



Larry Litter



PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Larry Litter is part of the Litter Less Litter Education Resource for Teachers and Students (Years 4-7). Litter Less was developed by KESAB *environmental solutions*, in partnership with The Wrigley Company and the Australian Packaging Covenant.

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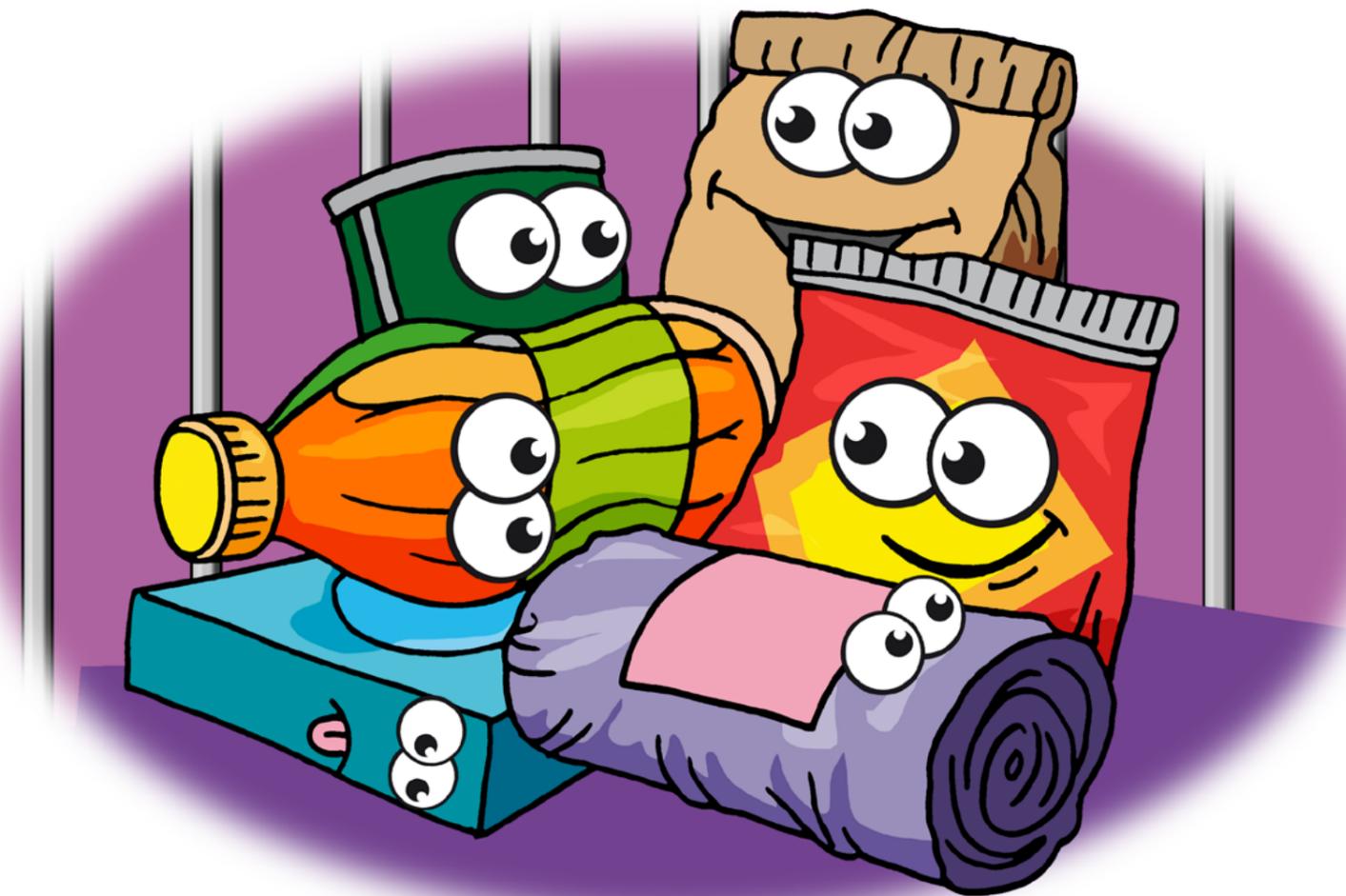
Larry Litter

