

## Key stage 2

### Pupil B – Piece E: a persuasive speech

Context: after exploring techniques used in persuasive speech writing, pupils decided to use information from a David Attenborough documentary as a springboard for writing their own speech.

Have you ever witnessed a majestic macaw glide through the tree-tops of the rainforest? Have you ever watched a dolphin diving elegantly into the shimmering, sapphire ocean? Have you ever wondered how much longer these awe-inspiring marvels have left to thrive? Every day, more and more of these wonders are heartlessly destroyed. Ruining this planet has been our greatest mistake, every tree chopped down, every plastic bottle dropped ~~adding up to~~ sending our planet more and more into decline. We need to stop. We need to make a change.

Even now, ~~there~~ only 28% of the rainforests in the world are left. 1/3 of the whole human population is dependent on forests, yet we still continue to ruthlessly wreck them. Scientists predict that in 76 years (if they ~~are~~ continued to be killed at the rate that they are) rainforests will be completely wiped out, completely extinct, completely demolished. But it has more than one effect. It affects millions of species of animals, many species of plants, trees and wildlife. It has an effect on us. So please, stand up not just for our environment, ~~of nature~~ but for ourselves as well. In this unique stage of our history, everyday choices add up. We need to learn to work with nature rather than against it.

There are many deadly threats out there, but there is one that endlessly poisons Earth: climate change. Global warming increases the risk of more frequent - and heavier - rainfall, snowfall, and other precipitation. And as that risk increases, so too does the risk of flooding. Rising sea levels could impact 1 billion people by the year 2050, and experts think that by the end of

\* great  
devastation

the century, the ocean's waters could have risen up to 2 metres. This decade is the hottest the planet has seen in 125,000 years. In a mere 27 years the Arctic Ocean is expected to be ice-free. I imagine the ~~extinction~~<sup>†</sup> of the walrus, polar bears and many other animals as they observe their habitat slowly melting, their only rest after never-ending hours of ~~strain~~ swimming gone forever. How would you feel watching your home disappear in front of your very own eyes?

In just under a decade, our actions will be irreversible. That may seem a colossal amount of time to you; really, it isn't. Even if you are small you can make a massive difference, even if it is just swapping a piece of plastic for a more sustainable choice.