



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary school readers (ages 8 to 12; years 3 to 6)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Visual Language
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** Sustainability

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Learning about visual literacy
- Learning about graphic novels and comics
- Learning about imaginative thinking and creativity

## THEMES

- Superheroes, supervillains and sidekicks
- Teamwork
- Responsibility
- Plastic and the environment
- Sustainability
- Using your strengths
- Friendship
- Equality and fairness
- Bugs
- Dinosaurs
- Martial arts

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and  
Gavin Aung Than

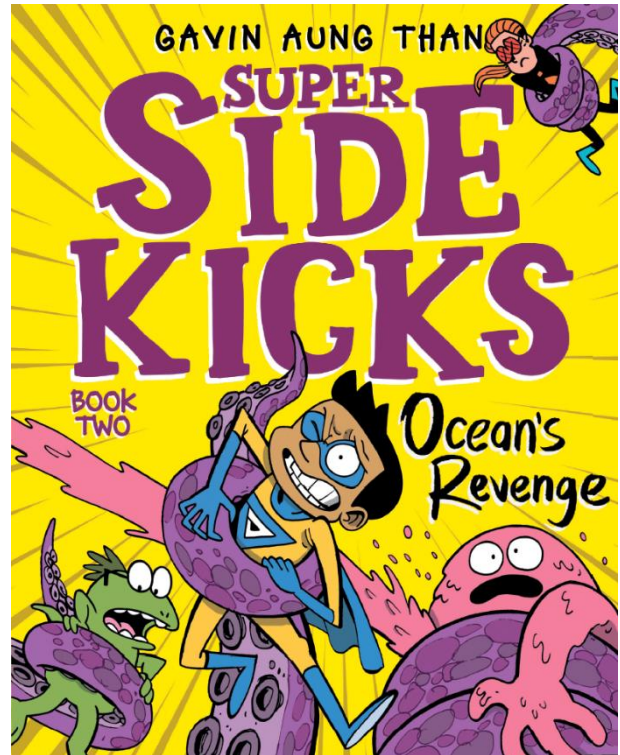
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## Super Sidekicks 2: Ocean's Revenge Gavin Aung Than

### PLOT SUMMARY

*Super-duper alert! An unidentified object is heading straight for the city, moving fast!*

*Something fishy is going on . . .*

*The world's superheroes are missing, and humankind is under threat from an underwater menace!*

*Can the Super Sidekicks save the planet before it's too late?*

The Super Sidekicks have left their adult superheroes, defeated Dr Enok and built their own fancy new headquarters. But there's no time to relax. The citizens of Sydney are in danger. Something is approaching the harbour at an alarming rate. The Super Sidekicks go to investigate, but soon the whole city is under attack.

A Trash Titan is loose in Sydney Harbour. To make matters worse, all the world leaders at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Very Important Summit and their superhero bodyguards are missing.

The Super Sidekicks discover that Tiamata, Mother of the Seas, is taking revenge on mankind for all their plastic and polluting. Will JJ, Flygirl, Dinomite and Goo be able to save the oceans and clean up this mess?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gavin Aung Than is a freelance cartoonist based in Perth, Australia. His webcomic *Zen Pencils*, a cartoon blog which adapts inspirational quotes into comic stories, has been featured by *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, *Slate*, *Buzzfeed*, *Gawker* and *Brain Pickings*, and was named one of the top 100 websites of 2013 by *PC Mag*. *Zen Pencils* has also been collected into *New York Times* bestselling books. His first series for children, *Super Sidekicks*, grew out of Gavin's long-time obsession with superheroes.

Visit [aungthan.com](http://aungthan.com) to find out more about Gavin and his work.

