

# Stories & Fables for Climate Age Kids

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### **My House is a Safeway Cart**

I don't really "come home" after work since I push my home around the neighborhood all day. My job is to stay dry and find a meal at the food bank when they're open. While you could say that I'm not really homeless, my shopping cart still needs some technical support from tarps and cardboard. I barter clothes for things like rope, soap and blankets.

I had a real home once, back when my folks where together. I have my GED. It's hard to have a bike and a shopping cart, so I sold the bike.

The weather is the big game changer: sun vs.rain; heat vs.cold. It's like that old Boy Scout slogan: Be Prepared. But the more I am prepared the less room I have in my cart house. It's hard to know what to keep and what to donate when the weather is changing.

Living on the street has its ups and downs: some freedoms, many dead ends. I get that my shopping cart is stolen property but I am thankful that it lessens my load and keeps my stuff together.

I've never had it stolen thankfully, now that would make even God shudder.

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### **Sister Volcano - A Children's Fable**

Sister Volcano, steam and some ash floating over her rim, was giving her 100 year safety lecture on the dangers of her volcanic fire. The Tribe gathered around, shakey eyes and ears to the sky.

"When it comes time for me blow, you will need to retreat to a safer place, away from your current village, just in case. As in your permaculture training , Zone 5 is the safest."

"It's survival off the prepared," she sang. "Folks who do not understand the heat and devastation of my deep heat source will soon be ash dust and fossils. The record is clear on my mountain."

"Care of the people is a collaborative effort," she snorted. "And like the soil base, it is built-up over time."

Over the years, with each blast, the villagers were spared its burning heat. Ash and lava came streaming out into the air and down the far-side of the ancient volcano. The Tribe felt it coming on, and moved out of harm's way, prepared for the fire and it's ground burning ways.

In her firefly meditation, Sister Volcano was watching over all, and all knowing.

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### **Chino and the Water Generator**

Chino was trying to cut a small trench to her Food Forest in order to bring rain water to her plants from a nearby mountain.

But the Soil was hard-packed and bitter about being carved, and said so: “Little darling, isn’t the fertile soil in your food forest just right for growing beets and greens and other little things?”

“I tried the no-till approach but my soil still dries out,” she exclaimed to the Sky. “No rain in sight!”

Next her mountain chimed in: “I’m having trouble making rain, it is true, little one, but a dirt irrigation trench will soon collapse under the weight of the rushing water.

“What else can you try, Chino? What about the fog bank?”

“I could try to collect water condensation with a fine mesh, supported by bamboo.” So she travelled part-way up the Valley to the start of the Jungle zone to speak with the bamboo.

“Can I harvest some poles from your home in order to make a water collector from the Fog? The drip will collect in a bucket so I can give my food forest a regular drink.”

“Yes, little one. You can harvest some of our Bamboo for your water generator.”

Weeks later, Chino was meditating blissfully about her happy food forest and the extra water that she now has to give to other gardens. She recounted her new, improved permaculture friends as follows:

### **The Food Forest**

#### **The Soil**

**The Sky**

**The Mountain**

**The Valley**

**The Jungle**

**The Fog**

**The Bamboo**

And she didn't have to spend a dime.



## **The Kelp Harvest Dance Tradition**

### **I. Kelp Forest Science -**

Aquaculture of giant Kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, is the cultivation of Kelp for uses such as food, dietary supplements or potash. Giant Kelp contains compounds such as iodine, potassium, other minerals vitamins and carbohydrates.

Offsetting current carbon emissions would require some 50 trillion trees. An alternative offset would be to cultivate kelp forests. Kelp can grow at 2 feet per day, 30 times faster than terrestrial plants. Planting kelp across 9% of the oceans (4.5 x the area of Australia) could provide the same offset. Additionally, the Kelp would support a fish harvest of 2 megatons per year and reduce ocean acidification.

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### **II. Mother Ocean has gone vertical now with Kelp leaves floating up towards to the Sun, Sky and Moon above.**

Teenagers in canoes paddle, swim, dive and prune / harvest kelp from the submerged forest. The Kelp is dried on wooden racks on the beach, then crushed for its vitamins and food supplements.

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### **III. The Kelp Harvest Dance Tradition -**

Teenagers wear swim suits made of long strands of cut kelp banded together for the Traditional Harvest Dance. Kelp is in their DNA.

Goggles, snorkel, flippers, and a small knife make up the costume of the harvest.

Swirling strands of Kelp. Twirling boys and girls receive the Sun's rays in the kelp strands.  
Gentle waves of human emotion dancing with the passion full, life sustaining Kelp.

Organic ladders in the sea,... gently tangling and untangling. Tiny blue air bubbles float silently up to the surface. Fish play with the kids like clowns at the circus!

Dusk calls the canoes back to shore, where families await their duties at the end of the dance.