Chapter 1

LOCAL

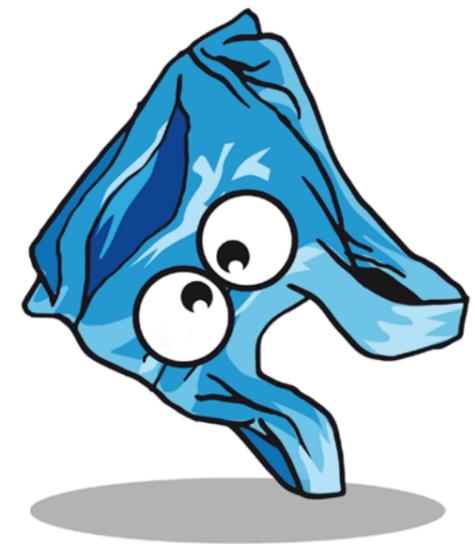


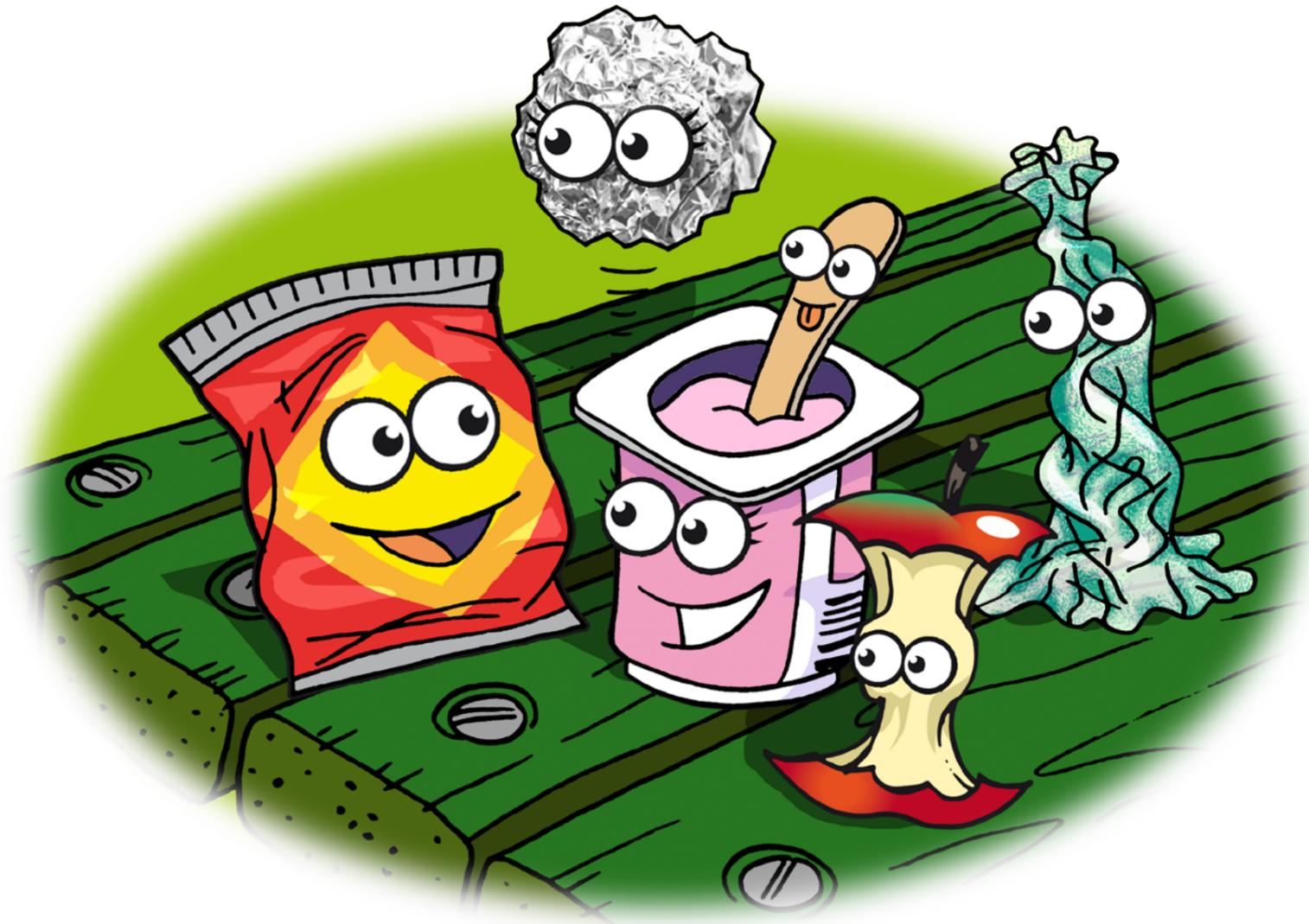
Larry Litter sat bobbing in the ocean. There was water as far as the eye could see. He was tired and confused. Where was he? How did he get there?



