



Keep the planet alive

CHILDRENS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE

JAN ELIASSON | ÅSA ROMSON | JOSEFINA L SKERK
MARTIN ALMQVIST | JOHN HOLMBERG | PERNILLA BARALT | STEFAN EDMAN



Poem

Sanna

Poison in our nature

Poison in our brains

Poison in us

Poison in them

Don't you dare place the blame
on our shoulders and our minds,

when you were the one who
kept going and left the rest
of us behind.

Leaving us pained by the decisions.

Decisions made by you.

Decisions made to make our cities
grow bigger.

Growing along with our feet,
leaving everything else leveled
with the ground

Abandoning your marks, ignoring
us as we frowned.

Keep the
planet
alive





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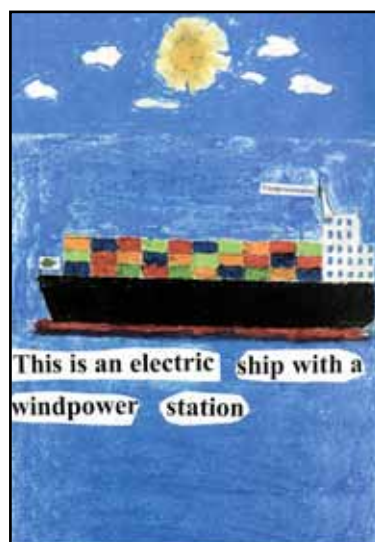
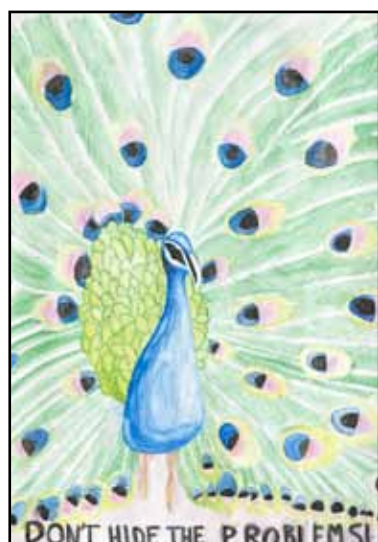
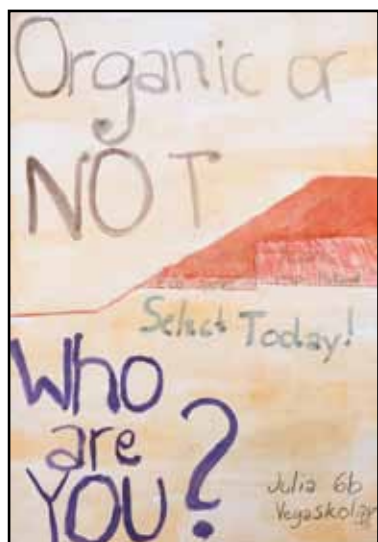
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Preface

The future concerns all of us, some more than others. Keep the Planet Alive is an association that gives a voice to children and young people in contexts concerning the environment. The making of this book is related to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Paris December 2015. It was there handed to about 200 of the world's ministers of environment. It is important listen to children. To invest in them and in their education is perhaps one of the most important factors in order to ensure sustainable development. Their pictures can hopefully be an inspiration in the work of keeping our planet alive and also serve as a reminder to us that we must take responsibility for the generation to come.

Many children took part in creating this book, together with texts by some of Sweden's most prominent names in the field of environment.



Elin Fallgren

Foreword

JAN ELIASSON
UN Deputy Secretary-General

FOTO: Holger Ellgaard



SEPTEMBER 2015

On 25 September 2015, world leaders launched a new set of global goals to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality, protect our environment and promote climate action. Addressing climate change presents a tremendous opportunity. We can turn the page to a new era of greener, cleaner and more sustainable development, which will create a better quality of life for all people.

Scientists warn us that the clock is ticking. Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, and the global thermostat continues to rise. The stakes for all of us – especially the next generation – are high. This is why it is imperative that governments adopt a robust global climate change agreement in Paris at the end of the year.

We need an agreement that is universal, with all countries pledging to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience. It must also ensure support for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people and countries. They have done least to cause climate change, but suffer most from its impacts.

'Keep the Planet Alive' is the kind of call to action we need. It is time to move forward with concrete, practical action to reduce the risks of runaway climate change. We cannot change the climate without first changing ourselves. Each and every one of us is part of the solution. What we do as individuals – as students, neighbours, citizens and consumers – matters. It may seem like a drop in the ocean, but seven billion individual acts put together will make a tremendous difference to our planet.

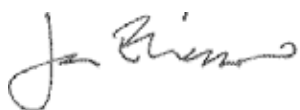
I encourage everyone to begin with small steps that will create a change in attitudes and behavior. Say no to plastic. Switch off the lights. Ride a bike. Take public transport. Recycle and reuse. Plant a tree. Help clean up your local park. Shop with the planet in mind. Demand that corporations and authorities be accountable for delivering a greener, more sustainable economy.



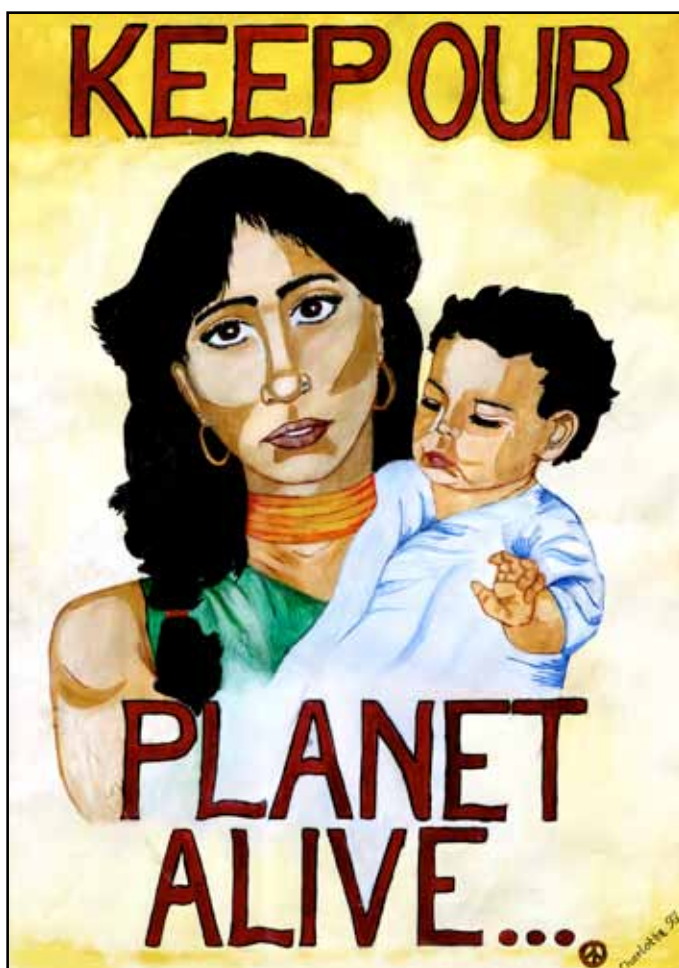
Cajsa, age 4

Call on your governments to show leadership and adopt an ambitious agreement in Paris. And hold them accountable to implement that agreement and all the global goals.

I have faith that you – tomorrow’s teachers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, presidents and prime ministers – will rise to the climate challenge. By working together, we can build a more liveable, prosperous future for all. Nobody can do everything – but everybody can do something.



