

Music for Schools presents...

Save Our Planet !

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...with illustrations by Jill Elstob

Welcome to Save Our Planet ! This is a one-act musical, suitable for upper Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 (ages 6 - 9). Younger children can also be included in your performance through the many lively songs. The show runs for approximately 30 minutes.

Save Our Planet ! explores two important themes: caring for our environment and showing respect for other cultures. Messages about recycling and reducing global emissions are gently worked into a fun and engaging storyline about the bringing together of Earth and the fictional planet of 'Zarkonia'. Planet Zarkonia is slowly dying and the Zarkonians suspect it has something to do with the 'dirty gases' rising up from Earth. Big Zed, the bumbling Zarkonian leader, appoints Zak to travel down to Earth to help sort out the problem. Zak speedily arrives in the back garden of Mollie and Michael - two sympathetic 'Earthlings', who seem keen to help. Thanks to Earth's email and television technology, Mollie, Michael and Zak are soon appearing on 'World News' to publicise their important cause. After a few weeks their campaign has been successful and the doomed fate of Zarkonia is reversed. Big Zed rewards Mollie and Michael with medals and appoints them as interplanetary pollution monitors !

Characters: Any number of pupils can perform **Save Our Planet !** Numbers of supporting alien beings, cats, dogs, flowers, fruit and vegetables are not restricted. There are good opportunities for whole-group singing and two significant solo singing roles (Big Zed and Zak). Opportunities for smaller-group singing (duets/trios) can easily be created from verses in the songs. There are plenty of speaking parts and the *Narrator* speeches can be divided between any number of children. Non-speaking parts (especially for younger pupils) can easily be created by featuring supporting groups of alien animals and plants. A full list of speaking parts appears overleaf.

Staging, costumes & scenery: **Save Our Planet !** can be very simply staged with all the performers seated on benches, either side of a raised stage or flat floor area. Costumes, at their simplest, could be limited to plain t-shirts, colour coordinated between the different groups of aliens. Additionally, painted faces are an effective way to portray the aliens, or simple masks which still allow children to sing clearly. The *Narrators* could wear their own coordinated t-shirts, or perhaps be dressed in their own space suits ! It is important that the main Zarkonian speakers have a changeable 'third eye' which forms a part of the storyline. At the start of the story this third eye appears dull and gloomy; at the end it is 'bright and glowing'.

This can either be done by sticking each to the forehead, or by using an acetate (or clear plastic) ring which can turn freely around the head - on which each eye is painted, and twisted to the front as required. The only significant prop is the 'space pod'. At its simplest, this could be a decorated hula-hoop which fits around its passengers, or perhaps a more elaborate contraption (given time and expertise). Movement around the stage need only be simple and stylised, although the 'Alien Dance' could be more choreographed, making full use of the stage and auditorium. A colourful collage could be used as a fixed backdrop to the performance area, depicting stars, comets and planets. Alternatively, technology could be used to project suitable images onto a screen at the back of the stage.

Speaking parts (in order of appearance):

Narrator 1 _____
Narrator 2 _____
Narrator 3 _____
Alien 1 _____ Alien 2 _____
Alien 3 _____ Alien 4 _____
Alien 5 _____ Alien 6 _____
Alien 7 _____ Alien 8 _____
Narrator 4 _____
Big Zed (a solo singer) _____
Zak (a solo singer) _____
Narrator 5 _____ Narrator 6 _____
Narrator 7 _____ Narrator 8 _____
Michael _____
Mollie _____
Narrator 9 _____ Narrator 10 _____
Narrator 11 _____
News Reader _____
Narrator 12 _____ Narrator 13 _____
Narrator 14 _____ Narrator 15 _____
Narrator 16 _____ Narrator 17 _____

CD, Sheet Music & Lyrics: The CD contains all that is required to rehearse pupils and to perform the musical. To protect the CD, it is recommended that you store it in a hard case. If using the CD for your performance, ensure that its operator brings each backing track in promptly, using the pause button between tracks to avoid unnecessary silence. If you prefer to play the music live, the sheet music at the back of this publication can be used for accompaniment on piano, keyboard and/or guitar. The music is written out in a more simplified form than is heard on the CD. The lyrics for the songs are presented in full page format within the script.

SONG - *Zarkonian Woes* (CD tracks 2 + 14)

Verse 1 (all Zarkonians sing)

On Zarkonia something's happening.
Trees and flowers are not growing very well.
Our creatures are all suffering
and Zarkonian kids are looking very pale.

