

Heroes of Mosul's Forests

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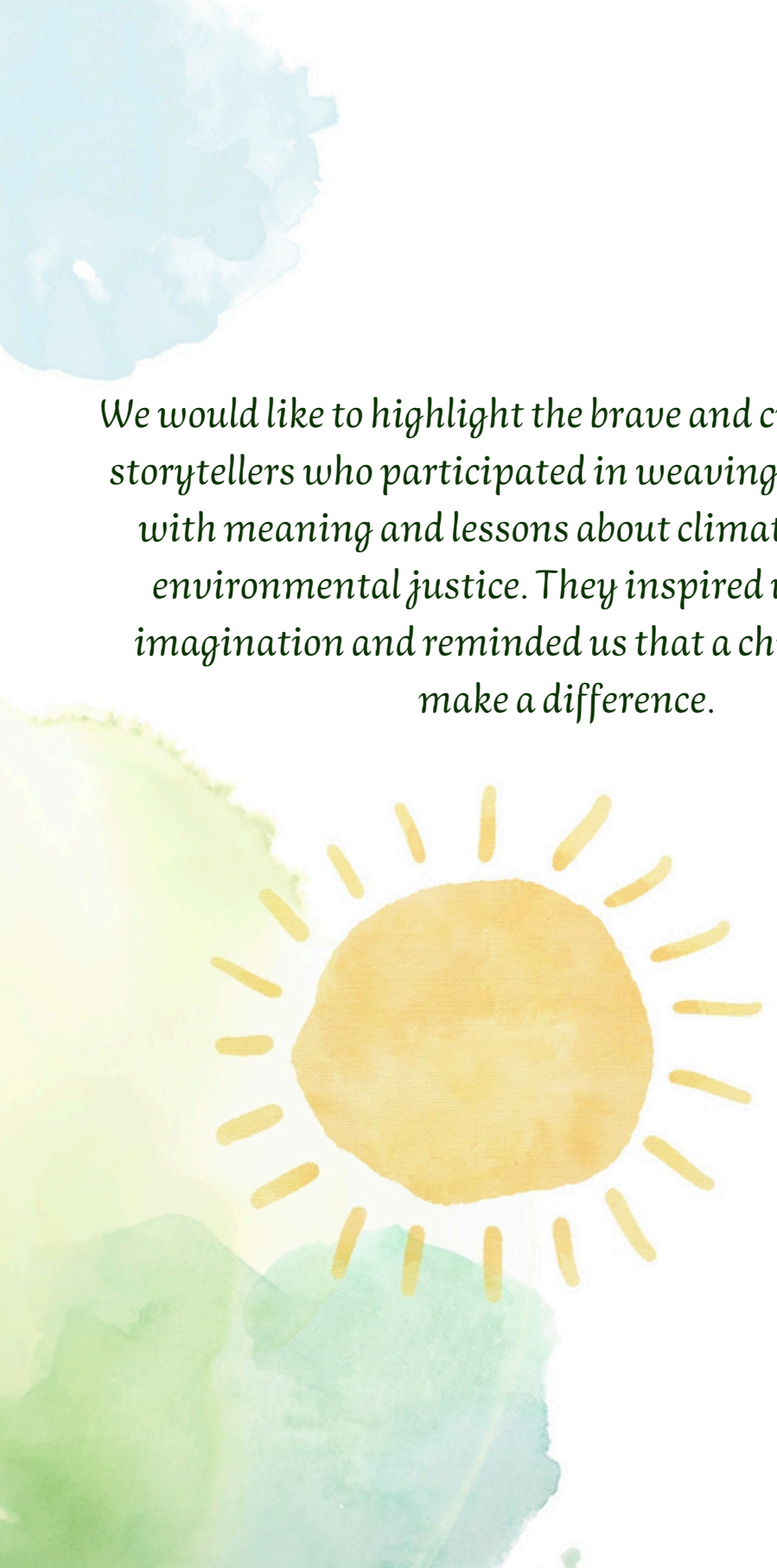
This story was developed as part of the regional initiative "Stories in Colors: Children Telling Stories about Climate Change," part of the Human Security Collective's activities under the regional Civic Horizons program, in collaboration with Dream Organization for Sustainable Development.

