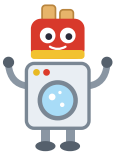
Mateusz and the Planet With No Trees

A space fairy tale about why nature matters



Mateusz
POLAND
Human boy, 10. A clever inventor with a pocket full of screws. Thinks Earth is boring.



Cha-cho
SPAIN
Robot, built last Tuesday from a washing machine and a toaster. Dances when nervous.



Habibi-bibi
JORDAN
Little alien, 7 (that's 700 in Earth years!). Says everything twice, twice.

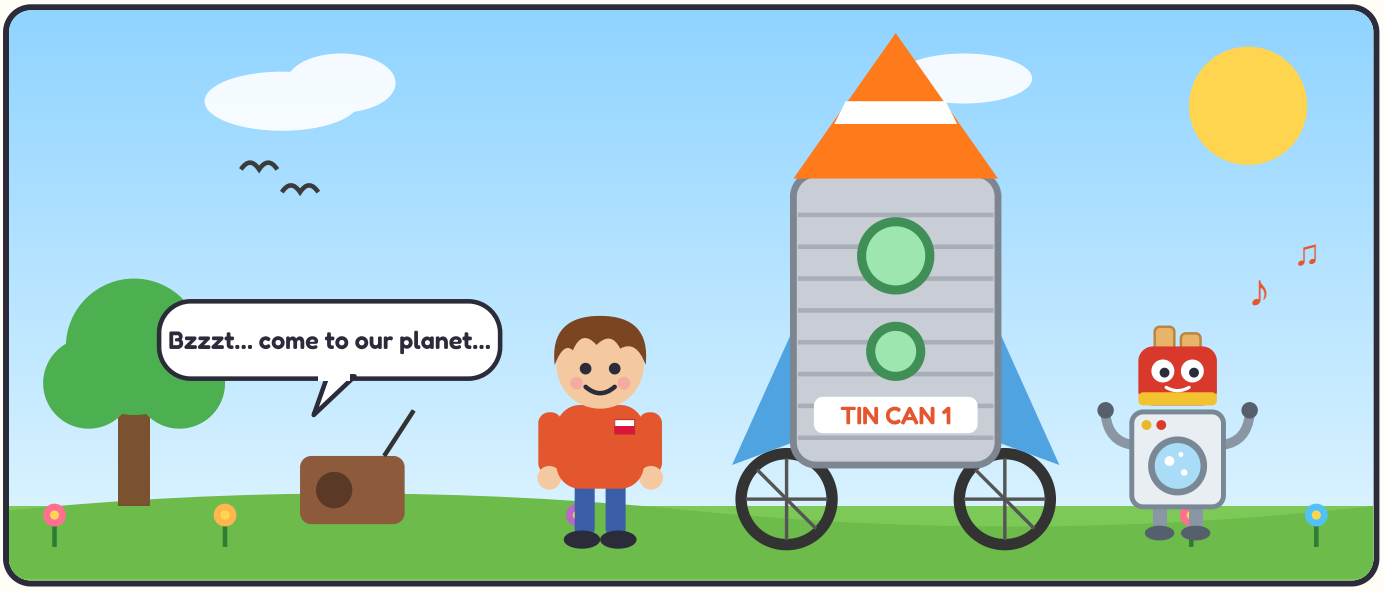


Salo-malo
UKRAINE
The Alien King and Habibi-bibi's grandpa. Once wanted MORE of everything.



King Olivo
EARTH
The King of Earth. Kind, but busy, and he loves big new buildings.

Chapter 1 Earth Is Boring!



Mateusz was ten years old. He had messy hair, a pocket full of screws, and one very big opinion: **Earth is BORING.**

"Don't pick the flowers! Don't chase the ducks! Turn off the tap!" Rules, rules, rules. "Somewhere in space there must be a better planet," he grumbled. "A *perfect* one."

One night, his old radio began to crackle: **"Bzzzt... come to our planet... bzzzt... please..."**

"An invitation!" gasped Mateusz. "From SPACE!"

He didn't buy a spaceship. He **built** one, from a bathtub, two bicycle wheels, a traffic cone and 312 empty cans. He called it the **Tin Can**. Then he built a co-pilot from an old washing machine and a toaster, and named him **Cha-cho**.

"Ready, Cha-cho?"

"I am nervous!" beeped Cha-cho, and did a little dance. "When I am nervous, I dance!"

3... 2... 1... WHOOOOSH!

The story idea was created by the youth exchange participants (humans). The design and illustrations were created with the help of AI.

