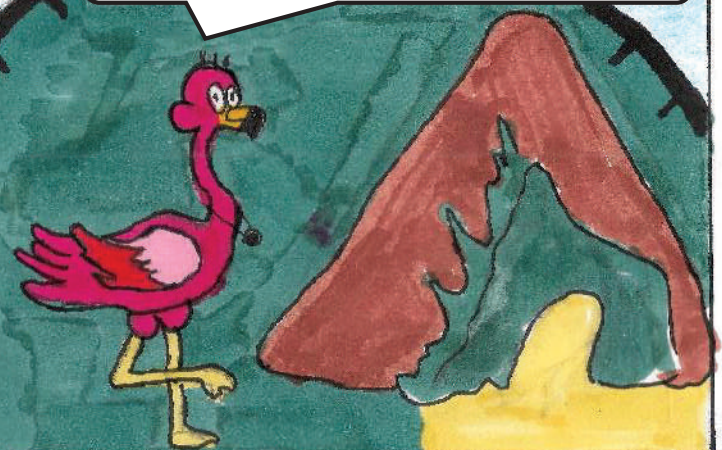
...then, I had to fly through the most severe  
thunderstorm I have ever seen! Wind, rain,  
thunderbolts, I didn't know how to avoid it.

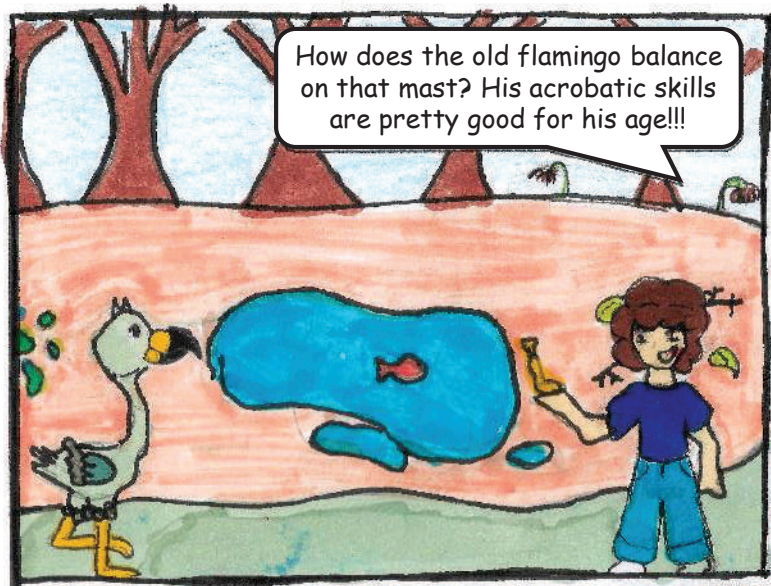


Flooding, landslides and streams were  
carrying away everything in their path.



I'm lucky I can fly, I managed to snuggle  
into this mountain cage.

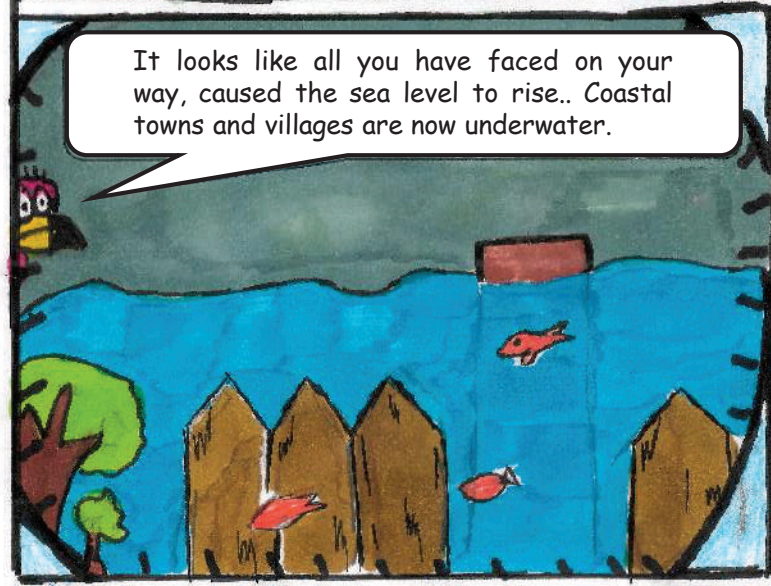




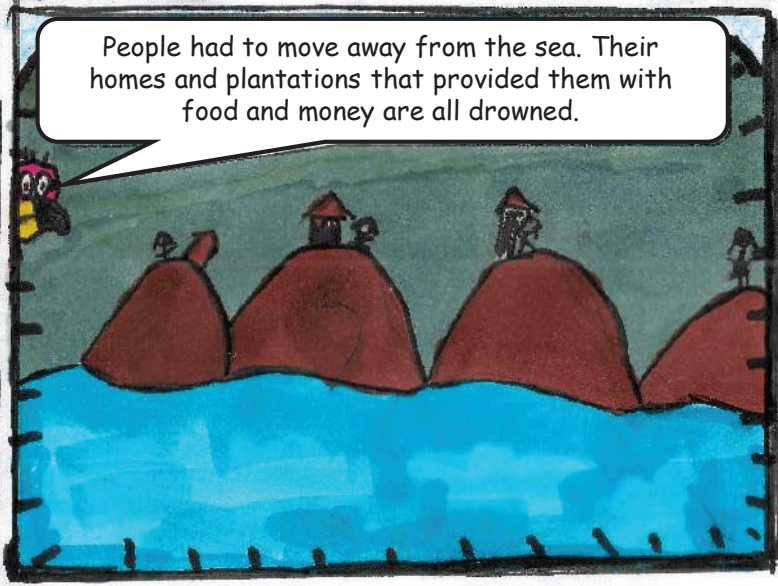
How does the old flamingo balance on that mast? His acrobatic skills are pretty good for his age!!!



