

**CLIMATE
CRISIS
STORY BOOK**
1st Series

** Adapted from
URBAN NEXUS
comic



Seroja Cyclone

*** Disclaimer:**

All character appearing in this story are fictitious.
Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.



In (date) August 2019, a teenager writing competition was held and attended by many teenagers from all over Indonesia. Today, finalists from several regions are arriving. They were invited for a week-long gathering in Bali, to present their essays on the environment before the judges.

The teenagers also met and got to know each other.

Kanaga: Hello, I'm Kanaga from NTT Province.

Kanaga is a cheerful teenage girl with brown skin and curly hair, like NTT people in general.

Niken: I'm Niken, from Jakarta.

Niken is a teenage girl with a physical disability and shoulder-length straight hair. She wears crutches, yet remains very confident and able to blend in with her other friends.

Theo: I'm Theo, from Papua.

Theo is a teenage boy with brown skin and curly hair.

Patar: Horass... My name is Patar. You can definitely guess that I am from Medan.

Patar is a teenage boy, slightly fat in stature.

Gita: I am Gita, from South Kalimantan.

Gita is a teenage girl, fair-skinned and shoulder-length hair.

There are also other friends, namely Harris, a teenage boy with glasses from Sulawesi and Nurul, a hijab-wearing girl from Sumatra. The last one is Melly, a chubby, pigtail-haired teenage girl from East Java.

It is time for the judging session. Each finalist presents their essay in turn to the judges.

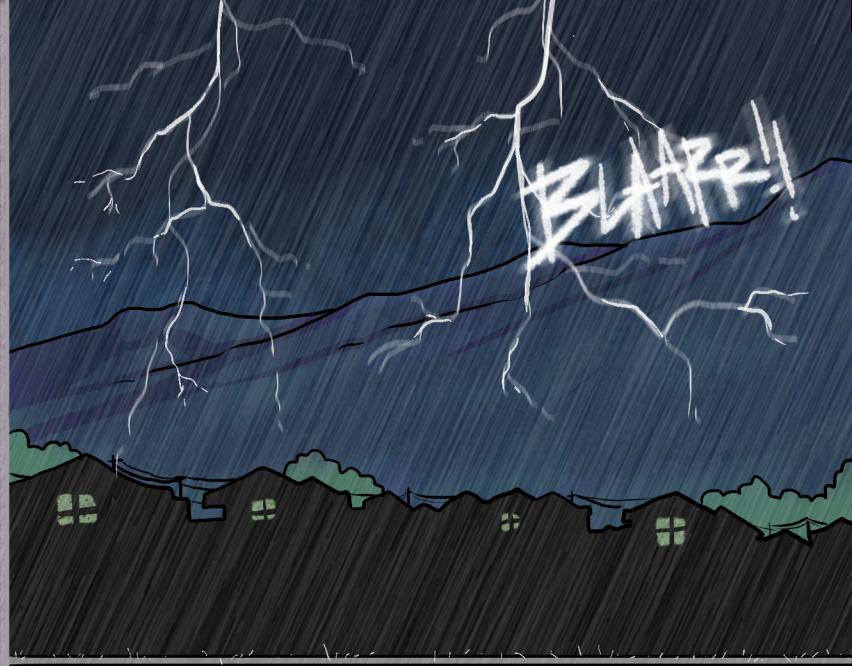
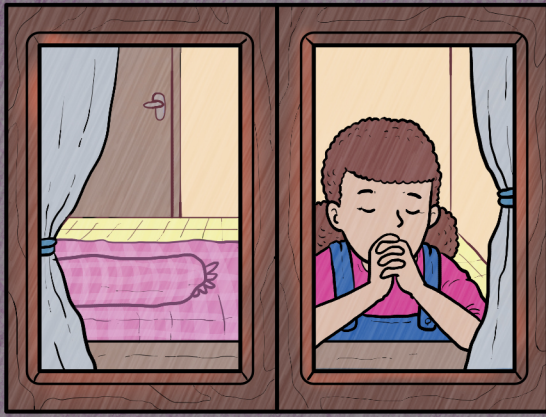
After a week, the activity was over.