Chapter 2 The Gray Planet



The Tin Can landed with a **CLUNK!** on a planet far, far away. Mateusz looked out of the window. Then he looked again.

Everything was gray. Gray dust. Gray rocks. Gray, cracked ground where a river used to be. No trees. No flowers. No birds singing. Nine out of every ten places on this planet were completely empty.

"Hmm," said Mateusz. "This is NOT a perfect planet."

Suddenly a small green alien with three eyes came running. "You came! You came! I am Habibi-bibi! I sent the message, the message!"

"Your invitation?" asked Mateusz.

Habibi-bibi shook all three eyes. "Not an invitation. A call for **HELP, HELP!** Our planet is dying, dying!" The noisy radio had eaten the most important word.

In the middle of the city stood a glass dome: the **Museum of the Last Tree**. Inside was one small, tired tree. Aliens waited in a very long line just to smell its leaves.

"Where are your animals?" asked Mateusz. Habibi-bibi showed him an old photo. "This was a buzzle-bee. Buzzle-bees helped flowers grow. Flowers made fruit. Fruit fed the birds. Now there are only photos, photos."

Cha-cho started to dance. He was very, very nervous.

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Chapter 3 The King Who Wanted MORE



Habibi-bibi took them to the palace. On a throne made from an old tree stump sat a tall alien with a long white mustache and a wooden crown. "This is my grandpa," whispered Habibi-bibi. "King Salo-malo."

The King sighed a very long sigh. "Long ago, our planet was greener than yours. But I wanted **MORE**. More wood for bigger palaces. More fish for bigger feasts. More fields for bigger pancakes. Every day we took a little more than nature could grow back."

He pointed to a tower of wooden blocks: TREES, BEES, BIRDS, FISH, FLOWERS, WATER. "Nature is like this tower. Everything holds up everything else." He pulled out the TREES block. The birds lost their homes. The bees lost their flowers. The rivers dried up... **CRASH!**

"I thought nature would last forever," said the King quietly. "It doesn't."

Mateusz's heart felt heavy. "I flew all the way here to find a perfect planet."

The King smiled sadly. "Little one, perfect planets are not *found*. They are *taken care of*."

And suddenly Mateusz understood: the perfect planet was the one he had left behind. "We will help you," he promised Habibi-bibi. "But first I must go home. FAST!"

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Chapter 4 Back to Earth



When the Tin Can landed, Mateusz heard a terrible noise: **VRRRRM!** Big yellow bulldozers were waiting at the edge of the Whispering Forest. A sign said: *COMING SOON: The Biggest Shopping Mall in the World! By order of King Olivo.*

"Oh no," said Mateusz. "It's starting here too!"

He ran straight to the palace. "Your Majesty, STOP!" He told the King everything: the gray dust, the Last Tree, the photos of buzzle-bees and the falling tower. Cha-cho played his recording of King Salo-malo: *"Perfect planets are not found. They are taken care of."*

King Olivo was quiet for a long time. Then he tore up his plans. "We almost made the same mistake," he said. That day he made a new law, the **Green Rule**:

- The Whispering Forest is protected forever, as a home for every bird, bee and fox.
- Take one, plant three: if one tree must be cut, three new trees must be planted.
- Every spring is Children's Forest Day: everyone plants trees and builds homes for bees and birds.

And the Tin Can flew back to space, full of seeds, so Habibi-bibi and King Salo-malo could plant their very first new forest. "Thank you, thank you!"

Flying home, Mateusz looked down at the Earth: blue, green and full of life. "There is no better planet," he smiled. "Only this one. And it's ours to protect."

The End

What can YOU do?

Plant a tree or flower • Build a bee hotel or bird house • Save paper (it comes from trees!) • Let wildflowers grow • Turn off the tap • Tell grown-ups why nature matters!

HELIOS
Co-funded by the European Union

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Activity Draw the Story!

Now it's your turn to be the artist! First, draw each character in their circle. Then draw your favourite moments from the story in the boxes.

Mateusz	Cha-cho	Habibi-bibi	Salo-malo	King Olivo
POLAND	SPAIN	JORDAN	UKRAINE	EARTH

1 **Draw Mateusz and Cha-cho building the Tin Can spaceship from old things!**

2 **Draw the gray planet and the Museum of the Last Tree.**

3 **Draw sad King Salo-malo and the falling tower of nature blocks.**

4 **Draw everyone planting the new forest, and the Tin Can flying seeds to space!**

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