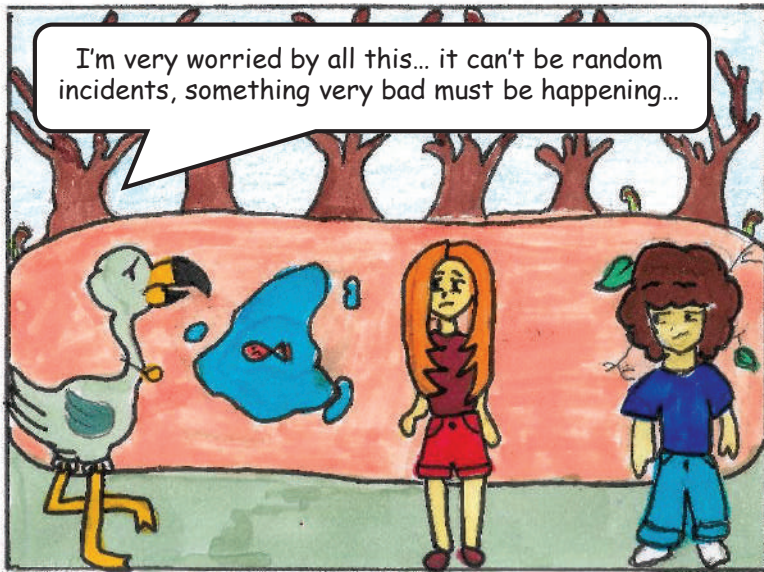
Small and silly boy... A flamingo never wastes its strength on nonsense...



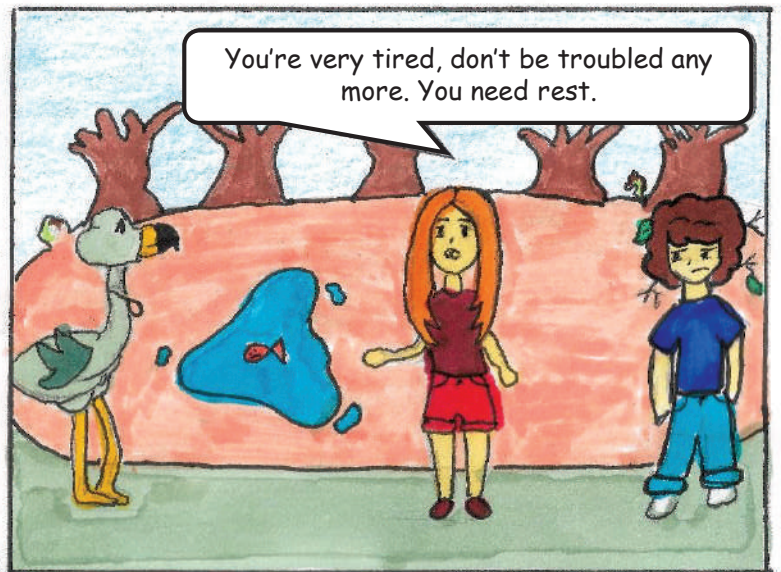
It looks like all you have faced on your way, caused the sea level to rise.. Coastal towns and villages are now underwater.



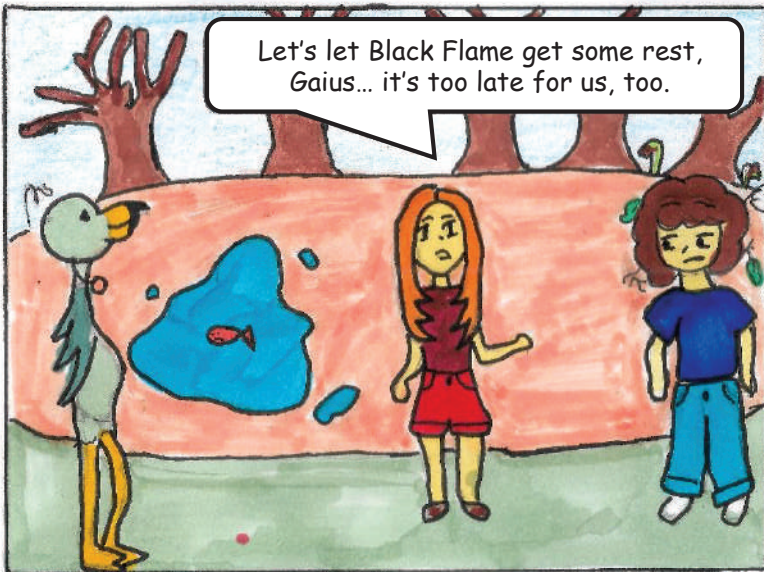
People had to move away from the sea. Their homes and plantations that provided them with food and money are all drowned.



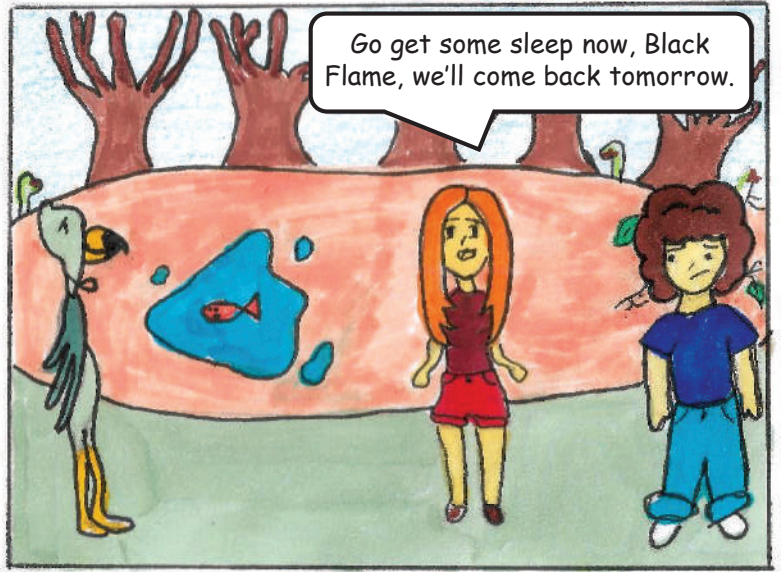
I'm very worried by all this... it can't be random incidents, something very bad must be happening...



