

Students Name: Hudson [REDACTED]

Students grade: [REDACTED]

Teachers Name: [REDACTED]

Students school: Main Street Middle School

## Earth day

### Earth day intro and what vermonters do

Earth day is such a huge celebration in so many places all over the world, including vermont. People from Vermont take Earth Day very seriously and we have many ways to celebrate. We believe in keeping the world and our towns so clean that we even made another day to help clean nature called, green up day! Green up day was made a official day to clean in vermont in 1970 on the first saturday of may/ the 6th

Every day on the sixth of may it is a tradition for people all around vermont to go outside with trash bags and walk around the neighborhood or in the woods or even drive somewhere to pick up trash once they are done they either take them with them to the dump or to your home or sometimes leave them on the main road, big truck drivers later come and take them away.

## Plastic albatross

I opened my eyes slowly, getting them adjusted to the dark even though I knew it would be light within an hour but I would be gone for much longer than an hour. Even though I just woke up I felt like I had been awake for a while. I started paddling my feet getting ready to lift off the surface of the water. “Womph womph” as I pushed my wings down it made ripples in the water but as I got higher they slowly floated away on the surface of this huge ocean, I knew that if I flew straight forward I wouldn't find a lot of what I was looking for, Toothfish, Squid and, if I could any dead animals floating on the surface of the water.

I angled my left wing down and let the wind carry through my feathers, as I slowly turned directions I looked down and saw the silhouette of my three chicks and my mate. They were all huddled together on the surface of the ocean, they weren't cold but huddled anyway.

I had been flying for a couple of minutes when I saw the fish jump below me making a small splash in this huge blank canvas. I knew to fly close enough to the water that I could dive down and get the fish before they swam away but far enough where my wings wouldn't ripple the water and scare them away. The fish that had just jumped out of the water looked like a toothfish, not big by any chance but not too small to take. It was not shiny like most fish but more of a dull gray color with a wide mouth lined with little sharp teeth, eyes as dull as its skin. I got ready for the impact of the water and placed my wings tight to my side, Tucked my feet in under my body and dove

down. I could always tell when to give up on the fish, maybe it was too far down or maybe it was just too wiggly, but I could also tell when I had got it speared with my beak and didn't need to be in the cold water longer than I needed to, this was one of those moments, I felt not victory for all I had done was spear a fish, I did it every day but the satisfaction of knowing that my family would have food in their bellies when I got home. I opened my mouth and let the fish float up to the surface of the water where I then grabbed it and flew away.

I hadn't yet taken a good look at the fish in my feet yet but I knew that I had to because if it wasn't big enough I would have to keep fishing I flew up high enough in the air to get into a good wind flow and instead of flying any direction i started to circle around the spot that I had just got the fish, I looked down at my feet to find that the fish was bigger than I had expected

It took longer to get home than it took to get there because I got a little side tracked by something white and wide floating on the top of the water. I had seen things similar to this before but they weren't always white, and they had never been this close to where we were, but I didn't think much of it and flew back home.

After my family had eaten it was already sunset and I didnt have to worry about getting food till tomorrow afternoon which meant I got to sleep a little later tomorrow morning.

I woke up to the cries of my babies at first I thought I was just having a nightmare but when I opened my eyes I saw what every momma bird dreaded my youngest chick no less than three months old had a white sheet over her head she was squirming and wiggling around trying to get it off her head, but she was only making it worse pictures flooded my mind, this had happened to my sister when she was a chick and my mom after I had been born there was nothing I could do but just sit there watch my baby die, suffocate.

When I looked back next all I saw was a lifeless body of a chick that could have had a family, a life but no she was gone I had to get over it, it happens to us all the time.