JAN ELIASSON
UN Deputy Secretary-General

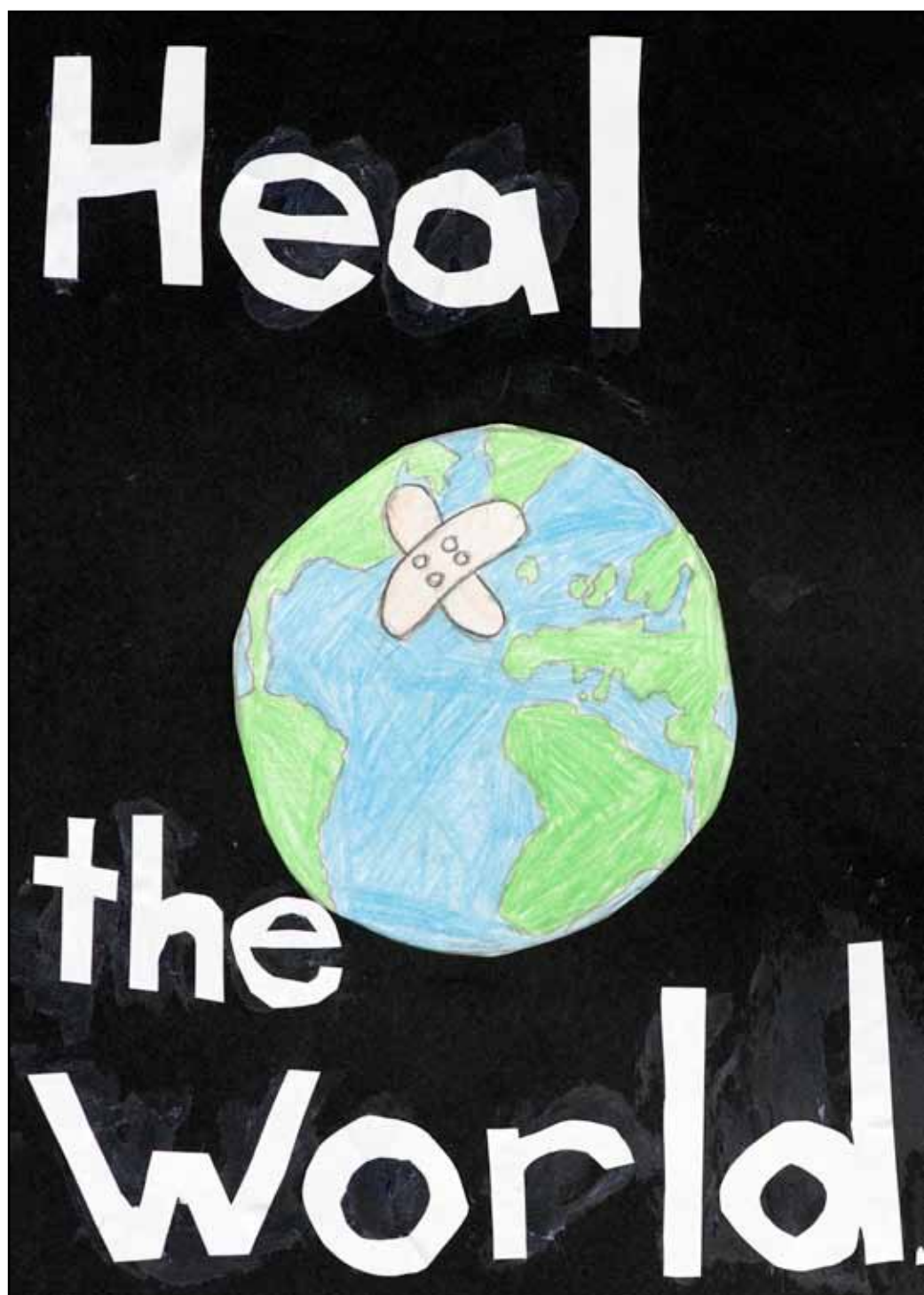


Charlotta Arnström, age 15



Moa Bolinder

AGE 11



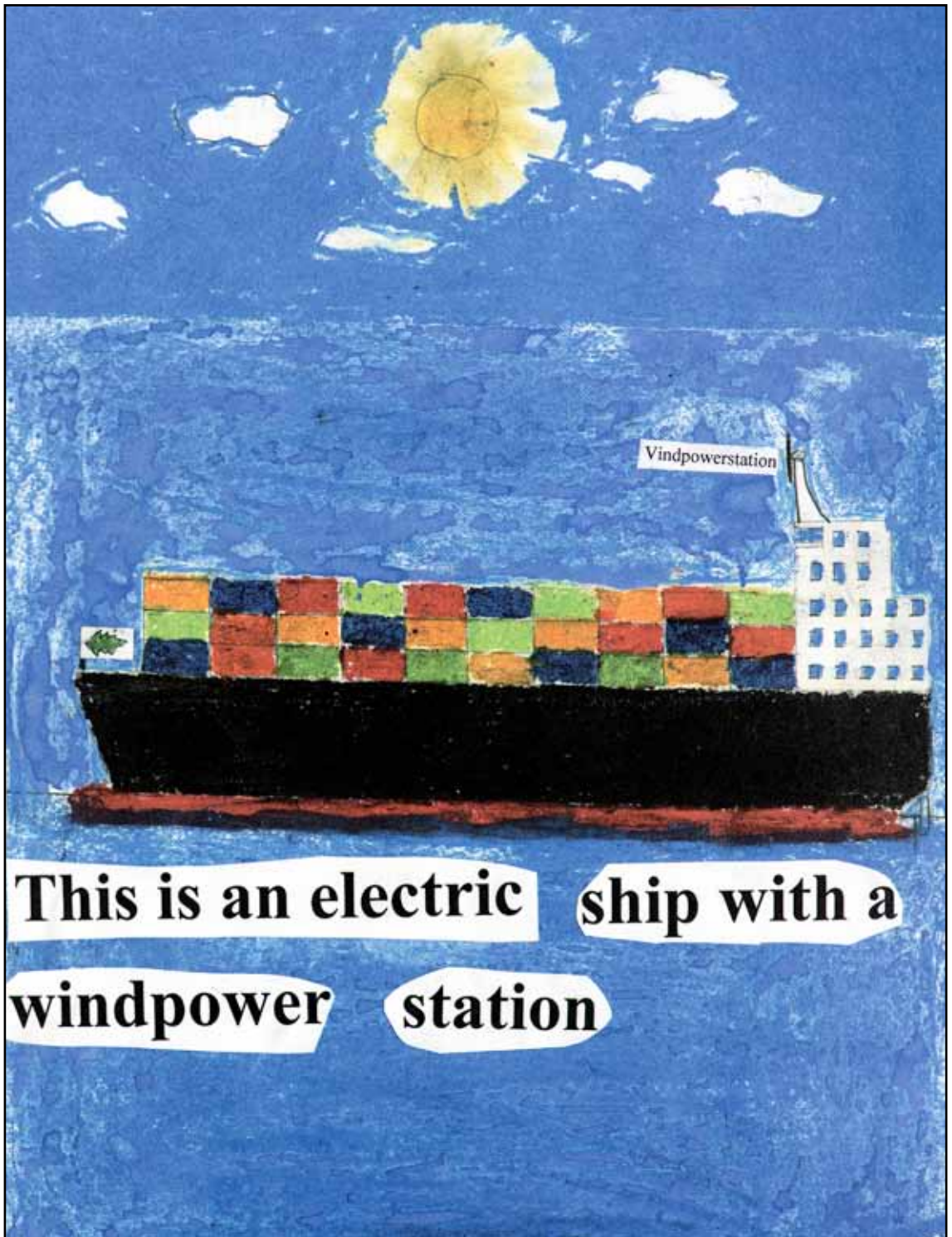
Nova Warnström

AGE 11



Rim Twalde

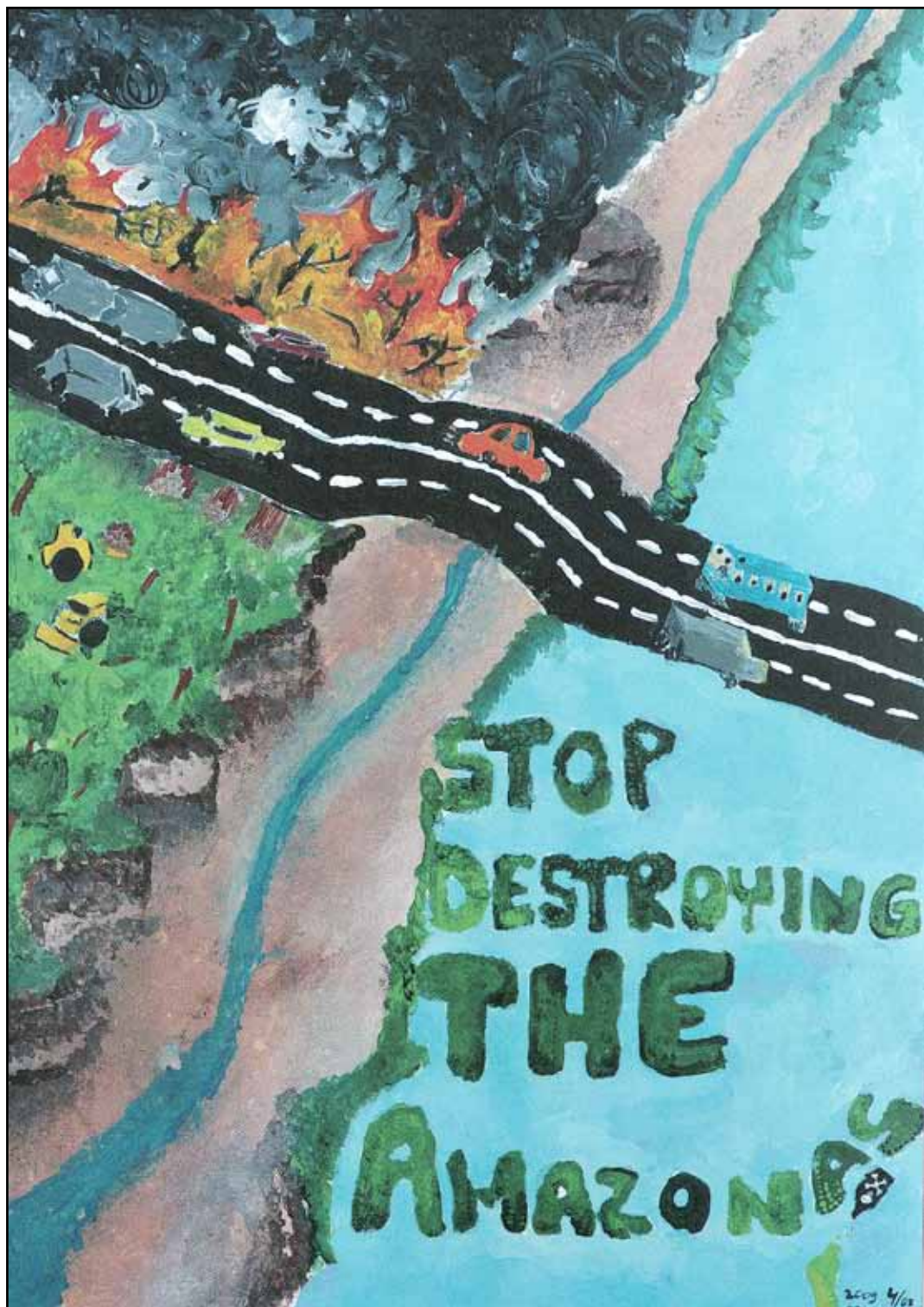
AGE 13



This is an electric ship with a
windpower station

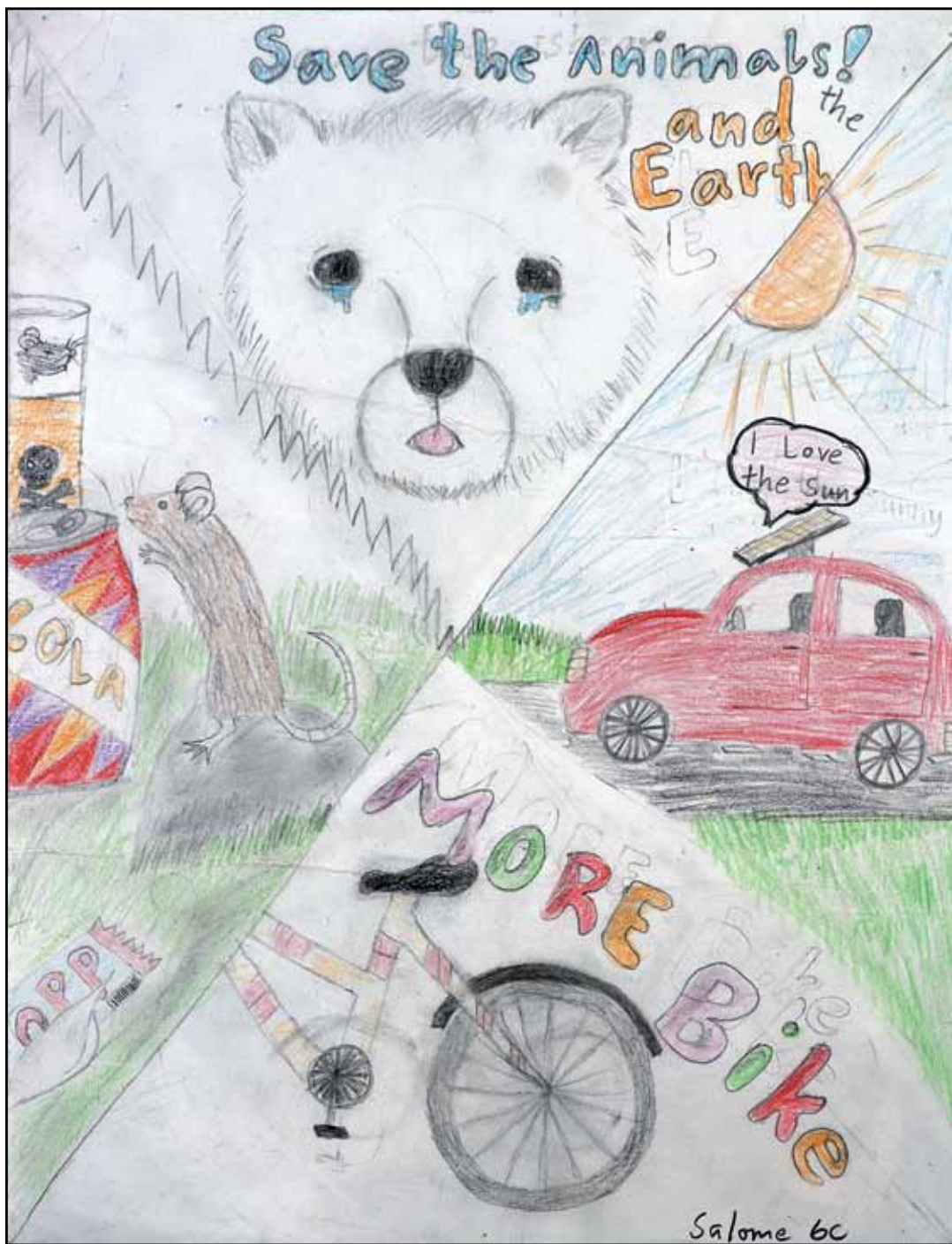
Gesper Rönnebrand

AGE 11




Elin Delin and Ellen Klein

AGE 14



Salome Sandström

AGE 12



young people making a big difference in climate adaptation

A stable climate is a prerequisite for life on Earth to thrive. Stopping climate change is therefore our most important task, and this is possible if we work together.

In December, the world's leaders will be in Paris to reach a climate agreement that keeps global warming below two degrees. Because young people and coming generations are most affected by these decisions, I have decided to include youth representatives in the Government delegation. Sweden's aim in Paris is to show global leadership by making major emissions reductions at home. Sweden currently emits 11 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person and year – that figure needs to be zero in 2050.

So we need bold political decisions to make our everyday lives climate-friendly and to make emissions expensive. The fact that climate change is an issue that engages most young people inspires hope, and if you're keen to get involved in a party we hope you will soon take that step. I also see how young people are playing an increasingly important role in adaptation to a sustainable society, using skills that you often have in greater abundance than older generations.

One of the world's largest climate campaigns, 350.org, was started by a few college students who had had enough. Never underestimate what a small group of IT-savvy young people can do in their free time! And young people's innovations, combined with 'nerd' skills in technology and science lead to one fantastic invention after another. One of my personal favourites is Mehrdad Mahdjoubi from Malmö who, as a student, designed a shower that cleans and recycles water, saving an amazing 90 per cent of the water and 80 per cent of the energy used. Do you have similar ideas?



Stina, age 4

Or is sport your thing? The latest climate summit in Copenhagen was attended by 19-year-old Kim who had cycled there from Australia! He was too shy to speak in front of large groups, but he decided to campaign using his interest in cycling. He took his bike on the boat to the mainland and cycled through Asia, round the Himalayas, through the Middle East and Europe. When he arrived in Copenhagen he had met hundreds of journalists and imparted his message to hundreds of thousands of people: "If I can cycle from Australia to Copenhagen then you can cycle to work!"

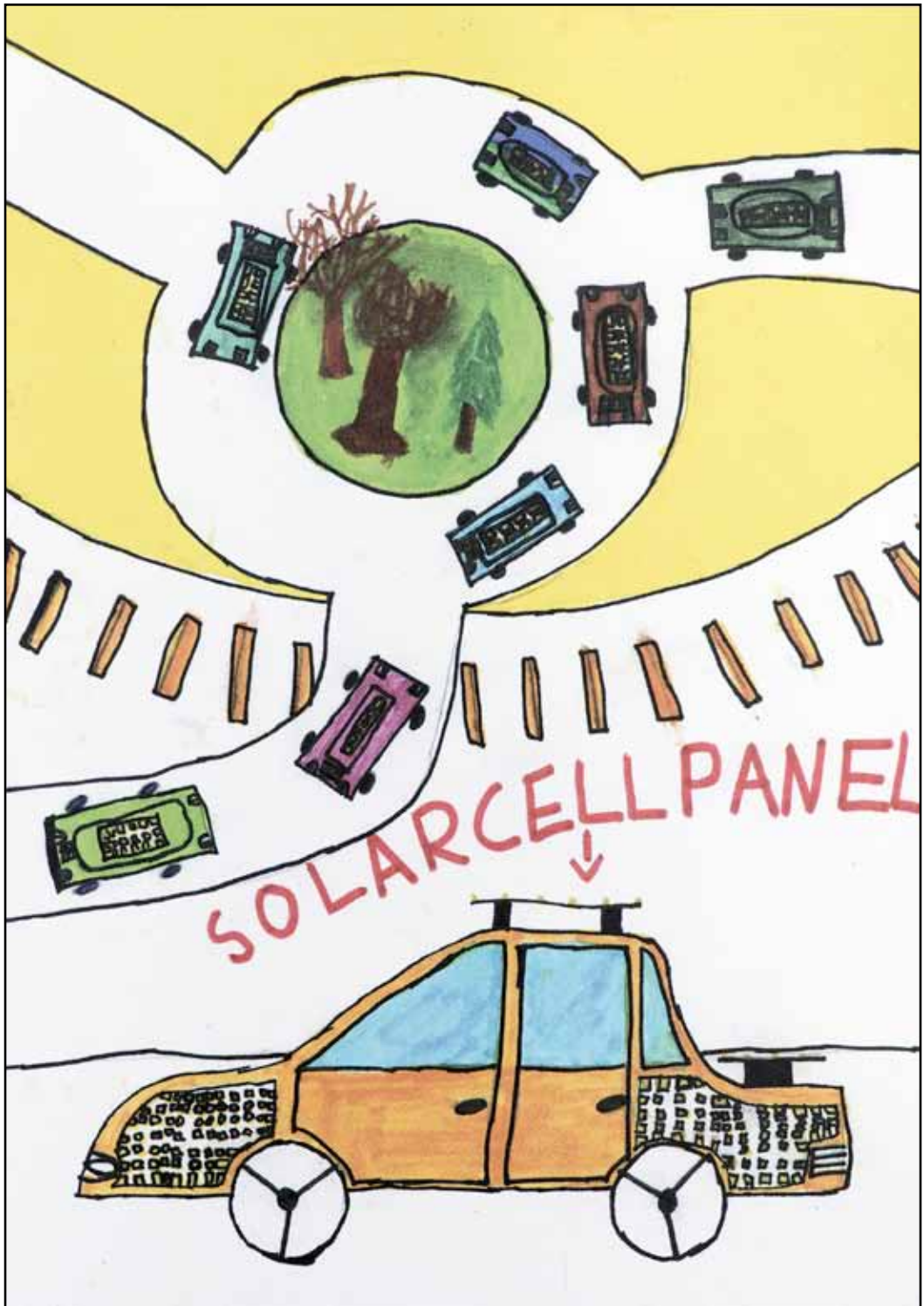
Now I don't want your parents thinking I'm encouraging you to cycle from Australia to Copenhagen or Paris, but it is a fantastic feeling to get involved in what you think is most important, to do it your way, with friends who give you energy and strength. So what is your way? Getting involved does actually change the world – one step at a time – and together we can take lots of steps at a time. Through cooperation and in our different ways we can stop climate change together.