They all arrived at Ngurah Rai Airport, Denpasar, it's time to say goodbye and return home.

Kanaga: It's nice to be friends with you all. We'll definitely meet again someday.

Niken: I've created an online chat group so that we can keep in touch with each other.

The others nodded in agreement, and then they shook hands and separated.



Two years later, in April 3, 2021, on the slopes of Mount Ili, Lembata Regency. The atmosphere was tense because of heavy rain with thunderous lightning.

In a house inhabited by a boy with his mother.

Boy: Mom, Look at this! There's a warning form BMKG* alerting us...high intensity rain..

Mother: Yes, it's been raining for days. Cats and dogs have been inside as well. The night is getting late. The rain is getting heavier and heavier.

Mom: Let's go to bed early. We're going to have online worship to celebrate Easter tomorrow.

Thunderous lightning. Blaarr...

In a settlement, in Central Lewoleba, Lembata Regency.

It has been a week since Kanaga stays at her uncle's house in Lembata. She stays there to help out with the online Easter worship at her uncle's church.

Uncle: Why haven't you slept, Kanaga? Tomorrow we have Easter worship.

Kanaga: It's raining heavily, Uncle. I'm worried.

Uncle: Just pray, okay? Go to sleep soon.

Early next morning, Sunday, April 4, 2021. The rain was getting heavier with thunderous lightning flashing.



Meanwhile,
in Jakarta, Monday,
April 5, 2021.

Niken saw the news that a flash flood hit NTT Province. She tried to contact Kanaga by phone.

Niken: Kanaga, please pick up the phone.

Niken looks very worried about Kanaga's situation in NTT.

Niken also asked her other friends through a group message.

Gita (from Kalimantan Selatan): Is there anyone who has contacted Kanaga?

Theo (from Papua): She hasn't even read our messages yet.

Niken: I've also tried to call her many times, but...

Suddenly the sound of a video call came in... Kanaga called the group and talked to her friends.



Kanaga: Hello friends. I'm sorry that I'm just able to answer now. My current position is in Lembata, but thank God I'm in a safe place. My family in Nagekeo is also safe.

Niken: Dear God, Kanaga, we're so worried. What are you doing in Lembata?

