



MANZI AND THE POLLUTED RIVER

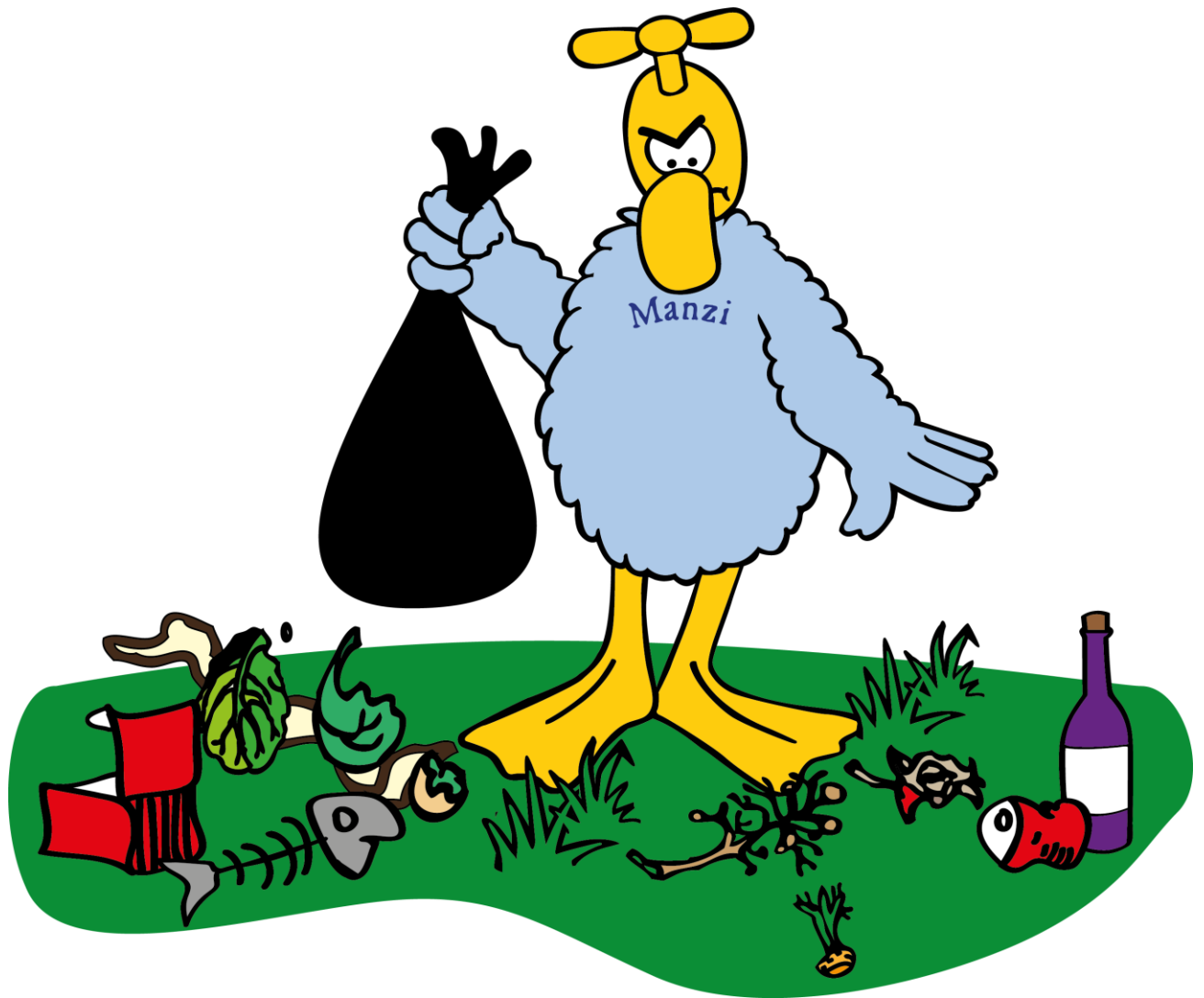


Manzi's Water Wise Message

With a head shaped like a tap
His body is round and blue
He has feet like a duck
Now who do you think is this cool dude?
His magical name is Manzi
And he wants you all to know
That looking after our water
Is a must if we wish to see ourselves grow.
His mission is to teach us
Six things that must be done
To become Water Wise ambassadors
For us to be number one.
Now let's start with number one.
Let's all put up a thumb
And say together now
Respect water, respect life for everyone.
Let's move to number two
And put out pointer finger
Shout out loud, **don't waste** our water
There is no more time to linger!
Lesson number three
Comes from the middle man.
Don't pollute our water
This is a must if we can.
On to number four
