

Trash Island: The World's Dirty Little Secret



by Mrs. Grady's 6th Grade Class

*The World's Dirty Little Secret:
Trash Island*



Dedicated To:
All Those Who
Clean up the Oceans

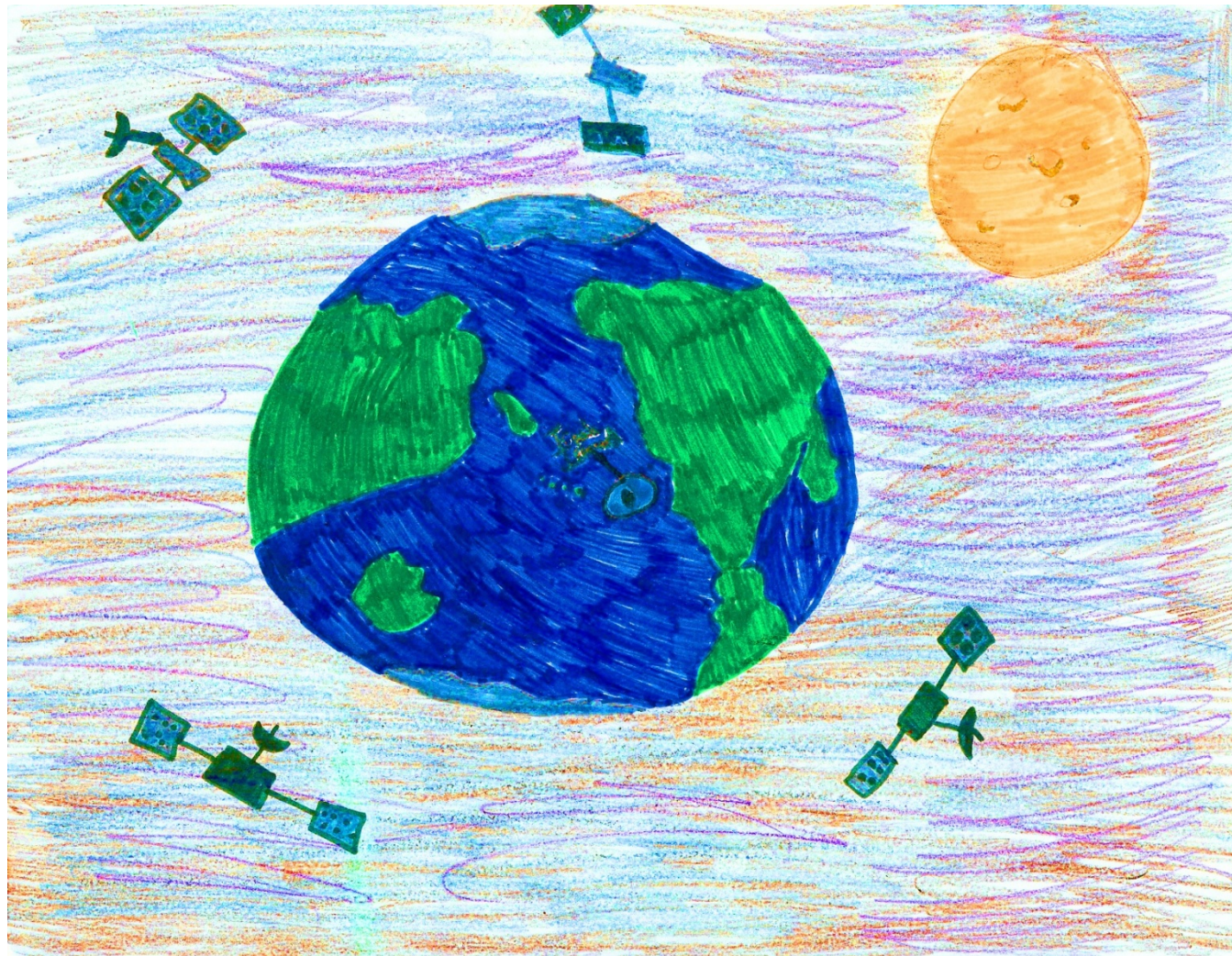
Introduction

By Zoe

Mankind has been polluting the Earth for decades, some things not as bad as others, but this goes WAY past bad. For 58 years most of the trash thrown in the ocean has been moving toward one place, the North Pacific Gyre. It's so big, twice the size of Texas, that it can be seen from space, and it's been named. This island of floating waste is called many things such as The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, The Pacific Trash Vortex, Trash Island, and the Pacific Plastic Soup.

Numerous things make up the island, including footballs, kayaks, LEGO blocks, and carrier bags. Most of the trash is thrown off ships or oil platforms, the rest comes from land.

A sailor taking a shortcut home in 1997 first discovered it. The winds and currents trap all the trash so it just sits there. This is not the first "trash island" but by far the biggest. Through this book you will be exploring causes, solutions, effects, and other ideas, some fact some fiction.



Patrick



Trash Island

By Erin & Sarah

Our big question about trash is “Where is it all going?”

We know that trash is burned or put in landfills, but we have heard rumors about Trash Island. Recently, the question, “Is Trash Island real?” True!!! Since it’s been growing, terrible things have been happening to the world.

One of the terrible things is that animals are dying. All sorts of birds, who look for prey along the shore, eat the trash. Most of the birds are so curious they happen to get caught in the trash. Soon many species will become extinct!!!

One interesting fact about trash is that, when broken down, it turns into carbon dioxide. No wonder we have so much global warming!

Bottles, plastic, and wrappers are floating in the ocean, polluting our earth. We have some solutions, but people just won’t step up to the plate. Landfills are overflowing, and many people burn the trash which is polluting our earth. Maybe we can recycle it all? However, not a lot of



Chris Knight

people will put in the effort. One idea is picking up trash along the beach. The second idea is most likely impossible, but it's worth a shot. We can dump the trash on a planet and bury it. The only problem is we don't know what would happen, whether it would be good, or bad. Well, whatever idea we decide to use, we have to do it fast!

