



# Lilu's big vacation experience

## Introductory story

Lilu had been looking forward to his vacation for a long time. Together with his friend Alina, he got to travel to his favorite island again. It had been many years since he was last there. He could still remember everything so well: the shady trees on the mountains, the ancient castle with its many towers and battlements. He was determined to show his friend all of this.

A week later, the two adventurers disembarked from the ship and set foot on the island. Lilu immediately took Alina on a hike into the mountains. Once they reached the top, Lilu was a little confused. Unlike last time, he could see the whole island from there – not a single tree disturbed his view. On one side of the mountain, a whole section was missing because there had been a huge landslide. But Alina was delighted with the beautiful view.

As it got hotter and hotter, the two set off in search of a shady spot. Lilu told his friend about the large forest where they used to find so much shade and where they could watch the animals, but unfortunately, this forest no longer existed. Finally, they found a small cave between the rocks. It was a little cooler there. Relieved, they rested.

Refreshed, they set off again. Lilu wanted to show Alina the ancient castle. The two of them were happily walking around on top of the walls when Alina suddenly stopped. She pointed to a stone figure whose hat looked very strange. One would think it had been eaten away by moths. Could that be? On closer inspection, Lilu saw that all the figures on the walls looked more broken than he remembered. The two children decided to do some research on this over the next few days.

As evening fell, they made their way home. On the way, they passed a garden where wonderful flowers were growing, very different from their school garden back home. A man and a woman were planting new plants in a bed. Lilu and Alina didn't think twice and asked how they had managed to grow such wonderful plants. The two gardeners smiled and pointed to a box in which the children discovered lots of earthworms, as well as cut grass, dry leaves, and much more.

They would have loved to stay and find out more, but unfortunately, they had to leave. So they bought a few seeds from the gardeners to send to their parents, along with all the beautiful things they had collected on their excursion.

The next morning, they thought about how to pack and pad the parcel so that the large stone wouldn't destroy the small shell and snail shell. While they were still thinking about it, Alina bumped Lilu in the side, startled. A large sign said that unfortunately, the ship could no longer take them back home, as there was no more fuel on the island. How were they supposed to get home at the end of the week?



The two children looked at each other when Lilu suddenly started to cheer. He said to Alina: "This problem gives us a chance to show what we can do! Let's invent a boat that can run without fuel!"

Lilu and Alina immediately got to work. They began their search for suitable materials on the beach. In no time at all, they had their hands full of empty plastic bottles, old sponges, lines, and the remains of fishing nets. All these things had been washed ashore by the sea.

A few children who had also been playing on the beach joined the two young researchers. Together, they wanted to get to the bottom of all the observations in order to understand the changes they had observed there. Perhaps they could develop something to preserve nature on that small island.

