



Stories and Fables for Climate Age Kids #4

William Paul

Planetshifter.com

2/2020

Contents

Green Team Initiative

Northern Lights

Surviella 2033

The Echo Magnets

The Light at the End of the Stairs

Lion Joe and the High Tech Collar

Higher Model Rocket

The Permaculture Club



Green Team Initiative

A small band of Coop workers have created the green team initiative, proposed this spring, asking that their management, members and workers adopt an initiative calling for a comprehensive, transparent plan to address climate change at a very local level.

One way that the “Coopers” can impact their carbon footprint is by forming a green team. The Coop has already stopped selling animal products, thus greatly reducing their carbon footprint. The plan, moving forward, includes a roof top garden and expansion of the “back yard” garden where vegetable crops have been grown for many years.

Other “ingredients” in the green team vision include a grey water system (i.e. - recycling dish and clothes washer water) and classes for local residents on re-use and recycling and other eco-friendly topics.

#

The rooftop garden has a host of challenges, including the load on the roof structure, water for the plants, and planter box design and materials. The latter will re-use local untreated lumber from dismantled homes and a drainage system to capture and re-use irrigated water.

#

The Green Team Initiative was adopted even though its tenants and vision were already in motion. For the folks who call this place a “second home,” it is also a tiny spark and a blue planet unto itself, a working, local experience as Joseph Campbell might have described as a...

Journey, Initiation and Community Hero.



The Northern Lights Show

Kustoff: "I see a million stars colliding into one organic light show."

Olga: "I see the palm of the Creators hand, awash with tiny colorful particles from a long ago Galaxy explosion."

#

The Northern Lights Show (NLS) is a traveling TED Talk-like experience and discussion event for kids, teachers and parents, just now in a cold winter setting in Superior, WI.

"It sorta looks like a peacock strutting its feathers." Glenn

"Definitely an inverse waterfall." Strawberry Sue

"Good observations kids. Why not pick-up the iPad in front of you and find a definition on the Internet?"

#

"The Northern Lights are actually the result of collisions between gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere with charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere. Variations in color are due to the type of gas particles that are colliding. The most common auroral color, a pale yellowish-green, is produced by oxygen molecules located about 60 miles above the earth. Rare, all-red auroras are produced by high-altitude oxygen, at heights of up to 200 miles. Nitrogen produces blue or purplish-red aurora. The lights appear in many forms from patches or scattered clouds of light to streamers, arcs, rippling curtains or shooting rays that light up the sky with an eerie glow."

"So emotions and art objects aside, the Northern (or Southern) Lights are a chemistry-based phenomena, that originate very high above Earth." Olga

"It's a short-lived journey." Strawberry Girl

#

“So please write a poem about today’s presentation on your iPad and send it to the group email.” Kustoff

The winning “expression:”

Nitrogen brains with
Oxygen cream
Miles and miles of glow

Spirit claps red green blue
She is Cosmic Waterfall
In Light

Projected
Logged and captured
Penetrator and penetrated

We are the Northern Lights!



Surviella 2033

“Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers.”
— George Orwell, Animal Farm

Men from the Brotherhood bought the town in 2027 to execute an experiment - both high tech and low - in an attempt to see the impact of intense surveillance on a small population. The result is more like a prison than an ecosystem.

For starters, they replaced the Town Square fountain with a 6' x 10' screen that continuously monitors key locations in Surviella like the solar farm, the water purification plant and multiple gardens and streets. The town is deluged by complete camera surveillance - including drones.

There are no fences because the 142 town citizens have nowhere to go! One might argue that there is a psychological or virtual wall here.

Other conditions include:

- Gardens are Brotherhood owned and run
- Water is strictly rationed
- Mandatory composting is property of the Brotherhood
- Permaculture programming is run by a private corp.
- Children are taught by robots

As the experiment goes on, the town's folk are turning paranoid and mistrusting - not only of their Brotherhood masters but of each other.

There will be no raises or revolution in Surviella. It's not on TV.



The Echo Magnets

A Fable for Climate Age Kids

When turtle comes ashore, it sends a message to the elephants to gather and migrate.

The signal is based in simple echo technology that can travel under the Earth's crust as an alarm bell for collective action.

"Time to travel, guys!" Grunted Kimba the elephant. But this was no ordinary sound, this is the elephant leaders return echo to Moma turtle.

"See you where the ocean meets the river." Moma.

The echo is like Morris code, bouncing along in a more or less straight line, until the message meets up with the receiver.

#

"It's about survival," roared Kimba.

A survival network. With the herd in check, the elephants began their march to the sea, to protect the eggs of the turtles.

#

When the eggs in the turtle nests hatched, Kimba's crew shuttled the baby turtles into the sea, as humans watched with love from a safe distance.

"Safe travels, little friends and echo magnets," snorted Mama.

"This is group protection and group survival in Nature."



The Light at the End of the Stairs

Jude and Koi are on an adventure to see the light. Normally they are not allowed to venture out at night but their parents gave the kids their blessing to explore the coastal Lighthouse his evening but they must return before 10 pm.