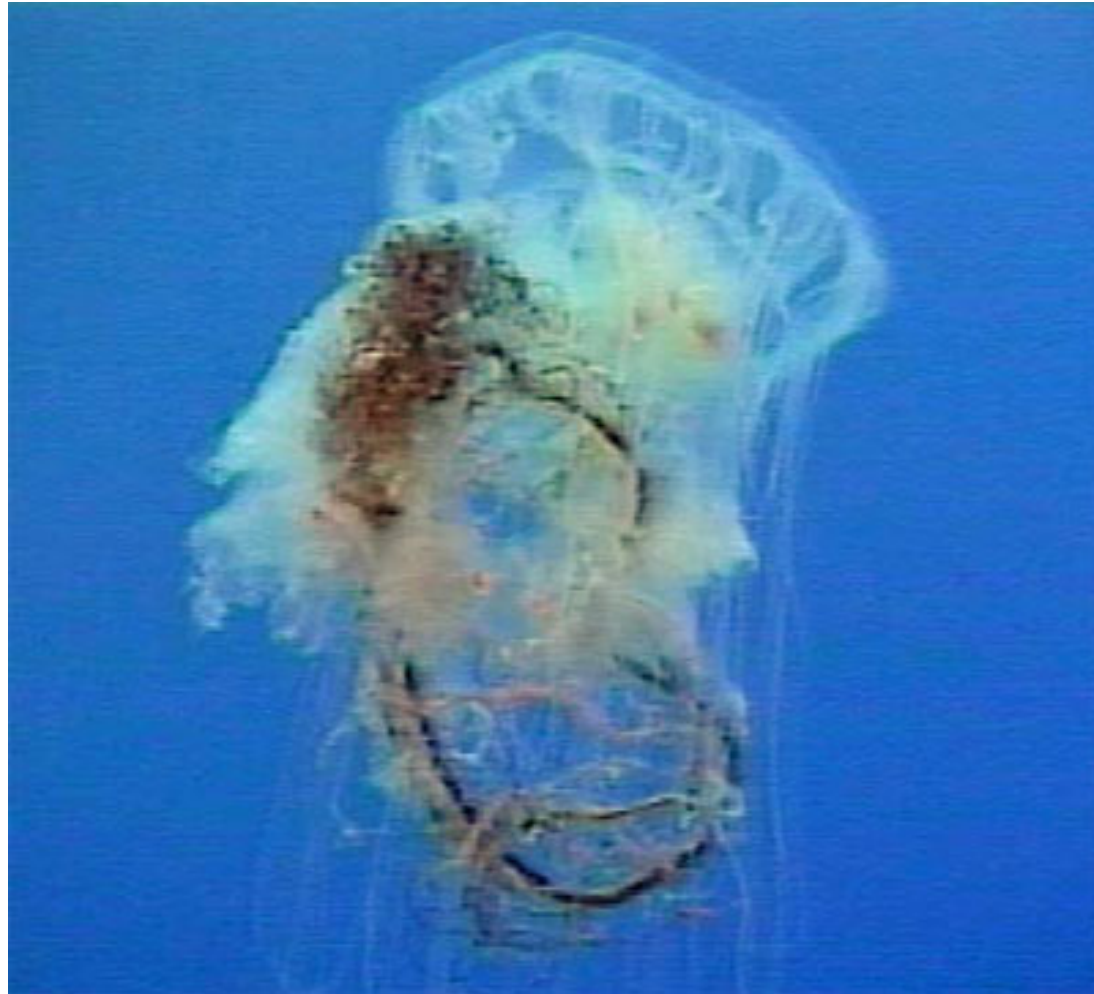


Special to the Chronicle / Kat Wade

Facts, Facts, and More Facts

By Gracie

Trash Island occupies a large region of the North Pacific Ocean. The floating particles in the trash resemble Zooplankton. Many of the long lasting pieces of trash end up in the stomachs of marine birds and animals, including sea turtles, and the Black-footed Albatross. In 2001, researchers found that in certain areas of the Patch, concentrations of plastic reached one million pieces of trash per square mile. In many areas of the affected region, the overall concentrations of plastics were greater than the amount of Zooplankton, the lead organism. Samples collected at deeper points of the water column found much lower levels of plastic debris, confirming earlier observations that most plastic waste stays on the top of the water. This is all horrible for our planet. How much longer do we have before all the oceans of the world are nothing but floating garbage dumps? America is the biggest contributor in the world; we throw away more than any other county. Not most people seem to be making the biggest effort to clean things up. Hopefully in the next couple of years we'll start making a better effort and we can stop global warming!



Plastic Soup

By Rebecca

Over the years mankind has been polluting our earth mainly by littering. From this trash, since the 1950's, an island of garbage has been growing bigger and bigger. It is probably about twice the size of Texas. It is floating in the Pacific Ocean somewhere between San Francisco and Japan. This island of waste weighs about 3.5 million pounds, and is made of about 80% plastic. It is trapped in a circular shape by winds and currents, causing it to move slowly. It turns out that the Trash Island is actually two large linked areas of circling garbage. People have thought that you could just walk on this Trash Island but it is floating, like a type of plastic soup, but it is not compressed enough to walk on. It is not mainly from people throwing their litter into the ocean, but has picking it up from beaches for years now. Even Australia is contributing towards this Plastic soup.

People believe that 80% of the waste comes from sources on land such as beaches and shores, and 20% comes from ships at sea. Because Hawaii is about in the middle of Japan and San Francisco, daily waste washes up on some beaches.