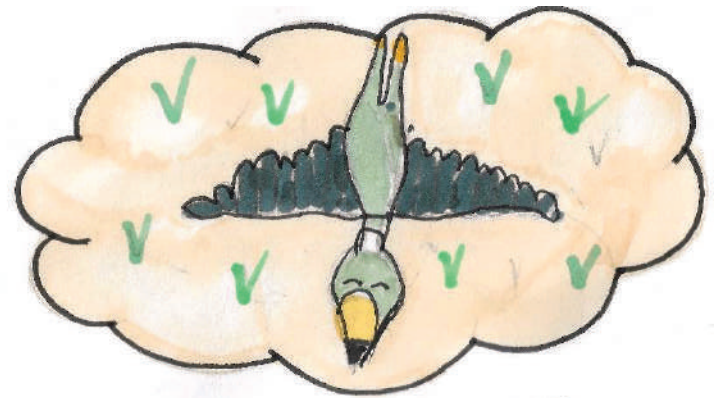
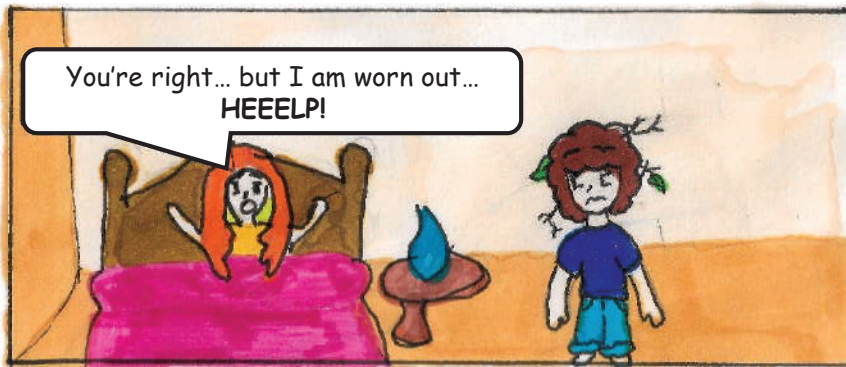
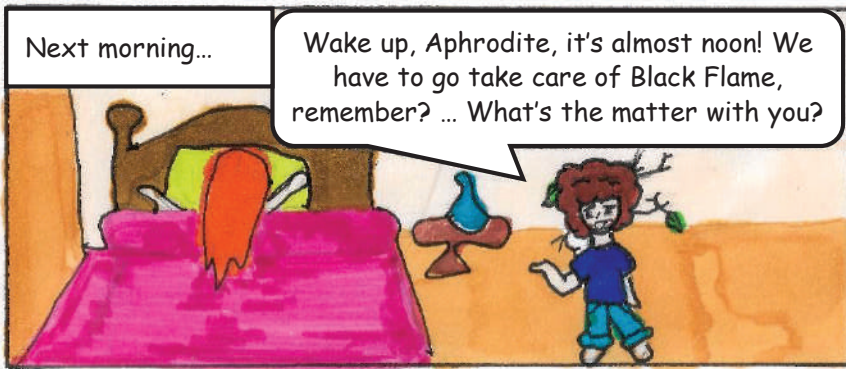
You're very tired, don't be troubled any more. You need rest.

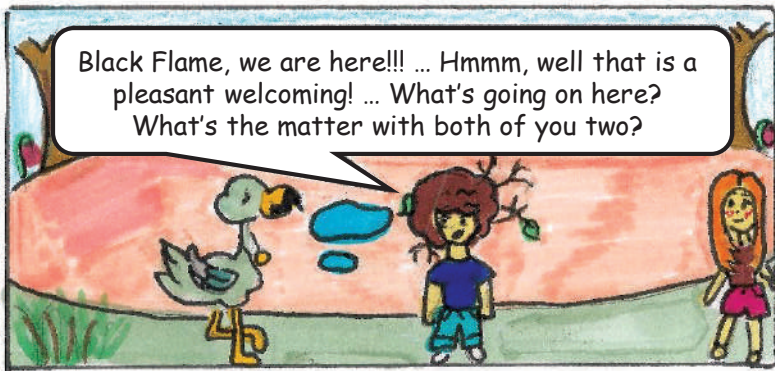


Let's let Black Flame get some rest, Gaius... it's too late for us, too.

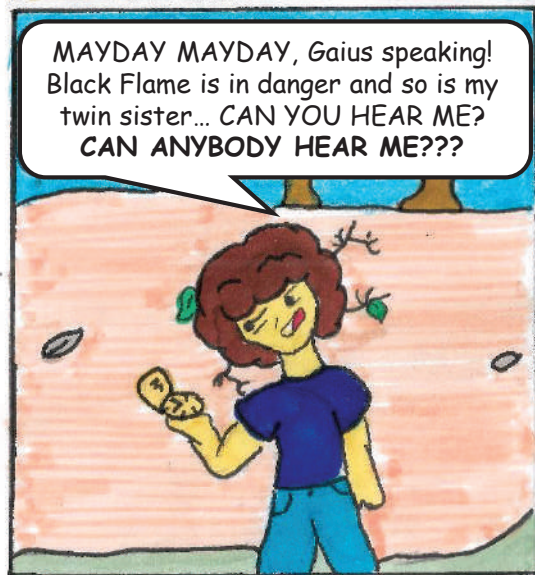
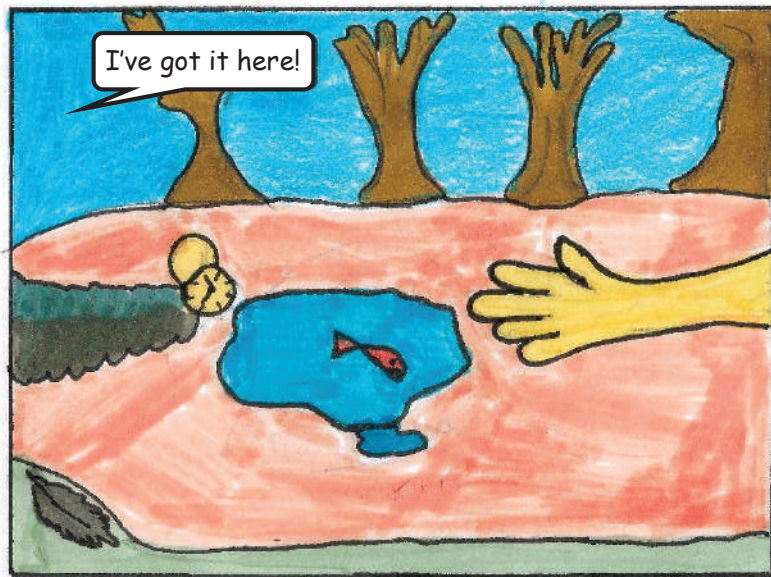
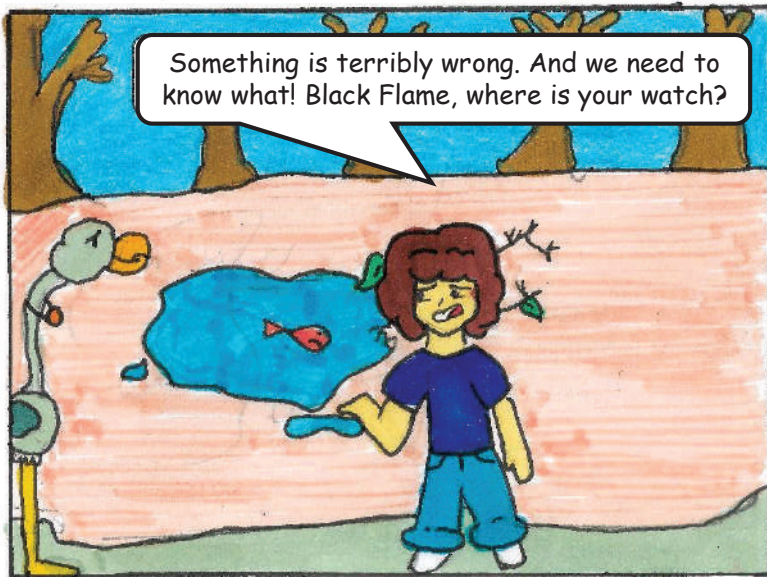


