

The World Needs Jacob

Thomas Turner



Published by Saronti Ltd

Facilitated by Clare Ford at the Switched On Academy

The World Needs Jacob

Written & illustrated by

Thomas Turner

Acknowledgments:

Thank you to my Mum for all her help and support.

Thank you to my Dad for designing my front cover.

Thank you to Clare Ford for facilitating the Quest and her continued guidance and encouragement.

Thank you to the other Questers for all their support and encouragement.

Thank you to my Sister: Rebecca; Brothers; Jack, Charlie and Zachariah, Granny, Grandad, Cousin Becky, Nana, Pop, and Auntie Ruth for listening to my ideas and encouraging me.

Chapter One: Jacob



Jacob was your average twelve year old boy, who loved football and Fortnite, little did he know the incredible adventure he was about to have.

He lived in a run down house on the corner of a busy street, on the edge of a seaside town, with his mum and dad, and a very annoying older sister Della.

The Townsends lived a lazy, selfish life, going about their business day after day making sure they were okay, without a care for anyone.

Now you and I both know how important it is to look after our planet, but the Townsends didn't or at least, if they did know, they didn't care.

They had a TV in every room in the house and a tumble dryer, they didn't recycle any of their plastic and they used a lot! They also ate lots of meat and take-aways all the time. That's not very healthy! They cut all the trees down in the garden when they moved into the house. Della had long hot baths every day and used a hairdryer, wore lots of makeup and was always buying new clothes and sunglasses! Jacob's Mum and Dad both had a car and drove everywhere, even to the corner shop and school.

When they went shopping they always forgot their reusable shopping bags - actually I don't think they even had any. Don't get me started on all the lights and sockets they left on all the time!

So, all in all this was not a great family, especially when it came to the fight against climate change.



Chapter Two: The Beach



One bright, beautiful day, Jacob was bored!

He didn't know what to do with himself, he didn't want to watch the boring Nature programme on the telly - what was it to him that all these animals were endangered, whatever that meant, it didn't affect him.

He picked up his favourite football and headed to the beach to see if he could find any of his mates.

The sun was beating down hard as he left home, but as he got to the beach it started to get cloudy - really cloudy.

The beach was empty, there wasn't anyone to be seen and it was ghostly quiet.

Jacob started to become very aware of the sound of the sea lapping up on the beach... it seemed to be getting louder.

The big black clouds covered the blue sky like a blanket and the sun disappeared into darkness making it feel gloomy.

Unexpectedly it started to rain heavily.

The rain poured and poured like the skies were emptying buckets.

Suddenly...

A blinding flash of lightning filled the sky as the thunder rumbled loudly across the empty beach.

Then it started to hail, big pieces of ice that fell like pieces of stone from the sky.

Jacob ran under the pier to shelter from the balls of ice and frightening thunder; he was soaking wet.

In all the commotion, Jacob had dropped his football, and it had rolled into the sea. As he stood shivering from the cold, the ball floated towards him.

But, what was that next to his ball?

Jacob saw something glinting in the waves, a small green light, so he reached under the water to grab it.

His heart hammered in his chest as he lifted the green bottle out of the water.

There was something inside the bottle.

Was it a note?

As he reached into the bottle he clasped the rag and pulled it out of the bottle.

Carefully he opened it up, and realised there was writing on it.

“Help us before it’s too late!” Jacob read.

Jacob didn’t have time to think about what that meant. He was already spinning really really fast round and round as he clung on tight to the bottle.

Spinning and twirling around in what felt like a wind tunnel, the words spun around him as if they were being written in the air.

Help us before it’s too late!

Help us before it's too late!

Thud!

He landed in a soft bed of leaves.



Chapter Three: Terry



Jacob sat up, wondering where he was. He was all dry now and his heart was beating like a drum.

As he looked around, he saw lush shades of green everywhere, trees, leaves, even the ground was green, it was as if he were on a tropical island.

Suddenly, he heard the rustle of leaves and the ground started to shake.

Thump... Thump! THUMP!

What was the noise?

Then silence.

He felt something behind him!

He could feel warm air brushing past his face.

Slowly, he turned and looked up, straight into the eyes of a Triceratops dinosaur.

“Ahhhhhh!” he squealed.

He wanted to run, but he was stuck fast! As hard as he tried to move he just couldn’t.

The Triceratops looked at him with its bright green eyes and said, “Don’t be afraid! I’m not going to eat you, I’m a vegetarian!”

Jacob didn’t know whether to laugh or cry!

“I’m Terry,” said the Triceratops.

“I’m Jacob,” replied Jacob.

“I know,” said Terry, “I have been waiting for you, you have a very important mission and we need your help!”

“Me?” quivered Jacob, “I’m just Jacob”

“We need to get serious now!” said Terry.