Lizzie

Animals have been harmed from Trash Island too. Jellyfish are one of the species that have started to eat some of this trash, causing it to enter the marine life food chain. This means that more and more marine animal's bodies are becoming polluted with this garbage. Birds also eat this waste by just simply swooping down and eating the larger pieces of plastic as their food. Fish are also threatened by the plastic soup when they eat the tiny pieces of plastic mistaking them for their food. This garbage they eat contaminates their bodies including their inside meat that people eat daily.

Everyday marine animals are hurt by this waste in a variety of ways. One of these ways is how jellyfish quite often get tangled in the waste. Another is just the consuming of the garbage as described before. Fishing gear is common along the variety of waste; these fishing lines have gotten tied around bird's necks, to the point where when they grow up the string gets tighter and tighter. Ducks have swallowed plastic bottle caps to medications that have not digested with the plastic's chemicals to the point where the plastic just sits in their stomachs. Fishing nets have trapped and killed fish until they are torn to bits.

Common things found in the trash are fishing nets and lines, toothbrushes, and plastic zip block bags. These things all pose as a threat to our marine animals that need to be saved. We need to get rid of this trash as soon as we can to save these living creatures.

Trash Kong

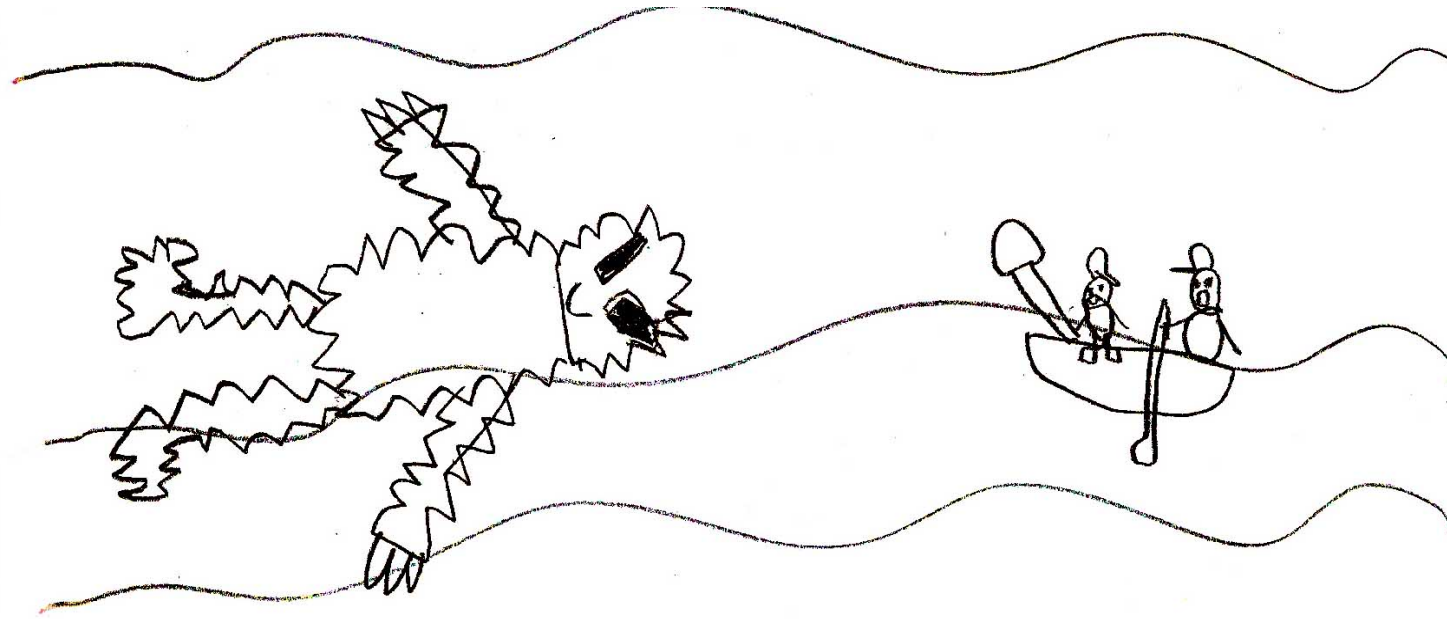
By Danny, Johnny, Joseph, Mat
Stephan, Kane

Black & white illustrations by Joseph



Henry Modries was the toughest guy in the world. He could beat up 50 kindergarteners, 20 world champ boxers, and 60 sumo wrestlers at the same time, with both hands tied behind his back. But one day, he punched a nuclear waste bin so hard it flew all the way to Trash Island. Henry didn't care about nuclear waste, so he went back to school where all the boys and girls treated him like a god. Meanwhile, the nuclear waste bin was slowly seeping into Trash Island.

That same day, two fishermen sailed near Trash Island. Suddenly, the fisherman heard Trash Island yell, "FEE, FI, FO, FUM, you walk on me I'll gobble you up." All of a sudden, Trash Island no longer was an island, it became Trash Kong. It wasn't an island anymore, it was a monster.



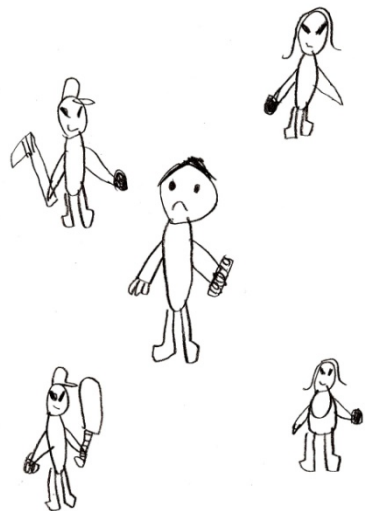
“Who are you?” asked one of the fishermen. “I am Trash Kong,” he said. The fishermen sailed as fast as they could in their boat and went straight to San Francisco, but Trash Kong was right behind them.