He headed through the checkout and out to the car. He saw his cousin, Paula Plastic Bag, blowing through the car park and wondered how she got there and where she was going.

Larry's adventure began a long time ago in a shop. He was sitting quietly on a shelf when Sally and her family picked him up and placed him in their trolley. Larry was excited to be going home with someone.

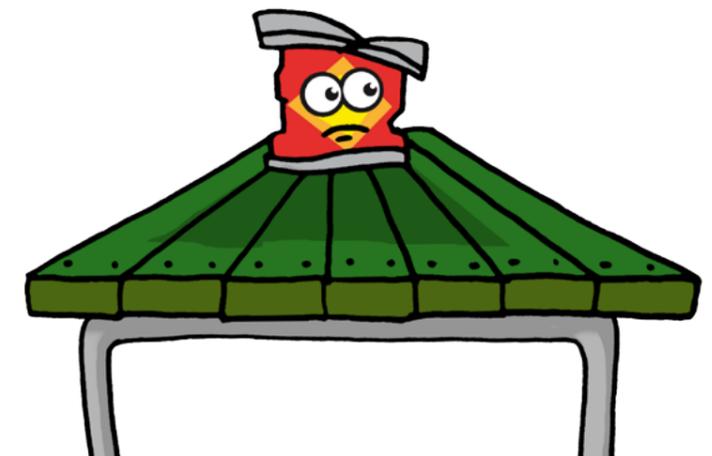




The next day, Larry was off to school, packed snug and safe in Sally's lunch box. During recess, he made lots of new friends; Yasmin Yoghurt, Adam Apple Core, Ali Alfoil and Corey Cling Wrap.

When the recess bell sounded, his new friends were picked up and placed into the bin. He waited for Sally to do the same with him: he was looking forward to spending time with his new friends.

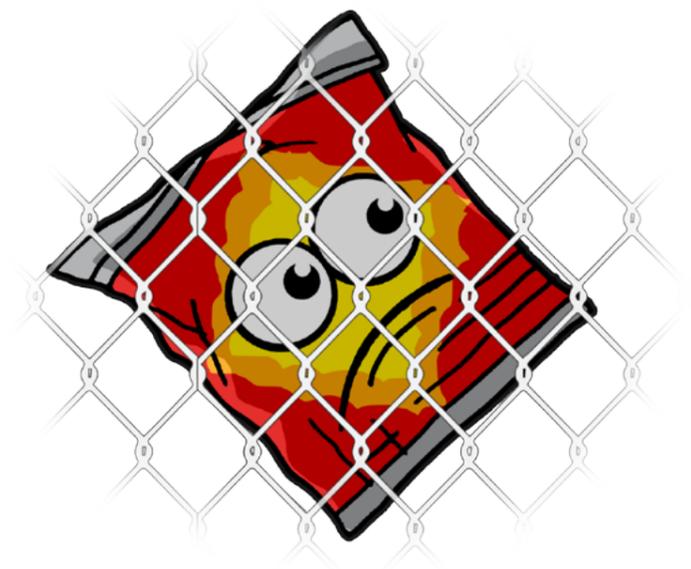
He waited and waited, but didn't move. Sally left him on the bench, all by himself, and went back to her classroom. Surely she would return at lunchtime, pick him up and place him in the bin.





Suddenly, a gust of wind blew through the school yard. It was so strong that it lifted Larry off the bench and into the air. He swirled around until THUD! He hit a fence at the edge of the school.

‘Phew!’ he thought to himself. ‘Someone will find me here and put me in the bin.’ Lunch came and went, as did the end of the school day and Larry was still caught against the fence. He was sad that no one, especially Sally, had come to pick him up.





