

# **FSA Exemplars**

**Grade 7**

Reading

**Read this play about a conversation between two friends.**

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## **Facing the Waves**

*by Mary Hall Surface*

**CHARACTERS:**

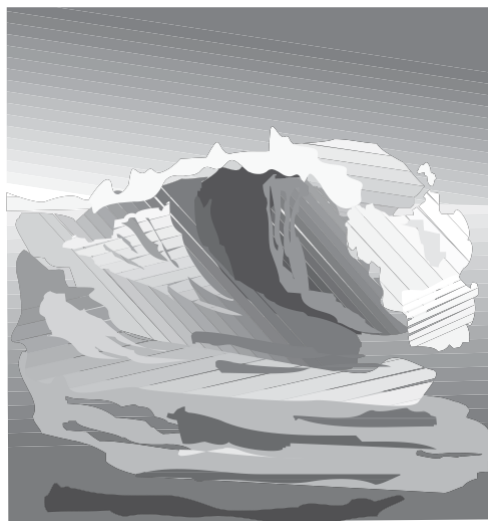
Kitt, 12–13 years old

Shine, 12–13 years old

**SETTING:**

The beach

KITT and SHINE, have been friends since they were young kids. They meet every summer when they visit their grandparents. It is the very beginning of the summer surfing season. KITT is an excellent surfer; SHINE is an aspiring one. As the scene begins, SHINE is meeting KITT for a day on the beach.



KITT: Where you been, beginner? Aren't you stoked?

SHINE: That's "excited" in surfer-speak, right?

KITT: All right, Shine! You're learnin' the lingo! The new vibe is clear. Paddle out and charge or be labelled a small wave guy. You, however, are still a grommet on the long board.

SHINE: I'm workin' on it. I just need more practice.

KITT: It's all in the stance. Left foot down on the board. Right foot across it. (SHINE and KITT both practice the surfing moves.) Means you face the waves when you ride to the right. Gotta look into the face of Mother Ocean.

SHINE and KITT: (Sharing a surfer handshake/motto.)  
Be cat-chin' some ac-tion!

SHINE: So you gonna help tomorrow?

KITT: With what?

SHINE: The beach clean up. We need everybody.

KITT: You still beating the eco-warrior drum?

SHINE: Somebody's got to. The trash has gotten really bad.

KITT: Shine. There are only so many hours in a day. And only so many waves in an hour. I can't spend those precious hours changing the world. That's your job.

SHINE: We can start early. Pick up what the tide's left behind—

KITT: I got other plans for then, and for now. We are talkin' some excellent waves out there! Let's go!

SHINE: Kitt, wait. I don't think we should go in.

KITT: You scared of the big ride? Those monster waves are thanks to Mother Nature. A week of storms means we make a killer score! You comin'?

SHINE: It's not the waves.

KITT: Then what's the deal?

SHINE: Have you seen the drainpipe? The one up the beach?

KITT: Oh no. Here comes another eco-alert.

SHINE: There's more than river water in there. Go smell it. It's nasty.

KITT: It's always nasty.

SHINE: But it's never been this bad.

KITT: Then maybe you and your tribe should make some more signs. "No dumping. We live downstream." That was my favourite of all your plans to help the environment. Spray-painting signs—who cares if your spray cans deplete the ozone—

SHINE: We switched to paint brushes!

KITT: Or even better, when you had your Dad drive you all over town, burning up gas and oil to pick up people's stuff to recycle.

SHINE: At least I'm trying to help!

KITT: Yeah, but you don't get it. Shine, there are some things you just can't change. Take the drainpipe—

SHINE: Yeah?

KITT: It's all part of the bigger journey. People are gonna drive, so their cars are gonna drip oil. Once an oil glob goes plop into a parking lot, boom, it is on its way. (He becomes the oil glob, surfing.) Washed by the rain, into the storm drains, zippin' through the underground city of pipes, then pow— into the ocean. Next thing you know, I'm wiping that oil glob off my board. It's a drag, but you gotta dodge the dredge if you wanna ride the waves. (He starts to exit.)