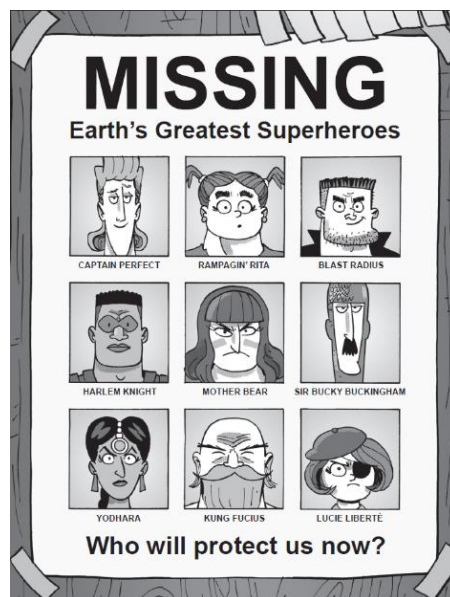
## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

I read an article about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and was shocked at the extent of humanity's recklessness. Months later, when trying to come up with the story for *Super Sidekicks* book 2, I needed to think of a threat or villain the team might face. That's when I remembered the article I read, and the idea came to me: 'What if all that plastic in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch formed a giant creature?'

From there, I decided that the ocean was sick of getting used as a dumping ground for all of our waste and it was sending the Trash Titan to take revenge on humanity! Not only was it a pretty cool idea, I thought the story could address some of the environmental issues we face, specifically plastic waste in our oceans.



## SYNOPSIS



### Chapter 1

Our story begins out on the pristine blue waters of the Pacific Ocean. But on closer inspection we find that the ocean is choked with plastic. Then something strange starts to happen. All the plastic is drawn together by an unseen force . . . Meanwhile, more strange things are happening on land. Captain Perfect, along with Rampagin' Rita, Blast Radius and numerous other superheroes from all over the world, begin to disappear. Who will protect the earth now?



### Chapter 2

Junior Justice – JJ – is relaxing in the *Super Sidekicks* new headquarters with Dinomite, Flygirl and Goo when they are interrupted by the brand-new *Super Sidekicks Super Duper Super Computer (SSSDSC)*. An unidentified object is approaching from the Pacific Ocean – fast!





### Chapter 3

JJ and the team go to investigate, only to discover that a giant Trash Titan is heading straight for Sydney Harbour. The Sidekicks regroup and warn the city's civilians, but it's too late. The Trash Titan has arrived and is wreaking havoc, smashing buildings and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Super Sidekicks protect the civilians, but the Trash Titan gets to its target, the Very Important Summit, and swallows the world's leaders whole!



### Chapter 4

Inside the belly of the beast, Tiamata, the Mother of the Seas, is holding not only the world's leaders, but also their bodyguards, the world's superheroes, hostage. She is furious that humankind has been destroying her oceans and seeks revenge. Goo manages to befriend the Trash Titan 'Trevor' and the Super Sidekicks bravely enter into his belly to save the world's leaders and get to the cause of this destruction.



### Chapter 5

Inside Trevor's belly, the Super Sidekicks face-off with Tiamata. Using their skills and working as a team, they manage to steal her sea spectre, but Tiamata threatens to harm the world leaders if they don't return it. Dinomite comes up with the idea that if Tiamata releases the world's leaders and calls off her attack, they will work together to clean up the oceans. Tiamata agrees to the terms. Humankind has one year to save the oceans, or she will return . . .



### Chapter 6

The Super Sidekicks get to work, cleaning up the oceans with the help of the (still bickering) world leaders. The superheroes and Dinomite use their skills to come up with inventive ways to dispose of all the plastic choking up the oceans. Our story ends with Goo and Trevor exploring the now much cleaner sea and reflecting on its remarkable beauty.