ÅSA ROMSON

Swedish Minister for the Environment

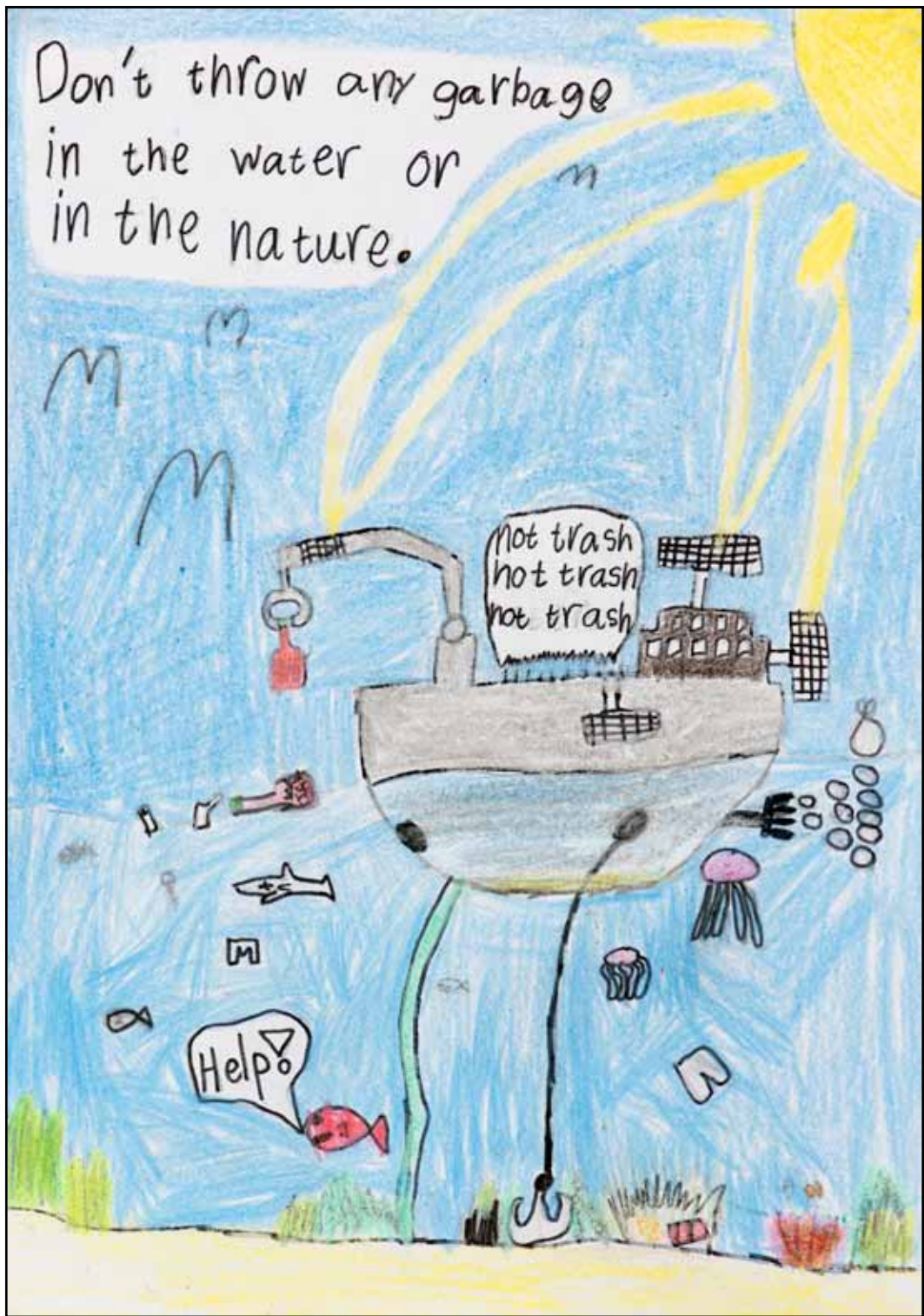
ÅSA ROMSON
Swedish Minister for the Environment





August Filannino
AGE 11

Don't throw any garbage
in the water or
in the nature.



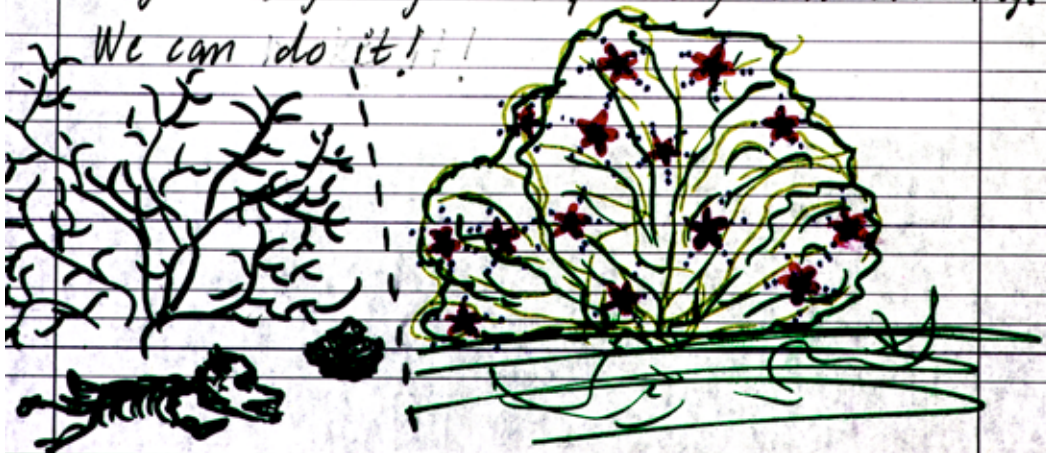
Isabel Fernandez de Salamanca
AGE 8

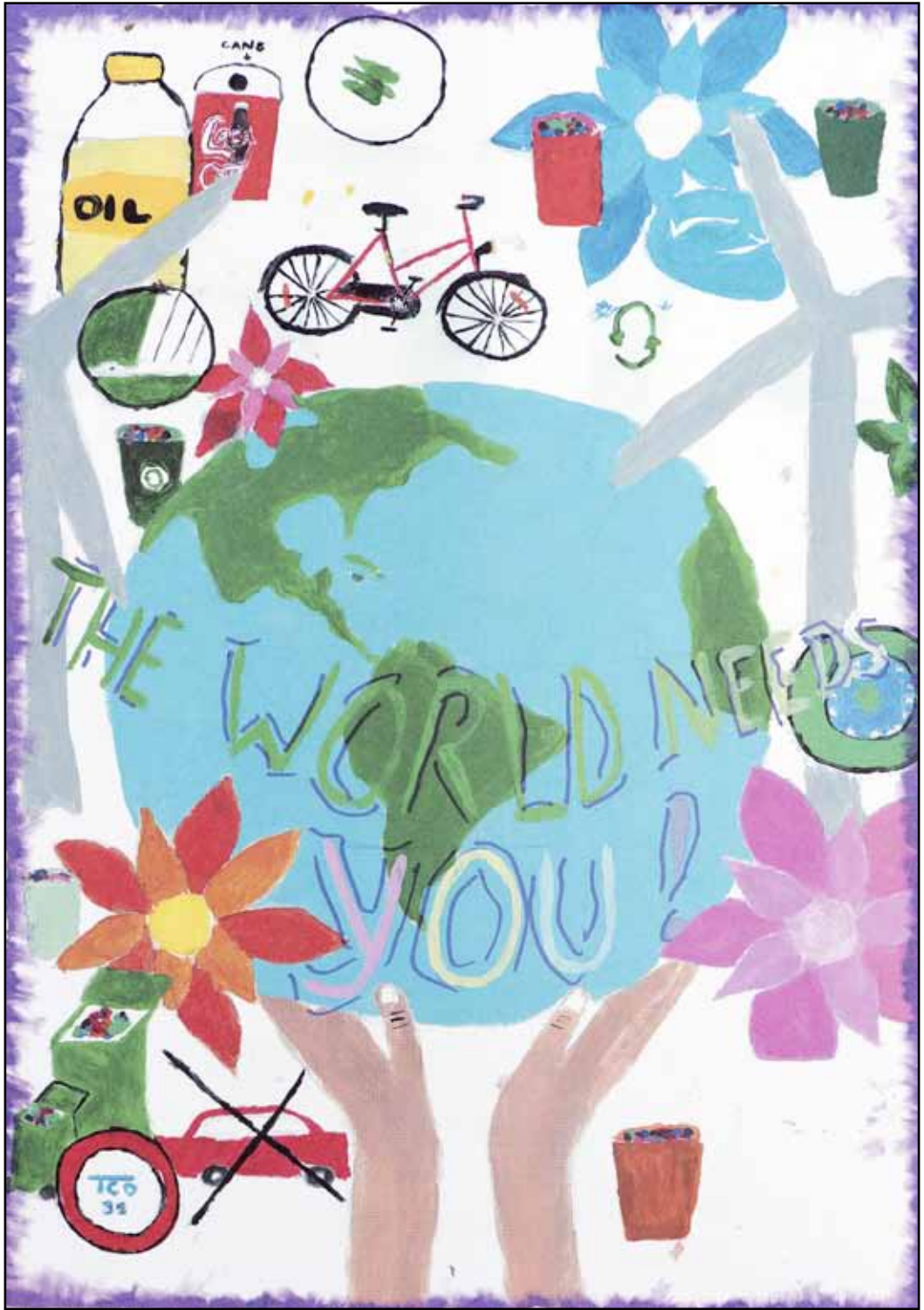
Save the planet

When my kids grow up, I don't want them to live in a polluted environment.

I want to know that they can go and swim in green dirty eutrophicated seas. We I think we should take our responsibility and don't let them take our consequences.

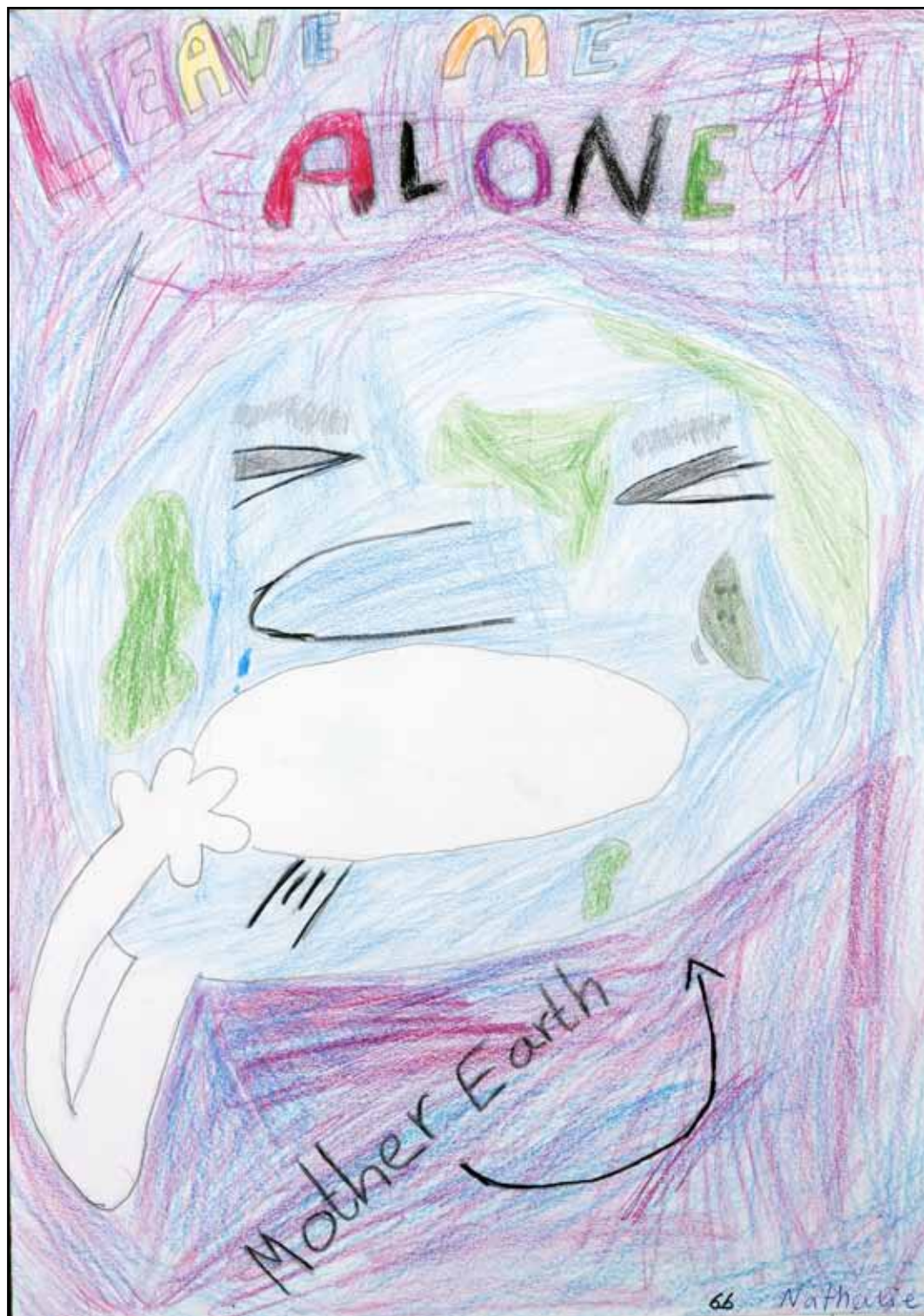
The countries that have people who are living in shantytown affected of our living style. We can't go on and treat the nature the way we do right now. But we can make a difference, if we start to recgel more of our garbage it would make our ecological footprint a little bit smaler. what is a good thing. The humans ecological footprint should be so smal as it can. That is also a good begining to stop the global warming. We can do it!!!





Lisa Falk and Amber Helminski

AGE 11



Nathalie Abraham

AGE 12



Olivia Kjelvik
AGE 14

We speak earth

Once, I spent ten days skiing to the North Pole together with a group of people from all over the world. We ranged widely in ages, backgrounds and genders. We were everything but explorers. But there we were, just us and the ice, above thousands of metres of water and under a constant sun, turning on the same height, day and night. Ice crystals filled the air and multiplied the sun into four, casting a halo across the sky. It was unbelievably wonderful, no matter how cold and windy, and very different from my home, located between dark pine forests, lakes and mountains.

I'd never imagined myself doing anything like it. I wasn't even particularly good at skiing, even though I belong to an Indigenous People, the Sami People, that prides itself with inventing skis. But I'm a part of the movement to protect our lands and waters. Our identity and culture as Sami are inseparable from the land we live of. We have lived here for thousands of years without depleting nature. It is possible for humans to live as a part of nature instead of being its, rather unfortunate, ruler. We have a responsibility to speak up for it. But when states value our rights and future against promises from multinational companies, we tend to lose. The disregard of voices like ours are, however, slowly turning into a thing of the past.

We are becoming a part of a beautiful web of millions of people all over the world. A fish net, that entangles itself around every big decision taken without our consent.

We are finding new alliances, running for office, organizing protests, going to school, making art, taking positions in industry, writing reports, blogs or poems, or living true to ourselves; all for a sustainable future. We make up millions of different changes that run down the mountainsides of our human lives and forms a river. Everywhere from standing on skis to sitting at desks, people are passionate and committed. It's as beautiful as the High Arctic. In the Sami movement we say: We speak Earth. And it is a shared human language.



JOSEFINA L SKERK
Vice President of the
Sami Parliament in Sweden.



"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." – *Arundhati Roy*

This quote was inscribed on a glass sphere carrying three million names
that we brought to the North Pole. It is now slowly rocking on the sea bed
at the top of the world. Can you feel the current?

