



Green Generation



AN ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE FROM BSOE

ISSUE 07

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AL GHAF TREE

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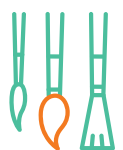
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A LETTER FROM THE BSOE TEAM



Our green ambassadors,

Welcome to our very first digital issue of the Green Generation. It feels wonderful to be back and share everything new with you, we hope you find this read enjoyable because we sure did enjoy putting it together for you.

To start off, let us give you a little brief about what to expect. We are covering an important theme in this issue; Year of Tolerance and you will soon find out more about the story behind it and its logo in our main article.

We also have a surprise in store for you; our Get to Know Me Better section features a special guest of honor and we can't wait for you to meet him.

We won't hold you back for much longer so go ahead and dive in.

All the best,

Your BSOE team.



A WORD FROM OUR CHAMPIONS



STUDENT

“

**THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS THE BELIEF
THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAVE IT.”**

People believe that one person can't make any difference but on the contrary I believe that one person can make all the difference because when I as an individual reach out to the environment, I inspire the rest to do the same.

Having this noble thought in mind I had started raising environmental awareness since a very small age and thought that every one of us is responsible to save the planet, so there is no argument to wait for someone else to start, so I as an individual started giving my contribution in every possible way.

“

**THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS 'AWAY', WHEN WE THROW
ANYTHING AWAY IT MUST GO SOMEWHERE.”**

This quote makes me a passionate advocate of the 3R's, and I follow them.

Recycling things is one of the simplest and convenient ways to contribute to saving the environment, especially after having recycling centers set up by environmental organizations around you.

“

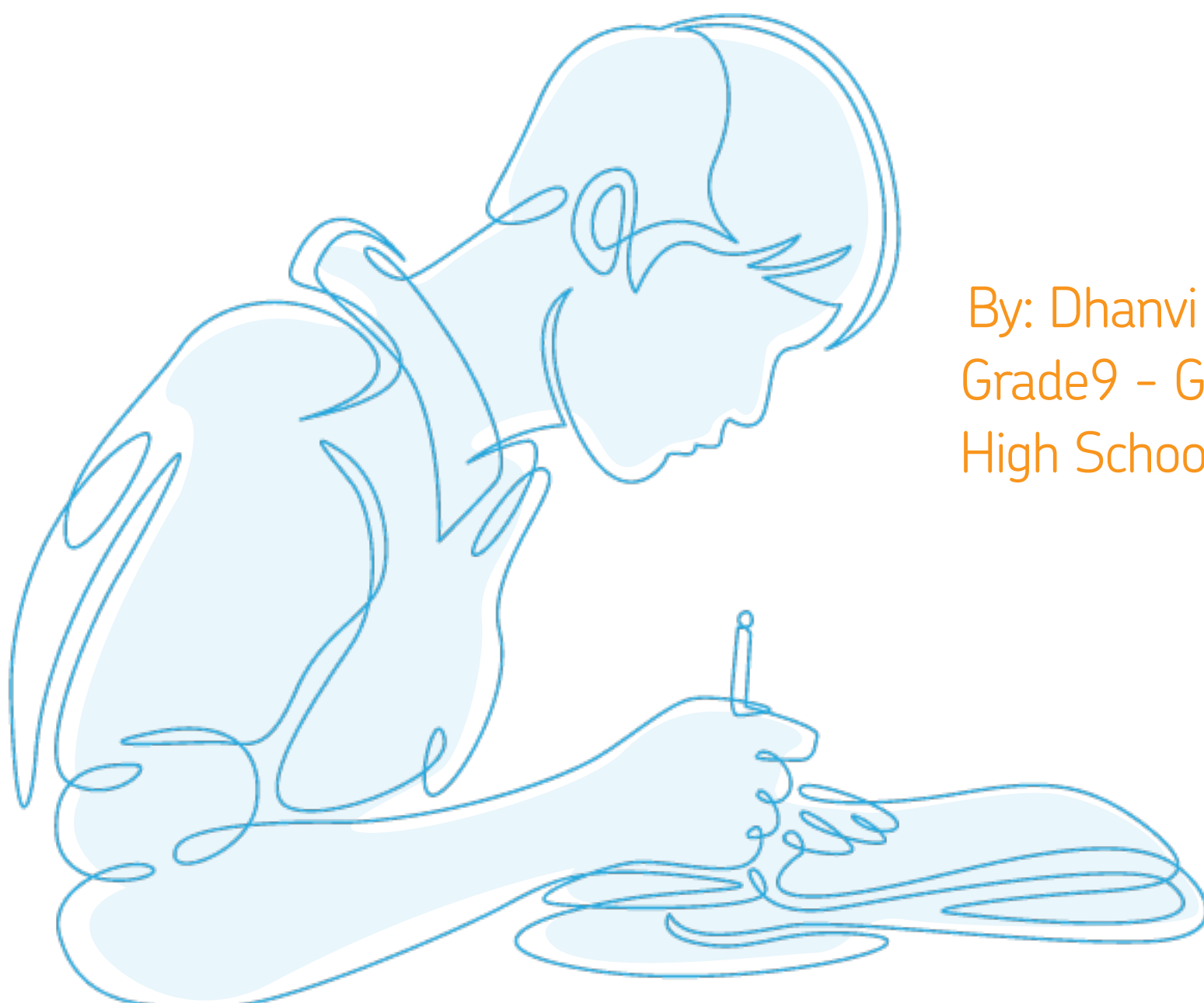
**TO BE WITHOUT TREES IN THE MOST LITERAL WAY
TO BE WITHOUT ROOTS.”**

Trees are the roots of humanity and the most important thing to be preserved as it holds the whole of not only humanity but also the whole of environment thus it is very important to preserve them and regenerate whatever is castoff.