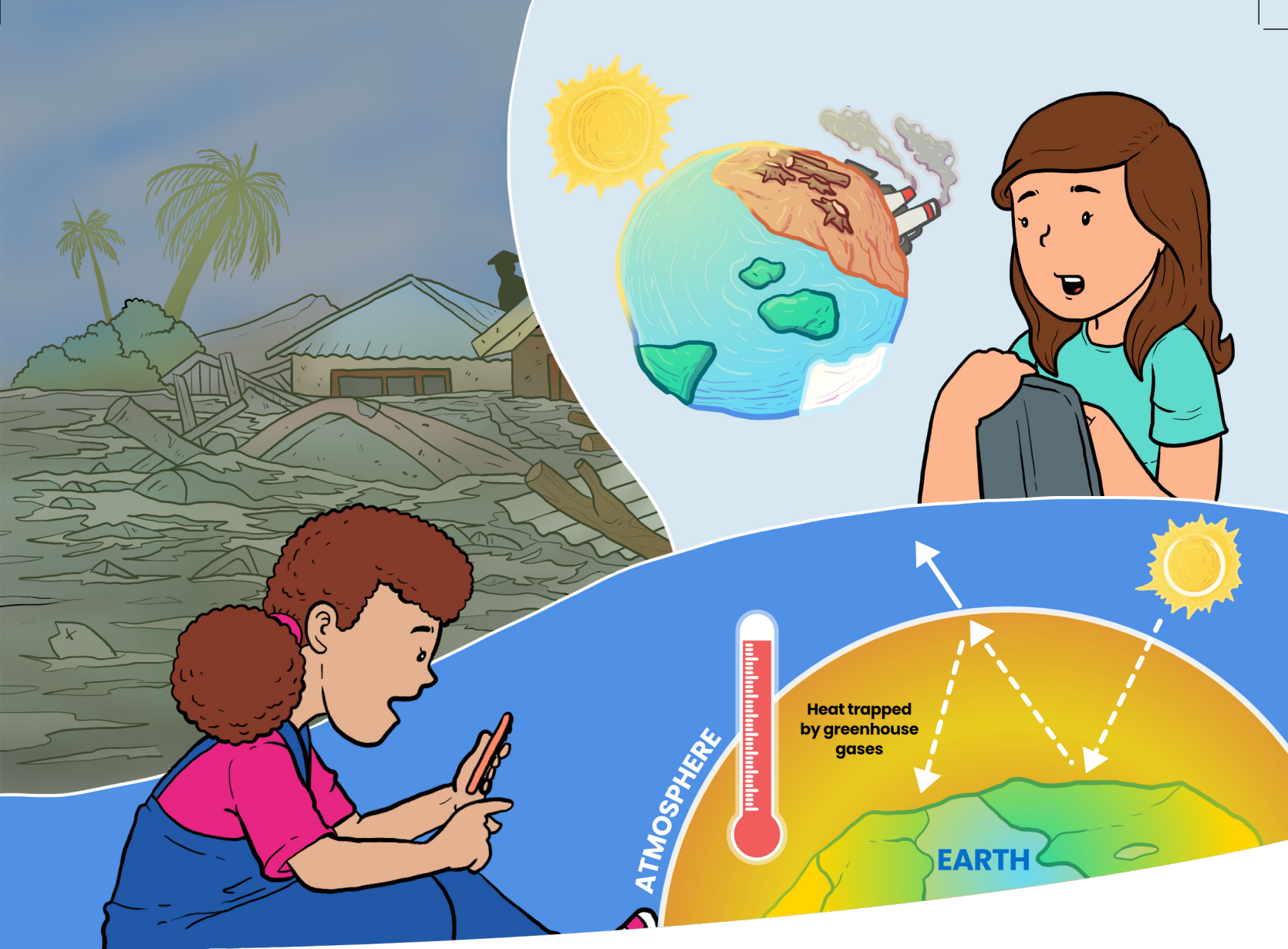
Kanaga: I'm visiting my uncle. But we were fine, because my uncle's house is in the lowlands near the Port of Lewoleba.

Theo: Kanaga, I'm so happy that your family and siblings are safe. How's the situation there?

Kanaga: Adonara Island, East Flores Regency, Alor Regency and many villages in Mount Ili Lewotolok in Lembata Regency are the worst hit... Hundreds of houses were heavily damaged, the number of dead and missing people continues to increase. The electricity and communication lines are still off in these places.

Gita: Oh my God, I hope the number of victims doesn't increase. Kanaga, may God protect you and your whole family..

Kanaga: Thank you..



Niken: Kanaga, is it OK for you to keep on talking to us?

Kanaga: Yes, it's OK. I was busy this morning, helping people with evacuation, but now I have my free time.

Kanaga: Did you know, friends? This is not the first disaster in NTT. In 1973 there was a cyclone that killed nearly 1500 people.

Theo: My God, I hope this time won't take as much victims. God, please protect our brothers and sisters.

Gita: On a second thought, how come NTT, known to have dry climate, is experiencing flash floods and landslides of this magnitude.

Niken: It's possible, Git. With the current climate crisis, extreme weather can happen everywhere.

Gita: what makes it possible, Ken?

Niken: Global warming triggered by the increase of concentrations of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Kanaga: Yes, that's right. And when greenhouse gases increase, the effect is that more heat gets trapped. This is what causes the temperature of earth's surface to rise.



