

The Test

On the afternoon Marian took her second driver's test, Mrs Ericson went with her. "It's probably better to have someone a little older with you," Mrs Ericson said as Marian slipped into the driver's seat beside her. "Perhaps the last time your cousin Bill made you nervous, talking too much on the way."

"Yes, Ma'am," Marian said in her soft unaccented voice. "They probably do like it better if a white person shows up with you."

"Oh, I don't think it's that," Mrs Ericson began, and subsided after a glance at the girl's set profile. Marian drove the car slowly through the shady suburban streets. It was one of the first hot days in June, and when they reached the boulevard they found it crowded with cars headed for the beaches.

"Do you want me to drive?" Mrs Ericson asked. "I'll be glad if you're feeling jumpy." Marian shook her head. Mrs Ericson watched her dark, competent hands and wondered for the thousandth time how the house had ever managed to get along without her, or how she had lived through those earlier years when her household had been presided over by a series of slatternly white girls who had considered housework demeaning and the care of children an added insult. "You

drive beautifully, Marian," she said. "Now, don't think of the last time. Anybody would slide on a steep hill on a wet day like that."

"It takes four mistakes to fail you." Marian said. "I don't remember doing all the things the inspector marked down on my blank."

"People say that they only want you to slip them a little something," Mrs. Ericson said doubtfully. "No," Marian said. "That would only make it worse, Mrs Ericson, I know."

The car turned right, at a traffic signal, into a side road and slid up to the kerb at the rear of a short line of parked cars. The inspectors had not arrived yet.

"You have the papers?" Mrs Ericson asked. Marian took them out of her bag; her learner's permit, the car registration, and her birth certificate. They settled down to the dreary business of waiting.

"It will be marvellous to have someone dependable to drive the children to school every day," Mrs Ericson said. Marian looked up from the list of driving requirements she had been studying.

"It'll make things simpler at the house, won't it?" she said.

"Oh, Marian," Mrs Ericson exclaimed, "if only I could pay you half of what you're worth!"

"Now, Mrs. Ericson," Marian said firmly. They looked at each other and smiled with affection.

Two cars with official insignia on their doors stopped across the street. The inspectors leaped out, very brisk and military in their neat uniforms. Marian's hands tightened on the wheel. "There's the one who failed me last time," she whispered, pointing to a stocky, self-important man who had begun to shout directions at the driver at the head of the line. "Oh, Mrs Ericson."

"Now Marian," Mrs Ericson said. They smiled at each other again, rather weakly.

The inspector who finally reached their car was not the stocky one but a genial, middle-aged man who grinned broadly as he thumbed over their papers. Mrs. Ericson started to get out of

the car. "Don't you want to come along?" The inspector asked. "Mandy and I don't mind company!"

Mrs. Ericson was bewildered for a moment. "no," she said, and stepped to the kerb. "I might make Marian self-conscious. She's a fine driver, Inspector."

"Sure thing," the inspector said, winking at Mrs Ericson. He slid into the seat beside Marian. "Turn right at the corner, Mandy-Lou."

From the kerb, Mrs. Ericson watched the car move smoothly up the street.

The inspector made notations in a small black book. "Age?" he inquired presently, as they drove along.

"Twenty-seven."

He looked at Marian out of the corner of his eye. "Old enough to have quite a flock of pickaninies, eh?"

Marian did not answer.

"Left at this corner," the inspector said, "and park between that truck and the green Buick."

The two cars were very close together, but Marian squeezed in between them without too much manoeuvring. "Driven before, Mandy-Lou?" the inspector asked.

"Yes sir. I had a licence for three years in Pennsylvania."

"Why do you want to drive a car?"

"My employer needs me to take her children to and from school."

"Sure you don't really want to sneak out nights to meet some young blood?" the inspector asked. He laughed as Marian shook her head. "Let's see you take a left at the corner and then turn around in the middle of the next block," the inspector said. He began to whistle 'Swanee River'. "Make you homesick?" he asked.

Marian put out her hand, swung around neatly in the street, and headed back in the direction from which they had come.

"No," she said. "I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania."

