The Eco-adventures of Bojan and Jana
2 Bojan and Jana — Mini detectives

5 School break

7 Planting a tree

9 Toy or book?

12 Picnic time

14 A weekend in the country
The Eco-adventures of Bojan and Jana
Dear readers!

Books are filled with wonderful stories and fascinating things to discover. We hope that the stories you find here will be fun to read as they start you off on an exciting journey of creativity and imagination.

The stories in this picture book describe the everyday experiences of brother and sister Bojan and Jana. You will learn with them how to be responsible for the world around you and how to take care of our Earth.

The stories will help you to use your imaginations, to think for yourselves, to ask questions and to look for answers.

We hope that you will be brave and tireless detectives as you share Bojan and Jana’s adventures. You are setting off on an amazing journey, filled with new challenges. As you read each story you will gain a wealth of experience and knowledge. You will also have an opportunity to work with your teachers and classmates as you answer the questions at the end of each story, and as you learn the meaning of new and unfamiliar words.

But enough of talking! Enjoy the stories, and have fun sharing your ideas with your friends, teachers and families...

The authors
Bojan had a plan, but he needed his little sister’s help. “What are we going to do today?” Jana asked her brother.

“Well,” he replied. “Last week at school we were talking a lot about water. We talked about why it’s important and how we should use it properly.”

Bojan’s teacher had explained that if people waste water, one day there’ll be no water left on Earth at all. And without water, nothing can stay alive. “So, I thought it would be a good idea to look at how we use water at home,” he continued. “I’m going to spend the day with Dad, and you can be with Mum. We need to watch how much water they use and why.”

“Great! We’re going to be detectives!” said a very happy Jana.

They both went to the bathroom to brush their teeth.

“Don’t waste water, Bojan! When we brush our teeth we shouldn’t leave the tap running,” Jana reminded him.

Jana sat at the dining table and watched what her mum was doing. First her mum washed the dishes under running water. Then she started getting the lunch ready. She left the tap running to wash the lettuce while she went to see how the soup was doing and to check the meat in the oven.
Jana pretended to read, but she was really keeping an eye on her mother. She almost said something but managed to stop herself just in time. She wondered how her brother was getting on outside.

Bojan and his dad were finishing some jobs in the yard, which was full of beautiful green plants. Dad wanted to wash the car, so Bojan decided to tidy and clean Sharko the dog’s kennel so that he could keep an eye on his dad. There was certainly plenty to see. His father turned on the hose and, while the water was running, began to soap the car with a sponge. Their neighbour, Ismail, walked past and he and Dad started chatting. Dad forgot all about the water streaming out of the hosepipe. Then he started to water the grass. His mobile phone rang, and while he answered it he forgot about the lawn. Bojan watched quietly, taking everything in.

When the jobs were done Mum called them in to have lunch. Jana and Bojan washed their hands and sat down at the table. They whispered to each other and exchanged secret signals. Mum and Dad noticed and asked them what was going on. Jana and Bojan smiled: they didn’t know where to begin!

“Mum, you were wasting so much water today in the kitchen! I was watching you the whole time while you washed the dishes and got the lunch ready,” said Jana.

“And what about me?” asked Dad.

“It was my job to watch you,” said Bojan smiling. “And you wasted just as much water as Mum. The hosepipe was on the whole time while you chatted with the neighbour and answered your phone. You made such a puddle that even Sharko got dirty.”
Jana and Bojan’s parents were very proud of their children. “Well done, both of you!” said Dad. “You are quite right to think about saving water. All of us should. Everyone needs to look after the Earth’s water so that it doesn’t run out. We need to look after our planet and not waste what the Earth gives us.”

As the family finished their lunch everyone was happy. Bojan and Jana had helped their parents to see how they could stop wasting water, and Mum and Dad were proud of their thoughtful children.