Go get some sleep now, Black Flame, we'll come back tomorrow.

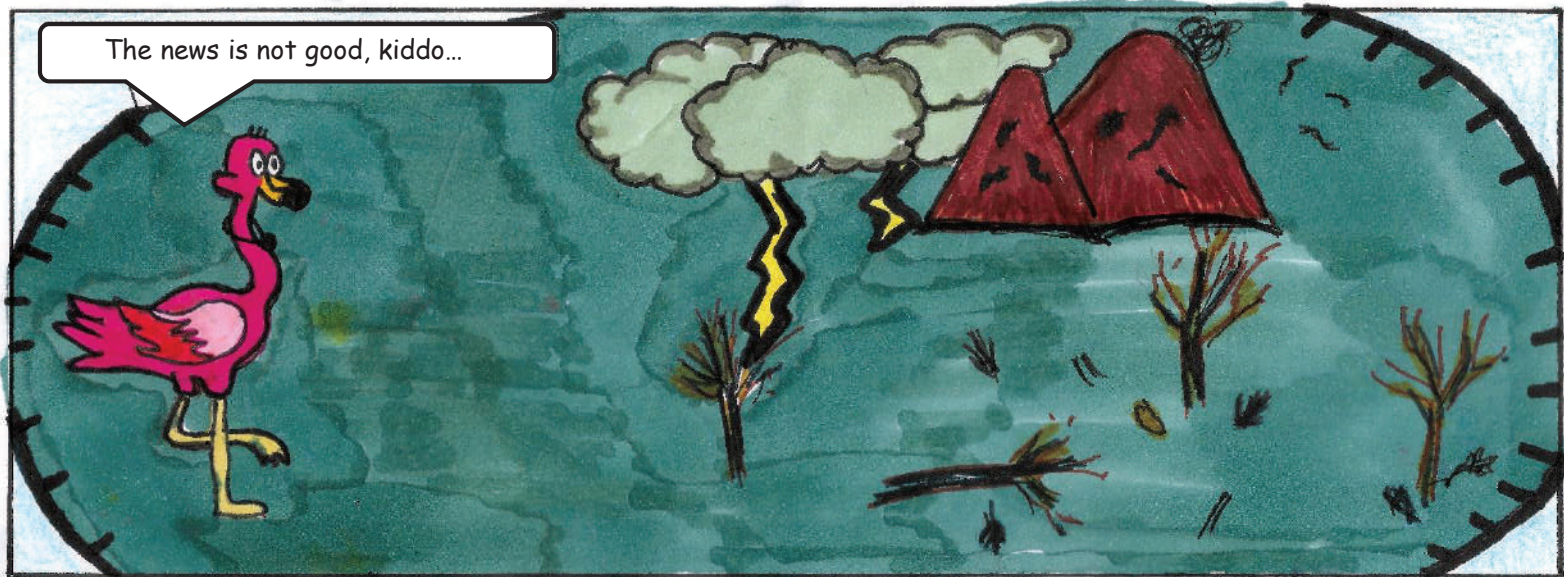








The news is not good, kiddo...



Wait...what is that?



This is Viren. He lives in the volcano. He grows bigger and stronger every time a disaster takes place on Earth.



Every time a fire breaks out... a tree is cut... a factory chimney smokes...



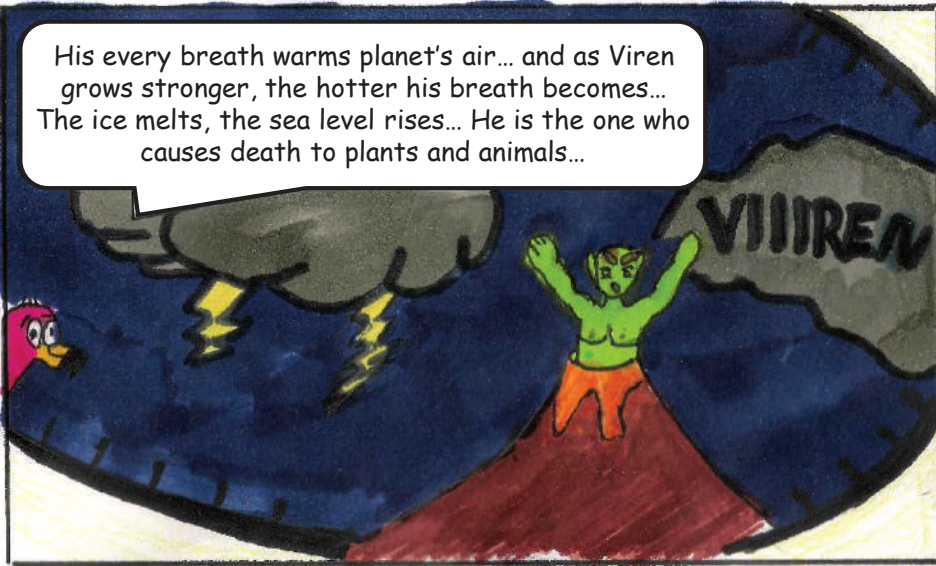
... every time there is an oil-spillage ... Viren becomes stronger and catastrophic...



