

Bye Bye Plastic Bags

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Environment & Conservation

On Land & in Seas

SUB-THEMES

Plastic Pollution

Activism

Youth Leadership

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand the scale and consequences of plastic pollution.
- Learn how youth-led action can influence government and policy.
- Explore how change can come from caring, organizing, and persistence.
- Reflect on global movements led by children like themselves to protect their environment.

Lesson plan

This story is a compelling gateway into climate activism and marine conservation.

Students will explore how plastic use affects the waterways - oceans, rivers and lakes.

Show how children can organize campaigns to manage plastic waste. Melati and Isabel's real-life success inspires learners to envision their own impact.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Where do you see plastic in your daily life?
- What do you know about plastic waste in rivers, lakes, and oceans?

During Reading :

- What made the sisters start their campaign?
- What challenges did they face and how did they respond?
- How did their actions begin to spread beyond Bali?

After Reading–

- What plastic items could we stop using right away?
- What makes youth-led movements powerful?
- What's one environmental problem you would like to help solve?

Activities:

- Plastic-Free Audit: Track plastic use at home/school for a day and find alternatives.
- Poster Design: Create advocacy posters calling for reduced plastic use.
- Local Clean-Up: Organize a beach, park, school, or a neighborhood clean-up.
- Compare Campaigns: Research similar youth movements around the world and how they succeeded.

Expected Outcomes

Students will become more conscious of their plastic use and learn that even young voices can push for big changes. They'll gain knowledge about ocean conservation and feel empowered to act locally for global impact.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13 – Climate Action
- SDG 14 – Life Below Water

SDG Explanation

- SDG 12: Demonstrates sustainable waste practices and advocacy for responsible consumption.
- SDG 13: Highlights youth as climate leaders advocating for environmental justice.
- SDG 14: Tackles marine plastic pollution, a growing threat to life below water.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today’s children are tomorrow’s citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That’s why it’s vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.