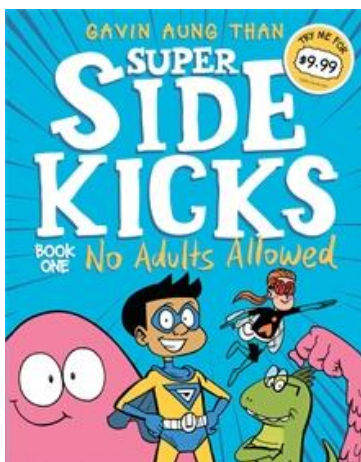


## ABOUT OUR FOUR HEROES

- **JUNIOR JUSTICE** is the leader of the Super Sidekicks. An ace detective and martial arts master, JJ is fearless in battle but still has a few things to learn about leading a super team. Ada, the wearable tech robot on his belt, helps JJ do some extraordinary things.
- **FLYGIRL** loves bugs. Not only can she gracefully buzz around the skies like her namesake but she can also throw nasty bug balls with incredible accuracy. From her always dependable Goliath Bird-Eating Spider, to the painful Arizona Bark Scorpion, to the full-scale assault of her killer Trap-jaw Ants, Flygirl has a bug for every type of mission. Just don't hurt one of them, or she'll more than likely hurt you.
- **DINOMITE** is the brains of the team: a physics professor, unparalleled linguist and poetry enthusiast. Oh yeah, he can also transform into any species of dinosaur, so he can act as the team's muscle (Tyrannosaurus), protection (Ankylosaurus) and transport (Pterodactyl) too. He'd much rather read some Shakespeare than jump into battle, though.
- **GOO** wants nothing more than to belong to a group and have friends. After years of being trapped alone and forced to commit evil acts by his creator Dr Enok, he's an emotional wreck. But he just might have found the friends and support he's been looking for all these years in the Super Sidekicks.

## ABOUT GRAPHIC NOVELS

Below you can find explanations of the terms used for graphic novel designs, and some online resources with more information on how to use graphic novels in the classroom. Note that the page references in this section are to the first book in the Super Sidekicks series, *No Adults Allowed*.



## Graphic novel terms

- **Panel:** The box or segment that contains the image and text.
- **Gutter:** The space between panels.
- **Bleed:** When an image goes beyond the borders of the page.
- **Speech bubble:** This contains the dialogue spoken by different characters. A 'tail' sticks out of the bubble showing which character is speaking.
- **Thought bubble:** Similar to the speech bubble, this contains the internal dialogue of a character. It usually looks like a puffy cloud and has multiple circles pointing to the character instead of a tail.
- **Caption:** A box or section of text that may include narration or other important information, such as a place or time.
- **Sound effects:** Words that give a sense of sound on the page (e.g. Bang! Thump!). To heighten their impact, the words are either bolded or have a special graphical treatment to make it stand out.



- **Layout:** The configuration of all the elements on the page; the way in which the frame, panels, speech bubbles, etc., are arranged to tell the narrative.
- **Close-up:** An angle that zooms into an image or character for dramatic impact, like when a character is angry, sad or determined. Panel 1 of JJ on page 5 is a close-up.
- **Long shot:** When the angle is very far away from the subject matter. Usually to show a setting. Panel 1 on page 3 is an example:



- **Bird's-eye view:** When the angle is looking down on a subject. Panel 1 on page 34 is an example:



- **Worm's-eye view:** When the angle is looking up at a subject. This angle usually is used to show a character who is powerful or important. On page 44, the reader is looking up at the three heroes to further illustrate their importance.
- **Foreshortening:** When extreme perspective is used to add energy and boldness to an image. For instance, Captain Perfect's left hand on page 6:



- **Splash page:** A page that has no panels but is just one single image. This is usually reserved for important moments in the story. Page 44 is a splash page.