Early the next morning, Larry woke to find himself being pecked. ‘Ahh!’ he yelled. It was a bird. Peck, peck, peck it went, picking him up and carrying him away.

‘Not again!’ he thought, ‘I am tired of flying.’ Out of the school yard they flew. Another bird flew past and squawked at them, and the bird let Larry go. Slowly he floated down to the ground.

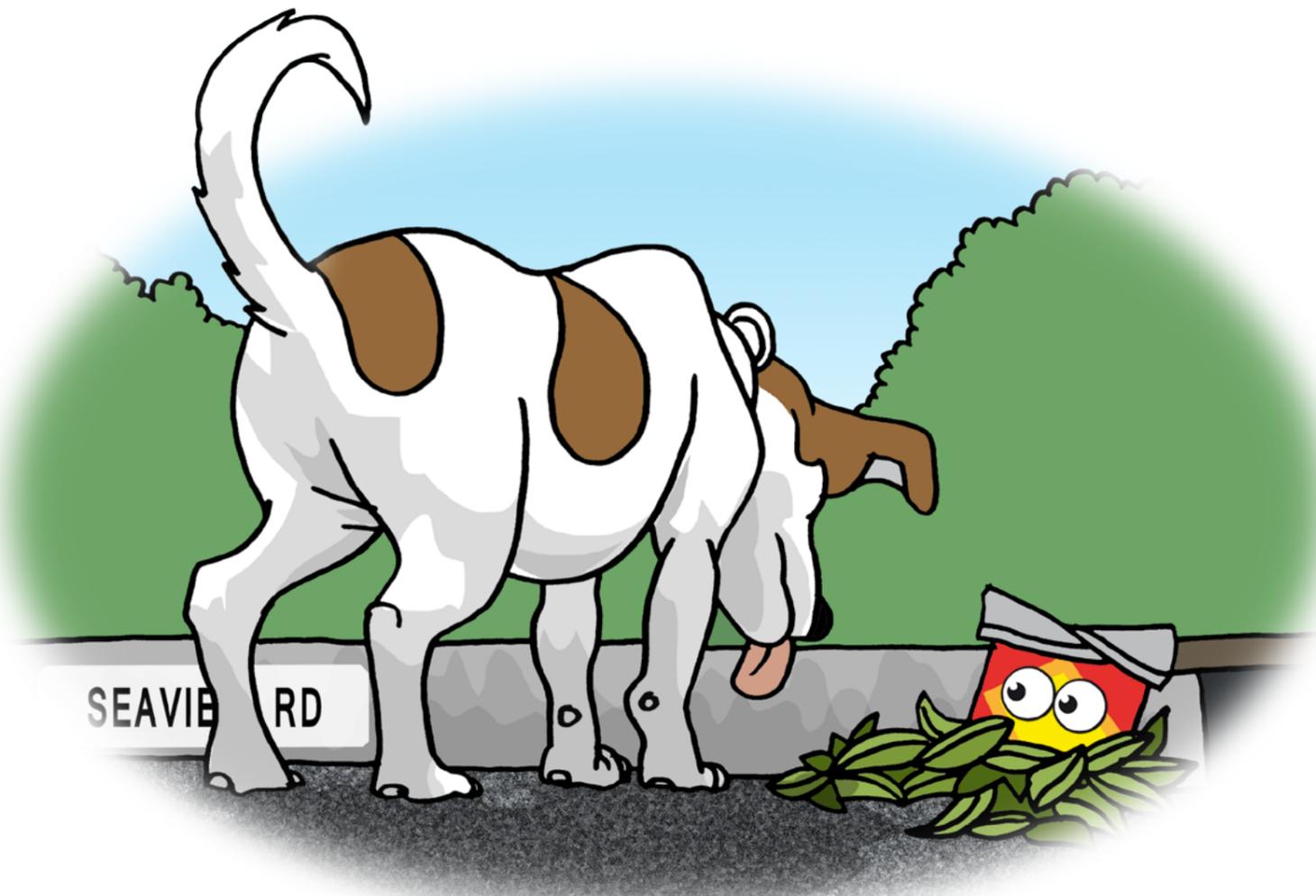




Eventually, the water stopped flowing and Larry found himself stranded in the gutter again. Over the next few days, some leaves began to fall and gather around him. Each time a car went past, Larry moved a little in the breeze.