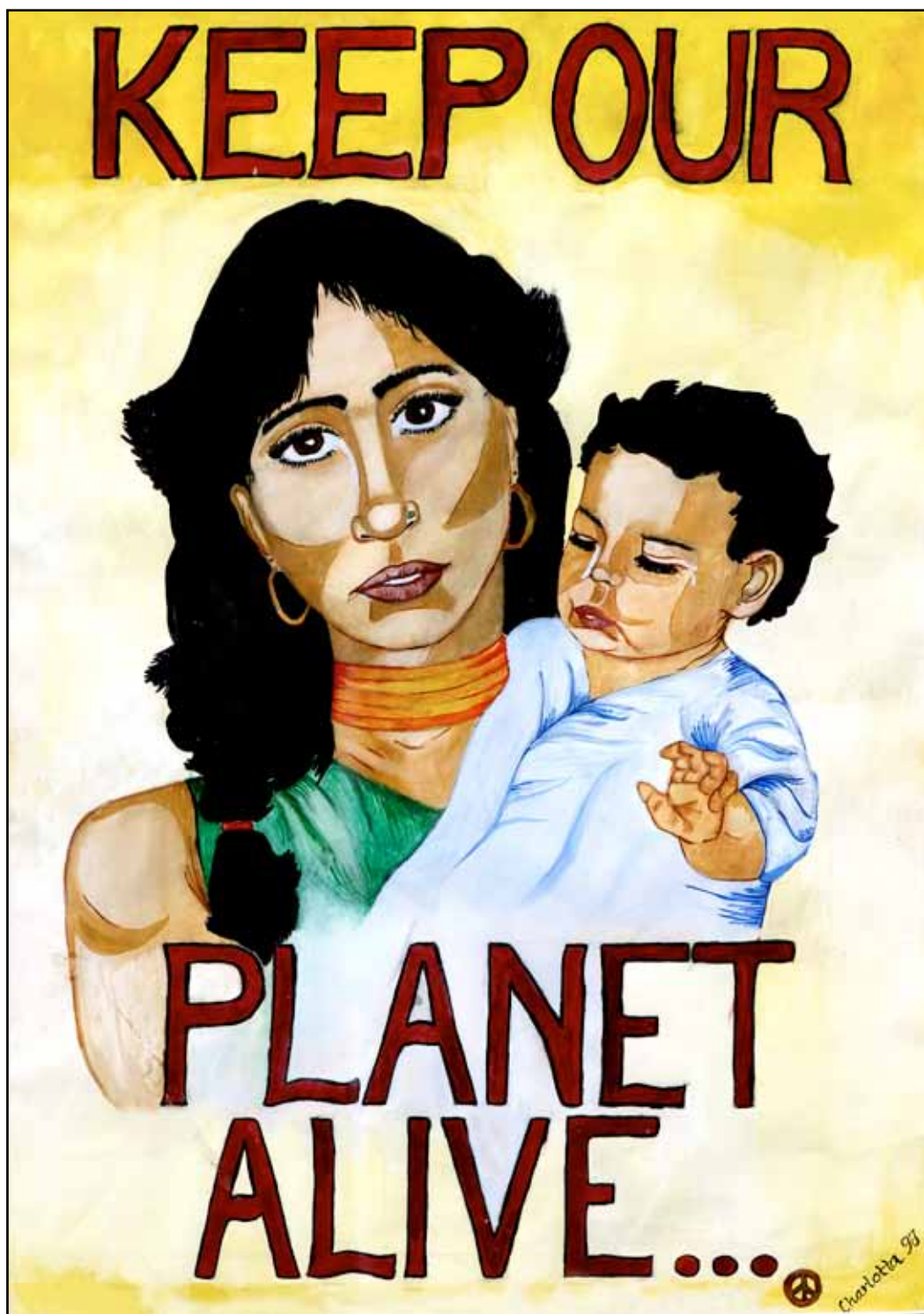
JOSEFINA L SKERK
Vice President of the Sami Parliament in Sweden.



Ailo Östergren, age 8



Elin Svensson
AGE 8



Charlotta Arnström

AGE 15

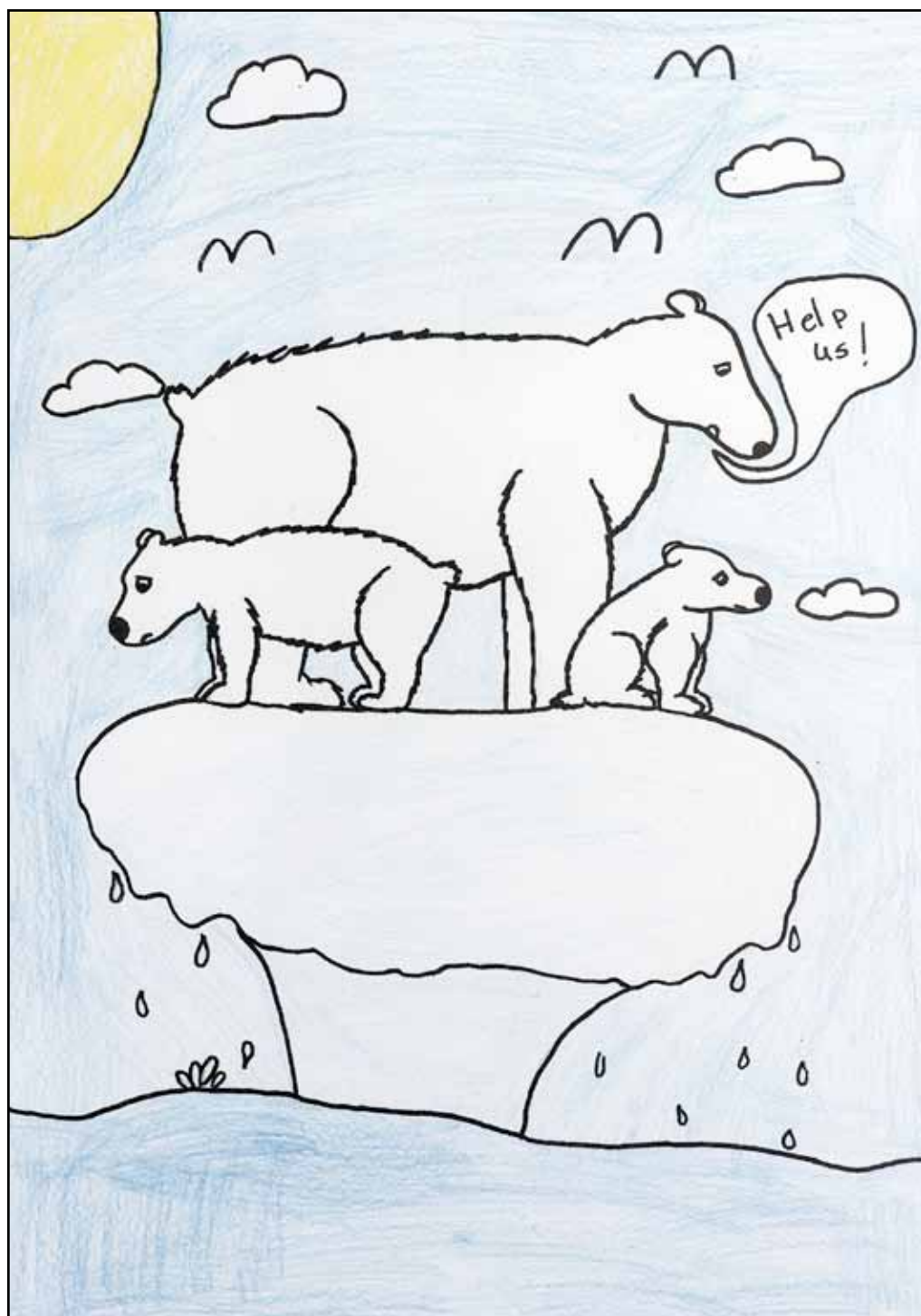


Niklas Eriksson, Falke Persson, Elina Skog
AGE 11-12



Class 1A

Backaskolan, City of Göteborg | AGE 6-9



Josefine Fredriksson
AGE 9



Paloma Cortes Garcia
AGE 10



Kerstin
AGE 3



The sea – a beauty loyal in its remembrance

The light green water is filled with air bubbles from our jump into the fjord. Here on the Swedish west coast around 5000 different animals and plants thrive. Our task for the day is to try to photograph some of them. Deep in the silence and peacefulness there's a good opportunity to also reflect on the ocean at large.

The atmosphere affects the ocean and the ocean affects the atmosphere. The difference between them lies mainly in that water is about 500 times denser than air, causing the sea to be much slower to react. Although the interaction between ocean and atmosphere occurs over a long time – months, years, or decades – the trend is clear. The sea becomes warmer and the consequences are far-reaching. We already see stronger and more frequent storms, rising sea levels and changing living conditions for marine life. Paradoxically, also the ocean's slowness, something that has long cooled the planet, threatens to become a scourge. Even if greenhouse gas emissions stopped today, the water temperature would continue to rise for a long time to come.

Also, through its ability to bind and store carbon dioxide the ocean has helped to reduce the greenhouse effect. Now we know that there is a limit for this, namely that large amount of carbon dioxide leads to a sea with lower pH: an acidified ocean in which shell-forming animals have difficulty surviving. As a first step this mostly affects corals, molluscs and crustaceans, but these are in turn food for many others. We should also not forget that twenty per cent of mankind take their food primarily from the marine pantry.

The significance of these changes is clear. The time when oil and coal used as fuel helped humanity lies in the past. Instead, these fossil materials have become a scourge that threatens to tip the planet over the sustainability limit. Politicians and decision-makers of all kinds must therefore act accordingly. With large investment, especially in new and cleaner technologies, climate scientists believe that we still have a chance to reverse the trend.

MARTIN ALMQVIST
Photographer

Martin Almqvist is a Swedish photographer and writer focusing on marine topics. He has published four books and contributed to several others.

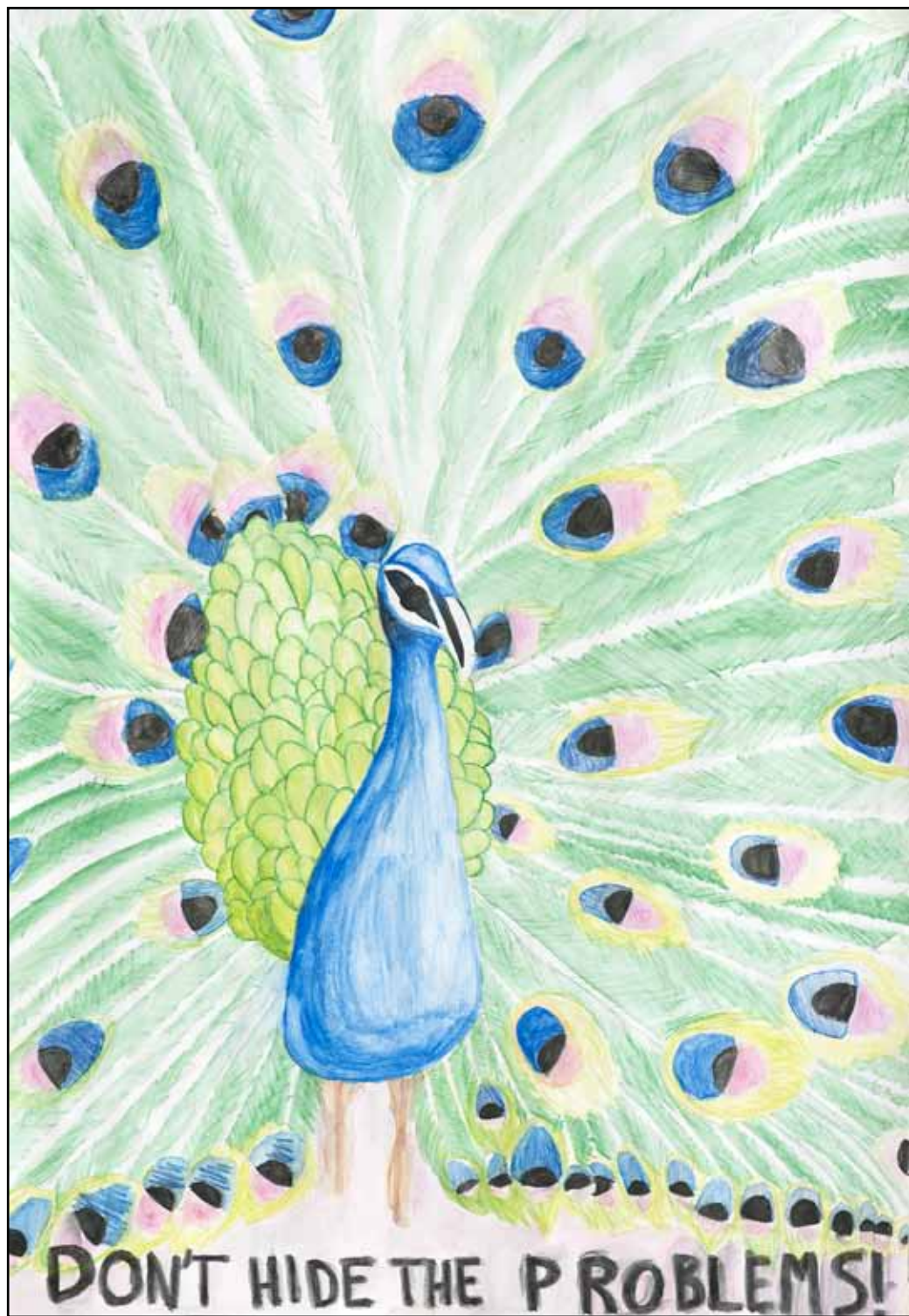


For photographers, the sea is a marvellous source of inspiration – filled with different shapes and colours, biological interactions and fascinating behaviours. On this particular day we return to land with pictures of cup corals, lobsters and a small neon shimmering squid – leopard spotted and enchanting. Even more lasting than these meetings is the question of how we choose to continue to affect the sea. It's good to know that this beauty has a benign temperament, but let us not turn this into deep-seated resentment.

MARTIN ALMQVIST
Photographer

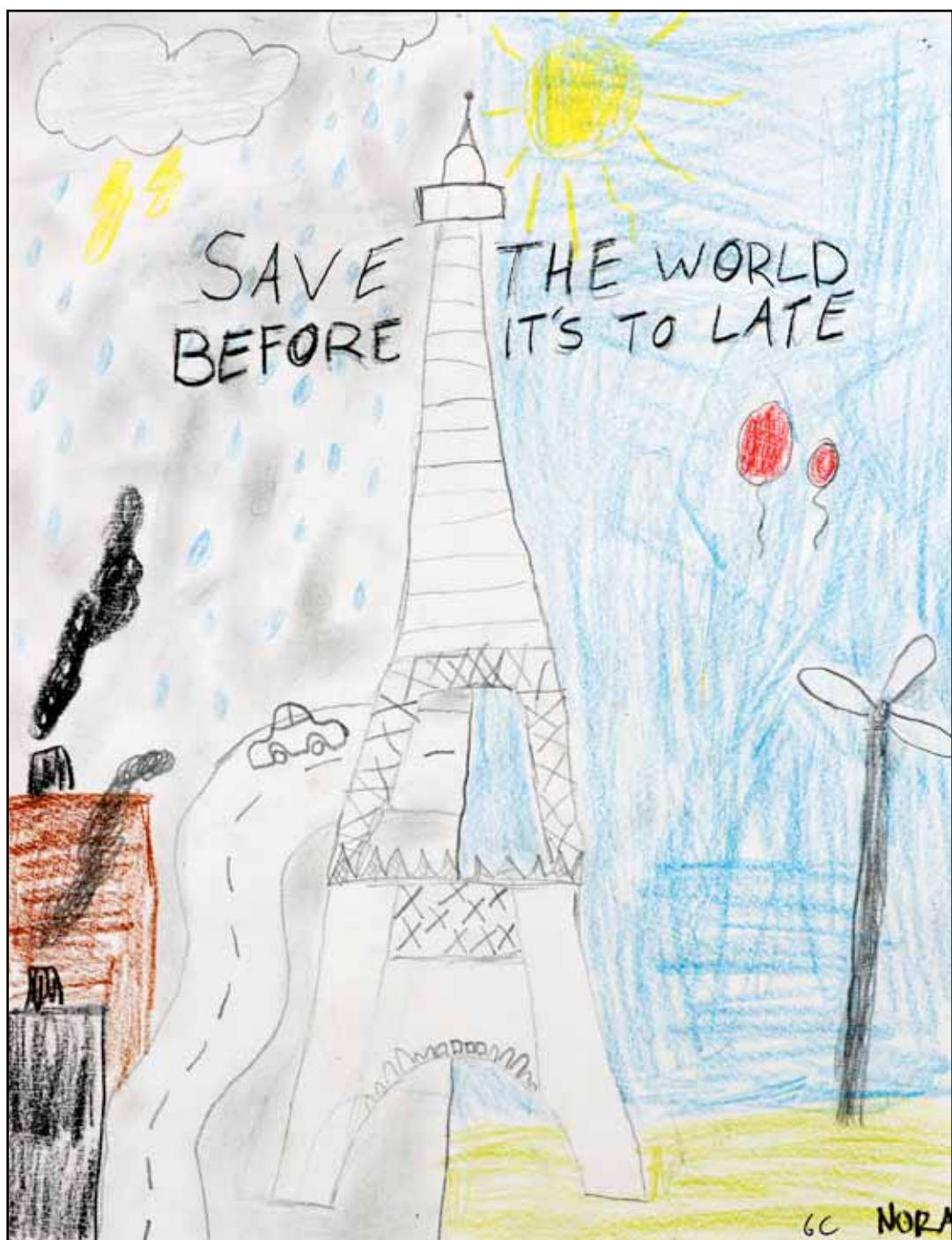


Jonathan Bergman, age 8



Ida Ahlström

AGE 14



Nora Boström Vesterberg
AGE 12

Quotes from children ages 8-9

“NONE SHALL LITTERING, OUR BEAUTIFUL BIRDS CAN BE
DAMAGED IF THEY THINK THAT GARBAGE GO TO EAT”

“Stop throwing trash and destroy our nature!”