### Online resources

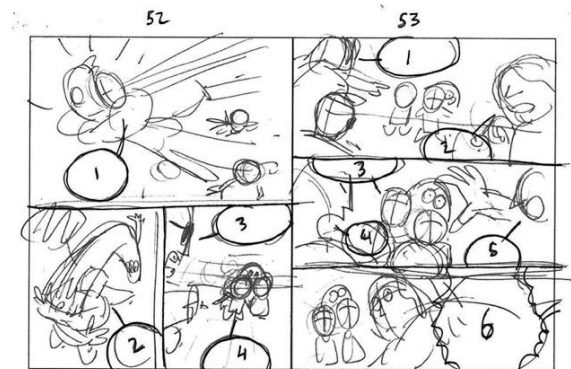
Here are a few great resources for studying graphic novels:

- Creating Multimodal Texts: [creatingmultimodaltexts.com/comics/](http://creatingmultimodaltexts.com/comics/)
- The Truth About Graphic Novels: [scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/v32n2/fletchersear.pdf](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/v32n2/fletchersear.pdf)
- Get Graphic (Graphical resources for teachers): [buffalolib.org/content/get-graphic/teachers](http://buffalolib.org/content/get-graphic/teachers)
- How to Teach Graphic Novels: [theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/nov/30/how-to-teach-graphic-novels](http://theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/nov/30/how-to-teach-graphic-novels)
- A Teacher Roundtable: [cultofpedagogy.com/teaching-graphic-novels/](http://cultofpedagogy.com/teaching-graphic-novels/)

### How a graphic novel is made

Visit [penguin.com.au/teachers](http://penguin.com.au/teachers) to check out the Teachers' Resources for the first book in the series, *Super Sidekicks 1: No Adults Allowed*, which include a fantastic step-by-step guide from Gavin Aung Than on how he creates his graphic novels, including:

- Step 1: Storyboard and script
- Step 2: Pencilling
- Step 3: Inking
- Step 4: Colouring



#### PAGE 52

**PANEL 1:** Big action panel. Captain Perfect flying tackles Goo from behind. JJ and Flygirl get pushed out of the way.

1 CP: Where's Dr Enok hiding, scumbag!

**PANEL 2:** Goo slips out of CP's arms.

2 CP: Ah! Slippery devil!

**PANEL 3:** Blast Radius pointing blaster at the 3 sidekicks. Again, JJ and Flygirl are protecting Goo.

3 BR: Move, I've got my blaster set to vaporise!

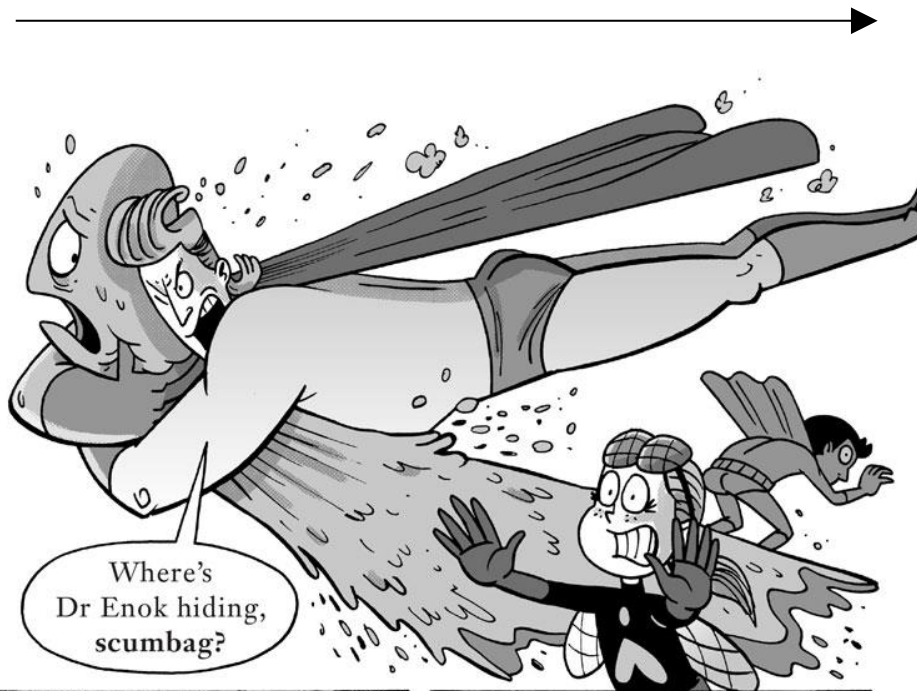
4 JJ: No, stop attacking!