Learn more about the regional initiative "Stories in Colors: Children Telling Stories about Climate Change"



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A watercolor illustration featuring a bright yellow sun with radiating lines, partially obscured by soft, light blue and green clouds. The sun is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, while the clouds are scattered across the top and left sides of the page.

We would like to highlight the brave and creative children storytellers who participated in weaving this story, rich with meaning and lessons about climate change and environmental justice. They inspired us with their imagination and reminded us that a child's voice can make a difference.

We extend our heartfelt and sincere thanks to the schools that embraced the initiative, opened their doors to children, and provided them with a safe and stimulating space to express themselves, imagine, and engage with issues affecting their local environment. These schools played a fundamental role in the success of the workshops and in enhancing their educational and creative impact.

A special salute goes to Mr. Yasser Kouyani, the storyteller, who skillfully facilitated the writing workshops in an interactive way, transforming the ideas of children from the Sherikhan and Rashidiya neighborhoods into a vivid and imaginative story that reflects their environmental reality and carries messages of reflection and change.

We also express our gratitude to Dream Organization for Sustainable Development, the local partner in implementing this initiative in Iraq, for its support and collaboration in organizing the workshops and activities, and for its contribution in amplifying the voices of the children and their environmental vision into an inspiring story that can be shared widely.

Storytelling here is more than an art. It is a means of empowerment, a catalyst for awareness, and a bridge to envisioning a more just and sustainable future.

On a sunny spring day, Sami, Miral, and Laila's school planned a field trip to the Mosul forest, one of the most beautiful natural areas in the country. Excitement filled the air as the students gathered in the schoolyard with their teachers, ready to explore the forest and learn about its biodiversity. Sami and his friends were eager to discover new things and go on exciting adventures.

When they arrived at the Mosul forests, the children's eyes were amazed by the beauty of the natural scenery. The tall trees, colorful flowers, and diverse plants made the place look magical. The teachers began explaining the importance of protecting the environment and how various creatures live in the forest.



During the trip, the students did fun activities like hiking and biking, but while exploring, they started to smell a strange smell in the air. Suddenly, smoke began to rise, revealing a fire in one corner of the forest! The children and teachers were scared and confused, but Sami decided to stay calm.





Sami gathered his friends and told them that they had to take quick action. The teacher called the emergency center, and everyone began working together to evacuate the animals they saw. Some students accompanied the teachers to help the adults put out the flames, while others focused on making sure everyone was safe.