And what about you?
What can you do to help save water at home and at school?
Jana and Selma were class monitors, so at break time they were alone in the classroom. They had something to eat, then Jana cleaned the blackboard and Selma put all the drawing things away where they belonged. Then they both watered the plants.

While they were busy with their tasks they noticed how beautifully sunny it was outside. They opened the window to let in some fresh air and watched their friends playing outside. Jana loved the schoolyard. There were pretty flowerbeds and grassy areas and benches where the children could sit and chat.

While Jana and Selma were trying to work out which game their friends were playing over on the sports field, Ana and Viktor from eighth grade walked past the window. The whole school knew they were in love, so it was no surprise to see them holding hands and whispering to each other. Viktor and Ana strolled towards the bench, but instead of sitting down they climbed onto the seat and sat on the backrest, without caring that their feet were making the bench dirty. Viktor leaned back against the tree behind the bench and started searching through his pockets.

“What are you looking for?” asked Ana.

“Well, if I had something sharp I could carve our initials into the bark,” said Viktor sadly.
Ana smiled: “Don’t worry! This pencil will do.”
She turned to the tree and drew a heart on the smooth bark, with the initials A and V inside it. Viktor grinned happily. Jana and Selma looked at each other in surprise. They couldn’t believe their eyes. But there was more to come! When the school bell rang, Viktor tried to look cool by crushing his drink can and kicking it towards the football pitch instead of throwing it in the bin. Ana threw her crisp packet over her shoulder, not caring where it landed. Then Viktor bent down, and for a moment Jana thought he was going to pick up the litter and put it in the bin next to the bench. Instead, he pushed the empty packet to one side and picked a flower to give to Ana. Jana and Selma were amazed. Eventually, Selma said sadly:
“How can they care so little about nature?”
“The worst thing is that they have no idea what they’re doing,” replied Jana.
“What should we do?” asked Selma.
“I don’t think there’s much we can do,” replied Jana with a sigh.

Do you like to spend time in your schoolyard?
What do you do to take care of it?
Try and help Jana and Selma by talking about how Ana and Viktor behaved and why it was wrong.
What would you have done if you’d seen them?
As she walked home from school, Jana was deep in thought. “I’d love to plant a tree,” she said to herself. “I wonder if I could. I’d plant it and then take care of it afterwards!” She was so busy thinking that she didn’t notice her brother arriving home. He said hello to everyone, then told them about his day at school.

“I’m so happy! Tomorrow is Tree Day and we’re all going to plant trees. It’s such a great feeling, knowing you’re doing something useful and important. The trees we plant will help keep the air clean and make the world more beautiful and green. It’ll be such fun! There’ll be lots of us planting together. Jana can come too!”

“What are you thinking about, Jana?”

“It’s the first time I’ve ever planted a tree. I’m a bit nervous. Do you think I’ll do it right?”

“I know what you mean. But there’s no need to worry. You’re bound to feel nervous if you’ve never done anything like this before. You’ll be given a small tree and someone will dig a hole for you. You just have to hold the tree straight, put some soil over the roots and give it some water. The children who plant trees in the schoolyard will be responsible for watering them and can watch them grow and develop. It’s a bit like parents watching their children grow up.”
At bedtime, Bojan reassured his sister again. “Don’t worry, Jana! Everything will be fine. I’ll be right next to you.”

Bojan and Jana were the first to arrive at school the next day, before their classmates and teachers. Jana ran to meet Ramadan, Sevda, Igor, Kemal, Senada and Ivana. They were all eagerly looking forward to the tree planting. When the time came, they all followed the instructions and tried to do their very best.

Jana, Bojan and their friends had a wonderful day. They learned about looking after new life. They planted small trees in the schoolyard that would one day give them fresh air and cool shade. They developed a greater respect and love for nature. They began to feel more responsible for all green and growing things and to have a greater love of the beautiful world around them.