## HOW TO READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL

With a mix of words and pictures spread over multiple panels, graphic novels can be initially confusing to read. Here's a handy guide to help you get the hang of it.

Read the panels left to right, then top to bottom.



Read each panel the same way you read each page – left to right, then top to bottom.

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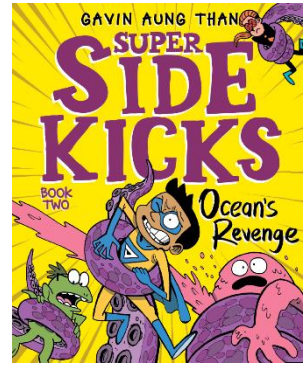
Each individual picture is known as a panel. This page has three panels – one on the top, and two on the bottom.



## WORKSHEET 1: My super sidekick squad

Each of the sidekicks in the Super Sidekicks series has their own strengths and skills. Junior Justice can fight in the deadliest styles and has heaps of gadgets, Flygirl is an amazing acrobat and her unrivalled knowledge of insects helps her to select her best pet to help win fights, Dinomite can turn into any dinosaur and is super smart, and Goo is incredibly friendly and can mould itself into anything it likes. Together, they can take on anything!

Come up with your own super sidekick squad. What different abilities might your sidekicks have? How do they complement each other? Write your squad's abilities and draw their pictures below!



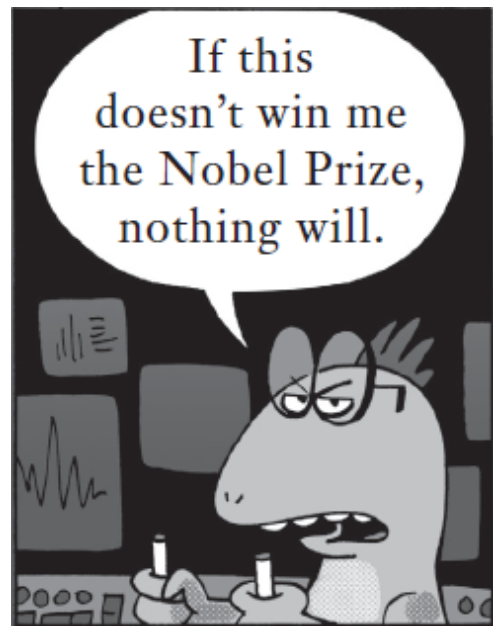
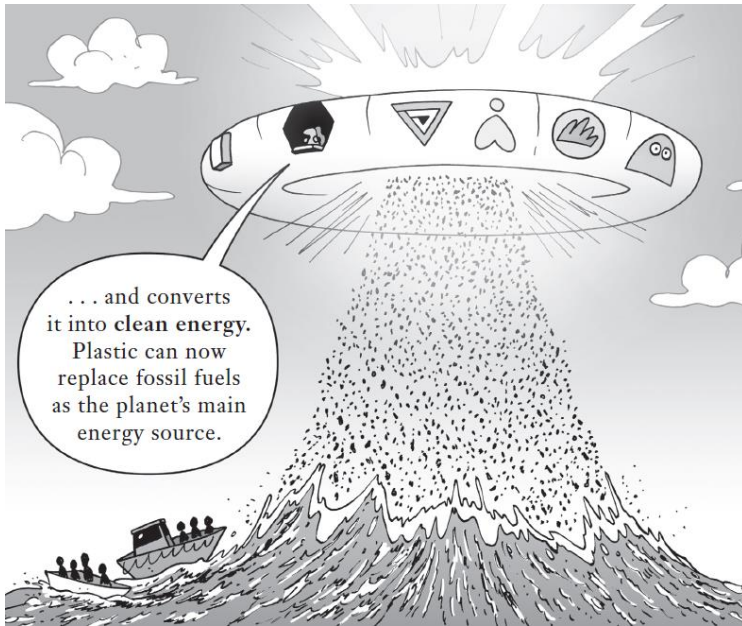
<p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 1:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 2:</b></p>	<p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 1:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 2:</b></p>
<p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 1:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 2:</b></p>	<p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 1:</b></p> <p><b>Special ability 2:</b></p>