“DO NOT USE ANIMALS FOR TEST COSMETICS!”

“Do not break branches from living trees”

“RESPECT ALL ANIMALS AND HUMANS”



Henric, age 4

*“I think that we need
clean water and clean
air to breath.”*



“IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE DO NOT DESTROY NATURE,
BUT DOES SO NATURE FEEL GOOD”

*“Do not pick unripe fruit from the
trees to just throw them away!”*

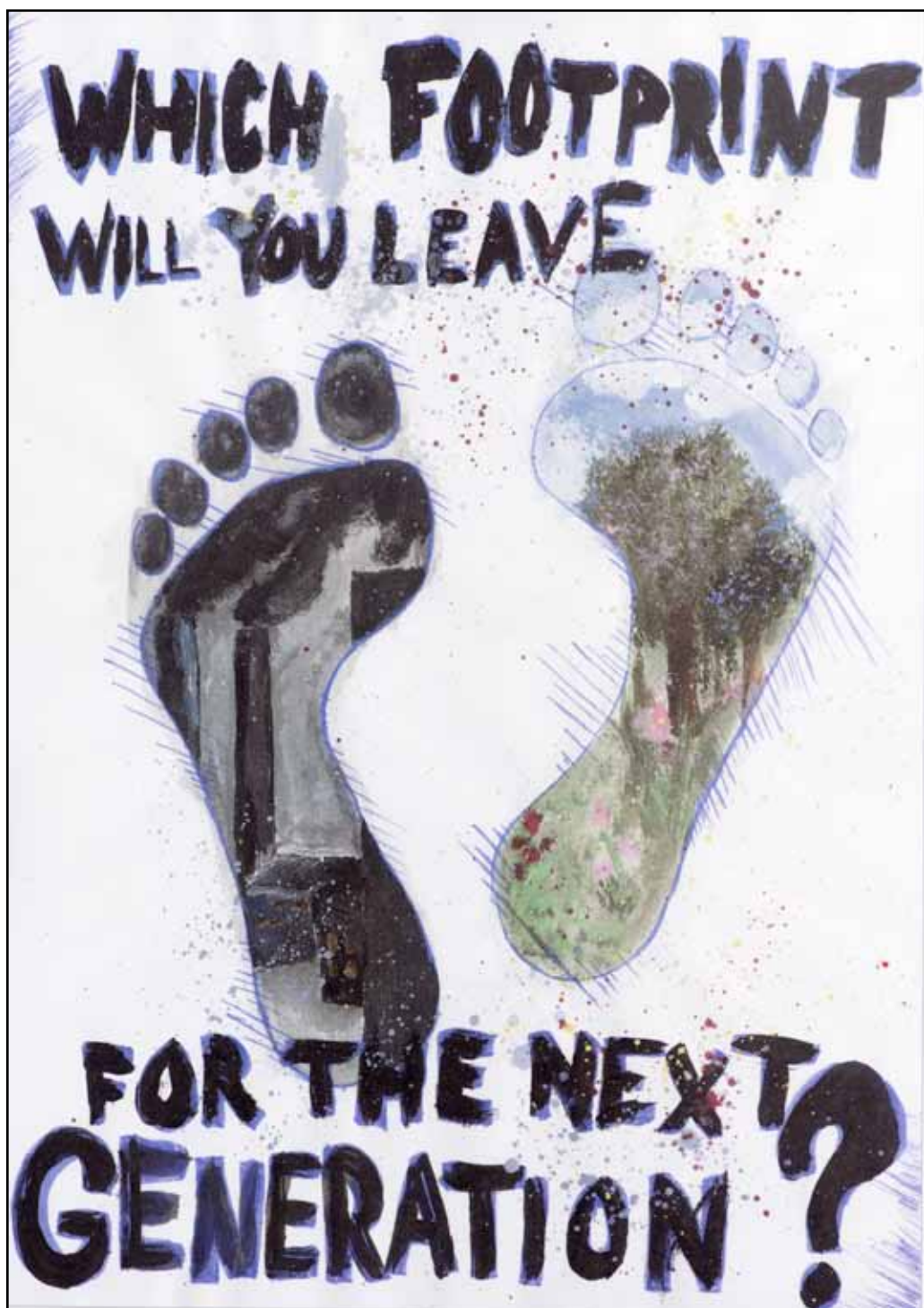
“LET THE TREES GROW!”



Teamwork by children age 6-7



Greta Södergren
AGE 11



Elin Fallgren
AGE 14



In the fall of 2015,

the world leaders will gather for two important meetings on the future of mankind. In September, they gather in New York to decide on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and in December they meet in Paris to try to reach a new agreement on reducing greenhouse gases emissions.

In the intensive talks that have preceded these two conferences, there are two key words that can be distinguished: transformation and integration.

Transformation means that it is no longer enough with small changes to solve the challenges we face. We need a more comprehensive transformation of the way we transport ourselves and how we supply ourselves with energy. We also need to look at education and health initiatives in a new way, for example, as important investments for reducing future costs. We probably also need to review the economic system we have today, which often values short term planning and has too tight frames.

Integration means that we can no longer divide the world into parts and look at one part at a time. We must build the world whole again and understand that different issues affect each other. When, for example, we build new housing it is not just about putting the different parts together at the lowest cost. It is precisely when building the house we have the opportunity to create a variety of things that are important to humans and a sustainable future. For instance, more intelligent transport solutions and pleasant meeting places. The questions are often too large for us to be able to be solved on our own. Therefore, integration also means that we must learn to co-create. This applies to different professions but it also applies to work with students.

My opinion is that students are a very important group if the world is to achieve transformation and integration. I have great experience from the Challenge Lab we have developed at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. Students are knowledgeable and impatient to change what is clearly not working. They challenge existing operations and at the same time they do not threaten anyone. They represent no one but themselves, therefore the doors are often open when the students come. Most



JOHN HOLMBERG

Professor and Vice president at Chalmers University
of Technology Gothenburg Sweden



professional workers can identify with students and are therefore usually courteous to them. This in turn, means that students can become an important glue between various actors in society. Students can play an important role in building trust within and between groups. Without that trust, we dare not try the new sustainable solutions!

JOHN HOLMBERG

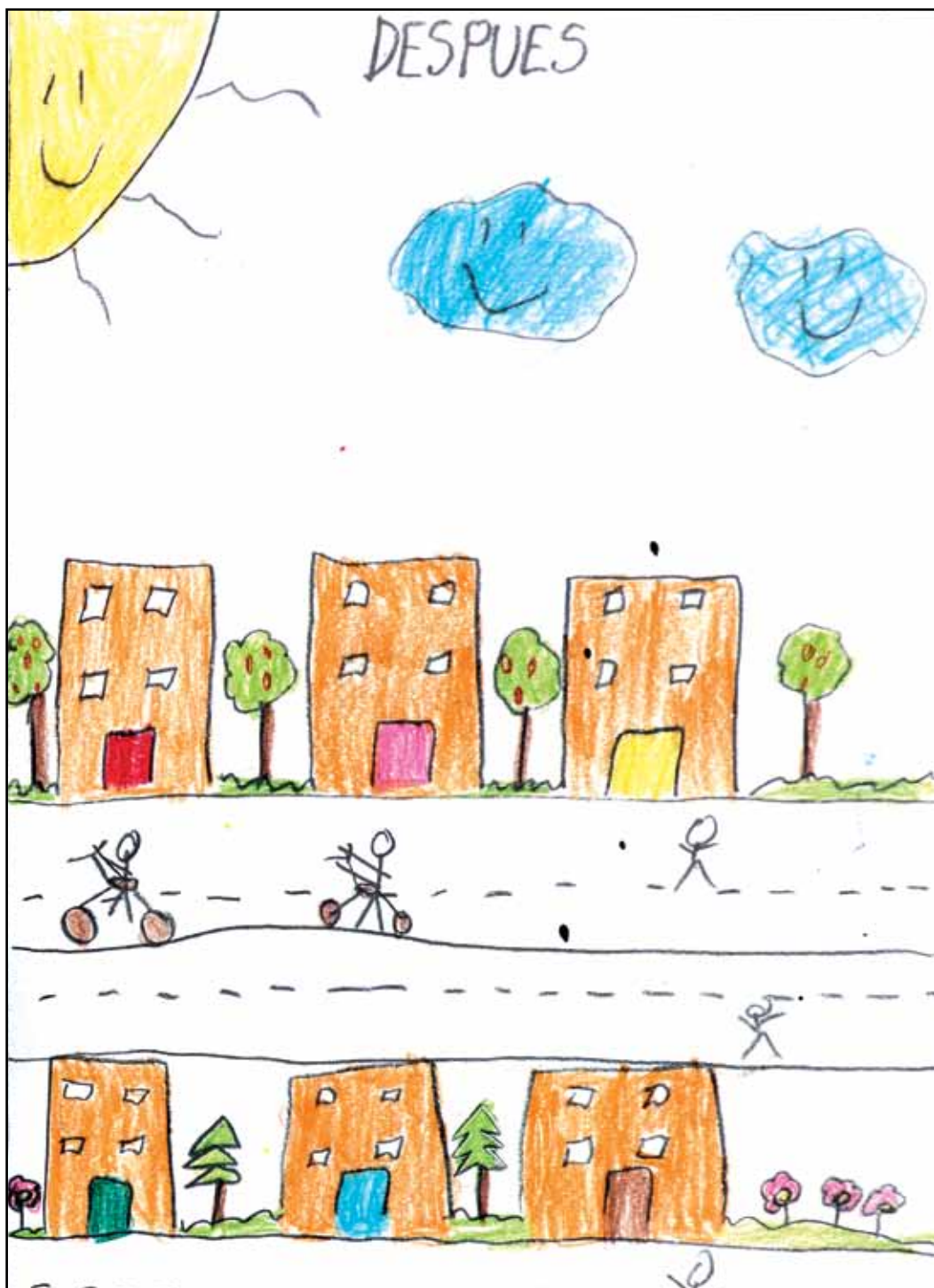
Professor and Vice president at Chalmers University
of Technology Gothenburg Sweden



