

Write Fiction from Fact

Writing based on “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” an article within *Read and Succeed: Comprehension Level 6* (Shell Education)

NARRATIVE WRITING PROMPT: Write a fictional story based on information learned about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Include details from the original text to create character(s), setting, and plot.

The Plastic Cup

I’m next! I’m pulled free from the other cups. The cold clank of frosty ice fills my bottom and the surging rush of liquid bubbles tickles my plastic sides. Ahhh... this is what I was made for. Glad to be of service!

The person pays for me. We’re off! As he walks down the street to California’s sand-covered landscape shaped by the Pacific Ocean, he drains me of the liquid. Then... Whirl! Whirl! Whirl! Splat! That jerk tossed me in the ocean!

The strong current pushes me out—further, further, further from the shore. Nights and days stretch into mere repetition of each other. The current continues to force me about like a leaf in a slowly-swirling tornado. How long have I been here? Where am I going? Maybe I will end up in Hawaii. I begin to fall apart.

Off in the distance, I see things swirling around and hear moaning, too. What is it? A fish swims by.

I ask, “What is going on over there? I can’t see it so well.”

“Kid, don’t you know anything?” He explains, “That’s the Great Pacific Garbage Patch! That’s where your types that get dumped into the ocean go! It’s massive! It might be twice as big as Texas or even the USA!”

The current sends me closer to the slowly swirling mass of plastic cups, bottles, and bags. Most have fallen apart. There are tin cans and several plastic chairs—even a refrigerator.

Catching pieces of conversations as I enter the chunky soup of discarded items, I learn that some arrived via river debris and others were first washed down a storm drain. I find out that after some time most improperly disposed plastics end up here in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. They fall apart, release chemicals, and then decay.

I slowly spin in the ocean, rotting away. Eventually... I’m completely... under... the water’s surface....

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Text
evidence
marked
in red