Larry landed gently in the gutter of what seemed to be a quiet street. After a little while, he heard the sound of running water, and noticed a man washing his car a few houses away. The water began to stream down the gutter towards him, swishing him up and carrying him down the street. The water was foamy and tasted weird.





A woman walked past with her dog. The dog found Larry interesting and sniffed and licked him. He was frightened and thought the dog might hurt him, but it didn't and quickly ran off when its owner called out.

The sunny day began to change and it started to rain. Slowly the gutter filled with water and Larry was washed into a stormwater drain. It was dark, and Larry was travelling quite quickly. He noticed other items in the drain and tried to call out to them, but the noise of the rushing water was too great and they couldn't hear him.





Larry emerged from the drain and was pushed out into the sea and at first he had fun riding the waves. However, after a while, as Larry continued to bob up and down, he began to wonder what would happen next...

After a while, a light appeared ahead. Larry thought it must be the end of the drain and was glad because he was feeling scared. As he moved closer to the light he could hear loud crashes. What was that noise? Suddenly, Larry realised the sound was coming from waves: he was heading for the beach. He had always wanted to go to the beach.





Larry spent the next few days being pushed back and forth by the waves. Every time he washed up on the sand, he hoped someone would pick him up. It didn't happen. Larry was sniffed by friendly dogs, observed by seagulls and looked at or ignored by humans. No one picked him up.

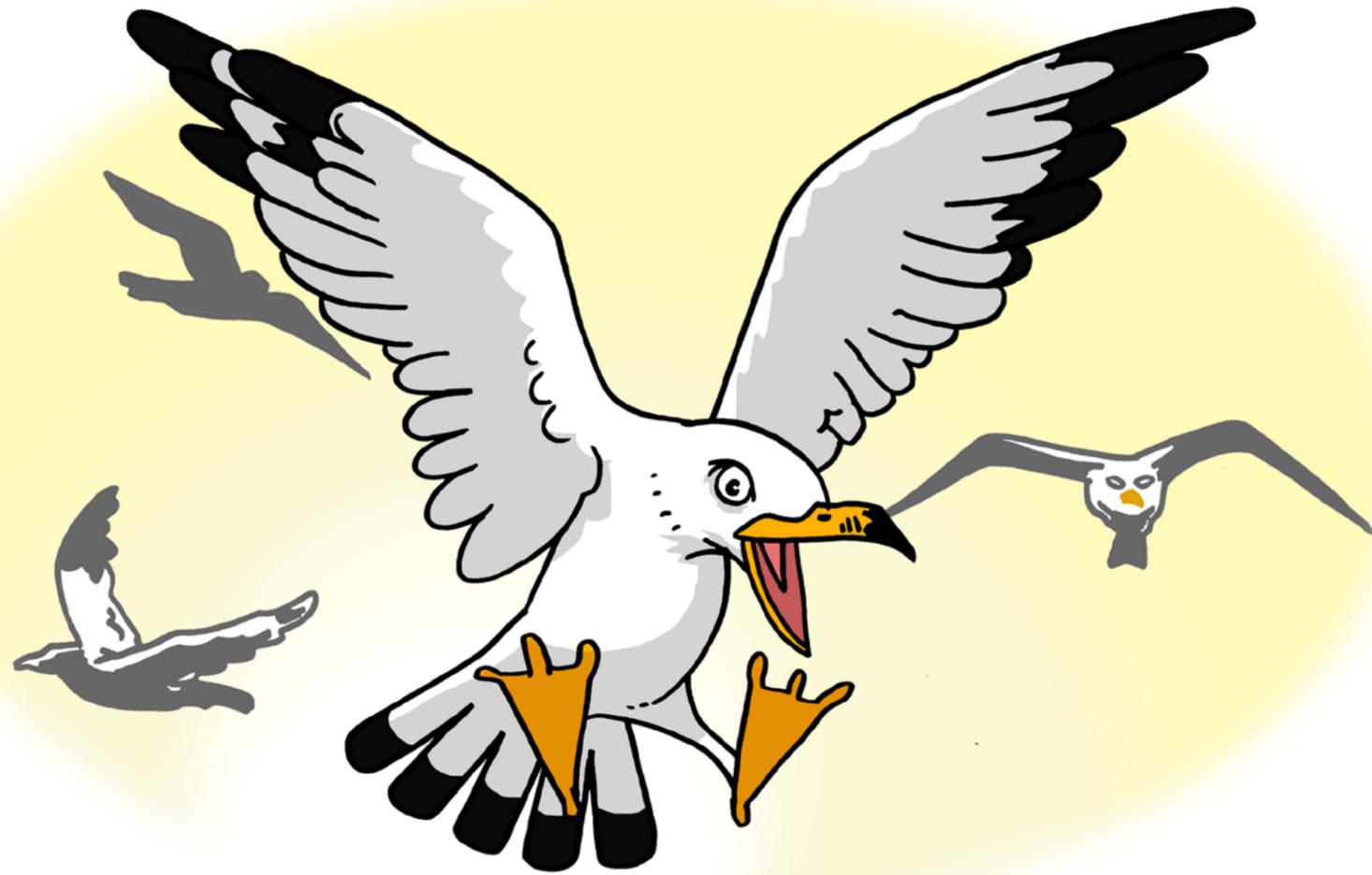
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Chapter 2