Must be something out there,
major interference,
harmful rays or gases
breaking through our atmosphere.

Verse 2

Our Zarkonian sky is gloomier.
It seems darker, most peculiar.
Our craters rumble when the night descends
and our tummies grumble loudly through the day.

Must be something out there,
major interference,
harmful rays or gases
breaking through our atmosphere.

Must be something out there,
major interference,
harmful rays or gases
breaking through our atmosphere.

Zak

Big Zed, I have been watching planet Earth and have noticed that it is changing far quicker than any other planet. This may have something to do with our problem.

Big Zed

Hmm ! Tell me more Zak.

Zak

Well... planet Earth used to be so green and blue. Now it always looks so grey and dusty.

Alien 6

It smells funny too !

Alien 7

And it's losing it's snowy white caps !

Big Zed

You are very observant Zarkonians. And so I will choose one of you to lead a mission to planet Earth.

All the Aliens (*shouting over each other, excitedly*)

*"Me please - Let me go - Choose me
I'm the oldest - I'm the bravest - It must be me"
(etc., etc.)*

Big Zed (*shouting*)

Quiet ! That's enough !

(there is quiet)

(All the Zarkonians leave the stage area. Only Zak and the space pod remain.)

Narrator 7

In a matter of nanoseconds, the space pod materialised on planet Earth. It had landed in the back garden of Mollie and Michael who lived with their family in the middle of the countryside.

Narrator 8

Mollie and Michael had been quietly reading indoors, when they heard the incredible noise of the space pod. They rushed out excitedly into the garden to see what the commotion was.

Michael

I can't believe my eyes Mollie, what do you think it is ?

Mollie

It looks like some kind of space ship !

Michael

Do you think there is someone inside ?

Mollie

Maybe someone... or maybe something !

News Reader

And what do you think is causing this ?

Michael

It's our fault ! Planet Earth is sending out fumes and poisonous gases. Our pollution is reaching their atmosphere. We're harming Zarkonia and ourselves !

News Reader

This is a most serious situation. What can the world do to save our planet and Zarkonia ?

Mollie

You need to listen to our rap ! Ready Michael ?
1, 2, 3, 4...