The inspector feigned astonishment. "You-all ain't Southern?" he said. "Well, dog my cats if I didn't think you-all came from down yondah."

"No, sir," Marian said.

"Turn onto Main Street and let's see how you-all does in heavier traffic."

They followed a line of cars along Main Street for several blocks until they came in sight of a concrete bridge which arched high over the railroad tracks.

"Read that sign at the end of the bridge," the inspector said.

"Proceed with caution, Dangerous in slippery weather" Marian said.

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"You-all sho can read fine," the inspector exclaimed. "Where d'you learn to do that, Mandy?"

"I got my college degree last year," Marian said. Her voice was not quite steady.

As the car crept up the slope of the bridge the inspector burst out laughing. He laughed so hard he could scarcely give his next direction. "Stop here," he said, wiping his eyes, "then start 'er up again. Mandy got her degree, did she? Dog my cats!"

Marian pulled up beside the kerb. She put the car in neutral, pulled up in the hand-brake, waited a moment, and then put the car into gear again. Her face was set. As she released the brake her foot slipped off the clutch pedal and the engine stalled.

"Now, Mistress Mandy," the inspector said, "remember your degree."

"DAMN YOU!" Marian cried. She started the car with a jerk. The inspector lost his joviality in an instant. "Return to the starting place, please," he said, and made four very black crosses at random in the squares on Marian's application blank.

Mrs Ericson was waiting at the kerb where they had left her. As Marian stopped the car, the inspector jumped out and brushed past her, his face purple. "What happened?" Mrs Ericson asked, looking after him with alarm.

Marian stared down at the wheel and her lip trembled.

"Oh, Marian, again?" Mrs Ericson said.

Marian nodded. "In a sort of different way," she said, and slid over to the passenger seat of the car.

Angelica Gibbs

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Text handling

- Mrs Ericson thought that Marian's cousin made her nervous by doing what?
- 'Oh, I don't think it's that.' (line 7) What does Mrs Ericson mean by this?
- 'to slip them' (line 20) means (a) to hide from (b) to bribe or (c) to escape.
- What documents did Marian need to have?
- Why was Mrs Ericson so keen for Marian to pass her driving test?
- What is the relationship like between Mrs Ericson and Marian? Quote one example from the passage to support your answer.
- What was Marian's reaction on seeing the inspectors?
- The inspector who failed Marian the first time is described as being 'self-important' (line 34), explain what this means.
- Why was Mrs Ericson bewildered?
- Why do you suppose the inspector called Marian 'Mandy-Lou'?
- What can you tell about the inspector's attitude from the questions he was asking Marian and the comments he made to her replies?
- 'feigned astonishment' (line 65) means what?
- Why would Marian's voice be 'not quite steady'? (line 74)
- 'The inspector lost his joviality' (line 82) Do you think his 'joviality' was genuine? Give a reason for your answer.

15. The Inspector deliberately speaks in non-standard English to Marian? What does this imply?
 16. 'You –all sho can read fine' (line 73) write this in standard English.
 17. The Inspector uses the word 'pickanninies' what does this word mean?
 18. The title is 'The test'. Can you explain the two likely meanings implied?
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Written production

- Mrs. Ericson wrote a letter of complaint to the Chief Inspector. Write her letter.
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Changes Within Our Environment

What environmental issues are you most concerned about, deforestation, GM foods, climate change or air pollution?

(1) Use one word only in the spaces 1-10.

(2) Put the correct form of the words in bold in the sections below.

If we are to prevent a global catastrophe governments must act now to reduce emissions that damage the climate and ensure a switch to clean, renewable energy.

Deforestation

Ancient forests are the living **express** of billions of years of **evolve**. Home (1)... millions of types of plants and animals, they sustain as much as 90 per cent of the world's land-based species – everything (2) ... owls to orchids and bears to beetles.

And every two seconds, (3) ... area of ancient forest the size of a football pitch is destroyed.

These forests, and the indigenous people who rely (4) ... them, can never be replaced. And the **beauty** plants and animals that live there are not all we stand to lose. Illegal and **destroy** deforestation also produces high amounts of carbon, heating (5) ... the earth's atmosphere and accelerating climate change. And the lands (6) ... many indigenous peoples are being destroyed by deforestation – their resources plundered and their **culture** traditions threatened.