Ring finger we must use.
Pay for water services
This we cannot abuse.
Number five is next.
The smallest of our fingers
Take **Environmental Action**
For the future of Generation X.
Now take all those fingers
And hold the Earth tightly in the palm of your hand.
Conserve water, conserve the environment
For the future of our land.



Manzi went for a walk one day to see what he could see, he sat for a little while under a rather big Wild Olive tree. While he sat to rest a bit a thought crossed his mind, do people really understand that pollution is so unkind?



Silently Manzi watched all the happenings around, one of which was how many people threw their litter on the ground.

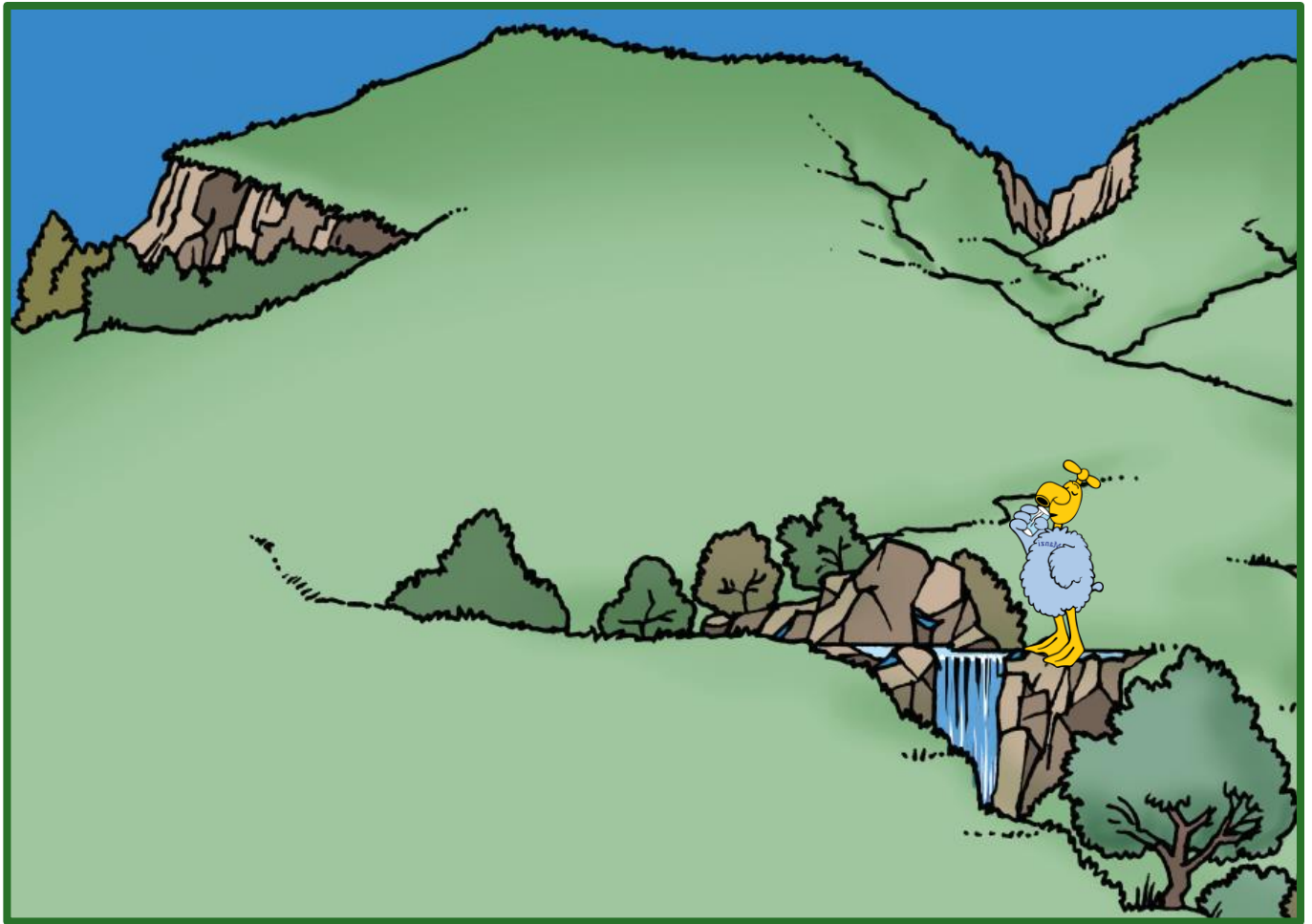
Manzi watched a little bird hop around for food, and then the little bird ate plastic which was surely not good.