“Come on, let’s get somewhere safe, before anyone else comes.”

Chapter Four : Climate Change



Settled safely in Terry’s dingy cave - which he called home - Terry started to tell Jacob a story...

“We dinosaurs have lived on Earth for millions of years, just as you humans have.

However, you don’t see us around anymore, because we are extinct.

How cool would it be to walk through fields of Ankylosaurus? To see Pterosaurs flying overhead and Spinosaurus swimming in our seas?

Just as you see Polar Bears roaming, Monarch Butterflies flying and Green Turtles swimming.

If you are not careful they will become extinct too.

The climate crisis is real and is happening now and something must be done.

I sent you the bottle to transport you here so I could explain and send you on your journey.” explained Terry.

“But I don’t understand,” said Jacob, “What is the climate crisis?”

“The climate crisis,” explained Terry, is the process of our planet heating up, but it is happening much quicker than we feared!

No corner of the globe is immune from the devastating consequences of climate change!

Rising temperatures, natural disasters, weather extremes...”

I know all about weather extremes, thought Jacob.

“The sea levels are rising, affecting the reproduction of Green Turtles, the Arctic is melting, threatening the very existence of the Polar Bear forests are burning, endangering the migration of Monarch Butterflies!” continued a now very animated Terry.

“OK! OK!” gasped Jacob, starting to get a little panicked.

“But I still don’t understand!” Jacob professed, “What can I do? I’m just an ordinary twelve year old boy!”

“I am going to send you on a journey,” declared Terry, “that bottle in your hand will teleport you across the globe and on your journey you will meet the world's most endangered animals.”

Jacob clung onto the bottle tightly, “I’m ready,” he said aloud, although I don’t think he really was ready, do you?

Terry handed Jacob a dinosaur tooth, “Put it in your bag,” he said, “You will need it. Good luck!”



Chapter Five : Pablo



Again, Jacob didn't have time to think about what Terry meant. He was already spinning really really fast round and round as he clung on tight to the bottle.

Spinning and twirling around in what felt like a wind tunnel, the words spun around him as if they were being written in the air.

Help us before it's too late!

Help us before it's too late!

Thud!

He landed on the cold glacial ice.

The cold icy air hit his nostrils and the ice started to crack beneath his feet.

Sitting up, Jacob wondered where he was this time, looking around everywhere was white.

The rolling clouds above, the vast surroundings and icy peaks of ice, and the rolling sea all shimmered glistening white in the white sunshine.

Wait!, what was that?

A huge white creature slowly walked towards him.

Jacob gulped!

He recognised the big Polar Bear striding towards him, he was huge, seriously big.

"I thought I could smell you!" said the Polar Bear, "I have been expecting you."

Jacob stood frozen to the spot.

"Don't worry," said the Polar Bear, "I've had my dinner!"

Standing up, Jacob muttered, “I, I, I’m Jacob.”

“I’m Pablo!” said the Polar Bear, “Nice to meet you, so glad you have come to help.”

“Help?” asked Jacob

“Yes!” said Pablo, “I’m endangered, there aren’t many of us left. You see, climate change is threatening our very existence!”

“Oh no!” exclaimed Jacob, “That’s awful!”

I think so too, don’t you?

Pablo went on to explain that the sea ice is melting earlier each year, because of rising temperatures, meaning they have less time to hunt for food, have less safe places to look after their young and rest after swimming.

Jacob felt awful, this huge majestic animal looked so sad and vulnerable, and also perhaps a bit hungry.

‘Jacob,’ Pablo said seriously “I need you to really look at the energy you are using, your electricity use, car use, and fossil fuel use are out of control!”

“You need to change, for the sake of all the endangered animals!”

Pablo handed Jacob a beautiful ice crystal, “Take this with you as you continue your journey, you have much more to see!”

“Thank you!” said Jacob, “I’m sorry,” he added as he placed the crystal in his bag. Grabbing tight to the green bottle, he heard Pablo say, “Good luck!” as he started spinning away.



Chapter Six: Belinda



Spinning and twirling around in what felt like a wind tunnel, the words spun around him as if they were being written in the air.

Help us before it's too late!

Help us before it's too late!

Thud!

He landed in a soft bed of warm moss.

Where am I now? he thought to himself.

He shut his eyes tightly, a little worried about what he might encounter this time, would it be big? Would it want to eat him?

Slowly, and with trepidation, he opened one eye and then the other, and looked around.

There was nothing there, except lucious flower beds and a thick surrounding of trees as far as he could see.

Flutter, flutter...

I can hear something, thought Jacob.

Flutter, flutter, "Hello!" something said.

"Ah ," said Jacob.

Then out of the corner of his eye, Jacob saw a beautiful orange, white and black butterfly, no bigger than a teacup, sitting on a stunning yellow daffodil.

