



Green Smart Stories

The story

“My name is Flora”

My name is Flora and I'm 12 years old. In the small village where I live, Vila Nova de Paiva, there are many trees, a river of clean water that winds between green valleys and, as everywhere else, there are people who like the place where they live.

Today, on my way home, after school, I noticed in more detail what Man is doing to the Planet, using vehicles that release smoke, consisting of oxides of carbon, sulfuric, nitrogen, among others, as I learned today in my Science class. In most of all subjects we talk about this global issue. As I began to pay closer attention to what surrounds me, I became aware of many things that once escaped me and now they are shocking me: rubbish bins full of waste, packaging and glass, open spaces without trees ... On my way home, I became more and more intrigued by this, because we are, each in our own way, perhaps not even realizing that it is spoiling Nature with its unconscious habits.

I came home thoughtful and a bit disillusioned with the Human Being who, as it is easily seen, is taking advantage of Nature. For me, at the age of twelve, I was so used to live like this and to see these things, that I didn't understand we could live otherwise.

At dinner, I realized that most foods are manufactured using modern techniques and sophisticated products, but they hide artificial substances that are dubious for health and harmful to the environment, such as palm oil, obtained from felled trees. But my mother noticed that I got odd and she wanted to know what I was worrying about:

- What's wrong with you, today?
- Maybe it's nothing important.
- Everything can be important, especially you: you are very important to me!
- Well, today at school, we talked about some of the environmental problems and transformations we're causing on Earth. And I started thinking about the way we live in our land.
- And you say that this is not important !? It is our life and our future that is at stake!
- Do you know how we lived at our grandparents'? - my father asked me - It was so different from nowadays. I went to school on foot and my grandfather had a bicycle to go to the farm where he harvested vegetables and fresh fruit. And what I liked best was swimming in the river with my friends.
- Right... Now you don't live that way. We have everything we need in the supermarket and we have heated pools. We have cars and a lot of appliances connected to electricity.



My parents explained to me that today we talk about Global Warming, but in fact it is about Global oscillations, because it is not only happening warming, like here in Portugal this year, with droughts, it is also happening in other areas. Climate is getting colder, reaching world records. People saw the changes happening gradually and now they simply got used to it.

As I prepared myself to go to sleep, still thinking about this whole day, I imagined what alternatives there would be for solving all the environmental problems. When I finally fell asleep, I had a dream that I want to make true.

I dreamed that I had my own house with several new technologies, one hundred percent green and without the old polluting technologies: the shingles and the glass collected all the necessary electricity from the sun; the walls were made of natural and renewable materials; there were rainwater reservoirs that stored all the water necessary for my family; inside the house, the room temperature was always pleasant regulated naturally; fruit trees and vegetables grew biologically, in the yard. I also dreamed that no one drove cars like ours, they were all electric with organic batteries yet to be invented, oddly popular bicycles came up and everyone lived well in comfort and health. And above all, they spent their free time outdoors with the most varied group activities. Nature was a source of life and not a source of resources.

When I woke up, still disturbed by the previous day, but fascinated by this dream, I wanted to go to school to convince everyone to fight for my dream. But I realized that, for now, the change began in me, at home, around me, in my studies.

I made a strong decision for my life - I wanted to be happy, now and in the future, in the world we live in. I decided I would study hard to create environmental solutions that are still unimaginable...

I, Flora, twelve years old, would be an environmental engineer.

The students of the 7th year of Agrupamento de Escolas de Vila Nova de Paiva.



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The quiz about “My name is Flora”

QUIZ:

1 - In this story, Flora is:

- a) The name of the village in which the character lives.
- b) The name of the character.
- c) The way in which the kingdom of plants is designated.

2 - At school we talked of global issues:

- a) In science classes.
- b) In general, in almost all subjects.
- c) To do the homeworks.

3 - The inhabitants of the village of Flora:

- a) Polluted the environment with their way of life.
- b) They had everything organized to save and recycle.
- c) They imagined a future free of pollution.

4 - The parents of Flora, in the face of environmental oscillations,

- a) They are conscious and transmit to the daughter good habits like walking.
- b) They live life like everyone else without thinking much about the environment.
- c) Convinced the daughter to study the environment to protect.

5 - What Shocks Flora the Most

- a) It is impossible to live in the time of your grandparents.
- b) It is to see how people's way of life has become unsustainable.
- c) To dream and not be able to do anything to change the environment.

6 - In that dream, Flora

- a) It escapes the reality that surrounds it.
- b) See a desirable but impossible future.
- c) See a cause to fight for.

7 - Flora will start your project already

- a) to persuade all persons to protect the environment;
- b) Gradually learn all you can to find environmental solutions.
- c) Encourage colleagues, teachers, people to dream of a cleaner planet.

The students of the 7th year of Agrupamento de Escolas de Vila Nova de Paiva.