As she stood in the schoolyard, happily surrounded by her friends and the newly planted trees, Jana tried to picture to herself how the yard would look in the future. It was a wonderful image of tall, strong trees, with her and her friends tall and grown up too. Beside her, a small child was planting his first tree next to hers...

Imagine planting a tree at your school, just like Jana.
Why do you think it’s important to plant trees?
How can you look after them?
Shopping is an important household chore. We all have to go shopping to buy the things we need. But Jana and Bojan’s parents try to make it more fun by going with their children. Jana and Bojan learn how to find what they need and how to pay at the checkout.

Jana was going shopping with her mum. They needed to buy a birthday present for her friend Zineta. They set off for the shops, taking a linen bag with them to put the shopping in. They went to the market first, where Jana’s mum always bought her fresh fruits and vegetables. There were lots of things to buy at the market: apart from fruits and vegetables there were free-range eggs, cheese, honey and nuts. There were so many stalls that Jana had soon had enough. She began pulling at her mum’s arm and complaining that she was bored. They quickly bought what they needed and then went to the supermarket.

When they got inside, Jana’s face lit up. This was far from boring! The shelves were filled with all the loveliest things you could possibly imagine. She was so excited!

“Mum! Look at these crayons and rubbers! Wow! I haven’t got a pencil sharpener like this! I want a new notebook, too! I know I don’t need one, but it can be a spare. Hey, look at this amazing pencil!”

Toy or book?
Mum was puzzled. Jana had everything she needed at home. They’d made a shopping list together before they set out and Jana hadn’t mentioned any of these things. The only thing she needed was a present for her friend, but she’d forgotten all about it. Mum didn’t say a word as Jana ran off to the display of hair slides and hair bands. She looked at them longingly. Mum watched her and asked her if she needed something. Jana grinned and said:

“Yes! I need all of them, Mummy!”

As they reached the checkout they saw some dolls that Jana fell in love with. She really wanted a Barbie doll, even though she already had 17 of them at home. Once, after they’d tidied her room together, she and Mum had agreed not to buy any more dolls. They’d decided that Jana could have books instead, now that she was a big girl and ready to find out about the world around her. But Jana had apparently forgotten. She was desperate for a new Barbie. She took one off the shelf and wouldn’t put it down.

Then Mum reminded her quietly why they’d come shopping together:

“Jana, you need to buy a present for Zineta, remember? You’re going to her birthday party today.”

“Oh, yes, Mummy! I’m going to buy her a book about the planet Earth and how we need to look after it. Zineta loves books like that.”

And that’s how the shopping trip ended. When they got home, Jana took out the Barbie doll and the other things she’d bought at the supermarket. She went to put the new doll next to her others, but there wasn’t much room on the shelf. She managed to squeeze it in, then turned round and immediately forgot about it.
That afternoon, Jana went to the birthday party. She’d wrapped the book up nicely and Zineta was thrilled with it. In Zineta’s room there was a shelf full of books rather than dolls. Jana looked at the books and began reading one of them, without saying anything. Zineta talked to her about what she’d read.

When Jana got home after the party, her Barbie dolls were waiting on the shelf, but all she could do with them was change their clothes. “If I’d bought myself a book instead of all these things I don’t need I’d have something to read now,” she whispered sadly. “I wouldn’t have wasted my money and I’d be able to learn about saving the planet, too.”

Jana suddenly realised how all these things are connected and how important her choices really were.

People learn from their mistakes. What do you think Jana did wrong? Perhaps you’ve done the same when shopping with your parents. Imagine a trip to the shops. What kind of things would you buy?
On their way home from school the children were very excited. “Hooray! We’re going on a picnic tomorrow!” they shouted. They were soon busy making plans.

Bojan decided to buy lots of sweets and crisps, while his friend Afrim agreed to bring along plenty of fizzy drinks.