The renovated “candle stick” stands 180 feet tall and has warned ships of the approaching shore for 75 years.

Let the journey begin!

#

Jackson, the Lighthouse keeper, was expecting the kids and is happy to facilitate their adventure.

“OK - after the little house for the Keeper was shuttered in 1963 - the one person operation was managed by a short commute from town.”

“Let’s go up!” It is dusk and the kids are eager to climb.

Koi: “We heard that the stairs were built from wood from abandoned ships.”

Jackson: “In part, yes.”

Jude: “Walking on history!”

Koi: “Cool!”

#

After a little huffing and puffing, the hikers reached the “light nest” of the facility, where the lens projected light to the sea. It stopped spinning in 360 degrees years ago to help reduce wear and tear.

Jude: “So it’s like a giant flashlight!”

Jackson: "If you like. It goes on at dusk and off at dawn. It's my job to man the switch and to make sure the space and lens are clean. Plus occasional tours for the local communities.

#

Koi: "What's that object out there? Can I borrow your binoculars?"

Jude: "Is it an empty boat or a dead whale? Maybe just a rock."

Now at the shore, with the light shining on the object, the "tour guide" and his guests determine that the object is just a rock, reflecting the water just so, to make a brief mystery - revealed.

#

After thanking Jackson for the tour and extra excitement, it is time to go home.

Koi: "I thought it was beached whale."

Jude: "Thought it was an abandoned boat."

#

Both homes have their porch lights on, kinda like the lighthouse only with much less intensity and no ships.



Lion Joe and the High Tech Collar

Jon Greymountain shares stories from his family and village but needs to go to town to upload his data for now. His “technical partner” is an old Lion named Joe who is also his protector and companion.

Joe’s hybrid, high powered collar can be used as a wireless hotspot when in town and a homing beacon to check his location on the roam. The collar also has a digital camera to record special events or illegal activities. Trained dogs are a logical choice for the collar job as one moves away from central Africa.

#

EcoBuildIt.com in New Orleans is testing the hybrid collar. An “un-drone machine?” A poacher’s nightmare!

Jon’s photos and digital journal, and Joe’s technical data are uploaded to New Orleans from Joe’s collar and Jon’s smart phone. The company sends technical support and money for supplies in exchange for the tests.

#

So who or what requires a lion and his human buddy to do surveillance in this burgeoning Climate crisis? Where are the “environmental hot spots or activities?”

Illegal taking of endangered species is one investigation, as alluded to above. Another are water rights and the pollution from illegal fracking practices or agricultural water diversion. Large mines can be watched for eco-damage.

The burning of Rainforests is also a place where Joe’s collar could help protect valuable resources, whether it’s a trained animal or a researcher who has the collar on.

#

EcoBuildIt.com is in the preliminary stages of a full “EcoProtector” Fly Suit that could include the collar and flown solo like a “kite suit” into difficult places to access and investigate.



Higher Model Rocket

The Scouts have visions for the sparks that fly from their camp fires. The higher the spark, the stronger the vision and possible success. Fast forward to the age of model rocketry and the sparks go higher!

#

Tam: "Are we connected?"

Bee: "The detonator is charged."

The two rocket scientists silently commit to three wishes and hit the red button. As the toy missile arcs high overhead and then deploys its parachute, "vision control" is all smiles; another successful mission and vision victory.

#

The kids retrieve the rocket and exchange some goals from their craft.

Bee: "I want to be an astronaut!"

Tam laughed and said: "Me too!"

#

Now this isn't NASA - it's an old softball diamond but the sparks are flying. Heck, visions are still free but model rockets are expensive!



The Permaculture Club

The old candle factory building on the corner of 72nd and Main has been shuttered and shrouded ever since X-ray and Vio can remember. Their parents can barely recall a time when it was an employer. Now the grass was taller than the tales now faded from City lore.

Enter the Permaculture Club!

#####

X-Ray: "At least the windows are still intact."

Vio: "Ground zero! The building renovation will take some funds but..."

X-Ray: "We have the labor pool."

The existing chain link fence is in good shape as a key security element. The roof is in great shape.

Vio: "The soil is black and ready to produce crops as a new worm production plan is in place."

The Permaculture Club is finalizing a new use permit with City Planning's blessing. Job 1 is to pull the weeds out of the sidewalk and compost them.

Appearances do make a difference, especially to their supportive neighbors.

#####

Water is available to the building and grounds but the sprinkler system needs to be upgraded, a key safety element. Tables for growing seedlings, a cashier's area, plus a meeting space round out the floor plan.

X-Ray: "We will also be the first Farmers Market in town."

Vio: "A collaboration model of vision and boot strapping."

#####

As the building is Zone Zero, the City is Zone 5. The kids add up the elements and costs and realize their place is to both transform themselves and the public. They hope their "corner club"

will support their mandate to reverse climate change and eliminate deadly toxics in the soil.

X-Ray: "We are the change!"

Vio: "Each and every day."

#

Stories and Fables for Climate Age Kids
eBooks #1 - 3 by William Paul. Download at:
<https://www.planetshifter.com>