## WORKSHEET 2: Let's save the oceans!

The superheroes and Super Sidekicks come up with inventive ways to save the planet's oceans and clean up all the plastic and pollution. Dinomite invents a **Magnetic Plastic Inverter** to attract all the plastic waste and convert it into clean energy.

Invent your own creative way to collect and/or dispose of rubbish in the sea. Draw a picture and describe your invention in a few sentences below.



Blank space for drawing an invention.

Blank space for writing a description of the invention.





## WORKSHEET 3: Our dreaded enemy that never dies ... Plastic

Divide into teams to do some research on plastic in the oceans. Find at least five facts that you didn't know before to present to the class. Think about answering and discussing these questions:

Where does plastic come from?

How does plastic get into the oceans?

How long does plastic take to decompose?

What are some alternatives to plastic?

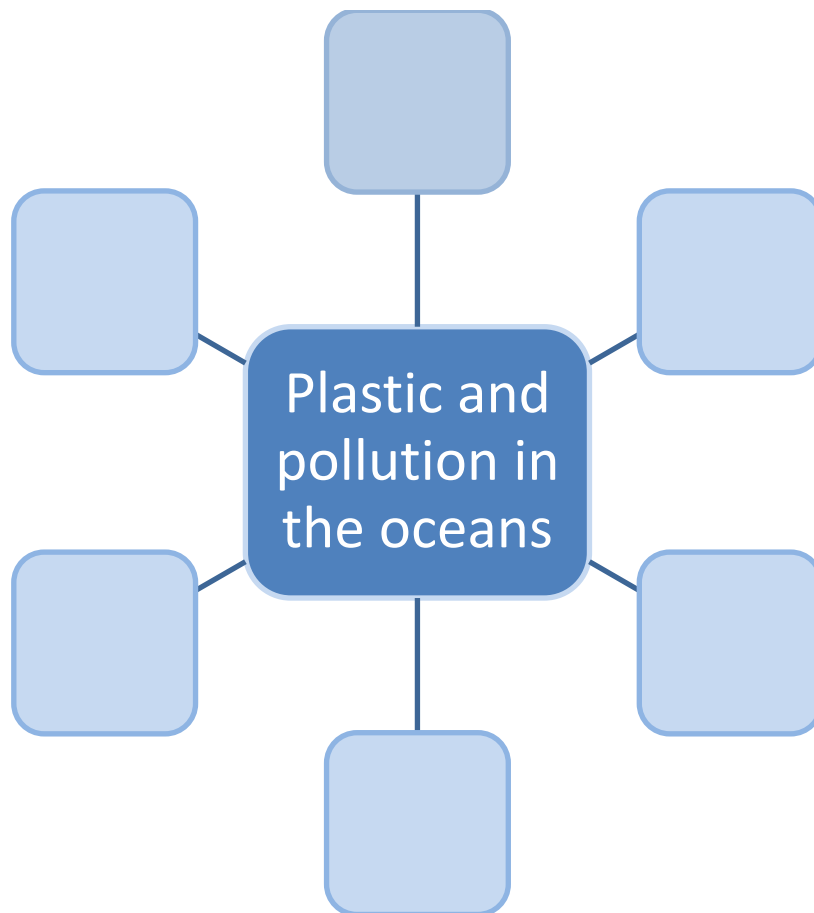
What can we do to help?

What can governments do to help?

What can businesses and industries do to help?