The buses were already waiting in front of the school when the children arrived the next morning with full bags and happy smiles. It was hot and sunny. Bojan sat down next to Erol. They started eating as soon as the bus set off. Everyone took out what they’d brought: crisps, snacks, sweets and chocolate. Kosta took an apple out of his bag. It was already cut into slices, and, like a real friend, he offered it round to the others.

“Oh come on, Kosta! Who wants apple?” asked Bojan.

“I have a piece of fruit for breakfast every morning, so I thought maybe someone else would like some too,” answered Kosta in a quiet voice.

“But who’d want apple when there are so many sweets and crisps around?” asked Maja.

“Yes, don’t be ridiculous,” added someone else.

Kosta was really sad. He hadn’t expected his friends to be like this. The teacher noticed too, but didn’t say anything. He was surprised by the children’s behaviour, especially Bojan’s.
They arrived at a big meadow and set off to explore. They ate their food but left litter everywhere. Their teacher told them several times to pick it up, but they just pretended they couldn’t hear him. When they’d finished eating they divided into teams and started playing football. They all ran after the ball, trampling on the flowers and plants. The teacher warned them again.

Bojan shouted out: “But we’re having a picnic! We can do what we want!”

The day came to an end and the children began getting ready to go home. No one from Bojan’s class thought of picking up the litter. Children from another class started collecting it, without even asking who’d dropped it. Bojan laughed at them: “Hey, you guys! Over here! There’s some litter near me and Erol. Come and pick it up!”

This was one step too far. The teacher called the children together, but they still didn’t realise what was wrong. He told them how disappointed he was about their behaviour during the picnic.

“We’ll need to talk about this tomorrow!” he warned them.

But the children weren’t bothered. In the bus on the way home they carried on having fun, although they did start thinking about what the teacher had said.

At school the next morning the teacher asked them: “So, how was the picnic yesterday?”

“GREAAAT!” they all shouted.

Then, in a serious voice, he began talking about the children’s behaviour...

What do you think he asked them?
What didn’t he like about their behaviour during the picnic?
Make up an ending for the story.
How should the children have behaved during their day out?
Jana and Bojan were spending the weekend with their friend Afrim, at his grandparents’ house in the country. As soon as they arrived, the house was filled with bright smiles. It was hard to tell who was happier: the children or Afrim’s grandparents, Fikrie and Rafis. The evening passed very quickly with talk and laughter. After a delicious dinner the children went to bed. They needed plenty of rest before the next day’s adventures.

With no alarm clock and no parents to get them out of bed, the children woke the next morning to the sound of the cock crowing. Immediately they were aware of the wonderful smells coming from Grandma Fikrie’s kitchen. Jana rubbed her eyes sleepily, got out of bed and went carefully down the wooden stairs.

“Good morning, Grandma!”

“Good morning! You’re up early! Did you sleep well?”

“I don’t think I’ve ever had such sweet dreams, Grandma!”

“Well that’s because of the peace here, and the fresh mountain air.”

“What’s that, Grandma?” asked Jana shyly, pointing across the kitchen.

“It’s a stove. It’s where I bake bread,” explained Grandma.

“Are you hungry?”
“Yes, starving! But I’d like to have a wash first. Where’s the bathroom Grandma?”

“You can wash over there, dear, at the well. Ask Afrim to draw a bucket of water out for you. But be careful! The water from the well is very cold!”

Just then, the other children came into the kitchen to have breakfast. When they saw the big yellow cat licking its whiskers, Bojan joked:

“Hey Puss! Leave some milk for us!”

Grandpa Rafis smiled:

“Don’t worry Bojan! As long as we have our cow, Busha, we’ll have plenty of milk and yogurt, and cheese and cottage cheese too.”

Jana listened quietly, then asked: “Don’t you have any milk from the shop? That’s the kind we drink at home.”

Grandma smiled and handed her a glass: “Try this. I think you’ll like it!”

Jana took the glass from Grandma, but because she knew it had come straight from the cow she didn’t dare taste it. She just whispered:

“I don’t really feel like milk today. I’ll just have some warm bread and cheese.”