Commercial logging is the single largest **contribute** to this destructive deforestation. Greenpeace is working to establish (7) ... network of protected forests, and to support sustainable logging and the **develop** of non-wood products outside (8) ... those areas.

The Amazon rainforest is one of the most **biology** rich areas (9) ... the world, supporting (10)... to 50 per cent of the planet's land-based animal and plant species. It is also home to thousands of communities who rely on the forest for survival.

But illegal and destructive logging is destroying this unique tropical rainforest in the Amazon. An area half the size of Belgium disappears annually. Greenpeace is running a global campaign – in close partnership with local communities and **organise** – to protect the Brazilian Amazon rainforest from illegal and destructive logging and to promote sustainable **alternate**.

Greenpeace.org.uk



Text handling

1. Football pitches are being destroyed. True or false?
2. The forests are being destroyed illegally. True or false?
3. High amounts of carbon speed up climate change. True or false?

4. Greenpeace protects the forest. True or false?
 5. The Amazon is rich. True or false?
 6. Indigenous peoples are being destroyed. True or false?
 7. Name one animal species and one plant species mentioned in the article.
 8. Belgium will disappear. True or false
 9. Greenpeace is running in a campaign. True or false
 10. Local people are involved in helping to save the rainforests. True or false?
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GM Food

Genetically Modified (GM) Food **(1) is created/created** by genetically engineering living organisms. Genetic engineering **(2) enabled/enables** scientists to create new plants, animals and micro-organisms by manipulating their genes. Genes from a fish have, for example, **(3) inserted/been inserted** into strawberries and tomatoes. Most GM foods grown today **(4) are designed/is designed** to tolerate herbicides and resist certain insects.

The chances are you've already eaten GM Food. Anything made from maize, soya, oilseed rape or cottonseed derivatives is likely to contain traces of GM Food. Soya derivatives alone are found in 60 to 70 per cent of all processed food.

The risks associated with GM Food technology are enormous; the consequences for human health and the environment are potentially catastrophic. And once released, GM organisms cannot possibly be contained.

They are living pollution – interbreeding with natural organisms, pollinating other crops and wild plants, contaminating conventional and organic farms.

All major UK supermarkets, as well as most restaurants and food producers, **(5) banned/have banned** GM ingredients and GM food. But GM Food crops are still **(6) grown/growing** throughout Britain in the Government's programme of 'farm scale trials'. Millions of tonnes of GM Food crops are also sneaking into our food chain in animal feed. Both of these backdoors need closing.

Greenpeace.org.uk



Text handling

1. Select the correct alternative in the above article 1-6.
 2. Scientists are manipulating their genes. True or false?
 3. GM organisms are pollutants. True or false?
 4. GM foods are tolerated. True or false?
 5. Eating GM food is catastrophic. True or false?
 6. How is GM food created?
 7. Some restaurants serve GM food. True or false?
 8. How would you know whether or not you had eaten GM food?
 9. 'Both these backdoors need closing'. Name one example given to illustrate this.
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Text handling

- Words have been taken from both sections on the next page. Replace them in the correct spaces.

(1) urgent; (2) problem; (3) local; (4) dangerous; (5) temperatures; (6) obvious; (7) vulnerable; (8) offshore; (9) enormous; (10) abundant; (11) engulf; (12) havoc; (13) toxic; (14) problems; (15) recycling; (16) hazardous; (17) incinerators; (18) linked (19) sustainable; (20) legacy; (21) strategy (22) defects; (23) chain; (24) speck; (25) emissions

Climate Change

Climate change, caused by global warming, is the biggest environmental (1)... we face today. Climate change is destroying the environment - as high water (2)... kills off coral reefs, rising sea levels threaten to (3) ...entire countries, (4) ...ice shelves break off in the Antarctic, and (5)..... species face extinction. Climate change is killing people - as fires, droughts, storms and floods destroy homes and (6)... infrastructures, spread diseases such as malaria and cholera, and wreak (7)... on entire communities. It is the greenhouse gases produced by burning oil, coal and gas that cause global warming and climate change. And governments around the world are realising the (8)need to find clean energy resources. Wind, waves and sun are the (9)..... choice - clean, (10)..... renewable energy resources. But despite the fact that (11).... wind turbines could meet the UK's electricity needs three times over, the UK government seems to prefer the (12).... radioactive waste produced by nuclear power.