NATIONAL



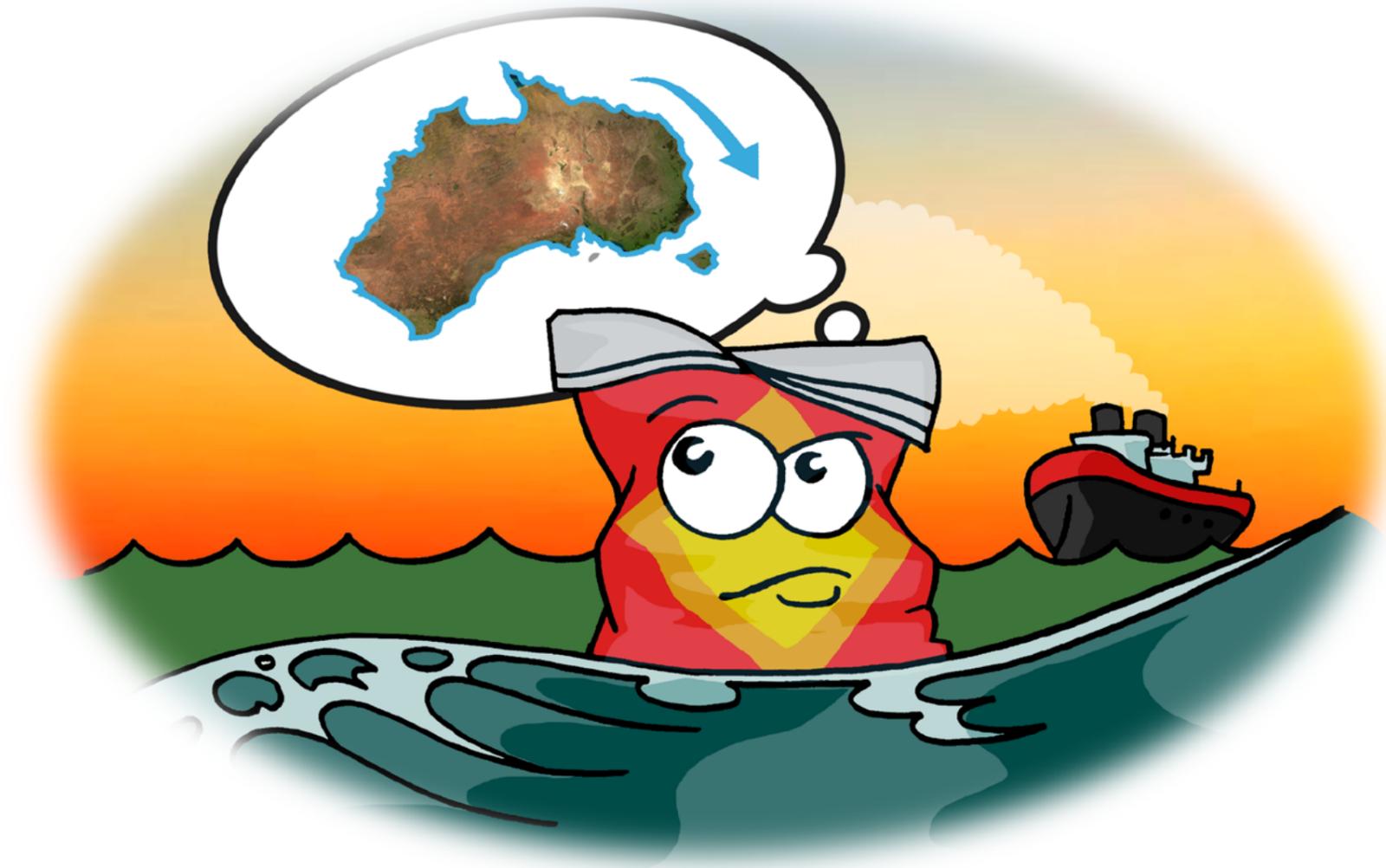
Eventually, Larry was dragged by the ocean current away from the beach and out to sea. He floated further and further out into the ocean, until he couldn't even see the beach anymore. Larry was at least relieved that he managed to stay afloat, but worried that he didn't know where he was going.