SHINE: I don't think it's oil this time. It's something else.

KITT: You comin' or not?

SHINE: Give it till tomorrow, Kitt. Maybe whatever it is will get washed out farther. Outta the surf zone.

KITT: Shine. A real surfer cannot be afraid of the unknown. I'm out there. (He crosses toward the beach.)

SHINE: (Calling after him.) Then don't stay in too long! And keep your mouth closed! (To herself.) Please. (SHINE watches as KITT exits.)



End of  
Scene.

"Facing the Waves" adapted from "Surf's Up". Mary Hall Surface.  
Short Scenes and Monologues for Middle School Actors. pp. 85-87.

**Read this article about a plan to cross the ocean in a plastic boat.**

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## **Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat**

*by Gail Skroback Hennessey*

Normally, there are only two things you can do with 12,000 two-litre bottles—trash them or recycle them. David de Rothschild has imagined a third thing. He's building a boat. A boat big enough to sail across the Pacific Ocean.



De Rothschild, founder of an environmental organization called Adventure Ecology, is doing it for publicity. Not for himself, but for the planet. Adventure Ecology wants to encourage all of us to focus on the sacred 3 Rs and get smart about it.

“The goal of the expedition is to not only encourage the world to focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling more of its natural resources, but ultimately to think smart by re-thinking waste as a resource,” says de Rothschild.

### **Re-Imagineering**

What would you build with plastic bottles? Or empty food cans? Discarded paper? The idea is not so far-fetched. Before the disposable era, people in other times—the Victorians, for example—made sturdy furniture out of papier mâché. And, apparently, some modern folks channel their inner MacGyver<sup>1</sup> and use soup cans to make a Wi-Fi antenna (Cantenna, get it?). Whatever you choose, be prepared to work hard.

- 5 Step one for the San Francisco based crew building the 18-metre-long catamaran, named the Plastiki, was an unimaginative task: stripping labels from 12,000 bottles. Step two was washing 12,000 bottles. Step three was filling 12,000 bottles with dry ice powder and then resealing 12,000 bottles.

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<sup>1</sup>MacGyver: a TV character known for building things out of household objects.

The dry ice releases carbon dioxide gas, adding pressure to each bottle. The result is sturdier bottles for a sturdier boat. Plastic panels cover the plastic bottles. Finding recyclable material for the panels was tough, but de Rothschild's team found a plastic product called self-reinforced polyethylene terephthalate (srPET). Regular PET is used to make plastic bottles. The srPET is more like fibreglass: strong and light with long plastic fibres woven into a matrix.

The Plastiki's non-plastic elements include aluminum masts and solar panels and wind turbines to power batteries for the laptops, phone, and GPS system. The boat will hold a crew of six.

The Plastiki will leave from San Francisco with planned stops in Hawaii, Fiji, and Tuvalu. The final destination is Sydney, Australia. Estimated time of arrival, however, will depend on how long the crew plans to stop at each destination or if they decide to stop at some of the islands en route to conduct some extra research.

The trip is a risk; no one has ever built a seaworthy vessel out of plastic bottles. Will the bottles stay capped in a Pacific typhoon? Will the plastic panels break apart? De Rothschild says that even if the Plastiki fails to reach Sydney, the trip will be a success by creating awareness about plastics in the ocean and how waste materials can be a resource. So it's fitting that after the journey the Plastiki will be recycled again, or upcycled into something else, like a spiffy polar fleece jacket.

"Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat". Gail Skroback Hennessey.  
YES MAG: The Science Magazine for Adventurous Minds. pp. 8-9.  
Peter Piper Publishing. July/August 2009.

**Grade 7**

**Reading Comprehension Sample Responses**

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**Facing the Waves and Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat**

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from “Facing the Waves” and David de Rothschild in “Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat”.

Give specific examples from the passages to support your answer.

