



## 2nd Place - Category: Age 10-11

### **“A day that changed the world” - Amelie, age 11**

Delphinus blasted through the murky water, feeling fast like a rocket shooting off to space. She was to deliver an important invitation from the S.E.A.L.S (Sea Environmental Anti-Litter Society).

After what felt like centuries, riding the currents and jet-streams, she finally arrived in the Pacific Ocean. Her bottlenose artfully nudged through the barrier of seaweed; she'd found what she was looking for.

She tentatively approached the squadron of manta rays. They were reluctant at first, but soon accepted the plan. They took her words and spread them like a virus, so every sea creature knew to be ready.

A few days later a meeting was held in the last coral reef. Filled with so many vivid fish, as radiant as an abstract painting. Their hearts stuffed with hope and anger, from shrimp to whales, they filled the dimly lit cave.

Once the S.E.A.L.S were all congregated in the somber cavern they waited for their leader.

Enki edged his way around the anemones, gliding up to the podium of staghorn. His shell was a tapestry of his life, abraded from near misses over his long years, mottled with algae, his wisdom keeping him alive.

He described that the contaminated seas were getting warmer, since the appalling humans kept tossing debris into the broken ocean. Enki informed them that they needed to stop this mess by giving them a taste of their own medicine.

Everyone was assigned jobs, but the sharks, whales, seals and crabs had the most important roles of all.

“FORWARD!” Amphitrite bellowed.

The queen of the sharks led her shiver of hammerheads towards the distant shore. Fins cut through the water, like knives slicing through butter. Distant screams and frantic splashes echoed from above, that didn't stop them from emptying the beach.



Meanwhile, Pasithea and her calm pod of blue whales floated through the salt-water like doves soaring through a marshmallow sky. They soon arrived at the jackpot and heaved fishing nets to bottles onto their smooth backs. They brought it closer to shore, where the crafty crabs and seals could reach it.

They stuffed their pincers with junk and crept onto the gritty sand. Seals and orcas joined to help with the larger objects, they went back and forth until before them was a gargantuan heap.

Early morning a stench of impending doom hung in the air, it lured families to the beach. Every step taken the smell got more pungent, until by the time they got there it was so strong they could taste the repulsive decay.

Seagulls squawked overhead, like a bomb had exploded...

As they fearfully glanced down, horror burst from their disgusted eyes! They saw the massive pile of plastic sludge before them. Rage, anger, and guilt erupted inside them!

Except for Charlie...

Charlie was 12 when it happened, and he knew this was going to be the day that changed the world forever.

He was going to make a big difference and he had a cunning plan building up inside him.