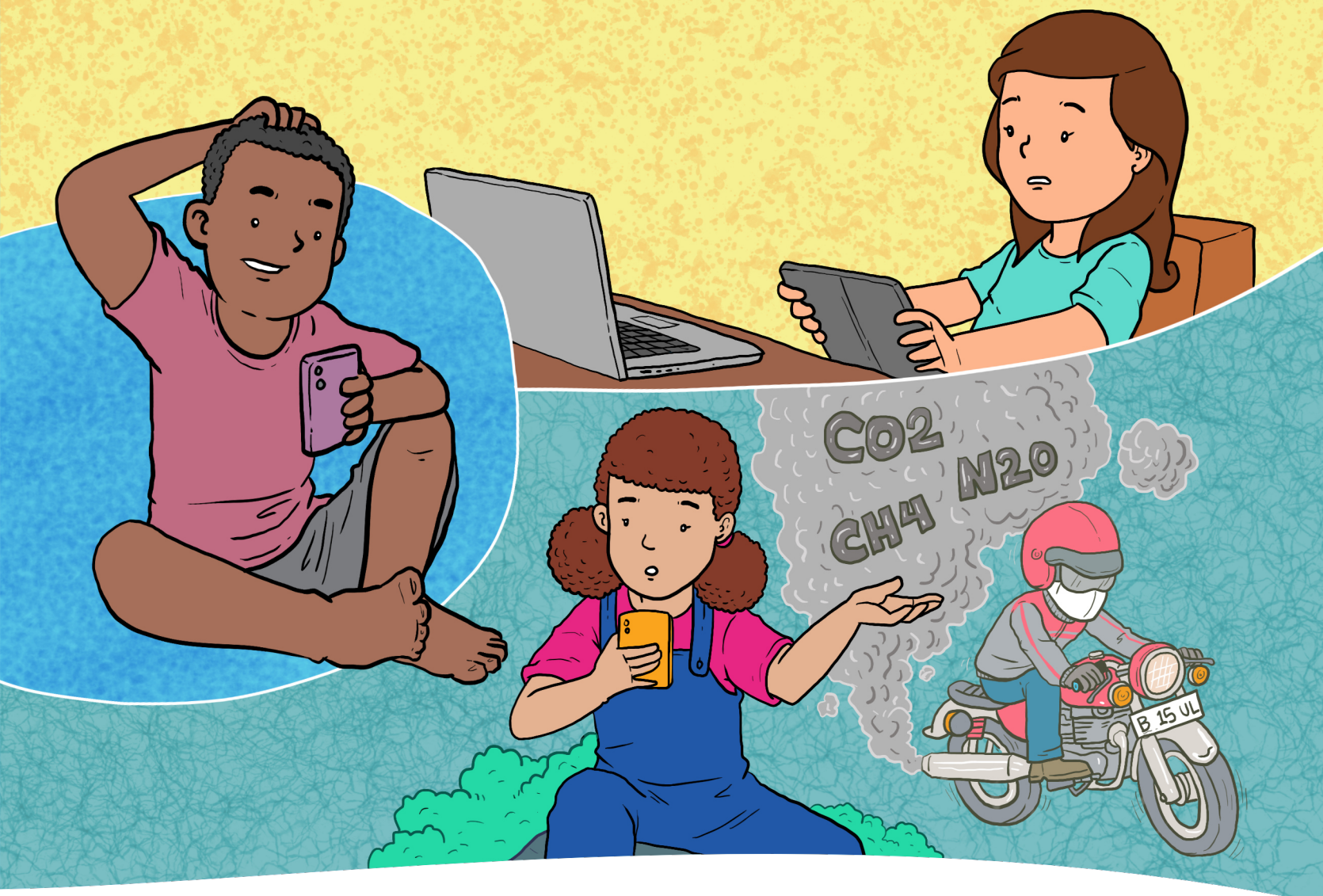
Theo: And how could it be transformed into cyclone Seroja, Kanaga?