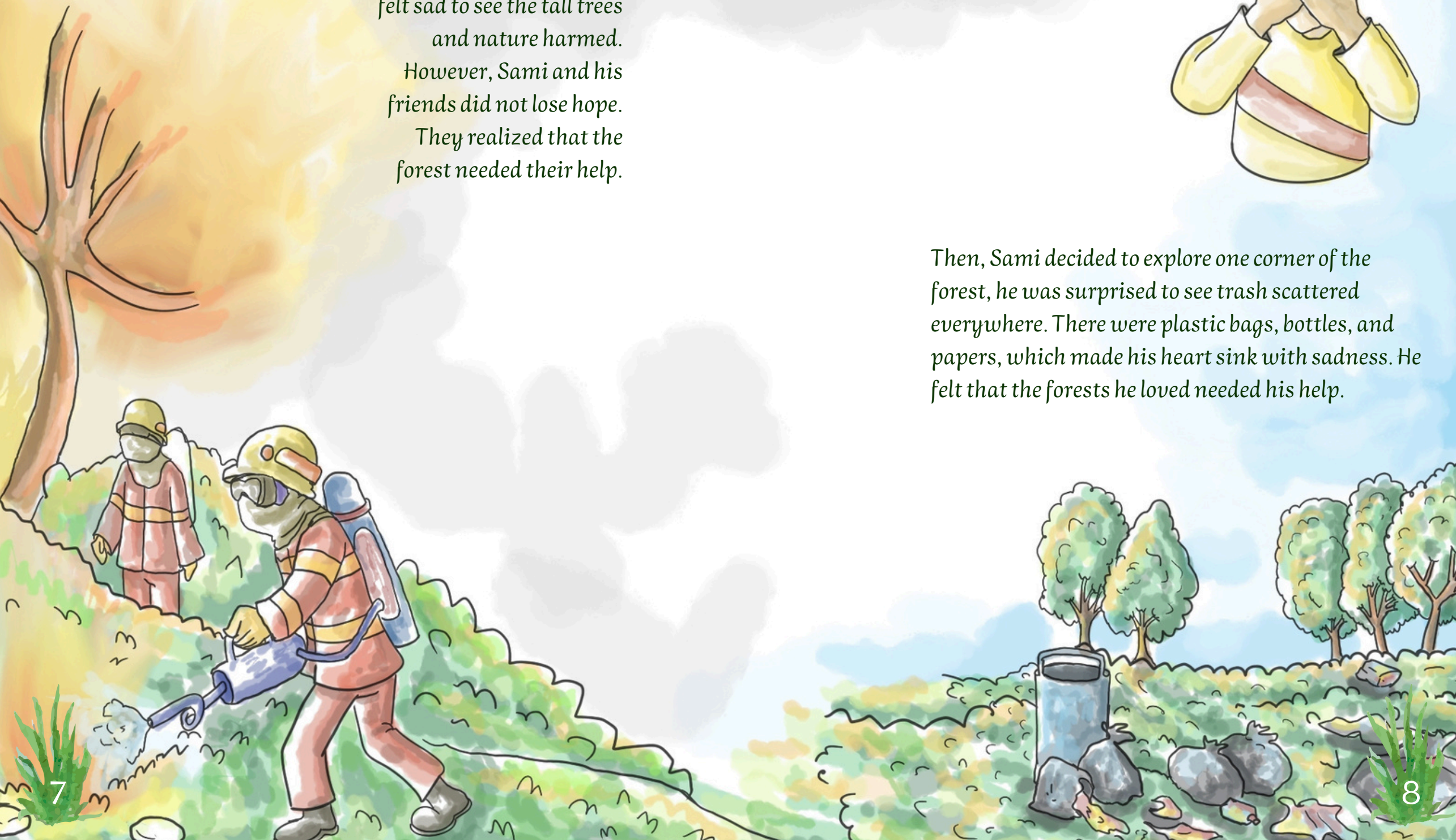
Under the supervision of the teachers, the boys and girls formed lines to guide the animals to safety, while others helped by using buckets of water to put out the fire. Despite the fear and tension, the students showed incredible courage and determination. Their teamwork was amazing, and the forest was soon filled with cheering sounds as they fought the fire together.



After hard efforts, the fire was finally put out, but the forest had suffered great damage. Everyone felt sad to see the tall trees and nature harmed. However, Sami and his friends did not lose hope. They realized that the forest needed their help.



Then, Sami decided to explore one corner of the forest, he was surprised to see trash scattered everywhere. There were plastic bags, bottles, and papers, which made his heart sink with sadness. He felt that the forests he loved needed his help.





Sami returned home determined to make a change. He gathered his friends at school and told them what he had seen in the Mosul forests. Sami suggested organizing a big cleanup campaign. Everyone agreed on the importance of the idea and began planning for the weekend.

On Saturday morning, the children gathered and walked toward the Mosul forests. Each of them brought the necessary tools: garbage bags, gloves, and other items. Their hearts were full of excitement to restore the beauty of the Mosul forests. When they arrived, the group began working hard





and during that time, a family of rabbits appeared and watched from a distance. One of the rabbits, named Toto, decided to step closer. He said, "I didn't know that children like you loved the Mosul forest this much. You are inspiring!"

The group was delighted by Toto's concern, and they were joined not only by Toto but also by many birds and squirrels, who helped the children collect the garbage all the while having a lot of fun. As they worked, they discovered amazing things: rare flowers from the Mosul forests and tree leaves that held stories about the past.



After hours of work, the place was clean, and the children felt proud because they had helped restore the beauty of the Mosul forests. They formed a circle around a massive tree that was considered a symbol of the forest, and they began celebrating with the animals.

They prepared a snack together, and they shared happy moments. They exchanged stories about the importance of preserving forests and how they serve as homes for many living creatures. The children decided to plant some new flowers as a start to a new era of protection and care for the Mosul forest.

Over time, Sami, Miral and Laila became heroes of the Mosul forest, taking steps to teach their schoolmates about the importance of nature and the gifts the forest provides. Over time, the Mosul forest became to them a sanctuary that holds greater meaning than just a place to play. It became a symbol of friendship, teamwork, and a love for nature.

Thus, Sami, Miral and Laila's adventures in preserving the Mosul forest continued, and over time, they inspired others in their community to get involved in preserving the nature around them.