I have also taken part in various tree planting campaigns and have planted over 20 trees in UAE under my name through various environmental groups. I use my public speaking and leadership skills to raise environmental awareness, I have been an environmental activities captain in my school, and I have also been a member of the environmental clubs of my school.

I aim to inspire many to give their contributions towards environmental conservation and to prove that one can make a huge difference and create a vast impact.

I don't want to protect the environment but create an environment that doesn't need protecting. This is only possible if people realize that environment needs shielding from pollution, waste, etc and works towards it, only then will the environment be safe.



By: Dhanvi Sayani
Grade9 - Gems Our Own English
High School, Dubai

A WORD FROM OUR CHAMPIONS



TEACHER

In Defense of Planet Earth

Hello to all the environmentalists out there! We are the ECOWARRIORS and we had a marvelous time spreading awareness around our school-International School of Creative Science, recycling, making an air filter and transforming newspapers into recycled paper or paper mache to make a UAE flag for the occasion of the 44th National day.

As the common saying goes

“

**OUR HOUSE IS OUR FIRST HOME AND OUR SCHOOL IS
OUR SECOND HOME.”**

We ECOWARRIORS decided that we wanted to go against this saying and make our Earth our first, best and only home.

On that note we went around the school and gave a pot of flower to every class from KG1 till Year Three.

This was to instill and nurture the magnificent value of the importance of planting plants in the flourishing minds of the youngsters, for them to carry the legacy of recycling in the upcoming future.



We have conducted competitions for a challenging uptake to spread awareness among the primary and higher grades.

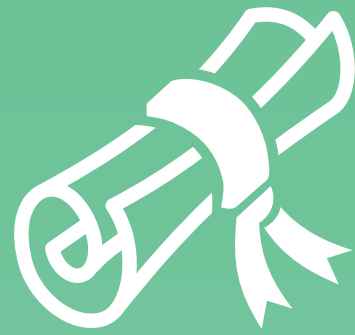
This fun and methodical way was very inspirational as all the materials used were recyclable, so from this people have acknowledged the vast amount of creative and useful products that can be utilized if only a person has the right will or the correct guided path to do so.

We are always going to spread awareness and protect our home, which can also be easily done if only all our hands join together and take a big step towards a better future.



By: Abir Abdulrahim
ECOWARRIORS,
International School of
Creative Science, Sharjah

GET TO KNOW ME BETTER



Tell us about yourself?

A human being and sought-after speaker and one of The Arab World most upcoming and fascinating figures. I consider myself to be a change agent for Environmental advocacy and foresight on Sustainability in the UAE and beyond.

Avid skydiver, technical deep diver and role model amongst the UAE youth and many Arab countries and part of the globe.

Over the last 30 years, I dedicated my life to traveling and collaborating around the world on issues related to humanity, hope,

understanding, environment and the road ahead.

Spearhead by encouraging and motivating ground breaking ideas developed by the youth through empowering actions and meaningful way of life. Ongoing words over the last decade and a reminder of my greatest passion is to inspire, aspire and mentor young leaders who today ultimately will become the future leaders of tomorrow, that will make the change required for a better understanding of a peaceful world.

When and how did your environmental journey start?

One day when I was about six years old, I went with my father on a hunting trip.

I told him:

“Now, that I am with you, I want you to train me to be a falconer like you. Give me one of your falcons”.

He looked at me and laughed. He said:

“Listen my son Abdul Aziz, your time will be so different than our time. I want you to focus on your studies. I want you to focus on something that is bigger than yourself and you are passionate about: helping less fortunate people, study science or

engineering, something based on your interests. So, I will not give you a falcon. I will not give you any one of them. And you know why?...

Because YOU are the falcon.”

I inherited this metaphor code of my father. What he meant was don't be a falconer, be a falcon so you can soar with the hawks. In other words, don't waste your time with small things, go for something big and have an impact ... Positively on the environment.

Tell us about your biggest environmental achievements?

BlueYouth project in 2016 Marrakech COP22: I initiated a global voice of youth regarding water issues and climate change. In this project, youth were communicated via social media platforms on how to sustain water from different regions in the globe with different challenges, to increase behavior change and provide possibilities of creative solutions.