When the fishermen arrived at the shore, they ran everywhere screaming. Soon they ran to Henry’s school and told him everything that happened. Henry was short, but he could run 170 miles per hour – tops! He ran to San Francisco where Trash Kong was eating everything.

Henry yelled, “Hey ugly, you better get out of here or else you’re going to get a big whooping.”

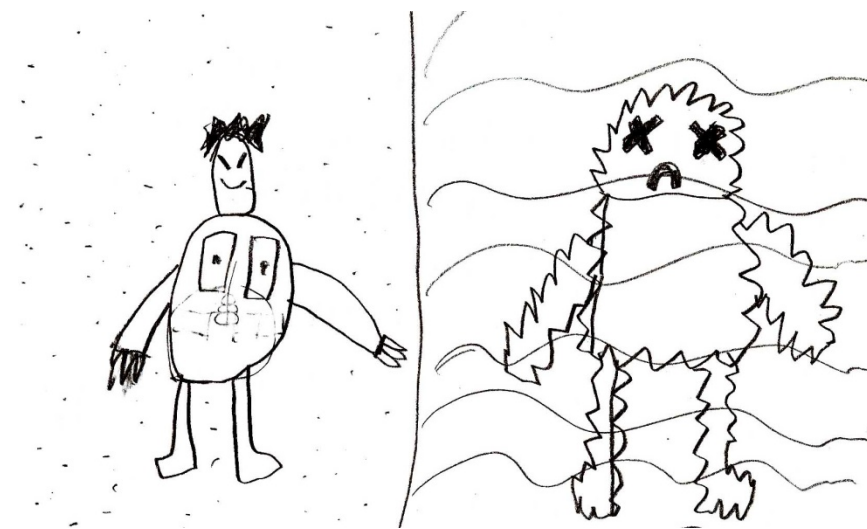


Trash Kong laughed so hard it shook the ground. “Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!” He flicked Henry so hard that it sent him through 10 walls. “You aren’t the best anymore,” said Trash Kong. “Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!”



Somehow, Henry survived. Everyday at lunch, he got beaten up by every kindergartener in the world.

One day, Henry got sick of it and stole a kindergartener's helping of spinach. Then, Henry ran faster than he had ever run before. He ran 500,000 miles per hour. He headed to the beach where Trash Kong was eating everything.



Trash Kong laughed when he saw Henry. "Ha, Ha, Ha, Did you come back for another whooping?" Henry said, "This time it's going to be you who gets the beating." Then, Henry punched Trash Kong's stomach so hard, it came apart. In less than five seconds, Trash Kong healed. "Now it's my turn." Trash Kong punched Henry with broken glass. Henry thought there was nothing left to do, but eat the spinach. So he ate it as Trash Kong laughed. Suddenly, Henry turned into Popeye and the Incredible Hulk, mixed, and was the same size as Trash Kong (Trash Island). Henry punched as fast as he could.



Kane

After a few minutes, Trash Kong was dead. That is how he destroyed Trash Island. All the trash flew into the air and landed in trash cans around the world.



The Tales of Trash Man!!!!

Written & Illustrated by Alex, Ethan, Connor, Christian

Once upon a time, there was a man he was a super hero. His name was Trash Man. Living on the outskirts of Trash Island, he was the wealthiest man on the island. Trash Man's greatest obsession was to rid the sea of jelly fish pirates who killed his parents and to reach the rich soil of America.

When he was only one year old, his parents were attacked by the horrible jelly fish trash pirates. His parents set him adrift to hopefully save his life. The currents pushed him until he came upon Trash Island. A mass of plastic waste created a floating island twice the size of Texas. It is located between San Francisco, California and the Islands of Hawaii. As a toddler crawling around, he fed on fish, squid, and the occasional sea gull. His playmates were Whales and Dolphins. Living on the outskirts of Trash Island he grew up not knowing that there were others on the far side of the island living in Trash City, the Capital of Trash Island. He never wandered off because of his fear of the jelly fish, trash pirates that often lurked around the island. Living in the piles of trash opened his eyes to all of the possibilities and inventions on Trash Island. He created a home from the piles of floating Styrofoam blocks and Plexiglas sheets.



When he was just 11 years old, he had already created many handy devices to assist his life on the island. His favorite invention was the ketchup gun and the toaster cannon. It seems that a large cargo ship dropped a container of Mc

Donald's ketchup packages into the ocean. He fished them out of the water for years, and he has a lifetime supply. Trash Man longed to explore the island but knew he would need protection. He discovered by mistake that the pirates were disintegrated by the ketchup acid. So he devised a gun to pop and squeeze the packages rapidly shooting a stream of lethal ketchup acid at his target. It had an affective range to 400 yards. The toaster cannons were more like a sniper rifle. He launched dual plastic computer disc from it to shred apart the target on impact. It had an affective range of 500 yards. This was handy in hunting for sea gull and squid.

Once armed and ready to explore he set out on a week long journey to see what he could see. He walked and walked and walked and walked some more...UNTIL he could see what appeared to be a civilization. The city adapted to the harsh environment on Trash Island. When he entered the city he was amazed at the others who were like himself. He soon found a store that he could sell his many inventions. He created a warehouse where he could mass produce his inventions. He had many locals who enjoyed working with him. They thought he was a true genius. This is how he became the wealthiest man on the island.