He decided then and there to go home and pack his bag, he was going on a journey to teach all why pollution is bad. Manzi decided he would start by teaching all his friends, where the rivers start and where they eventually end.



Manzi walked and walked until he came to the mountain top, he was really feeling quite exhausted but knew he couldn't stop. Manzi searched and searched until he found the rivers source, up high in the mountains where it rains a lot of course.



Up here the water is so fresh and clean enough to drink, no people to see for kilometres around, it does make one think. Manzi followed the meandering river down the mountain side, for up at the source it was too rocky for anyone to reside.

While walking in a snake like pattern following the river's course,
Manzi came across a range of animals
even one that looked like a horse.

Pulling out his binoculars to take a closer look,
Manzi saw it was a zebra by comparing it to his book.



All the animals were gathered at the water to drink,
one could see that the environment was clearly still in sync*.

(* NEW WORD: **sync** - short for the word synchronise, which means making things work together.)



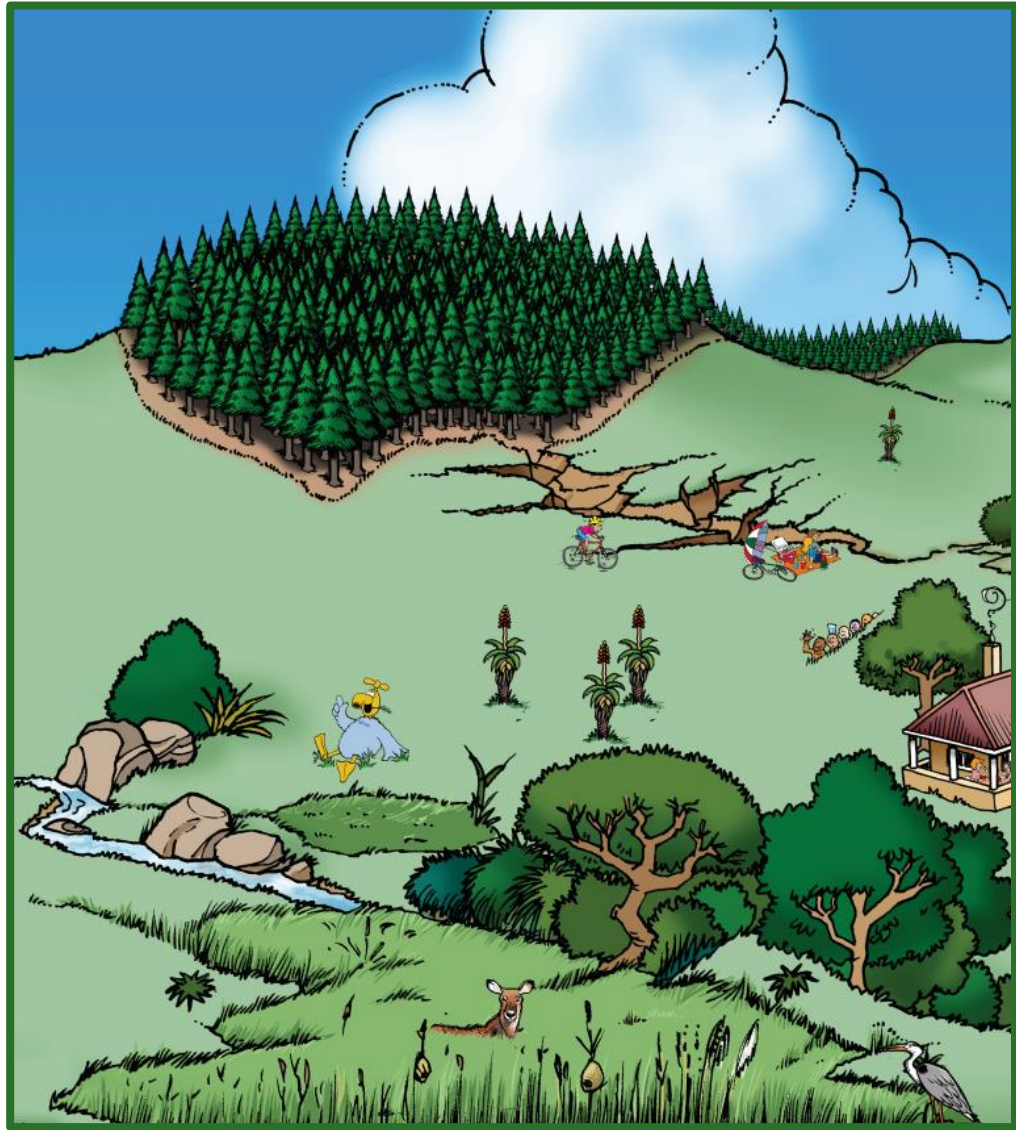
Manzi continued on his journey down the mountain side,
following the smaller river's course with every stride.
Finally he came to where the small river joined with the big river,
seeing all the happy animals surely made him positively quiver*.

(* New Word: **quiver** - a slight trembling movement, especially one caused by a sudden strong emotion.)



As Manzi continued walking along the river's side,
he saw a canoeist out for a ride.

Manzi started to notice some changes as he looked around,
one was the presence of more disturbed ground.



Up on the slope just above and to left of the farm,

Manzi noticed a tree plantation that seemed to be causing some harm.

The trees planted there were not from our land,
these trees were planted incorrectly
which caused the runoff of sand.



The impact seemed to be greater
where there were people without a doubt,
Manzi stopped to think for a while and tried to figure it out.
What could the reason be that people didn't care,
was it that they didn't know our land could be left so bare?



This sand was running down the slopes every time it rained, straight into the river causing build up everywhere it drained.

Manzi put on his scuba gear and climbed into the river, but the water was so icy cold that it made him shiver.



Below the river's surface, Manzi looked around to see, if anything lurked below the waters that might frighten you and me. What he found was quite concerning for the animals living there, an old rusty car and a leaking oil drum whilst people swam unaware.

Manzi came up for air as he approached the dam wall,
and he climbed up onto it so he could see it all.

He took off his scuba gear and had a look around,
Manzi could see so many things and how people misuse the ground.



Unhealthy places with pit toilets next to streams,
was causing major pollution of raw sewerage it seems.

Failing objects at the local treatment works,
released harmful things into the river which really hurts.



