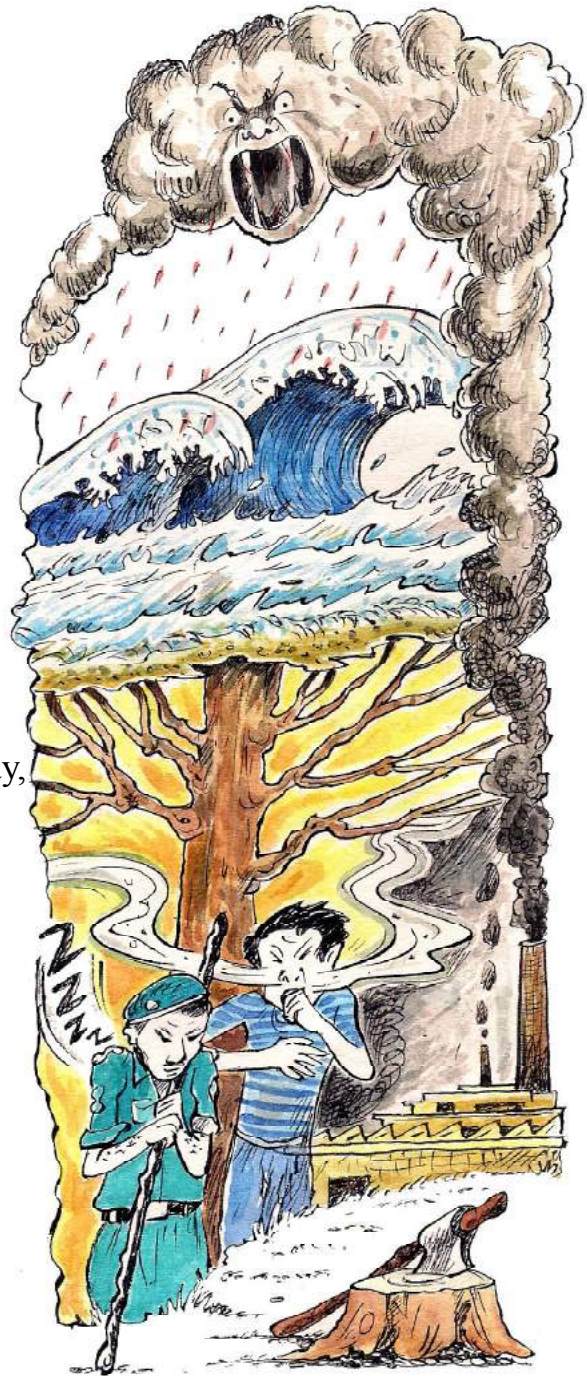


## Reading B

# Beautiful Blue Planet

Looking down at you, Planet-Earth,  
I remember you, as a Beautiful-Blue.  
Now, your oceans are Black-With-Oil,  
Look closely, you know it is true.  
Your Rain-Forests are all gone now  
And your ground is a sickly brown.  
What-In-The-World, have They done to you  
Pretty-Planet in the round.  
Your White-Clouds once held Fresh-Water  
Now they are filled with Acid-Rain.  
Your plains are Barren-With-Erosion  
They were once Overflowing-With-Grain.  
When did your Clouds turn such Deathly-Gray,  
Your air is Impossible to-Breathe.  
Didn't your STEWARDS-EVEN-NOTICE,  
Before they started to Gasp-And-Wheeze?  
Could the Powers-That-Be, not save you  
From such dismal end?  
You were SO-RIGHT, in killing them off.  
Now you can begin again.  
Will your next Caretakers be smarter  
And take better care of you?  
I pray they learn to be Protectors.  
We miss your Beautiful-Blue



*Sirpheno The Knight*

## Meanings in context

Beautiful-Blue	:	the water bodies on the earth; the earth is thus also known as the blue planet
Black-With-Oil	:	oil-well spills and waste on the surface of the oceans
Rain-Forests	:	forests that get a lot of rain and have tall and dense trees
sickly brown	:	(land) that looks brown and dull because there are no plants
Deathly-Gray	:	(American spelling of grey) the clouds turn heavy and black due to pollution in the air
Stewards	:	persons who take care of people or household
Gasp-And-Wheeze	:	opening mouth to take in air, breathe with difficulty
Powers-That-Be	:	the protecting powers of the saviour
dismal end	:	dreadful, unpleasant results

## Comprehension

### I. Answer the following questions.

1. In what sense have the expressions 'Beautiful-Blue' and 'Pretty-Planet' been used by the poet?
2. What lessons has nature taught us? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Suppose that you are the Beautiful-Blue planet. Human beings have caused several problems for you. List out the problems that the makers of the planet face.

(river)  
I cannot flow freely.  
People throw  
garbage into us.

(trees)  
.....  
.....  
.....

(air)  
.....  
.....  
.....

(birds)  
.....  
.....  
.....

(animals)  
We have no food to  
eat in the plains.  
.....  
.....

(soil)  
.....  
.....  
.....

4. Who are the 'next caretakers'?

**II. List in the Table below the changes that have taken place in different aspects of nature and environment around us.**

Features	How were they before?	How are they now?
The oceans		
The forests		
The clouds		
The plains		
The air		
Care for nature and the earth		

**III. Who do you think are the natural caretakers of the environment ?**

**Dr. Kalam administered this oath. Take this oath & put your signature.**

**Environment Oath**

1. I realize that every mature tree by photosynthesis absorbs 20 kgs of Carbon-dioxide every year. By the same process each tree lets out about 14 kg of Oxygen every year.
2. I will plant and nurture ten trees and will ensure that my family and neighbours also plant ten trees each. I will be an ambassador for the 'tree mission' in my locality.
3. I will keep my house and its surroundings clean and use biodegradable products where possible.
4. I will promote a culture of environment friendliness, through recycling and conservation of water and other recyclable materials both at home and school.
5. When I start working, the decision I take as part of my organization will be such that protect the environment and preserves bio-diversity.
6. I will encourage the use of renewable energy as much as possible.
7. I will spread awareness about the need to preserve the environment in my home, in my locality and among my student friends.
8. I will encourage water conservation, especially by rain water harvesting and will spread the message among my family and friends.

Your Signature

*Billiom focus for billion people  
by 2016  
A.D. 2016*



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