Niken: Because of global warming, the earth's temperature has been rising.

Kanaga: Including the temperature on the surface of the Indian Ocean, which exceeds the average of 26.5°C to reach 29°C.

Niken: It takes only 2°C - 3°C of increase in temperature for sea level to cause increase in humidity and air pressure around the waters. Then a cyclone appears, which is a vortex that has an epicentrum.

Kanaga: The cyclonic flow moves closer toward NTT. It results into increase in high rain intensity, with lightning and strong winds, also causing high sea waves.



Kanaga: That's the process, Theo. Until a disaster like this could happen.

Theo: The global warming and climate crisis are very dangerous! It could even destroy buildings and take away lives.

Niken: That's why we have to know what the cause is and do what we can to prevent it.

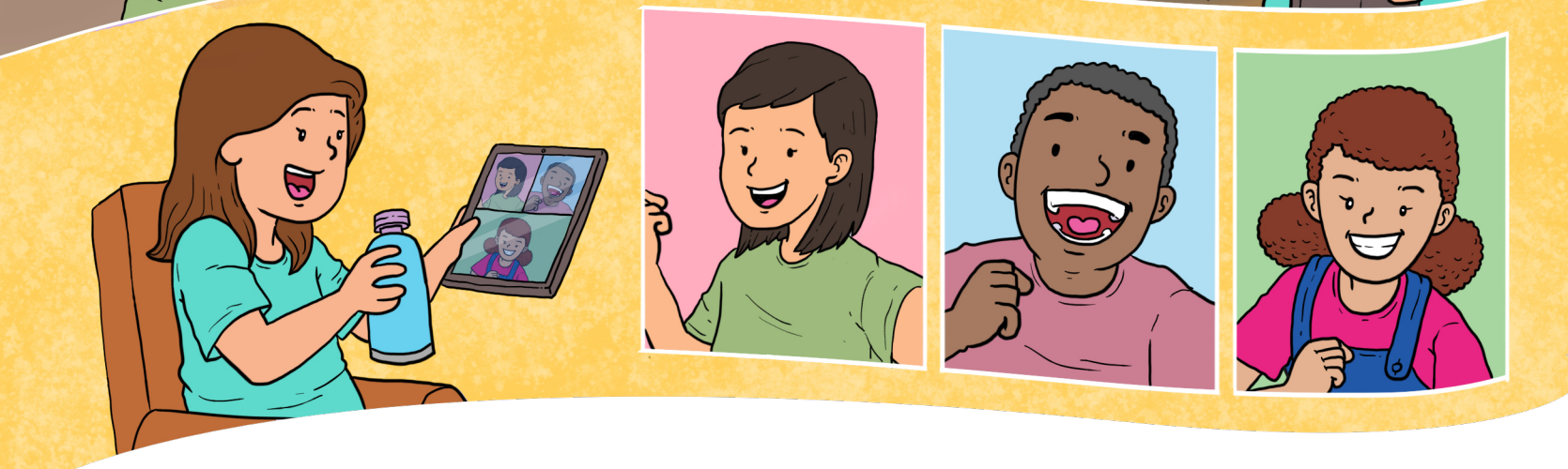
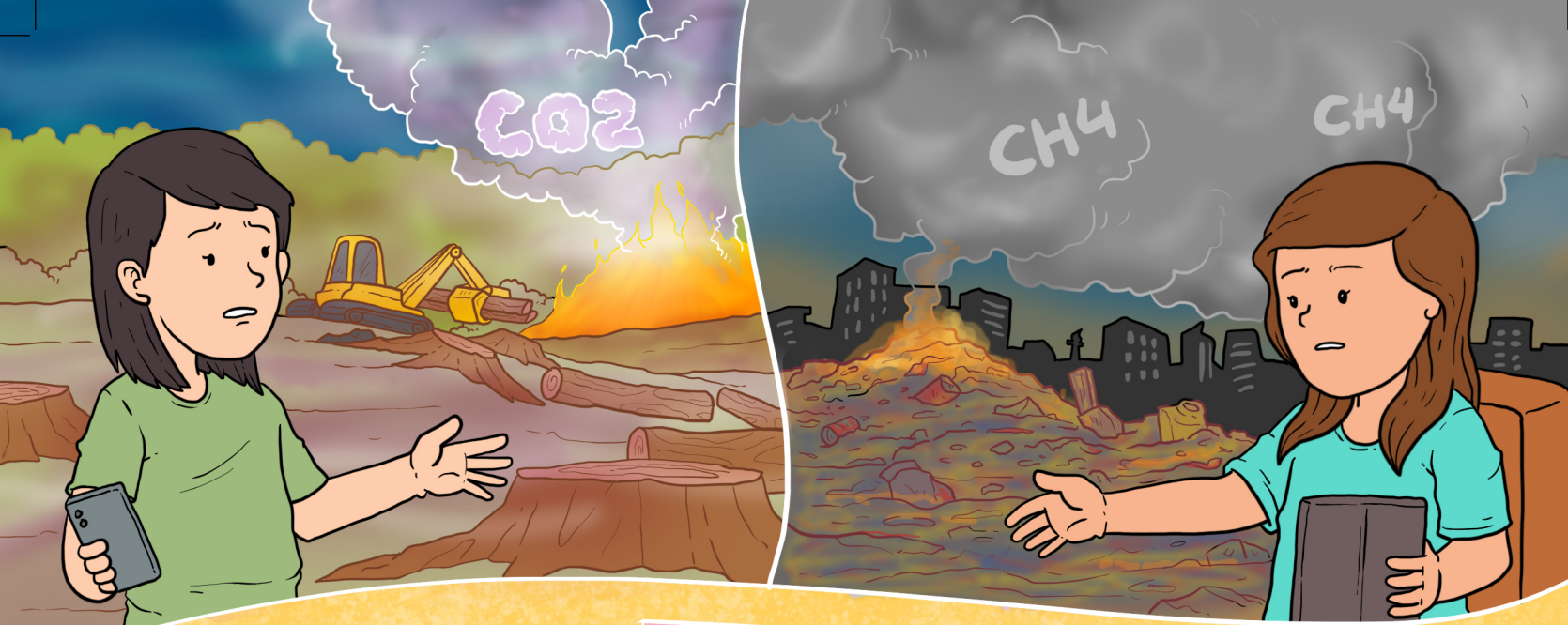
Theo: Totally agree. And what's the real cause, Ken?