Manzi walked a little further to investigate some more, but what he saw made his heart sink which was really very sore. All around him was pollution in so many different forms, it was as if the people had lost respect and that this was now the norm*.

(*New Word: **norm** - something that is usual, typical or standard.)



Manzi placed his camera under the water to take a picture or two, but he was horrified at what he saw and wondered what he could do. All the waste from human products were causing so much damage, the natural resources* that all life needs to survive will surely start to vanish.

(*New Word: **natural resources** - materials from the Earth that are used to support life and its needs.)



With a saddened heart Manzi went along his way,
he was almost at the end of his journey of the last few days.

Finally he arrived at where the river meets the sea,
what is called the river's mouth is where Manzi finally wanted to be.



Manzi then decided that he should not feel so very sad, and he thought of what he could do to make the situation not so bad. It was time to stand up, take action and do what he had to do, he would spread the Water Wise message to educate everyone out there too.



Manzi thought of a plan how to get this important message across, he needed people to understand that their own behaviour is causing great loss.

People needed to learn to become aware of their own choice, and if they choose wisely there will be time to rejoice.

(*New Word: rejoice - be happy.)

Manzi's plan is to teach all people to be Water Wise,
because if all humans could do this
our Earth would always have blue skies.



Respecting water and respecting life needs to
become a new way of living,

Not wasting nor polluting water should become a given.

Paying for water services and taking environmental action every day,

Will help us conserve water and our environment
in many different ways.



Manzi's final message to all of us out there,
is to start changing our own behaviour to show we really care.
Planet Earth is our only home and we need to hold her tight,
for if we don't make a change we are going to lose the fight.



Manzi's Water Wise Mission

Water is part of our lives, but many of us do not respect water, and we waste or pollute it. Meet Manzi and join his mission.

Answer these questions to see if you are Water Wise? Read each question and circle the answer that applies to you.



1 When you go on a picnic where do you place your rubbish?

a. On the ground

1

b. In a dustbin

2

c. In a recycling bin

3

2 To what level do you fill your bath with water?

a. $\frac{1}{4}$ full

3

b. $\frac{1}{2}$ full

2

c. $\frac{3}{4}$ full

1

4 How long do you spend washing yourself in the shower?

a. 5 minutes

3

b. 10 minutes

2

c. 15 minutes

1

3 When you see a bird fly into your garden, you?

a. Watch the bird and admire its beauty.

3

b. Ignore the bird.

2

c. Throw stones at it.

1

5 When you are driving in the car, bus or taxi, where do you put your sweet papers?

a. Throw them on the floor of the car, bus or taxi.

2

b. Place them in a bag or ashtray to be thrown in a dustbin later on.

3

c. Throw them out of the window.

1

I am on a mission to make all South Africans Water Wise. Why not sign this Water Wise Promise?

WATER WISE PROMISE

I promise to be Water Wise and support a healthy world.

To be Water Wise means that I will have RESPECT for water and all life. I will not WASTE water. I will also not POLLUTE our rivers with litter. I will ask my parents to PAY for our water. I also promise that if I see water problems I will try to take ACTION towards solving the problem. By using water wisely I am CONSERVING the natural environment and ensuring the survival of all life on Earth.

Signature _____

Date _____

How did you score?

Calculate your results by adding up the scores in the boxes next to your answer. Find out how Water Wise you are by checking the score in the robot.

0-5

Naughty you, you're not Water Wise at all! Why don't you contact Rand Water's Water Wise Education Team, or your local environmental education centre, to learn to be Water Wise?

6-10

You are an average Water Wise citizen! Why don't you contact Rand Water's Water Wise Education Team, or your local environmental education centre, to brush up on your Water Wise habits?

11-15

Congratulations you are Water Wise! You value water and treat it with respect. Remember to continue being Water Wise.

BE WATER WISE



Water  Wise
RAND WATER

For Water Wise information contact 0860 10 10 60 or log onto www.randwater.co.za