Air Pollution

Air pollution is caused by a variety of industrial processes. Here at Greenpeace UK, we campaign against the release of (13).... chemicals into the air from municipal waste (14) ...and other industrial processes, the release of radioactive gases into the air by nuclear power stations, and the greenhouse gases (15) ...produced by destructive logging and burning fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas.

This air pollution is incredibly dangerous to human health. Toxic chemicals such as dioxins have been (16)... to cancer, heart disease, respiratory (17)...., immune system (18)....., increased allergies and birth defects. Radioactive

wastes such as plutonium, caesium, ruthenium, iodine, krypton and strontium remain (19) ... for thousands of years, building up in human bodies and the food (20)...., leaving a poisonous (21)for future generations. And inhalation of a single microgram of plutonium (smaller than a (22) ...of dust) can cause fatal lung cancer.

But there are many clean solutions! Incinerators could be replaced by a zero waste (23)..., involving the reduction of waste, reuse and (24)... of products. Offshore wind could easily replace all of the UK's nuclear power stations. Illegal and destructive logging could become (25) ...forestry. And fossil fuels are unnecessary when the UK has such abundant renewable energy resources.

Greenpeace.org.uk



More About Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an international environmental pressure group which actively campaigns to stop pollution of the natural world and to protect wildlife. It is concerned about the threats facing wildlife species from the actions of human beings such as, killing, over fishing, pollution, and habitat loss.

Greenpeace is completely independent from any political party, business interest or other organization, and its finances are derived solely from its supporters and the general public. It was formed in 1971 in

Canada. Worldwide there are about 5 million Greenpeace supporters, in 158 countries.

Greenpeace owns eight ships to implement its marine-based campaigns. It also has a hot-air balloon for airborne protests and an action bus equipped with a scientific laboratory. It campaigns against issues of environmental abuse, through the use of non-violent direct actions, and the lobbying of relevant international authorities.

Through scientific research, lobbying and direct actions Greenpeace has achieved many successes over environmental abuses. Greenpeace has drawn attention to the slaughter of seal pups for their fur skins. In 1982 the European Economic Community banned the import of seal skins to member states.

Greenpeace 'Save the Whale' campaign achieved a major success in 1986, when the International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling.

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Text handling

- The paragraph headings were removed from the advertisement below. Replace them correctly

One Person To Save Our World

(A)

Scientists agree that the continued burning of fossil fuels could have a massive impact on our climate. It's possible that the record floods in the UK and the devastating freak weather around the world from Honduras to Mozambique will happen more often. Greenpeace is campaigning for offshore wind,

wave and solar energy which is safe and clean and does not harm the climate. *Imagine how much safer our climate would be with them?*

(B)

80% of the world's forests have now been destroyed or degraded. Right now Greenpeace is focussing on protecting the Amazon rainforest from illegal logging, and at the same time is working with local communities to help them find alternative ways of making a living without destroying the forest. We must continue campaigning to save our last remaining forests. *Could you act quickly enough if we asked for your help?*

(C)

Over 176,000 people in the UK are currently having an impact on the future of their environment. Simply by being a Greenpeace supporter you can have an effect too, and make a real difference. *All you have to do to be part of the action is to sign up.*

(D)

After 15 years of Greenpeace action, driftnets will disappear from European waters by 2001. This historic ruling will save literally thousands of dolphins, whales, turtles and countless other marine animals. *Do you have the energy to support further Greenpeace action?*

(E)

For many years the oil and chemical industries have used the seas around the UK to dump their waste. Thanks to Greenpeace there is now a ban on dumping from oil installations in the Atlantic ocean. *Do you feel strongly enough to help us stop the sea being used as a rubbish tip?*

(F)

Do you know much about the long term effects of genetically modified food? It's impossible to know what all the consequences will be on human health and the environment. Greenpeace is campaigning to have all GM foods banned and promote the organic alternative. *Wouldn't you like to know that none of the food you eat contains GM products?*

Greenpeace.org.uk



Headings:

- (1) Knowledge (2) Action (3) Vision (4) Strength (5) Speed
(6) Power

Text handling

- The five headings were removed from the following article, where should they go?