Niken: The amount of greenhouse gases that are supposed to keep the earth warm, has exceeded the limit the amount that should be. Instead of being warm, the earth is getting very hot.

Kanaga: The biggest contributor to greenhouse gases is us, Theo.

Theo: How do you mean, Kanaga?

Kanaga: Well, through our daily activities such as riding a motor vehicle everywhere. It produces greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄).



Gita: In my place, there are the deforestation and land burning, which could contribute up to millions of tons carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year into the earth's atmosphere.

Niken: In Jakarta, many people burn garbage and piles of garbage build up in landfills. This will produce methane and carbon dioxide.

Kanaga: All these activities create too much greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. The effect of global warming is real and the impact of the climate crisis is everywhere.

Niken: We must promise to pay more attention to our action, so it will not worsen the current condition.

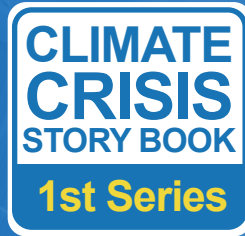
Gita, Kanaga, Theo: I AGREEEEEE!!

Theo: From now on, I will start to walk a lot and ride a bicycle.

Gita: Don't burn trash, it's better if the waste is sorted and recycled.

Niken: Reduce waste by not wasting a single rice on your plate and make it a habit to bring a refillable water bottle.

Kanaga: Don't forget to invite your friends and family to do so! More actions, bigger effect!



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