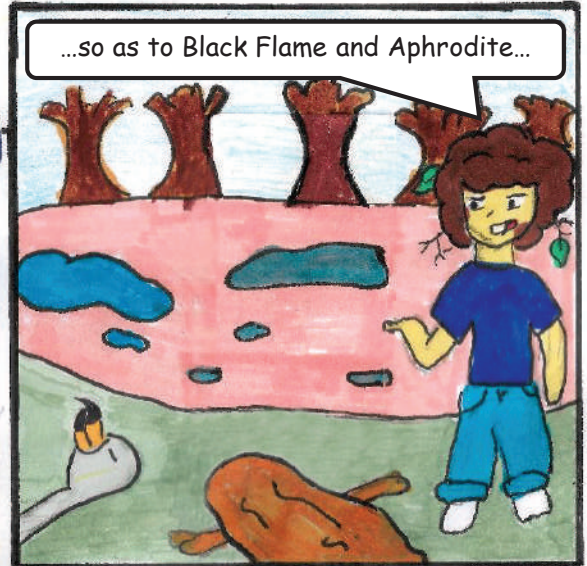
This is terrifying!



His every breath warms planet's air... and as Viren grows stronger, the hotter his breath becomes... The ice melts, the sea level rises... He is the one who causes death to plants and animals...



...so as to Black Flame and Aphrodite...

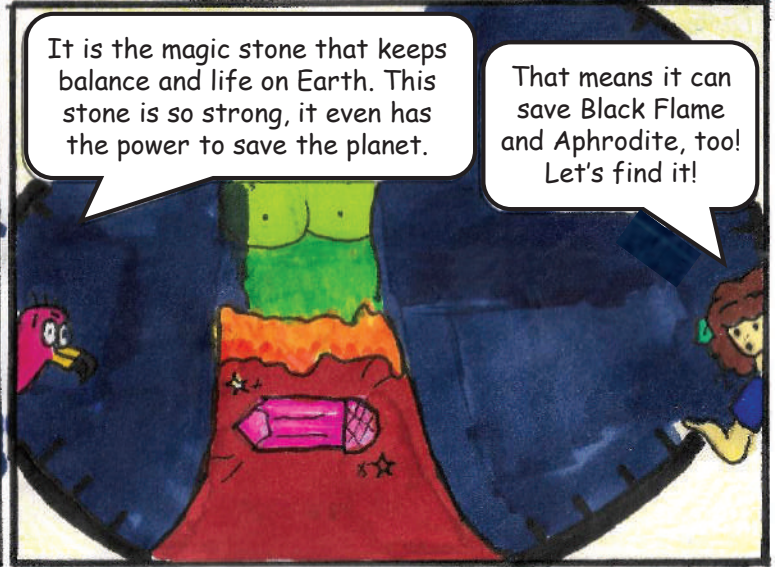


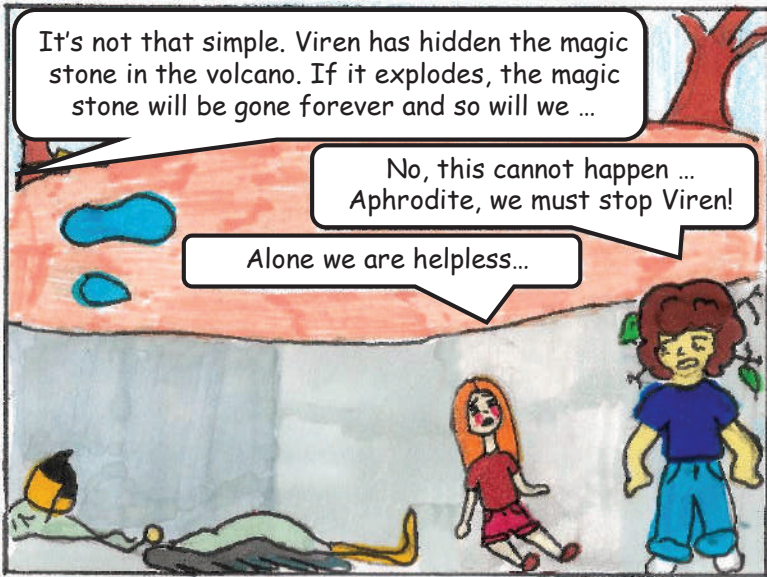
I haven't told you the worst part yet... Viren has stolen the magic stone of the planet.

What? What kind of stone is this?

It is the magic stone that keeps balance and life on Earth. This stone is so strong, it even has the power to save the planet.

That means it can save Black Flame and Aphrodite, too! Let's find it!





Gaius reaches the Council of the Rulers of the Planet and describes to them what happens.

We can't just close industries!

The economy will collapse!

Technology is a necessity!

IMPOSSIBLE!

We'll starve!

A war must be won by all means necessary! What do you expect? Play with slingshots?

Communication, Health, Transportation, NO WAY!

We cut trees to make cities, houses, ships, furniture, paper, toothpicks!!!

What's so wrong with more warmth? I hate cold anyway!

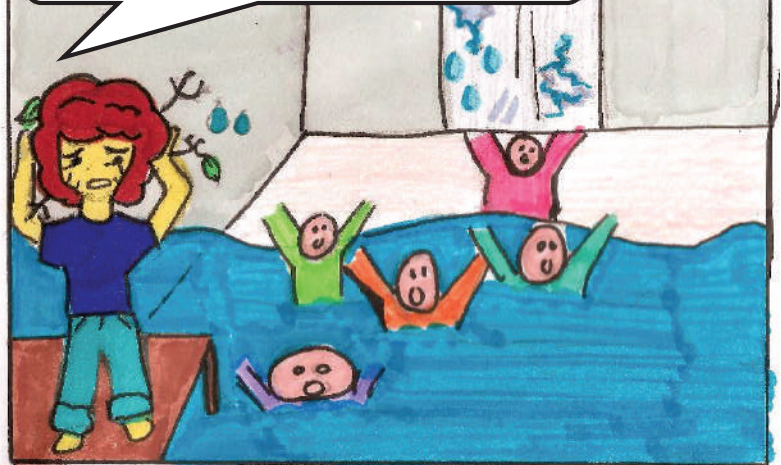
Electricity has turned on the lights of civilization! We can't just switch them off!