Mollie & Michael *(together - and with actions described)*

We've got to save the planet ! *(making globe shape)*

There's lots that we can do,
recycle our materials, *(rolling fists)*

turn old things into new.
Use less electricity *(twisting a switch)*

by switching off the lights.
Insulate your house *(rubbing crossed arms)*

to keep it warm all day and night.
Aeroplanes and cars *(make aeroplane wings)*

are making too much CO2.
It's messing up our ozone layer *(punching the air)*

so what we've got to do
is find a cleaner way *(turning steering wheel)*

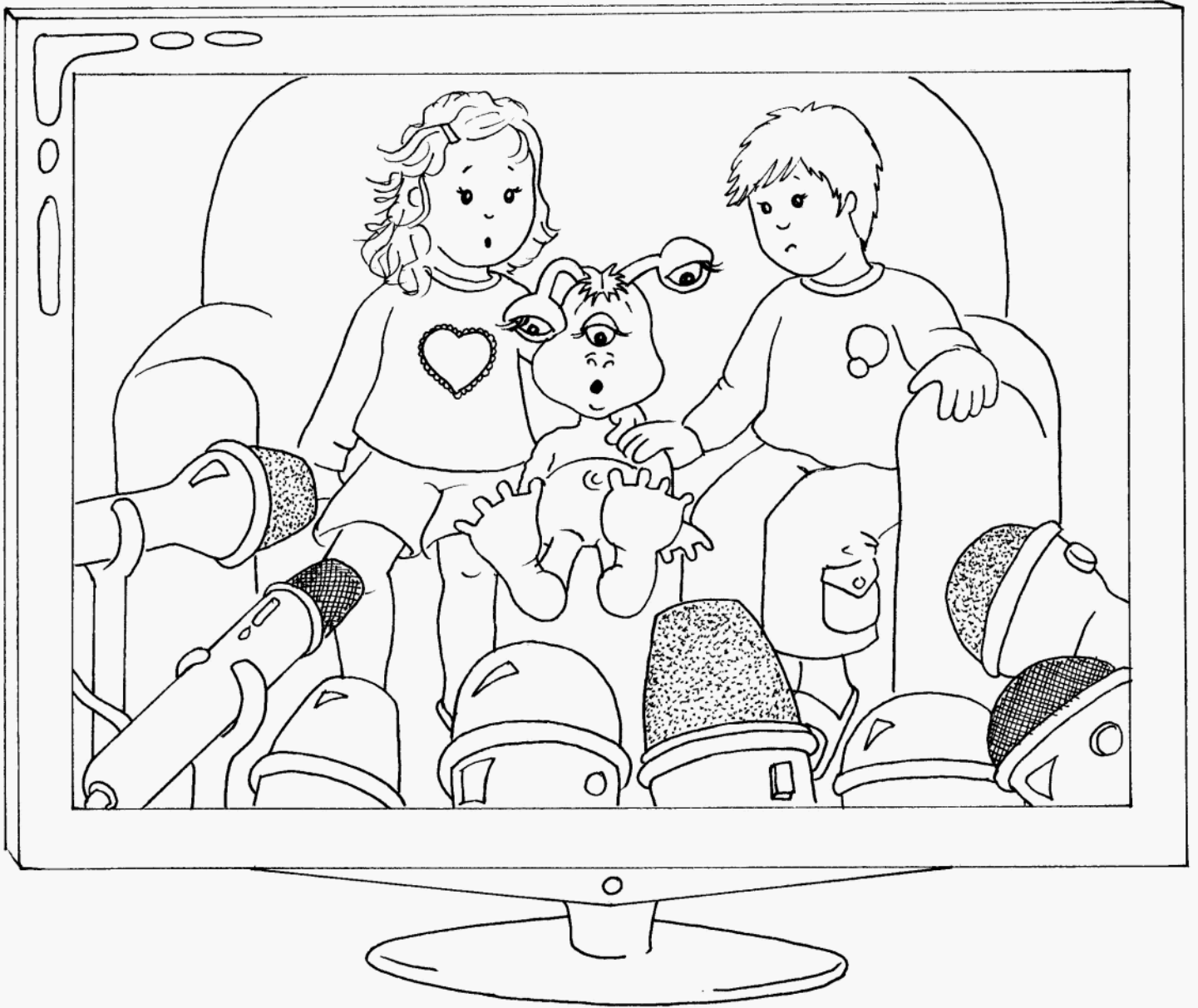
to run our travelling machines,
reduce the nasty gases *(pinching nose)*

from our giant factories.
Think green, think blue, *(pointing to temples)*

this is what we've got to do.
Think green, think blue. *(pointing to audience)*

It's down to me and you !

(Zak performs his Zarkonian 'clapping' once more.)



SONG - *Save Our Planet!* (CD tracks 8 + 20)

Verse 1 (all sing)

Save our planet and everything upon it.
Tell your friends and your neighbours too.
Cutting pollution is the only solution.
Listen to us, it's down to you.

Chorus

It's not too late to put it right,
but we can't change things overnight.
Use less water, use less power.
Recycle things and save our planet !

Verse 2

Zak the alien came here to tell us
how Zarkonians are suffering too.
Got to sort it all out, got to help us
turn it all back to green and blue.

Chorus

It's not too late to put it right,
but we can't change things overnight.
Use less water, use less power.
Recycle things and save our planet !

Use less water, use less power.
Recycle things and save our planet !

Save Our Planet !

(CD tracks 8 & 20)

♩ = 160

Voices

Piano, keyboard or guitar

Dm Dm/A Dm D G Dm⁷

4 Gdim G⁷ C⁷ F/C

Verse 1 (all sing) *f* Save our pla-net and ev - ery thing u-pon it.

7 G⁷/C C Csus⁴/G C C⁷

Tell your friends and your neigh - bours too. Cut - ting po - lu - tion is the

10 F/C F/C C B^b F/G C F/C C⁷ F/C C

on - ly so lu - tion. Lis-ten to us, it's down to you. **Chorus** It's

Something's Happening (CD tracks 10 & 22)

$\text{♩} = 100$

A C#m Bmsus⁴ Bm Esus⁴ E⁷

Voice

Piano, keyboard or guitar

mf

5 A C#m⁷ Dma⁷ D Bm Esus⁴ E⁷

Verse (all sing)

mf OnZar kon-ia some thing's hap - pen ing. Trees and flow ers are all grow -ing very

9 A C#m⁷ Dma⁷ D Bm Esus⁴ E⁷

well. Our crea tures look so heal -thy and our Zar kon - ian kids are full of life.

13 Fma⁷ Cma⁷ F Fma⁷ Cma⁷

We thank you for the chance you've giv en us. You've helped us to sur - vive.