(4 marks)

**SAMPLE RESPONSES**

**The following sample responses are listed to support the use of the Grade 7 Reading Scoring Rubric. The suggestions are not complete, and they should not be used as a checklist. Students may refer to both passages explicitly or one passage explicitly and the other implicitly.**

Specific text information/support may include, but is not restricted to the following:

Both:

- concerned about the environment
- trying to inspire others to act
- must overcome challenges
- are seen as helping out
- are trying to deal with the environment

Shine:

- acting locally
- focus on clean-up
- teased by friend
- small undertaking
- starts a club
- doesn't think ahead
- uses spray paint

Rothschild:

- acting globally
- focus on 3 R's
- supported by friends
- big undertaking

- starts an organization
  - thinks ahead
  - recycles boat
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Note: Other answers may be possible.



## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 1

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves" and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Facing the waves, and Across the Pacific in a plastic boat were both very interesting and had a similar topic about recycling. People in both stories wanted to help the environment by cleaning up garbage, and recycling. In Facing the Waves, Shine participated in cleaning the garbage off the beach, and making signs to recycle, and clean up garbage. In Across the Pacific in a plastic boat, David de Rothschild used plastic bottles to make a boat big enough to sail across the Pacific ocean. He recycled the bottles, and that also showed people to recycle more. Just by reading these stories, I feel that I should make a difference in the environment, and I think many other students feel this way too.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 2

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves" and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

For "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat"  
how they make plastic bottles with  
is bad for the environment so he testing  
how a plastic boat was made.

In "Facing the Waves" Kit is trying  
to get a much people as he can get to  
clean the beach and the some of the  
ocean so he is trying to get shires  
help to clean the beach and a  
better environment.

### Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 3

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Like we can recycling the plastic bottle or cans, not just waste it, we can make like plastic boats or building. In the Pacific Ocean we have a lot of plastic stuffs, it will break our environment and we get pollution too.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 4

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Shine and David de Rothschild both show that they care about the environment. Shine shows this by helping to clean up the beach and pick up garbage. David de Rothschild shows this by building a boat using reused materials. David, however, is more extreme, as what he is trying to <sup>do</sup> help the environment is a huge project to promote awareness while Shine's response is smaller and less public. David's project is more environmentally friendly, such as solar panels and wind turbines, as he uses natural resources to help him. Shine, on the other hand, uses used cars to help them go to different places, <sup>to pick up garbage,</sup> so the gas from the cars are polluting the air. They also both try to spread the word of saving the planet. Shine spreads the word by voice and also makes <sup>signs</sup> ~~posters~~. David spreads the word by making it a huge a public project. They both focus on <sup>see recycling, reusing and reducing.</sup> ~~bottles plastic bottles~~. In general, both David and Shine try to spread the word to encourage saving the earth to create a better environment.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 5

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

I think Shine was saying you should be ~~care~~ careful where you go when you smell pollution. She showed her concern when Kitt was going surfing and the drain pipe smelled "nasty." David Re Rothschild was saying you should be careful what you put in the ocean because it could be made into something new. David Re Rothschild was showing his concern by making a boat with 12,000 plastic water bottles, showing the world it was not that far fetched. A connection I had was both stories were about ocean pollution, maybe the second story should be about greenhouse gases instead.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 6

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from “Facing the Waves and David de Rothschild in “Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat”.

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Shine from “Facing the Waves” and David de Rothschild from “Across the Pacific in A Plastic Boat” react very similarly and differently to environmental issues. They react similarly when De Rothschild tries to convince people to be aware of the three Rs; Shine collects bottles and recycles them and also tries to get more people to help. I can see that both of them know that everybody should be responsible for keeping the Earth clean and safe. They also want to use all of their ability to make Earth a better place. “Stripping labels from 12 000 bottles. Step two, was washing 12 000 bottles. Step three was filling 12 000 bottles with dry ice powder and then resealing 12 000 bottles.” Hennessey and “The beach clean-up. We need everybody.” Mary Hall Surface. Both of them are using all of their effort to keep Earth clean. In addition, they all are taking all of the responsibility over what they are doing. “The trip will be a success by creating awareness about plastics in the ocean and how waste materials can be a resource.” Hennessey. “Beach cleanup. We need everybody.” This is the time when they act differently because De Rothschild wants to create awareness but Shine actually wants people taking action and helping. In conclusion, we can now see why De Rothschild react differently and similarly to environmental issues.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 7