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### **Super Girl and Her Magic Compost Box**

Nina carefully places the 3'x3'x4' composter box in her back yard, near her garden but close to the back door that leads to her mothers' kitchen. She is anxious to get started, having saved for months for the compost box from baby and pet sitting gigs.

From the manual, she reads the following passage aloud:

"At the simplest level, the process of composting requires making a heap of wet organic matter (also called green waste), such as leaves, grass, and food scraps, and waiting for the materials to break down into humus after a period of months.

The decomposition process is aided by shredding the plant matter, adding water and ensuring proper aeration by regularly turning the mixture when open piles or "windrows" are used. Earthworms and fungi further break up the material."

"Nina, what is that box doing out here? What does it do?" Shouted her Mom.

Nina read on: "Compost is rich in nutrients. It is used, for example, in gardens, landscaping, horticulture, urban agriculture and organic farming."

"Mom, the point is to get out of the box," laughs Nina.

"OK, Super Girl. I have table scraps when you are ready."

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Nina's Permies friends know about composting and are ready to help fill-up the box with green waste, even dander from their drier and vacuum cleaners. The composter doesn't discriminate (much).

"It's compost for one and compost for all."

When it's ready in a few months, Nina will share the rich black soil material with her neighbor pals, who are saving for their own magic soil makers.

No wonder they call Nina: "Super Girl."

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**Feather Headdress Mandala** - *a ceremonial adornment representing the universe in Amazonia symbolism; a symbol in a dream, representing the dreamer's search for completeness and self-unity...*

The jungle is quickly disappearing under human sorrows and road graters, and burning trees in fire piles." Witness the Mandala Feather Dance.

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Jammie Ortega watches from a favorite tree on the safe side of the forest as the "progress" on the other side of the newly carved lumber road munches on.

Logging is opposed to permaculture! And opposite to prayer.

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Jammie's village children are gathering special feathers for headdresses and the Mandala Feather Dance ceremony. As a rite of passage, a black mud paste is spread across the face of both men and women - and on the faces of youth coming into their age of responsibility.

Gathering the feathers is one of the rituals for the larger ceremony. Others include bringing mud back to the village and face painting. Adults make the rounded (mandala) feather headdress.

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The Mandala Feather Dance symbology continues as the colorful jungle troop holds each other by the waist in a festive circle featuring cat calls, body jerks and hand jests: a group prayer.

Round and round goes the hand connected painted jungle circus, raising their spirits and a fair amount of dust. The whole dance is like a dream, a vision as the corporate trucks and guns come to the Amazon to rip down their trees like weeds along the road.

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Jammie's bulging, plugged circular lips are another mandala symbol, this of a boy challenging warrior-hood and the corporate men just a mile away.

Their mandala feather dance doesn't go unnoticed. Rain - and the American environmentalists - arrive to help Jammie's tribe shutdown the loggers, ending the 3 week dance with feathers flying, and initiates hollering.

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## **Epilogue**

Back at the village, a foot worn circle remains around the fire pit, with bits of feathers and footprints on the ceremonial path, a final holy mandala and evidence of a spiritual symbol unleashed as a dream and a call for Nature-fueled peace and justice.

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### **Big Mountain and the Sidewalk Kid - A Children's Fable**

Big Mountain is a high mountain peak in Nepal at 14,895 feet above sea level - and falling - due to melting snow and ice

Sidewalk Kid is a dandelion in Santa Cruz, CA at 9 feet above sea level and could be gone soon due to Global Warming and ocean water rise

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"So you really do live in a crack in the sidewalk!" mused Big Mountain. "Don't humans want to get rid of weeds in Santa Cruz?"

I am not a weed, not to be sprayed with chemicals or pulled out like a tooth," shouted the Sidewalk Kid. "How did you find me?"

Big Mountain saw pictures from Santa Cruz brought by climbers many months ago. Unfortunately his snowy peak has since melted from the hottest sun he has ever experienced since his birth many thousands of years ago.

"Where is your run-off going these days," inquired the Sidewalk Kid.

"All along the shores of the world, the lowlands and coastal rivers. The water has started to rise along the ocean beaches of Northern California and other water courses along the edges of the continents," explained Big Mountain.

"But that's me and my yellow haired children," exclaimed the Kid. "What can you and I - and the humans - do about this?"

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Big Mountain paused for three weeks, making the Sidewalk Kid very nervous as the public beach was only three blocks away.

“My little flower friend, humans need to adopt a global clean energy plan that takes fossil fuel burning plants off the grid.” We need a massive reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>,” stated Big Mountain. “And much more solar!”

The Sidewalk Kid understood in part because she made a habit of reading newspapers that occasionally floated down her sidewalk in Santa Cruz. Litter with a re-use she would say.