One day, Larry heard the sounds of a very loud horn. It made him jump. He turned around and saw a huge cargo ship with 'INTERNATIONAL CARGO' written on the side.

Larry was not sure how long he had been in the ocean. Was it days, months, years? Everything looked the same. Sea birds flew overhead, swooped down and tried to pick him up, and fish nibbled him as well. Larry couldn't work out why everyone thought he was food. Was it because he was colourful and shiny?





‘**W**OW!’ he thought! ‘What a huge ship!’ As it passed by, Larry paused and realised that he must have floated a very long way!

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Chapter 3

GLOBAL



Larry continued to float in the ocean for a long time. He experienced heavy rains, strong winds and hot, dry days.



He became brittle and his packaging began to flake away. Larry was sad this was happening to him, but knew it was all part of growing old.

One day, Larry noticed a plastic bottle bobbing in the water nearby. Although exhausted, Larry managed to call out, “Hi I’m Larry, can you tell me where I am?”

The bottle replied, “Hi, I’m Betty Bottle. You must be new to Plastic City.”

“Plastic City, what’s that?” asked Larry.

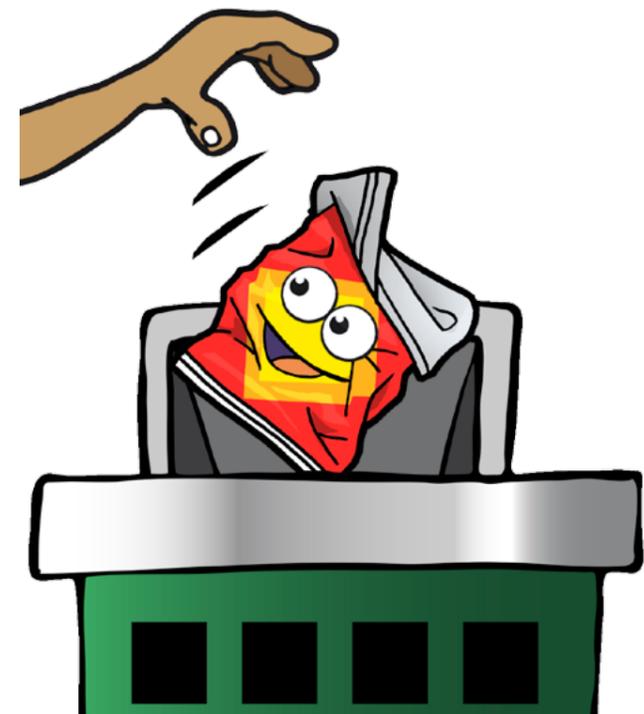
Betty told him it was a place where litter items get caught in ocean currents at the end of their journey. Everyone in Plastic City had come from lands far away and floated on the ocean currents to gather in this one place.





Betty took Larry through the City. It was huge and over-crowded. Everyone was upset that they hadn't been put into a bin and would spend the rest of their lives deteriorating in the ocean. Birds and other marine animals were eating the litter and getting sick or dying. Larry felt sorry for the animals and hoped they wouldn't eat him.

Larry thought a lot about Plastic City. He felt bad knowing that he was causing environmental problems by being there. He sat and wondered how different his life would have been if only Sally had thrown him in the bin instead of leaving him on the bench.





Unfortunately, Larry couldn't change what had happened. He just had to accept that Plastic City was the last stop on his long journey.