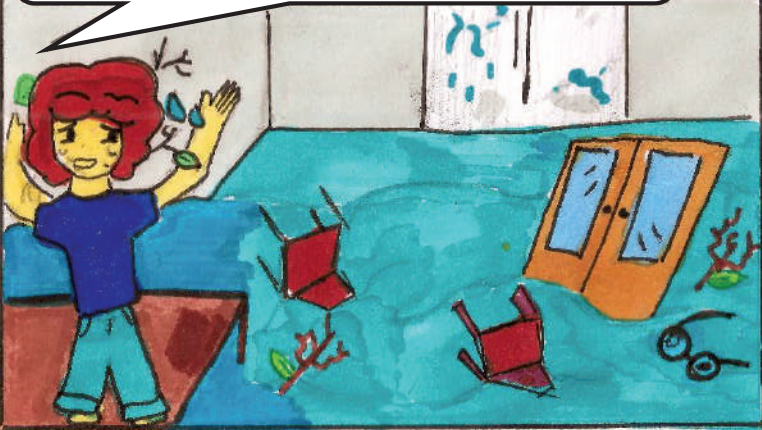
THE BIGGEST STORM EVER  
HAS JUST BROKE OUT!!!



With the power Viren will get from this  
storm, he will destroy the whole planet!



The volcano will erupt at any moment and the  
magic stone will be lost forever! And so will you  
and your luxuries. Nothing will have value anymore!



YOU'VE GOT ONE LAST CHANCE!!!

He's right, we've got one last  
chance. We can't mess this one up!



The Rulers of the Planet gave explicit instructions:

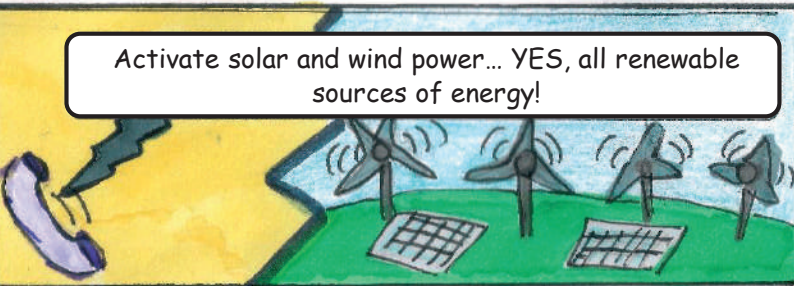
PUT OUT THE FIRES!



CLEAN THE OCEANS!



Activate solar and wind power... YES, all renewable sources of energy!



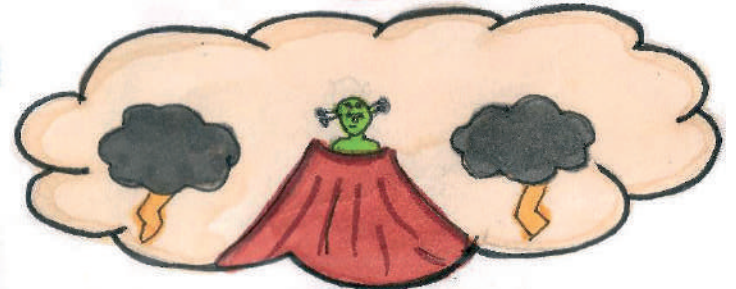
Stop nuclear tests!

Chemical weapons are prohibited from this moment on!

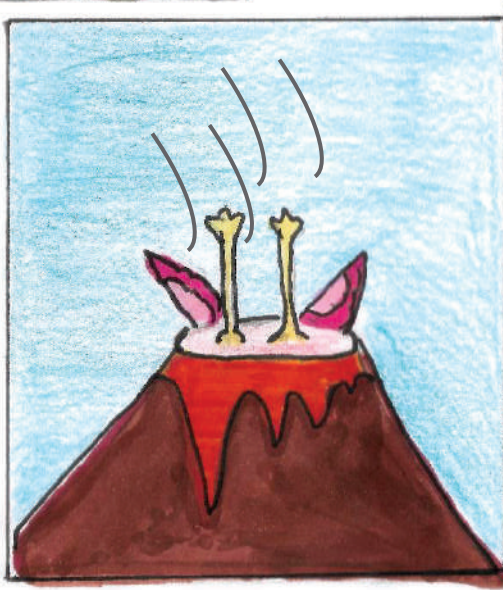
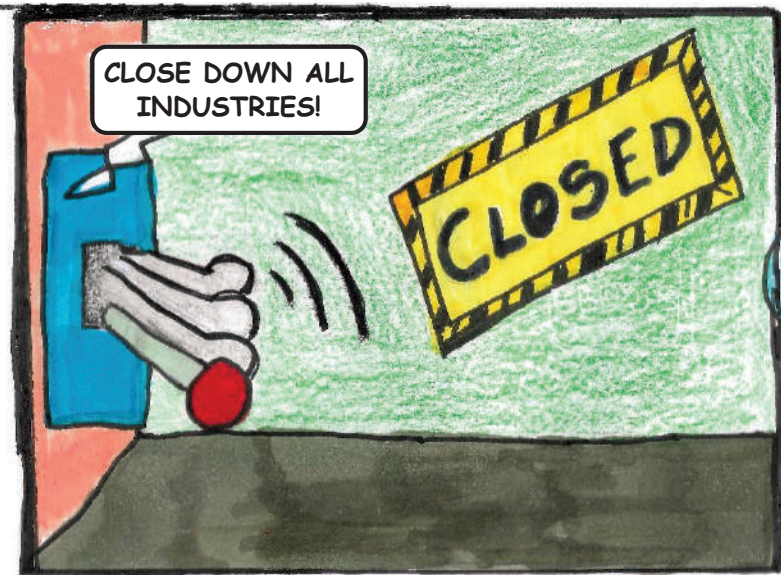
Plant trees!