Livia and Maja, age 9



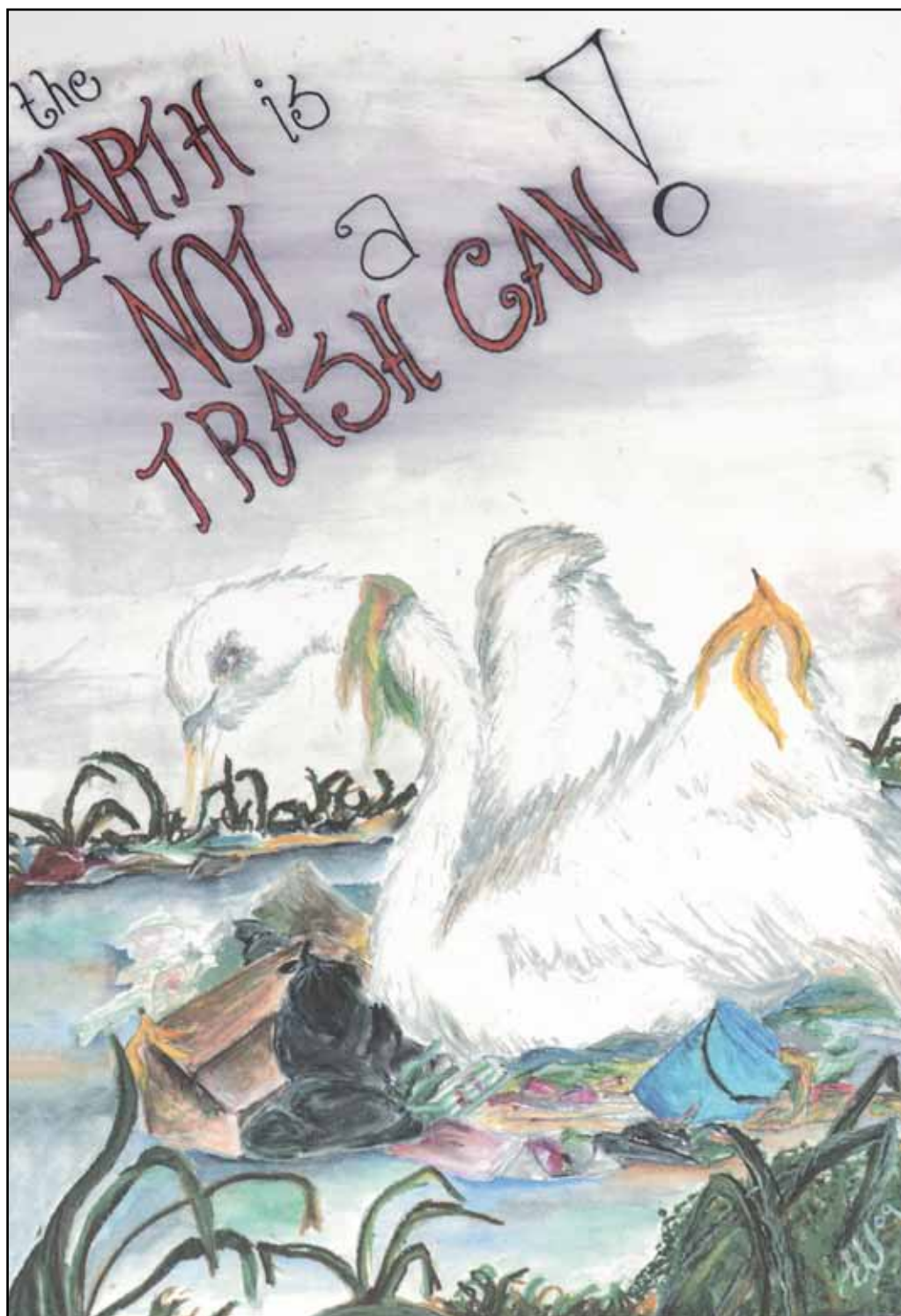




Fernanda Paloma Cortes Garcia
AGE 10

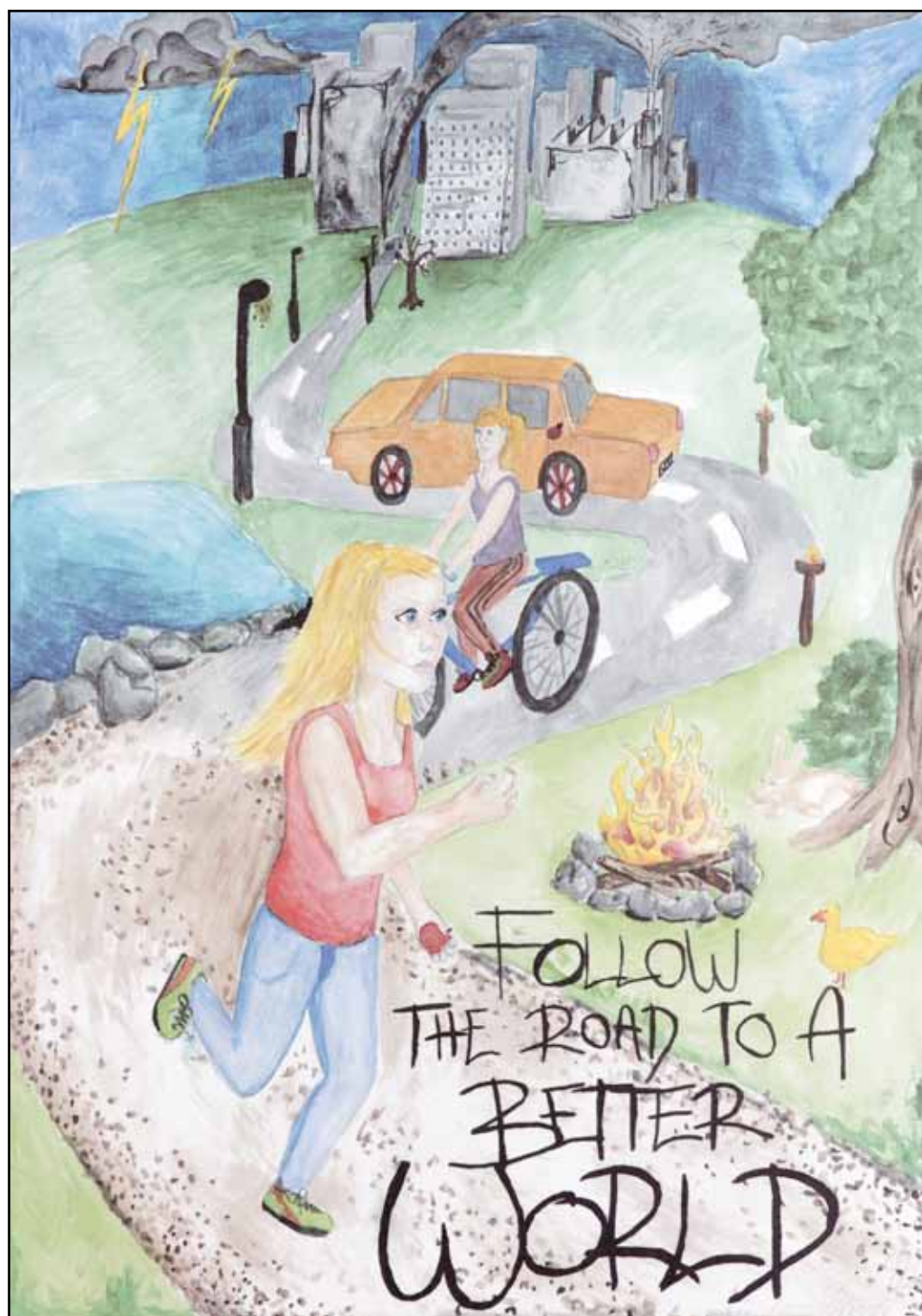


Maria Runderantz
AGE 9



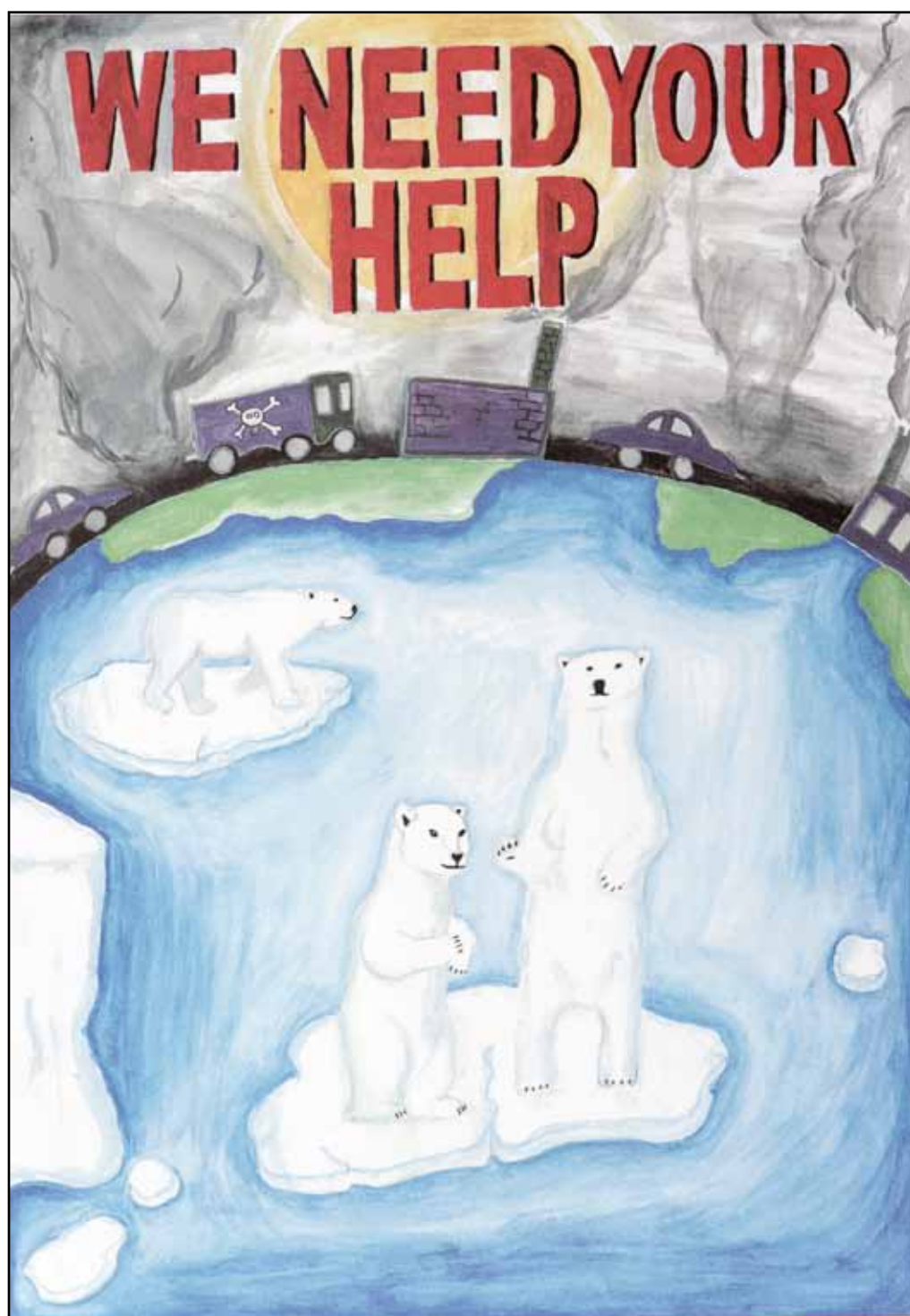
Embla Nilsson

AGE 15



Linda Nilsson

AGE 15



Malin de Sousa Mestre

AGE 15

NOT ONLY IS IT THEIR RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Children's input is crucial for success



PERNILLA BARALT
State Secretary to
the Minister for Children

Children are experts in their own everyday life. Only they know the fears they have and can best express the dreams and hopes they have for the future. And we adults, and especially decision makers, need to listen and to act. The UN Convention on the rights of the child states that children have the right to participate in decision-making processes that may be relevant in their lives and to influence decisions taken in their regard within the family, the school or the community. Climate change is one of these issues.

Every girl and boy has the right to freedom of expression, to think and express opinions in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice. We must develop and provide the methods that make this possible. Without the creativity and the imagination of children, our collective voice as humanity is diminished. To allow children to express their thoughts and ideas through art, with drawings, colours and pictures is an valuable step in this direction and a great way to give children a voice at the Climate Summit in Paris. Not only is it their right. Children's input is crucial for success.

The rights of the child and the wellbeing of all girls and boys is a priority for Sweden and the Swedish government. For girls and boys to develop to their full potential and to be able to participate is essential for the child but also to ensure sustainable development. We are therefore committed to seek all possible ways to strengthen children's rights at the local, national and global levels. In order to reach the world's new goals for sustainable development, Agenda 2030, including the need for action to fight climate change, we all need to participate – especially the next generation.

PERNILLA BARALT
State Secretary to the Minister for Children,
the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