"Erm, hello," stuttered Jacob, not sure if it was the butterfly that had spoken, but hoping it was.

"I already said hello!" spat the butterfly, seemingly a little impatient.

“Sorry”, responded Jacob nervously.

“It’s ok,” said the butterfly, “I have just been waiting for you for so long, I’m Belinda.”

“Nice to meet you,” replied Jacob, I am sure that you are not endangered!”

“We are facing a number of threats,” explained Belinda sadly.

“You see, too hot or too cold and we will die!”

“Gosh!” replied a shocked Jacob, “I didn’t know it would be that bad.”

“Climate change,” continued Belinda, “affects everything from the availability of the food we eat, to us knowing when to migrate.”

“I know about food!” grumbled Jacob. Starting to get hungry himself, he had to ask Belinda a question first. “But, what is migrate?”

“Migration,” explained Belinda, “Is when we travel from our summer homes to our winter ones, remember I told you we don’t like it too hot or too cold! We make one of the longest migrations all the way from here in Canada all the way to California, over 3,000miles!”

Canada, thought Jacob, as he didn’t actually know where he was.

Again, he started to feel awful. Here was another beautiful animal, looking so sad.

Belinda asked Jacob to think about the amount of water he and his family were using, “The power needed to heat up the water you use has a huge carbon footprint.”

“Just a few small changes in the way you wash and use water can make a big difference!” Belinda went on to explain.

Belinda handed Jacob a daffodil. “Go on with your journey, you still have much to learn”

“I am sorry!” muttered Jacob as he grabbed the green bottle and the world started spinning again.



Chapter Seven: George



Spinning and twirling around in what felt like a wind tunnel, the words spun around him as if they were being written in the air.

Help us before it's too late!

Help us before it's too late!

Splash!

He landed in the warm shallows of the sea as it lapped upon the soft sandy beach.

As he glanced around taking in the beautiful surroundings of the stunning tropics, the sun bathed him in warm air.

Glancing down into the shallows, Jacob saw a tiny Green Turtle enjoying his lunch.

But wait a minute, it wasn't a jellyfish he was munching on, it was a plastic cup.

"STOP!" shouted Jacob

The turtle looked startled,

"Why?" he said

"Because that's not a jellyfish, that's a plastic cup!" Jacob explained
"You can't eat plastic!"

The Green Turtle looked sad, "I'm hungry," he almost cried.

Jacob looked around and saw a real jellyfish, "Here, eat this!"

Greedily, the Green Turtle ate the jellyfish whilst Jacob watched on patiently.

"What's your name?" Jacob asked.

"George," replied the Green Turtle, "You must be Jacob"

Shocked, Jacob responded, "How do you know?"

"I have been expecting you!" George said.

“We need your help,” George continued, now with a full belly and a smile on his face.

“Climate change is causing us such issues and challenges: harsher storms, rising sea levels, hotter sands and shifting currents, and pollution!

We depend on the beaches and coastlines to be able to lay our eggs, and the storms and sea levels and flooding our breeding ground!”

Our migration is affected by the currents, which means we cannot find our feeding grounds!” George explained passionately.

Jacob nodded, he knew all about migration.

“Often rubbish produced by humans is left on the beaches or in the oceans causing illness and injury to us Green Turtles as we get tangled up in it or accidentally eat it!” George winked at Jacob.

Jacob stifled a little giggle, now was no time for laughing, this was serious.

Looking at George, Jacob noticed how noble this creature was and felt it and the other creatures he met deserved much more respect and care than us humans were giving them.

“Please stop using so much plastic, think of the three R’s: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!” pleaded George.

“It’s not too late to make a difference!” declared Jacob, standing up with purpose.

Jacob felt so terrible that he had not taken climate change so seriously.

“I must get going,” he continued, “There is much to be done.”

George handed Jacob the plastic cup to remind him of his journey. “Take this, and don’t forget about us,” he pleaded.

“I won’t, I promise,”

“I’m sorry!” he added genuinely, as he clutched hold of the green bottle, ready to continue his journey.



Chapter Eight: Returning home.



Spinning and twirling around in what felt like a wind tunnel, the words spun around him as if they were being written in the air.

Help us before it's too late!

Help us before it's too late!

Splat!

He landed back on the cold sand under the pier.

Rubbing his eyes, Jacob sat up, was it a dream, or actually a nightmare? he pondered.

Shaking his head, he decided it was all a dream, he picked up his football and headed home.

At home the TV was blaring, all the lights were on, Mum and Dad were eating a takeaway out of plastic tubs, and Della was listening to loud music and soaking in a huge, hot bath.

Jacob ran upstairs to his room and slammed the door shut, throwing his bag into the corner of his room.