Unlike Jana, who wouldn’t eat more than a slice of bread because it was homemade, the boys ate a really good breakfast and then filled their rucksacks with all the good things that Grandma Fikrie had prepared for them. Before they set off to explore, Grandpa Rafis warned them:

“Just be careful, children! Stay on the paths, don’t light any fires and don’t damage the plants. Remember that you’re only guests in the forest, so you mustn’t disturb the plants and animals that live there. Watch out for steep slopes and stay well away from the river. And most importantly of all: Don’t get lost!”

“It’s not the first time I’ve been for a walk in the woods, Grandpa!” laughed Afrim as the three children set off.

Before long they came to a beautiful meadow, full of flowers, butterflies and bees. Everything looked so beautiful that Jana set off running through the colourful flowers, until she heard Bojan’s voice:

“Look where you’re treading! Those are medicinal plants. If you pick them, you must leave the root in the ground so they’ll flower again next year!”

“But... I just wanted to pick a bunch for Grandma Fikrie,” said Jana.

“Flowers are far more beautiful growing in the field than in a vase,” Afrim told her.

Jana nodded and the children continued their walk through the forest. They started joking about what they’d do if they met a wolf, a bear or a fox, but all they saw was a hedgehog curled in a ball and a slow tortoise.
Although they were really hoping to see a deer, they were happy with the birdsong and the quietly rustling leaves. They ate sweet wild strawberries and drank cold water from a spring. Afrim and Bojan taught Jana how to recognise different types of trees: the beech with its beechmasts, the oak with its acorns, the pine full of cones, as well as the spruce and fir.

As they talked they came to the river: the banks were steep and the water deep and fast flowing. The children walked carefully along the bank to find a place to rest. They sat under an old tree and hungrily unpacked their food. The boys eagerly tucked into the baked potatoes and red apples that Grandma Fikrie had packed. Jana wasn’t so keen and instead ate a croissant that she’d brought from home. When lunch was over the boys just had paper napkins left, but Jana still had her croissant packaging.

“Where shall I put this? There’s no litter bin here!”

“Just put it in your rucksack and we’ll throw it away when we get back home,” explained Afrim.

As they walked back through the village, the children watched people working in the fields. Afrim proudly told his friends how his grandparents grew almost everything they needed in their garden, and sold some of the produce from their fields and orchard.

Grandma Fikrie was feeding the hens when they got home and Grandpa Rafis, with his dog Murdzo at his heels, was heading for the stables. Jana and Bojan started asking questions at once. Why do you keep hens? How many cows and calves have you got? Do you have any sheep? Why have you got a horse if it doesn’t give you anything? The questions continued over a meal of beans, salad and roasted pumpkin. After dinner, Grandpa began telling stories about village life, and the children listened happily.

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Have you ever stayed in the countryside?
What do people grow in their fields and gardens?
Can you name some domestic birds and animals?
Why do people keep them?
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This book of stories is an integral part of the multimedia Green Pack Junior. Teachers are invited to use the stories to introduce environmental topics; to stimulate discussion among their pupils; and to encourage children to create their own stories around particular topics.

Younger pupils will enjoy hearing the stories read to them by their teacher, while older pupils can either take turns to read aloud to the class or read the stories individually before a class discussion of the issues that emerge. The book can be used as a separate teaching aid or in combination with other elements of the Green Pack Junior.

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Two types of recycled paper are used in the Green Pack Junior:
100g Mohawk Via Felt Flax and 170g Dalum Cyclus Offset.
Everyday life becomes an exciting adventure for brother and sister **Bojan** and **Jana** as they learn how to make choices that protect the world around them. Join them as they play detectives at home to stop their parents wasting water. Share their excitement as they plant trees in the schoolyard. Discover with them how thoughtless behaviour and carelessness can damage the environment. **Use your imagination and turn yourself into an eco-adventurer!**