“Well, Big Mountain man, I’m just a little flower stuck in the sidewalk.”

“We obviously won’t be part of the climate change solution but we can follow the issues and share observations.”

“And we can share a prayer sometimes, right?” The Kid requests of Big Mountain in Nepal.

“Sure thing, both of us are headed to the same place.”

“Amen brother.”

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### **Mama Owl and her Food Forest Owlets - A Children's Fable**

What is a Food Forest? A food forest mimics a forest edge that is planted with edible plants. Picture all of the vertical layers of a forest growing together: Tall trees, small trees, shrubs, herbs, and ground covers.

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From their tree, the Owl family can see the forest fringe and layers of the food forest below, planted some 5 years ago by the neighborhood humans. It is indeed rich with life, and prey, for the yearly brood of owlets that start out their lives in Moma Owl's tree.

Fuzzy: Moma, what kinds of food do the humans harvest down there?

Moma Owl: Mostly nuts and fruits, these folks are salad crazy!

Fuzzy: Something called Vegan, right Moma?

Moma Owl: Something like that. But we eat mice and snakes and squirrels.

Fuzzy: I see, the food forest supports a simple food chain. Mice eat the seeds and we eat the mice!

Moma: Yes, that's close to how this works. The food forest is a linked system of resources for all to enjoy. Smaller seed eating birds live in the shrubs. Squirrels live in the taller trees near our nest.

Fuzzy: And the fox runs through the entire forest, preying on whatever is available?

Moma: We share the top of the food chain with the fox, although in difference niches.

Fuzzy: Forest litter or old leaves add some natural compost to the system. Downed fruit is another ingredient as are the herbs and ground covers?

Moma: My smart little owlet.

# # # #

Soon the two owlets matured into full owl adults and found their own forest edge and abandoned nests to have their own families. And the food forest is the center of their community.

Moral - When your niche is your heart, you will prosper.





### **Whale and the Floating Plastic Island - A Children's Fable**

Whale: "Island, what kinds of plastic junk is in that mash-up of yours?"

Island: "I have plastic fishing line, soda bottles, tow rope and many kinds of fishing nets."

Whale: "I have plastic garbage in my stomach!"

Island: "Ouch!"

Whale: "And many plastics float!"

Island: "Right. And I am a good example."

Whale: "Scientists think about 8 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. That's the weight of nearly 90 aircraft carriers."

Island: "These plastics come in many different types. Just think about all the plastic items humans use every day."

Whale: "All these things get used and, eventually, thrown out and can end up in the ocean. Plastic doesn't decompose."

Island: "That means plastic can stick around indefinitely, wreaking havoc on our marine ecosystems."

Island: "And I thought I was just a floating blob of trash and litter."

Whale: "But you are! And then some. Impacts from marine plastics include wildlife entanglement and death, damage to ships from fishing nets and loss of habitat."

Island: "What can I do now? Get towed ashore and recycled?"

Whale: "Possible. But try not to decompose into microplastics in the meantime, as these can enter the human food chain and are toxic."

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Morals - Just because its man-made, doesn't mean it is good for humans or the planet. Stop making things out of plastic! And let's find better ways to recycle or reuse marine litter.

"Whale and the Floating Plastic Island." A kids fable by William Paul and [planetshifter.com](http://planetshifter.com)

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### **Lester the Sequester, the Super Squirrel. Planting Acorns to Battle Climate Change - A Children's Fable**

Lester is high up in the old oak tree, listening to a permaculture class that is discussing CO2 sequestration and climate change:

“A major step of photosynthesis is to take the CO2 out of the air. Then the roots of all plants extrude the carbon. The microbes in the soil utilize this carbon in a symbiotic relationship. We call this carbon sequestration. When the soil is plowed or chemicals are used, soil life is destroyed. CO2 sequestration or regenerative gardening are ways to slow the atmospheric accumulation of greenhouse gases, which are released by burning fossil fuels.”

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Lester has stuck to the permaculture practices of natural raised beds and no tilling in tree grows along the forest edge.

“Time is short,” Lester says to the Oak. “We need many more trees!”

“Indeed squirrel friend. Baby Oak trees to the rescue.”

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Lester begins his now familiar chatter, calling his squirrel pals to begin planting acorns, starting from the farm house to the pond. Many Oaks are also called upon to shake their limbs and drop their nuts in mass by the Master Oak.

Months later, the seeds sprout along the edges of the farmer's fields revealing 1" to 3" baby Oak trees .

Lester is quick to teach the young saplings about climate change and sequestration.

“Please all, do your part. Suck up the CO2 and trap it in the soil.”

“Hey, old man Oak: My babies are the local conservation corps!” Beamed Lester.

“Climate change is change coming,” huffed the old tree!”

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Moral: The size of your trees is one thing, but the amount of trees, and how they are planted, is key.