In the darkness he saw a shimmer, like the shine shining on a clear blue lake, coming from his bag.

Picking up his bag he pulled out: The old tooth that the Dinosaur, who warned him about extinction gave him; the ice crystal that the sad Polar Bear, whose home was melting gave him; the bright yellow daffodil that the tired Monarch Butterfly, who had to migrate so far gave him; and finally, the plastic cup that the very hungry Green Turtle gave him.

It was all true, he remembered, he had to do something, he had to help these animals.

These creatures need help before they disappear.

“Della, Della!, DELLA!” Jacob yelled.

“What?” retorted Della, annoyed at being disturbed.

“I need your help!” Jacob pleaded.

Jacob explained his journey to her and showed her his treasures. He told her all about it:

The sad Polar Bear, and about the melting ice caps meaning their young have no place to sleep safely and they have no place to rest.

Della listened carefully.

The tired Monarch Butterfly, and all about the distance they have to travel.

Della continued to listen to everything Jacob was telling her.

Finally, Jacob told Della about:

The hungry Green Turtle, who nearly ate a plastic cup so can't feed, lay eggs or migrate.

By now Della was wiping away tears.

She loved the Green Turtle, the Monarch Butterfly, and the Polar Bear; she felt as awful as Jacob did.

“I am sorry I haven't taken climate change seriously!” she exclaimed.

“The good news is,” said Jacob, “we can help all these amazing animals.”

Chapter Nine: Making a Difference.



Jacob and Della started off making a difference by making changes in the way they lived.

First of all they asked Mum and Dad to not use the car so much and to walk or use their bicycles.

The family pledged to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, especially their plastics.

They planted some trees and a vegetable patch in their garden.

They reduced the energy they used by turning off the lights and switches when they left rooms and went out, and turning off taps when they were washing and brushing their teeth, Della even took showers instead of baths to use less energy.

Della explained to her friends how it can take twenty minutes to run a bath using a lot of hot water and energy, but a short shower of four minutes uses much less energy, so now all Della's friends take showers too.

When Della explained what had happened with her friends to Jacob, he got all excited.

"That's it!" he exclaimed

"We have to tell everyone, we have to tell the world!"

Jacob now understood what he had to do, he had to become a Planet Advocate.

He had to tell people how important our planet is and how important it is to protect our creatures before it's too late.

Jacob took his bag of items to the British Museum, and explained his journey and what everyone needed to do to save our planet.

The museum was very interested in Jacob's items and wanted to display them to show the world what they needed to do.

Jacob's journey was shared with the world, and people listened.

They were touched by the stories of Pablo, Belinda and George and the effects that climate change was having on all creatures from the biggest Polar Bear to the tiniest Monarch Butterfly and everything in between like the Green Turtle.

Jacob was asked what people could do to help and he explained how we have been getting it wrong using so much energy therefore producing lots of CO₂, and polluting our planet and seas with our rubbish, and how all this adds to climate change and affects these majestic creatures.

The world started to work together to make change happen, all thanks to Jacob and his journey.

Little did he realise that one small twelve year old boy could make such a big difference.

He remembered what he did and what the animals had said and he knew that by the world working together they would be safe now.

Chapter Ten: Your Turn



I know you want to make a difference too and save all the endangered animals, not just the Polar Bear, Monarch Butterfly and Green Turtle, so here are some things you can do too.

- Planting Trees
- Stick to paths when you are out walking
- Avoid foods that contain Palm oil.

- Make your garden wildlife friendly, build a Bee hotel, Log pile, Pond.
- Before you throw something away, check to see if it can be used for something else.
- Mend things or give to charity.
- Use reusable bottles.
- Use reusable bags.
- Take rubbish home with you.
- Become a green eater.
- Have a vegetarian night.
- Buy sustainable food.
- Turning off lights.
- Switch off at the wall, not just standby.
- Hang things outside to dry.
- Cycle, walk or use public transport.
- Have a shower not bath
- Turn off taps when brushing your teeth.
- Reducing
- Reusing
- Recycling
- STOP throwing stuff on the floor like plastic cups, egg boxes and plastic wrap.
- Tell others what you are doing to be eco-friendly.

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

Find out more at: www.switchedonglobal.com and register for your next exciting course.

Publish your book at www.saronti.com/switchedon

Do you like to write stories?
Ever fancied publishing one of them?

It's easy with Saronti.

**Get in touch to find out more about
our publishing packages for young authors.**

www.saronti.com

**Need another copy of this book?
Go to www.saronti.com/switchedon
Your book reference is Sar2711**

saronti



When an ordinary 12 year old boy finds a mysterious bottle on the beach, his life changes forever. He is transported to lands far away where the animals teach him ways to help them survive. Will Jacob make the changes he needs to save the environment?