5 Things You Didn't Know About Greenpeace.

1. We have just over 2.5 million individual supporters in 158 countries around the world, which means Greenpeace can make a real difference to global environmental concerns.

2. To maintain absolute independence we don't ask for money from business interests or governments anywhere in the world. We rely entirely on the support of individuals like you to be able to campaign for effective solutions to environmental problems.

3. Greenpeace was founded in 1971 when a group of concerned individuals set out in an old boat to protest against US nuclear weapons testing off Amchitka, Alaska. Today Greenpeace still uses non-violent direct action to bring about change to protect the environment we all share.

4. We communicate with over 6,000 businesses to persuade them to bring about reforms which make industry adopt more efficient and cleaner practices.

5. With an international presence Greenpeace can mobilise one of five ships to go anywhere in the world whenever the environmental threat is greatest.

Greenpeace.org.uk

Headings:

- (a) Greenpeace Takes Action (b) Greenpeace Means Business.
(c) Greenpeace Is International. (d) Greenpeace Campaigns 24 Hours A Day.
(e) Greenpeace Is Independent.

10 Greenpeace Successes

1. 2001. Greenpeace and npower launch 'Juice' – a clean electricity product at no extra cost. Juice will supply 50,000 homes and support the development of a specific windfarm out at sea.

2. 1999. After a 10 year Greenpeace campaign some major food manufacturers and UK supermarkets begin to listen to what consumers want and remove genetically

modified ingredients from their products.

3. 2000. A record 13% of BP Amoco shareholders vote in favour of a resolution backed by Greenpeace which called for BP Amoco to abandon its plans to exploit the Arctic for oil in favour of more renewable energy.

4. 1999. Greenpeace launches its campaign to halt illegal logging in the Amazon rainforest. Greenpeace has already been instrumental in stopping all new mahogany logging concessions there.

5. 2000. The UK government rejects climate-damaging refrigerants, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and acknowledges the advantages of greenfreeze technology pioneered by Greenpeace.

6. 2001. As part of a global campaign for sustainable waste management, Greenpeace action closes the Sheffield incinerator and prevents it emitting harmful toxic gases and ash. Soon afterwards it is announced that the plant will be demolished.

7. 1999. Lego, Chico and Playmobil are among the largest toy companies to eliminate PVC from children's products.

8. 1997. After a 10 year campaign Greenpeace secured a ban on mining in Antarctica for 50 years.

9. 1998. After 15 years of campaigning, the use of driftnets will be banned in European waters by the end of 2001.

10. 1998. B&Q, Sainsbury's Homebase, Do-It-All, Magnet and Courtaulds cease using timber from companies logging in Canada's ancient rainforests.

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Text handling: What happened when?

When	What
1989	
	Change in materials used in toys
1983	
1987	
	Demolition of plants
	Oils plan abandoned
	Government accepts new technology

April 22, 2005 - The 35th Anniversary Of Earth Day

Earth Day, which began in 1970, is now celebrated by millions of people worldwide. This year is its 35th anniversary, and around the world, hundreds of thousands of nongovernmental organizations, governments, and teachers, among others, are making plans to declare that they are part of something extraordinary: a worldwide movement to protect our planet, our children, and our future.

This year, Earth Day Network's theme is 'Protect Our Children and Our Future.' Despite the extraordinary and often false obstacles that we face in our efforts to protect our natural resources and our biodiversity, few will dare argue with the moral imperative to protect our children from harm. As a consequence of that imperative, we call on governments, corporations, faith-based organizations, and all people in our troubled world to work with us to ensure that children everywhere are healthy, educated, and free from oppression.

This Earth Day, hundreds of major events will take place around the world, in communities large and small, in classrooms, in parks and on beaches, in places of worship. From Kiev to Beijing, from India to Romania, from Africa to the Americas, we will demonstrate