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves" and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Shine and David thought the same but acted different. For example Shine was aware of all the pollution and was trying to help her friend see the same thing. David however is trying to take it global by building a boat completely out of plastic bottles. Doing this he will raise awareness to a lot of people, whereas Shine will only raise awareness with one person.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 8

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Shine makes signs of awareness, notices when some things wrong and picks up recycling. David de Rothschild made a huge plastic boat that will be recycled upon reaching destination.



## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 9

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves" and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Shine from "Facing the Waves"  
tries to get Kitt to help  
clear the surf zone  
but Kitt refused to help  
Shine. David de Rothschild  
and the boat made of  
plastic is recycled and can  
be recycled again and  
again so it is a good  
Idea.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 10

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves" and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Plastic Panels cover the Plastic  
It was hard to find the right  
Material to build the Plastic boat  
They use wind turbines to  
Power their GPS, phone, laptops.

When people drive oil often  
drips from your exhaust pipe then  
rain washes it up and goes to  
rivers, oceans, lakes.

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 11

1. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from "Facing the Waves" and David de Rothschild in "Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat".

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

David de Rothschild is more "focus on the sacred three R's" where as Shine is about getting the message around to be all around earth friendly. The only thing about Shine is that the way she gets people to recycle is her doing all the work, and not really the community. In the story, at a certain part, Kitt and Shine were arguing in a way about Shines earlier projects, which weren't very planned out lots of them were a win and lose. Example "when your had your Dad drive you all over town, burning up gas and oil to pick up people's stuff to recycle. I think David de Rothschild approach was way more professional, but of course it will be he is older and is more mature, and I think his boat will get people to think more about the 3 R's. "The goal of this expedition is to... think smart by re-thinking waste as a ~~source~~ "source."

## Grade 7 Reading – Exemplar # 12

2. Compare the responses to environmental issues demonstrated by Shine from “Facing the Waves and David de Rothschild in “Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat”.

Give specific examples from both passages to support your answer.

Both the narrators in “Facing the Waves” by Mary Hall Surface and “Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat” by Gail Skroback Hennessey, demonstrate worry for the environment. “Facing the Waves” is a story about two surfers, one of which who worries about the environment a lot. She shares the same concern that David De Rothschild has (The Plastiki), and doesn’t want to sit around while the world becomes polluted. However, her best friend Kitt thinks she’s foolish. “Oh no, here comes another eco-alert.” (Surface) This quote highlights one of the main points in the story where Kitt exhibits his thoughts about what Shine is doing. She is also trying to raise awareness about contamination, and she does it with signs and notices. Even though Kitt does think she is irrational, he still does know that what she is trying to do is helpful not just to that beach but to the world also. In “Across the Pacific in a Plastic Boat”, David De Rothschild is trying to do what Shine is doing, except in a much bigger scale. He is trying to increase consciousness about greenhouse gasses and he is going to do it by attempting and almost impossible task. “The goal of the expedition is not only to encourage the world to focus on reducing, reusing and recycling more of its natural resources, but ultimately to think smart by re-thinking waste as a resource.” (Hennessey) This quote states what De Rothschild wants and expects his trip will do. He is making an effort to sail from San Francisco in a boat made of 12,000 plastic bottles, filled with dry ice powder for more sturdiness. He hopes that if the vessel doesn’t reach its destination, people will still become more aware of what we are doing to our world. What Shine and De Rothschild are endeavouring could aid what some environmentalists are trying to do, if their tasks were successful. Their responsibilities are also very similar, if one was to stop and think about it. They both want to help the world, not hinder it and with any luck they will make massive changes to our earth.