

BY DAVID & EMBERLI PRIDHAM

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANYU ROUAUX

IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

We're Going Green!



As Noah watched a crowd gather around the stage, his knees began to tremble. “How did I get here?” he thought.



Noah was at the Earth Day Fair, an event for kids to present ideas about how to protect the **environment**. He was more than a little nervous. He was ready to run off the stage. What stopped him was a calming thought.

“At least I don’t have to **present** my project first!”

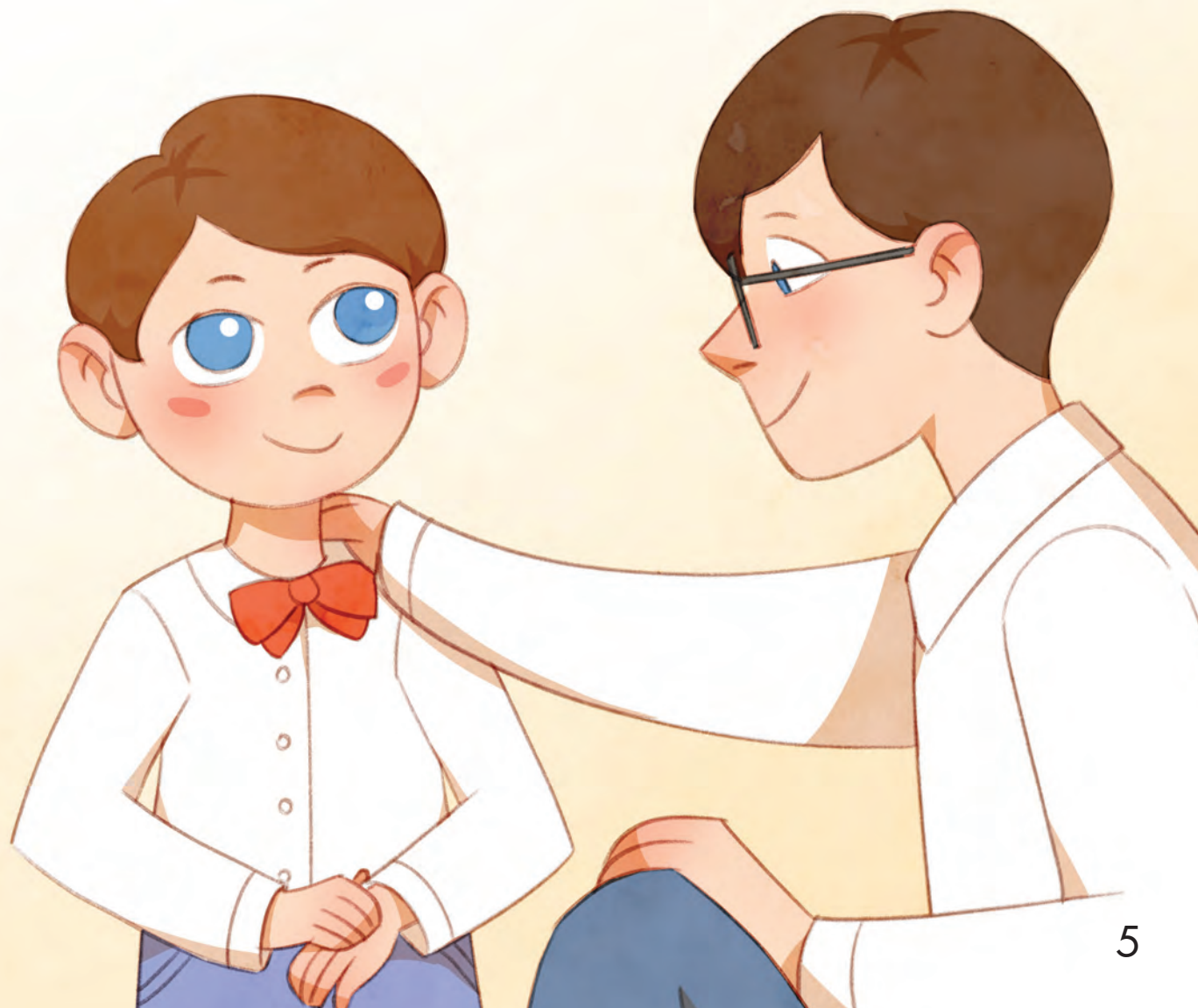


Noah spent many weekends working on his science project instead of playing with friends. He used most of the money in his piggy bank to buy supplies instead of candy.

Noah wants to make a difference in the world. Now is his chance to try.



Dad always says, “No dream is too big or too small to make a difference.” But could Noah make a difference with just one small science project?



NOAH'S PROJECT

At last, it was Noah's turn! Confident and prepared, he jumped onto the stage, took a deep breath, and smiled.



Cleaning Our Oceans, by Noah Fairley

Oceans are an important **natural resource** on our planet. However, plastic **pollution endangers** our oceans and the wildlife living in them.

FACTS

- 1 More than twenty thousand species of animals live in our oceans.
- 2 A system of **currents** flows through every ocean in the world and connects each one of them to form a kind of underwater highway. Fish aren't the only travelers on these highways—litter can cruise on them, too!
- 3 People dump fourteen billion pounds of trash into the oceans every year.



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After trash enters the ocean, it washes up on shore or travels along ocean currents. If the trash travels far enough, it reaches the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is a huge buildup of litter in the Pacific Ocean. Most of the trash in this area is plastic waste, such as bottles and bags.



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Plastic never breaks down completely. Instead, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. These small pieces of plastic are easily eaten by fish, birds, and other animals. When eaten, **microplastics** can cause health problems in animals.

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If we want to save our oceans, cleaning up plastic pollution is a great place to start.