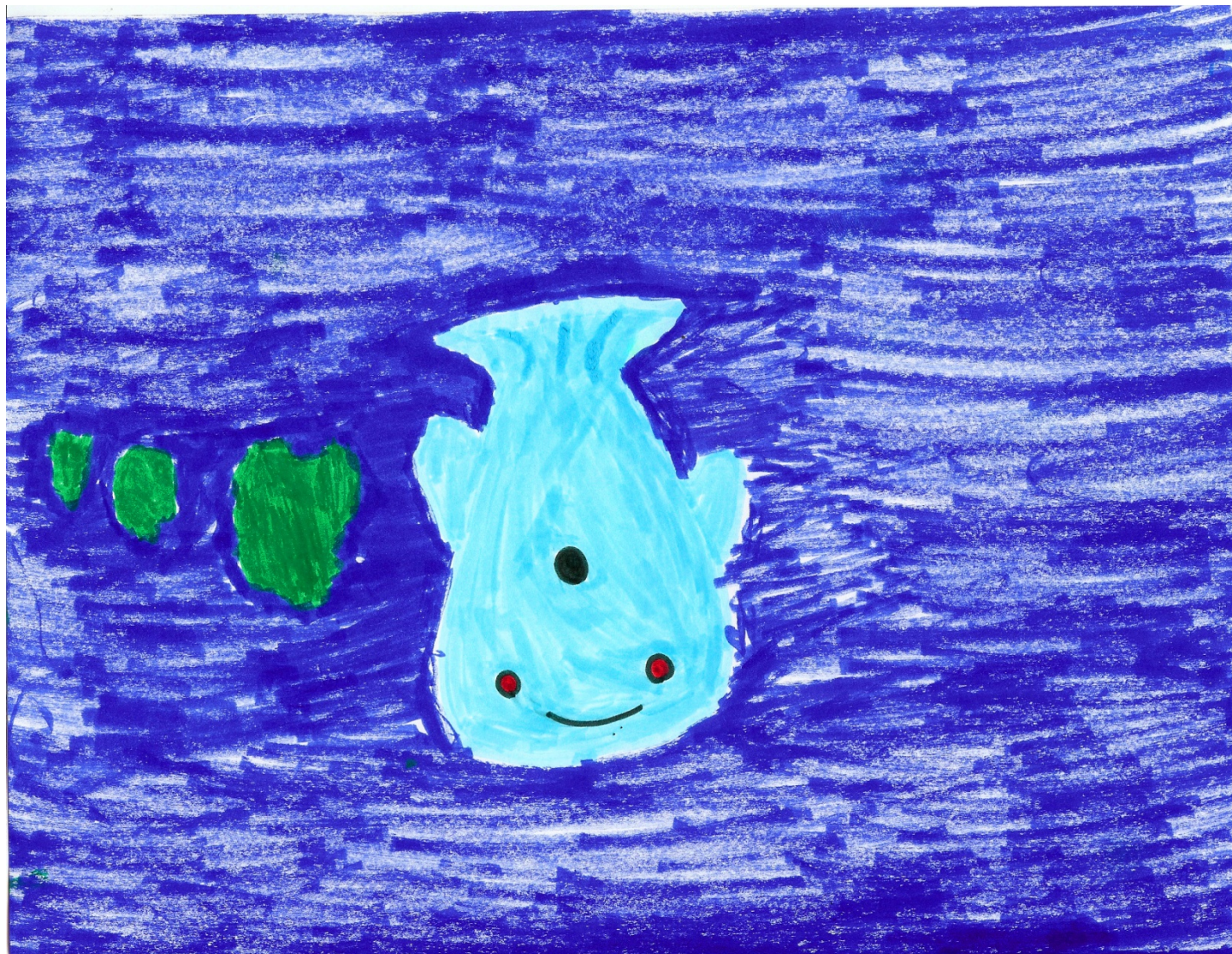


One hazy morning when the civilians of Trash Island were enjoying their morning the capital building blew up! Trash was flying everywhere. Trash Island was under siege. Trash Man's greatest obsession to rid the sea of the jelly fish trash pirates was about to come true. He quickly armed the population of 500 people with his ketchup guns and toaster cannons. They were up against a squadron of jelly fish pirates, equipped with two ships armed with toxic venom guns. If they were to breach the city the people of the island would be dead.... He organized a group of willing men and women to create a defense barrier around the city; they created a series of trenches and filled them full of globs of gooey ketchup. Trash Man ordered his men to charge; he sent a group of 100 people up the center and sent two flanking parties to the side, which would later barricade the pirates inside a circle of tomato acid. Soon the people of Trash Island realized that Trash Man was a true Super Hero, he had helped them defend against the pirates. They were victorious with but a few minor casualties. Now that the pirates were surrounded in the ketchup trenches, their ships were available for the people of Trash Island to set to the rich soils of America.



Before setting sail on the ships they had acquired in battle they needed to have a good amount of food to last them the entire trip. Everyone on Trash Island quickly gathered food and supplies to store in the brig of the ship. Trash Man charted a course to the land he had seen in the magazines that had washed up on the island. He was anxious to dine in fine restaurants and eat fresh fruits and vegetables. In a few days this would all be available. All 500 civilians set sail for AMERICA, the greatest country on earth.

Four years later, Ralph a.k.a. Trash Man, earned his degree in college as an environmental scientist. He is now trying to rid the world of plastic waste.



Sacrificial Sid

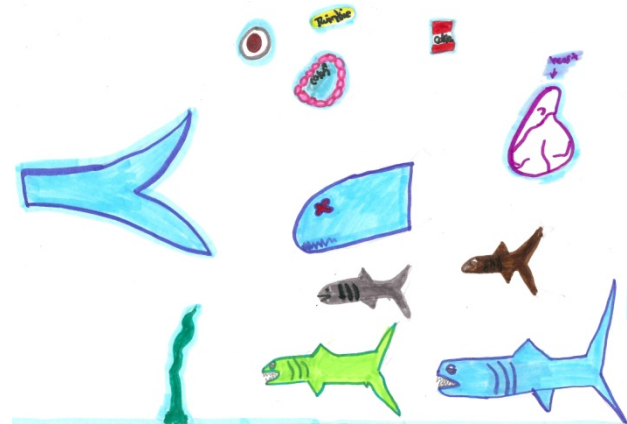
By John, John, Dalany, Cara ~ Illustrated by John