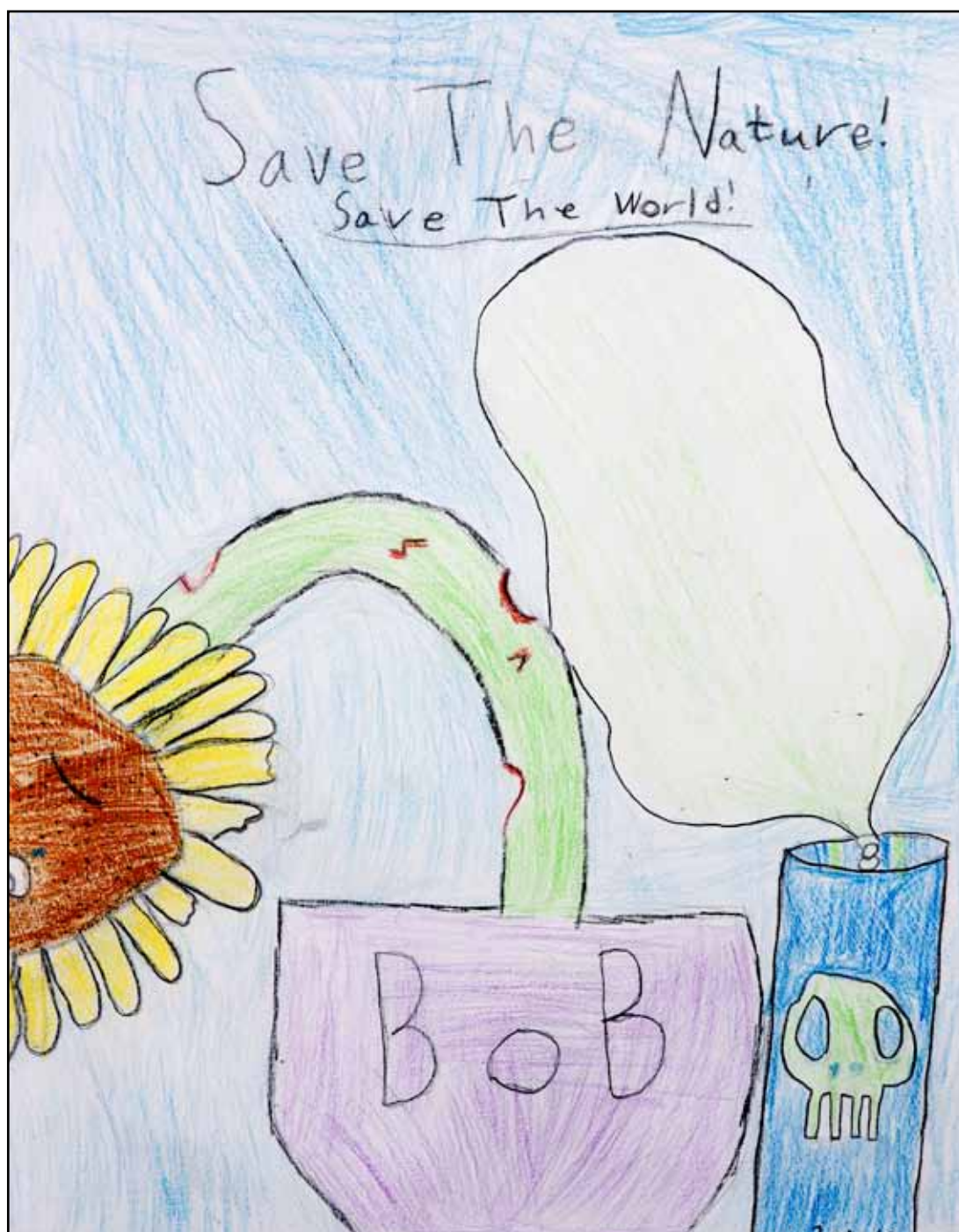


Ailo Östergren, age 8

A.S

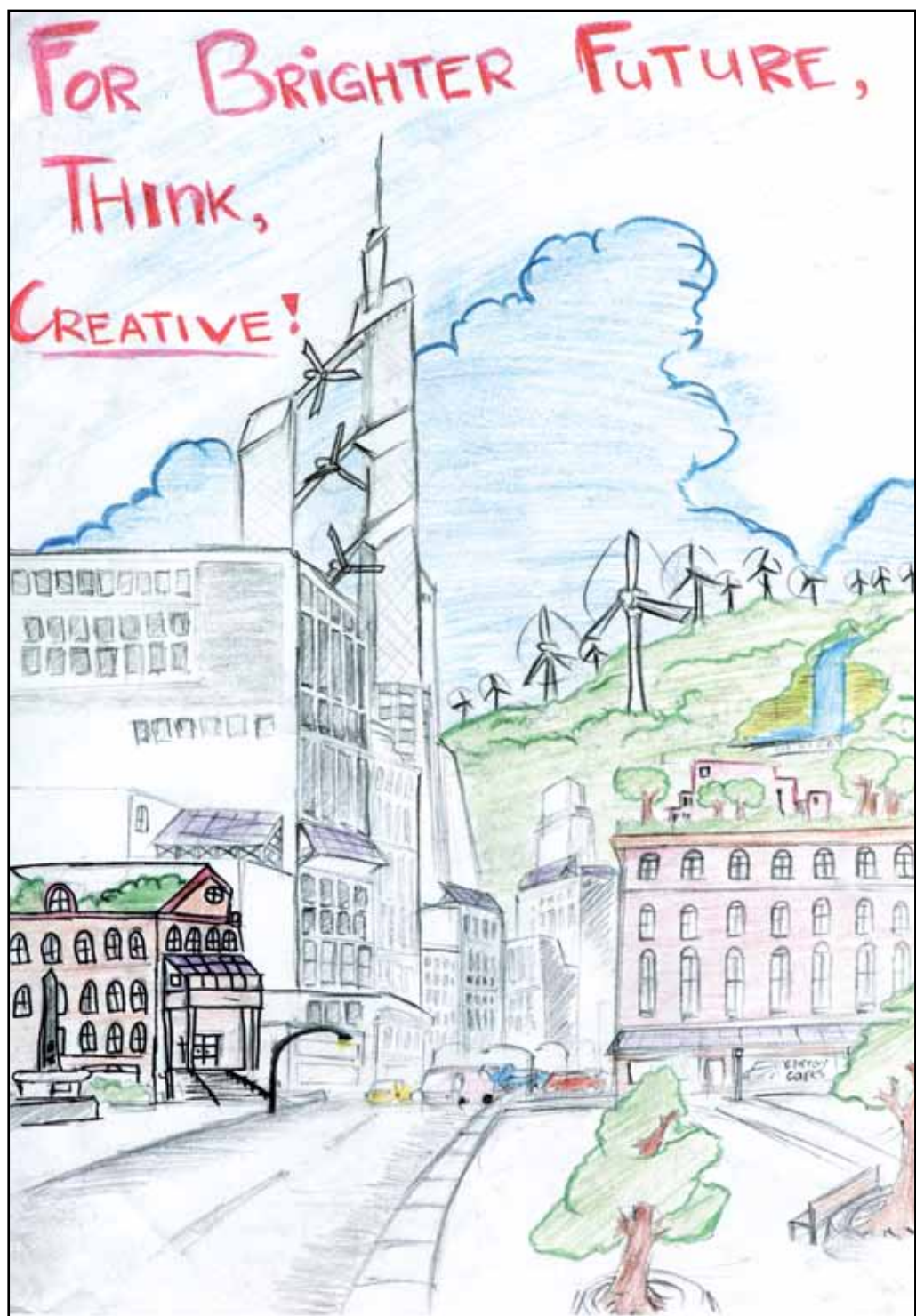
Now is the nature green
 Now is the ocean blue
 Now is the desert yellow

With a good environment
 It can still be like that.



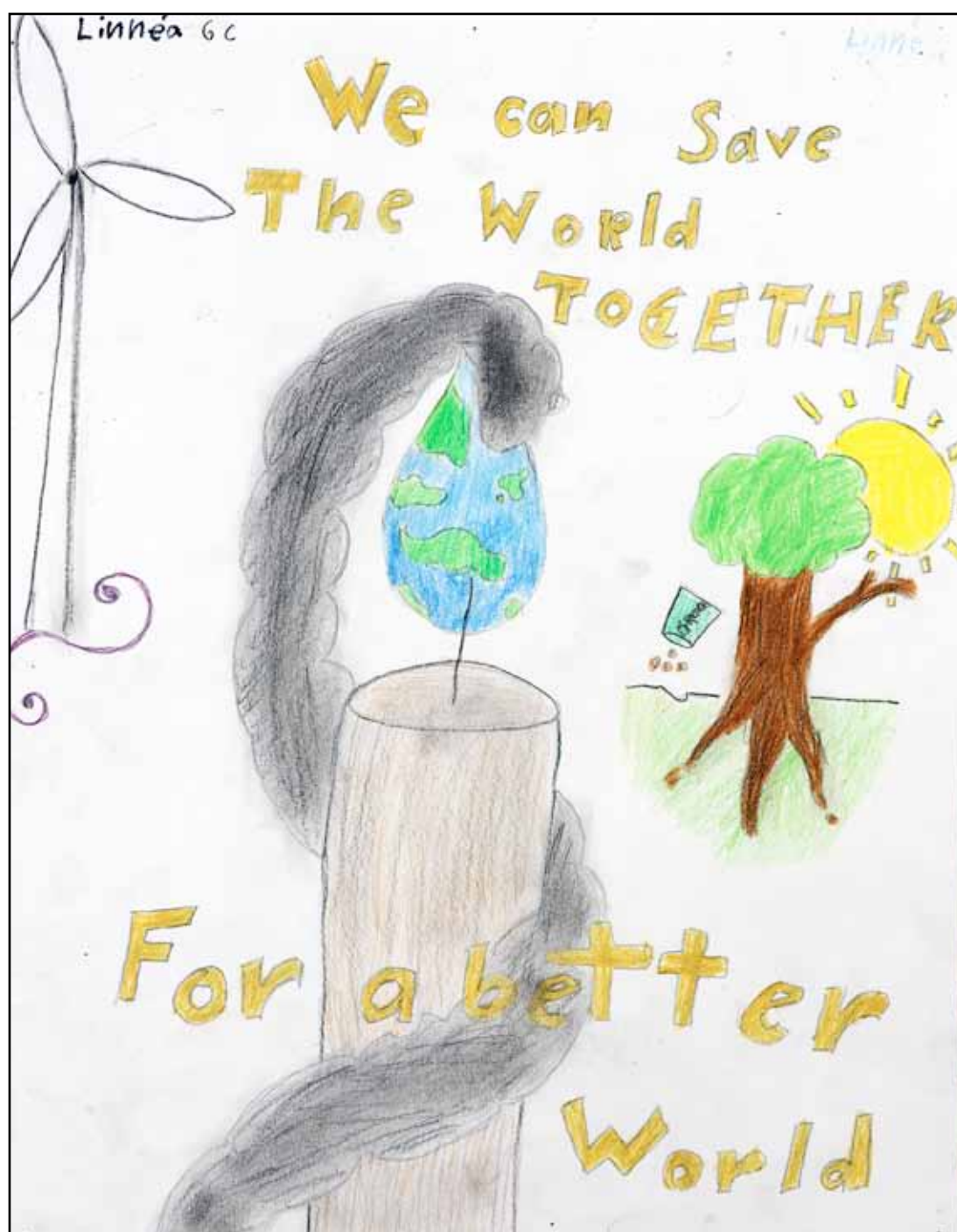
Jacob Wennebro

AGE 12



Johannah Pancito

AGE 16



Linnea Lind
AGE 12

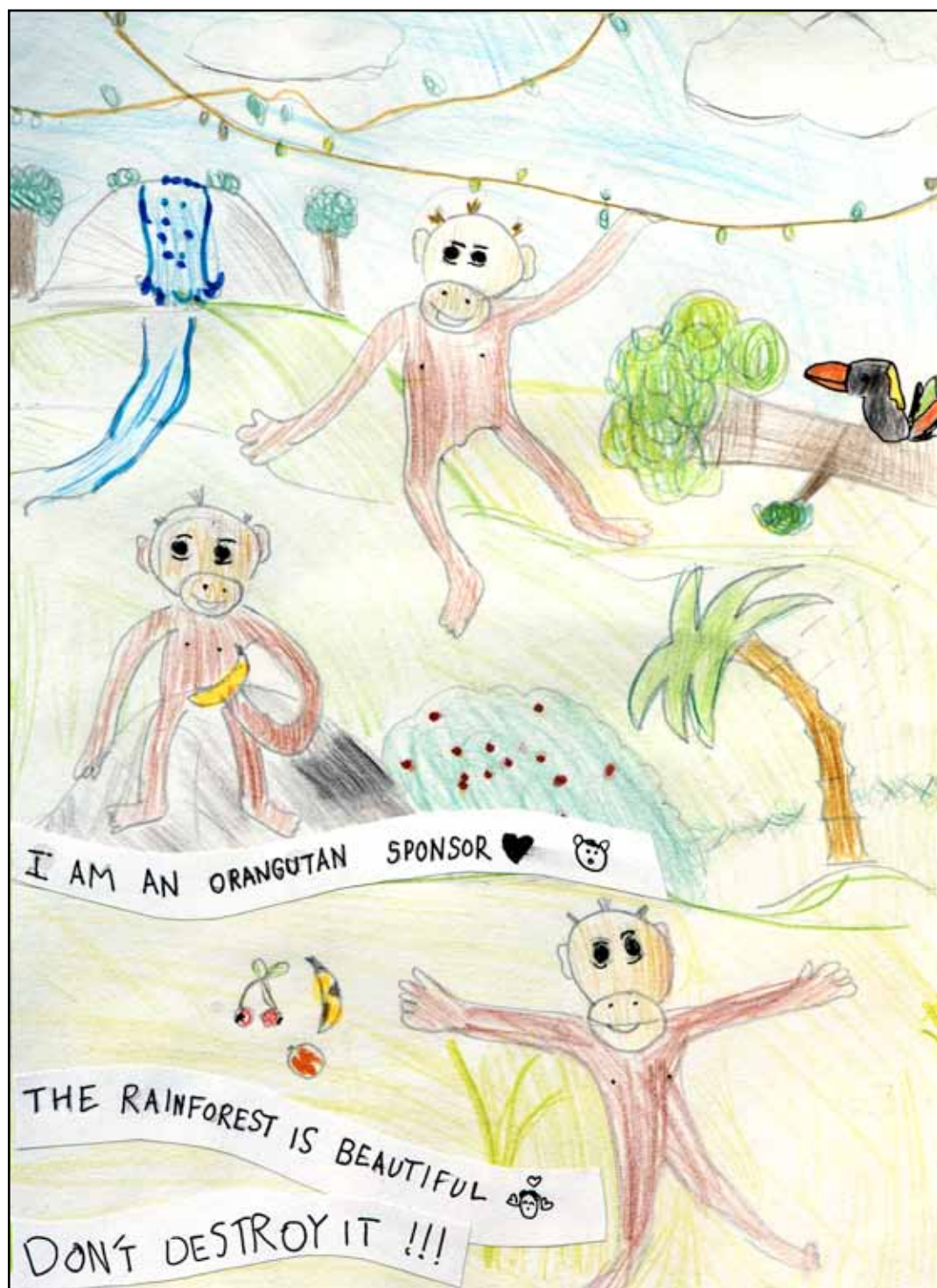
Take Care
of the
World!!!!



Gesper Nyberg
AGE 12



Marcus Glimtén
AGE 8



Greta Frykman
AGE 9



In front of Paris

THIS AUTUMN, 2015, IS, OUT OF TWO REASONS,
SPECIFICALLY IMPORTANT CONCERNING
THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND ON PLANET EARTH:

- 1 The 17 so called Sustainability or Development goals were in September adopted by the UN General Assembly. It's a document of huge impact, prepared by a lot of people in open meetings and discussions during three years. Primarily it says that we together can and must – in 15 years – eradicate poverty and hunger, bring more women to political power and real influence, solve the climate crisis, give all young people education. Etc.
- 2 The COP 21 in Paris on Climate will, probably, succeed giving the World a sort of resolution on reducing the green house gases down to a level where the 2-degrees-goal can be reached.

In fact there are some good news, after years of failure and disillusion. Many of us remember the atmosphere of total fiasco in Copenhagen 2009 when president Obama, newly elected was in a position of deep conflict with the Congress home in Washington, and therefore a lame duck without a real climate policy. Thus, because the greatest emitter – with about 20 tons of carbon dioxide per capita – was unwilling to take measures countries like China and Brazil also refused to be responsible.

Now the situation is quite another. In front of Paris 2015 the US and China have delivered both common and separate commitments and goals. Mr Obama has been clever enough to use some of his State authorities instead of waiting for the hopeless Congress to give him a green mandate. The US therefore has totally brought down its emissions by 12% between 2005 and today; the goal for 2025 is a reduction by 32%. You can of course say this is far from enough. However, a promising process is now started, which easily can be speeded up by the green energy and industrial market (by the World Bank's CEO pointed out as the most rapid economic segment in the global economy for the years to come!)

From a perspective of "political psychology" the commitments before Paris might be very important; early we could notice how other countries took steps forward. One example is Brazil with their goal of reducing by 37%, in the first hand by improvements in management of forests and the protection of the Amazon region.

STEFAN EDMAN
Biologist



*Biologist, Honorary Doctor of Technology and author
to about 40 books, for example "The Earth has got fever."
www.stefanedman.se*

Last year, 2014, the emissions of green house gases for the first time did not continue to increase – in spite of the fact that the global economic growth increased, actually by 3%! We have to wait and see if this amazing fact represents a real turning-point or no. But no doubt it gives a new optimistic energy to the COP 21.

To summarize Sweden has mainly three important home-lessons in order to continue to diminish our impact on global warming:

- ① Bringing down the CO₂-emissions from cars, buses and lorries, today representing about 30% of the total emissions. It can be done by a more rapid transforming to a less thirsty park of vehicles, by adding a higher proportion of renewables to the fossil fuels, by introducing more hybrid cars and 100% electric vehicles – and of course by promoting a more comfortable, attractive and smart public transport sector run by electricity and renewables.
- ② Replacing our ageing nuclear power plants by green electricity from solar cells, wind, water, and biomass – instead of new fossil power plants.
- ③ By taxes and clever supporting systems which stimulate primarily middle class people to consume more culture, education and services compared to material goods, thus creating an economic growth and daily lifestyle which is definitely more friendly to climate and environment than most of the consumption patterns today.

In fact, any one of us can make difference – in our daily shopping and transports and using our democratic rights and responsibility to elect clever, enthusiastic “green” politicians to the local and national governments.

In front of Paris – and thereafter – we need to take more radical steps than have been done up to now. By the countries climate-promises so far given (October 2015) the world can probably not reach the 2-degree-goal.

But the hopeful sign is that we have real possibilities to succeed – soon!