What are the 4-Rs? Think of some everyday situations where you can implement them.

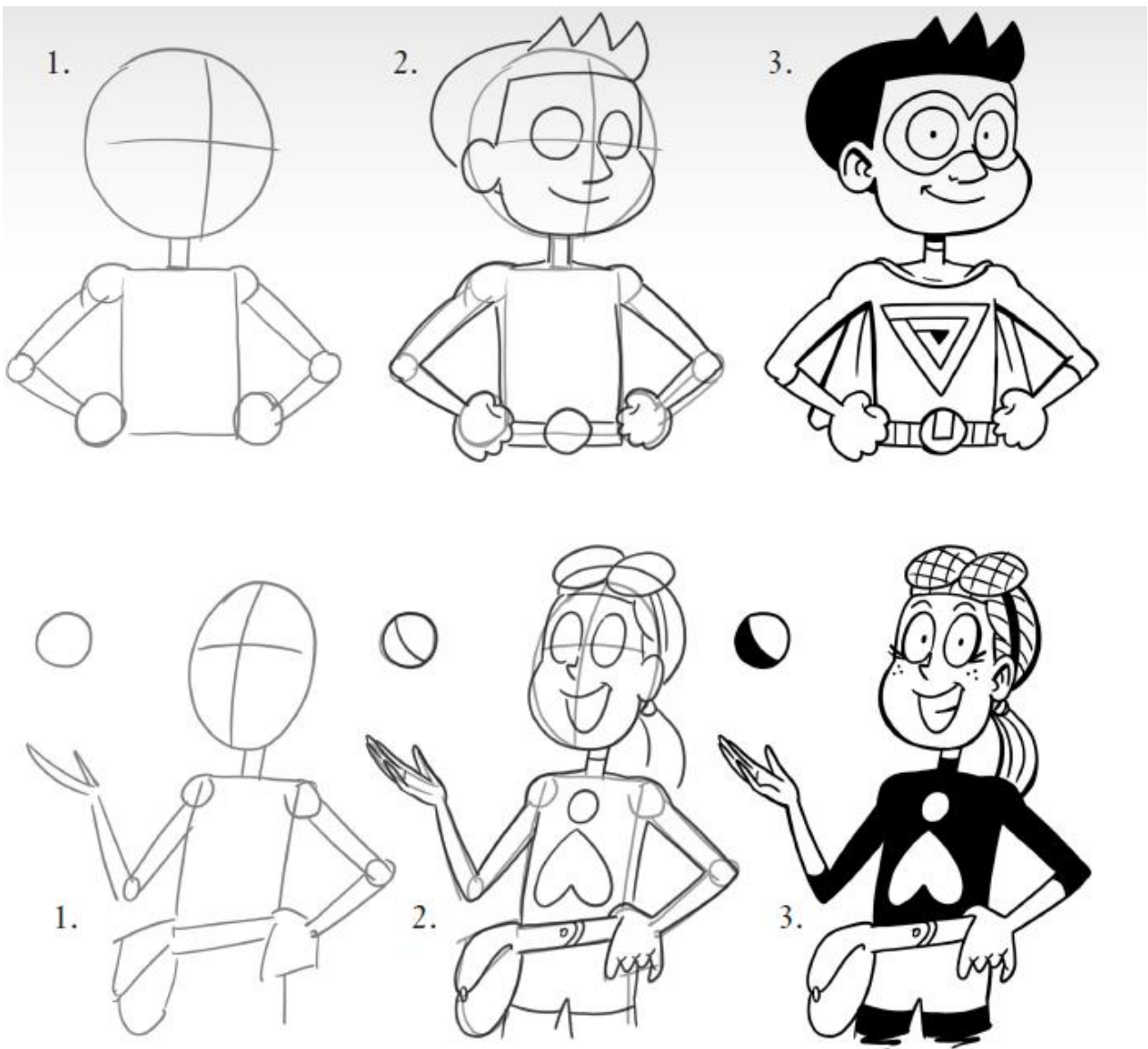
Discuss as a class the effect that plastic which ends up in the ocean has on animals and the environment. Record your responses and make a diagram to illustrate how far-reaching the problem is.