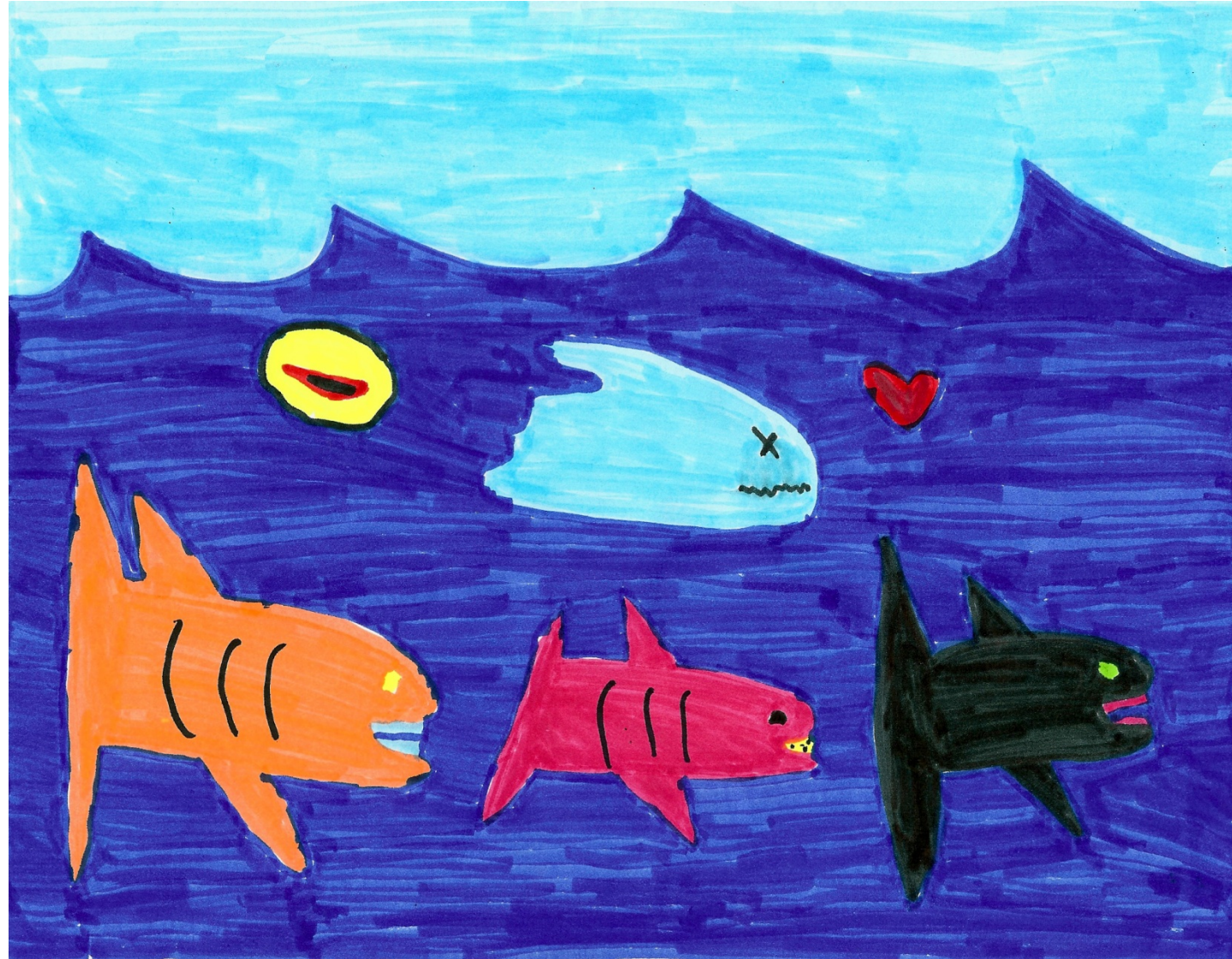
Have you ever heard of an island twice the size of Texas? It's made of trash, and yes it's real!! Animals are dying from eating garbage on the island. It's called the Island of Trash. Even though it weighs over 3.5 tons, you can't walk on it. It isn't quite stable enough. It grows a quarter of itself every decade. At this rate it might eat up Hawaii (eventually). It is located between Hawaii and San Francisco; it is right in the path of migrating whales. As they swim toward the North Pole, there is a possibility the whales might eat some of the garbage from the island. This section of this book is about a whale migrating south toward warmer waters.

Almost to his breeding grounds, Sid swam through the Pacific Ocean. He saw a large body of trash and swam over to investigate. He scurried over to the mass of trash and tasted a Twinkie. He loved it! He began to eat more and more of the garbage. As he did, he felt a pain in his stomach. He ignored it and kept eating until all the garbage was gone.



He continued along his journey, but decided to stop to rest. While resting, he heard a noise from above. It was a couple of Whalers! So Sid, frightened by their presence, swam under the water far away from the whalers. Once he thought he was safe, he shot up to the surface, desperate for air. They were gone! He swam to the breeding grounds, and found a place to sleep. Just as he did this, a female whale swam up to him. "How are you?" Sid asked. "I am doing well." she said. This whale became Sid's wife. They hope to some day have kids. Moments later, the Whalers came back and shot at Sid. All types of waste blew out. Sid, now in tiny pieces, was thought to be no longer alive.





After two weeks of eating waste bits, the fish were full. However, after a few more weeks, they were hungry again. They swam around the Pacific Ocean and found the Island of Trash, which had reassembled. They ate and ate until all the trash was gone. Then a group of sharks viciously pushed in and ate the fish, so now all of the trash and fish were gone.

Back in Hawaii, there was a great celebration because all of the trash mysteriously disappeared. News reporters were everywhere; roads were blocked all over Hawaii. While the Hawaiians were celebrating, the people in California were baffled at this phenomenal event occurring.