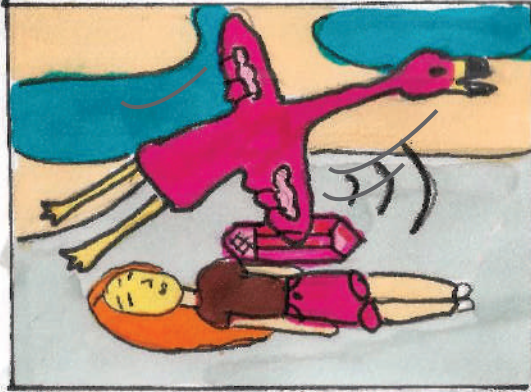
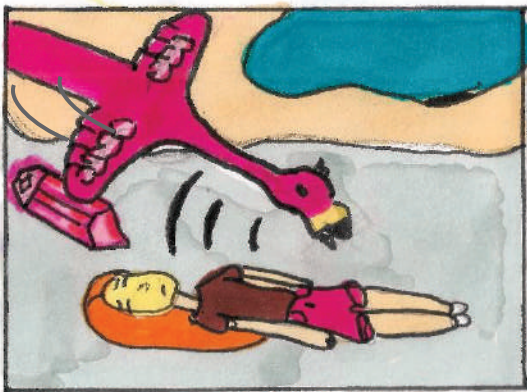
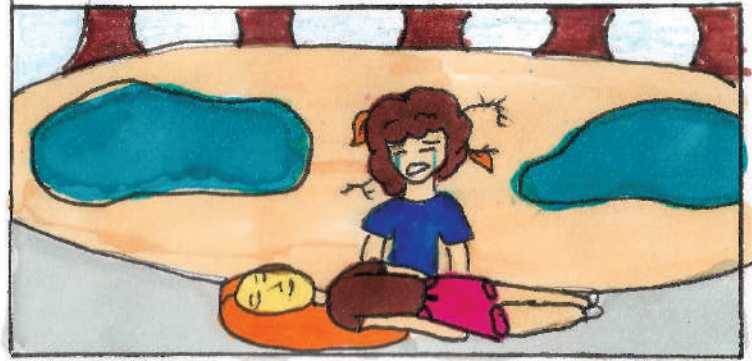
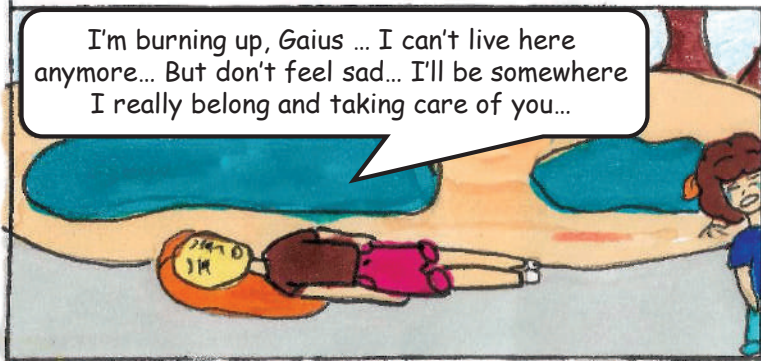
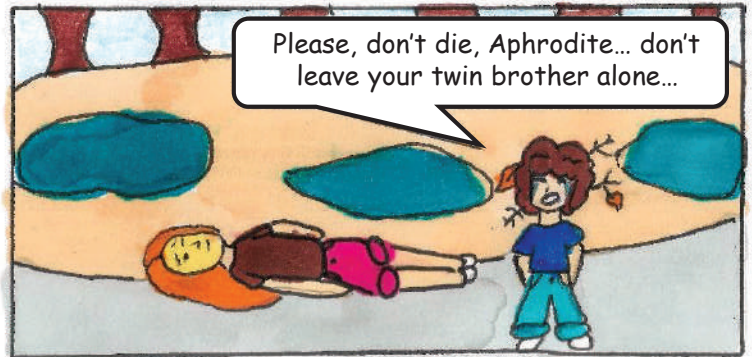
Save resources!

Recycle!



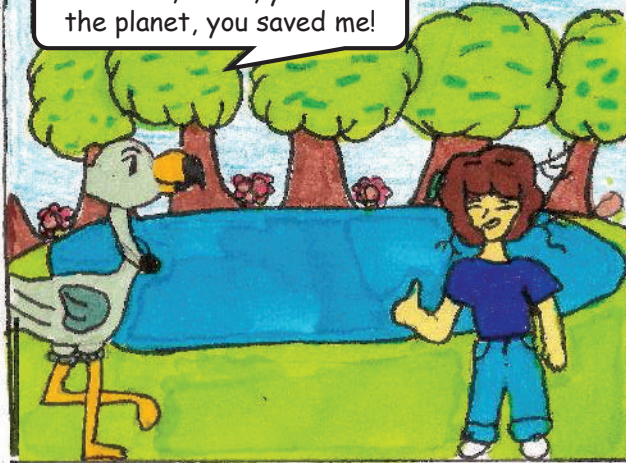






A few months later...

You did it, Gaius, you saved the planet, you saved me!



WE did it, Black Flame, if it wasn't for you and the other flamingos, we would have never realised that we were in such danger... Only Aphrodite...

Who could it be?



Are you still chatting and fooling around you two???



APHRODITE!!! You are alive!!!

But... WHERE are you???

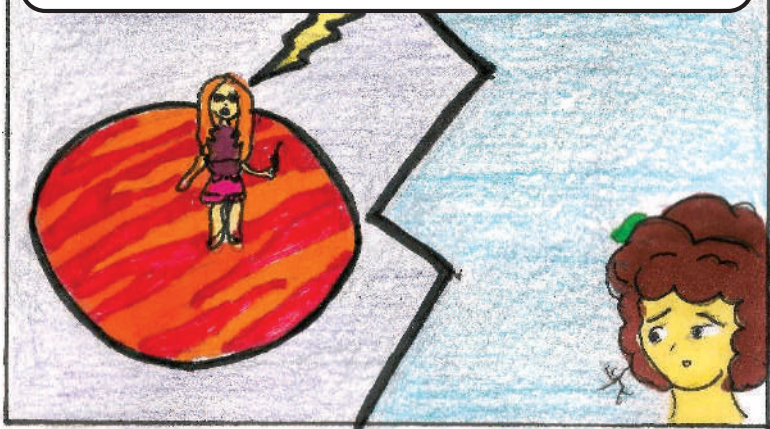


Let me welcome you to my very own planet, twin bro!!! I have warmed every single pebble here! The atmosphere is quite heavy and nobody visits this place, but I'll get used to it! I'm thinking of keeping myself busy with some greenhouses, what do you think????!!!