## WORKSHEET 4: How to draw the Super Sidekicks

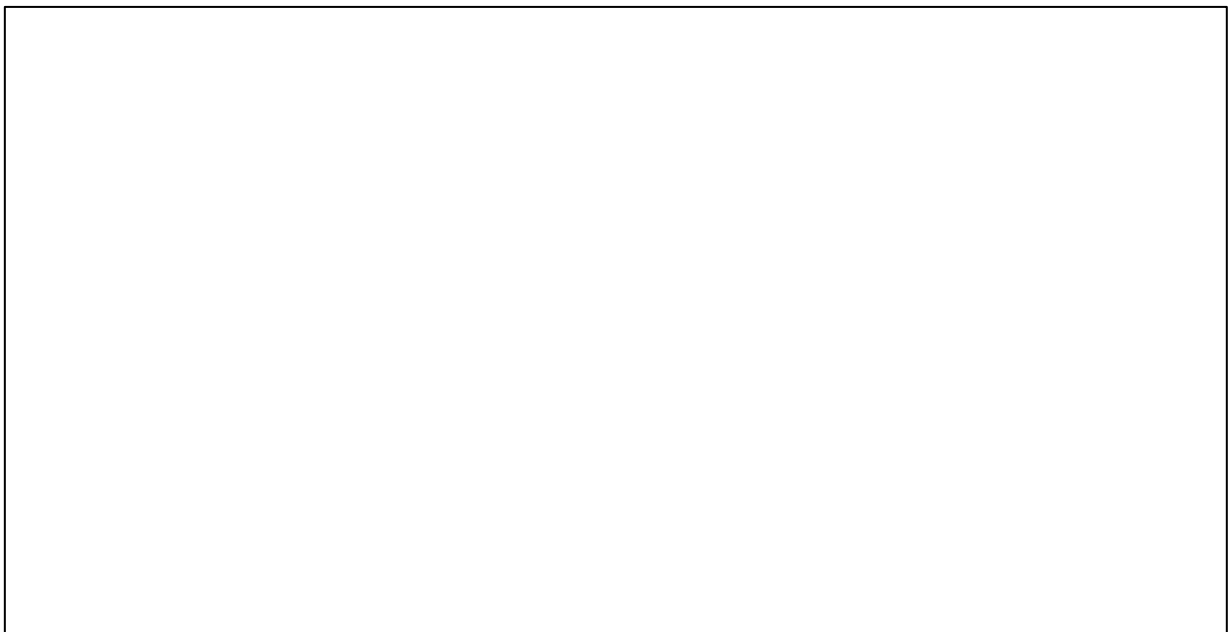
### Gav's tips:

- **START WITH SIMPLE SHAPES FIRST:** For instance, JJ is just made of circles and rectangles.
- **DON'T DRAW TOO DARK:** Sketch lightly first until you get the basic structure right.
- **ONE STEP AT A TIME:** Once you have the structure done, then it's time to draw all the cool details.
- **JUST HAVE FUN:** Don't worry if you think you're not getting it right. Keep practising, it takes time to get good!





Have a go at drawing your favourite Super Sidekick below.



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Super Sidekicks 2: Ocean's Revenge	Gavin Aung Than	9780143795889	4-6	\$14.99		
Super Sidekicks 1: No Adults Allowed	Gavin Aung Than	9780143795865	4-6	\$9.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES ARE RECOMMENDED RETAIL ONLY AND MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF PRINTING. PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE.

<p>NAME: _____</p> <p>SCHOOL: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____</p> <p>POSTCODE: _____</p> <p>TEL: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>ACCOUNT NO.: _____</p> <p>PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____</p>	<p>PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.</p>
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