The Sharks, who ate the fish, were sick. They didn't feel well. After many weeks of sickness, they realized that the fish made them sick, and decided never to eat fish again in fear of becoming ill, but other things that float in the ocean would be a better diet. They now live near where Trash Island once stood. The people were still baffled, but celebrated the trash being gone. It was an exciting year. Everything went back to normal within a few weeks time.



All is quiet and peaceful, and everyone is happy, but apparently the thing that the whalers shot was not Sid! It was a floating waste barrel, which floated toward the breeding grounds. Sid and his wife were happy again to be united, back home, and doing well. And guess what? Sid's digestive system was able to get rid of the garbage and turn it into good food for the bottom feeding fish. Guess what else? Sid's wife is going to have a healthy baby.





The Tale of Four Fish

Written & Illustrated by By Taylor, Kelsey, Hannah, Jenny

It all started when Mr. Noodles, the teacher, turned around and heard the four fish talking. Their names were Ruby, the red one with the shimmer of yellow, Sapphire, the yellow one with a hint of purple, Pearl the light pink, and Jade, the one blended with a rainbow of many colors. After he heard the girls talking he said, "You girls have one more chance or you get detention". When Mr. Noodles turned around he heard Sapphire and Ruby giggling, so he gave all the girls detention and reported all four of them to Mr. Blow, the Sherriff. Pearl and Jade yelled, "Thanks a lot guys, you got us a detention! "Why, you guys were talking too." Sapphire and Ruby yelled back. After the argument, there was nothing but silence.

The next day during detention, Sapphire and Ruby made plans to go to the Trash Island hide-out while Pearl and Jade were making the same plans.



After school, Sapphire swam to the hide-out to meet Ruby, but instead Jade was there. "What are you doing here?" Jade and Sapphire snapped at the same time. Jade said, "I was here to meet Pearl". Then the arguing started again. During their arguments, they saw a big black scary shadow. "What was that?" Sapphire said in a terrified voice. "I don't know, but let's get out of here". Jade screamed. When they started to swim away, the big black shadow followed them. At the time, Ruby and Pearl heard treacherous screams coming from Jade and Sapphire.

"Should we go and help them?" Ruby suggested. "Sure", Pearl agreed. Then Ruby and Pearl swam toward Sapphire and Jade and shouted out, "Stay back!!" "Why?" Pearl asked. "There's a huge shadow that's following us, and we think it's a shark". Sapphire and Jade exclaimed. Then, the big black scary shadow appeared again. Ruby and Pearl started to swim away. "Why are you guys swimming away?" Jade and Sapphire asked. With fear on their faces, Jade and Sapphire turned around and saw a huge, ferocious purple shark. As fast as they could, they swam away screaming, while the shark chased after them with a very hungry look on his face.



Ruby and Pearl were trying to distract the shark, but he could not see them. Without notice, Sapphire and Jade swam toward Trash Island into a ringy mobobber. Without knowing, they found themselves stuck. Out of the blue, Ruby and Pearl pushed Sapphire and Jade out of the ringy mobobbers while the shark searched for the fish. They scurried and hid in a little plastic container where the shark could not possibly see them.

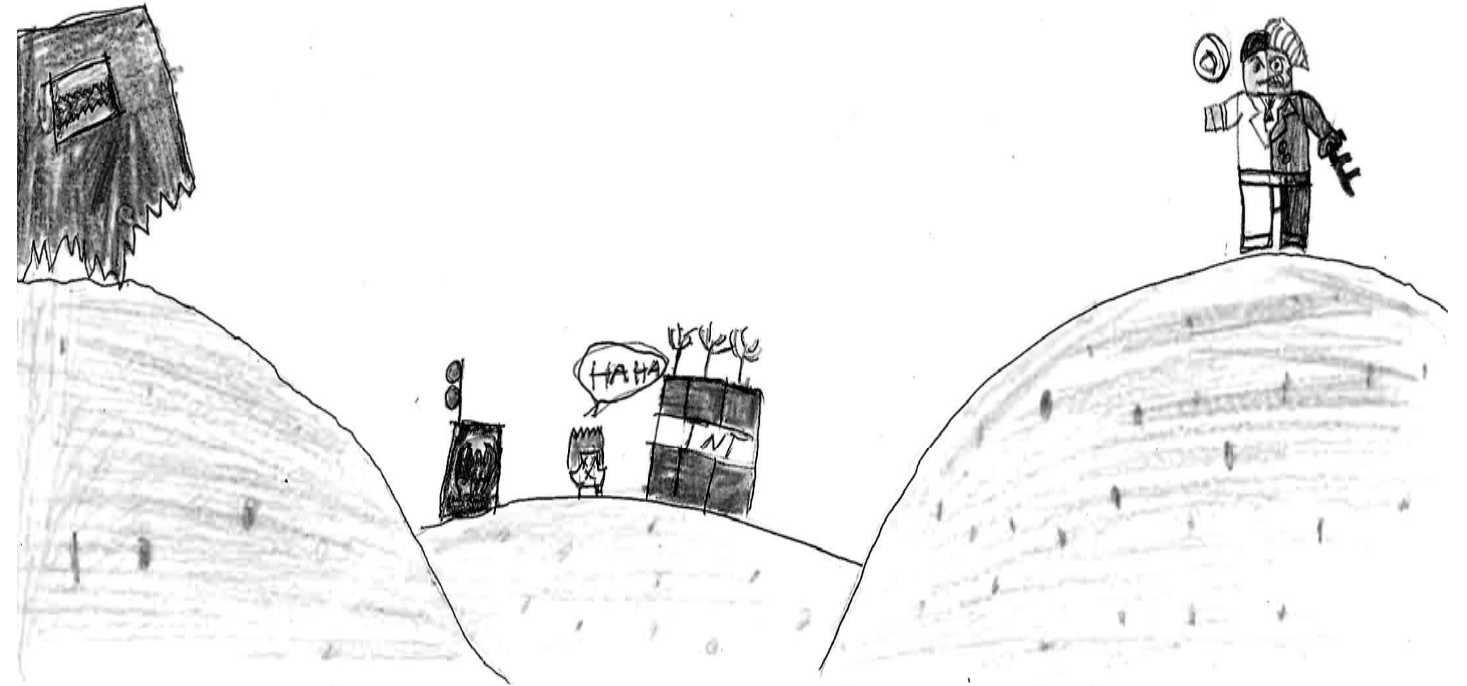
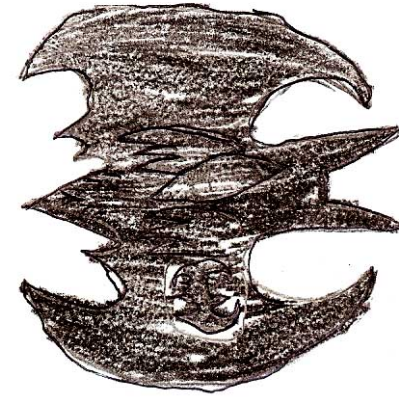
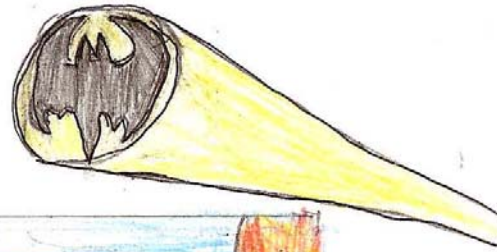