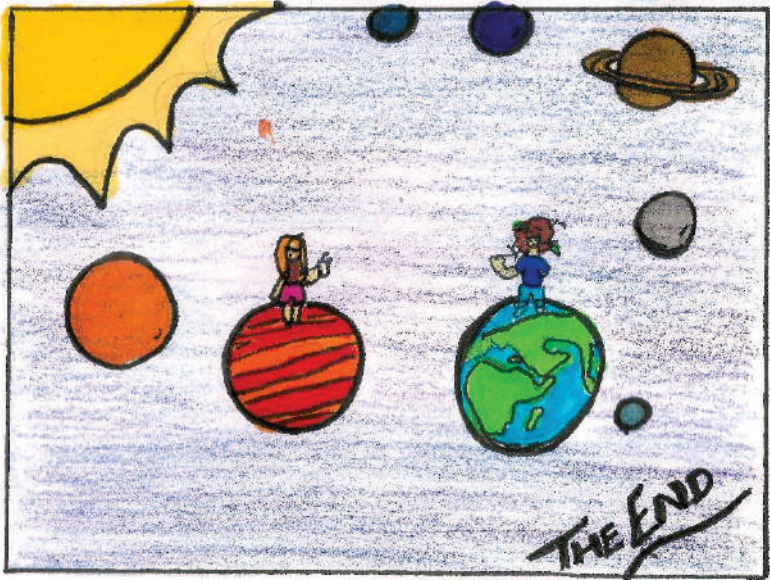


So...now you have your own planet?!

And you have yours, Gaius... and you must protect and take care of your planet. Our Earth is a diamond amongst the universe. Don't let it warm up again...



Viren is lurking... You are responsible to preserve the beauty and life on the green planet. There may never be another chance...



## You've got one...last chance!

It's February, 2023 and the twins Gaius and Aphrodite are yet again visiting the Salt Lake of Larnaka.

They are awaiting the arrival of their friend, Black Flame, the one-of-a-kind black flamingo, but in vain. He should have been there since autumn. As they are about to leave, Black Flame arrives! He looks terribly exhausted.

He describes the problems that he encountered on his way to Cyprus: rise in temperature, melting of ice, consequences of war, air pollution. With the help of a magic watch he contacts the flamingo leaders in other countries and each one of them describes the problems that their countries are facing. Greece is struggling with forest fires and the ensuing threat to its flora and fauna; Italy is tackling the decline of its glaciers and severe weather phenomena; Spain is combating population movements, arable land and food scarcity, all consequences of sea level rise; Cyprus is facing drought and biodiversity loss.

Black Flame cannot recover from the hardships he's been through and at the same time Aphrodite falls ill experiencing an extremely high temperature. In order to save Black Flame and his sister, Gaius asks for help from the flamingo leader in Italy. At the root of all problems lies Viren, a hideous monster that lives in the crater of a volcano and has stolen the magic gem that maintains balance and life on Earth.

With every breath Viren grows bigger and stronger. The source of his power is everything that causes destruction to the planet: exhaust fumes, chemical and nuclear weapons, waste of natural resources, fires, ocean pollution. The bigger he grows, the warmer his breath becomes, causing the rise in temperature and all the difficulties that the flamingos encountered while migrating.

Gaius takes action to retrieve the gem that will keep Aphrodite and Black Flame alive. He appeals to the Rulers of the Planet, but they treat him disparagingly and dismissively.

However, when the greatest thunderstorm of all time breaks out, they realise that nothing matters more than saving the planet and mankind. Explicit orders are given by the Rulers of the Planet for immediate restoration; the fires are extinguished and trees are planted; the oceans are cleaned up; renewable energy is harnessed. Every one of these actions causes Viren to gradually lose his power and shrink, until he finally collapses.

The flamingo from Italy seizes the opportunity and retrieves the magic gem that will save the planet.

Meanwhile, our heroes are back at the Salt Lake in Cyprus. Black Flame begins to recover, but unfortunately this is not the case for Aphrodite. She is burning up and slowly dying.

Just as she is saying goodbye to her brother and closes her eyes, the Italian flamingo leader arrives holding the magic gem; he approaches Aphrodite and once he places the gem on her chest, she disappears!

A few months later Gaius and Black Flame are enjoying the now verdant Salt Lake in Cyprus.

Black Flame's watch rings, Aphrodite is calling! She is on planet Venus enjoying the high temperatures! Its greenhouse gases inspire her to engage in greenhouse cultivation, since there is no other lifeform there. The only thing that bothers her is the "dense" atmosphere!

She advises Gaius to take care of his own planet, Earth, perhaps the most beautiful planet in the whole universe. He must always be vigilant, as Viren is lurking and may threaten them again at any time...

### **Symbolisms:**

The selection of our heroes was not accidental by any means!

Gaius and Aphrodite symbolise the twin planets of our solar system, Earth and Venus ("Gaia" in Greek means Earth and planet Venus is called Aphrodite!). In contrast to Earth, there is no life on Venus due to the extremely high temperature of around 460°C. This is attributed to the small distance between Venus and the Sun, the high concentration of greenhouse gases and the high atmospheric pressure.

If no measures are taken to reverse climate change, Earth's future might look very similar to the conditions on Venus. Aphrodite was magically removed from the life-threatening situation she was facing, like a modern-day Iphigenia in Tauris. According to Greek mythology the goddess of beauty was born in Cyprus and she is directly related to the myths and folk tales of our country.

Black Flame is no other than the black flamingo that annually visits Larnaka Salt Lake for the past few years! The word "flamingo" is Spanish and means the one who has the colour of the flame. Thus, we named our hero "Black Flame", since he had to deal with the burning issue of the climate crisis.

Flamingos are migratory birds and travel from northern European countries to Africa. They are a protected species and one of the most distinctive in the wetlands of Cyprus. Therefore, we drew inspiration from their migration journey to convey the catastrophic consequences of climate change.

We chose to send our flying messengers to the four countries with which we collaborate within the framework of the ClimART project! Italy, Greece, Spain and Cyprus! We tried to depict the most severe problems each country is facing due to the climate crisis.

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