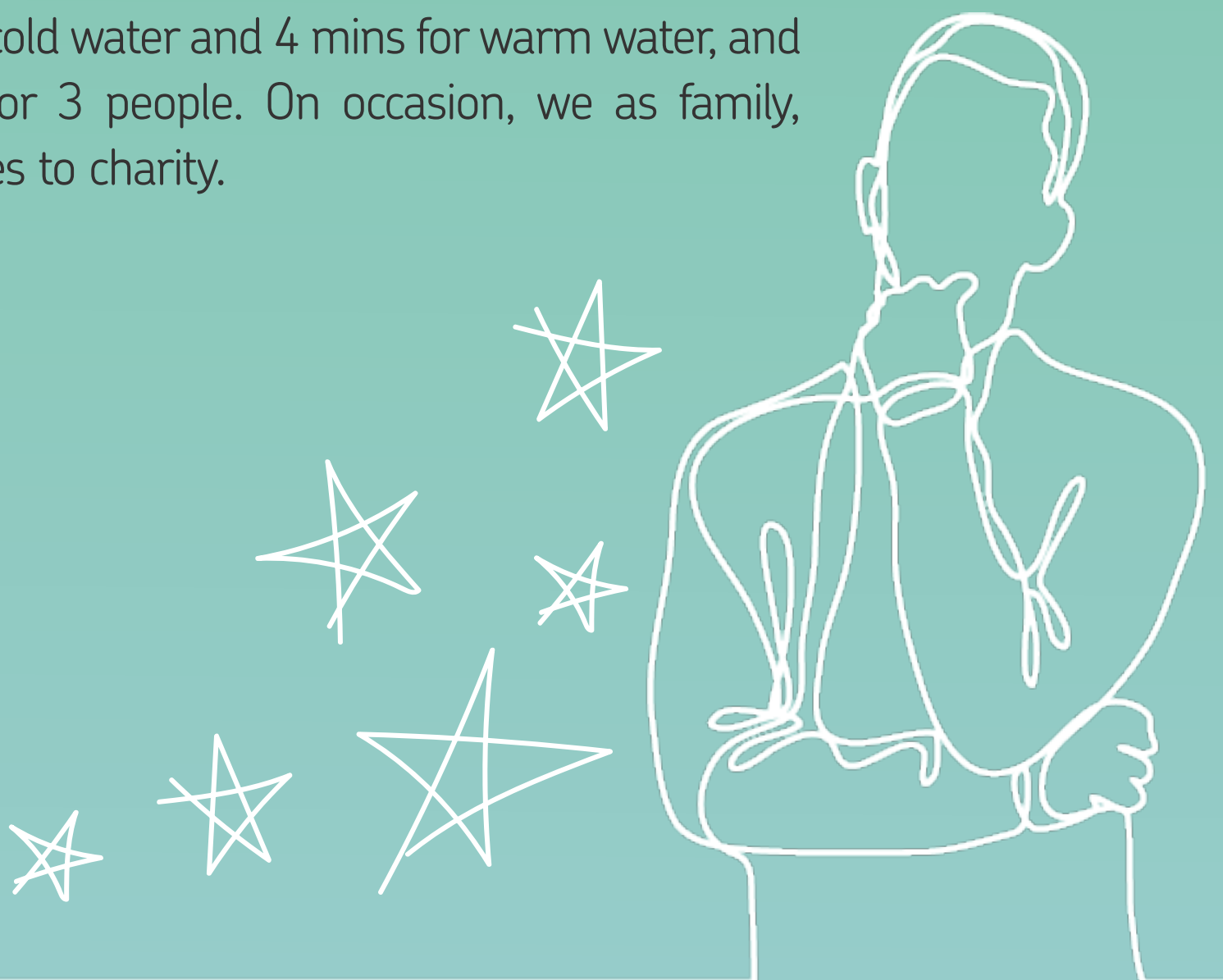
Partnership with TakingITGlobal and the Centre for Global Education, invitations were only to three schools that were chosen as Global Leaders from each continent on Earth, the students joined a global movement that includes partners such as UNESCO, the Great Barrier Reef National Reserve, Polar Bears International, CISCO, TakingITGlobal and many of the world's national Youth Climate Coalitions.

The goal was to connect the voices of more than 10,000 youth, from every continent on earth and to facilitate the world's largest synthesis of youth opinion on the future of our planet's water at this year of 2016 to United Nations COP22 Conference on Climate Change in Morocco.

This work was, #BlueYouth: a global mobilization on water and the climate, in which the result of over 25,000 hours of student collaboration challenged the leaders of this planet to take action seriously on the present and future state of Water on Earth.

Mention one environmental act you practice on daily basis?

I normally, shower 2 mins daily for cold water and 4 mins for warm water, and sometime, I do share one meal for 3 people. On occasion, we as family, donate leftover food from big parties to charity.



What do you think of the UAE's theme for 2019 "Year of Tolerance" and how would you link it to the environment?

This year 2019 is the Year of Tolerance, which embodies the approach adopted by the UAE since its establishment to be a bridge of communication between the people of the world and their various cultures, in an environment of openness and respect that rejects extremism and promotes harmony and coexistence.