When the shark was out of sight, the four fish rushed to the “bubble booth” to call Sheriff Blow in order to arrest the purple shark.

All four girls apologized to each other and became known as “the four fish friends forever”. The next day, they were really well behaved during class, which shows that, perhaps, Trash Island should be developed into a place to rehabilitate students that misbehave in class.

By Joe & Ethan

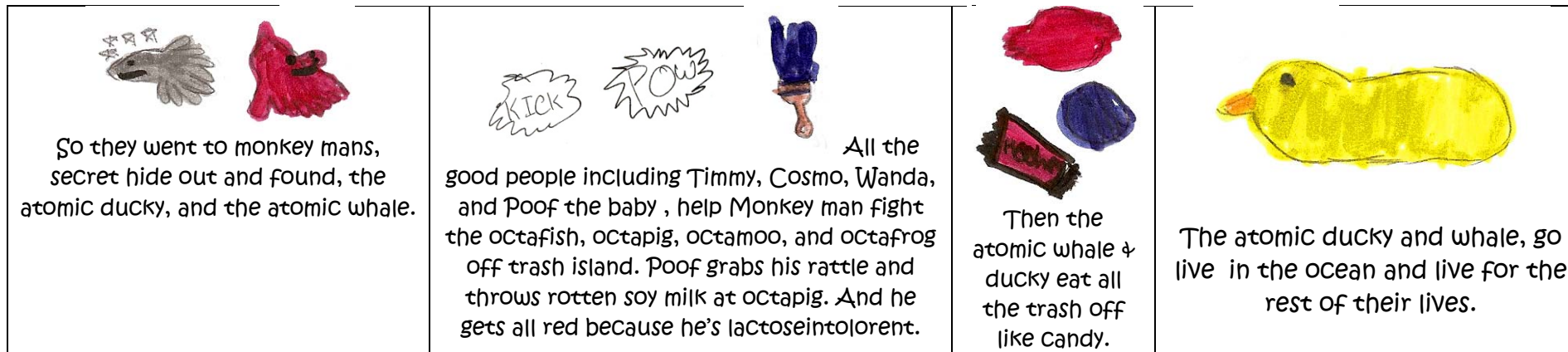
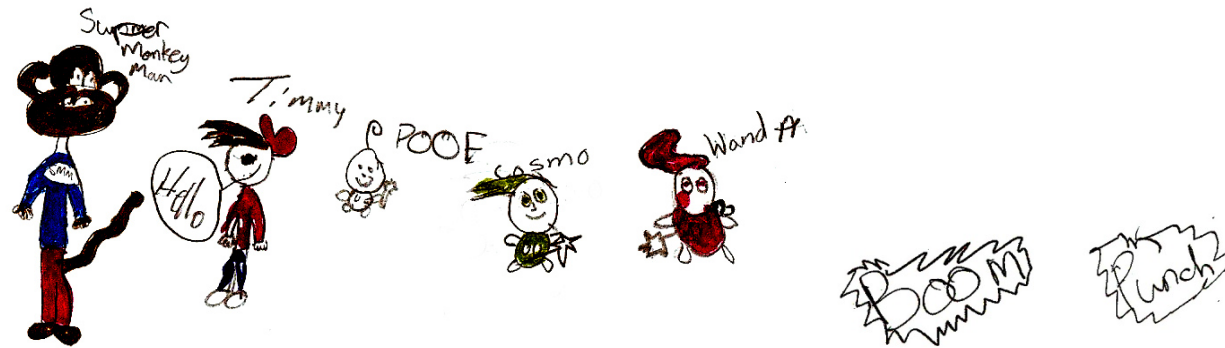
LEGO BATMAN AND INDIANA JONES



POOF by Tamra +Chelby



Then they get there and they find Super monkey man! "Hello, Timmy and friends. Would you like to help me with on my project?"
"What project?" "Well the project where I'm going to get rid of trash island of course." "We'd love to Monkey man"





Since all of trash island was gone, monkey man had nowhere to and Timmy noticed that.
So what they did was, they offered monkey man to stay with them and he agreed.
So everybody was happy.
And monkey everything that he wanted, which is, Trash Island is gone.