**THE TEAM ARRIVES IN ARIZONA!**

Hello, everyone! I'm Jamie Henderson, the park ranger. We want our guests to work with local students. Let's see how much trash we can clean up!

While you are picking up trash, think about how we can reduce, reuse, and recycle. We want to have less trash next year!

Trace, I'm George. We're working together. Come to my house, and you'll see how I pick up litter!

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**TRACE ARRIVES AT GEORGE'S HOUSE.**

Let me show you some photographs.

Wow, these are really nice photographs. Did you really take these?

I did, I like photography. Keep them.

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Why do you have a fishing pole?

I'm going to catch some trash. Just watch!

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**GEORGE CATCHES A PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE INSTEAD OF A FISH.**

That doesn't belong in the river.

It certainly doesn't. It will kill the fish. Let's find out how it got in the river.
Trace and George find the Walker family exercising outside their home.

Can you tell me, are these your empty bottles?

Yes, it's important to drink plenty of water when exercising.

If you recycle the bottles, they won't pollute the river.

We're too busy exercising to go to the recycling center!

Trace and George meet Brooke, who has a recycling bin.

We're Trace and George. Hi.

We're Trace and George. Hi.

Hi! I'm Brooke. I'm sorting trash we found by the river.

I've seen them. They throw bottles around.

The walkers run by the river.

They said they were too busy to recycle.

That's silly. It's not hard if you have a bin like this.

Maybe we could give them a recycling bin like you have.

Good idea! If you help me, I'll give you a bin for them.

After Trace and George help Brooke sort the recycling...

Great! That's enough for now, guys. Here's the bin. I hope you can persuade the walkers to recycle.

Thanks, Brooke. I'll try. See you later.

Trace and George bring the recycling bin to the Walker family.

Hello again! We have something for you.

Hello! What is it?

If you use this bin to recycle, you'll save a lot of time.

We certainly will! It looks like good exercise, too.

Bye! Thanks for showing us how to recycle!
Trace and George go fishing again. This time George catches a plastic bag.

Eew, that’s ugly.

You see! The fish can’t live with that trash!

That’s really bad! What should we do?

Let’s find who threw it in the river. We can ask around the village.

Okay, let’s go!

Trace and George meet Sydney, who likes to shop.

Hello, my name is Trace. This is George.

Hello, guys. I’m Sydney. That’s spelled with a “y.”

Nice to meet you, Sydney. I notice you are carrying a plastic bag.

I’m sorry, but if the plastic gets in the river, it hurts the fish. Maybe you could find a reusable bag.

Yes, that’s my bag.

I have one! Those ratty old things! If it’s something to reuse, it has to look nice!

I think I can find you a reusable bag.

Well, it has to be better looking than this one. Here, take this. It’s ugly.

I’ll try to find a nicer bag. Bye!
TRACE AND GEORGE MEET A LOCAL ARTIST IN HER SHOP.

HELLO, SIERRA. I'M TRACE. WE'RE HELPING THE GREEN CLUB.

NICE TO MEET YOU TWO. I REALLY SUPPORT RECYCLING.

OH, YOU'RE GEORGE RUNNINGWATER, THE PHOTOGRAPHER! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU. I COULD DO THAT. IT WOULD BE A SAMPLE TO SHOW PEOPLE.

GEORGE LOVES THE ENVIRONMENT AND TAKES GOOD PICTURES. COULD YOU PUT GEORGE'S PHOTOS ON A RECYCLABLE BAG?

LATER, SIERRA RETURNS WITH THE FINISHED BAG.

HERE ARE THE BAG AND PHOTOS. THE BAG LOOKS PRETTY GOOD!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIERRA. THIS IS A BIG HELP.

TRACE AND GEORGE FIND SYDNEY AND GIVE HER THE ARTISTIC BAG.

SYDNEY! WAIT UP! WE HAVE A NEW BAG FOR YOU.

WOW! THAT'S BEAUTIFUL!

YES! YOU CAN USE IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

THANKS SO MUCH, GUYS! I LOVE IT! I'LL NEVER USE PLASTIC AGAIN!
TRACE AND GEORGE FISH AGAIN, THIS TIME THEY CATCH A NEWSPAPER!

This newspaper doesn’t belong in the river! It will kill the fish. Let’s find out how it got there.

Maybe the polluters live up the river.

Yes, let’s go find them.

TRACE AND GEORGE WALK UP THE RIVERBANK AND MEET ZACH NEAR A LARGE BUILDING.

Hi. Can we talk to you for a minute?

What do you need? I’m pretty busy.

We wondered how the newspaper got in the river.

I don’t know. I guess the boss has them stacked outside. Maybe they blew into the river.

Newspapers don’t belong in the river. The river is being destroyed by pollution.

I never thought of it that way. I wonder what we can do? It’s really a problem, but we have a lot of waste paper. We print three editions a day.

You could print one fewer edition and save a lot of money.

I don’t know. It does cost a lot of money to have so much waste.

Could you ask your boss about it? Show your boss the pictures of the river. It might persuade him.

That’s an idea. The pictures might convince him. Maybe. Let me talk to my boss.

ZACH RETURNS AFTER SPEAKING WITH HIS BOSS.

He’s not convinced. Maybe you should take pictures where the river is even more polluted.

We’ll come back with more photos. Thanks for your help. See you later.

See you later!
TRACE AND GEORGE FIND JAMIE, THE PARK RANGER.

Hi again, Jamie! We need some help. We need to get pictures of the worst pollution in the river and give them to the newspaper. What do they want them for?

I see. But it's very hard to get to the worst spot. I have to stay here to work, but I'll give you a walkie-talkie and help you find it.

TRACE AND GEORGE FOLLOW A TRAIL AND DISCOVER THE TRASH PILE.

Do you see the trash pile, George? Take some pictures, please. There it is! I'll get some pictures.

TRACE AND GEORGE RETURN THE WALKIE-TALKIE TO JAMIE.

Hi, Jamie! We got some good pictures of the trash. That's good news. Thanks for your hard work.

TRACE AND GEORGE DELIVER THE PHOTOS OF THE TRASH PILE TO ZACH.

Hi. Here are the pictures of the worst trash heap on the river. Thanks a lot. I'll try to get the boss to use them.

GOOD NEWS! He says he'll print the pictures with a special story on pollution.

DID YOU MOVE THE NEWSPAPERS SO THEY WON'T BLOW IN THE RIVER?

YES! The boss said that we could store them inside.

DID YOU PERSUADE THE BOSS TO USE LESS PAPER?

I talked to the boss, and he's going to print fewer editions. It'll save money, too.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. I'VE GOT TO GO. MY BUS IS LEAVING SOON.

MY PLEASURE. HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

ZACH RETURNS AFTER SHOWING GEORGE'S PICTURES TO HIS BOSS.

I think my pictures will help. Let's go back to my house to fish one last time.
**Later, on the bus ride back to the university...**

We heard from Professor Peterson. She said that in the future George Runningwater is a famous photographer and environmental activist. Wow! I guess he did save the river!

**Trace, Kit, and Eddie arrive back at the lab.**

Welcome back! There's no time to lose! Your next mission will be to help Neela Desai in New York City.

New York? Our family lives there! Eddie and I were going to go home for Thanksgiving. Trace—You should join us! We're leaving tomorrow.

I would love too. I can't wait to see New York!

To be continued in chapter 5