STEFAN EDMAN
Biologist



Jonathan Bergman
AGE 8



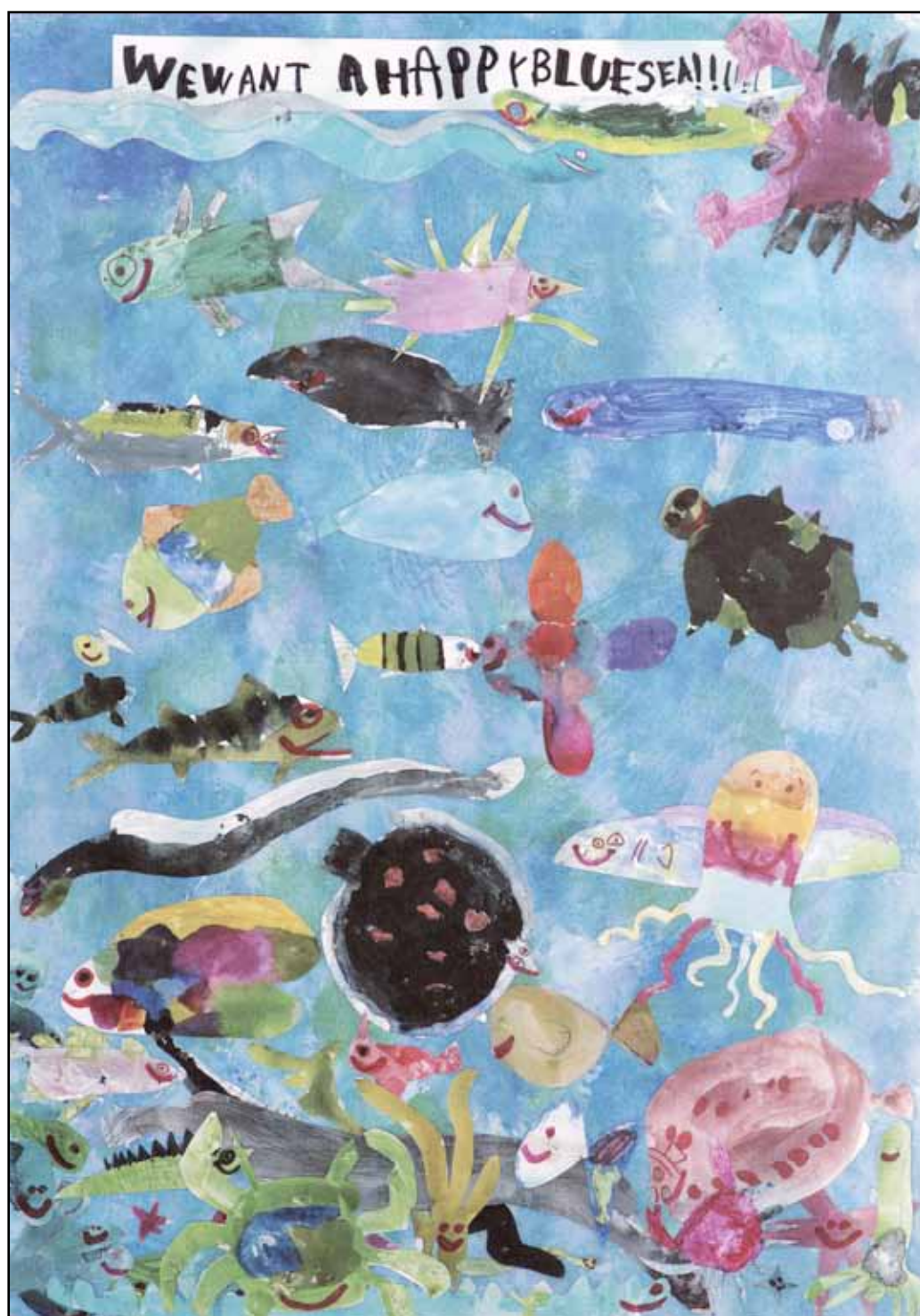
Frank Rosén
AGE 7



Ida Ahlström
AGE 14

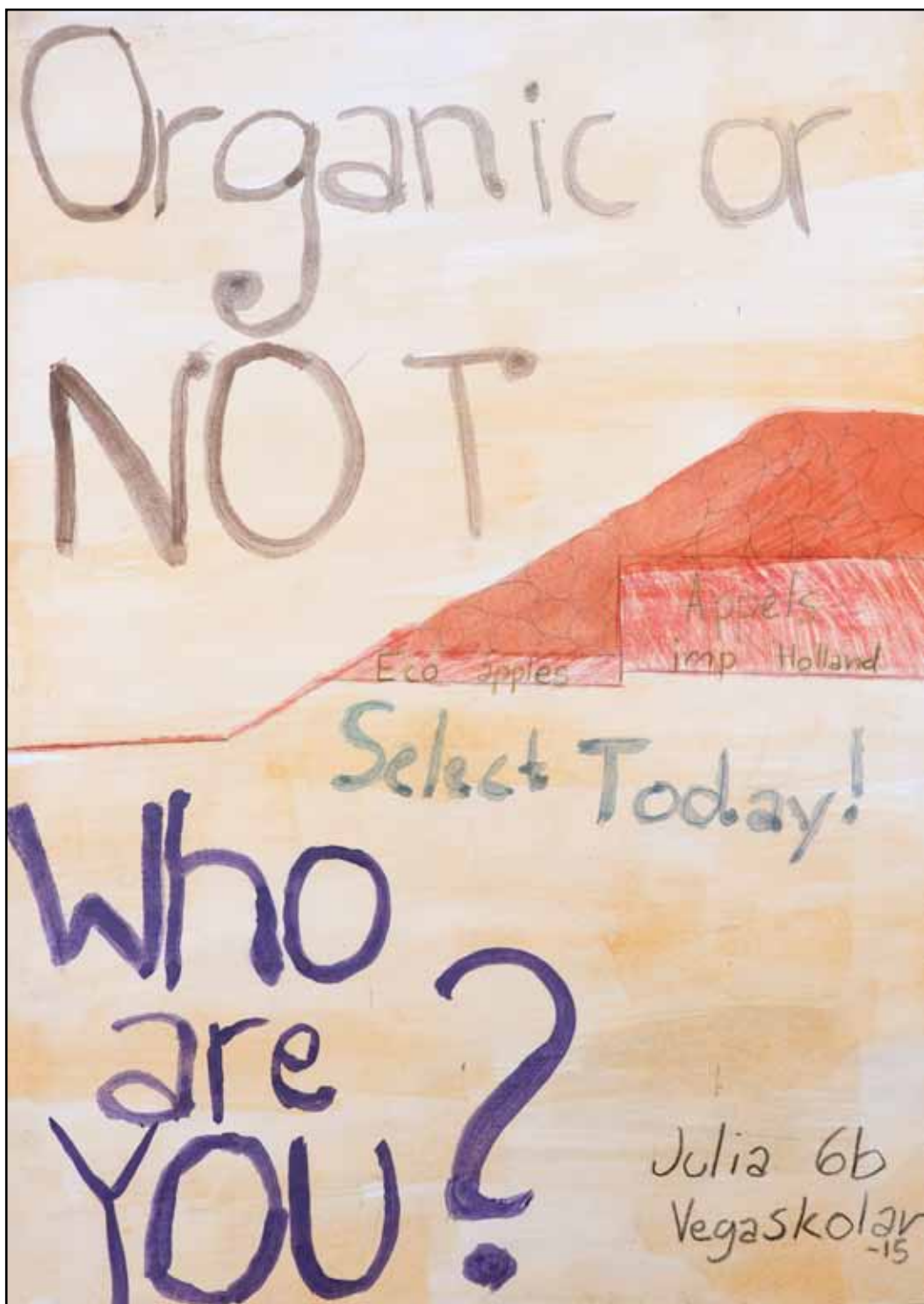


Martin
AGE 3

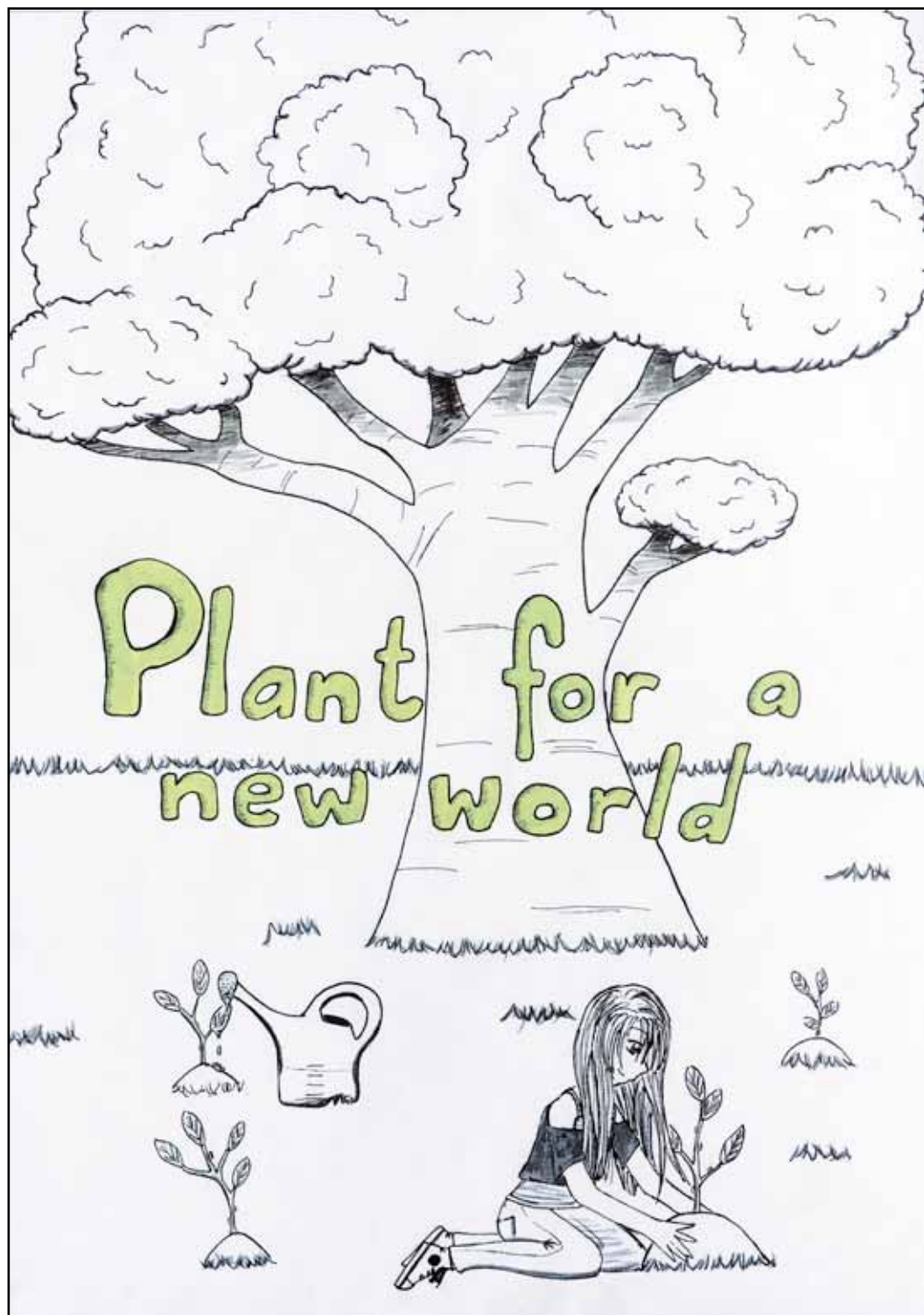


Preschool B

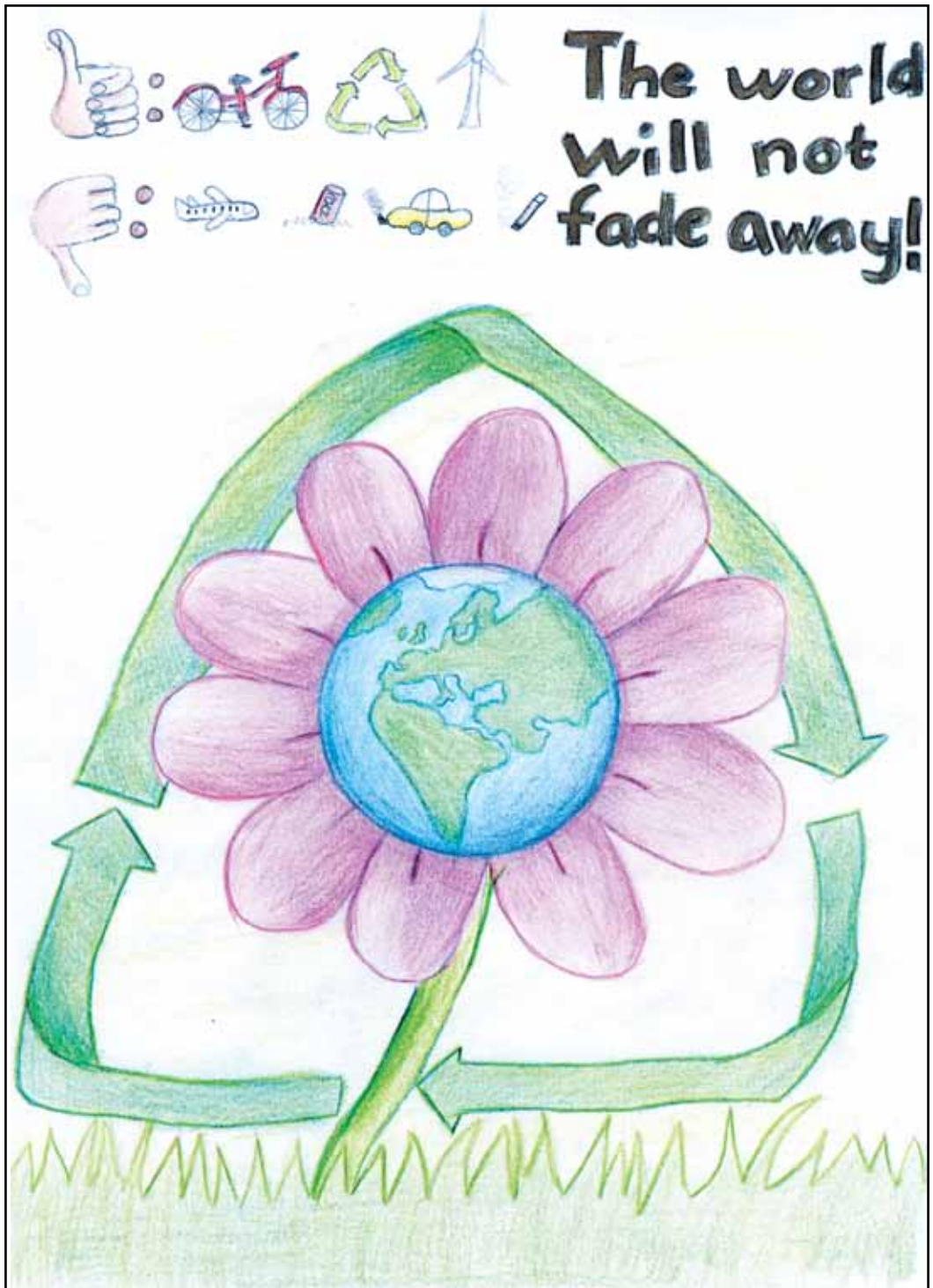
Teamwork Kullaviksskolan | AGE 6-9



Julia Bäckström Wegebro
AGE 12



Mimosa Wittenfelt
AGE 15



Karolina Alvekrans

AGE 12

Respect

by Finny P.

Respect nature, protect nature

Don't make it all a city,

That would be such a pity!

Think about the trees, the bees,

Don't pollute, salute!

To the environment that Mother Earth
gave us

Use your bike or take a hike,

instead of the bus

Who knows, that might be
something you like

project group

TOMMY BENGTTSSON:
Project leader

EVA HALLSTRÖM:
Principal

KENNETH NYLANDER:
IT technician

LEIF LARSSON:
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All participating children



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of the
World!!!



Keep the planet alive

The future concerns all of us, some more than others. Keep the Planet Alive is an association that gives a voice to children and young people in contexts concerning the environment. The making of this book is related to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Paris December 2015. It was there handed to about 200 of the world's ministers of environment. It is important to listen to children. To invest in them and in their education is perhaps one of the most important factors in order to ensure sustainable development. Their pictures can hopefully be an inspiration in the work of keeping our planet alive and also serve as a reminder to us that we must take responsibility for the generation to come.

Many children took part in creating this book, together with texts by some of Sweden's most prominent names in the field of environment.

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