In the Quran Allah said:

**“
O HUMANITY! INDEED, WE CREATED YOU FROM A MALE
AND FEMALE, AND MADE YOU INTO PEOPLES AND TRIBES,
SO THAT YOU MAY GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER. SURLY
THE MOST NOBLE OF YOU IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IS THE
MOST RIGHTEOUS AMONG YOU. GOD IS TRULY
ALL-KNOWN, ALL-AWARE”
(QURAN - 49:13).**

Tolerance and environment are both bonded and linked naturally together, they represent respect, ihsan (compassion and kindness) and equal rights to all creatures. People have equal rights in natural resources, they should not be wasted or monopolized. Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) stated that:

people have equal shares in water, grass (crops) and fire (energy) except what was legally privatized. The Ghaf tree was chosen as a symbol of the Year of Tolerance, because of the great significance that the tree bears as an indigenous tree. It is associated with popular and environmental heritage. It is a symbol of the stability of the desert and a witness to old customs.

As in this Hadith prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said:

**“
ANYONE WHO PLANTS A SEED THAT GROWS TO A LEVEL,
PEOPLE OR ANIMALS OR BIRDS CAN BENEFIT OR EAT FROM
IT, THEN THIS ACT IS CONSIDERED AS A CHARITY THAT IS
REWARDED BY GOD”
(PROPHET MUHAMMAD -PEACE BE UPON HIM-).**



Sheikh Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi
Green Sheikh

MAIN ARTICLE



The story behind the Year of Tolerance

AL GHAF TREE



This year was named Year of Tolerance to strengthen the nation's goal of fostering values of acceptance and tolerance in order to achieve safety, stability, and happiness amongst people from all regions and religions. Therefore, to represent this message, al ghaf was crowned as the chosen symbol to embody this significant message.

What is al ghaf and why was it so special? Well, we are here to tell you the whole story.

Al ghaf is a tree native to the UAE and is usually found in local deserts. The UAE is proud to be the home country of al ghaf tree because of its incredibly strong nature. It has the ability to stand up against the desert's heat and draught, and the reason being is that it requires little water to survive and it is not like other plants that are affected by hot weather.

Despite its strong nature, it is very difficult to grow al ghaf in quantities because the insects get to the seeds and feed on them before they manage to reach the roots.

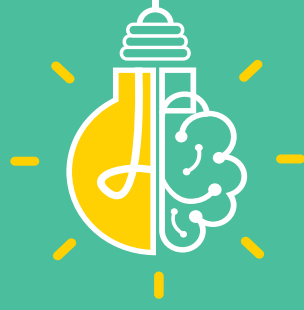
Due to its rarity, it is legally forbidden to cut down al ghaf tree.

This strong tree has many important uses. Their dry leaves can be used to feed animals and their heartwood makes an excellent source of fuel and charcoal.

Also amongst its famous uses is that it yields the well-known Arabic gum, acacias, and has medicinal and remedial benefits.

Now that you know its valuable status in the UAE, you can guess why it was chosen as the symbol for the powerful message of tolerance.

DID YOU KNOW



The
Sahara Desert,
located in northern
Africa, is the largest
in the world

The second
largest desert is
the **Arabian Desert**
in the **Middle East**



Large areas
of land that are
covered in ice or snow
are also called
“**cold deserts**”

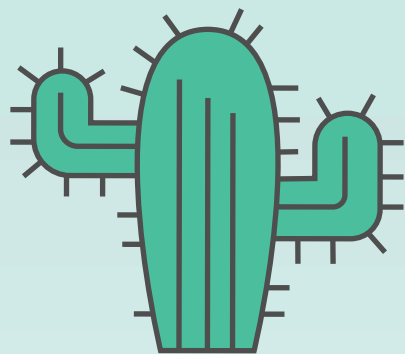




Despite the extreme weather conditions and lack of water, the deserts are inhabited by some plants like **Shrubs** and **Cacti**, and animals like **Lizards** and **Coyote**



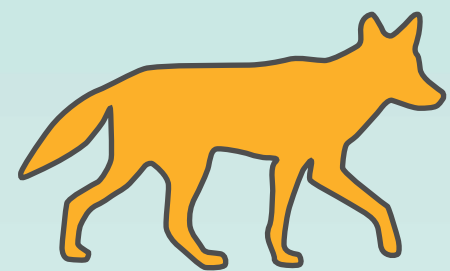
Shrubs



Cacti



Lizards



Coyote

Most of the animals that live in the deserts are **nocturnal**, meaning they hide during the **day** and come out at **night**

