



Story sheet

Mo makes a difference

Mo looked out of his bedroom window. He could see the gardens of the houses opposite, the supermarket, the football pitches and, best of all, the river. This was his favourite part of the view. He loved looking at all the birds – there were ducks, swans and, once, he caught a glimpse of a brilliant blue kingfisher as it zipped past!

‘But hang on,’ thought Mo as he looked closer. ‘What’s that?’

Someone had dumped a load of rubbish at one end of the river, by the bridge. There was an old mattress, a car battery and several black bin bags, spilling rotten food and litter into the water.

Mo felt cross and disappointed and so did lots of his neighbours. They said the council should clean the mess up, but Mo wanted to do something himself - but he wasn’t sure what. His dad suggested getting in touch with a local action group called ‘Friends of the River’.

A week later, Mo helped out with group’s monthly ‘river clean’. He met a man called Bill and together they collected 20 bags of rubbish from the river! Mo even got to go out on the river in a canoe to collect an old football from the far bank – something he’d never done before!

Mo found out that the Friends of the River group did all kinds of other activities to help the environment and, over the next few months, he joined in with lots of them. He helped out with a beach tidy (and had a free ice-cream afterwards!), a survey to count the number of butterflies along a stretch of the river and a sponsored cycle to raise funds for some new litter-pickers!

Mo became good friends with Bill, who liked spending time with Mo because he was the same age as his grandchildren, but Bill didn’t get to see them very often because they lived abroad. “Who knew that a load of rubbish could lead to such a lot of fun?” thought Mo.