FROM WASTE TO ART

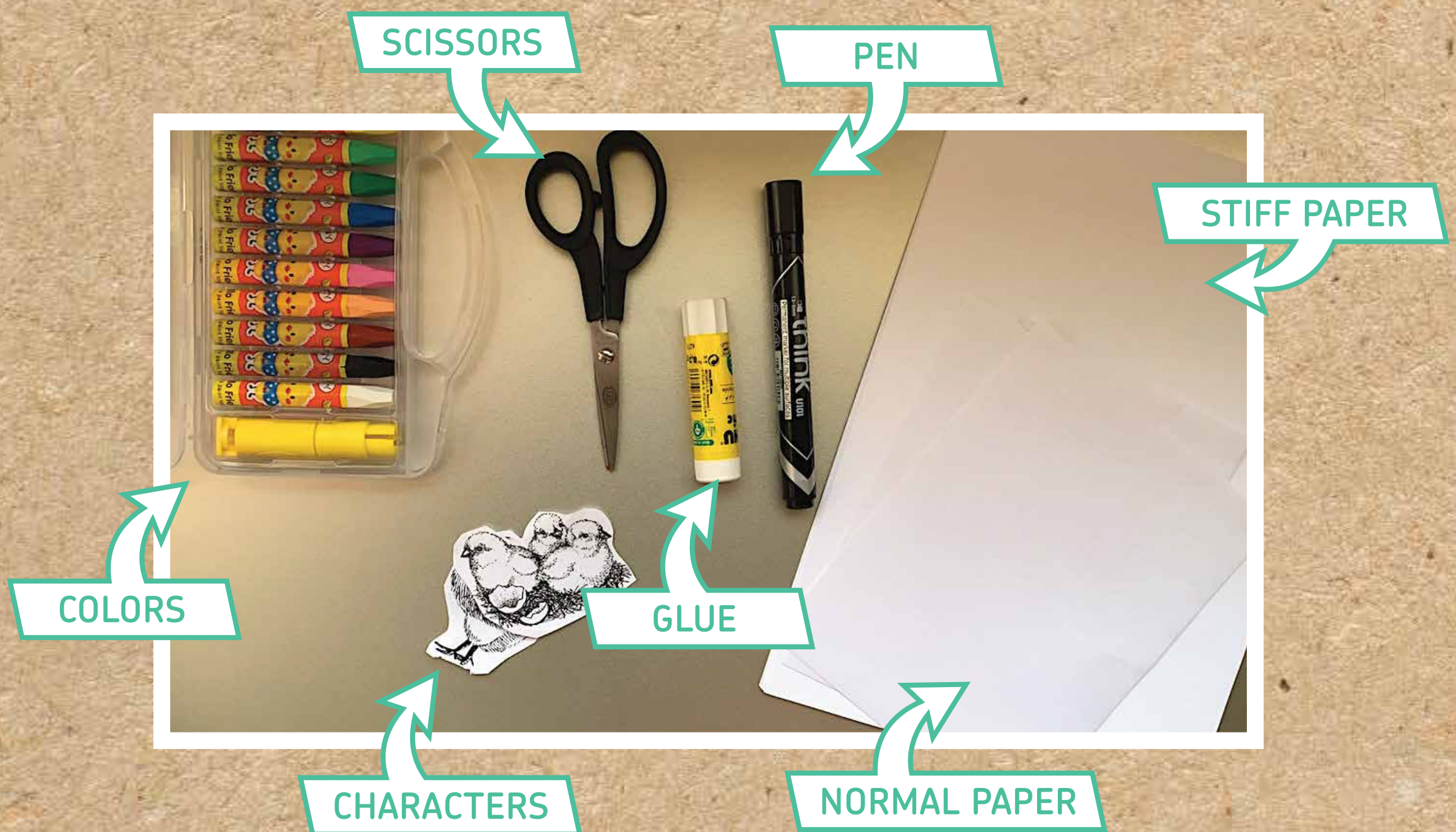


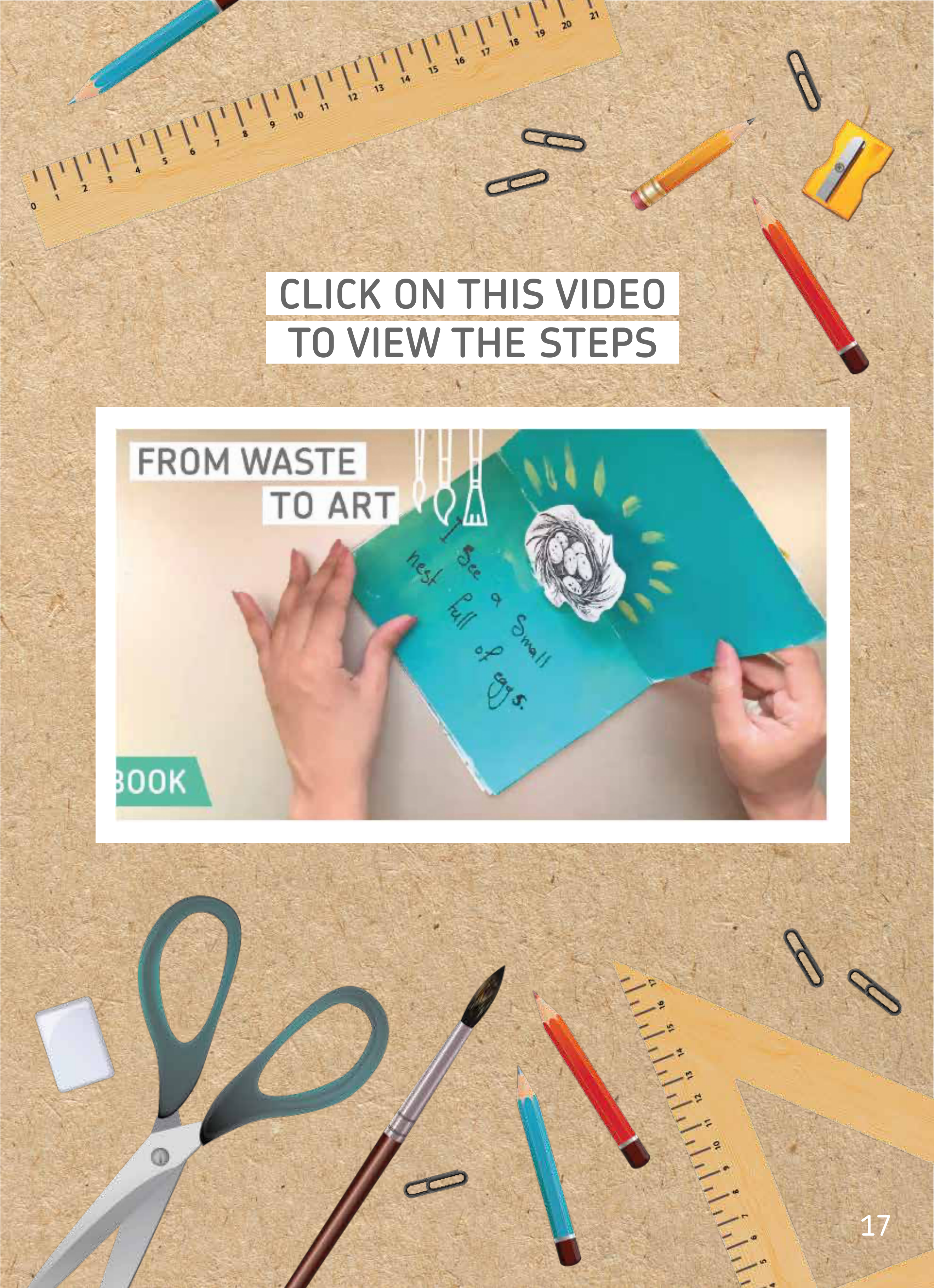
3D POP-UP BOOK



You can create your own pop-up book rather simply. All you need is a story, a couple of hours, and a few simple materials.

MATERIALS:

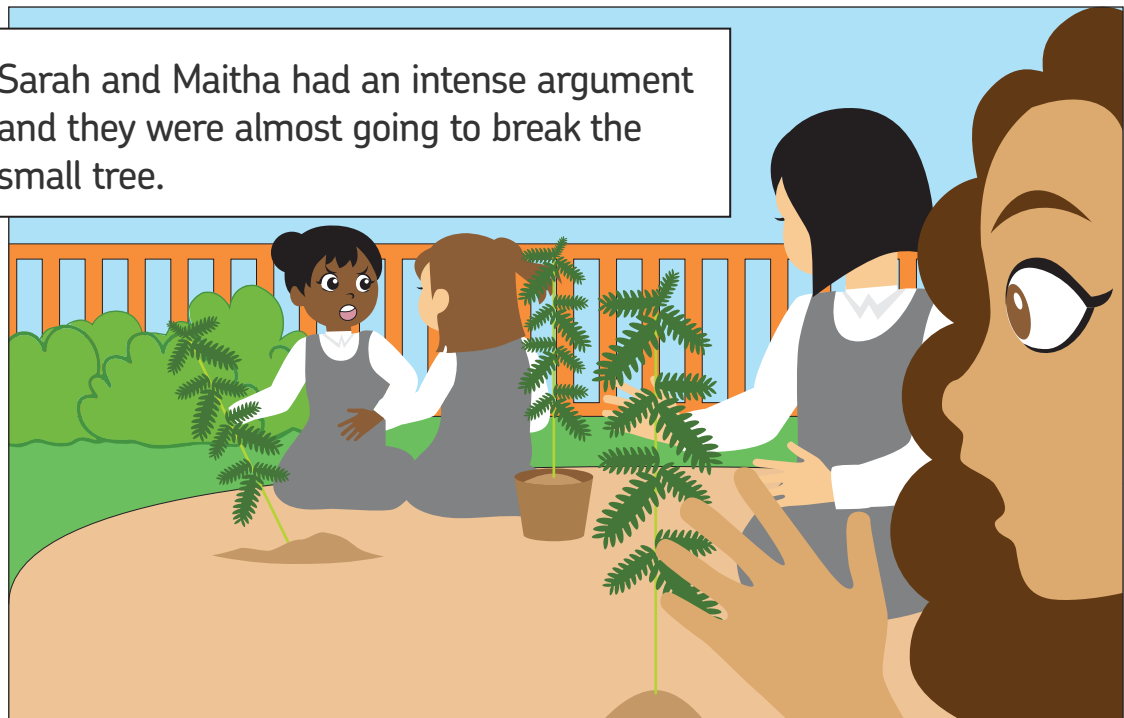


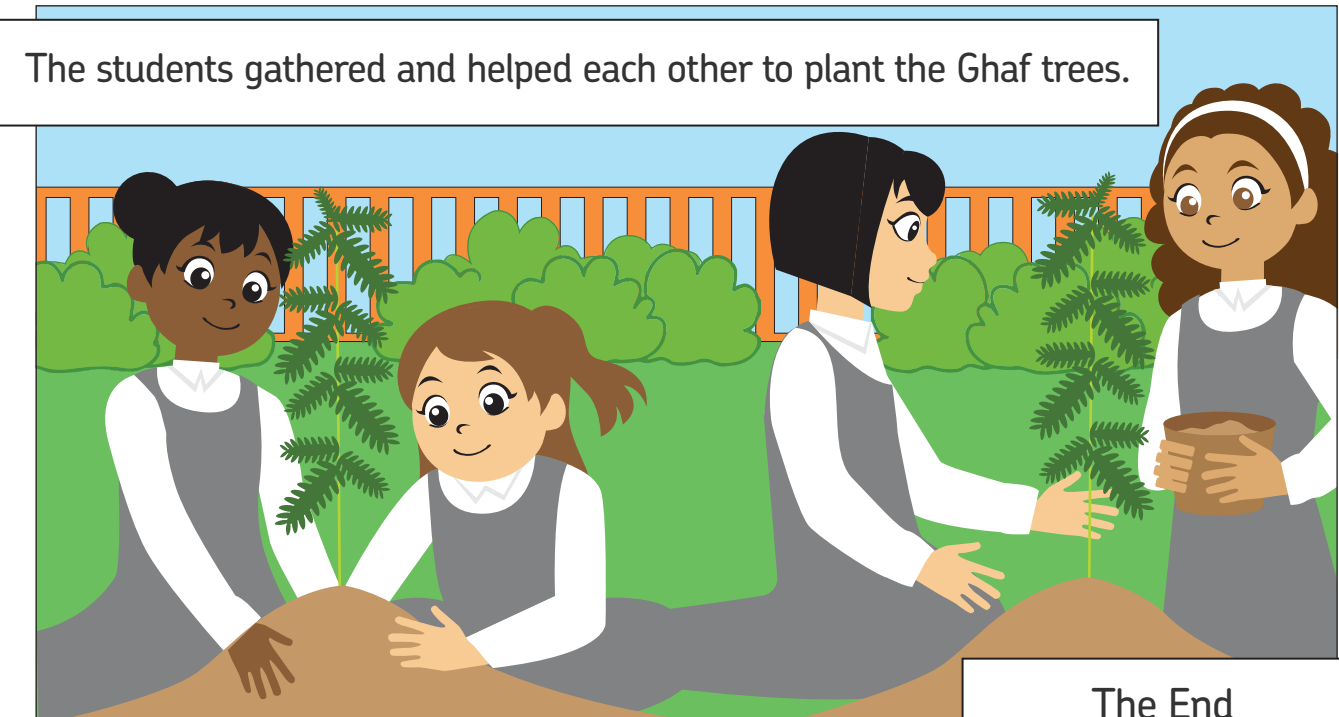
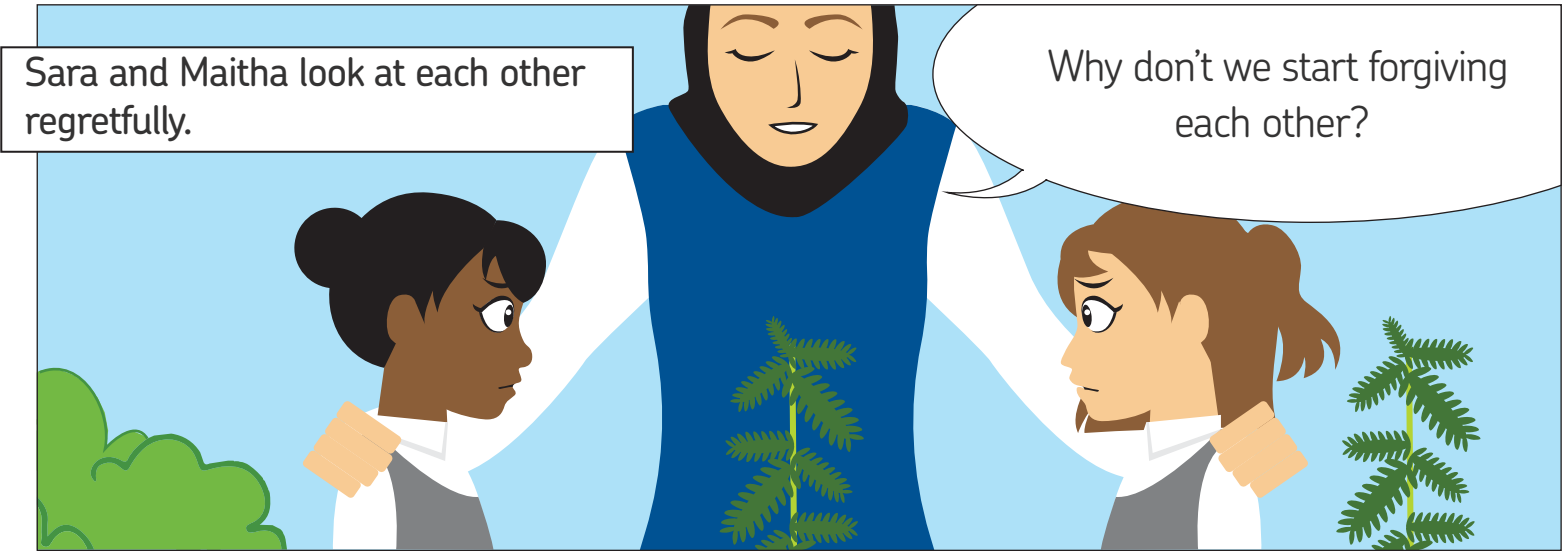
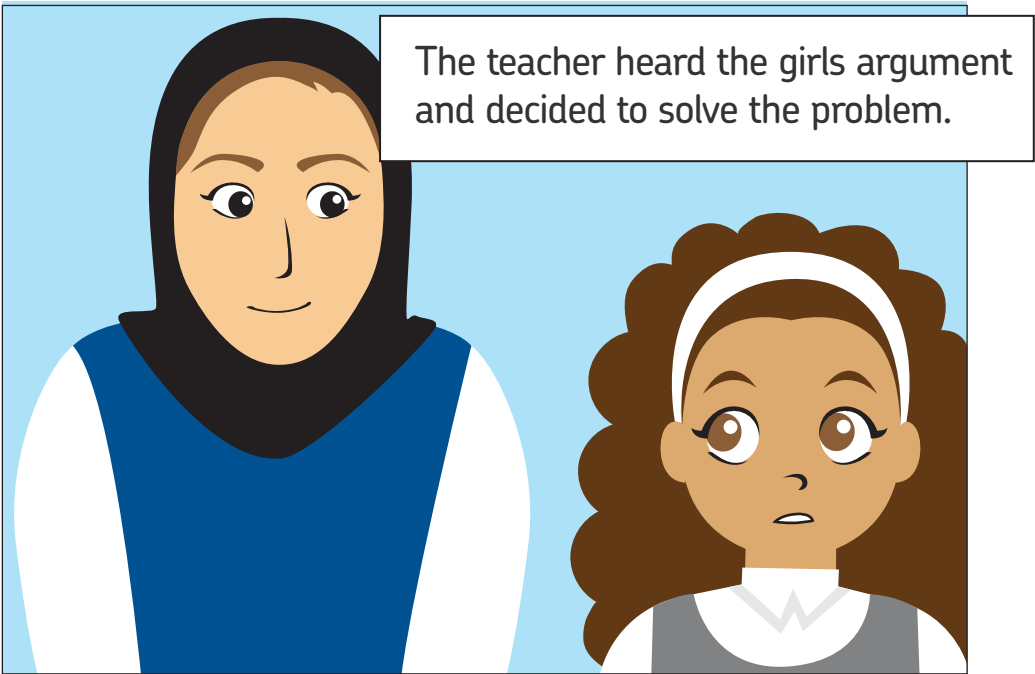
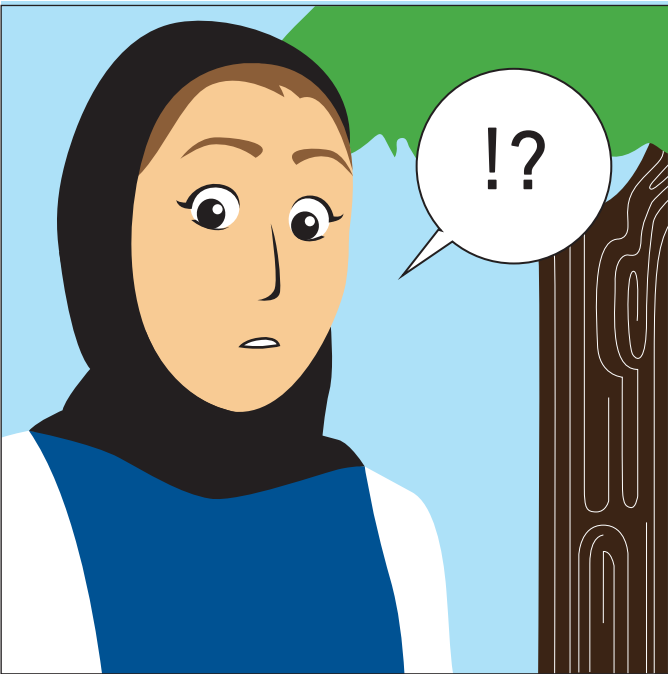


CLICK ON THIS VIDEO
TO VIEW THE STEPS



On the declaration of the “Year of Tolerance” in the United Arab Emirates, Mariam’s school decided to participate in the initiative by planting Ghaf trees in the school yard, which is considered as the symbol of tolerance.





The End

BE FEATURED



Inspiring words by Hind Al Huwaidi – Outreach Manager, during the Environmental Excellence School Award opening ceremony.

Al Watania School for boys from Ras al-Khaimah, 1st place winner in the Environmental Excellence School Award – Best Environmental Film category.



Students from Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services participating in the Environmental Excellence School Award ceremony.

Al Alfia Filipino Private School (Girls), 1st place winner in the Environmental Excellence School Award – Best Environmental Invention category.



Sainath Manikandan, 1st place winner in the Outstanding Individual Achievement – Student category.



Al shifaa bint Abdallah primary school, 1st place winner in Inter School Recycling competition – medium school category.



Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, 2nd place winner in Inter School Recycling competition – medium school category.